

and would say absolutely that this has been a very helpful and a positive meeting. Thank you, sir, for your hospitality.

[At this point, President Chirac spoke in French, and no translation was provided.]

President Bush. We've agreed to take one question apiece. Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News], do you want to ask a question?

President's Upcoming Visit to Egypt

Q. Mr. President, can you tell us your expectations for the summit in Sharm el-Sheikh? And what are you hearing from the region?

President Bush. Well, first let me talk about my expectations for the G-8. They have been met. I was hoping to come to Europe and to say that a united Europe working with America can do a lot of good; it can do a lot of good on issues such as fighting terror or working on matters such as proliferation. We can do a lot of good to help those who suffer in the world. And so the expectations—at least as far as I'm concerned—have been met here.

My expectations in the Middle East are to call all the respective parties to their responsibility to achieve peace, and to make it very clear that my country and I will put in as much time as necessary to achieve the vision of two states living side by side in peace.

I fully understand this is going to be a difficult process. I fully understand we need to work with our friends, such as France, to achieve the process. I know we won't make progress unless people assume their responsibilities. The first message is, I will dedicate the time and energy to move the process forward. And I think we'll make some progress. I know we're making progress.

[A question was asked and answered in French, and no translation was provided.]

France-U.S. Relations

President Bush. Yes, and I want to thank President Chirac's support in the latest resolution in the United Nations. Listen, we must be frank, we went through a difficult period. I understand his position. He made it very clear to me in the very beginning. There was no question where Jacques Chirac stood, and

I made it—I made it clear where I stood. And that's why I can say we've got good relations, because we're able to be very honest with each other.

But when it came time to focus on a free Iraq, a healthy Iraq, a prosperous Iraq, we're in agreement, and we will move together to ensure that the Iraqi people have now got the capacity to run their own country. It's going to take them time to get there. It's a difficult situation in Iraq, but we are committed to a free Iraq, and together we can make that happen more quickly than if we were still at odds on the issue.

Thank you, Jacques, appreciate it.

[A question was asked and answered in French, and no translation was provided.]

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:42 a.m. at the Hotel Royal. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma

June 2, 2003

I am deeply concerned by reports from Burma of the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and members of her political party as well as reports that military authorities have closed her party headquarters in Rangoon. The military authorities should release Aung San Suu Kyi and her supporters immediately and permit her party headquarters to re-open.

The situation in Burma has long been of concern to the United States. We have urged Burmese officials to release all political prisoners and to offer their people a better way of life, a life offering freedom and economic progress. We welcomed the release of Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest more than a year ago. This step gave the military regime an opportunity to enter into a substantive dialog with Aung San Suu Kyi and all political groups to promote national reconciliation and democracy. This is still the only path to peace and prosperity for all of Burma's people.

**Remarks at a Multilateral Meeting
With Arab Leaders in Sharm el-
Sheikh, Egypt**

June 3, 2003

Well, Mr. President, thank you very much for hosting this important meeting. I want to thank the leaders for coming, Your Majesties and His Royal Highness, Prime Minister Abbas, I want to thank you and your delegation for coming as well.

I'm the kind of person who, when I say something, I mean it. I mean that the world needs to have a Palestinian state that is free and at peace. And therefore, my Government will work with all parties concerned to achieve that vision.

I believe now is the time to work to achieve the vision. All of us have responsibilities to achieve the vision.

You, sir, have got a responsibility, and you've assumed it. I want to work with you, as do the other leaders here.

We must not allow few people, a few killers, a few terrorists to destroy the dreams and the hopes of the many. Israel has got responsibilities. Israel must deal with the settlements. Israel must make sure there's a contiguous* territory that the Palestinians can call home.

The leaders at the table have got a responsibility. The biggest responsibility that they have, it seems like to me, is to fight off any source of funding to terror, is to prevent the terrorists from gaining a foothold. I know that is the commitment of the leaders here; I have talked to them about that. It's in their own self-interests to fight off terror. It's in their own self-interests to enable the Palestinian state to emerge.

So this is an historic meeting. It's the beginning of a long process and a tough process. But no matter how difficult it is, you have my commitment that I will expend the energy and effort necessary to move the process forward.

I believe that, as I told the Crown Prince, the Almighty God has endowed each individual on the face of the Earth with—that expects each person to be treated with dignity. This is a universal call. It's the call of

all religions, that each person must be free and treated with respect. And it is with that call that I feel passionate about the need to move forward, so that the world can be more peaceful, more free, and more hopeful.

Mr. President, thank you for convening this meeting. Tomorrow we've got important meetings as well. This is the beginning of a process where all of us must not allow the few to destroy the hopes of the many.

May God bless our work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:50 p.m. at the Movenpick Conference Center. Participating in the meeting with the President were: President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia; King Abdullah II of Jordan; King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain; and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in
Sharm el-Sheikh**

June 3, 2003

President Mubarak. Today we have met with the President of the United States, President George Bush, to affirm our common commitment to seize this historic moment to advance the peace cause forward.

President Bush gave impetus to the peace process by his vision of two states, Israel and Palestine, living in peace and security. This vision means that, alongside the existing state of Israel, a new state for the Palestinians will emerge.

We welcome the roadmap rising from this vision and adopted by the Quartet, especially since it has been accepted by both the Israeli and Palestinian Governments. We particularly express our appreciation for President Bush's strong personal commitment for its full implementation.

The roadmap provides for ending the occupation that began in 1967 and resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by 2005, through fulfillment of all sides to their own obligations. Peace obligations are built on the foundations of the Madrid Conference, the

* White House correction.