

the concerns of the President of the United States to the fact that we must think of the future threats. And here is a common ground for our further discussions.

What we differ in is that we differ in the ways and means we perceive that are suitable for reaching the same objective. And given the nature of the relationship between the United States and Russia, one can rest assured that whatever final solution is found, it will not threaten or put to threat the interests of both our countries and of the world. And we shall continue our discussions.

President Bush. This is the last question, and then what we're going to do is, we're going to walk around and say hello to everybody, and then we're going to go back to the ranch.

Yes, ma'am.

Student. My name is Judy Swinson, and I'm in seventh grade.

President Bush. Seventh grade. Good.

Future Visit to Russia

Student. And if you do go to Russia, are you going to be taking some kids from Crawford? [Laughter]

President Bush. No. [Laughter]

President Putin. I am extremely grateful for this question. The whole audience basically started on this note, and you finalized the whole thing with your question. [Laughter] This is not a mere coincidence, I believe. On our way here, the President invited to come here when it's plus-40 Celsius, more than 110, and he invited me to join a plus-40 club who jog when it is 110 and more. [Laughter] Well, I'll think about it. [Laughter]

Indeed, in our country, there are regions where people live, by the way, in Siberia, where for one—last year, for 2 weeks in a row, the temperatures were about around or below minus-50 Celsius—for 2 weeks running. My promise is, I will not terrorize your President with such low temperatures—[laughter]—and would be glad to see any of you present here in Russia.

But first of all, I would like to address here at this juncture our hosts, the schoolchildren, the young audience here. At the count of three, those who want your President to

come to Russia, raise your hands and say, yes.

One, two—

Audience members. Yes!

President Bush. Thank you all. Very good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to President Putin's daughters, Masha and Katya; and rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Congressional Action on Aviation Security Legislation

November 15, 2001

I commend the House and Senate conferees for reaching an agreement that puts the Federal Government in charge of aviation security, making airline travel safer for the American people.

This agreement improves upon the Senate-passed legislation in several important ways, including putting responsibility for all modes of transportation security at the Department of Transportation, where it belongs. Today's agreement also gives the Federal Government the flexibility to ensure a safe transition to a new aviation security system and will ultimately offer local authorities an option to employ the highest quality workforce—public or private. In addition, the compromise will help ensure security by requiring that all screeners be U.S. citizens and by guaranteeing the screening of all checked bags.

Safety comes first. And when it comes to safety, we will set high standards and enforce them. I congratulate the conferees and look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

November 15, 2001

As the new moon signals the holy month of Ramadan, I extend warm greetings to Muslims throughout the United States and