

reaffirmed his support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member, and both leaders committed to ensuring that the Security Council continues to play an effective role in maintaining international peace and security as envisioned in the United Nations Charter.

The President also affirmed his commitment to enhancing India's voice and vote in international financial institutions, and ensuring that resources are made available and are used creatively through multilateral development banks for infrastructure financing.

The President thanked the Prime Minister for the gracious invitation to return to the great nation of India. In conclusion, the two leaders affirmed their long-term vision for a resilient and ambitious partnership through the first "Vision Statement for the Strategic Partnership," which they will hold up as the guiding framework for their governments and people.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on the Signing of the Afghanistan-United States Bilateral Security Agreement and the Afghanistan-North Atlantic Treaty Organization Status of Forces Agreement *September 30, 2014*

Today we mark a historic day in the U.S.-Afghan partnership that will help advance our shared interests and the long-term security of Afghanistan. After nearly 2 years of hard work by negotiating teams on both sides, earlier today in Kabul the United States and the new Afghan Government of national unity signed a bilateral security agreement (BSA). This agreement represents an invitation from the Afghan Government to strengthen the relationship we have built over the past 13 years and provides our military servicemembers the necessary legal framework to carry out two critical missions after 2014: targeting the remnants of Al Qaida and training, advising, and assisting Afghan national security forces. The signing of the BSA also reflects the implementation of the strategic partnership agreement our two governments signed in May 2012.

Today Afghan and NATO officials also signed the NATO status of forces agreement, giving forces from allied and partner countries

the legal protections necessary to carry out the NATO Resolute Support mission when ISAF comes to an end later this year.

These agreements follow an historic Afghan election in which the Afghan people exercised their right to vote and ushered in the first peaceful democratic transfer of power in their nation's history. The BSA reflects our continued commitment to support the new Afghan unity Government, and we look forward to working with this new Government to cement an enduring partnership that strengthens Afghan sovereignty, stability, unity, and prosperity and that contributes to our shared goal of defeating Al Qaida and its extremist affiliates.

This day was only possible because of the extraordinary service of our men and woman in uniform who continue to sacrifice so much in Afghanistan on behalf of our security and the Afghan people. The American people are eternally grateful for their efforts.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel *October 1, 2014*

President Obama. Well, it's good, once again, to welcome the Prime Minister of Israel, Bibi Netanyahu. Obviously, he's no stranger to

the White House. I think I've met with Bibi more than any world leader during my tenure as President.

We meet at a challenging time. Israel is obviously in a very turbulent neighborhood, and this gives us an opportunity once again to reaffirm the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel and our ironclad commitment to making sure that Israel is secure.

Throughout the summer, obviously, all of us were deeply concerned about the situation in Gaza. I think the American people should be very proud of the contributions that we made through the Iron Dome program to protect the lives of Israelis at a time when rockets were pouring into Israel on a regular basis. I think we also recognize that we have to find ways to change the status quo so that both Israeli citizens are safe in their own homes and schoolchildren in their schools from the possibility of rocket fire, but also that we don't have the tragedy of Palestinian children being killed as well.

And so we'll discuss extensively both the situation of rebuilding Gaza, but also how can we find a more sustainable peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Our agenda will be broader than that, obviously. I'll debrief Bibi on the work that we're doing to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL and the broader agenda that I discussed at the United Nations, which is mobilizing a coalition not only for military action, but also to bring about a shift in Arab States and Muslim countries that isolate the cancer of violent extremism that is so pernicious and ultimately has killed more Muslims than anything else.

And we'll also have an opportunity to discuss the progress that's being made with respect to dealing with Iran's nuclear program, which obviously has been a high priority for not only Israel, but also the United States and the world community.

So we have a lot to talk about, and I appreciate very much the Prime Minister coming. It's challenging, I think, for an Israeli Prime Minister to have to work so hard during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, but I know that the Prime Minister's utmost priority is making sure that his country is safe during these difficult times. And we're glad that the United States can be a partner in that process. Thank you.

Prime Minister Netanyahu. Mr. President, first, I want to thank you. I want to thank you for the unflinching support you gave Israel during our difficult days and difficult summer we had, expressed in so many ways, but also in an additional installment of support for Iron Dome, which has saved so many lives, saved many lives across the border. And I thank you for that and for the continuous bond of friendship that is so strong between Israel and the United States.

I also want to thank you for this opportunity to meet with you and to discuss the enormous challenges facing the United States and Israel in the Middle East. There's definitely a new Middle East. I think it poses new dangers, but it also presents new opportunities.

As for the dangers, Israel fully supports your effort and your leadership to defeat ISIS. We think everybody should support this. And even more critical is our shared goal of preventing Iran from becoming a military nuclear power.

As you know, Mr. President, Iran seeks a deal that would lift the tough sanctions that you've worked so hard to put in place and leave it as a threshold nuclear power. And I fervently hope that under your leadership that would not happen.

Equally, I think that there are opportunities. And the opportunities, as you just expressed, is something that is changing in the Middle East, because out of the new situation, there emerges a commonality of interests between Israel and leading Arab States. And I think that we should work very hard together to seize on those common interests and build a positive program to advance a more secure, more prosperous, and a more peaceful Middle East.

I remain committed to a vision of peace of two states for two peoples based on mutual recognition and rock-solid security arrangements on the ground. And I believe we should make use of the new opportunities, think outside the box, see how we can recruit the Arab countries to advance this very hopeful agenda. And I look forward to our discussions on these and many other matters.

President Obama. Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:23 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization.

Prime Minister Netanyahu referred to ISIL by an alternative designation, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

Remarks Honoring the 2013 Major League Soccer Champion Sporting Kansas City October 1, 2014

The President. Hello, everybody! Hello, Kansas City. Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. Welcome to the White House. Give it up to the MLS champ, Sporting Kansas City. [*Applause*] Yay!

Now, my Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, is from Kansas City. He has made the observation that the Royals are advancing, that the Chiefs made the Patriots look kind of bad on Monday night. [*Laughter*] And so, clearly, something is going on in Kansas City, but apparently, these guys are the ones who got it all started, got the ball rolling. It's a pretty good day to be from Kansas City. You guys are feeling kind of cocky right now. [*Laughter*]

We've got some Members of Congress who are here today from Kansas City, who obviously love sports. It's a great sports town. We've got the Sporting KC's owners and family. I want to congratulate your manager, Peter Vermes, for becoming the first person in MLS history to win titles both as a player and a coach in the same organization. [*Applause*] Pretty good.

That is not the only history that Sporting KC made this season. After beating New England and Houston in the playoffs to win the Eastern Conference, they were rewarded with the coldest title game ever played in Major League Soccer. [*Laughter*] When the game started, the temperature was just 20 degrees. By the end, it was less than 10 degrees. I'm sure that felt good. [*Laughter*] That was after 120 minutes of soccer and the longest penalty shoot-out—10 rounds—in MLS Cup history. But finally, Aurélien Collin kicked the winning penalty shot, and KC raised their second Cup.

And the thing about Kansas City fans is that even in below-freezing temperatures, the seats were filled. Sporting Park was packed. It is a

city that loves soccer. They've sold out 51 straight games. In a section of seats called the Cauldron, thousands of fans came out to stand and chant all game long.

And this past summer, when Americans passed restaurants—packed restaurants and stadiums and city parks during the World Cup, the fans in Kansas City led the way. It seemed like 10 minutes couldn't pass without seeing live shots of thousands of fans crowding the Power and Light District and cheering on Team U.S.A. I know they cheered extra hard for Matt Besler and Graham Zusi, who represented Sporting KC and their country in Brazil. So, as soccer continues to grow here in the United States, it does so in large part because of the great example of dedicated fans in Kansas City. So congratulations to all of you.

In the same way that Kansas City has embraced its soccer team, the soccer team has embraced the city. Aurélien has a fashion line and men's clothing shop in Kansas City. [*Laughter*] Is he—where are you? You want to model some of your stuff? [*Laughter*] He's got the pocket square, the earrings. I'm going to look like him after I get out of office. [*Laughter*] He looks pretty sharp. You've got Seth Sinovic, the assistant—and Assistant Coach Kerry Zavagnin and goalkeeper Jimmy Nielsen, who all made their debuts in the Kansas City Ballet last year. [*Laughter*] That's impressive. They got to bring that trophy with them on stage to distract the audience from their limited ballet skills. [*Laughter*]

And through the Victory Project, Sporting KC works to raise money for kids in the region with cancer and special needs and life-threatening medical conditioning—conditions through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. They've opened new