AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Remarks Following a Discussion With Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt of Sweden

May 15, 2007

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome.

We have just had a wide-ranging, significant dialog. We talked about a lot of areas of interest. Two areas that I think really will have a profound effect on our respective countries, as well as on the world, are the issue of climate change and trade.

Let me start with trade. The Prime Minister is very interested in the Doha round; he's interested in U.S. strategies to achieve success in the Doha round. I assured him that we're committed to achieving a world that trades more freely, that we recognize we have obligations to do—to deal with our agricultural subsidies in order to move the Doha round forward, that Sue Schwab is committed to working with our European counterparts as well as President Lula of Brazil, Prime Minister Singh of India—two countries that represent others involved in the Doha round. And we believe that it's possible, very possible that we'll be successful. And so we're moving forward optimistically on this issue.

Secondly, we talked about climate change. The Prime Minister is concerned about greenhouse gases. I share your concerns about this issue. We talked about how, on the one hand, we can work together—as I understand, we're signing some agreements that have—that move forward alternative energy proposals. I assured the Prime Minister that here at home, that I'm concerned about the environmental issues as well as the national security implications for being too dependent on oil.

I shared with him my optimism about reducing U.S. gasoline consumption by 20 percent over the next 10 years by promoting alternative fuels. I talked to him about our desire to work with Europe and China and India and Japan and Australia and other countries about an international framework that will meet the following objectives: one, economic vitality and growth; two, the advance of new technologies; and third, obviously, the effects that will have on reducing greenhouse gases.

The Prime Minister made this a center point of our conversation, and I fully appreciate and understand why. I appreciate the leadership you've taken on this important issue, not only in your country but at the EU as well. It's been noticeable to me here in the United States, and I congratulate you for being the strong leader that you are.

All in all, we've had a wonderful discussion. And I welcome you here to the Oval Office.

Prime Minister Reinfeldt. Thank you very much. It's been great. Thank you.

Well, I should also say that I pointed out the importance of President Bush's leadership on the Doha round. There are too few in the world fighting for free trade, so we need the President on that. And I hope that we could, during a very short span, bring this to an end.

And I was so grateful for the comments and leadership on the climate issue. It will be debated many years to come. So thank you very much for that.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Appreciate you coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:05 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks at the National Peace Officers Memorial Service

May 15, 2007

Thanks for coming; please be seated. Thank you. Thank you, Chuck. I have been here ever since I've been the President, in an event like this, and it's fitting because this is a really important day for our country. It's a day we remember men and women who fell in the line of duty. Each swore an oath to uphold the law. Each assumed the responsibility of protecting neighbors and communities. Each has earned a place in our Nation's heart. We thank them for their lives of service, and we pray to an Almighty God that He bring comfort to you during this time of sorrow.

I appreciate Chuck Canterbury, president of the Fraternal Order of Police. I thank the members of my Cabinet who have joined us

today. I appreciate so very much Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi for being here today. I thank Senator Leahy, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, Minority Leader John Boehner, and all the Members of Congress who have joined us. I thank Aliza Clark, Jim Pasco. Father Vytas, thank you for your prayers. Appreciate Patrick Nigh, who sang the National Anthem; Lee Greenwood, friend of law enforcement.

I thank the police officers who are here. I am honored to be in your presence. I'm constantly amazed by your courage. I thank you for serving the United States of America.

To the moms and dads, husbands and wives, and sons and daughters who have got a hole in your heart today, I bring a collective hug from the people of the United States of America.

It takes a special kind of person to serve in law enforcement. Most people run from danger; law enforcement runs toward it. You've chosen one of the toughest jobs in the world, and I suspect during times of dangerous duty or lonely patrols, it might seem like the only person you can depend upon is each other. A day like today, I hope, not only helps our families but helps those who serve remember that a larger community here in this country stands with you, that we're grateful for your service.

We saw this gratitude last year in Montgomery, Alabama, as thousands of citizens mourned a young officer named Keith Houts. Keith was shot during a routine traffic stop. He held on 2 days before succumbing. He was 30 years old. As expected, police officers from Alabama came to mourn him—that's what happens; when a fellow officer dies in the line of service, the officers show up—but so did citizens he never met. Thousands and thousands of citizens came to honor this good man. An overflow crowd attended the funeral; every church pew was filled. Mourners stood. An anonymous citizen paid lodging expenses for members of Keith's family so they could make it to the service. The community embraced Keith's young widow, Ashley, who's here. She had been a wife just for 15 months. Ashley said this of her late husband: "I know what he meant to me, but it is important to know what he meant to everyone else."

We've seen similar outpourings of support in other places. Last year, in Fairfax County, Virginia, thousands of strangers lined city streets to bid farewell to two officers, Vicky Armel and Michael Garbarino. They were shot while doing their duty. Those who gathered along one of the funeral routes included all kinds of people, total strangers paying homage—a grocery store cashier, a fellow from Belgium was there, a local resident who told a reporter she wanted to thank the police who, as she put it, "worry so we don't have to."

We saw a similar scene in Colorado Springs after the murder of Kenneth Jordan. Cars stopped along the interstate as drivers watched the funeral procession from railings and bridges. Children were waving flags in honor of a good man. One man brought his sons to pay tribute to an officer who he said "gave up his life up for us." Another held up a sign that said: "God bless you and keep you safe. Thanks so much."

That sign sums up the feeling of millions of our fellow citizens: God bless you, and thanks so much. Laura and I feel the same way. You know, we shared the grief of the family of Steve Favela, who is a Honolulu police officer who died last year from injuries he suffered during a motorcade that was protecting us. His death is a reminder of the daily risks that each officer assumes.

I don't know if you realize this, but police officers are routinely named among America's most respected profession. And that's why strangers mourn for the loss of life and honor those who serve. That's why so many children choose you as role models.

With us today are young children who've lost their moms and dads in the line of duty. It's got to be awfully hard. The pain is fresh, and they feel that every time they come home, looking for a mom or dad they love. It's hard to understand the loss you've suffered, but hopefully today you leave with the sense that there are all kinds of people praying for you and honoring your dad or mom; millions Americans grieve.

When I hope—you're older you'll come to this ceremony again and find some comfort here. Perhaps you'll bring your own children and share your memories of your parents and the pride in what they did. You can tell them

your parents were great because of what they risked. You can tell them they served a cause greater than themselves.

We're proud of all our Nation's fallen police officers. We're sorry you're here, but now that you are, we care about you a lot, and we love you. We're grateful for what they have given us.

May God bless you all. May God bless those who wear the uniforms of the United States of America. And may God continue to bless our country.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:38 p.m. on the West Grounds at the U.S. Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Aliza Clark, executive board president, Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary; James O. Pasco, Jr., executive director, Steve Young Law Enforcement Legislative Advocacy Center; Father Vytas Memenas, State chaplain, Illinois State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police; Officer Patrick Nigh, St. Louis County Police Department; and entertainer Lee Greenwood.

Statement on the Advancement of United States Maritime Interests

May 15, 2007

I am acting to advance U.S. interests in the world's oceans in two important ways.

First, I urge the Senate to act favorably on U.S. accession to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea during this session of Congress. Joining will serve the national security interests of the United States, including the maritime mobility of our Armed Forces worldwide. It will secure U.S. sovereign rights over extensive marine areas, including the valuable natural resources they contain. Accession will promote U.S. interests in the environmental health of the oceans. And it will give the United States a seat at the table when the rights that are vital to our interests are debated and interpreted.

Second, I have instructed the U.S. delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to submit a proposal for international measures that would enhance protection of the Papahanaumokuakea Marine National Monument, the area including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Last June, I issued a proclamation establishing the monument, a 1,200-mile stretch of coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals that are home to some 7,000 marine species. The United States will propose that the IMO designate the entire area as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)—similar to areas such as the Florida Keys, the Great Barrier Reef, and the Galapagos Archipelago—which will alert mariners to exercise caution in the ecologically important, sensitive, and hazardous area they are entering. This proposal, like the Convention on the Law of the Sea, will help protect the maritime environment while preserving the navigational freedoms essential to the security and economy of every nation.

Statement on the Appointment of Lieutenant General Douglas Lute as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan

May 15, 2007

I have chosen Lieutenant General Douglas Lute to serve as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Iraq and Afghanistan. General Lute is a tremendously accomplished military leader who understands war and government and knows how to get things done. While serving at Central Command, General Lute played an integral role in implementing combat operation plans in Iraq and Afghanistan and gained a critical understanding of the challenges we face in the global war on terror. He has already earned the respect and trust of the officials with whom he will be working in his new role.

In his new position, General Lute will be the full-time manager for the implementation and execution of our strategies for Iraq and Afghanistan and will manage the interagency policy development process for these two theaters, working closely with my National Security Adviser, Steve Hadley, members of my Cabinet, and me. Nothing is more important than getting Admiral Fallon, General Petraeus, American commanders in Afghanistan, and Ambassadors Crocker and Wood what they need, and Douglas Lute can make sure that happens quickly and reliably.