

policies, that over time, those governments will fail because that's not the kind of government that's going to meet the aspirations of people.

*Q.* What if you meet President Putin on this trip or would you rule that out?

*President Obama.* I'm sure I'll see him. He's going to be there. Russia—I think it's important for us to acknowledge the role that Russia played during World War II, and that's part of what Normandy is about.

All right? Okay.

*President Komorowski.* Well, ladies and gentlemen, it is difficult not to notice that something has changed to the east of the borders of NATO; that, again, we are having to deal with the aggression with the use of armed forces against one's neighbor. A few years ago it was Georgia; now it is Ukraine, with a special focus on the Crimea.

President Putin didn't hide it. He didn't hide that these were elements of the Russian Armed Forces, and that—this is something that we have to acknowledge. Just the same way Russia never hid that for the last 4 years it has increased its defense budget twofold. We, ourselves, have to ask a question, why? For what purpose? And what does it have to mean for member states of NATO?

All of us are interested in Russia to get modernized so that it was possible to do not only good business modernizing Russia, but also develop relations of good neighborhood and cooperation in many dimensions, in many areas. But today we have to answer to this situation that has come up by supporting independence of Ukraine and its right to choose its pro-Western direction. We have to support the modernization of Ukraine too.

I am convinced that this is the right way to develop the mechanism and a source of a very good and suggestive example for the Russian

society, just as a great example for them was the development of democracy in Poland—free market, prosperity, security, safety. It acted very well on Ukraine, and I am convinced that it was simply an element of the Ukrainian dreams to follow along the same way, in the direction of the same values.

I am also convinced that the success of Ukraine, its democratic and independent nature, combined with overcoming the economic crisis and political crisis on the ground, combined with deep modernization of the Ukrainian society and state, will have a huge influence on the shaping of the attitudes of people within the Russian society. It is difficult not to notice today that the Russian public opinion has fully supported the aggressive behavior of President Putin in Crimea. The point is that a public opinion in Russia should stand on the side of the prospects for the modernization of Russia and not at the reconstitution of any zone of influence and any dreams of empire.

Ladies and gentlemen, this press conference is over. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:25 p.m. at Belweder Palace. In his remarks, President Obama referred to Khirullah Said Wali Khairkhwa, Mohammed Fazi, Norullah Noori, Abdul Haq Wasiq, and Mohammed Nabi Omari, members of the Afghan Taliban released from the Guantanamo Bay Naval Station detention center in Cuba to Qatari custody in Doha, Qatar, in exchange for the release of Sgt. Bergdahl; Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom; and President François Hollande of France. President Komorowski referred to his mother Jadwiga Komorowska. President Komorowski spoke in Polish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Donald Tusk of Poland in Warsaw

June 3, 2014

*Prime Minister Tusk.* Mr. President, I'm very happy that again here in Warsaw we had the

opportunity to talk about Polish-American relations. And with great satisfaction, I observed

that so much has changed around us, but our relations and the nature of our relations remain the same. It remains so very good and of such fundamental significance as it was in the past when we spoke for the first time.

It was no coincidence in the fact that we began our meeting with my thanks to the very speedy and also very effective reaction of the United States to the Ukrainian crisis. And we're talking about the American reaction to the very situation in the region, but also in terms of support for Poland, which is both political—and we do remember that on this key day, when Crimea was subject to annexation, we remember the visit of Vice President Biden here to Warsaw, but we also highly appreciate your practical decisions about the support given to the Polish defense capabilities. And for that we're truly thankful, because that's not always so frequent in contemporary times.

We've exchanged information of our strategic cooperation. I informed Mr. President about our readiness and something that President Komorowski has also mentioned about our readiness to strengthen the Polish defense capabilities. We will also try to convince our European allies—also at the meeting at the NATO summit in Wales—we'll try to convince them to a common European effort for a common European defense and solidarity.

It was with great satisfaction that we welcomed the announcement of Mr. President about the readiness to increase the engagement and the plus-billion dollars dedicated to this part of the world. It was also with satisfaction that I heard from Mr. President this is just another step and that this is not the end and that in terms of the strategic perspective, we will continue to talk about the evermore intense cooperation and presence in this part of Europe—the presence of NATO in this part of Europe.

Our relations really, really do not require any repair, so we really did not have the needs to talk about Polish-American relations. But our opinions about Ukraine and the situation in the entire region and also in terms of energy cooperation, these opinions are in line. I've informed Mr. President about our Polish mission

of the European energy union so as to increase the independence of Europe in terms of a single energy supply point. And I think that is also a domain where we see possibilities of practical cooperation. And I'm very happy that Mr. President has also declared his personal engagement so as to increase this possibility of energy diversification in Europe.

Again, so very much—so thank you very much, Mr. President. I did say at the beginning that a friend in need is a friend indeed. And I reiterate I'm sure that the experiences of recent months and also our talks here on the symbolic date of our 25th anniversary of freedom, these talks were not just symbolic and were not referring to the history. And I think that this is the most important thing in our relations: that we appreciate the same values and we like the same symbols, but at the same time, we both wanted to go in the similar direction. And the United States is the best partner we could ever imagine.

Thank you so very much, Mr. President.

And now, Mr. President.

*President Obama. Dzień dobry.* I want to thank you, Prime Minister Tusk, for your warm welcome. It's good to be back in this hall. I've said a lot today already about why we think Poland is so important, why the alliance between the United States and Poland is so important, but perhaps during my remarks here, I can say a little bit about why the economic progress that we've seen in Poland is so important. Economic growth wasn't inevitable just because Poland achieved its political freedom. It wasn't easy. Reforms here in Poland have been hard and have not been without sacrifice. But as you drive through Warsaw, you see that Poland is a country on the move, one with one of the largest and fastest growing economies in Europe, a manufacturing powerhouse, and a hub of high-tech innovation.

In fact, the last time I was here, Donald gave me a gift: the video game developed here in Poland that's won fans the world over, "The Witcher." I confess, I'm not very good at video games, but I've been told that it is a great example of Poland's place in the new global economy, and it's a tribute to the talents and

the work ethic of the Polish people, as well as the wise stewardship of Polish leaders like Prime Minister Tusk.

As I did with President Komorowski, I reiterated to the Prime Minister our rock-solid commitment to Poland's security, outlined for him the announcement I made earlier today about bolstering security to our NATO allies in Eastern Europe, and made clear that the United States is ready to deepen our defense cooperation as Poland modernizes its military.

As the Prime Minister indicated, we spent a lot of time on Ukraine. Mr. Prime Minister, you've been a strong voice in conveying Poland's solidarity to the Ukrainian people. And Poland's been a great partner to Ukrainian civil society groups, and Polish diplomacy has played a critical role earlier this year in preventing even more violence.

Poland is joining us in providing Ukraine with critical economic assistance. And my conversation with the Prime Minister illustrated again that our countries are absolutely united in the need to stand with the Ukrainian people as they move forward, and that is not just with respect to their territorial integrity and security, but also with respect to the kinds of economic reforms that are going to be needed.

As Ukrainians undertake the hard work of political and economic reform, Poland is going to have an important role to play in sharing the lessons of its own success, as Poland has with other countries in Eastern Europe and Central Europe and around the world.

And one of the areas we discussed was energy. Obviously, this has created significant vulnerabilities throughout Europe, particularly Eastern and Central Europe. And we highlighted the need for greater energy security in Europe, which Prime Minister Tusk has championed, but we also agreed that it's going to be critical for Ukraine to embark on effective efforts to reform its energy sector and diversify its supply of natural gas. Just to give one example, Ukraine's economy requires about three times as much energy to produce the same amount of output as Poland's does. And it's very hard for Ukraine then to be competitive and to be successful if in fact it is that ineffi-

cient when it comes to energy. So these are areas where I think we can make great progress. Donald's ideas on how Europe can reduce its energy risks by diversifying, investing in renewables, and upgrading energy infrastructure are ones that I think are important for everybody to listen to.

Poland is, for example, making an important investment that will allow the world's liquefied natural gas, LNG, to travel to Europe. For our part, the United States has already approved licenses for natural gas exports, which will increase global supplies and thereby benefit partners here in Europe. I also mentioned to the Prime Minister the importance of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, T-TIP, the trade agreement that we are negotiating currently between the United States and Europe.

Poland has been a supporter of an ambitious T-TIP agreement. And I indicated to him one of the benefits of a strong trade agreement is that it is much easier for me to approve natural gas exports to countries with which we already have a free trade agreement.

So last point, we discussed in the context of energy the issue of climate change. The United States just took major steps to propose new standards that would result in significant reductions in carbon emissions from our power plants. This has to be a global effort. Poland hosted a successful U.N. climate summit conference last year. As we work to shape a strong global climate agreement this year—or next year, rather, it's important for the United States and the EU to set an example by committing to ambitious goals to reduce emissions beyond 2020. And if we're thinking seriously about energy diversification, energy efficiency, we can combine those two efforts in ways that make us not only more politically secure and economically secure, but also more environmentally secure.

So let me just thank once again Prime Minister Tusk for his outstanding leadership, and let me thank the Polish people for their outstanding example. I'm confident that the friendship that we've established over the years will only be strengthened. And although it's

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wonderful to have friends when things are going good, the Prime Minister is absolutely right that it's especially important to have friends when things are tough. And we don't have a better friend anywhere in the world than Poland. So we're grateful for that.

Thank you.

## Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Central and Eastern European Leaders in Warsaw

*June 3, 2014*

Well, thank you very much. Good afternoon. And along with President Komorowski, I'm very pleased to welcome our outstanding allies from across Central and Eastern Europe. We have done this before in Prague and on my last visit to Warsaw. And I want to thank my fellow leaders for being here.

As the President indicated, this 25th anniversary of Polish freedom reminds us of the transformations that have taken place all across the region. The countries represented here have all undertaken hard reforms, have built democratic institutions, have delivered greater prosperity for their citizens, and underlying this progress is the security guarantee that comes from NATO membership. We're here today because as NATO allies, we have to stand absolutely united in our article 5 commitments to collective defense. We stand together always.

And as I've said throughout the day and previously back home, I continue to believe that NATO is the cornerstone, the foundation, of U.S. security, not just European security. Now, given Russia's actions in Ukraine, NATO has increased its presence across the region, from the Baltics to the Black Sea. I thank our allies for the contributions they're making, and I'll be discussing the initiative that I announced today to bolster the U.S. presence in Europe.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 2:29 p.m. at the Chancellery. In his remarks, he referred to President Bronislaw Komorowski of Poland. Prime Minister Tusk spoke in Polish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

A number of countries represented here have already committed to increasing their investments in our collective defense, and today we'll be discussing additional steps that we can take both as individual nations and as an alliance to make sure we have the capabilities that we need. I expect that we'll also have an opportunity to discuss how Europe, especially Central and Eastern Europe, can continue to diversify its energy sources. The United States will be exporting more natural gas to the global market in the years to come. But more immediately, there are steps that we can take together to reduce energy risk, upgrade our energy infrastructure, and improve efficiency.

So again, I want to thank our fellow leaders for being here today. I think our presence sends a powerful message that as NATO allies, we stand as one. Citizens across Central and Eastern Europe need to know that what you've built over the last 25 years no other nation can take away.

So I again thank you, President Komorowski, for your hospitality. And I think once the press clears the room, we can get the meeting started.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:24 p.m. at Koniecpolski Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Bronislaw Komorowski of Poland.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With President-Elect Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine in Warsaw, Poland

*June 4, 2014*

*President Obama.* Well, it is a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to have my first

extended meeting with President-elect Poroshenko and to hear about his plans for a peaceful