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And that's precisely what we are doing on the ground, and we will work with other nations to do as well.

President Ronald Reagan

Q. Mr. President, there are a lot of remembrances about Ronald Reagan this week. What lessons have you learned from the Presidency of Ronald Reagan? And have you modeled your political style after him at all?

President Bush. Ronald Reagan will go down in history as a great American President because he had a core set of principles from which he would not deviate. He understood that a leader is a person who sets clear goals and makes decisions based upon principles that are etched in his soul, and our Nation will miss him. I had the honor of speaking to Mrs. Reagan from Paris, France, and expressed Laura and my condolences to her and her family, and the Nation will be doing so as well on Friday.

Thank you. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:31 p.m. at Dunbar House. Prime Minister Koizumi spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada at Sea Island

June 8, 2004

President Bush. I'm so honored to have a chance to visit with you again, Mr. Prime Minister. I look forward to our discussions. We've got great relations, and relations with Canada are, as far as I'm concerned, very important relations.

And we will continue our discussions on mad cow and softwood lumber. You've always been a strong advocate of Canadian interests, of course, and I appreciate that. Hopefully we can resolve the mad cow quickly—that you've asked me to do and that we will continue to work on a softwood lumber agreement that's beneficial to both countries.

Canada is a great friend, and you've been very cooperative at figuring out ways to cooperate in the war on terror. The Prime Minister has got a clear vision about the dangers that face the free world, and for that I'm grateful too. So I look forward to our discussions, sir.

Prime Minister Martin. Well, thank you very much. First of all, Mr. President, I thank you for having us all here. This is an absolutely spectacular, beautiful spot. And I think that we're all very, very glad to be here.

In terms of the war on terror, this is a—we feel every bit as strongly about it as you. And the fact is that we are all at peril here, and we have all got to win this war. And Canada certainly intends to do our part, and we stand with you foursquare against global terrorism.

If you'll also allow me simply to say, now that I'm here, I really—certainly on my own behalf and on behalf of all of the Canadian people, how—how much we regret the passing of President Reagan and what a tremendous contribution he made to the free world. I don't think there's any doubt that he is one of the great influential people of the second half of the last century. His effect in bringing the cold war to an end is one for which historians will laud him forever. And so I think that you—at the same time, while you feel very badly—I'm sure you feel very, very proud, and I think the American people can feel proud.

President Bush. Thanks, Paul. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:58 p.m. at Dunbar House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany at Sea Island

June 8, 2004

President Bush. Thanks. It's great to see you. I want the folks to know how much I appreciate your willingness to work on promoting freedom around the world, and it's an important statement, and I appreciate your Government's good work.

I appreciate very much the Chancellor's help in Afghanistan. That country is improving, and that's important. I appreciate our mutual work on the U.N. Security Council

resolution on Iraq. I look forward to continuing our dialog in a spirit of cooperation and friendship, and I'm glad you're here.

Chancellor Schroeder. Thank you very much. And let me say, I love to be here, particularly since the weather is—compared to what we are used to—so nice and so favorable. [*Laughter*]

And I think what we're talking about here at this meeting will be essentially something that, indeed, forms part of one whole and something that is an indissoluble, namely a good world economy on the one hand and stable political situation—a stable political environment on the other.

We are willing to give our contribution, and we, indeed, give our contribution to this in Afghanistan, for example, but also on the Balkans. And let me say that I'm gratified to know that this is appreciated.

I am confident that the resolution—the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq will be adopted today. Whatever we can do to bring this about, we will certainly do. We think that this resolution will be a good basis, a good foundation for enhancing stability, for also improving the chances for the Iraqi people, and also to enhance stability all around in that region that is—I think we would all agree—a difficult one. And I think that this is, indeed, our common task. It is something that we shall work on together. And well, thank you again for your gracious hospitality.

President Bush. Thanks, Gerhard. Appreciate you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:43 p.m. at Dunbar House. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vladimir Putin of Russia at Sea Island

June 8, 2004

President Bush. I always enjoy talking to my friend Vladimir Putin. He's a strong leader who cares deeply about the people of his country and understands the issues that we face. We just had a long discussion about a variety of issues. And I had the opportunity to thank him for working together on important issues such as the United Nations Security Council resolution.

The vote today in the United Nations Security Council was a great victory for the Iraqi people. The international community showed that they stand side by side with the Iraqi people. The U.N. Security Council resolution supports the interim government, supports free elections, and supports the multinational force. America supports strongly the idea of a free society in the midst of hatred and intolerance, and I appreciate your help, Vladimir, on getting that Security Council resolution through today.

And it is my pleasure to continue to work with you as we make sure our relations are as close as they possibly can be.

President Putin. First of all, I would like to thank the U.S. President for having invited me to such a wonderful place. Indeed, we had a very thorough discussion which pertained to virtually the entire spectrum of the U.S.-Russia relationship.

I have congratulated the U.S. President with the positive change currently underway with the U.S. economy, which has to be acknowledged as his merit. And this happens with the background of the unreasonable growth for costs and pricing for the energy resources. We're all interested in these positive changes, because in the contemporary world of today, when we live, it is important for all of us that the U.S. economy improves, for the entire world—for Russia included.

I'd like to point out the fact that our relationship has been developing all across the board, including such sensitive areas as the military cooperation.

Now, as regards the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution, without any exaggeration I would state that it is a major step forward. And I hope I will express the view which is held by all members of the Security Council that, indeed, we have witnessed a very constructive dialog which was in progress over the past few days in this area. And this is not about passing a new document in the Security Council regarding Iraq. This is about a quality change in the status in Iraq and with regards to the presence of the military troops there. This