

at the press conference. Thank you. Nice to see you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:12 p.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa.

Message to the Senate Transmitting the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

July 7, 2008

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith for advice and consent of the Senate to ratification the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, adopted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on November 3, 2001, and signed by the United States on November 1, 2002 (the “Treaty”). The Treaty entered into force in June 2004.

The centerpiece of the Treaty is the establishment of a multilateral system under which a party provides access to other parties, upon request, to listed plant genetic resources held in national genebanks. These resources are to be used solely for purposes of research, breeding, and training in agriculture. A recipient of such a resource must then share the benefits from its use, e.g., a recipient who commercializes a product containing an accessed plant genetic resource must generally pay a percentage of any gross sales into a trust account.

Transfers under the multilateral system are to be accompanied by a standard material transfer agreement, the current version of which was concluded in June 2006.

Provision of plant genetic resources from U.S. genebanks is fully consistent with the Department of Agriculture’s long-standing general practice of providing access to such plant genetic resources upon request. Ratification of the Treaty will provide U.S. agricultural interests with similar access to other parties’ genebanks, thus helping U.S. farmers and researchers sustain and improve their crops and promote food security.

The Treaty may be implemented under existing U.S. authorities.

I also transmit, for the information of the Senate, the report of the Department of

State concerning the Treaty, which contains an understanding regarding Article 12.

George W. Bush

The White House,
July 7, 2008.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 8.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Toyako

July 8, 2008

President Bush. Madam Chancellor, thank you for yet another visit. I value your friendship; I value your advice. We talked about a lot of common problems and a lot of common opportunities. We talked about the G–8. We talked about the need to work—to continue to work together on Iran. Angela Merkel is a constructive force for good. And I appreciate your time. Thank you.

Chancellor Merkel. Well, thank you very much. As always, we had a very interesting exchange of view, a very intensive exchange of view. And let me tell you that I’m very satisfied with the work that has gone on, on the G–8 documents, as regards progress on the issue of climate change, cooperation in the area of food and oil. We discussed here a number of other foreign policy—foreign political issues—sorry. We also discussed WTO and the possible conclusion to that negotiating process. And let me say that we are hopeful that such a successful conclusion may be possible over the next few weeks to come.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:56 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa. Chancellor Merkel spoke in German, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India in Toyako

July 9, 2008

President Bush. Prime Minister Singh and I just had a typical conversation amongst

friends. We talked about common opportunities, world problems, and we did it in a spirit of respect. And it was easy for me to do because I respect the Prime Minister a lot. I also respect India a lot. And I think it's very important that the United States continues to work with our friends to develop not only a new strategic relationship but a relationship that addresses some of the world's problems.

We talked about the India-U.S. nuclear deal and how important that is for our respective countries. We talked about the environment and how we can work together to grow our economies and, at the same time, be responsible stewards of the environment. We talked about free trade, the Doha round, and how important it is that nations such as India and the United States find common ground to make sure protectionist sentiments don't wall us off from the rest of the world.

We talked about educational exchanges. I reminded the Prime Minister that the Indian American population is very proud of this relationship and proud of their heritage and proud of the leadership of the Prime Minister.

All in all, it was a really good meeting amongst two friends. And so, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for joining us today, and congratulations on your leadership at home.

Prime Minister Singh. Mr. President, it is a great privilege for me to once again meet you and to review with you the state of Indo-American relations. And I'm very happy to report to the President that our relations have moved forward handsomely since our first meeting in July 2005. We have made progress in all areas. We have progressed in nuclear cooperation, space cooperation, defense cooperation, educational exchanges, our working together in multilateral institutions for the success of Doha round. And I am very pleased with the state of our relationship, which has truly acquired the characteristic of a genuine strategic partnership.

I thank the President for his personal, magnificent contribution to the evolution of our relationship. And all I can say is, our relationship with the United States has never been in such good shape as it is today. And it is the intention of my Government, as I believe it is also the will of the Indian people, particularly the thinking segments of our

population, that in this increasingly interdependent world that we live in, whether it is a question of climate change, whether it is a question of managing the global economy, India and United States must stand tall, stand shoulder to shoulder. And that's what is going to happen.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. We're standing shoulder to shoulder right here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:23 a.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Hu Jintao of China in Toyako

July 9, 2008

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you very much for your time. We—you and I have had a lot of meetings together, and I always appreciate the candid discussions on a variety of issues.

The President and I discussed Taiwan; we discussed Sudan; we discussed trade. We discussed a variety of issues. I told the President I was looking forward to coming to the Olympics. I reminded him that not only am I coming, but my wife, my mother, and dad will be there, and we're looking forward to your hospitality.

And of course, in this context, I—the President and I have constantly had discussions about human rights and political freedom. He knows my position. And as I told our people, Mr. President, I don't need the Olympics to talk candidly with somebody who I've got good relations with.

So I'm looking forward to your hospitality, and I'm really looking forward to watching the American Olympic team compete, particularly with the mighty Chinese team. And I'm hoping to get tickets for the U.S.-Chinese basketball game. If you could help me get a ticket, I'd appreciate it. [*Laughter*]

But thank you very much.

President Hu. Just now, President Bush and I had a sincere and friendly meeting, and we had an in-depth exchange of views on China-U.S. relations and issues of mutual interest. We both believe that a new progress has been made in China-U.S. relationship in recent years. Our two countries not only have