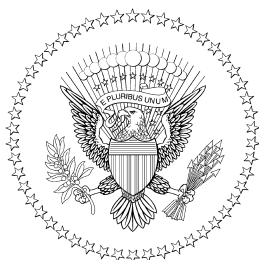


Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, July 14, 2008
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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on July 11, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, July 11, 2008

Interview With Foreign Print Journalists

July 2, 2008

The President. So here's the thing, I'm going to have a few comments, and then got time for one question apiece, so calibrate your questions. You can do like our press, ask three questions in one question.

Anyway, what are the rules for the American press corps—French and American press corps?

Press Secretary Dana Perino. It's embargoed until they have a chance to use it themselves.

The President. I'm talking about these people.

Ms. Perino. Yes, they hold it until after it's already published.

The President. I got you. That's presuming they read Japanese papers.

Ms. Perino. Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters] does.

The President. Okay.

First of all, I'm looking forward to this. As you know, it's my last G-8. These are useful, important meetings, because it's a chance to forge common policy, but it's also a chance to have a lot of important bilaterals. And the first bilateral I have is with the Prime Minister. And it's very important for me to make it clear to him and the Japanese people that I value the bilateral relationship with Japan.

It has been, and will be, the cornerstone of our policy. And my view is our relations have been very good during my Presidency. As you know, I had a close relationship with Prime Minister Koizumi. After all—but he wasn't the first Prime Minister I dealt with. The first Prime Minister I dealt with wasn't around very much—he was—he spent more time with my predecessor, obviously—and then Koizumi and then, obviously, Abe and the current Prime Minister.

I worked hard to have a good personal relationship with all the leaders so that we can

discuss common problems and common issues. And we've worked through a lot of problems in the past, but more importantly, we've got a strategic relationship that is solid and well-founded. And that's very important for stability and peace in Asia.

And so—and then, of course, we'll have the meetings. And there will be a variety of topics to discuss. I'm confident people will be concerned about food prices and energy prices. We'll discuss those. To the extent that we can develop a common strategy to deal with them, it will make a lot of sense. I think the world will watch carefully and see what signals come out of the meetings. My own view is, is that here in the United States we can do more to find oil. Like Japan, however, we're dependent upon foreign sources of oil, which means we've got to transition to a different era.

One of the interesting things that's taking place in Japan—I tell this to a lot of my friends here—I happen to believe battery technologies are coming soon. And the Japanese are, of course, in the lead when it comes to new technologies relative to automobiles, such as battery technologies. And some day relatively soon, I'm confident that people will be driving the first 40 miles on electricity, and the cars won't look like tiny marbles or golf carts; they'll actually be regular-sized automobiles.

And so the question is, how do we manage the transition to a new era? Eventually, we'll be driving hydrogen automobiles. And I know the Japanese private sector is working very hard on hydrogen technology, as are we. Here at home, as you know, we're diversifying the fuel by the use of ethanol. And I've always felt it was good to have American farmers growing fuel rather than trying to purchase crude oil from parts of the world that, frankly, are either unstable or don't like us.

In terms of food prices, a lot of the food prices are being driven by energy costs. But

we can do a better job of selling seed and fertilizer or giving seed and fertilizer to help others grow crops. I mean, it is—parts of the world should become sufficient in food, and they're not.

One of the interesting debates will be, of course, the use of bioengineered food, genetically modified crops. And it's—these genetically modified crops can grow in fairly harsh weather conditions, where there's a lack of water, and yet some countries are fearful to use it because they won't have market access for their crops when they export them.

Another great opportunity would be, of course, dealing with the environment. I know this is important for the Prime Minister, and it's important for all nations there. It turns out that energy independence and climate change can go hand in hand. In other words, the technologies that free us from dependence on hydrocarbons will be the very technologies that enable us to improve the environment. The question is, how best to expedite new technologies to the market, and frankly, get it in the hands of countries that are going to need these technologies, such as your cross-straits neighbor, China.

My own view is that there will never be an effective agreement unless China and India are at the table. And I say "effective," I mean a results-oriented agreement where, in fact, we actually accomplish an objective, which is reducing greenhouse gases. And so we'll work to set the conditions so that people understand that in order to be effective, all of us who are creating greenhouse gases must agree to long-term goals and develop effective interim plans.

On my mind, of course, will be human rights and human dignity. And that comes particularly in the form of helping people deal with malaria and HIV/AIDS. I believe in the admonition, to whom much is given, much is required. Our nations have been given a lot, and we're comfortable nations. And we got to remember that there is suffering in the world, and that when we speak, when we make pledges, we got to mean what we say. And the last G-8, people came to the table and said, "Okay, we hear you; now we'll all pledge." And the question is, have people written checks? And I will gently re-

mind people, to the extent I can be gentle, that it's important for people, when they hear us talk, to know that there will be results.

And I'll talk about our HIV/AIDS initiative in Africa, and how it's been effective, and the malaria initiative. I'll use examples such as Zanzibar, a part of Tanzania where the infection rate for young babies was 20 percent; it's down to 1 percent because of a simple plan—and that these nations can help.

And so we've got a—by the way, this all is part of this war on terror. I do want to thank the Japanese Government and Japanese people for clearly understanding the stakes. But we face an enemy that can only recruit when they find hopeless people. And there's nothing more hopeless than a mother losing her baby because of a mosquito bite. And so not only is it in our moral interest to help people, it's also in our national security interest to help people.

And so that's kind of how I see it. Now, who wants to start?

Trade

Q. Sir, since I went to high school in Texas—

The President. Where did you go?

Q. Edinburg, sir.

The President. Did you? Edinburg High School?

Q. Yes, class of '74.

The President. You've got to be kidding me. [Laughter] Edinburg High School. Isn't that interesting? Nobody knows where Edinburg is except for me and you. [Laughter] It happens to be on the Mexican border. It is—what year were you there?

Q. In '74.

The President. Oh, man. You been down there since?

Q. Yes, several times.

The President. Amazing, isn't it, how it's changed?

Q. Yes, it has.

The President. The benefits of free trade. People need to—if you could have seen Edinburg in '74 and Edinburg in 2004 and now 2008, you'd be amazed at the changes as a result of free and fair trade between the United States and Mexico. And therefore, one other point will be, of course, complete Doha successfully.

Thank you for reminding me of the importance of free trade. [*Laughter*]

Abduction of Japanese Citizens/Six-Party Talks

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to ask questions, sir. And first, let me start with a very Japan-specific question about North Korea and abductees issue.

Sir, at the press conference on June 26, you made a—said that the United States would not abandon its strong ally when it comes to resolving this abductee issue. But in spite of this very strong statement that you made, there are still some doubts and concerns in Japan, especially among the families of abductees, that the United States might try to resolve this nuclear issue at the expense of the abductee issue.

And, Mrs. Yokota, who you met in your Oval Office 2 years ago, reportedly said that she was irritated because she felt that Japan was ignored. What exactly do you plan to do to assure Japanese Government and the people that the United States will not abandon Japan in the process of rescinding North Korea's designation of a state sponsor of terror? And what will the United States do to help bring progress to this issue within 45 days of this delisting process, sir?

The President. Yes. Well, first of all, I can understand the mom's concerns. I got to see firsthand in the Oval Office how—her sense of anguish and hurt that her sweet daughter had been abducted. So I understand the emotions of the issue. As a matter of fact, I invited her to come because I wanted to—I wanted her and others to see firsthand my personal concern. The truth of the matter is, if I wasn't concerned about the issue and didn't think it was a priority, I wouldn't have invited her to the Oval Office.

Secondly, I believe that the six-party talks is the best way to effect change in the North Korean regime—positive change. One such change, of course, is to head toward a common objective, which is a nuclear free—a nuclear weapons-free Korean Peninsula, which is in our interest, and it's in Japanese interests.

Secondly, there are other issues, of course, to be dealt with in this framework. And one such issue is the abductee issue. The ques-

tion is, can Japan solve this issue alone better, or does it make sense to have the United States and other countries expressing the same concerns? I happen to believe that it is in your country's interest to have the United States and other countries helping you on this issue. And therefore, I view the six-party talks as a framework to convince the North Korean Government to deal with these serious issues.

And, you know, people—I can understand people saying, well, I guess this is the beginning of the end of U.S. concern. But I will say it again, like I have said it time and time again, this is the beginning of our concern and it's a framework to help solve the concerns of the parents, the people of Japan, and the Japanese Government.

In terms of the recent declaration, this was agreed to by the Japanese Government. This was an understanding that this is how we're going to move the process forward. But this is only one step. I think some of your listeners or readers probably think that, well, this is the end of the process. No, this is the beginning of the process. And there's a lot more work to be done. And our policy is action for action. And what's changed is, it used to be, okay, we'll give the North Koreans a concession and hope they respond. Now it's, when they act, we respond. And part of the agenda is the abductee issue.

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Sato.

Six-Party Talks/Japan-U.S. Relations

Q. Yes.

The President. They call you Mr. Sato?

Q. Hi. Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'd like to just follow up on the North Korea issue. There is in Japan—there is concern in Japan that the golden era of the U.S.-Japan alliance has passed, the historical—[inaudible]—of alliance is now degrading. So how do you think that, in this context, the removal of North Korea from the list affects the U.S.-Japan alliance?

The President. It's interesting. Somebody told me that beginning to creep into the dialog there is—the six-party talks really is—you know, will undermine the bilateral relations between Japan and the United States. I fully reject that. It's like saying, okay, we're all part

of the United Nations, therefore, bilateral relations don't matter. Multilateral forums to address an issue strengthens relations; they don't weaken relations.

And the fundamental question is, how do you solve the problem of North Korea? That's the question. That's what the six-party talks were aimed to address. The history of this issue was, at one point in time, it was really only the United States that was dealing with the issue; others were kind of there, but they weren't that—they basically said, here, go solve it.

And it's an effective way to deal with a problem way diplomatically. In order to solve a problem diplomatically, there has to be other voices who say, here's what we expect, and, if not, here are the consequences. And that's why it was so important to convince the Chinese, for example, to become a party to the six-party talks.

In the meantime, however, we have been working very closely with Japan on a variety of issues. You notice, we're no longer talking about basing issues. Why? Because our bilateral relations were such that we're able to deal with them. We were able to work together in Afghanistan and Iraq. We were able to work together on humanitarian issues in places like Afghanistan. In other words, our bilateral relations have thrived during this period when the six-party talks were constructed.

The only thing I can do is just tell people how I view it, when I go to Japan or through objective agents such as yourself. And it is: Our relations have been important; they are important, and they will be important. And as I said in my opening statement, this really is a cornerstone to our policies in Northeast Asia.

Hiro.

North Korea

Q. Thank you, President. Again, on North Korea—

The President. Sure, yes. Is this going to be six North Korea questions? *[Laughter]* I can handle all six, trust me.

Q. Well, last week, you said you don't have any—you have no illusions about the North Korean regime, Kim Jong Il. So the question

might be hypothetical, but if North Korea—

The President. No, it is hypothetical, I can tell you—when you start with an “if.” *[Laughter]* You can try a hypothetical. *[Laughter]*

Q. In the case North Korea does not fulfill its obligation, such as disclosing a number of the weapons that they have or nondisclosing of the enrichment—

The President. Or dealing fairly on abductees.

Q. —yes, abductees or proliferation issue, activities to Syria, what kind of message do you think you'd—

The President. Well, we'll of course work with our partners. Now, for example, these won't be unilateral sanctions. These will be multiparty sanctions. But first of all, this regime is highly sanctioned. They have been isolated. And if they choose not to move forward on an agreed-upon way forward—action for action—there will be further isolation and further deprivation for the people of North Korea.

The regime had made a conscious decision to at least make a declaration within the six-party talks to move forward. I would only surmise that perhaps the leader of North Korea is tired of being isolated in the world and would try to advance his country in a way that makes it easier for the people to have a better life.

And therefore, if you read the statements that started the six-party—that confirm the six-party talks, about what the pledges are, there are very concrete—it's a concrete action plan. But keep in mind, at this point in time, this is still a regime that is highly sanctioned. So step one is, if he chooses not to move forward, then the status quo is for certain, and he'll remain highly sanctioned. And then, of course, there will be great disappointment with the other parties involved in the six-party talks.

Expectations are that he will move forward, action for action. But if he doesn't, we now have partners at the table who will be wondering how best to send yet another message to him. And the good news: It won't be just Japan and the United States, there will be other countries there. This is how multilateral diplomacy works.

And I repeat to you, the six-party talks have been aimed to set a framework in place that will serve as an inducement to go forward, but also that can be consequential. And we, of course, will consult with our partners to deal about—I mean, step one is no change in the current status, which means highly sanctioned—probably the most sanctioned nation in the world. And step two is, of course, we'll consult and figure out a way forward.

My hope is, is that the North Koreans continue to move forward. And you mentioned what we expect. We expect there to be full declaration of manufactured plutonium; we expect there to be a full disclosure of any enrichment activities and proliferation activities; and we expect the abductee issue to be solved.

Kenji.

Environment/Technology/Energy

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to ask a climate change issue.

The President. Climate change, yes.

Q. In the upcoming summit, Prime Minister Fukuda hopes to set a long-term goal for curbing greenhouse gas emission, and I think you share the idea. What goals do you have going into the summit, and do you expect to strike an agreement on that?

The President. I'm hopeful we can strike an agreement. But I caution everybody that such an agreement must have all of us who create greenhouse gases, not just those of us around the table at the G-8. And that's why we worked with the Prime Minister to have this major economies meeting; it was to strengthen the G-8, is to make it relevant.

You know, it's an interesting notion that—I said today in my press availability in the Rose Garden—I don't know if you were there or not—you know, I wonder whether or not some of these nations who are creating greenhouse gases, but considered still developing nations, are used to the period of Kyoto, when they weren't held to account about what they were producing. I wonder if that's their mindset. Because if it is, it'll make any international agreement ineffective if they're not a part to it, because, you know, it is estimated that—well, China is creating a lot of greenhouse gases and will continue

to do so. And therefore, Japan and the United States can maybe make decisions that affect our own production, but it will be ineffective at solving the problem unless China is with us.

And so my hope there is to move the process along so that we, at a very minimum, send a clear message to developing countries that are producing greenhouse gases that we expect you to be a part of an agreement. And step one is a long-term goal. In other words, if you can get nations to commit to a goal, you've got them committed to a process. If, however, the process doesn't matter whether you're a part or not, or you may be a part at some point in time, in my mind that won't produce the results that are necessary to deal with the global climate change issue. And so we'll see how that goes. We're working it very hard, as is the Prime Minister and other nations.

The other thing we can do is we can talk about some just practical things we can do, such as insisting that we reduce tariffs and trade barriers on pollution equipment. It makes no sense to make such equipment prohibitively expensive when it is—when there are some basic technologies that could move and can help. And I will be talking about technologies there as well. And I told you about some of the technologies dealing with automobiles and, you know, the interesting thing is, is that the world is now beginning to waken up to the beauty of nuclear power.

And, I mean, if one is really concerned about global warming and greenhouse gases, they ought to be carrying signs insisting upon the development of nuclear powerplants. This is renewable energy with zero greenhouse gas emissions. And yet the world—parts of the world are very reluctant about—even in our country, it's very difficult to build a plant. We've been able to get some regulatory relief through government action. I think four new plants have been permitted, or four expansions have been permitted. But we ought to be—about 25 percent of our electricity comes from nuclear power, and it ought to be a lot higher.

And you know, one of the things that interesting is, Japan and the United States are working on technologies to deal with the waste. And that will—if that—when that

technology comes to fruition, it will ease some people's concerns. There will be some who just simply will never buy into nuclear power. I fully understand that. But this will be a great opportunity to discuss about other things we can do while we're trying to work—you know, by the way, everything we're going to do is meant to strengthen the United Nations process and not weaken it.

And so, anyway, that's kind of what's on my mind going into the meetings.

Q. Thank you very much.

The President. Oishi.

U.S. Monetary Policy

Q. Hello.

The President. Yes.

Q. Nikkei is economic newspaper, so let's talk about economy.

The President. You're an economic newspaper?

Q. Yes.

The President. You're the Wall Street Journal. [Laughter]

Q. More famous than the Wall Street Journal.

The President. More famous. [Laughter] Well, that's good.

Q. So, Mr. President, I know your strong U.S. dollar policy—

The President. Yes, that's true.

Q. —but do you know how to make it stronger? Or do you expect the possibility of the U.S. intervention in the fiscal—financial market?

The President. We believe that the relative worth of economies should set respective currencies. And therefore, the best way to reenforce our strong dollar policy is to keep taxes low in the United States, ease regulatory burdens, become less dependent on foreign sources of oil, and make it clear that we're for free and fair trade. That not only means the trading of goods and services but also the investment, that the United States is open to investment. And to me, those are the best ways to deal with the fundamental aspects of an economy, that assures the world that the United States will be a vibrant, strong economy and that eventually will be reflected in our currency.

Would you like another economic question?

Q. Well, does Europe share the same view?

The President. Does who?

Q. Does Europe—

The President. Share the same view of the U.S. dollar? I think they want there to be—it's an interesting question. I heard concern about our dollar, and I believe they support the U.S. strong dollar policy.

Yes, sir.

North Korea/Iraq/Iran

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. My question is on North Korea and Iran.

The President. North Korea.

Q. North Korea and Iran.

The President. Okay, good.

Q. So you have looked at multilateral diplomacy in dealing with North Korea and made a decision to move it from the list of state sponsors of terrorism in return for actually a far from perfect declaration on its nuclear activities. Some people say that this is kind of appeasement or a double standard compared to the way you dealt with Iraq.

So do you think the way you dealt with Iraq—with North Korea, namely, action for action principle, through multilateral diplomacy, rather than military option, would be an effective and realistic motive for preventing an Iran with nuclear weapons? And if so, what exact action do you want from Iran? And what action is the United States ready to offer to Iran?

The President. Yes, sure, thank you. First of all, if I might, I'd like to reject some of the premises in your question. One, you said that—incomplete declaration. Well, we're in the process of determining whether or not North Korea did make an incomplete declaration. And if they did, they will remain the most highly sanctioned nation.

One thing is for certain is they did collapse their cooling tower on the plant that had been used to manufacture plutonium. I mean, that is a complete declaration, at least of that aspect of what they said—when they said they would dismantle—or disable and then dismantle. And so we've got—you know, there's a process. Things are going on. I guess we live in a world where everything is supposed to be instant, but I repeat to you, this

is a first step of a multiple step process, just so everybody understands.

Secondly, we conducted multilateral diplomacy in Iraq—oh, yes—1441 at the United Nations Security Council—the world came together and said, disclose, disarm, or face serious consequences, in a unanimous vote. Now my speech to the United Nations took place in September, early September of 2002. I don't know if you remember the debate during that summer. It was, "Will Bush go to the U.N. Security Council, or will this be a unilateral move without it?"—going to this world body. I think some might have been old enough to have covered that story here.

And the answer was, I did go to the U.N. Security Council. We did conduct multilateral diplomacy, and the world was supportive of saying to Saddam Hussein, disclose, disarm, or face serious—and he made the choice. He was the one who got to make the choice because he—you know, he defied the world.

And so I have always said that diplomacy has got to be the first choice of solving any of these problems. But military options remain on the table, and they remain on the table for these three issues you discussed. I happen to believe multilateral diplomacy is the most effective way to solve some of these very difficult problems, because there needs to be more than one voice in saying the same thing. Because, in the past, if you're there alone and you say something and then the leader basically rattles people's cages or makes them nervous, guess who the world rushes to? Not to the person rattling the cage; it rushes to, in this case, the United States: "Fix it; get him what he wants." And it didn't solve the problem.

Now I understand sometimes people love process so everybody feels good, you know. But that's not what I—this administration is trying to solve problems. And the best way to solve the problem in North Korea was to have others at the table along with us—and same with the Iranians. Now this has been difficult to get there to be a focused message because some are worried about market share. You know, the message to the Iranians is: Verifiably suspend your enrichment program, and there's a better way forward.

And by the way, in 2003, it looked like we were in the process of convincing the Iranians to verifiably suspend their enrichment program. And the United States was working with our partners in Europe, sending a message that you can end your isolation. And then Ahmadi-nejad came along and changed the tone and changed the—evidently changed the policy of the government. And so now, Iran is much more confrontational. But our message hasn't changed: Verifiably suspend your enrichment program, and there is a better way forward.

So there are carrots and there are sticks. We're working hard to make sure that the sticks mean something. And I've been pleased by the U.N. Security Council resolutions that have been issued by our friends in the United Nations Security Council in a way that says to the Iranians, we're serious about your change of policy. The choice is theirs. We've made our choice.

Now, one thing that's interesting—I think I'll—you find this interesting, at least you'll play like it's interesting—is this: Should the Iranian regime—so I'm the guy who just talked about nuclear power, right? Should the Iranian regime—do they have the sovereign right to have civilian nuclear power? So, like, if I were you, that's what I'd ask me. And the answer is, yes, they do. And I have said so publicly time and time again. But they don't have the right, as far as the U.N. Security Council, for example, goes, to enrich, because they haven't told the truth about their program; therefore, they can't be trusted with enrichment. After all, enriching uranium is a step toward having a nuclear weapon.

So we worked with the Russians, Vladimir Putin and I worked on—and he took the lead on this issue, for which I am grateful. So he goes to the Iranians and says, we'll provide enriched uranium for you. You have a sovereign right—Bush has said you have a sovereign right to have nuclear power. But because you have defied the IAEA in the past, we'll provide enriched uranium for you, and we'll collect the enriched uranium; therefore, you don't need to enrich. And if you insist on enriching, it must mean you want a weapon.

And so multilateral forums enable people to come up with those kinds of tactics that are effective. And so, you bet, the multilateral forum is the best way to solve this peacefully.

Okay, guys. I hope you've enjoyed it as much as—oh, you want to ask more questions? I'm sure you do. Well, that's generally what happens with one of these things.

Okay, you better hurry—

Ms. Perino. Lightning round.

The President. Lightning. Quickly.

Japan's Antiterrorism Law/Japan's Role in Afghanistan

Q. Quick, move to Afghanistan. Japan has been providing the support—support to multilateral force, including United States, in Indian Ocean, to support Afghanistan. But the law that enables maritime Japanese force to do that will expire in July.

The President. Next July.

Q. Next July.

The President. A year from now.

Q. Yes, next July.

The President. Right. And so—

Q. And U.S. has been—

The President. We were very pleased that they renewed the law.

Q. And Secretary Gates has been asking to either extend or even enhance, like sending helicopters, CH-47s to Afghanistan. And I was wondering whether you can explain to the Japanese why such upgraded participation in the war in Afghanistan serves the interests of Japan, apart from simply meeting the expectation of the United States?

The President. Because when Al Qaida—forces like Al Qaida have a safe haven to attack friends and allies, or Japan itself, it's a danger to peace. And as for the Japanese contribution, we are very grateful for what we have, and we appreciate the government getting the current extension through the Parliament. And we, of course, will work with our allies to determine whether or not an enhanced presence could be useful. And if the government can support that, fine. But I just want you to know how grateful I am for the contribution, as well as the humanitarian contributions.

It also ought to make the Japanese people feel good to know that they're helping young

girls go to school, or they're helping people get their food to market. Does it matter? Yes, it matters, if you care about the human condition. So the contribution has been great.

Sato. Got another question? If not, I will applaud you.

Japan-U.S. Relations/Nippon Professional Baseball

Q. Yes, I have a very personal question, so—

The President. A very what kind?

Q. On the history, for—

The President. Personal, yes.

Q. During your Presidency, the Japan-U.S. relationship was very strong. But there are still unresolved issues on—regarding Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima. And some historians propose that the Prime Minister should visit Pearl Harbor and U.S. President should visit Hiroshima.

The President. That's interesting.

Q. What do you think about this?

The President. My attitude is, is that I—look, this was a painful period in our respective histories. After all, my father, for example, was a young Navy fighter pilot at war with Japan. But my experience has been very different, because one of my best friends was Prime Minister Koizumi. Isn't that interesting? And one reason why is because we put the past behind us and focused on the future.

And symbolic gestures like that may make sense. I don't know. I haven't really thought about it. It's an interesting idea. You're the first person that's ever brought it up to me, I want you to know. But whoever the next President is must, one, understand the importance of the relationship, and two, be thinking about the future, because we share values; we've got a lot of work to do. We've had interesting economic relationships throughout our history. As you know, I believe in open markets, free and fair trader. That—to me, if I were somebody living in Japan, I'd say, well, there's a fellow who has put the past behind him and is focusing on what's in the best interests of both countries.

So it's an interesting suggestion. This will be—it won't work for me; this is my last trip to Japan as President. Supposed to never say never, but I—let me just—I predict this is

my last trip to Japan. And I'm not saying I'm happy about it.

So—is anybody going to ask me about Bobby Valentine? *[Laughter]* You don't even know who Bobby Valentine is. He was the old coach of the Rangers who's a manager of one of the Japanese baseball teams, and he's done very well in Japan. People like Bobby, don't they?

Q. Yes.

The President. Yes, he's—last time I was in Japan, Bobby was there at the airport with Mr. Oh. *[Laughter]*

Q. Oh. *[Laughter]*

The President. The Babe Ruth of Japanese baseball.

Q. Oh, yes, that's right.

The President. Okay? Got anything, Hiroki?

China/Japan

Q. Yes, please.

The President. You're the guy who thought of it.

Q. On China?

The President. China, yes. See how generous I am to give you all these questions?

Ms. Perino. You're ruining the lighting round aspect of it.

The President. Okay, keep moving. *[Laughter]*

Q. Actually, I would like to ask you what's your view on current relations between U.S. and China? Because 7 years ago, U.S. military plane was forced to land on Hainan Island.

The President. That's right, yes.

Q. And then, I would like to ask you, then, how you see the evolution of the China-U.S. relationship since then? And also, there is some concern in Japan that future of Asian—*[inaudible]*—U.S. and China will jointly manage the stability and prosperity. How do you see—

The President. First of all, the cornerstone of U.S. policy is good, strong relations with Japan. So, as far as the Bush administration goes, that has been our policy, and we've acted on it. That's not to say we can't have good relations with China, nor Japan can have good relations—I mean, Japan should have good relations with China. And we expect Japan to work hard to have good rela-

tions with Japan, just like Japan ought to hope that we have good relations with China, which we do. Our relations are strong, and some say, have never been better. I'll let the experts judge that.

And one reason why is, we've managed some difficult issues together. The Taiwan Straits issue is a difficult issue, and it looks like it's in a much better spot. I have worked hard to have a good personal relationship with Hu Jintao and Jiang Zemin, his predecessor, so I can speak frankly to them.

And my big concerns about China are religious freedoms and individual rights and political freedoms. Every time I've met with the Chinese leader, which has been a lot, I've had a very frank and open dialog, and yet been able to maintain a good, cordial relationship so we can work through problems. One such problem is no nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. We've got big economic relations with China, as does Japan.

And so I don't view the world as zero-sum. In other words, if you got a good relationship, strong relationship, you can't have a good relationship with China; quite the contrary. In good foreign policy and good diplomacy, a good relations with one makes it easier to have a better relations with another country. And that's how we've conducted our policy.

China is a very interesting issue for all of us. Right now they're dealing with trying to get their economy such that people in the rural parts of their country are able to benefit. And it's a challenge. And they're using a lot of raw materials—and one reason why it's important for Japan and the United States to help them develop the technologies that make them less dependent upon some of these raw materials—that have affected worldwide price of raw materials.

And so it's a—it will be a very interesting issue for future Presidents, but we've been able to manage it very well.

Kenji.

2008 Presidential Elections

Q. Thank you.

The President. Yell your name. *[Laughter]*

Q. I'd like to ask about the Presidential election.

The President. Yes, I don't talk about it, Kenji. [Laughter] The American people are going to get to pick. I'm for McCain, if that's what you want to know. [Laughter]

Q. —Presidential election and U.S. foreign policy.

The President. I like a persistent guy. Keep going.

Q. Yes, thank you very much. [Laughter] So with one candidate who supports your foreign policy and another who sharply criticizes it, so how do you think this election will affect the rest of the world?

The President. The rest of the world?

Q. Yes.

The President. You know, I'm—that's a good question. I'm for John McCain because I think he'll do a better job on foreign policy and domestic policy. But, Kenji, you know, I really am not going to spend a lot of time opining about the current election. The American people will filter it out. It's very early in the election cycle. This fall is really when the campaign begins in earnest—the debates, and people start to really focus on it. Right now it's a lot of the pundits and a lot of the pros and experts, some of whom are sitting right behind you, that are——

North Korea

Q. So do you believe that the next U.S. administration will continue your policy on North Korea?

The President. I think whoever gets in the White House will take a look and say, gosh, it makes sense to have other people at the table other than the United States in order to effect good diplomacy. Diplomacy—in order for diplomacy to be effective, it has to be consequential. In other words, when five people say, here's the way forward, and if you choose not to do so there will be consequences—or if you choose to do so there will be consequences, it is much more effective than one nation sitting there saying, please change your habits.

And so I—you know, I'm going to leave it to the candidates. They'll have to make up their own mind. But at least there's a multi-lateral forum in which to deal with this problem. Hopefully it's progressed a long way down the road by the time whoever comes in the Oval Office. We're pushing forward

on an action for action, verifiable—and by the way, the next stage of this, just so everybody is comfortable, there will be a verifiable—a verification regime in place, so that—to answer your question, Michiro, it will be less speculation and more transparency.

Thank you, sir.

Oishi. Another economic question?

Energy/Technology

Q. You must be the most excellent expert on oil business.

The President. Yes. [Laughter] Look where our price is. [Laughter]

Q. Well, actually, I'm suffering high gas prices.

The President. You are?

Q. Every day.

The President. Yes, you are.

Q. So what can you do to curb energy inflation?

The President. Yes, a couple of things: One is you either—just—this is pure economics. You'll understand this better than anybody here. You either increase the supply of something or decrease the demand of something in order to affect price—down. The habits of the United States consumer is beginning to change because people are now—they don't like \$4 gasoline. I can understand why they don't like \$4 gasoline. People are now looking for smaller cars.

That takes a while, however, to change. I fully understand that. But demand is beginning to shift in our country. And in order to affect worldwide demand, it seems like all of us—Japan, the United States, and others at the G-8—need to convince some of the people coming to the G-8 to stop subsidizing their consumers or at least reduce the subsidies somewhat so that there is some effect on demand. Price cannot affect demand if people's habits are subsidized by state enterprise or the state.

Secondly, the strategy on energy has got to be twofold, at least from the United States perspective: One, spend money and come up with technologies. That will mean we have to use less gasoline, therefore—in automobiles, for example—less gasoline and, therefore, take the demand off of crude oil.

And I mentioned one such technology that I thought was interesting for me to mention it, recognizing the ascendancy of the Japanese technology in the battery market. I've spent a lot of time on this issue, and I think people would say that the Japanese autos and the Japanese R&D is very advanced on battery technologies, which is good. People say, well, doesn't that upset you? And my answer is, absolutely not. I'm interested in technology and technological breakthroughs, and I'm pleased that our friends—the investment that this government and the private sector has made is hopefully going to pay off soon. It's beneficial to the world.

And the high price is going to spur a lot of investment. That's what I've explained to the main suppliers of crude oil. So when I went to Saudi Arabia, I said, this high price is hurting your consumers, your customers, and it's going to cause a lot of research and development to diversify away as fast as possible, which is what's happening.

In the meantime, we better transition to this period. In other words, evidently our Congress must have thought that there will be instant technology on the market because they prevented us, since 2001, from exploring for known oil and gas reserves that we can do in environmentally friendly ways. And now all of a sudden the price got high enough where the American people are now beginning to hear that message, and I hope the Democrat leaders in Congress hear it, which is, you know, allow this new technology be deployed to find new reserves. And the sooner we do this the better. And it will certainly affect—at the very minimum, affect the psychology of the world, to see that new supplies of crude oil could be coming on the market in the United States.

So that's our strategy, technologies and, in the meantime, find more oil here at home. And there's more oil to be found. And I can assure you, Japan wishes they had these reserves, you know, and you'd be finding them. And you wouldn't be hamstrung by politicians refusing to allow this to go forward.

Michiro.

Iraq/War on Terror

Q. Last question on Iraq. What is your evaluation about where Iraq is now? Do you

think now if the U.S. can afford to withdraw more troops from Iraq, or will you leave that decision to the next administration? What is your assessment on war on terror in general, during your two terms?

The President. Well, thank you. Let me make sure I get—this is the old three-part question, and I'm about to be 62 years old, so—[laughter]. By the way, I will be celebrating my birthday on Japanese soil. That's interesting.

Q. Congratulations.

The President. Yes, come to the party. It's not going to be much of a party; it's only 62.

Let's see, Iraq and troops. Okay. First of all, there was—the people have—okay, you got to have benchmarks. I think there was 15 benchmarks—18 benchmarks. And one way to evaluate progress is to measure what's actually happened to what was expected. And the progress is undeniable. What happened was security was such that the politics and the economics could move forward. And for a period of time, that was not the case. That's why we sent more troops in. The combat brigades of the surge will finally come home. The last one will be home in July. So we are in a policy of return on success.

I will listen to General Petraeus when he returns in September as to whether or not we can achieve our objective with fewer troops. That's up to our commanders. In other words, I'm not going to run a poll during the political season, or any time, to determine what's the best policy. The policy is determined by the considered judgment of our commanders. And my hope is the next President will have that same standard. That's going to be up to that person to make the right judgments.

In terms of the war on terror, step one is to recognize we're at war. Some in our country don't believe we're at war. If you don't believe we're at war, that this is a simple law enforcement matter, then what you do is you wait until something happens and then react. You know, law enforcement is, there is an action, there's a crime, and then there—law enforcement acts.

In war, what you do is you prevent the enemy from hitting in the first place. That's why Iraq and Afghanistan are very important

theaters in the war on terror. People—some think these are separate wars. It's the same war against ideologues who murder the innocent to achieve their political objectives. These are just different fronts in the same war.

And, you know, I am not surprised that a lethal enemy pushes back through the use of their indiscriminate violence to stop the advance of free societies, because this is an ideological war. When they see freedom on the march, it frightens them and it worries them to the point where they kill innocent people to try to shake the will of the people in that country and to shake the will of those trying to help them.

And so, one, we've taken on the enemy; and two, we've had good success against Al Qaida. The first and second person is still alive, but the number three person in Al Qaida has had a dangerous existence—Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, al-Libi, a series of leaders. And we are pressuring them today, and we'll keep pressuring them. And my hope is, whoever the next President—understands this is a war, and that we can't relax. And that there's an enemy that wants to do free people harm, and that we have an obligation as free societies to keep the pressure, not only for our own security but for the security of others.

This is back to this man's question down here about, why should we care about Afghanistan? The answer is, is because safe haven is a risk. But there's also another answer. That's one of the great lessons of our relationship. You know, I marvel at the fact, and I talk about it a lot to the American people, of the irony about Prime Minister Koizumi and my relationship. It's a great testament to our respective countries and the transformative power of liberty that my dad fought the Japanese, and his son sits at the peace table with the Japanese leaders in a spirit of respect and friendship and common values.

Anyway, thank you. Enjoyed it.

Q. Thank you very much.

The President. Very good questions.

Q. Thank you very much, sir.

NOTE: The interview began at 12:46 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister

Yasuo Fukuda and former Prime Ministers Yoshiro Mori, Junichiro Koizumi, and Shinzo Abe of Japan; Sakie Yokota, mother of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean authorities; Chairman Kim Jong Il of North Korea; President Mahmud Ahmadi-nejad of Iran; Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia, in his former capacity as President; Bobby Valentine, manager, Nippon Professional Baseball's Chiba Lotte Marines; Sadaharu Oh, manager, Nippon Professional Baseball's Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks; President Hu Jintao and former President Jiang Zemin of China; Republican Presidential candidate John McCain; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commander, Multi-National Forces—Iraq; and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Abu Faraj al-Libi, former senior leaders of the Al Qaida terrorist organization currently in U.S. military custody. This interview was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 4. A tape was not available for verification of the contents of this interview.

Remarks at an Independence Day Celebration and Naturalization Ceremony in Charlottesville, Virginia July 4, 2008

The President. Thank you, and happy Fourth of July. I am thrilled to be here at Monticello. I've never been here before.

[At this point, there was an interruption in the audience.]

The President. To my fellow citizens-to-be, we believe in free speech in the United States of America.

And this is a fitting place to celebrate our Nation's independence. Thomas Jefferson once said he'd rather celebrate the Fourth of July than his own birthday. For me, it's pretty simple, the Fourth of July weekend is my birthday weekend.

For some of you, today will be your first Fourth of July as American citizens. A few moments, you will take part in the 46th annual Monticello Independence Day celebration and naturalization ceremony. When you raise your hands and take the oath, you will complete an incredible journey. That journey has taken you from many different countries; it's now made you one people. From this day forward, the history of the United States will be part of your heritage; the Fourth of July

will be part of your Independence Day; and I will be honored to call you a fellow American.

I appreciate Alice Handies [Handy] *, the chairman of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, and Dan Jordan, president of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. I'm honored that the Governor of the great Commonwealth of Virginia would join us, and Anne Horton [Holton] *. Appreciate you being here; Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Virginia; Attorney General Bob McDonnell of the State of Virginia is with us; and all local officials. I appreciate Jim Jones of the U.S. District Court and other distinguished jurists who are with us today. Thank you for coming.

[The interruption in the audience continued.]

The President. Seems like I brought a little action with me.

[The interruption in the audience continued.]

The President. Most of all, I'm glad you're here. And we welcome you and your families, and we're honored to be celebrating with you this joyous occasion.

You know, long before anyone had ever heard of Crawford, Texas, Charlottesville, Virginia, was the home to the first western White House. The majesty of this home is a monument to the genius of Thomas Jefferson. Every hundreds of years—every year, thousands of visitors come here. And I think today it's fitting to thank the men and women of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation for preserving this historic treasure.

You just can't help but marvel at Thomas Jefferson's many accomplishments. As a scholar, few were better read. He was known to have read five books at a time on a revolving book stand. Later in life, he founded a public university that has become one of the Nation's finest, the University of Virginia.

As a statesman, Thomas Jefferson held all three top posts in the executive branch. He served as the first Secretary of State, the second Vice President, and the third President. Not bad for a man who hated public speaking. *[Laughter]* It seems Jefferson got away with only delivering two public speeches dur-

ing his Presidency. I'm sure a lot of Americans wish that were the case today. *[Laughter]*

In a life full of accomplishments, Thomas Jefferson was especially proud of the Declaration of Independence. Looking back 232 years later, it's easy to forget how revolutionary Jefferson's draft was.

At the time, some dismissed it as empty rhetoric. They believed the British Empire would crush the 13 Colonies in the field of battle. And they believed a nation dedicated to liberty could never survive the world ruled by kings.

Today, we know history had other plans. After many years of war, the United States won its independence. The principles that Thomas Jefferson enshrined in the Declaration became the guiding principles of the new nation. And in every generation, Americans have rededicated themselves to the belief that all men are created equal, with the God-given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Thomas Jefferson understood that these rights do not belong to Americans alone; they belong to all mankind. And he looked to the day when all people could secure them. On the 50th anniversary of America's independence, Thomas Jefferson passed away. But before leaving this world, he explained that the principles of the Declaration of Independence were universal. In one of the final letters of his life, he wrote, "May it be to the world, what I believe it will be—to some parts sooner, to others later, but finally to all—the signal of arousing men to burst the chains and to assume the blessings and security of self-government."

We honor Jefferson's legacy by aiding the rise of liberty in lands that do not know the blessings of freedom. And on this Fourth of July, we pay tribute to the brave men and women who wear the uniform of the United States of America.

We also honor Jefferson's legacy by welcoming newcomers to our land. And that is what we're here to celebrate today.

Throughout our history, the words of the Declaration have inspired immigrants from around the world to set sail to our shores. These immigrants have helped transform 13

* White House correction.

small Colonies into a great and growing nation of more than 300 [million]* people. They've made America a melting pot of cultures from all across the world. They've made diversity one of the great strengths of our democracy. And all of us here today are here to honor and pay tribute to that great notion of America.

Those of you taking the oath of citizenship at this ceremony hail from 30 different nations. You represent many different ethnicities and races and religions. But you all have one thing in common, and that is a shared love of freedom. This love of liberty is what binds our Nation together, and this is the love that makes us all Americans.

One man with special appreciation for liberty is Mya Soe from Burma. As a member of the Shan ethnic group, Mya faced discrimination and oppression at the hands of Burma's military junta. When he tried to reach local villagers—when he tried to teach local villagers how to read and write the Shan language, the regime interrogated him and harassed him. In 2000, he left a life of fear for a life of freedom. He now works as a painter in the Charlottesville community. Today, we welcome this brave immigrant as a citizen-to-be of the United States of America.

I'm sure there are other stories like Mya's among you. But we must remember that the desire for freedom burns inside every man and woman and child. More than two centuries ago, this desire of freedom was—had inspired the subjects of a mighty empire to declare themselves free and independent citizens of a new nation. Today, that same desire for freedom has inspired 72 immigrants from around the world to become citizens of the greatest nation on Earth, the United States of America.

I congratulate you. I welcome you. I wish you all a happy Fourth of July. Thanks for inviting me. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:07 a.m. at Monticello. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Timothy M. Kaine of Virginia and his wife, Anne Holton.

* White House correction.

Statement on the Death of Senator Jesse Helms

July 4, 2008

Laura and I are deeply saddened by the passing of our good friend and a great American, Senator Jesse Helms. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Dot, and all the members of the Helms family.

Throughout his long public career, Senator Jesse Helms was a tireless advocate for the people of North Carolina, a stalwart defender of limited government and free enterprise, a fearless defender of a culture of life, and an unwavering champion of those struggling for liberty. Under his leadership, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was a powerful force for freedom. And today, from Central America to Central Europe and beyond, people remember, in the dark days when the forces of tyranny seemed on the rise, Jesse Helms took their side.

Jesse Helms was a kind, decent, and humble man and a passionate defender of what he called "the miracle of America." So it is fitting that this great patriot left us on the Fourth of July. He was once asked if he had any ambitions beyond the United States Senate. He replied, "The only thing I am running for is the Kingdom of Heaven." Today, Jesse Helms has finished the race, and we pray he finds comfort in the arms of the loving God he strove to serve throughout his life.

The President's Radio Address

July 5, 2008

Good morning. This weekend, Americans are celebrating the anniversary of our Nation's independence. Two hundred and thirty-two years ago, our Founding Fathers came together in Philadelphia to proclaim that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The man who wrote those immortal words was Thomas Jefferson. Yesterday, I celebrated the Fourth of July at Monticello, Jefferson's home in Virginia. While there, I witnessed an event that would have made the author of the Declaration of Independence

proud. On Monticello's lawn, more than 70 men and women from dozens of countries raised their right hands to take the oath of American citizenship. They swore their allegiance to the Constitution. They promised that they would defend the laws of the United States. And they reminded everyone in attendance that the promise of America is open to all.

These new citizens come from countries as diverse as Burma, Afghanistan, Norway, and Iraq. These new citizens are proof that there is no American race, just an American creed. In the United States, we believe in the rights and dignity of every person; we believe in equal justice, limited government, and the rule of law; and we believe in personal responsibility and tolerance towards others. This creed of freedom and equality has lifted the lives of millions of Americans, whether citizens by birth or citizens by choice.

This creed of freedom has required brave defenders, and every generation of Americans has produced them. From the soldiers who fought for independence at Bunker Hill and Yorktown to the Americans who broke the chains of slavery, liberated Europe and Asia from tyranny, and brought down an evil empire, the people of this great land have always risen to freedom's defense.

Today, the men and women of America's Armed Forces continue this proud tradition of defending liberty. In places like Afghanistan and Iraq, many risk their lives every day to protect America and uphold the principle that human freedom is the birthright of all people and a gift from the Almighty. These brave Americans make it possible for America to endure as a free society. So on this Fourth of July, we owe all those who wear the uniform of the United States a special debt of gratitude. And we thank their families for supporting them in this crucial time for our Nation.

The Fourth of July is a day when all Americans take a moment to share a collective sense of pride in our country. We live in a Nation founded on the power of an idea, a Nation where opportunity is limited only by imagination, and a Nation that has done more than any other to spread the light of liberty throughout the world. Today, that

light shines as brightly as it did in 1776. And with "the protection of Divine Providence," it will continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 8:55 a.m. on July 3 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 5. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 3 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

The President's News Conference With Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan in Toyako, Japan

July 6, 2008

Prime Minister Fukuda. We had a very substantive meeting with President Bush for about an hour. In the meeting, we first shared the view that the peace and stability in this region, in the past decades, have been maintained thanks to the Japan-U.S. alliance. We then reaffirmed that in the 7½ years or so since the inauguration of the Bush administration in January of 2001, the alliance has deepened by leaps and bounds in security, economic, people-to-people exchanges, and other areas. And we agreed to further strengthen this alliance.

In the security area, cooperation between Japan and the United States grew more concrete, substantive, and broader in nature, as exemplified by the cooperation in the fight against terrorism and assistance for Iraqi reconstruction following 9/11, the agreement on and steady implementation of a roadmap for U.S. forces realignment, and the joint development of ballistic missile defense and successful intercept tests.

On North Korean issues, I told President Bush that the verification of their declaration is extremely important to realize complete nuclear abandonment by North Korea; that simultaneous settlement of denuclearization and the abduction issue will be important; and that to that end, Japan wishes to continue to cooperate closely with the United States. And President Bush concurred with me and

told me that he will never forget the abduction issue.

I was encouraged to hear from him that the U.S. position on the abduction issue—that is to say a clear-cut support for Japanese position—remains unchanged, and that the United States will remain in close coordination with Japan on the issue. As agreed between us on the nuclear and abduction issues, we shall continue to deal with the issue, maintaining close coordination between our two countries.

On the economic aspects, the interdependence between Japan and the United States has grown closer than before. Since 2000, Japanese direct investment to the United States has increased approximately 30 percent. Japanese businesses in the United States have about 610,000 people on their payrolls, and U.S. direct investment in Japan also has increased approximately 60 percent.

I wish to also point out that mutual understanding between our countries has reached a high level at the grassroots level. I shall make sure to follow up the initiative I announced during my visit to the United States last year to step up Japan-U.S. exchanges so that the foundation for our alliance will become unshakeable.

In order to further deepen this alliance, I explained to President Bush my belief that it will be important to further step up policy coordination in Asia and bilateral cooperation in addressing global challenges, such as climate change, African development, and disaster reduction. And President Bush expressed his agreement on this.

On African development, we agreed that we should further step up our bilateral cooperation to increase the production of major crops in Africa, including doubling of rice production, and promote their trade and distribution.

On disaster reduction, following the recent spate of several natural—severe natural disasters in Asia in recent years, I wish to step up cooperation between our two countries to build up cooperation in Asia on disaster prevention.

On climate change, we also had discussions and we have a common understanding that it is our common responsibility to leave the beautiful Earth to our posterity since

this—climate change is one of the most severe challenges that humankind faces today, and that we shall continue to cooperate with the G-8.

And with regard to soaring food and oil prices, which are having negative impact on the world economy, we agreed there's a need for expeditious efforts on these fronts.

President Bush, please.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for inviting us to this beautiful place. Laura and I are really looking forward to dinner with you and Mrs. Fukuda tonight. And I agree with your assessment that we had very important and fruitful discussions.

We discussed a variety of subjects, starting with the—our work together to make sure the Korean Peninsula, all the Korean Peninsula, is free of nuclear weapons. I am fully aware of the sensitivity of the issue here in your country. I am aware that people want to make sure that the abduction issue is not ignored, and that there are suspicions about whether or not the North Koreans will be fully forthcoming. I view this process as a multistep process that requires strong verification.

One thing is for certain, is that North Korea did provide a declaration of its plutonium-related activities and did blow up the cooling tower of its reactor at Yongbyon. That's been verified, and that also is a positive step. But there are more steps to be taken. We are concerned about enriched uranium and proliferation and human rights abuses, ballistic missile programs. I view this process as a multistep process where there will be action for action.

The Prime Minister gave me the book of Ms. Yokota. I had the privilege of meeting her in the Oval Office. I was deeply touched by her story about the abduction of her little girl. As a father of little girls, I can't imagine what it would be like to have my daughter just disappear. So, Mr. Prime Minister, as I told you on the phone when I talked to you and in the past, the United States will not abandon you on this issue.

We worked—we talked about Japan's contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan. And I thank your government and I thank the people of Japan for helping others realize the

blessings of liberty. We talked about Iran and the importance of Iran to listen to the demands, the just demands of the world to verifiably suspend its enrichment programs.

We haven't had a chance to talk about Burma yet, but I intend to bring it up with the Prime Minister. I'm deeply concerned about that country. Their response to the recent natural disaster was unwarranted at best. And we urge the regime to free Aung Suu—Aung San Suu Kyi.

We talked about the G-8. And I believe this is going to be a successful G-8, Mr. Prime Minister. This is my eighth one. I've got a pretty good sense about whether or not a G-8 is going to be a success or maybe not such a success. This one is going to be a success.

We've got a lot to talk about. I appreciate very much your strong belief in the accountability aspect of this meeting. In other words, when people say they're—make a pledge to feed the hungry or provide for the ill, that we ought to honor that pledge. And I thank you for understanding that. And I also thank you for your concern about neglected tropical diseases as well as helping train health workers in Africa so that they can be compassionate citizens of their respective countries.

We'll talk about food and energy, of course. And then I've got two other subjects that I want to make sure we spend a fair amount of time on. One is the Doha round. It's an opportunity for us, Mr. Prime Minister, to promote free and fair trade, and it's going to be an essential part of the development agenda. And the truth of the matter is, we can give grants, but the best way to help the impoverished around the world is through trade. It's a proven fact. And this is an opportunity to set up a successful ministerial in July—I think it's July 21st for the Doha round.

And then I'm going to spend some time, of course, sharing my views about the environment and how we can advance our common agenda, and that—remind people that the United States and Japan really do lead the world in research when it comes to clean technologies.

I think I was sharing my views with some of the Japanese press when they were in the United States, Mr. Prime Minister, about

how Japan is going to lead the world when it comes to battery technologies. And that I anticipate our country will be able to be using battery technologies in automobiles that look like cars, not golf carts, and which will save us a lot of, you know, reliance upon oil. And this will be a great opportunity to discuss that as well as our common desire to move our common agenda.

And so I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. And I appreciate very much your candid discussion that we had.

Environment

Q. Both of you have commented on global warming, and so I'd like to ask about that to both of you. First, Prime Minister Fukuda, were you successful in getting President Bush's agreement to cooperate—to get a G-8 agreement on long-term target to have a global—greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 globally?

So first that question, and second question for President Bush. Mr. President, you've been saying that participation of China and India, among others, will be essential for a long-term target. Do you think that—are going to cooperate on getting a G-8 agreement on long-term target this time? And also, as for assistance for African countries that are suffering from negative impact of global warming, I wonder what thoughts you have, President Bush.

Prime Minister Fukuda. Allow me to first respond. As I said earlier on the global warming issue, including long-term targets, I agreed with President Bush to continue to cooperate in the runup to the G-8. On whether G-8 will agree on long-term target or not, that is something that G-8 is continuing consultations. So at this stage what I wish to say is that we leaders will get down to in-depth discussions on this day after tomorrow.

President Bush. I'll be constructive. I've always advocated that there needs to be a common understanding, and that starts with a goal. And I also am realistic enough to tell you that if China and India don't share that same aspiration, that we're not going to solve the problem.

And so I appreciate the Prime Minister's leadership on this issue. And the United

States will—we're working, working to see if we can come up with a constructive statement.

I didn't get your question on Africa. What was the question on Africa? Ask it again, please.

Africa

Q. Well, I wanted to ask for your thoughts, your views on support for Africa, which will be negatively affected by global warming. Do you have any plans for supporting Africa?

President Bush. —starts with understanding that babies are needlessly dying because of mosquito bites, and therefore, wealthy nations ought to step up and provide mosquito nets, DDT, as well as medicine. My concern for Africa starts with knowing that too many people are dying of HIV/AIDS. And that's why the United States Congress joined the administration in supporting a \$15 billion effort to help people get antiretroviral drugs, help orphans get help, and help put a—effective prevention program in place. The amount—number of people who have gone on antiretrovirals today has grown from 50,000 to 1.7 million people.

I'm concerned about people going hungry. And so we'll be very constructive in the dialog when it comes to the environment. I care about the environment. But today, there's too much suffering on the continent of Africa, and now is the time for the comfortable nations to step up and do something about it.

U.S. Economy and Monetary Policy/ Energy/Environment

Q. Thank you. Mr. President, oil prices are up. The economy is in a serious downturn. What can world leaders do? And would you approve of intervention to strengthen the U.S. dollar, which many people say is contributing to the rise in oil prices?

And, Mr. Prime Minister, do you believe that the U.S. is holding up moving forward on climate change?

President Bush. First of all, our economy is not growing as robustly as we'd like. We had positive growth in the first quarter; we'll see what happens here in the second quarter. But nevertheless, we're not as strong as we have been during a lot of my Presidency. And

so, as you well know, Toby [Tabassum Zakaria, Reuters], we passed a stimulus bill that is now in the process of passing money back to consumers, which had a positive effect and, hopefully, will continue to have a positive effect.

We'll work with the Congress to get a housing bill out. We're—we passed unemployment benefits—unemployment benefits—excuse me. And yet we got a problem when it comes to reliance upon foreign sources of oil. For 7 years, I've been trying to get the Congress to explore for oil domestically. Now is the time, when they come back from their Fourth of July vacations, to open up ANWR and open up the Outer Continental Shelf so that we can say to the world that we will do our part in increasing supply, so that we can transition from this period of reliance upon hydrocarbons to a new period of advanced technologies.

In terms of the dollar, the United States strongly believes in a strong dollar policy and believes that our—the strength of our economy will be reflected in the dollar.

Q. [Inaudible]

President Bush. No, I just said the relative strength of our economy will be reflected in currencies.

Prime Minister Fukuda. With regard to global warming or climate change, the question was, what—how do I see U.S. response? Is that a correct understanding of your question? Well, between Japan and the United States, discussions are—been going on at various levels. The U.S., I believe, has not really lost a sense of direction, generally, and that between our two countries, we have consultations going on. And through these consultations, I think our views are gradually converging.

At the G-8 this time, well, I'll be chairing the meeting, so I've asked the President for his cooperation to this chair, and he has shown his kind understanding. What the results will be, well, we have to wait until the conclusion comes out at the meeting the day after tomorrow.

North Korea/Abduction of Japanese Citizens

Q. On North Korea, I'd like to ask questions of the two leaders. First, President

Bush, North Korea recently submitted their declaration on nuclear development programs, but that declaration did not include a declaration regarding nuclear weapons. Are you satisfied with that sort of declaration, Mr. President?

And also in connection with this—or in connection with the declaration, Mr. President, you expressed—no, you decided to notify Congress about removing North Korea from the status of state sponsors of terrorism list. There is rising concern about abduction in Japan. You said you will not forget about abduction, but would there be—after removal of North Korea from the list, what sort of means will there remain for the United States to press North Korea to resolve the abduction issue?

Now, Mr. Fukuda, I wonder in your discussions you asked the President to rethink the President's decision to remove North Korea from the list. If not, why didn't you ask? Now, following the removal of North Korea from the list, what sort of specific cooperation would you seek from the United States to advance the abduction issue?

President Bush. North Korea is the most sanctioned nation in the world and will remain the most sanctioned nation in the world. And the way for them to get off their sanctions is to honor their commitments in a verifiable fashion.

Somehow there's this notion—inherent in your question is the delisting therefore took away their sanctions. That's just not an accurate statement on your part if you think that. I'm not assuming you do think that, but it's—they're a highly sanctioned regime. And they will—as I said, they've got a lot of obligations that they must fulfill in order for these sanctions to leave.

And that's why I said it is action for action. And the first step was taken. Now, one thing is for certain, I repeat—I don't know if you saw it on your—on the TVs here, but the destruction of the cooling tower was verifiable action. And that's a positive step. But as I mentioned in my opening statement, we have other concerns, and one such concern, of course, is the abduction issue.

Prime Minister Fukuda. Well, the North Korean declaration on their nuclear programs—well, when you think about the ab-

duction issue, I think the suggestion of your question—what you were suggesting is that we should seek U.S. to rescind that decision. Well, as far as nuclear issue is concerned, well, we have moved on to a new phase. And I think we need to make sure this will be successful because it will be in the interest of Japan as well. At the same time, in parallel, we need to bring the abduction issue to successful conclusion as well.

So against this backdrop of progress in the nuclear front, we need to also strive for progress on the abduction front as well. And to that end, we need to have good-faith discussions with North Korea. So far, we have not seen any progress, but we need to engage in negotiations so that progress will be produced. Because abduction is not progressing, on the nuclear front we should not make progress—that is something we should not—we should avoid. And I believe we need to make progress on both fronts, because that will be important for Japan, and I think that will be necessary for North Korea as well.

2008 Beijing Olympics

Q. Good afternoon. Mr. President, I'd like to ask you a question about China. I was wondering if you could, first of all, explain a little bit about your thinking behind your decision to attend the opening ceremonies of the Olympics next month. And more generally, I'm wondering what you would say to the—your friends and allies in the United States who are very concerned about religious freedom and human rights in China, the situation in Sudan and Burma. What would you say to them of what has come from your approach to dealing with President Hu over the last 7 years?

And I'd also like to ask the Japanese Prime Minister whether you're paying close attention to the American election? And in particular, I'm curious if you can discern any differences right now between the two candidates as it relates to Japan, in particular, and more broadly, in terms of how they would approach Asia.

President Bush. I view the Olympics as a opportunity for me to cheer on our athletes. It's an athletic event. I had the honor of dealing with the Chinese—two Chinese Presidents during my term, and every time I have

visited with them, I have talked about religious freedom and human rights. And so therefore, my decision to go was—I guess I don't need the Olympics to express my concerns. I've been doing so.

I also believe that the Chinese people are watching very carefully about the decisions by world leaders, and that this—I happen to believe not going to the opening games would be—the opening ceremony for the games would be an affront to the Chinese people, which may make it more difficult to have a—to be able to speak frankly with the Chinese leadership. That's why I'm doing what I'm doing. And I'm looking forward to cheering the athletes. I think it will be—I think it would be good for these athletes who have worked hard to see their President waving that flag.

Q. [*Inaudible*]

President Bush. You know, in some areas we've made progress on a common agenda; other areas we haven't. But nevertheless, I have been very clear in my view that, for example, a whole society is one that honors religion, and that people shouldn't fear religious people. After all, truly religious people love their neighbor—and that China benefits from people being able to worship freely.

It looks like there's some progress, at least in the talks with the Dalai Lama. And by the way, as you know, I'm the first President ever to have stood up publicly with the Dalai Lama and told President Hu Jintao I was going to. And he wasn't that pleased about it, but nevertheless, I said, "I believe in a religious freedom, Mr. President."

And so it's—and I hope I have a bilateral—I might have a bilateral with him here, and I bet I do when I'm in Beijing as well, and of course, the subject will come up.

Prime Minister Fukuda. Well, your question for me, was it along the same line as well? Well—and if that is the case—well, I—whether I'll attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic games or not, I have not made any official announcement on this because the day after the opening ceremony of the Olympics, there is an important event in Japan, and I have to attend that important

ceremony. And therefore—or event—therefore, I really have to make sure I would have time to get back for that. Now I know that I'll be able to get back in time, so here for the first time, I will announce that I—announce officially that I will attend the opening ceremony of the Olympics.

Now—and, in fact, the President said something to the same effect, that Olympics are a sport events, and we want people to really live up to the spirit of the sports, sportsmanship. And I certainly encourage that. And there are many aspiring athletes that will be going to Beijing, and I would like to cheer them on too, which I think is only natural. I don't think you really have to link Olympics to politics.

Now, there certainly may be problems with China, but even so, they are striving to improve things. They're on the way to improve things, and we'd like to closely watch how they do. In the past, Japan has come through various experiences, and the U.S. and others criticized Japan for certain behaviors. So we have had experience in that reality, and we are now here today. So we really have to be—have humility in asking ourselves, do we have the right to make those points to China and others?

Now, I would not hope that there will be a chaos in China. I would not want Chinese to become unhappy. We are neighbors, after all, and it will be good for Japan if our neighbors are in a sound state as well. So with that in mind as well, I shall attend the opening ceremony.

NOTE: The news conference began at 5:13 p.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa. In his remarks, the President referred to Kiyoko Fukuda, wife of Prime Minister Fukuda; Sakie Yokota, mother of Megumi Yokota, who was abducted by North Korean authorities; Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma; President Hu Jintao and former President Jiang Zemin of China; and Tenzin Gyatso, the Dalai Lama of Tibet. Prime Minister Fukuda and some reporters spoke in Japanese, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
President Dmitry A. Medvedev of
Russia and an Exchange With
Reporters in Toyako**

July 7, 2008

President Bush. I want to thank the President for a good, meaningful discussion. It's the first time Dmitry and I met since he has become President of his big country, and we had a good discussion. We talked about Iran; we talked about a variety of issues. And while there's some areas of disagreement, there's also areas where I know we can work together for the common good.

I found him to be a smart guy who understood the issues very well. But I'm not surprised; after all, he has been very close to foreign policy issues up until his ascendancy to the Presidency. And he reminded me of our visit to the White House in 2005, where we discussed foreign policy then. And now it's my honor to discuss it face to face as Presidents of our respective countries.

Thank you, sir.

President Medvedev. Well, indeed, we had this exchange today with George concerning various issues at the agenda of our relationship, including those of domestic importance, trade and investments, and internationally related matters, including those conflicts and crisis tendencies in the world. And true that on certain matters, we do have differences originating from the previous background and differences are there. And on the others, we have absolutely similar positions. But what is really important, the dialog is there and there is a commonality of the overview on various things between us.

And the other thing which is also important is that I congratulated George on his birthday, which is also a very important thing; irrespective of summits out there, irrespective of our will, these dates occur in our life.

President Bush. Everybody has a birthday. Anyway, we'll answer one question apiece.

Deb [Deb Riechmann, Associated Press].

**Russia-U.S. Relations/Russian
Leadership**

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You're leaving; he's coming. There's not much time left.

Were you able to make any movement? Was there anything that you could accomplish in this thing—on issues like missile defense? And also, besides his intellect, what else did you see in the new President?

President Bush. Yes. I reminded him that, yes, I'm leaving, but not until 6 months, and I'm sprinting to the finish. So we can get a lot done together. And, you know, it's a lot of important issues. There is—you know, like Iran is an area where Russia and the United States have worked closely in the past and will continue to work closely to convince the regime to give up its desire to enrich uranium.

You know, I'm not going to sit here and psychoanalyze the man, but I will tell you that he's very comfortable; he's confident, and that I believe that when he tells me something, he means it. Sometimes in politics people tell you one thing and mean another. My judgment is that when he tells you something he means it, and that's going to be good for the world leaders to have somebody that you may not agree with what he tells you, but at least you know it's what he believes.

Russia-U.S. Relations

Q. What is your perspective of the further development of U.S.-Russia relationship?

President Medvedev. Well, yes, we have discussed these matters on the further development of a relationship between our two countries with George, and we are positive that they will develop further on. And we will build on the relationship with the new American administration. But we still have 6 months with the effective administration, and we'll try to intensify our dialog with this administration.

The other thing is that, yes, there are certain questions on our agenda where we agree, and these are the matters pertaining to Iran, North Korea. But then, certainly, there are others with respect to European affairs and this missile defense where we have differences. We would like to agree on these matters as well, and we also feel very comfortable in our dealings with George.

President Bush. Thank you. Thank you, sir.

President Medvedev. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:32 p.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa. President Medvedev and a reporter spoke in Russian, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With G-8 Africa Outreach Representatives in Toyako

July 7, 2008

President Bush. I'm really pleased to be standing with a really good friend of the American people and a great leader in Africa, President Kikwete of Tanzania. I just—first of all, I'd like to announce that he's coming to visit in late August. I'm really looking forward to having you to the White House; looking forward to giving you a good dinner. And we'll have a good visit.

President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania. Looking forward.

President Bush. Yes. I am—you know, one of the things that's so impressive about his leadership in Tanzania is that the help of the American people is effective help, measurable in the number of people whose lives are being saved; babies are being helped with malaria. I mean, it's just unbelievable the job you've done there. And we're excited to welcome you to the country. I really want the American people to hear firsthand how successful their generosity has been, whether it be on HIV/AIDS or malaria. And Tanzania is a good example. But this success would not have taken place without your leadership—really important.

The other thing we discussed in the—we discussed a lot of issues with the African leaders here in the G-8, but one, of course, was Zimbabwe. You know, I care deeply about the people of Zimbabwe. I am extremely disappointed in the elections, which I labeled a sham election. And we, of course, listened very carefully. And, President Kikwete, as the head of the AU, has been very involved in this issue. I'm not going to put words in his mouth—he can express his own self—but it was—this issue of Zimbabwe took a fair amount of time—

President Kikwete. It did; it did.

President Bush. —and rightly so. Anyway, thank you for agreeing to come to the

States. And I'm really looking forward to having you.

President Kikwete. President, let me thank you for the invitation. I'm really looking forward too. We enjoyed your visit there. I think I've been around for some time. I think one—that was one of Tanzania's biggest visits.

President Bush. Thank you.

President Kikwete. You saw how people came out into the streets to receive you. It's a measure of our appreciation of what the United—the people of the United States have done to—[inaudible]—in many things. Many lives have been saved through that—those programs in support of malaria, for to HIV/AIDS, but there are so many other programs that are building our—capacity of our people to measure—to marry their own development, which we highly appreciate.

Well, of course we see eye to eye on many international issues. Of course, we have discussed the issue of Zimbabwe, where we understand your concerns. But I want to assure you that the concerns that you have expressed are indeed the concerns of many of us in the African Continent. At the last summit of the African Union, many leaders expressed their dissatisfaction at the way things happened, but also, we agreed on the way forward.

The only area that we may differ is on the way forward. You see differently, but for us in Africa we see differently. But I think, again, there is still room for us for discussions. We are saying no party can govern alone in Zimbabwe, and therefore, the parties have to work together to come out, work together in a government, and then look at the future of their country together.

So this is what we—the way we see it. I don't think that there is much divergence there. You would have liked to see us do a bit—some things; we would also like to see you do some things. But we'll continue to discuss all these issues, and as friends at the end of the day, we'll come to an understanding.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Looking forward to having you in Washington.

President Kikwete. Thank you.

President Bush. Some of these very same people will be there yelling questions there

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

close interactions between high-level leaders but also between people at various other levels. Not long ago, China and United States successfully held the fourth Strategic Economic Dialogue, which produced positive results.

In addition, our two countries have also had fruitful cooperation in economic, trade, counterterrorism, energy, environmental protection, and other areas. We also have had close communication and coordination on such major regional and international issues as the Korean nuclear issue and Iranian nuclear issue.

To further consolidate and grow China-U.S. relationship not only serves the fundamental interests of our two countries and our two peoples but also will have a major impact on peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and in the world at large. Both President Bush and I said that we will continue to keep the larger direction of growing this constructive and cooperative relationship between us, and we will try to make efforts to ensure that this relationship will continue to grow on a sound and steady course.

I also briefed President Bush about the Chinese position on the Taiwan issue and informed President Bush about the current situation in the Taiwan Strait. We hope that the U.S. side will continue to follow the “one China” policy.

I welcome President Bush to Beijing to attend the opening ceremony of the Olympic games. And I highly appreciated that President Bush has on various occasions expressed his opposition to politicizing the Olympic games.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:33 p.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa. President Hu spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to the White House Press Pool in Toyako

July 9, 2008

G-8 Summit and Major Economies Leaders Meeting

Thank you all very much. We’ve just finished our meetings here in Japan. I would call them very productive.

Our goal was to make progress in five key areas: confronting climate change; reinforcing our commitment to a successful Doha agreement; fighting disease in Africa; ensuring that the G-8 nations are accountable for their commitments; and addressing the challenges of high food and energy prices. I’m pleased to report that we’ve had significant success in all of them.

On climate change, I want to thank the Prime Minister for hosting today’s meeting of leaders from the world’s major economies. In order to address climate change, all major economies must be at the table. And that’s what took place today. The G-8 expressed our desire to have a significant reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050. We made it clear and the other nations agreed that they must also participate in an ambitious goal, with interim goals and interim plans, to enable the world to successfully address climate change. And we made progress, significant progress, toward a comprehensive approach.

One way to meet objectives is to invest in technology, both at the national and international levels, both through the private and public sectors. And the United States, Japan, and United Kingdom launched what’s called a clean technology fund, and we hope Congress funds that effort. It’s a way to help developing nations afford the technologies so that they can become good stewards of the environment.

We’re also taking steps to promote clean technologies by cooperating on research and development. You know, I firmly believe that we can become less dependent on oil through new technology, and obviously, we’re going to have to spend some money on research and development to be able to achieve that objective.

On other matters, the G-8 leaders emphasized the critical importance of concluding a Doha round. We want the world to trade

freely. We want to make sure markets are open for agricultural goods and manufacturing goods and services. We also recognize that the best way to help alleviate poverty is through trade. And so we had good discussions over the past couple of days about successfully completing the Doha round by the end of this year.

We also made some progress on alleviating sickness in Africa. The G-8 committed \$60 billion over 5 years to fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases. I'm also pleased to report the G-8 leaders pledged to provide 100 million long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets by 2010 to help deal with malaria. As you know, the United States has been in the forefront of trying to help nations eradicate malaria, and the G-8 nations stepped forward to support our efforts. And I appreciate that very much.

We also committed with partner nations in Africa to train new health care workers—can't solve health care problems unless there's health care workers on the ground. And the United States is involved with that. And finally, we are working to expand our efforts to treat key neglected tropical diseases, with the goal of reaching 75 percent of victims in the most affected countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America within 5 years. [*Inaudible*]*—*we had a comprehensive agenda on helping those who are being affected by disease live healthy lives.

I've always believed, to whom much is given, much is required. The nations sitting around the table have got much, and I think we're required to help those who don't. Pledges are important. Those have been—you know, oftentimes in the political process people talk big, but they never follow up. And so one of the key ingredients of these recent meetings was all of us need to be reminded that when we say we're going to do something, we got to do it. And so accountability is an important part of fulfilling our obligations.

We agreed to release detailed reports on our progress in meeting the commitments, breaking down our efforts, country by country, disease by disease. This, of course, will help ensure the G-8 initiatives are measurable and transparent, so that we're held accountable for the promises we make.

And finally, we agreed on steps to deal with hunger and high energy prices. We agreed to meet short-term food needs by providing emergency food shipments and increasing access to fertilizer and seeds and encouraging other nations to eliminate their export restrictions. We also agreed on steps to relieve hunger in the longer term, including working to double production of key food staples in several African countries, accelerating access to new agricultural technology such as new seed varieties developed through biotechnology. We're also seeking to increase the amount of food aid supplied by local producers. In other words, instead of the United States just simply giving food, we ought to be buying food from local producers so that they can develop their own agricultural industries, so to help deal with world hunger.

We also agreed that on high energy prices—look, we got to deal with both on the supply and demand. On the supply side, oil and production refining capacity need to be increased. And the United States needs to do its part. The Democratic leaders in Congress will not allow us to explore for oil and gas in parts of Alaska, offshore America, and now is the time for them to change their mind. We also—I'm firmly—believe that we can do this kind of exploration in environmentally friendly ways.

On the demand side, we agreed to take new steps to increase energy efficiency, and we agreed that fuel subsidies that artificially inflate demand should be eliminated or reduced.

In other words, this was a—you know, a lot of meetings on important subjects, and we accomplished a lot. By protecting our environment and resisting protectionism and fighting disease and promoting development and improving the daily life for millions around the world, we serve both our interests as Americans, and we serve the interests of the world.

We've enjoyed our stay here in Japan. I want to thank the Prime Minister once again for his grand hospitality. And I appreciate you all covering this summit. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:22 p.m. at the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda of Japan.

Remarks on Intelligence Reform Legislation

July 9, 2008

Today the United States Congress passed a vital piece of legislation that will make it easier for this administration and future administrations to protect the American people. This vital intelligence bill will allow our national security professionals to quickly and effectively monitor the plans of terrorists outside the United States, while respecting the liberties of the American people.

This legislation is critical to America's safety; it is long overdue. Months ago, my administration set out key criteria that this intelligence legislation would have to have before I would sign it into law. The Attorney General and Director of National Intelligence report that the bill Congress passed today meets these criteria, and therefore, I will soon sign the bill into law.

This bill will help our intelligence professionals learn who the terrorists are talking to, what they're saying, and what they're planning. It will ensure that those companies whose assistance is necessary to protect the country will, themselves, be protected from lawsuits for past or future cooperation with the Government. It will uphold our most solemn obligation as officials of the Federal Government to protect the American people.

I want to thank the members of my administration who worked hard to get this legislation passed. I thank the Democratic and Republican leadership in the Congress for their efforts, particularly House Majority Leader Hoyer, House Republican Whip Blunt, Senators Bond and Rockefeller, Congressmen Hoekstra, Reyes, and Smith.

This legislation shows that even in an election year, we can come together and get important pieces of legislation passed.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:01 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General Michael B.

Mukasey. Due to the 13-hour time difference, these remarks were made after those to the White House press pool in Toyako, Japan.

Remarks on Signing the FISA Amendments Act of 2008

July 10, 2008

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you. Welcome to the Rose Garden. Today I'm pleased to sign landmark legislation that is vital to the security of our people. The bill will allow our intelligence professionals to quickly and effectively monitor the communications of terrorists abroad, while respecting the liberties of Americans here at home. The bill I sign today will help us meet our most solemn responsibility: to stop new attacks and to protect our people.

Members of my administration have made a vigorous case for this important law. I want to thank them, and I also want to thank the Members of the House and the Senate who've worked incredibly hard to get this legislation done. Mr. Vice President, welcome.

Respect the Members of the Senate and the House who've joined us—Senate Republican Whip Jon Kyl; John Boehner, House Republican leader; Roy Blunt, House Republican whip. I do want to pay special tribute to Congressman Steny Hoyer, House majority leader, for his hard work on this bill. I thank so very much Senator Jay Rockefeller, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Senator Kit Bond, vice chairman, for joining us. I appreciate the hard work of Congressman Silvestre Reyes, chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and Congressman Pete Hoekstra, ranking member. I also welcome Congressman Lamar Smith, ranking member of the House Judiciary. I thank all the other Members of the House and Senate who've joined us; appreciate your very good work.

I welcome Attorney General Michael Mukasey, as well as Admiral Mike McConnell, Director of National Intelligence. Appreciate other members of the administration who have joined us. I want to thank the congressional staff who are here and all the supporters of this piece of legislation.

Almost 7 years have passed since that September morning when nearly 3,000 men, women, and children were murdered in our midst. The attack changed our country forever. We realized America was at—a nation at war against a ruthless and persistent enemy. We realized that these violent extremists would spare no effort to kill again. And in the aftermath of 9/11, few would have imagined that we would be standing here 7 years later without another attack on American soil.

The fact that the terrorists have failed to strike our shores again does not mean that our enemies have given up. To the contrary, since 9/11, they've plotted a number of attacks on our homeland. Like Members standing up here, I receive briefings on the very real and very dangerous threats that America continues to face.

One of the important lessons learned after 9/11 was that America's intelligence professionals lacked some of the tools they needed to monitor the communications of terrorists abroad. It's essential that our intelligence community know who our enemies are talking to, what they're saying, and what they're planning. Last year, Congress passed temporary legislation that helped our intelligence community monitor these communications.

The legislation I am signing today will ensure that our intelligence community professionals have the tools they need to protect our country in the years to come. The DNI and the Attorney General both report that, once enacted, this law will provide vital assistance to our intelligence officials in their work to thwart terrorist plots. This law will ensure that those companies whose assistance is necessary to protect the country will themselves be protected from lawsuits from past or future cooperation with the government. This law will protect the liberties of our citizens while maintaining the vital flow of intelligence. This law will play a critical role in helping to prevent another attack on our soil.

Protecting America from another attack is the most important responsibility of the Federal Government, the most solemn obligation that a President undertakes. When I first addressed the Congress after 9/11, I carried a badge by the mother of a police officer who

died in the World Trade Center. I pledged to her, to the families of the victims, and to the American people that I would never forget the wound that was inflicted on our country. I vowed to do everything in my power to prevent another attack on our Nation. I believe this legislation is going to help keep that promise. And I thank the Members who have joined us. And now it's my honor to sign the bill.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:17 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. H.R. 6304, approved July 10, was assigned Public Law No. 110-261.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Economic Advisers

July 11, 2008

I want to thank the members of my economic team for assembling here at the Department of Energy. Secretary Bodman, thank you for hosting us. First of all, Secretary Paulson came by this morning to brief me on the financial markets. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are very important institutions. You spent a fair amount of time discussing these institutions. He assured me that he and Ben Bernanke will be working this issue very hard.

Secondly, he did inform us that 112 million stimulus payments have gone out, and I congratulate you and your Department for doing your job. We've so far spent about \$91 billion in tax relief, which has had a positive effect on retail sales. The problem, of course, is that gasoline prices are up, which has affected the people here in our country. And one of the main reasons why gasoline prices are up is because crude oil prices are up. And one reason crude oil prices are up is because demand is outstripping supply.

And therefore, what can we do about it? And that ought to be the question the United States Congress asks. And one way to deal with supply problems is to increase supply here in America. And one of the things we just went through at the briefing from Secretary Bodman and Secretary Kempthorne about the vast potential of crude oil reserves on offshore lands, as well as in Alaska, as well as in the oil shale in the western part of our

country. And yet the Democratic leaders of Congress have consistently blocked opening up these lands for exploration.

The other part of our briefing was how we could explore in environmentally friendly ways. Technology has changed dramatically to enable the exploitation of oil in a way that protects the environment. You know, these Members of Congress, particularly the Democratic leadership, must address this issue before they go home for this upcoming August break. They have a responsibility to explain to their constituents why we should not be drilling for more oil here in America to take the pressure off of gasoline prices.

I want to thank you all very much for your briefing. These are tough economic times for the American citizens. There is a way forward to help relieve some of their—some of the pressure on their pocketbooks. And I'm looking forward to seeing—watching this Congress respond in a positive way.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:38 a.m. at the Department of Energy.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Charlottesville, VA, where he toured Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

July 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Chitose, Japan, arriving the following afternoon.

July 6

In the afternoon, upon arrival at New Chitose Airport, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony. They then traveled to the Windsor Hotel Toya Resort and Spa in Toyako, Japan.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a social dinner with Prime Minister Fukuda and his wife, Kiyoko.

July 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a working lunch and photo opportunity with Group of Eight (G-8) leaders and Africa outreach representatives. Later, he participated in a meeting with G-8 leaders and Africa outreach representatives.

In the evening, the President met with Junior 8 student leaders. Then he and Mrs. Bush attended entertainment and a social dinner with G-8 leaders and their spouses.

July 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in a G-8 summit meeting.

In the afternoon, the President participated in the G-8 summit official photograph. He then participated in a working lunch and meeting with G-8 leaders.

In the evening, the President participated in a working dinner with G-8 leaders.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania to the White House on August 29.

July 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he participated in a meeting with G-8 leaders and outreach country representatives. He then participated in a meeting with the leaders of major economies.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a photo opportunity with the leaders of major economies. He then participated in a working lunch with G-8 leaders and outreach country representatives.

Later in the afternoon, the President met with President Lee Myung-bak of South

Korea. Then he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, crossing the international dateline and arriving in the afternoon.

The President declared a major disaster in Kansas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and tornadoes from May 22–June 16.

The President declared a major disaster in Oklahoma and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from June 3–20.

The President declared a major disaster in South Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from June 2–12.

July 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced that he has nominated Ruth Y. Goldway to be Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission.

The President announced that he has nominated Joyce Lee Malcolm and Robert L. Paquette to be members of the National Council on the Humanities.

The President announced that he has nominated Clifford D. May to be a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anthony W. Ryan to be Under Secretary of the Treasury (Domestic Finance) and that he has designated him as Acting Under Secretary of the Treasury (Domestic Finance).

July 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Abdullah Gul of Turkey to express his condolences for the deaths of Turkish police officers who were killed while defending the U.S. consulate in Istanbul against a terrorist attack on July 9 and to discuss Turkey's role in Iraq. He then had a telephone conversation with President Khalifa bin Zayid al-Nahayyan of the United Arab Emirates to thank him for the country's cancellation of Iraq's debt and for reopening

their Embassy in Iraq and appointing an Ambassador to Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci of Kosovo to the White House on July 21.

The President announced that he has named Ryan Bounds as Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy.

The President announced that he has named Ashok M. Pinto as Associate Counsel to the President.

The President announced that he has named Bridget Sheedy as Special Assistant to the President for White House Management.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted July 10

Christine M. Arguello,
of Colorado, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, vice Walker D. Miller, retired.

Philip A. Brimmer,
of Colorado, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, vice Lewis T. Babcock, retired.

Gregory E. Goldberg,
of Colorado, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Colorado, vice Phillip S. Figa, deceased.

Ruth Y. Goldway,
of California, to be a Commissioner of the Postal Regulatory Commission for the term expiring November 22, 2014 (reappointment).

Robert Hastings,
of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of
Defense, vice Dorrance Smith.

William Frederic Jung,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Middle District of Florida, vice Susan C.
Bucklew, retiring.

Joyce Lee Malcolm,
of Virginia, to be a member of the National
Council on the Humanities for a term expir-
ing January 26, 2014, vice Marguerite Sul-
livan, term expired.

Clifford D. May,
of Maryland, to be a member of the Broad-
casting Board of Governors for a term expir-
ing August 13, 2009, vice Mark McKinnon.

Robert L. Paquette,
of New York, to be a member of the National
Council on the Humanities for a term expir-
ing January 26, 2014, vice Elizabeth Fox-
Genovese, term expired.

Mary Stenson Scriven,
of Florida, to be U.S. District Judge for the
Middle District of Florida, vice Patricia C.
Fawsett, retiring.

Withdrawn July 10

Mark McKinnon,
of Texas, to be a member of the Broadcasting
Board of Governors for a term expiring Au-
gust 13, 2009, vice Fayza Veronique Boulad
Rodman, which was sent to the Senate on
January 9, 2007.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office
of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as
items nor covered by entries in the Digest of
Other White House Announcements.

Released July 6

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Dana Perino, Deputy National Secu-

rity Adviser for International Economic Af-
fairs Daniel M. Price, and National Security
Council Senior Director for East Asian Af-
fairs Dennis C. Wilder

Released July 7

Transcript of a press briefing by Council on
Environmental Quality Chairman James L.
Connaughton

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Dana Perino and Deputy National Secu-
rity Adviser for International Economic
Affairs Daniel M. Price on the G-8 leaders
meeting with African countries

Released July 8

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Sec-
retary Dana Perino, Deputy National Secu-
rity Adviser for International Economic Af-
fairs Daniel M. Price, and Council on Envi-
ronmental Quality Chairman James L.
Connaughton

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by
President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Re-
public of Tanzania

Fact sheet: Retroactive Liability Protection
is Critical to Our National Security

Text of G-8 Declaration on the World Econ-
omy

Text of G-8 Declaration on Environment
and Climate Change

Text of G-8 Declaration on Development
and Africa

Text of G-8 Declaration on Political Issues

Text of G-8 Declaration on International In-
stitutions

Text of G-8 Leaders Statement on Global
Food Security

Text of G-8 Leaders Statement on
Zimbabwe

Text of G-8 Leaders Statement on Counter-
terrorism

Released July 9

Transcript of a press gaggle by Council on
Environmental Quality Chairman James L.
Connaughton and Deputy National Security
Adviser for International Economic Affairs

Daniel M. Price on the leaders of major economies meeting

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Kansas

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Oklahoma

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to South Dakota

Fact sheet: The President's Push for Accountability Highlights Successful G-8 Summit, Hokkaido Toyako, Japan

Fact sheet: Development and Africa

Fact sheet: The Major Economies Leaders Meeting

Joint fact sheet: Joint Fact Sheet: U.S.-Japan Cooperation on African Health and Food Security Challenges

Text of Leaders of Major Economies Declaration on Energy Security and Climate Change

Released July 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Tony Fratto

Released July 11

Statement by the Press Secretary: Visit by President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci of the Republic of Kosovo

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Environmental Protection Agency's release of advanced notice of proposed rulemaking on using the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions

Statement by the Press Secretary on congressional action on legislation to modernize the Federal Housing Administration

Acts Approved by the President

Approved July 10

H.R. 6304 / Public Law 110-261
Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978
Amendments Act of 2008