

to a cause that is just and important. I appreciate the fact that you're fighting the extremists who don't share the same kind of view. And I believe that the vision of two states, side by side in peace, is achievable. And we want to help you realize that goal.

So thank you for coming.

President Abbas. Mr. President, thank you very much for receiving us here and for hosting us. We appreciate that very much. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm to you that we truly believe very strongly in the peace process, and we believe very strongly in your vision of establishing a Palestinian, independent, viable state that lives side by side with the State of Israel.

Mr. President, these days we feel hopeful, and we feel and we sense the hope, especially after the call to convene an international meeting during the month of November. We believe that this meeting should deal with the substance and issues of substance that would lead to full negotiations on permanent status that would lead to a permanent peace and a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

And based on our belief of the seriousness of this call, both us and the Israelis have formed the teams that will work immediately in order to negotiate for the issues to be ready and ripe to take it one step further and be prepared and ready prior to the mid-November date for the convening of the meeting.

I also take this opportunity to reaffirm again that we strongly believe in the roadmap, which includes your vision, Mr. President, as well as the Arab initiative. Collectively, together, I believe they represent a strong framework that would allow us and help us to negotiate the permanent status issues and reach an agreement on it.

Therefore, Mr. President, we will continue to count on your work, on your support, and your serious efforts. We have faith and trust in all of this and believe that with the help of this, we'll be able to reach the just and durable peace in the Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:46 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Salam Fayyad of the Palestinian Authority; and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of

Israel. President Abbas spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil in New York City

September 24, 2007

President Bush. It's a pleasure to be with my friend the President of Brazil. Every time we visit, it's always a fruitful and important discussion. We talked about climate change. And I assured the President that the event we're having in Washington—which he kindly is coming to—is an important meeting about reaching international consensus on how to move together on the issue of climate change.

We talked about alternative fuels. Brazil, under President Lula's leadership, is a leading producer of ethanol. And he is an evangelist on the subject. And I appreciate very much his leadership, because I believe the United States will benefit from ethanol. And so I look forward to working with you. And I want to thank you for your leadership in Haiti.

And finally, we had a good discussion on Doha. We share a commitment to a successful round of trade talks. And I assured the President that the United States would show flexibility, particularly on agricultural goods, in order to help achieve a breakthrough. So I want to thank you for the conversation. It's a joy being with you.

President Lula. First of all, I would like to thank for the opportunity once again to be here with President Bush and with members of his Cabinet. Secondly, we are convinced that on the climate change and the Doha round, we're still dependent on some factors. And one of these factors is the willingness of an important country like the U.S. demonstrating its capability to be flexible.

And President Bush has demonstrated the willingness to reach an agreement—in the many different conversations that we have had, he has demonstrated very clearly his willingness. And the U.S. is willing to be more flexible. And he's also willing to discuss with all countries on climate change. And this has been Brazil's position.

We are convinced that the Doha round is a need; it's something that is a necessity for the rich and for the poor countries. And we'll be—the rich and the developing countries could give a contribution for the less developed countries.

And at the same time, the climate issue is an issue that involves all the human beings on the planet Earth. So all of us, we share responsibility to take care of the planet that we will leave for our grandsons and for our grand-grandsons. We don't want to try to find who to put the blame on or who is innocent. What matters is that everybody has to take care of the planet, because if we don't take of the planet Earth, we will all have something to lose.

I once again told President Bush that Brazil is willing to do its share on the climate issue, as also to cope with what we have to cope with, from the deforestation of the rain forest in the Amazon, which we managed to reduce in 52 percent in the year.

And on the Doha round, Brazil is willing to do whatever is necessary so that we can reach a deal very—[inaudible]. If we manage to convince important countries like China, India, South Africa, Argentina, Mexico, plus the European Union and Japan, I believe that we can, in the next phase, announce good measures as related to the Doha round, as also on the climate change.

So what we are demonstrating is that the issue exists. No one has a definite solution. We are in—just in a learning process on how to cope with this issue. And we all want to do our homework. The demonstration of the political will President Bush has, and myself, is, we're sending a signal that no one owns the truth; everybody knows a little bit and doesn't know so much a little bit too. We want together to add up our knowledge so that we can find the best solutions. Thank you.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:48 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. President Lula da Silva spoke in Portuguese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the United Nations General Assembly in New York City September 25, 2007

Mr. Secretary-General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the opportunity to address the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Sixty years ago, representatives from 16 nations gathered to begin deliberations on a new international bill of rights. The document they produced is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and it stands as a landmark achievement in the history of human liberty. The declaration opens by recognizing “the inherent dignity” and the “equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family” as “the foundation of freedom and justice and peace in the world.” And as we gather for this 62d General Assembly, the standards of the declaration must guide our work in this world.

Achieving the promise of the declaration requires confronting long-term threats. It also requires answering the immediate needs of today. The nations in this chamber have our differences, yet there are some areas where we can all agree. When innocent people are trapped in a life of murder and fear, the declaration is not being upheld. When millions of children starve to death or perish from a mosquito bite, we're not doing our duty in the world. When whole societies are cut off from the prosperity of the global economy, we're all worse off. Changing these underlying conditions is what the declaration calls the work of “larger freedom,” and it must be the work of every nation in this Assembly.

This great institution must work for great purposes: to free people from tyranny and violence, hunger and disease, illiteracy and ignorance, and poverty and despair. Every member of the United Nations must join in this mission of liberation.

First, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from tyranny and violence. The first article of the Universal Declaration begins, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.” The truth is denied by terrorists and extremists who kill the innocent with the aim of imposing their hateful vision on humanity.