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But at bottom, Ghana is very grateful for the friendship we are—she is enjoying from the United States. And I, personally, am very happy and appreciate your friendship so far.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Kufuor. And I look forward to a good and productive retirement, just as I wish for you, as you go into retirement. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Thank you, sir. [*Laughter*]

President Kufuor. You have been good, and I hope history will judge you well.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Kufuor. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts

September 15, 2008

Thank you very much, Secretary Chertoff, for your briefing—you just came back from Houston; Administrator Paulison. The briefing, of course, was on the damage done to Texas and Louisiana, a result of Ike.

We, obviously, watch this recovery very carefully, because the Federal Government is playing a crucial role in helping the people of the devastated areas recover. We're working closely with the State and local authorities on a variety of subjects.

Recently, I was informed that there are going to be a—numerous points of distribution for food, water, and ice throughout Harris County to help the people there adjust. Obviously, until electricity is fully restored, people are going to need help with water, food, and ice.

There's some good news on electricity. Electricity is beginning to be restored. Obviously, there's a lot more houses and folks that are waiting for electricity, but people are working hard. There's crews coming in from around the country to help.

The energy situation is one that's of concern. Our drivers, our folks at the pump, are going to have to expect some upward pressure on price, because the storm disrupted the supply of gasoline as a result of shutting down refineries and pipelines. Now, two—the two major pipelines are up and running, which is positive news, and it happened quicker than we thought it would happen. Yet until those refineries get up and running full blast, those pipelines are going to be looking for product.

And so there's going to be a pinch. I wish it wasn't the case, but it is. On the other hand, if the pinch is too hard, if people think they're being treated unfairly, they need to get on the Department of Energy web site, because there's—or the FTC web site—and make their complaints known.

The storm was—damaged a lot of infrastructure, but truthfully it was not as bad as some predicted that it would be on the energy sector.

I'm going down tomorrow; I'm looking forward to going down. Members of my administration will be going down. We're looking forward to hearing from, you know, the local folks. I'm confident there will be people that are very frustrated because their lives have been severely affected by this storm. And my message will be that we hear you, and we'll work as hard and fast as we can to help you get your lives back up to normal.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana

September 15, 2008

Mr. President and Mrs. Kufuor and family members; members of the Cabinet; Mr. Vice President; Members of Congress; distinguished guests: Thank you all for coming. Laura and I are really happy to host you tonight. And we're particularly happy to host President Kufuor and Mrs. Kufuor. After all, we were in their country last February, and it was a unbelievable visit in spite of my lousy dancing. [*Laughter*] Mrs. Kufuor was my partner, and she can testify to my lousy dancing. [*Laughter*]

The memories of the trip will always stay with us, Mr. President. It was a great experience. You're the President of a country of such great potential, and you're President of a country of such wonderful people.

We really do want to—I hope you relax tonight for this special evening. After dinner we'll go out to the Rose Garden for a—interesting entertainment.

John and I will be joining the ex-Presidents club in a couple of months. [*Laughter*] But I am confident we have left behind an enduring relationship between our two countries. We are—we've worked hard to help the people of Ghana. Because of his integrity and because of his leadership, I was confident in proposing the Millennium Challenge Account for the country of Ghana.

We're working hard to fight disease together. In this room are compassionate people who care deeply about the citizens of your country, John. And we want to thank you for your compassion and thank you for coming. We care deeply about the education of people all across the globe. John, you've helped your people build a thriving democracy, where the rule of law is respected. And as well, you've taken a leadership role on the continent of Africa.

I thank you for your wise counsel and your judgment on how the United States can work to promote peace. I really have greatly enjoyed serving with you in an historic era. I have confidence that the next Presidents of both our countries will be able to work together.

In the meantime, I offer you a toast. I wish you all the best in your retirement. I have loved being in your presence. And so a toast to the President, and his gracious wife, Theresa, and the people of Ghana.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:02 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of President Kufuor.

Memorandum on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2009

September 15, 2008

Presidential Determination No. 2008–28

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2009

Pursuant to section 706(1) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107–228) (FRAA), I hereby identify the following countries as major drug transit or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Burma, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela.

A country's presence on the Majors List is not necessarily an adverse reflection of its government's counternarcotics efforts or level of cooperation with the United States. Consistent with the statutory definition of a major drug transit or drug producing country set forth in section 481(e)(2) and (5) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (FAA), one of the reasons that major drug transit or illicit drug producing countries are placed on the list is the combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit or be produced despite the concerned government's most assiduous enforcement measures.

Pursuant to section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA, I hereby designate Bolivia, Burma, and Venezuela as countries that have failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements and take the measures set forth in section 489(a)(1) of the FAA. Attached to this report are justifications for the determinations on Bolivia, Burma, and Venezuela, as required by section 706(2)(B). I have also determined, in accordance with provisions of section