

suggesting specific proposals for cooperating in developing energy trade and investment.

We will promote the creation of transparent tax, legal, regulatory, and contractual conditions for our companies' cooperation, and support Russia's pipeline system development, which will create the preconditions for increasing deliveries of oil and gas export, including to the U.S. market.

We are interested in increasing U.S. commercial investment in Russia, so as to create additional capacity for liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Russia, and also with the aim of increasing LNG exports to U.S. markets. We would welcome increased Russian oil exports to the world market and an increased presence of imports from Russia in the United States. We would also welcome expanding mutual investments in the energy sectors of both countries.

The initiation of several concrete projects should be targeted for no later than 2008.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin: Nuclear Security Cooperation
February 24, 2005

The United States and Russia will enhance cooperation to counter one of the gravest threats our two countries face, nuclear terrorism. We bear a special responsibility for the security of nuclear weapons and fissile material, in order to ensure that there is no possibility such weapons or materials would fall into terrorist hands. While the security of nuclear facilities in the U.S. and Russia meet current requirements, we stress that these requirements must be constantly enhanced to counter the evolving terrorist threats. Building on our earlier work, we announce today our intention to expand and deepen cooperation on nuclear security with the goal of enhancing the security of nuclear facilities in our two countries and, together with our friends and allies, around the globe.

To this end the United States and Russia will continue and expand their cooperation on emergency response capability to deal with the consequences of a nuclear/radio-

logical incident, including the development of additional technical methods to detect nuclear and radioactive materials that are, or may be, involved in the incident.

We will work together to help ensure full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 and early adoption of an International Convention on Nuclear Terrorism and the amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material.

U.S. and Russian experts will share "best practices" for the sake of improving security at nuclear facilities, and will jointly initiate security "best practices" consultations with other countries that have advanced nuclear programs. Our experts will convene in 2005 a senior-level bilateral nuclear security workshop to focus increased attention on the "security culture" in our countries including fostering disciplined, well-trained, and responsible custodians and protective forces, and fully utilized and well-maintained security systems.

The United States and Russia will continue to work jointly to develop low-enriched uranium fuel for use in any U.S.- and Russian-design research reactors in third countries now using high-enriched uranium fuel, and to return fresh and spent high-enriched uranium from U.S.- and Russian-design research reactors in third countries.

The United States and Russia will continue our cooperation on security upgrades of nuclear facilities and develop a plan of work through and beyond 2008 on joint projects. Recognizing that the terrorist threat is both long-term and constantly evolving, in 2008 our countries will assess the joint projects and identify avenues for future cooperation consistent with our increased attention to the security culture in both countries.

We have established a bilateral Senior Interagency Group chaired by Secretary of Energy Bodman and Rosatom Director Rumyantsev for cooperation on nuclear security to oversee implementation of these cooperative efforts. A progress report will be due on July 1, 2005, and thereafter on a regular basis.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Statement on Pope John Paul II**February 24, 2005**

On behalf of all Americans, Laura and I send our heartfelt best wishes to Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father is in our thoughts and prayers, and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to the service of his church and all humanity.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

February 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

February 20

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Brussels, Belgium, arriving in the evening.

February 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Sheraton Brussels Hotel and Towers, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a greeting with U.S. Embassy and Missions personnel. Then, at the Royal Palace, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a courtesy call with King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium.

Later in the morning, in the Prime Minister's Office at Lambergmont House, the President met with Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt of Belgium. Then, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the President met with Secretary General Jakob Gijsbert "Jaap" de Hoop Scheffer of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In the evening, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, the President met with President Jacques Chirac of France. They then had a working dinner.

February 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence, he had a working breakfast with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom.

Later in the morning, at NATO Headquarters, the President had a meeting with President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine. He then participated in a meeting of the NATO-Ukraine Commission. Later, he met with Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi of Italy. He then participated in a plenary session of the North Atlantic Council followed by an official photo with NATO leaders.

In the afternoon, at NATO Headquarters, the President had lunch with NATO leaders. Later, at the Justus Lipsius Building, he participated in a meeting followed by an official photo with European Union leaders.

In the evening, in the Berlaymont Building, the President met with European Commission President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso followed by a photo opportunity with European Union Commissioners. He then had a working dinner with European Commission President Durao Barroso, European Council President Jean-Claude Juncker, and European Council Secretary General Javier Solana.

The President announced his intention to nominate John C. Dugan to be Comptroller of the Currency at the Department of the Treasury.

February 23

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Mainz, Germany, where, at the Electoral Palace, they participated in an arrival ceremony with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and greeted American and German soldiers who had served in Afghanistan.

Later in the morning, at the Electoral Palace, the President met with Chancellor Schroeder.

In the afternoon, at the Electoral Palace, the President and Mrs. Bush had lunch with Chancellor Schroeder, his wife, Doris Schroeder-Koepf, and local leaders and businesspeople. He then met with Angela