

fourth largest trading partner. In other words, this is a group of friends that represent more than just social acquaintances; you represent commerce and trade and prosperity. And I want to thank you very much for giving me a chance to come and talk to you about our common interests and common goals.

I invited the ASEAN leaders to Texas at their convenience. I'm looking forward to hosting you down there. I'm looking forward to continuing our constructive conversation on—whether it be democracy or fighting terror or expanding trade or avian flu or climate change.

I also am pleased to announce that we'll be naming an Ambassador to ASEAN, so that we can make sure that the ties we've established over the past years remain firmly entrenched.

So I appreciate your hospitality. It's good to be amongst friends. I enjoyed our candid conversation, and I thank you for your leadership in this important part of the world.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore. Thank you. Thank you very much.

President Bush. You bet. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:49 p.m. at the InterContinental Sydney.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea in Sydney

September 7, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for your time. As usual, we had a very friendly and frank discussion about important matters. We discussed our bilateral relations, which are very strong. And we thank you for your contributions to helping young democracies such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

But we spent a lot of time talking about the six-party talks and the progress that is being made in the six-party talks. I understand you're having a summit with the leader of North Korea, and I appreciate the fact that you will urge the North Korean leader to continue to adhere to the agreement that he made with us.

And in our discussions, I reaffirmed our Government's position that when the North Korean leader fully discloses and gets rid of his nuclear weapons programs, that we can achieve a new security arrangement in the Korean Peninsula, that we can have the peace that we all long for. You and I discussed the northeast peace and security agreement—arrangement, which we support.

And so I'm optimistic. There's still more work to be done. But nevertheless, Mr. President, when we have worked together, we have shown that it's possible to achieve the peace on the Korean Peninsula that the people long for.

So thank you, sir.

President Roh. As President Bush has stated, we had a very constructive discussion on six-party talks and the North Korean nuclear issue as well as other bilateral issues between our two countries.

Before we discussed these issues, I reaffirmed my support for President Bush and his policies and efforts in Iraq to bring peace. I also thanked the President for his efforts in the Visa Waiver Program—for his constructive position on this issue.

We both agreed on the positive outlook for the six-party talks. We believe that this progress is very meaningful. And I also thanked President Bush for his resolve to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian region, for making a strategic decision to bring peace to the region through dialog.

As is outlined in the 2005 September 19th joint statement, we have a plan for the peace regime on the Korean Peninsula, and President Bush also reaffirmed in November of last year in Vietnam of his willingness and his resolve to end the Korean war officially, once and for all. Today we revisited this issue. President Bush reaffirmed his determination to replace the current status in the Korean Peninsula with a permanent peace regime, and he stressed that he would be proceeding with this move after the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved.

We also share the view that should there be more progress in the six-party process, this will be followed by talks to initiate a

Northeast Asian regional security mechanism. I also reassured President Bush that the inter-Korean summit will underpin the progress at the six-party talks, that relations—the inter-Korean relations and the six-party talks should be a mutually reinforcing relationship.

I think I might be wrong—I think I did not hear President Bush mention the—a declaration to end the Korean war just now. Did you say so, President Bush?

President Bush. I said it's up to Kim Jong Il as to whether or not we're able to sign a peace treaty to end the Korean war. He's got to get rid of his weapons in a verifiable fashion. And we're making progress toward that goal. It's up to him.

President Roh. I believe that they are the same thing, Mr. President. If you could be a little bit clearer in your message, I think—

President Bush. I can't make it any more clear, Mr. President. We look forward to the day when we can end the Korean war. That will end—will happen when Kim Jong Il verifiably gets rid of his weapons programs and his weapons.

Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:29 p.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. In his remarks, he referred to Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea. President Roh spoke in Korean, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Vladimir Putin of Russia in Sydney

September 7, 2007

President Putin. First of all, I would like to say that I am very glad to have this opportunity to meet with the U.S. President within the framework of the APEC summit.

In the meeting we had today, I started with the words of gratitude for this fantastic and warm welcome which we enjoyed during our visit to Kennebunkport recently.

We have managed to cover all the matters on our bilateral agenda and the key international aspects too. First of all, about the missile defense—we have once again said that it is necessary that our experts meet

again very soon and make another trip to Azerbaijan to the Gabala radio location station. By saying this, we confirm that the process of our joint work on this—in this direction is underway.

We also discussed the—Russia's WTO accession plans. We hope that this work will end up with positive results and these endeavors will be continued on the expert level too.

We also discussed the Iranian nuclear issue. And I would like to say that Russia intends and is prepared to continue this work with our partners and colleagues within the framework of the IAEA and the United Nations. And I hope that a solution will be found for the benefits of the international community in general and the benefits of Iranian people in particular.

We also covered our economic relations. We discussed some particular large-scale economic projects, the implementation of which is to the interests of the business communities on both sides, in the U.S. and in Russia.

And we also discussed the environmental issues, in particular in connection with the forthcoming APEC summit. I should tell you that we have very close positions on these matters.

I would like to thank my colleague, the President of the United States, for a very constructive and open dialog, which we enjoyed today.

This gives me every hope to believe that further on the relations between the countries will continue to develop in the same positive mood.

Thank you.

President Bush. Vladimir, thanks. For a minute, I thought he brought up the Kennebunkport visit to remind me that he was the only one who caught the fish. But in fact, it was our—my family's great pleasure to welcome my friend the President of Russia to Mother and Dad's home.

I have nothing much more to add than what Vladimir said. We did discuss a variety of issues that are of importance to our respective countries, and I found the conversation to be cordial and constructive. We are results-oriented people. We want to help solve problems. And we recognize that we