

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on the United Nations General Assembly Vote To Ban Human Cloning

March 8, 2005

I applaud the strong vote of the United Nations General Assembly today urging countries to ban all forms of human cloning. I am also grateful for the strong statement against practices that exploit women.

Human life must not be created for the purpose of destroying it. The United States and the international community have now spoken clearly that human cloning is an affront to human dignity and that we must work together to protect human life. I look forward to working with Members of Congress to enact legislation to ban all human cloning in the United States.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Traian Basescu of Romania and an Exchange With Reporters

March 9, 2005

President Bush. We'll have brief opening statements. The President and I will take two questions per side.

Mr. President, welcome.

President Basescu. Thank you very much.

President Bush. I am impressed by your leadership. I am grateful for your friendship. Romania has been a steadfast ally of freedom. And Mr. President, I can't thank you enough for coming to discuss a wide range of subjects.

We discussed the neighborhood, and he gave me very good advice about Moldova. We discussed the Black Sea. And the President has got a clear vision as to how to make sure the world is more peaceful. We discussed the fact that freedom is spreading throughout the Middle East. We discussed our bilateral relations.

I told the President I'm most impressed by his campaign to rid the Government of

corruption in Romania, a steadfast, strong commitment. He believes in transparency and rule of law, and that is very important for American companies looking for a place to invest to hear from the leader of the country. But the thing about this President, he's more than words; he's action.

And so, Mr. President, I welcome you to the Oval Office. I thank you for your friendship, and I'm proud to call you friend.

President Basescu. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm happy being here in my first visit over the ocean from when I was elected as President of Romania. I'm happy to discuss with our ally, the President Bush, with the United States—I am happy to pass our message regarding democracy, regarding freedom, regarding development of our strategic partnership, regarding the problems which the Black Sea have in this moment, and regarding the solutions which we can find together in order to make a peaceful and secure area on the Black Sea.

At same time, I was happy to discuss with Mr. President the future evolutions of our access on the United States. Romania considers that we can be included on the program of allowing Romanians to circulate without a visa on the United States. And I thank you very much, to President Bush, for the open approach regarding this subject.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Bush. Welcome. A couple of questions. Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

Iran

Q. Mr. President, how credible do you think U.S. intelligence is about Iran's nuclear program? Do you think it's solid enough to make judgments about whether Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons?

President Bush. I think it's very important for the United States to continue to work with our friends and allies which believe that the Iranians want a nuclear weapon and which know that Iran possessing a nuclear weapon would be very destabilizing.

In my trip to Europe, I discovered common ground with a lot of European nations, which believe and are worried about Iranian intention. And one reason there needs to be