

But there will be, you know, the tendency for, obviously, in your business to focus on where we differ. The truth of the matter is, the meeting today, the focus was on where we agree. And that was the very thing that encouraged me about it.

So I felt great walking into the press conference because I felt great after the meeting.

President's Upcoming Visit to Poland

Q. Sir, what's the big theme you're going to hit on Friday in Warsaw?

The President. Europe—whole, free, expanded.

Q. Bring up your father—

The President. No. Well, I mean, when they say, "President Bush," it will be brought up. But—[laughter].

Q. I'm just thinking about his Europe policy.

The President. No, that's right. No, it's a—kind of same values. The values haven't changed. The issues are different, but the goal of a free and united Europe is not. I'm looking forward to giving this speech because it will be given on the soil of a country that has really emerged as a result of its NATO membership and its adherence to free markets. And I'm not going to tell you any more about it because I want you to listen.

Assistant Press Secretary Johndroe. We've got to get in the vans.

The President. I can only have one press conference a day. It's unbelievable how accessible I am these days. [Laughter]

President's European Friends

Q. Every President has European friends. Who are your European friends?

The President. Tony Blair, clearly a friend. But by not naming somebody, they'll assume that they're not a friend. They're all friends, to begin with. Jose Maria Aznar and I get along great. We had a wonderful visit yesterday. He's a very interesting man. If there were, kind of, objective observers, they would have said the body language was very strong between us. Prime Minister Blair and I get along well.

I will get along with every leader. I haven't had a chance to nurture a relationship beyond some casual conversations with some

of the leaders, but I suspect we'll have very close relations with all the leaders, but those two initially are people that I feel very comfortable in singling out. Havel is a very interesting guy whom I admire a lot. I've read some of his writings, and he's a legend in many ways in Eastern Europe. And I have a great relationship with him.

Q. Is he one of your strongest allies on missile defense?

The President. Well, as I said, there's kind of a code of silence. But I appreciate his friendship.

Okay, get out of here. [Laughter] We've got to pay for this.

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:24 p.m. at Mary Chocolatier. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain; and President Václav Havel of the Czech Republic. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to the Plenary Session of the United States-European Union Summit in Göteborg, Sweden

June 14, 2001

U.S.-EU Summit

Q. Mr. President, can you share with us your message for the European leaders?

The President. See, Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press] asked you to ask that. [Laughter] I haven't made up my mind who I'm calling on at the press conference yet, so if you don't behave, you may not get called.

Q. And chances keep diminishing. Right, sir? [Laughter]

The President. Did you put him up to that, Ron?

Q. I'm not that smart, sir. [Laughter]

The President. Let me just say this. I'm honored to be the first United States President to come to Sweden, and I appreciate so very much the hospitality that we've received, and I'm so looking forward to these discussions. What the people of Sweden and Europe will realize is that mine is an administration that is deeply committed to a prosperous Europe and a whole Europe and a

free Europe. And we look forward to a constructive relationship.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:24 p.m. at Gunnebo Manor House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

The President's News Conference With European Union Leaders in Göteborg, Sweden

June 14, 2001

Prime Minister Goran Persson. Mr. President, Mr. President; welcome to the press conference. All members of the media. We have had a very productive summit between the European Union and the United States. We have been discussing, as you realize, matters that is on our common agenda. First of all, world trade, the necessity to go ahead with a new round to liberalize trade to give a clear signal about the need to create growth in the world economy.

We realize the clear linkage between the last Uruguay Round and the consecutive years of good economic growth in the world economy. Now we are in a little bit more, if not stagnant phase, at least a phase with lower growth. We need a new impetus. We need a new stimulus to the economy. And the best thing to do is to go for a new round about how to liberalize trade.

We have discussed that—also some disputes and mechanism to solve disputes. This is the main message: Go along with the liberalization of trade to support and stimulate growth, the common responsibility for the European Union and the United States.

The second thing we have discussed was about how to find a way to cooperate—about to combat climate change, because you know that's not a secret. We don't agree upon how we regard the Kyoto Protocol—so to say we agree to disagree about substance, according to the Kyoto Protocol. The European Union will stick to the Kyoto Protocol and go for a ratification process. The U.S. has chosen another policy.

But we have the same targets, and we have to meet the same problems. Climate change is not isolated to Europe or to America. It's a global threat. So nevertheless, if you are in favor or against the Kyoto Protocol, you

have to take action. So we agreed to disagree about substance, but agreed to go on with some type of procedure that can lead us back to a position that we can cooperate and try to support each other.

We will call for personal representatives to follow up our discussion. And that will mean that we send a signal that we go on ahead with the Kyoto Protocol, the American Government go on ahead with their policy, but we'll try to cooperate as much as possible and try to find a process for that. That was the second thing we discussed.

The third thing was about HIV/AIDS. There is a terrible threat for many millions, not least in Africa. A generation can be swept away, children without parents and children born with HIV. It's a tremendous threat, and something we just can't neglect. We have to take our part of the responsibility. The American President proposed a fund together with the U.N., and we discussed also how the European Union could support in that work. That was the third thing we discussed.

Then we also discussed, of course, the situation of the Balkans. We are close Allies. We cooperate, and we said that we came in together, and then the day come—we don't know when—we will go out together. That is important to say. And then, we'll do everything we can to support the governments around in the region and to stay as constructive, reliable partners for the good progress according democracy and economy. It's not easy, but our presence is necessary.

We discussed, also, the situation in the Middle East. And we have a joint statement, the first time the European Union and the U.S., how to support the road back for peace and reconciliation. And that is to say that we urge the partners to live up to the cease-fire, because without an ending of violence, there will be no possibilities to go on with the so-called Mitchell report that after the end of violence, we call for confidence-building measures, and then negotiations about peace and reconciliation. We stand together. We urge both partners to go for the cease-fire and stick to it.

As you can hear, this is an agenda covering different subjects. But it's also, of course, a way to express our common values, how to cooperate about the economy, how to take