

U.S. Open Tennis Tournament

Q. Mr. President, do you congratulate Lleyton Hewitt for winning the U.S. Open?

The President. Yes, I do. Man, you talk about a guy who can play tennis. He was—clearly tennis is one of Australia's best exports.

By the way, now that you're here, I do want to say hello to my old friend John Newcombe. I knew him years ago; he represents the best of Australia. And by the way, we get along well, because if there's any place that's like Texas, it's Australia—which is a high compliment, I want you to know.

Q. Mr. President, do you see a role for Australia in the development of your—

The President. I do. They're close allies. We'll have close consultation. I look forward to the Prime Minister's continuing advice. We have had great discussions about the Far East, and his advice is very valuable for our foreign policy. There's nothing like a friend who will tell the truth.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:20 a.m. on the West Colonnade at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to former Australian Davis Cup captain, John Newcombe. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Australia on the U.S.-Australia Alliance

September 10, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister John Howard today commemorated the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-Australia alliance.

The two leaders reaffirmed that the alliance is an alliance between two peoples, tied by bonds of law and language, united by a history of shared struggle and sacrifice in defense of freedom and democracy, and finding new strength in the challenges of a changing world.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that for fifty years, the friendship between the United States and Australia has advanced the cause of stability and security within the Asia-Pacific region and indeed throughout the world. The aspirations we

have shared, for peace and prosperity for all, remain as firmly held as ever.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard solemnly reaffirmed the commitment of the United States and Australia to the alliance under the ANZUS Treaty. They pledged anew their intent to strive together to promote order and goodwill between nations and to ensure that the alliance continues to play its vital role in preserving peace throughout the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

NOTE: The joint statement referred to ANZUS, the Security Treaty Between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America. An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and Australia

September 10, 2001

President George W. Bush and Prime Minister John Howard today reaffirmed the strength and vitality of the bilateral relationship between Australia and the United States, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the alliance between the two countries. The President and the Prime Minister expressed the conviction that the alliance has been a pillar of stability in the Asia-Pacific region and has made an essential contribution to global peace and security over the past half century. The Prime Minister welcomed the clear commitments expressed by the President to continued active U.S. engagement in the Asia-Pacific region. They agreed the U.S. presence in the region helped contribute to the stability that was essential to ensure economic growth and greater prosperity for all countries in the Asia Pacific.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard discussed a broad range of regional and global security issues. Both underscored the importance of Indonesia's successful democratic transition and expressed support for Indonesia's territorial integrity. Noting the positive steps President Megawati and her team have taken to promote policy reform and national unity, President Bush and Prime Minister Howard reaffirmed their support

for the new government's efforts to build a stable, united, democratic and prosperous Indonesia. The two leaders welcomed the peaceful election in East Timor and emphasized the importance of continued international support and assistance, including through the United Nations, to ensure a successful transition to a stable, viable and independent state.

The President and the Prime Minister agreed that the economic transformation underway in China will have a major impact on the region and the world. The President and the Prime Minister welcomed the prospect of China's accession to the WTO and affirmed their desire to see China take up a constructive role as a full member of the international community. In this context, they reaffirmed the importance of China's observance of its non-proliferation undertakings and underlined their close interest in China's respect for human rights. The President and the Prime Minister agreed that Japan makes an important contribution to regional stability, emphasized the importance of Prime Minister Koizumi's reform initiatives, and expressed optimism that continued reform will produce significant benefits over time for the people of Japan and for the global economy. On the Korean Peninsula, President Bush and Prime Minister Howard reiterated their strong support for renewed North-South engagement. The Prime Minister welcomed the United States' offer of dialogue to North Korea following the Administration's policy review and encouraged North Korea to respond positively. The two leaders welcomed the growing opportunities for political, commercial and security cooperation with India.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard expressed shared concern about the threat to global stability posed by ballistic missile proliferation and weapons of mass destruction and increasingly capable ballistic missiles as a means of delivery. They agreed on the need for a comprehensive approach to counter these threats, including enhanced non-proliferation and counter-proliferation measures as well as continued nuclear arms reductions. They also agreed that missile defense could play a role in strengthening deterrence and stability as part of this com-

prehensive approach. The Prime Minister looked forward to further consultation with the United States on these issues and welcomed the Administration's active dialogue on the issue with allies as well as Russia and China.

The President and the Prime Minister resolved to work together closely to expand trade globally, regionally and bilaterally. They agreed that launching a new global trade round in Doha is a top trade priority for both nations. They emphasized that agriculture must be a core element of the next trade round in order to level the playing field. They confirmed their commitment to achieve open markets in the Asia-Pacific region, including using APEC's full potential more effectively. The President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitment to enhance their already close economic relationship, including the possibility of a bilateral free trade agreement (FTA). They discussed the contribution an FTA could make to their shared global and regional trade objectives. They noted the strong trade and investment flows between the United States and Australia and the spur an agreement could give to further growth. They asked their trade ministers to report back to them before the end of the year on how to advance the proposal. The President noted the importance of consulting with Congress and other interested parties in deciding the Administration's position on the FTA.

President Bush and Prime Minister Howard agreed that climate change poses a serious long-term challenge. The President and the Prime Minister recognized that climate change is a global issue requiring a global approach and expressed their commitment to develop an effective and science-based response.

The President and the Prime Minister greatly enjoyed their discussions, which were characterized by unusual warmth and candor. They believe the meeting strengthened their personal partnership and the partnership between their two nations. The goodwill generated today will be valuable in moving forward on their common agendas.

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

Remarks in a Leadership Forum in Jacksonville, Florida

September 10, 2001

The President. It's about time he got it right, isn't it? [Laughter] Governor. [Laughter] Obviously, we were raised right, because Jeb's priority and my priority are the same; that is to make sure every child gets a good education in America.

We understand—we understand—that an educated child is one that is much more likely to realize the great American experience. And it is so important that we get it right in America. And I'm proud of my brother. He's doing a really good job here in Florida, and I appreciate Jeb.

And Jeb is right. I don't think education ought to be a partisan issue. I know reading is not a partisan issue. I mean, getting every child to read in America is an American issue, and it ought to be an American goal. And it is going to be for this administration.

Jeb had the honor of introducing members of the State House and the State level that are going to make this happen. I traveled today with three members of the Florida delegation: the United States Senator, Senator Nelson, thank you for coming, sir. A Member of the House—Stearns and Crenshaw are with us, as well. Thank you all for being here. That is Ander Crenshaw.

And we had a good discussion coming down. I said, "We're going to go to a school that's showing what can happen when people get their minds together and focus on a goal." And the goal of teaching every child to read is an incredibly important goal, and I want to congratulate the teachers and the parents who are insisting that no child—[applause].

And I want to thank Diane for having us. Diane told me she just moved down from Virginia. It's a wonderful—to me, a wonderful sign of her dedication, that she would leave Virginia Tech and to come down and put to work her skills, right here on the frontlines of education, a principal. So thank you for being here.

I picked a good man to be the Secretary of Education. I know the superintendent of schools here, for Duval County, is here. There he is; thank you, Super, for being here. Well, I picked a man who had been the su-

perintendent in Houston, Texas. I didn't want somebody who knew the theories of education. I wanted somebody who knew the practical aspects of education, somebody who had been on the frontlines, somebody who shares with me the belief that every child can learn, who is willing to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations—the feeling that if you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results, and that we all ought to raise the bar—and that's my friend from Houston, who is now the Secretary of Education, Rod Paige. Thanks for coming, Rod.

Secretary Paige. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you.

The President. I want to thank the boys and girls who are here. I like to—sometimes when I see elementary school students or, for that matter, middle school students and sometimes high school, so I ask the question, do you read more than you watch TV?

Audience member. Yes.

The President. That's good, the one that said, yes. Make sure you tell the truth. [Laughter] And that's an important question to ask, because it's so much easier to watch TV and not read. And yet, you learn so much more when you read. So all of us as parents have got to work hard to teach our children the importance of practicing reading and the importance of not watching TV—in all due respect to the camera folks back there—[laughter]—because reading is essential. And we've got to get it right as a nation. Now, lest I make the Governor feel uncomfortable, I'm absolutely against the federalization of public education. I believe that the best way to achieve excellence for every child is to pass power out of Washington and to trust the local folks.

And I presume—I presume the good Governor is still doing what he said, which is to pass power out of Tallahassee to Jacksonville, because one size doesn't fit all, and it's important to empower people at the local level to have the—to give them the flexibility necessary to meet common goals.

But the Federal Government can help, and it will help. In the bills that I've submitted that passed the House and the Senate, we've got a fantastic reading initiative started. First, there's the call for more money. And