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Remarks Following Discussions With President Jacques Chirac of France at Sea Island

June 10, 2004

President Bush. It's good to have yet another discussion with Jacques Chirac. We had a wonderful visit in Paris. And again, I want to thank you for your hospitality. The food was superb, the hospitality warm——

President Chirac. Here, also.

President Bush. ——and our discussions were meaningful.

We continued our discussions about world poverty and world peace. Of course, we talked about Iraq. We had our differences in the past. But we're friends, and friends are able to discuss the future. And our hope is for peace and freedom around the world.

We consulted on some NATO—we're partners in NATO. We talked about a lot of issues, and one of the issues that we talked about was NATO and whether or not there is a continued role in Iraq for NATO. I assured the President we will continue to consult closely. The point is, is that we understand that the Iraqi people need help to defend themselves, to rebuild their country, and most importantly, to hold elections.

And I appreciate the chance to visit with Jacques.

President Chirac. Can I first of all say, as I said yesterday, tell President Bush our gratitude and our feelings of gratitude and our feelings of gratitude of the French people as a whole, in the context of the D-day celebrations. D-day was something that was terribly important for all the French people, and once again I'd like to thank the President for having made the trip and having heard, himself, the French people speak their words of thanks and gratitude and friendship. It was very moving for us.

And I also wanted to come and congratulate him for the way in which the G–8 was organized and conducted. It is a success.

We had an opportunity during the summit to discuss a number of issues. We've just reviewed some with our colleagues from the Middle East yesterday; we'll be doing so with our colleagues from Africa today. And this gave us an opportunity of reviewing the major areas of concerns for today's world, to better understand each other and also to prove our efforts for peace, development, and human rights.

And as I said, I'd like to thank once again the President for the hospitality here. The President was kind enough to mention French cuisine, but I can tell you that over the last few days, this cuisine here in America was certainly on a par with French cuisine, and I ask the President to convey my thanks to the chef.

President Bush. He particularly liked the cheeseburger he had yesterday. [*Laughter*]

President Chirac. It was excellent. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. at Dunbar House. President Chirac spoke in French, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

G–8 Statement on Sudan

June 10, 2004

We, the Leaders of the G–8, warmly welcome the May 26 signing by the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) of protocols on Power Sharing, Abyei, and on the Two Areas (of Southern Blue Nile and Nuba Mountains). We urge the parties to reach a final and comprehensive agreement which includes a timetable and security arrangements as quickly as possible. We hope that this agreement and its faithful implementation will end one of the world's most painful conflicts and begin a new era of Sudanese peace and prosperity.

We also wish to express our grave concern over the humanitarian, human rights, and political crisis in Darfur. We welcome the N'djamena ceasefire agreement of April 8, and the announcement on May 20 by the Government of Sudan that restrictions on humanitarian access will be eased. However, there are continuing reports of gross violations of human rights, many with an ethnic dimension. We call on all parties to the conflict to immediately and fully respect the ceasefire, allow unimpeded humanitarian access to all those in need, and create the conditions for the displaced to return safely to