

their own ability and, eventually, the resources necessary to battle disease and improve their environment and build lives of dignity for their people.

Members of the Bundestag, we are joined in serious purpose—very serious purposes—on which the safety of our people and the fate of our freedom now rest. We build a world of justice, or we will live in a world of coercion. The magnitude of our shared responsibilities makes our disagreements look so small. And those who exaggerate our differences play a shallow game and hold a simplistic view of our relationship.

America and the nations in Europe are more than military allies; we're more than trading partners; we are heirs to the same civilization. The pledges of the Magna Carta, the learning of Athens, the creativity of Paris, the unbending conscience of Luther, the gentle faith of St. Francis: All of these are part of the American soul. The New World has succeeded by holding to the values of the Old.

Our histories have diverged, yet we seek to live by the same ideals. We believe in free markets, tempered by compassion. We believe in open societies that reflect unchanging truths. We believe in the value and dignity of every life.

These convictions bind our civilization together and set our enemies against us. These convictions are universally true and right. And they define our nations and our partnership in a unique way. And these beliefs lead us to fight tyranny and evil, as others have done before us.

One of the greatest Germans of the 20th century was Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who left the security of America to stand against Nazi rule. In a dark hour, he gave witness to the Gospel of life and paid the cost of his discipleship, being put to death only days before his camp was liberated. "I believe," said Bonhoeffer, "that God can and wants to create good out of everything, even evil."

That belief is proven in the history of Europe since that day, in the reconciliation and renewal that have transformed this continent. In America, very recently, we have also seen the horror of evil and the power of good. In the tests of our time, we are affirming our deepest values and our closest friend-

ships. Inside this Chamber, across this city, throughout this nation and continent, America has valued friends. And with our friends we are building that house of freedom for our time and for all time.

May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:13 p.m. in the Bundestag at the Reichstag. In his remarks, he referred to President Johannes Rau, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, and former Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany.

### **Statement on the Conference on Improving Forest Health and Reducing Risk of Wildfire**

*May 23, 2002*

I commend Secretary Norton and Secretary Veneman for their strong leadership in addressing the widespread problems of declining forest health and the risk of destructive wildfires, particularly in the West. Today's conference, highlighting the completion of the Ten Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan, marks an important new cooperative effort between the Federal Government, States, local governments, Native American tribes, and concerned citizens and organizations. Working together, we will promote sound forest management to restore forest health and make the recreational opportunities and resources of our forests more accessible. In many areas, this will require active forest management efforts to thin our forests of excessive natural fuels and restore native vegetation to our forests and rangelands.

Our goal is to reduce the threat that wildfires pose to homes, communities, and the environment. Severe drought conditions in many areas of the United States make it essential that we cooperate in our efforts to fight fires and reduce the fuel loads that cause them. Cooperation will also enable us to move forward on other important endeavors, such as improving the performance of the Northwest Forest Plan. I thank Governor Kempthorne and Governor Kitzhaber for their help in crafting this bipartisan agreement and for hosting this important conference.

**Statement on Congressional Action on the Proposed “Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002”**

*May 23, 2002*

I applaud members of both parties, including Congressman Tauzin and Dingell and Senators Kennedy, Gregg, and Frist, for acting on my proposals to protect Americans against bioterrorism. This legislation strengthens food safety and security, improves the ability of Federal, State, and local authorities to coordinate their response to possible bioterrorist attacks, and enhances surveillance and security over dangerous biological agents.

I commend the House and Senate for their hard work and look forward to signing this important bipartisan legislation into law.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3448, the proposed “Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002.”

**Statement on Senate Action on the Proposed “Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act”**

*May 23, 2002*

Today’s passage by the Senate of a vital package of trade legislation is a critical step in advancing America’s trade agenda and strengthening the U.S. economy. As I begin my trip here in Europe, the passage of this bill sends an important signal to our trading partners that we are committed to free and open trade.

Restoring trade promotion authority will give me the flexibility I need to secure the greatest possible trade opportunities for American workers, consumers, families, and farmers. The administration also supports expanding the Andean Trade Preferences Act in a way that reflects the economic realities of the region. ATPA will help the Andean economies grow through legitimate trade, while also enhancing our counternarcotics strategy.

Every day the United States goes without trade promotion authority is another day the

American people are deprived of the benefits of trade. Therefore, I urge the House and Senate to convene a conference committee immediately so they can resolve their differences and send me a trade promotion authority bill I can sign at the earliest opportunity.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 3009, the proposed “Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act.”

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia in Moscow, Russia**

*May 24, 2002*

**President Putin.** Distinguished Mr. President, distinguished colleagues and friends, we are happy to welcome you in the capital of Russia and in the heart of it, in the Kremlin of Moscow.

This is the first visit of the President in office of the United States of America to the Russian Federation, and I’m very pleased to note that this visit is of a different quality than all previous visits of the heads of the U.S. state to our country.

I’d like to underline that if prior to this time virtually all meetings at this level were dedicated to overcoming contradictions or consequences of those contradictions, today we have the right to state the creation of an absolutely new quality to our relationship. This touches upon the issues of security, the issues of limitation of a strategical process, and our participation in the building of the new safe world. And this has a bearing to the quality of trust for the relationship. And all this happened over the past months, past 12 or 18 months, with active participation and support of this process on behalf of the President of the United States, Mr. Bush, and his team.

Therefore, we’re especially pleased, distinguished Mr. President, to receive you here in Moscow, in Russia. Myself and my colleagues recall the warmth of the reception we were accorded in the United States, including in your home, in your family, and we would like very much to respond with a similar hospitality. And we hope and we’re confident that your visit to our country will