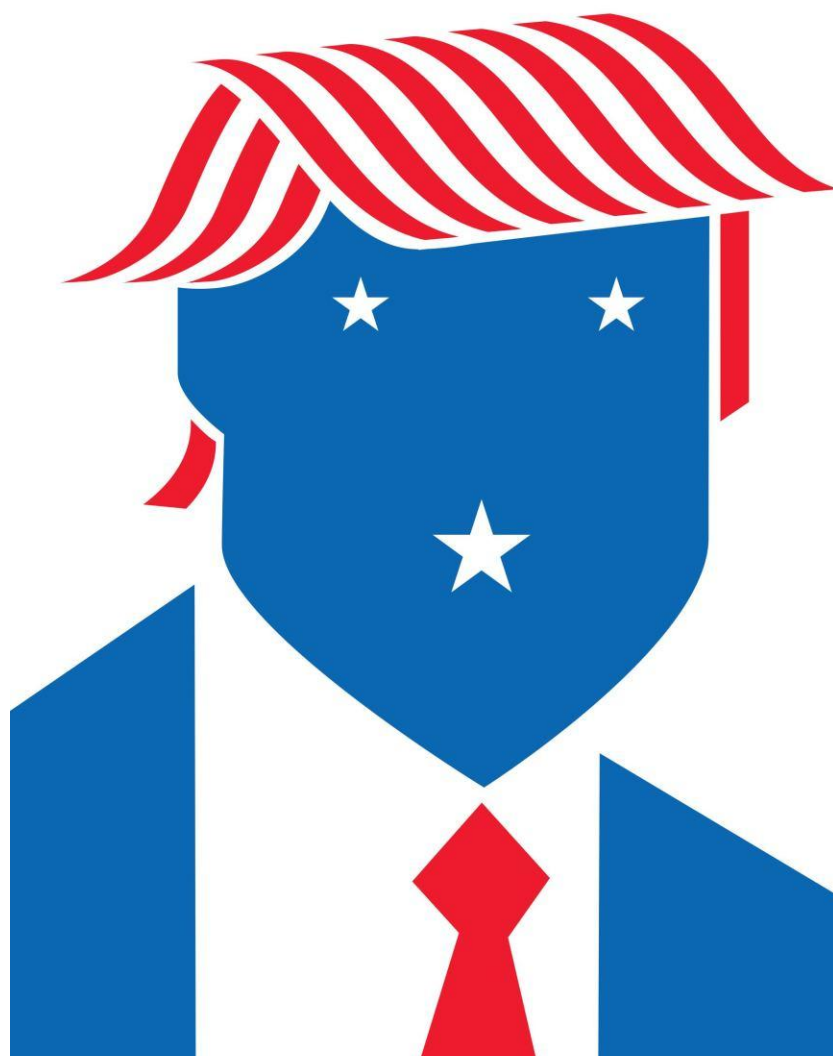


АДМИНИСТРАЦИЯ Д. ТРАМПА

ВНЕШНЯЯ ПОЛИТИКА

СБОРНИК
ДОКУМЕНТОВ



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В Электронном издании «Администрация Д. Трампа. Внешняя политика. Сборник документов» представлены важнейшие документы, отражающие отдельные направления внешнеполитического курса администрации Д. Трампа (с 2017 г.).

Представлена подборка документов, связанных с действиями администрации Д. Трампа в сфере внешней политики США в 2017 г. Документы размещены в хронологической последовательности.

*Сборник
«Администрация Д. Трампа. 2017. Внешняя политика. Сборник документов»
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отражающими отдельные направления
внешнеполитического курса администрации Д. Трампа (с 2017 г.).*

ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

Администрация Д. Трампа (с 2017 г.), возглавляемая весьма незаурядным человеком – широко известным в США миллиардером Дональдом Джоном Трампом, внесла радикальные изменения во внешнеполитический курс США, который, в отличие от предшествующих периодов, стал гораздо более непредсказуемым, но, в то же самое время он опирается на целый ряд, ставших уже традиционными, постулатов внешней политики США.

Новизной явилось то, что «бизнес-подход» Д. Трампа к сфере внешней политики, проявления которого можно со всей очевидностью наблюдать, начиная с момента вступления Д. Трампа в должность главы государства, безусловно, сказывается на внешней политике США.

Знакомство с внешнеполитическим курсом США в период президентства Д. Трампа (с 2017 г.) невозможно без обращения к важнейшим документам, отражающим отдельные его направления. При этом, важно подчеркнуть, что эти документы содержат официальную точку зрения руководства США в отношении отдельных проблем, касающихся сферы внешней политики.

Однако, сбор официальных документов, связанных с деятельностью администрации Д. Трампа в сфере внешней политики, а также их последующая систематизация, зачастую сопряжены с целым рядом трудностей. Настоящее издание призвано способствовать решению указанной проблемы.

В Электронном издании «Администрация Д. Трампа. Внешняя политика. Сборник документов» представлены важнейшие документы, отражающие отдельные направления внешнеполитического курса администрации Д. Трампа (с 2017 г.).

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Документы размещены в хронологической последовательности.

В настоящей версии Электронного издания «Администрация Д. Трампа. Внешняя политика. Сборник документов» представлена подборка документов на английском языке.

Большинство представленных документов представлены в полном объеме.

Сборник «Администрация Д. Трампа. Внешняя политика. Сборник документов» опубликован в форме электронного издания с целью ознакомления с важнейшими историческими документами, отражающими отдельные направления внешнеполитического курса администрации Д. Трампа (с 2017 г.).

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ДО 20 ЯНВАРЯ 2017 Г.

Trump's Gettysburg speech

October 22, 2016

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Thank you very much. Thank you ladies and gentlemen. Thank you. Please sit down. Thank you

It's my privilege to be here in Gettysburg, hallowed ground where so many lives were given in service to freedom; amazing place. President Lincoln served at a time of division like we've never seen before. It is my hope that we can look at his example to heal the divisions we are living through right now, We are a very divided nation. I'm not a politician and have never wanted to be a politician. Believe me. But when I saw the trouble our country was in, I knew I couldn't stand by and watch any longer. Our country has been so good to me. I love our country and I felt I had to act. I've seen the system up-close-and-personal for many years. I've been a major part of it. I know how the game works in Washington and on Wall Street. And I know how they've rigged the rules of the game against everyday Americans. The rules are rigged.

Nearly one in four Americans in their prime earning years isn't even working, One in five households have no one with a job. 45 million Americans are on food stamps and 47 million are living in poverty. We have failed our inner cities and in so doing, have failed our African-American and Hispanic communities We've misguided military adventures overseas and wars that go on forever that just cannot be won by the people that are doing it now. They don't know how to win the wars. At home, we have our great veterans dying while waiting for medical care. Change has to come from outside of our very broken system. Our system is broken. The fact that Washington and the Washington establishment has tried so hard to stop our campaign is only more proof that our campaign represents the kind of change that only arrives once in a lifetime.

The system is totally rigged and broken.

First, the issue of voter fraud. According to Pew, there are 24 million voter registrations in the United States that are either invalid or significantly inaccurate. And when I say that there are such inaccuracies, it's unbelievable.

1.8 million dead people are registered to vote and some of them are voting. I wonder how that happens? 2.8 million people are registered in more than one state. These are the numbers folks. These are the numbers. 14% of non-citizens are registered to vote.

The system is also rigged because Hillary Clinton should have been precluded from running for the presidency of the United States, but the FBI and the Justice Department covered up her crimes which included lying to the FBI and congress on numerous occasions, and included saying: "I do not recall" to the FBI on 39 separate times. She recalls everything else, but 39 separate times she said: "I do not recall." Well, that's a lie also. Then there is the deletion of at least 33,000 emails after receiving a subpoena from the United States Congress. That's after receiving the subpoena. As an example, it was announced this week that the highly-respected four-star general James Cartwright may be sentenced to up to five years in prison with a massive fine for lying on one occasion to the FBI. And he said he did that for national security reasons. Highly respected man, a four-star general. This took place two days ago. How must he feel? A big part of the rigging of this election is the fact that Hillary is being allowed to run despite having broken so many laws on so many different occasions. Why is she allowed to run?

The dishonest mainstream media is also part and a major part of this corruption. They're corrupt. They lie and fabricate stories to make a candidate that is not their preferred choice look as bad and even dangerous as possible. At my rallies, they never show or talk about the massive crowd size and try to diminish all of our events. On the other hand, they don't show the small size of Hillary's crowds, but in fact, talk about how many people are there. Very small crowds: you know it; they know it; everybody does it. Over the last two days, three highly respected national polls said we're in first place. And one of those pollsters was the most accurate poll on the last two cycles. But the media refuses to even say it or put that word out. They refuse to talk about it. They're trying desperately to suppress my voice and the voice of the American people. As an example of the power structure I'm fighting, AT&T is buying Time-Warner, and thus CNN, a deal we will not approve in my administration because it's too much concentration of power in the hands of too few. Likewise, Amazon, which through its ownership, controls the Washington Post, should be paying massive taxes, but it's not paying. And it's a very unfair playing field and you see what that's happening and what that's doing to department stores all over the country. Very, very unfair and you're talking about billions and billions of dollars. They should be paying those taxes. Additionally, Comcast purchase of NBC concentrates far too much power in one massive entity that is trying to tell the voters what to think and what to do. Deals like this destroy democracy. And we'll look at breaking that deal up and other deals like that. This should never, ever have been approved in the first place. They're trying to poison the mind of the American voter.

Every woman lied when they came forward to hurt my campaign. Total fabrications. The events never happened, never. All of these liars will be sued after the election is over. But a simple phone call placed to the biggest newspapers or television networks, gets them wall-to-wall coverage with virtually no fact-checking whatsoever. Here is why this is relevant to you.

If they can fight somebody like me who has unlimited resources to fight back, just look at what they can do to you; your jobs, your security, your education, your healthcare, the violation of religious liberty, the theft of your Second Amendment, the loss of your factories,; your homes, and much more. Look at what they've done to you with your jobs.

It has just been learned on video that the violent protests at some of my rallies, like in Chicago, where police and others were seriously hurt - you saw that, blood pouring down their faces - were caused by paid DNC and Clinton campaign operatives. Now, we didn't know this. We didn't know. This just came out two days ago on tape. We didn't know this. We were amazed at the level of violence. These were paid operatives. Paid by the DNC and probably the Clinton campaign. This is a criminal act. Policemen were badly hurt and so were many others. And these people should be prosecuted, but because of the rigged system, they probably won't be. Just like we found out about these paid violent protesters, it was probably the DNC and the Clinton campaign that put forward

these Liars with the fabricated stories. But we'll find out about their involvement at a later date through litigation and I look so forward to doing this.

The rigging of the system is designed for one reason: to keep the corrupt establishment and special interests in power at your expense - and everybody's expense. I have no special interest but you, the American voter. I didn't have to do this, believe me. There's nothing easy about it, but I had to do it. I love our country. I love the people of our country and I felt I had to do it [applause].

Thank you.

One thing we all know is that we will never solve our problems by relying on the same politicians who created these problems in the first place. Hillary Clinton is not running against me; she's running against change. And she's running against all of the American people and all of the American voters. We now find ourselves at that very special fork in the road. Do we repeat the mistakes of the past or do we choose to believe that a great future, yet unwritten, still lies ahead for us and for our wonderful, beloved country? I think it does - and know it does. My economic plan will deliver at least 25 million jobs in one decade.

Now, our jobs have been taken away. They've gone to Mexico. They've gone to so many other countries. It's a one lane highway where they get the jobs, they get the factories, they get the money, and we get the drugs and we get the unemployment. And it's going to change. Believe me, that is going to change fast. And that goes for all countries. When you look at China; when you look at every country. Every trade deal we have is horrible and we should be ashamed of our people and the people that let those deals happen. They're defective and they knew they were defective. And they were done for a reason and believe me, they will be unwound so fast. And we will have trade. We will have great trade and it'll be free trade, but it'll be fair trade. And it'll be real. My security plan.. [applause] ..so important. They've taken the jobs from us.

My security plan will bring safety to our poorest communities. My ethics plan will end the corruption in our government. We will [applause]... corruption is massive.

We will drain the swamp in Washington DC [applause] and replace it with a new government - of, by, and for the People. Believe me. That is why I have chosen Gettysburg to unveil this contract. I'm asking the American people to rise above the noise and the clutter of our broken politics and to embrace that great faith and optimism that has always been the central ingredient in the American character. And there's nothing better or stronger than the American character [applause].

I am asking the American people to dream big once again. What follows is my 100 day action plan to make America great again. It's a contract between Donald J Trump and the American voter and it begins with bringing honesty, accountability, and change to Washington DC [applause]. Therefore, on the first day of my term of office, my administration will immediately pursue the following six measures to clean up the corruption and special-interest collusion in Washington:

First, a constitutional amendment to impose term limits on all members of congress.

Second, a hiring freeze on all federal employees to reduce federal workforce through attrition, exempting military, public safety and public health.

Third, a requirement that for every new federal regulation, two existing regulations must be eliminated. Regulations are killing our country and our jobs.

Fourth, a five-year ban on White House and congressional officials becoming lobbyists after they leave government service [applause] - making a fortune.

Fifth, a lifetime ban on White House officials lobbying on behalf of a foreign government.

Sixth, a complete ban on foreign lobbyists raising money for American elections. what's happening

On the same day, I will begin taking - and really taking strongly - seven actions to protect American workers. Our American workers have been treated so badly by politicians that don't have their interest at heart. And we're going to change that. We're going to change that very, very fast.

First, I will announce my intention to totally renegotiate NAFTA, one of the worst deals our country has ever made - signed by Bill Clinton. We'll withdraw from the deal under Article 2205.

Second, I will announce our withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a potential disaster for our country.

Third, I will direct my Secretary of the Treasury to label China a "currency manipulator." China is a currency manipulator. What they have done to us by playing currency is very sad - and I don't blame them. They've been very smart. blame our politicians for letting this take place [applause]... so easy to stop, so easy to stop.

Fourth, I will direct the Secretary of Commerce and US Trade Representative to identify all foreign trading abuses that unfairly impact American workers and direct them to use every tool under American and international law to end those abuses immediately [applause].

Fifth, very importantly, I will lift the restrictions on the production of 50 trillion dollars worth of job-producing American energy reserves, including shale oil, natural gas, and clean coal. And we will put our miners back to work [applause].

Sixth, I will lift the Obama-Clinton roadblocks that allow for this vital energy infrastructure projects to go forward. We have roadblocks like you've never, ever seen - environmental blocks, structural blocks. We're going to allow the Keystone pipeline and so many other things to move forward. Tremendous numbers of jobs [applause] ...and good for our country.

[Seventh] We're going to cancel billions in payments to the United Nations climate change programs and use the money to fix America's water and environmental infrastructure. We're paying millions and billions and billions of dollars. We're going to fix our own environment [applause].

Additionally, on the first day, I will take the following five actions to restore security and constitutional rule of law. We have to do that.

[First] Cancel every unconstitutional Executive Action, Memorandum, and Order issued by President Obama [applause].

Second, begin the process of selecting a replacement for Justice Scalia whose wife by the way, has a Trump sign. His wife is a phenomenal woman; has a Trump sign in her front yard. Isn't that nice? I just found that out this morning. Isn't that nice? He was great - from one of the 20 judges on my list. You know, we're going to make great decisions from 20 outstanding judges on a list that we submitted, who will uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States [applause].

Third, we will cancel all federal funding of Sanctuary Cities [cheering, applause]

Fourth, we will begin removing the more than two million criminal illegal immigrants from the country. These are drug dealers. gang heads, gang members, killers and cancel visas to foreign countries that won't take them back [applause].

And when Hillary Clinton was Secretary of State and they had someone who was bad, really bad, and they brought him back to the country and the country wouldn't take them, she said: 'we'll bring them back.' 'We don't want to force the country to take him.' There won't be one such instance if I become President, believe me [applause].

[Fifth] We're going to suspend immigration from terror-prone regions where vetting cannot safely occur. And if you look at Syria, and the migration, we're taking in - thousands and thousands of people into our country. We have no idea who they are. What their thought process is Were they come from. And Hillary Clinton wants to increase the number of those thousands and thousands currently pouring in by five hundred and fifty percent. Radical Islamic terror is right around the corner. We have to be so tough. so smart, so vigilant. We can't allow that to happen. We have enough problems [applause]. All vetting of people coming into our country will be considered "extreme" vetting. We will be very careful.

Next, I will work with Congress to introduce the following broader, legislative measures and fight for their passage within the first 100 days of my administration.

(1) Middle Class Tax Relief and Simplification Act, an economic plan designed to grow the economy four percent per year and create at least 25 million new jobs through massive tax

reduction and simplification in combination with trade reform, regulatory relief, and lifting the restrictions on American energies [applause]. We need that so badly.

Jobs. We need jobs. Our jobs have left us. Our good jobs have really left us. The largest tax reductions are for the middle class [applause] - who have been forgotten. Called the forgotten man and woman. They have been forgotten. The middle class with family of two children will get basically, approximately, a thirty-five percent tax cut. And that's what they can use - and that money will go back into the economy [applause].

The current number of brackets will be reduced from seven to three and tax forms will likewise be greatly simplified. The business rates will be lowered from 35% to 15% and the trillions of dollars of American corporate money overseas can now be brought back at a ten percent rate. It's stuck. We can't bring it back two and a half to five trillion dollars, companies can't get it back into the country. Some companies are actually leaving. Not only because taxes are so high but because they can't get their money and they are actually leaving to get their money. We are going to simplify that. We're going to have them bring the money back into our country and use the money and spend the money on building our country [applause].

And (2) The Offshoring Act: establish tariffs to discourage companies from laying off their workers in order to relocate in other countries and ship their products back to the United States tax-free. They leave the United States, like Carrier, like Ford, like so many others. They leave the United States. They fire all of their employees. They go to Mexico or another country. They build a beautiful, brand-new plant. They hire other people. They then take their air conditioners, their cars, whenever they're making, they send it tax-free across what will be a very strong border - believe me [cheering, yelling]. But they send it tax-free across the border and what do we end up with? We have unemployment, tremendous losses, and we have none of the benefits. So we will establish tariffs, that when they do that, there will be consequences. We'll work with them. We'll be nice. We'll be fair. But there have to be consequences. And

when they know there are consequences, our companies will stop leaving the United States and going to other countries [applause].

(3) The American Infrastructure Act leverages public-private partnerships and private investments through tax incentives to spur one trillion dollars in infrastructure investment over the next ten years. Our infrastructure is in such trouble. We've doubled our national debt to 20 trillion dollars under President Obama in less than 8 years. 10 trillion dollars has been added. Think of it - and we haven't fixed anything. We haven't fixed anything. What have we done? Our roads are broken. Our bridges. our tunnels, our hospitals, our schools and we have 20 trillion in debt; all-time high.

[Responding to comment from audience] That's true. Our VA hospitals are in bad shape and our VA is in very, very bad shape. And we will fix that. We are going to work on fixing that because our veterans have not been treated properly [applause]. We have illegal immigrants that are treated far better, in many instances, than our veterans and we're not going to have that.

(4) School Choice and Education Opportunity Act redirects education dollars to give parents the right to send their kids. their children, to public, private, charter, magnet, religious, or home schools of their choice [applause]. And so importantly, we're going to end Common Core and bring education supervision to local communities. We do so badly on education. If you look at the list and you see Sweden, Norway, Denmark, China, different countries at the top. You see us at the bottom. And yet, by far, per pupil, more money than anybody. It's not even close. We spend more money per pupil than anybody... not even close - we're at the bottom of the list. Other countries spending far less per pupil are at the top of the list So obviously, our current system is not working. We will change it and we will make it good [applause].

It expands vocational and technical education, which we have totally forgotten about in this country, and make two and four-year colleges more affordable Have you ever gone to school and you've been with people that aren't good students, but they can fix an engine or they can build a

wall or they can do things that you wouldn't even think about? Because we can use some of the ones who build the wall [laughter]. We're going to need them. But did you ever see that? How they're genius at fixing a car. They can do anything but history, not-so-good; physics, not so good. We have to open vocational again. Those are the people, these are great people [applause].

(5) The Repeal and Replace Obamacare Act [loud cheering]: Fully repeal Obamacare and replace it with Health Savings Account. So we can do that. The Health Savings Accounts: it's one way. There are numerous ways, but this is one very good way. The ability to purchase health insurance across state lines which we have to do because that's competition. The politicians won't let go of it because the insurance companies. They don't want competition, but we'll open it up. Believe me, we'll get rid of that. I've been saying it for years. And let states manage Medicaid funds. It will be so good [applause].

Reforms will also include cutting the red tape at the FDA. There are over 4,000 drugs awaiting approval. And we especially want to speed the approval of life-saving medications. They're looking at drugs that are looking very good and you have terminal patients that it's over. These people, they're dying. They want to get the drug. They won't be living much longer. And we study it for years and years. At some point, they have to do what they have to do. They have to do it properly, but we have 4,000 different drugs and products waiting on line for approval. And we can't get them approved. We're going to speed up that process very significantly.

(6) Affordable Child Care and Elder Care Act allows Americans to deduct child care and elder care from their taxes, incentivizes employers to provide on-site, so important, child care services. And you see that with a couple of companies and it's such a great thing to see and creates tax-free, dependent care savings accounts for both young and elderly dependence with matching contributions for low-income families. So good [applause].

And (7) Illegal Immigration Act [cheering]. Fully funds the construction of a wall on our southern border. Don't worry about it. Remember, I said Mexico's paying for the wall. With the full understanding that the country of Mexico will be reimbursing the United States for the full cost of such a wall. Okay? We're going to have the wall. Mexico is going to pay for the wall. By the way, I met with the President of Mexico two-and-a-half months ago. Wonderful meeting. Wonderful person. But I told him this is a two-way Highway; not a one-way highway. We have our people. We have to take care of our people. We have to protect our people. So it's got to be a two-way street. Otherwise, it's gonna be a whole different deal.

But it establishes a two-year, mandatory, minimum federal prison sentence. This is people coming in illegally. For illegally re-entering the United States after a previous deportation. And a 5-year mandatory minimum for illegally reentering for those with felony convictions, multiple misdemeanor convictions, or two or more prior deportations. So when somebody comes in, we send them out. They come back in; they go to prison for quite a while. They come back. They come back again, they go five years. Because what's happening is: they're coming back ten times and I could go case after case. They come back. Look at what happened in San Francisco. Five times he came back. On the fifth time he killed Kate. Five times. But so many others. One, 10 times, came back. Killed somebody after ten times. When they get deported, they stay out. Otherwise, they have very serious prison terms. They will stay out - once you do that. They will stay out. Right now, they have no consequence. They have no consequences.

Also, reforms on Visa Rules to enhance penalties for overstaying and to ensure open jobs are offered to American workers first [applause].

Number 8. Restoring Community Safety Act~ reduces serious crime and drugs and violence by creating a task force on violent crime and increasing funding for programs that train and assist your local police who are doing such a great job, believe me [applause].

Increase the resources for federal law enforcement agencies and federal prosecutors to dismantle criminal gangs and put violent offenders behind bars or out of our country and into the country where they came from [applause].

(9) Restoring National Security Act which rebuilds our military by eliminating the defense sequester which has been very tough on our military and expanding military investments. Now, at no time, practically, do we need a military like right now. We don't want to use it, but its Peace through Strength. We need a strong military. Our military is so terribly depleted. It also provides our great veterans with the ability to receive public VA treatment or attend a private doctor of their choice. If they're waiting on line. And I have the plan up. And we've gotten, as you know, tremendous support from veterans. From law enforcement, from veterans, from the military, tremendous support. But if they're waiting on line and you see 22 suicides a day. People don't even believe it ~ TWENTY TWO a day. But if they're waiting on line for seven days, six days, nine days; they can't get to see a doctor. And a simple procedure or a simple prescription can solve their problem. And they become very sick. And they die. They die waiting in line. We're going to give them the power to go across the street to a local doctor. a private doctor, a public hospital or a private hospital. All looking to help and all looking to do business and will pay the bill. So much cheaper, but much more importantly, the veterans will finally be taken care of properly. Because what they're going through now is unacceptable [applause].

Also, we're going to protect our vital infrastructure from the new thing: it's called cyber attack. It establishes new screening procedures for immigration to ensure those who are admitted to our country support our people and our values. We want people that love our country or can love our country. And people that will love our citizens. We want people that can love us. And there are ways through talent of determining that. And other countries do, but we don't. Just "come on in folks, come on in."

(10) Clean up Corruption in Washington Act ~ enacts tough new Ethic Reforms to reduce the corrupting influence of special interests and donors on our politics. On November 8th, Americans will be voting for this 100-day plan to restore prosperity to our country, secure our communities, and honesty to our government. This is my pledge to you. And if we follow these steps, we will once more have a government of, by and for the People {applause}

And importantly - we will make America great again. Believe me [applause].

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Donald Trump's Victory Speech

November 9, 2016

New York

TRUMP: Thank you. Thank you very much, everyone.

(APPLAUSE)

Sorry to keep you waiting; complicated business; complicated.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

TRUMP: I've just received a call from Secretary Clinton.

(APPLAUSE)

She congratulated us — it's about us — on our victory, and I congratulated her and her family on a very, very hard-fought campaign. I mean, she — she fought very hard.

(APPLAUSE)

Hillary has worked very long and very hard over a long period of time, and we owe her a major debt of gratitude for her service to our country.

(APPLAUSE)

I mean that very sincerely.

(APPLAUSE)

Now it's time for America to bind the wounds of division; have to get together. To all Republicans and Democrats and independents across this nation, I say it is time for us to come together as one united people.

(APPLAUSE)

It's time. I pledge to every citizen of our land that I will be president for all Americans, and this is so important to me.

(APPLAUSE)

For those who have chosen not to support me in the past, of which there were a few people. . .

(LAUGHTER)

. . . I'm reaching out to you for your guidance and your help so that we can work together and unify our great country.

(APPLAUSE)

As I've said from the beginning, ours was not a campaign, but rather an incredible and great movement made up of millions of hard-working men and women who love their country and want a better, brighter future for themselves and for their families.

(APPLAUSE)

It's a movement comprised of Americans from all races, religions, backgrounds and beliefs who want and expect our government to serve the people, and serve the people it will.

(APPLAUSE)

Working together, we will begin the urgent task of rebuilding our nation and renewing the American dream. I've spent my entire life and business looking at the untapped potential in projects and in people all over the world. That is now what I want to do for our country.

(APPLAUSE)

Tremendous potential. I've gotten to know our country so well — tremendous potential. It's going to be a beautiful thing. Every single American will have the opportunity to realize his or her fullest potential. The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer.

(APPLAUSE)

We are going to fix our inner cities and rebuild our highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals. We're going to rebuild our infrastructure, which will become, by the way, second to none. And we will put millions of our people to work as we rebuild it.

We will also finally take care of our great veterans.

(APPLAUSE)

They've been so loyal, and I've gotten to know so many over this 18-month journey. The time I've spent with them during this campaign has been among my greatest honors. Our veterans are incredible people. We will embark upon a project of national growth and renewal. I will harness the creative talents of our people and we will call upon the best and brightest to leverage their tremendous talent for the benefit of all. It's going to happen.

(APPLAUSE)

We have a great economic plan. We will double our growth and have the strongest economy anywhere in the world. At the same time, we will get along with all other nations willing to get along with us. We will be.

(APPLAUSE)

We'll have great relationships. We expect to have great, great relationships. No dream is too big, no challenge is too great.

TRUMP: Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach.

America will no longer settle for anything less than the best.

(APPLAUSE)

We must reclaim our country's destiny and dream big and bold and daring. We have to do that. We're going to dream of things for our country and beautiful things and successful things once again.

I want to tell the world community that while we will always put America's interests first, we will deal fairly with everyone, with everyone — all people and all other nations. We will seek common ground, not hostility; partnership, not conflict.

And now I'd like to take this moment to thank some of the people who really helped me with this, what they are calling tonight, very, very historic victory.

First, I want to thank my parents, who I know are looking down on me right now.

(APPLAUSE)

Great people. I've learned so much from them. They were wonderful in every regard. I had truly great parents.

I also want to thank my sisters, Maryanne and Elizabeth, who are here with us tonight. And, where are they? They're here someplace. They're very shy, actually. And my brother Robert — my great friend. Where is Robert? Where is Robert?

(APPLAUSE)

My brother Robert. And they should all be on this stage, but that's OK. They're great. And also my late brother, Fred. Great guy. Fantastic guy.

(APPLAUSE)

Fantastic family. I was very lucky. Great brothers, sisters; great, unbelievable parents.

To Melania and Don. . .

(APPLAUSE) . . . and Ivanka. . .

(APPLAUSE)

. . . and Eric and Tiffany and Baron, I love you and I thank you, and especially for putting up with all of those hours. This was tough.

(APPLAUSE)

This was tough. This political stuff is nasty and it's tough. So I want to thank my family very much. Really fantastic. Thank you all. Thank you all.

And Lara, unbelievable job, unbelievable.

Vanessa, thank you. Thank you very much.

What a great group. You've all given me such incredible support, and I will tell you that we have a large group of people. You know, they kept saying we have a small staff. Not so small. Look at all the people that we have. Look at all of these people.

And Kellyanne and Chris and Rudy and Steve and David. We have got — we have got tremendously talented people up here. And I want to tell you, it's been — it's been very, very special. I want to give a very special thanks to our former mayor, Rudy Giuliani.

(APPLAUSE)

Unbelievable. Unbelievable. He traveled with us and he went through meetings. That Rudy never changes. Where's Rudy? Where is he? Rudy.

Governor Chris Christie, folks, was unbelievable.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you, Chris.

The first man, first senator, first major, major politician, and let me tell you, he is highly respected in Washington because he's as smart as you get: Senator Jeff Sessions. Where is Jeff?

(APPLAUSE)

Great man.

Another great man, very tough competitor. He was not easy. He was not easy. Who is that? Is that the mayor that showed up?

(LAUGHTER)

Is that Rudy? Oh, Rudy got up here.

Another great man who has been really a friend to me. But I'll tell you, I got to know him as a competitor because he was one of the folks that was negotiating to go against those Democrats: Dr. Ben Carson. Where is Ben?

(APPLAUSE)

Where is Ben?

TRUMP: And by the way, Mike Huckabee is here someplace, and he is fantastic. Mike and his family, Sarah — thank you very much.

General Mike Flynn. Where is Mike?

(APPLAUSE)

And General Kellogg. We have over 200 generals and admirals that have endorsed our campaign. And they're special people and it's really an honor. We have 22 congressional Medal of Honor recipients. We have just tremendous people.

A very special person who believed me and, you know, I'd read reports that I wasn't getting along with him. I never had a bad second with him. He's an unbelievable star. He is. . .

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: That's right. How did you possibly guess? So let me tell you about Reince, and I've said this. I said, Reince — and I know it, I know. Look at all those people over there. I know it. Reince is a superstar. But I said, "They can't call you a superstar, Reince, unless we win," because you can't be called a superstar — like Secretariat — if Secretariat came in second, Secretariat would not have that big, beautiful bronze bust at the track at Belmont.

But I'll tell you, Reince is really a star. And he is the hardest-working guy. And in a certain way, I did this — Reince, come up here. Where is Reince? Get over here, Reince.

(APPLAUSE)

Boy oh boy oh boy. It's about time you did this, Reince. My God.

(APPLAUSE)

Say a few words. No, come on, say something.

RNC CHAIRMAN REINCE PRIEBUS: Ladies and gentlemen, the next president of the United States, Donald Trump.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you. It's been an honor. God bless. Thank God.

TRUMP: Amazing guy.

Our partnership with the RNC was so important to the success and what we've done.

So I also have to say I've gotten to know some incredible people — the Secret Service people.

(APPLAUSE)

They're tough and they're smart and they're sharp, and I don't want to mess around with them, I can tell you. And when I want to go and wave to a big group of people and they rip me down and put me back down on the seat. But they are fantastic people, so I want to thank the Secret Service.

(APPLAUSE)

And law enforcement in New York City. They're here tonight.

(APPLAUSE)

These are spectacular people, sometimes underappreciated unfortunately, but we appreciate them. We know what they go through.

So, it's been what they call a historic event, but to be really historic, we have to do a great job. And I promise you that I will not let you down. We will do a great job. We will do a great job.

(APPLAUSE)

I look very much forward to being your president, and hopefully at the end of two years or three years or four years, or maybe even eight years. . .

(APPLAUSE)

. . . you will say, so many of you worked so hard for us, but you will say that — you will say that that was something that you really were very proud to do and I can. . .

(CROSSTALK)

TRUMP: Thank you very much.

And I can only say that while the campaign is over, our work on this movement is now really just beginning.

(APPLAUSE)

We're going to get to work immediately for the American people. And we're going to be doing a job that hopefully you will be so proud of your president. You'll be so proud. Again, it's my honor. It was an amazing evening. It's been an amazing two-year period. And I love this country.

(APPLAUSE) Thank you. Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

Thank you to Mike Pence. Thank you.

(APPLAUSE)

The Inaugural Address

The White House

January 20, 2017

The Inaugural Address

REMARKS OF PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP – AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
INAUGURAL ADDRESS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C.

As Prepared for Delivery –

Chief Justice Roberts, President Carter, President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama, fellow Americans, and people of the world: thank you.

We, the citizens of America, are now joined in a great national effort to rebuild our country and to restore its promise for all of our people.

Together, we will determine the course of America and the world for years to come.

We will face challenges. We will confront hardships. But we will get the job done.

Every four years, we gather on these steps to carry out the orderly and peaceful transfer of power, and we are grateful to President Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama for their gracious aid throughout this transition. They have been magnificent.

Today's ceremony, however, has very special meaning. Because today we are not merely transferring power from one Administration to another, or from one party to another – but we are transferring power from Washington, D.C. and giving it back to you, the American People.

For too long, a small group in our nation's Capital has reaped the rewards of government while the people have borne the cost.

Washington flourished – but the people did not share in its wealth.

Politicians prospered – but the jobs left, and the factories closed.

The establishment protected itself, but not the citizens of our country.

Their victories have not been your victories; their triumphs have not been your triumphs; and while they celebrated in our nation's Capital, there was little to celebrate for struggling families all across our land.

That all changes – starting right here, and right now, because this moment is your moment: it belongs to you.

It belongs to everyone gathered here today and everyone watching all across America.

This is your day. This is your celebration.

And this, the United States of America, is your country.

What truly matters is not which party controls our government, but whether our government is controlled by the people.

January 20th 2017, will be remembered as the day the people became the rulers of this nation again.

The forgotten men and women of our country will be forgotten no longer.

Everyone is listening to you now.

You came by the tens of millions to become part of a historic movement the likes of which the world has never seen before.

At the center of this movement is a crucial conviction: that a nation exists to serve its citizens.

Americans want great schools for their children, safe neighborhoods for their families, and good jobs for themselves.

These are the just and reasonable demands of a righteous public.

But for too many of our citizens, a different reality exists: Mothers and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities; rusted-out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our nation; an education system, flush with cash, but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of knowledge; and the crime and gangs and drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential.

This American carnage stops right here and stops right now.

We are one nation – and their pain is our pain. Their dreams are our dreams; and their success will be our success. We share one heart, one home, and one glorious destiny.

The oath of office I take today is an oath of allegiance to all Americans.

For many decades, we've enriched foreign industry at the expense of American industry;

Subsidized the armies of other countries while allowing for the very sad depletion of our military;

We've defended other nation's borders while refusing to defend our own;

And spent trillions of dollars overseas while America's infrastructure has fallen into disrepair and decay.

We've made other countries rich while the wealth, strength, and confidence of our country has disappeared over the horizon.

One by one, the factories shuttered and left our shores, with not even a thought about the millions upon millions of American workers left behind.

The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes and then redistributed across the entire world.

But that is the past. And now we are looking only to the future.

We assembled here today are issuing a new decree to be heard in every city, in every foreign capital, and in every hall of power.

From this day forward, a new vision will govern our land.

From this moment on, it's going to be America First.

Every decision on trade, on taxes, on immigration, on foreign affairs, will be made to benefit American workers and American families.

We must protect our borders from the ravages of other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs. Protection will lead to great prosperity and strength.

I will fight for you with every breath in my body – and I will never, ever let you down.

America will start winning again, winning like never before.

We will bring back our jobs. We will bring back our borders. We will bring back our wealth. And we will bring back our dreams.

We will build new roads, and highways, and bridges, and airports, and tunnels, and railways all across our wonderful nation.

We will get our people off of welfare and back to work – rebuilding our country with American hands and American labor.

We will follow two simple rules: Buy American and Hire American.

We will seek friendship and goodwill with the nations of the world – but we do so with the understanding that it is the right of all nations to put their own interests first.

We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to follow.

We will reinforce old alliances and form new ones – and unite the civilized world against Radical Islamic Terrorism, which we will eradicate completely from the face of the Earth.

At the bedrock of our politics will be a total allegiance to the United States of America, and through our loyalty to our country, we will rediscover our loyalty to each other.

When you open your heart to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice.

The Bible tells us, “how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.”

We must speak our minds openly, debate our disagreements honestly, but always pursue solidarity.

When America is united, America is totally unstoppable.

There should be no fear – we are protected, and we will always be protected.

We will be protected by the great men and women of our military and law enforcement and, most importantly, we are protected by God.

Finally, we must think big and dream even bigger.

In America, we understand that a nation is only living as long as it is striving.

We will no longer accept politicians who are all talk and no action – constantly complaining but never doing anything about it.

The time for empty talk is over.

Now arrives the hour of action.

Do not let anyone tell you it cannot be done. No challenge can match the heart and fight and spirit of America.

We will not fail. Our country will thrive and prosper again.

We stand at the birth of a new millennium, ready to unlock the mysteries of space, to free the Earth from the miseries of disease, and to harness the energies, industries and technologies of tomorrow.

A new national pride will stir our souls, lift our sights, and heal our divisions.

It is time to remember that old wisdom our soldiers will never forget: that whether we are black or brown or white, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots, we all enjoy the same glorious freedoms, and we all salute the same great American Flag.

And whether a child is born in the urban sprawl of Detroit or the windswept plains of Nebraska, they look up at the same night sky, they fill their heart with the same dreams, and they are infused with the breath of life by the same almighty Creator.

So to all Americans, in every city near and far, small and large, from mountain to mountain, and from ocean to ocean, hear these words:

You will never be ignored again.

Your voice, your hopes, and your dreams, will define our American destiny. And your courage and goodness and love will forever guide us along the way.

Together, We Will Make America Strong Again.

We Will Make America Wealthy Again.

We Will Make America Proud Again.

We Will Make America Safe Again.

And, Yes, Together, We Will Make America Great Again. Thank you, God Bless You, And God Bless America.

2. ЗАЯВЛЕНИЯ

Joint Statement on U.S.-Mexico Relations

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release January 27, 2017
Joint Statement on U.S.-Mexico Relations

The United States President Donald J. Trump and Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto spoke by phone this morning for an hour. The call was mutually arranged by their teams.

The two had a productive and constructive call regarding the bilateral relationship between the two countries, the current trade deficit the United States has with Mexico, the importance of the friendship between the two nations, and the need for the two nations to work together to stop drug cartels, drug trafficking and illegal guns and arms sales.

With respect to payment for the border wall, both presidents recognize their clear and very public differences of positions on this issue but have agreed to work these differences out as part of a comprehensive discussion on all aspects of the bilateral relationship.

Both presidents have instructed their teams to continue the dialogue to strengthen this important strategic and economic relationship in a constructive way.

Statement by the President on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 27, 2017
Statement by the President on International Holocaust Remembrance Day

“It is with a heavy heart and somber mind that we remember and honor the victims, survivors, heroes of the Holocaust. It is impossible to fully fathom the depravity and horror inflicted on innocent people by Nazi terror.

“Yet, we know that in the darkest hours of humanity, light shines the brightest. As we remember those who died, we are deeply grateful to those who risked their lives to save the innocent.

“In the name of the perished, I pledge to do everything in my power throughout my Presidency, and my life, to ensure that the forces of evil never again defeat the powers of good. Together, we will make love and tolerance prevalent throughout the world.

Statement by the President on U.S. Service Member Killed in Yemen

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 29, 2017
Statement by the President on U.S. Service Member Killed in Yemen

In a successful raid against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) headquarters, brave U.S. forces were instrumental in killing an estimated 14 AQAP members and capturing important

intelligence that will assist the U.S. in preventing terrorism against its citizens and people around the world.

Americans are saddened this morning with news that a life of a heroic service member has been taken in our fight against the evil of radical Islamic terrorism. The sacrifices made by the men and women of our armed forces, and the families they leave behind, are the backbone of the liberty we hold so dear as Americans, united in our pursuit of a safer nation and a freer world. My deepest thoughts and humblest prayers are with the family of this fallen service member. I also pray for a quick and complete recovery for the brave service members who sustained injuries.

Statement by the National Security Advisor

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 01, 2017
Statement by the National Security Advisor

“Recent Iranian actions, including a provocative ballistic missile launch and an attack against a Saudi naval vessel conducted by Iran-supported Houthi militants, underscore what should have been clear to the international community all along about Iran’s destabilizing behavior across the Middle East.

The recent ballistic missile launch is also in defiance of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which calls upon Iran “not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology.”

These are just the latest of a series of incidents in the past six months in which Houthi forces that Iran has trained and armed have struck Emirati and Saudi vessels, and threatened U.S. and allied vessels transiting the Red Sea. In these and other similar activities, Iran continues to threaten U.S. friends and allies in the region.

The Obama Administration failed to respond adequately to Tehran’s malign actions—including weapons transfers, support for terrorism, and other violations of international norms. The Trump Administration condemns such actions by Iran that undermine security, prosperity, and stability throughout and beyond the Middle East and place American lives at risk.

President Trump has severely criticized the various agreements reached between Iran and the Obama Administration, as well as the United Nations – as being weak and ineffective.

Instead of being thankful to the United States for these agreements, Iran is now feeling emboldened.

As of today, we are officially putting Iran on notice.”

Statement by National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn on Iran

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 03, 2017
Statement by National Security Advisor Michael T. Flynn on Iran

Today, the United States sanctioned twenty-five individuals and entities that provide support to Iran’s ballistic missile program and to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps’ Quds Force.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism and engages in and supports violent activities that destabilize the Middle East. This behavior seems continuous despite the very favorable deal given to Iran by the Obama Administration. These sanctions target these behaviors.

Iran's senior leadership continues to threaten the United States and our allies. Since the Obama Administration agreed to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran in 2015, Iran's belligerent and lawless behavior has only increased. Examples include the abduction of ten of our sailors and two patrol boats in January 2016, unwarranted harassment of vessel traffic and repeated weapons tests. Just this week, Iran tested a ballistic missile, and one of its proxy terrorist groups attacked a Saudi vessel in the Red Sea.

The international community has been too tolerant of Iran's bad behavior. The ritual of convening a United Nations Security Council in an emergency meeting and issuing a strong statement is not enough. The Trump Administration will no longer tolerate Iran's provocations that threaten our interests.

The days of turning a blind eye to Iran's hostile and belligerent actions toward the United States and the world community are over.

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 08, 2017
Statement from the Press Secretary

President Donald J. Trump today provided a letter to President Xi Jinping of China, thanking President Xi for his congratulatory letter on the occasion of President Trump's inauguration and wishing the Chinese people a happy Lantern Festival and prosperous Year of the Rooster. President Trump stated that he looks forward to working with President Xi to develop a constructive relationship that benefits both the United States and China.

Joint Statement from President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Joint Statement from President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held their first official meeting today in Washington D.C. and affirmed their strong determination to further strengthen the U.S.-Japan Alliance and economic relationship.

U.S.-Japan Alliance

The unshakable U.S.-Japan Alliance is the cornerstone of peace, prosperity, and freedom in the Asia-Pacific region. The U.S. commitment to defend Japan through the full range of U.S. military capabilities, both nuclear and conventional, is unwavering. Amid an increasingly difficult security environment in the Asia-Pacific region, the United States will strengthen its presence in the region, and Japan will assume larger roles and responsibilities in the alliance. The United States and Japan will continue to implement and expand defense cooperation as laid out in the 2015 U.S.-Japan Defense Guidelines. The United States and Japan will further enhance cooperation with allies and partners in the region. The two leaders underscored the importance of maintaining international order based upon the rule of law.

The two leaders affirmed the commitment of the United States and Japan to the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan, to ensure the long-term, sustainable presence of U.S. forces. They affirmed that the United States and Japan are committed to the plan to construct the Futenma Replacement

Facility at the Camp Schwab/Henoko area and in adjacent waters. It is the only solution that avoids the continued use of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The two leaders affirmed that Article V of the U.S.-Japan Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security covers the Senkaku Islands. They oppose any unilateral action that seeks to undermine Japan's administration of these islands. The United States and Japan will deepen cooperation to safeguard the peace and stability of the East China Sea. The two leaders underscored the importance of maintaining a maritime order based on international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea. The United States and Japan oppose any attempt to assert maritime claims through the use of intimidation, coercion or force. The United States and Japan also call on countries concerned to avoid actions that would escalate tensions in the South China Sea, including the militarization of outposts, and to act in accordance with international law.

The United States and Japan strongly urge North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and not to take any further provocative actions. The U.S.-Japan Alliance is fully capable of ensuring the security of Japan. The United States is fully committed to defending its homeland, forces, and allies, through the full range of U.S. military capabilities. The two leaders affirmed the importance of an early resolution of the abductions issue. They also affirmed the importance of trilateral cooperation among the United States, Japan and the Republic of Korea. The United States and Japan are also committed to rigorous implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea.

The United States and Japan will strengthen their bilateral technological cooperation on defense innovation to meet the evolving security challenges. The United States and Japan will also expand bilateral security cooperation in the fields of space and cyberspace. The United States and Japan also strongly condemn terrorism in all forms and manifestations and will enhance our cooperation to fight against terrorist groups that pose a global threat.

The two leaders instructed their foreign and defense ministers to convene a Security Consultative Committee (SCC: "2+2") meeting to identify ways to further strengthen the U.S.-Japan Alliance, including through the review of the respective roles, missions, and capabilities of the two countries.

U.S.-Japan Economic Relations

The United States and Japan represent 30 percent of the world's GDP and share an interest in sustaining a strong global economy, ensuring financial stability, and growing job opportunities. To advance these interests, the President and the Prime Minister reaffirmed their commitments to using the three-pronged approach of mutually-reinforcing fiscal, monetary, and structural policies to strengthen domestic and global economic demand.

The two leaders discussed opportunities and challenges facing each of their economies and the need to promote inclusive growth and prosperity in their countries, the Asia-Pacific region, and the world. They emphasized that they remain fully committed to strengthening the economic relationships between their two countries and across the region, based on rules for free and fair trade. This will include setting high trade and investment standards, reducing market barriers, and enhancing opportunities for economic and job growth in the Asia-Pacific.

The United States and Japan reaffirmed the importance of both deepening their trade and investment relations and of their continued efforts in promoting trade, economic growth, and high standards throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Toward this end, and noting that the United States has withdrawn from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the leaders pledged to explore how best to accomplish these shared objectives. This will include discussions between the United States and Japan on a bilateral framework as well as Japan continuing to advance regional progress on the basis of existing initiatives.

In addition, the two leaders expressed interest in exploring cooperation across sectors that promote mutual economic benefits to the United States and Japan.

The two leaders decided to have their countries engage in an economic dialogue to discuss these and other issues. They also reaffirmed their intent to continue cooperation in regional and global fora.

Invitations to Visit Japan

Prime Minister Abe invited President Trump for an official visit to Japan during the course of this year, and also welcomed an early visit of Vice President Pence to Tokyo. President Trump accepted these invitations.

Joint Statement by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 11, 2017

Joint Statement by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan

Mar-a-Lago

Palm Beach, Florida

10:38 P.M. EST

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) North Korea's most recent missile launch is absolutely intolerable. North Korea must fully comply with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

During the summit meeting that I had with President Trump, he assured me that the United States will always with Japan 100 percent. And to demonstrate his determination, as well as commitment, he is now here with me at this joint press conference.

President Trump and I myself completely share the view that we are going to promote further collaboration between the two nations and also we are going to further reinforce our alliance. That is all from myself.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister. I just want everybody to understand and fully know that the United States of America stands behind Japan, its great ally, 100 percent. Thank you.

END

10:40 P.M. EST

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Death of Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Vitaly Churkin

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 21, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Death of Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Vitaly Churkin

President Donald J. Trump was saddened to learn of the unexpected death of Russia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Vitaly Churkin. An accomplished diplomat, Ambassador Churkin worked alongside his U.S. counterparts in New York for more than a decade. While American officials sometimes disagreed with their Russian counterparts, Ambassador Churkin played a crucial role in working with the United States on a number of key issues to advance global security. The President offers the condolences of the American people to the Russian people and government.

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 05, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary

Reports concerning potentially politically motivated investigations immediately ahead of the 2016 election are very troubling.

President Donald J. Trump is requesting that as part of their investigation into Russian activity, the congressional intelligence committees exercise their oversight authority to determine whether executive branch investigative powers were abused in 2016.

Neither the White House nor the President will comment further until such oversight is conducted.

Statement from the Press Secretary in Honor of International Women's Day

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 08, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary in Honor of International Women's Day

International Women's Day gives us the opportunity to celebrate and reflect upon the meaningful progress women have made throughout society, while also acknowledging that there is still much work that remains to be done to ensure the complete and consequential participation of women in all spheres of economic, political, and public life. Throughout our history, women have made enormous contributions in the service of our country, and we know that as a Nation, America will only become stronger, more prosperous, and better able to meet our shared goals, as women achieve greater access to a level playing field.

The United States, as a beacon of hope and a leader in promoting women's rights, is deeply committed to empowering women both at home and abroad. Our policies will work to advance the economic empowerment of women by promoting entrepreneurship and equal access to education, employment opportunities, and training adapted to a new economic landscape.

Together, America looks forward to a bright future with women in higher-wage jobs throughout high-growth sectors. America remains committed to empowering women around the world to realize their full potential within the global marketplace. And with our international partners, America will build upon the legacy of previous generations of women who have bravely broken through both economic and political barriers.

It was with these goals in mind that, as one of its first initiatives, this Administration ramped up efforts to promote women in business by launching the United States-Canada Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders. The United States will continue to work with Canada and other partners around the globe to ensure that all women have the opportunity to succeed.

Today, the United States renews its commitment to fostering economic growth and job creation by harnessing the full potential of women in our economy. This Administration will work diligently to encourage women to enter and succeed in the workforce while addressing the many barriers women still face in achieving economic success, including those that impede women's access to capital, markets, and networking opportunities.

Statement on the Senate's confirmation of H.R. McMaster to continue service at the rank of Lieutenant General

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 15, 2017

Statement on the Senate's confirmation of H.R. McMaster to continue service at the rank of Lieutenant General

President Donald J. Trump appreciates the support from both the Senate Armed Services Committee and the full Senate for his nomination of General H.R. McMaster to continue to serve in the United States Army at the rank of Lieutenant General while also serving as his National Security Advisor. General McMaster's distinguished career has included multiple overseas tours in the service of our country, experiences that will be invaluable as he provides President Trump with advice on the many challenges facing the United States around the globe. The Senate's broad, bipartisan support for General McMaster affirms that he is the right person for this job.

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Trump's Travel to Brussels and NATO Meetings

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 21, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Trump's Travel to Brussels and NATO Meetings

President Donald J. Trump will travel to Brussels, Belgium, for the May 25, 2017, meeting of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Heads of State and Government. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced the Leaders Meeting date earlier today. The President looks forward to meeting with his NATO counterparts to reaffirm our strong commitment to NATO, and to discuss issues critical to the alliance, especially allied responsibility-sharing and NATO's role in the fight against terrorism. In addition to the President's participation in the NATO Leaders Meeting, the President will also welcome Secretary General Stoltenberg to the White House on April 12, 2017, where they will talk about how to strengthen the alliance to cope with challenges to national and international security.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on Nowruz

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 22, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on Nowruz

This week, I would like to send my best wishes to all those around the world celebrating the wonderful ancient holiday of Nowruz. Many millions of people of Iranian, Iraqi, Turkish, South Asian, and Central Asian heritage will come together with their families during this time to commemorate the arrival of spring.

Nowruz means "new day" in Persian. It is an occasion to celebrate new beginnings, a sentiment that is particularly meaningful for so many Iranians who have come to our country in recent decades to make a new start in a free land.

For many years, I have greatly enjoyed wonderful friendships with Iranian-Americans, one of the most successful immigrant groups in our country's contemporary history. They come from diverse religious backgrounds—including Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Zoroastrian, and Baha'i—but all share an affection for their ancestral heritage.

Cyrus the Great, a leader of the ancient Persian Empire, famously said that “[f]reedom, dignity, and wealth together constitute the greatest happiness of humanity. If you bequeath all three to your people, their love for you will never die.”

To the Iranian people and all those around the world celebrating Nowruz: On behalf of the American people, I wish you freedom, dignity, and wealth. Nowruz Pirouz (Happy Nowruz).

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen of Denmark

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 23, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen of Denmark

President Donald J. Trump looks forward to welcoming Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen of Denmark to the White House on Thursday, March 30. The Prime Minister's visit will occur on the eve of the 100th anniversary of Denmark formally ceding the U.S. Virgin Islands to the United States. During their meeting, the President and Prime Minister will discuss our strong bilateral relationship and how we can progress on our shared priorities, including deepening already robust economic ties, defeating ISIS, and strengthening our defense and security relationship, both bilaterally and through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 24, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome

The United States congratulates the European Union on the sixtieth anniversary of the 1957 Treaties of Rome and the founding of the European Economic Community. Our two continents share the same values and, above all, the same commitment to promote peace and prosperity through freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. Together we look forward to another sixty years and more of shared security and shared prosperity.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 28, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump looks forward to welcoming President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt for an official visit to Washington on April 3. President Trump and President Al Sisi will use the visit to build on the positive momentum they have built for the United States-Egypt relationship. They will discuss a range of bilateral and regional issues, including how to defeat ISIS and pursue peace and stability in the region.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Xi Jinping of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 30, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump will host President Xi Jinping of China at Mar-a-Lago April 6–7, 2017. This will be the first meeting between President Trump and President Xi. The two leaders will discuss global, regional, and bilateral issues of mutual concern. The President and the First Lady will also host President Xi and Madame Peng Liyuan at a dinner on the evening of April 6.

Press Secretary Statement on the Visit of King Abdullah II of Jordan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 31, 2017

Press Secretary Statement on the Visit of King Abdullah II of Jordan

President Donald J. Trump looks forward to welcoming King Abdullah II of Jordan to the White House on April 5. President Trump and King Abdullah will exchange views on a range of shared interests in the Middle East, including how the United States and Jordan can best defeat ISIS, end the conflict in Syria, and advance peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The two leaders will also discuss how to further strengthen cooperation between the United States and Jordan and promote peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 04, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

Today's chemical attack in Syria against innocent people, including women and children, is reprehensible and cannot be ignored by the civilized world. These heinous actions by the Bashar al-Assad regime are a consequence of the past administration's weakness and irresolution. President Obama said in 2012 that he would establish a "red line" against the use of chemical weapons and then did nothing. The United States stands with our allies across the globe to condemn this intolerable attack.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the United States-China Visit

THE WHITE HOUSE,
April 6, 2017.

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 07, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the United States-China Visit

President Donald J. Trump was pleased to host Chinese President Xi Jinping and Madam Peng Liyuan at Mar-a-Lago over the last two days. This visit was a great opportunity for both presidents and their wives to get to know one another, enjoy meals together, and work on important issues. Each side also brought a senior delegation that was also able to build relationships for the work ahead.

The two leaders had positive and productive meetings. President Trump and President Xi agreed to work in concert to expand areas of cooperation while managing differences based on mutual respect. The two presidents reviewed the state of the bilateral relationship and noted the importance of working together to generate positive outcomes that would benefit the citizens of both countries.

President Trump noted the challenges caused by Chinese government intervention in its economy and raised serious concerns about the impact of China's industrial, agricultural, technology, and cyber policies on United States jobs and exports. The President underscored the need for China to take concrete steps to level the playing field for American workers, stressing repeatedly the need for reciprocal market access.

The two sides noted the urgency of the threat of North Korea's weapons programs, reaffirmed their commitment to a denuclearized Korean peninsula, and committed to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions. They agreed to increase cooperation and work with the international community to convince North Korea to peacefully resolve the issue and dismantle its illegal nuclear and missile programs.

The two sides had a candid discussion on regional and maritime security. President Trump noted the importance of adhering to international rules and norms in the East and South China Seas and to previous statements on non-militarization. He also noted the importance of protecting human rights and other values deeply held by Americans.

The two presidents agreed to elevate existing bilateral talks to reflect the importance of making progress on issues. They established a new and cabinet-level framework for negotiations. The United States-China Comprehensive Dialogue will be overseen by the two presidents and have four pillars: the Diplomatic and Security Dialogue; the Comprehensive Economic Dialogue; the Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity Dialogue; and the Social and Cultural Issues Dialogue. The two sides agreed to undertake an ambitious agenda and meeting schedule to show progress and demonstrate meaningful results.

President Trump welcomed President Xi's invitation to visit China for a state visit at a future date. They agreed to work together in the interim to ensure a successful and results-focused visit.

Statement by President Trump on Syria

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 06, 2017
Statement by President Trump on Syria
Mar-a-Lago, Florida
9:40 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans: On Tuesday, Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad launched a horrible chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians. Using a deadly nerve agent,

Assad choked out the lives of helpless men, women, and children. It was a slow and brutal death for so many. Even beautiful babies were cruelly murdered in this very barbaric attack. No child of God should ever suffer such horror.

Tonight, I ordered a targeted military strike on the airfield in Syria from where the chemical attack was launched. It is in this vital national security interest of the United States to prevent and deter the spread and use of deadly chemical weapons. There can be no dispute that Syria used banned chemical weapons, violated its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, and ignored the urging of the U.N. Security Council.

Years of previous attempts at changing Assad's behavior have all failed, and failed very dramatically. As a result, the refugee crisis continues to deepen and the region continues to destabilize, threatening the United States and its allies.

Tonight, I call on all civilized nations to join us in seeking to end the slaughter and bloodshed in Syria, and also to end terrorism of all kinds and all types. We ask for God's wisdom as we face the challenge of our very troubled world. We pray for the lives of the wounded and for the souls of those who have passed. And we hope that as long as America stands for justice, then peace and harmony will, in the end, prevail.

Goodnight. And God bless America and the entire world. Thank you.

END

9:43 P.M. EDT

Statement by the Press Secretary on Montenegro's NATO Accession Protocol

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 11, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on Montenegro's NATO Accession Protocol

Today, President Donald J. Trump signed the United States instrument of ratification of the Protocol for Montenegro's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This followed the Senate's March 28 overwhelming and bipartisan vote of advice and consent in support of ratification.

Since its inception in 1949, the NATO Alliance has been central to ensuring peace and security on the European continent. It is an alliance not only of shared interests but of shared values. President Trump looks forward to the May 25 NATO Leaders Meeting in Brussels and the opportunity to reaffirm those fundamental and enduring transatlantic values. Montenegro will be there as well, signaling to other NATO aspirants that the door to membership in the Euro-Atlantic community of nations remains open and that countries in the Western Balkans are free to choose their own future and select their own partners without outside interference or intimidation.

The United States will work to further strengthen our already strong relationship with Montenegro and looks forward to formally welcoming the country as the twenty-ninth member of the NATO Alliance. President Trump congratulates the Montenegrin people for their resilience and their demonstrated commitment to NATO's democratic values.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Macri of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 12, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Macri of Argentina

President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump look forward to welcoming President Mauricio Macri and First Lady Juliana Awada of Argentina to the White House on April 27, 2017. President Trump and President Macri will discuss ways to deepen the close partnership between the United States and Argentina. The two leaders will exchange views on a range of bilateral and regional issues, including the expansion of trade, security sector collaboration, and the deteriorating situation in Venezuela.

Joint Statement from President Donald J. Trump and President Mauricio Macri

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 27, 2017

Joint Statement from President Donald J. Trump and President Mauricio Macri

President Donald J. Trump hosted President Mauricio Macri of Argentina today to discuss ways to deepen the close partnership between the United States and Argentina. President Trump welcomed Argentina's growing leadership role on the world stage and the political and economic reforms recently implemented by the Argentine Government, which have improved the environment for investment, trade, and long term economic development. President Trump offered his support to President Macri as Argentina prepares to host the World Trade Organization Ministerial and assume the G-20 Presidency.

The two leaders underscored their continuing commitment to expanding trade and investment between the United States and Argentina. Recognizing the importance of trade in agricultural products to the United States-Argentina bilateral economic relationship, the Presidents directed their Cabinets to expeditiously chart a path forward to resolve pending bilateral agricultural issues, based on scientific principles and international standards. The leaders further expressed their desire to see significant future growth in two-way trade of agricultural and industrial products to the benefit of producers and consumers in both countries.

They also pledged to strengthen our partnership to combat narcotics trafficking, money laundering, terrorist financing, corruption, and other illicit finance activities through the newly established Argentina-United States Dialogue on Illicit Finance. Recognizing the benefits and risks of our increasing dependence on networked information, the leaders discussed the increased importance of cooperation on cyber policy. They agreed to launch a new bilateral Cyber Working Group, which will protect the security and economic interests of both countries, companies, and Internet users.

The two Presidents raised their strong concern over the deteriorating situation in Venezuela, and they agreed to work closely together to preserve democratic institutions in that country.

President Trump told President Macri that the United States will launch the Global Entry Trusted Travelers Program in Argentina in May, facilitating the expedited entry of pre-vetted, low-risk Argentine travelers through United States ports of entry. Argentina will be just the tenth country in the world admitted to this special program, which facilitates rising business and tourism ties while allowing United States border security personnel to focus resources on other potential risks.

Finally, at President Macri's request, President Trump delivered a large tranche of declassified documents relating to human rights abuses in Argentina during its military dictatorship.

Statement by the Press Secretary on North Korea's Missile Test

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 28, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on North Korea's Missile Test

The Administration is aware of the most recent North Korean missile test. The President has been briefed.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Santos of Colombia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 04, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Santos of Colombia

President Donald J. Trump looks forward to welcoming President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia to the White House on May 18, 2017. President Trump and President Santos will discuss ways to reinforce the strong ties that the United States and Colombia enjoy. The two leaders will exchange views on a range of bilateral and regional issues, including peace accord implementation, engagement on shared security objectives, such as counternarcotics and transnational organized crime, and countering democratic backsliding in Venezuela.

Statement from the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Foreign Travel

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 04, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Foreign Travel

President Trump has accepted the invitation of King Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, to visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia later this month. The visit will reaffirm the strong partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia and allow the leaders to discuss issues of strategic concern, including efforts to defeat terrorist groups and discredit radical ideologies.

President Trump has also accepted the invitation of President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to visit Israel, where he will further strengthen the United States-Israel partnership. The leaders will discuss a range of regional issues, including the need to counter the threats posed by Iran and its proxies, and by ISIS and other terrorist groups. They will also discuss ways to advance a genuine and lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

President Trump has also accepted the invitation of President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority to meet with him to discuss ways to advance peace between the Israelis and Palestinians, as well as efforts to unlock the potential of the Palestinian economy.

Traveling next to Italy, President Trump will meet with His Holiness Pope Francis at the Vatican to discuss cooperation between the United States and religious communities in areas of joint concern. He will also meet, in Rome, with President Mattarella of Italy to discuss multilateral cooperation and bilateral relations between the United States and Italy. President Trump will later participate in the G-7 Summit in Taormina hosted by the Italian President of the Council of Ministers Gentiloni.

From Rome, the President will continue on to previously announced visits to Brussels for the NATO summit and meetings with EU and Belgian leaders, and to Sicily for the G7 meeting.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Cinco de Mayo

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 05, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Cinco de Mayo

My warmest wishes to all those celebrating Cinco de Mayo on this 155th anniversary of the Battle of Puebla.

The Battle of Puebla reminds us of the incredible courage and resolve of the Mexican people as they fought for their country and defended their freedom. On May 5, 1862, General Ignacio Zaragoza's Mexican forces withstood the French assault on the town of Puebla de Los Angeles, despite being outnumbered and underequipped. The Battle of Puebla remains an important symbol of Mexican bravery and tenacity.

On Cinco de Mayo, we commemorate the heroic victory of the Mexican Army over the invading forces of Napoleon III at the Battle of Puebla and pay tribute to the proud Mexican heritage it exemplifies. We also honor the Mexican-Americans whose fighting spirit and patriotism have been influential in shaping the character of our great Nation.

Melania and I hope everyone enjoys the festivities. Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 07, 2017
Statement from the Press Secretary

We congratulate President-elect Macron and the people of France on their successful presidential election. We look forward to working with the new President and continuing our close cooperation with the French government.

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 09, 2017
Statement from the Press Secretary

We congratulate President-elect Moon Jae-in and join the people of the Republic of Korea in celebrating their peaceful, democratic transition of power. We look forward to working with President-elect Moon to continue to strengthen the alliance between the United States and the Republic of Korea and to deepen the enduring friendship and partnership between our two countries.

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 09, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary

Today, President Donald J. Trump informed FBI Director James Comey that he has been terminated and removed from office. President Trump acted based on the clear recommendations of both Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

“The FBI is one of our Nation’s most cherished and respected institutions and today will mark a new beginning for our crown jewel of law enforcement,” said President Trump.

A search for a new permanent FBI Director will begin immediately.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 10, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump will welcome President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to the White House on May 16, where the two leaders will discuss how to further strengthen our bilateral relationship and deepen our cooperation to confront terrorism in all its forms.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the North Korea Missile Test

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 13, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the North Korea Missile Test

The President has been briefed on the latest missile test by North Korea.

With the missile impacting so close to Russian soil – in fact, closer to Russia than to Japan – the President cannot imagine that Russia is pleased.

North Korea has been a flagrant menace for far too long. South Korea and Japan have been watching this situation closely with us. The United States maintains our ironclad commitment to stand with our allies in the face of the serious threat posed by North Korea. Let this latest provocation serve as a call for all nations to implement far stronger sanctions against North Korea.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

As I have stated many times, a thorough investigation will confirm what we already know – there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity. I look forward to this matter concluding quickly. In the meantime, I will never stop fighting for the people and the issues that matter most to the future of our country.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Cuban Independence Day

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 20, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Cuban Independence Day

On Cuban Independence Day, I extend my warmest wishes to the Cuban American community and the people of Cuba as our whole Nation joins you in celebrating the anniversary of Cuban Independence.

Americans and Cubans share allegiance to the principles of self-governance, dignity, and freedom. Today, we remember patriots like José Martí, who devoted himself to making Cuba an economically competitive and politically autonomous nation. He reminds us that cruel despotism cannot extinguish the flame of freedom in the hearts of Cubans, and that unjust persecution cannot tamper Cubans' dreams for their children to live free from oppression. The Cuban people deserve a government that peacefully upholds democratic values, economic liberties, religious freedoms, and human rights, and my Administration is committed to achieving that vision.

Today, we also honor the generations of Cuban Americans who have made outstanding contributions to our country by sharing their culture and talents. Cuban Americans have distinguished themselves in literature, the arts, business, sports, the courts, Congress, and within my Administration. We are especially thankful to the Cuban Americans who serve in our military and who have sacrificed in defense of our freedom.

Melania and I send our best wishes on this important day in history for the Americas. God bless the people of Cuba and our Cuban American friends who call the United States home.

Joint Strategic Vision Declaration for the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 20, 2017

Joint Strategic Vision Declaration for the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia dedicate themselves to strengthening their Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century, and to charting a renewed path toward a peaceful Middle East where economic development, trade, and diplomacy are hallmarks of regional and global engagement. To that end, both countries welcome a new period in their strategic partnership, built upon their continued trust and shared interests. Furthermore, the two nations plan to form a Strategic Joint Consultative Group, hosted by The President of the United States of America and The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques The King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, or their appropriate designees, to chart the course of this strategic partnership. The Group will meet at least once a year, alternating between our two countries, and it will review areas of cooperation.

Our two great countries share a desire to address the threats to our shared security interests. Thus, the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia seek to embark on new initiatives to counter violent extremist messaging, disrupt financing of terrorism, and advance defense cooperation. Violent extremists who threaten peace in the Middle East will find a growing group of regional partners arrayed against them, confronting their aggression and sowing the seeds of peace. The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hope that responsible governments willing to commit to peace will build upon these efforts to realize these objectives.

A robust, integrated regional security architecture is critical to our cooperation. The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intend to expand engagement with other countries in the region over the coming years and to identify new areas of cooperation. Over the

course of our history, the United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have developed a productive partnership built upon trust, cooperation, and shared interests. We now stand together to thwart our common enemies, to strengthen the bonds between us, and to chart a path towards peace and prosperity for all.

Joint Statement Between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 23, 2017

Joint Statement Between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America

At the invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the King of Saudi Arabia, President Donald J. Trump of the United States of America made an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Saturday, May 20, 2017 to Monday, May 22, 2017.

During the visit, the two leaders reviewed the strong historical and strategic relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which have grown and flourished over the past eight decades in the political, economic, cultural, military, security, energy, and other fields. The leaders observed that the two countries have developed a productive partnership built upon trust, cooperation, and shared interests.

The two leaders praised the contribution of this visit to strengthening the relations between the two countries, in order to achieve greater stability, security, and prosperity. The leaders declared that they stand together to thwart our common enemies, to strengthen the bonds between us, and to chart a path towards peace and prosperity for all.

The two leaders agreed to a new Strategic Partnership for the 21st Century in the interest of both countries by formally announcing a Joint Strategic Vision for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America, charting a renewed path toward a peaceful Middle East where economic development, trade, and diplomacy are hallmarks of regional and global engagement.

The two countries announced their plan to form a Strategic Joint Consultative Group, hosted by the King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the President of the United States of America, or their appropriate designees, to chart the course of this strategic partnership.

The two countries agreed the Strategic Joint Consultative Group will meet at least once a year, alternating between the two countries, and it will review areas of cooperation.

The two countries shared a desire to address the threats to their shared security interests. Thus, the two countries sought to embark on new initiatives to counter violent extremist messaging, disrupt financing of terrorism, and advance defense cooperation.

The two sides expressed their desire to expand cooperation and hope that responsible governments willing to commit to peace will build upon their efforts to realize these objectives. The two sides predicted that violent extremists who threaten peace in the Middle East will find a growing group of regional partners arrayed against them, confronting their aggression and sowing the seeds of peace.

The two sides acknowledged that a robust, integrated regional security architecture is critical to their cooperation. The United States of America and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia intend to expand engagement with other countries in the region over the coming years and to identify new areas of cooperation.

The leaders welcomed achievements during this visit, including the signing of a number of agreements and memoranda of understanding that will be fruitful for the peoples of the two countries and future generations, promoting security, stability, and prosperity in the region.

The two leaders noted the growing and advanced volume of trade between the two countries, joint investments in economic projects and infrastructure, and the provision of facilities and incentives for these investments.

The two leaders also indicated that this strategic partnership and economic and investment cooperation will generate a large number of high-quality jobs in both countries.

The two leaders stressed the importance of investment in energy by companies in both countries, and the importance of coordinating policies that ensure the stability of markets and an abundance of supplies.

The two leaders discussed the close cooperation between both countries to ensure the preservation of maritime security, including protecting the safety of navigation in key international waterways, particularly Bab al-Mandab and the Strait of Hormuz.

The two leaders affirmed their determination to eliminate Daesh (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or ISIS), al Qaeda, and other terrorist organizations and to fight terrorism using all instruments.

The two leaders expressed the commitment of their countries to vigorously confront the attempts of terrorist organizations to legitimize their criminality, and to counter the roots of terrorist ideology.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to broad security cooperation and exchange of information to serve their interests and safeguard their security.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to curb the flow of foreign fighters and cutting off funding supplies for terrorist organizations.

The two leaders noted Saudi Arabia's achievement in detecting and disrupting 276 terrorist plots prior to their execution, including operations against the United States and friendly countries.

President Trump praised the efforts of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in deterring terrorist organizations' attempts to target the Kingdom, pointing out the attempts of terrorist organizations to cause a rift in relations between the two countries. The Kingdom was one of the first countries to suffer from terrorism; since 1992, more than 100 terrorist attacks have occurred in Saudi Arabia.

The two leaders affirmed their determination to unite and integrate efforts between the United States-led Global Coalition Against ISIS with Saudi Arabia and the Saudi-led Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism.

The two leaders also agreed on the need to contain Iran's malign interference in the internal affairs of other states, instigation of sectarian strife, support of terrorism and armed proxies, and efforts to destabilize the countries in the region.

The two leaders also stressed that Iran's interference poses a threat to the security of the region and the world, and that the nuclear agreement with Iran needs to be re-examined in some of its clauses. The Iranian ballistic missile program poses a threat, not only to neighboring countries, but also a direct threat to the security of all countries in the region as well as global security.

The two sides also stressed the importance of reaching a comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The leaders agreed to do everything they can to promote an environment that is conducive to advancing peace.

The two sides stressed the need to work to resolve the crisis in Yemen. President Trump commended the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for providing humanitarian and relief aid to the Yemeni people.

As for the crisis in Syria, the Kingdom stressed its support for President Trump's decision to launch missiles at Shayrat Airbase from which the Syrian regime launched its chemical attacks on Khan Shaykhun. The two sides emphasized the importance that the Syrian regime adhere to the 2013 agreement to eliminate its entire stockpile of chemical weapons. The two sides emphasized the importance of reaching a permanent solution to the conflict in Syria based on the Geneva declaration and Security Council resolution 2254, in order to maintain the unity and integrity of

Syrian territory so that it can be a country that represents the entire spectrum of the Syrian community and free from sectarian discrimination.

The two leaders expressed their support for the Iraqi government's efforts to eradicate ISIS, uniting the Iraqis to combat terrorism that poses a threat to all Iraq, and preserving the unity and integrity of Iraqi territory, as well as the importance of stopping Iranian interference in Iraqi internal affairs. The two sides noted the importance of relations between Saudi Arabia and Iraq and seeking to develop them further.

Regarding Lebanon, the two sides stressed the importance of supporting the Lebanese state in enforcing its sovereignty on all of its territory, disarm terrorist organizations such as Hizballah, and bring all weapons under the legitimate supervision of the Lebanese army.

Statement of Extraordinary Summit of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the United States of America

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 23, 2017

Statement of Extraordinary Summit of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the United States of America

At the invitation of the Custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, the leaders of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) and the United States of America held their meeting in Riyadh on May 21, 2017, to reaffirm the strategic partnership between the two sides.

During the meeting, regional and international issues of common concern were discussed. The parties aligned on the importance of concerted efforts to achieve stability, security and prosperity.

The leaders reviewed the significant progress achieved since the previous summit in April 2016, including the measures taken to enhance cooperation and deepen the strategic partnership between the two sides.

The leaders expressed their commitment to tackling the root causes of crises in the Middle East, as well as taking more urgent steps to intensify efforts to defeat Daesh (also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or ISIS) and al-Qaida, oppose Iran's malign interference, and ease regional conflicts and find solutions for them.

The leaders stressed strengthening the ability of GCC countries to address threats wherever they originate, confront Iran's destabilizing activities, and work together to reduce sectarianism and regional tensions that fuel instability.

The leaders appreciated the agreement reached to establish a Terrorist Financing Targeting Center in Riyadh, which will open the door for other countries to join in the future.

The leaders reviewed the achievements of the joint working groups that were formed to implement the outcomes of the first Gulf-American Summit in the fields of defense against ballistic missiles, arms transfers, training, combating terrorism, maritime security, cyber security, and protecting infrastructure, as well as confronting malign Iranian interference in the region.

The leaders affirmed their commitment to continue close coordination between the GCC and the United States on issues of mutual concern through meetings of foreign and defense ministers from both sides.

The leaders directed the joint working groups to meet at least twice a year to accelerate the partnership on, inter alia, combating terrorism and facilitating the transfer of sensitive defense capabilities, the defense against ballistic missiles, military preparedness, and cyber security in order to ensure the continuity of these activities and accelerate implementation of the decisions contained in the joint statement of the second Gulf-American Summit on April 21, 2016.

The leaders instructed their respective administrations to strengthen their partnership frameworks, including the “GCC-US Strategic Cooperation Forum.”

The leaders stressed their common interest in preserving the security and stability of the region and working together to confront all security threats that face the countries of the region, including the threats posed by terrorist organizations.

The United States reaffirmed its commitment to the security of the GCC member states against external threats. The leaders pledged deeper security cooperation and shared responsibility to address the threats facing the region. The leaders discussed a common vision for dealing with the most pressing conflicts in the region.

They affirmed their support for common principles, including that there is no solution to armed civil conflicts in the region but through political means, respect for the sovereignty of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, the need to protect minorities and respect for human rights in conflict-ridden countries.

The leaders renewed their determination to continue joint efforts to combat terrorism, eliminate its organizations, prosecute its members, and dry up its sources of funding.

They also stressed the importance of working together to confront terrorist threats and combat terrorism financing, with more measures, including protecting infrastructure facilities and enhancing border and aviation security. The United States welcomed the establishment of the Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism, founded by Saudi Arabia, as part of the global fight against terrorism.

The leaders praised the efforts of the United States-led Global Coalition Against ISIS, or Daesh, in Syria and Iraq, and stressed the need for concerted efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance to Iraqi and Syrian refugees and displaced persons.

The leaders expressed their total rejection of Iran’s continued interference in the internal affairs of GCC states and the region, and called for full compliance with the rules of international law and its basic underpinnings, foundations and principles, which are based on good neighborliness, respect for the sovereignty of states, and refraining from threatening the use of force. They called on Iran to take concrete, practical steps to build trust and resolve its differences with neighbors by peaceful means.

They expressed their condemnation of Iran’s interference in the internal affairs of the countries of the region, in violation of the sovereignty of the GCC States, and its attempt to spread division and stir sectarian strife among their citizens, including in the Kingdom of Bahrain, by supporting violent extremists, training proxies, smuggling weapons and explosives, inciting sectarian strife, and making statements at various levels to undermine security, order and stability.

They also stressed the need for Iran to comply with the nuclear agreement, and expressed their deep concern over Iran’s continued firing of ballistic missiles, in clear defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The leaders committed to working together to achieve a comprehensive peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The leaders agreed to do everything they can to promote an environment that is conducive to advancing peace.

The leaders affirmed their firm position to preserve the unity, stability and territorial integrity of Syria and expressed their support for the efforts of the United Nations Secretary-General’s envoy to find a political solution based on Geneva 1 Communique and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254, and stressed the need to lift the siege on besieged Syrian cities, the delivery of humanitarian aid to affected areas and besieged civilians, the cessation of shelling of civilian areas, and the release of detainees.

The leaders affirmed their full commitment to the unity of Yemen, respect for its sovereignty and independence, and the rejection of any interference with its internal affairs. They also stressed the importance of a political solution according to the Gulf Initiative and its executive mechanism, and implementation of United Nations Security Council decisions. They expressed their great

appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen to resume consultations between the Yemeni parties with the view toward reaching a political solution.

The leaders affirmed their commitment to work with the international community to prevent the continued supply of weapons to Houthi militias and their allies. They also stressed the need for collective efforts to confront the affiliates of al-Qaeda and Daesh or ISIS in the Arabian Peninsula.

The leaders expressed their concern about the continuation of the Houthi militia's confiscation of humanitarian and relief materials, which contributed to the deterioration of the humanitarian and economic situation in Yemen, and welcomed the results of the donor conference held in Geneva on April 25, 2017, stressing the need for quick fulfillment of the commitments made by donor countries. The leaders look forward to working together to restore security and stability, rehabilitate the Yemeni economy and restore public services after reaching a political solution.

The leaders expressed their hope that the process of liberating Mosul will lead to the return of displaced persons to their cities and villages, and to finding a comprehensive political reform process that brings together the Iraqi people without exclusion or dispersion to meet the aspirations of the Iraqi people.

The leaders agreed to strengthen and support economic relations in various fields, including trade and investment, energy and alternative energy, industry, technology, agriculture, transportation and infrastructure development, in line with the development visions adopted by GCC countries.

The leaders agreed to meet annually in this format to review progress made on all the initiatives agreed upon during the Summit and to look for further ways to strengthen GCC-US Strategic Partnership.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 23, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam to the White House on May 31. President Trump looks forward to discussing ways to strengthen our bilateral relationship and deepen regional cooperation with one of America's important partners in Southeast Asia.

Statement from First Lady Melania Trump on her Visit to Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital

The White House
Office of the First Lady
For Immediate Release
May 24, 2017

Statement from First Lady Melania Trump on her Visit to Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital

"My visit to Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital today was very moving. To spend time speaking to and coloring with children who have such a positive spirit despite illness was an amazing gift," stated First Lady Melania Trump. "The time I spent with the little ones in the Intensive Care Unit is something I will never forget, and I will pray for each of them daily. I want to thank the doctors, nurses and staff of the hospital, who all do such beautiful and critical work."

The First Lady added, “Upon landing in Belgium, I learned a young boy and his family who had been waiting for a heart transplant was informed that the hospital has found a donor. I read a book and held hands with this special little one just a few hours ago, and now my own heart is filled with joy over this news.”

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Statement from the Press Secretary on the United States’ Solidarity with the Philippines

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 25, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the United States’ Solidarity with the Philippines

The United States condemns the recent violence perpetrated by an ISIS-linked terrorist group in the southern Philippines. These cowardly terrorists killed Philippine law enforcement officials and endangered the lives of innocent citizens. The United States will continue to provide support and assistance to Philippine counterterrorism efforts. The United States is a proud ally of the Philippines, and we will continue to work with the Philippines to address shared threats to the peace and security of our countries.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 25, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

The alleged leaks coming out of government agencies are deeply troubling. These leaks have been going on for a long time and my Administration will get to the bottom of this. The leaks of sensitive information pose a grave threat to our national security.

I am asking the Department of Justice and other relevant agencies to launch a complete review of this matter, and if appropriate, the culprit should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

There is no relationship we cherish more than the Special Relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Ramadan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 26, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Ramadan

On behalf of the American people, I would like to wish all Muslims a joyful Ramadan.

During this month of fasting from dawn to dusk, many Muslims in America and around the world will find meaning and inspiration in acts of charity and meditation that strengthen our communities. At its core, the spirit of Ramadan strengthens awareness of our shared obligation to

reject violence, to pursue peace, and to give to those in need who are suffering from poverty or conflict.

This year, the holiday begins as the world mourns the innocent victims of barbaric terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom and Egypt, acts of depravity that are directly contrary to the spirit of Ramadan. Such acts only steel our resolve to defeat the terrorists and their perverted ideology.

On my recent visit to Saudi Arabia, I had the honor of meeting with the leaders of more than 50 Muslim nations. There, in the land of the two holiest sites in the Muslim world, we gathered to deliver together an emphatic message of partnership for the sake of peace, security, and prosperity for our countries and for the world.

I reiterate my message delivered in Riyadh: America will always stand with our partners against terrorism and the ideology that fuels it. During this month of Ramadan, let us be resolved to spare no measure so that we may ensure that future generations will be free of this scourge and able to worship and commune in peace.

I extend my best wishes to Muslims everywhere for a blessed month as you observe the Ramadan traditions of charity, fasting, and prayer. May God bless you and your families.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Attack in Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 26, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Attack in Egypt

Terrorists are engaged in a war against civilization, and it is up to all who value life to confront and defeat this evil. This merciless slaughter of Christians in Egypt tears at our hearts and grieves our souls. Wherever innocent blood is spilled, a wound is inflicted upon humanity. But this attack also steels our resolve to bring nations together for the righteous purpose of crushing the evil organizations of terror, and exposing their depraved, twisted, and thuggish ideology.

America also makes clear to its friends, allies, and partners that the treasured and historic Christian Communities of the Middle East must be defended and protected. The bloodletting of Christians must end, and all who aid their killers must be punished.

America stands with President Al Sisi and all the Egyptian people today, and always, as we fight to defeat this common enemy.

Civilization is at a precipice—and whether we climb or fall will be decided by our ability to join together to protect all faiths, all religions, and all innocent life. No matter what, America will do what it must to protect its people.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Klaus Iohannis of Romania

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 31, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Klaus Iohannis of Romania

President Donald J. Trump will welcome President Klaus Iohannis of Romania to the White House on June 9, 2017, for a working visit. President Trump looks forward to discussing ways to further deepen ties and strengthen the United States-Romania strategic partnership.

Joint Statement for Enhancing the Comprehensive Partnership between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 31, 2017

Joint Statement for Enhancing the Comprehensive Partnership between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump hosted the Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc at the White House today to chart an agenda for United States-Vietnam relations, building on the positive momentum of the Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries.

As a Pacific power with widespread interests and commitments throughout the Asia Pacific, the United States shares many important interests with Vietnam. The two leaders emphasized that many opportunities lie ahead for United States-Vietnam relations, including increasingly enhanced political, diplomatic, economic and trade ties, and ever-growing cooperation in the areas of science and technology, national defense and security, education, people-to-people exchange, humanitarian and war legacy issues, as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern. The two leaders are committed to pursuing these opportunities under an enhanced Comprehensive Partnership, grounded in respect for the United Nations Charter and international law, each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and respective political systems.

The two sides pledged to continue high-level contacts and exchanges of delegations, including through regular dialogue between the U.S. Secretary of State and Vietnam's Minister for Foreign Affairs to discuss measures to enhance the bilateral Comprehensive Partnership. They also committed to strengthen existing dialogue mechanisms, including party-to-party ties. President Trump expressed his support for Vietnam in successfully hosting APEC 2017 and noted that he looks forward to visiting Vietnam and attending the APEC Leaders' meeting in November.

The two leaders pledged to actively promote mutually beneficial and ever-growing economic ties to bring greater prosperity to both countries. They underscored support for continued development cooperation. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc affirmed that Vietnam would pursue a consistent policy of economic reform and international integration, creating favorable conditions for foreign companies, including those of the United States, to do business and invest in Vietnam; protecting and enforcing intellectual property; and bringing its labor laws in line with Vietnam's international commitments. The two countries affirmed the importance of promoting bilateral trade and creating favorable conditions for the businesses of both sides, particularly through the effective use of the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement to address issues in United States-Vietnam relations in a constructive manner. The two leaders welcomed the resolution of several priority trade issues, including mobile phone roaming services and veterinary drugs, and they pledged to continue to work together constructively to seek resolution of other priority issues of each country, including those related to intellectual property, advertising and financial services, information-security products, white offal, distiller's dried grains, siluriformes, shrimp, mangos, and other issues. The United States noted Vietnam's interest in achieving a market economy status, and the two sides pledged to continue to consult in a cooperative and comprehensive manner via the bilateral working group. Both sides welcomed the announcement of more than \$8 billion in new commercial deals.

The two leaders pledged to strengthen bilateral defense ties under the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Advancing Bilateral Defense Cooperation and the 2015 Joint Vision Statement on Defense Relations. The two leaders discussed the U.S. Government's recent transfer of a Hamilton-class Coast Guard cutter to help improve Vietnam's law enforcement capabilities,

and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc expressed interest in acquiring more defense equipment from the United States, including additional Coast Guard cutters. The two leaders also discussed measures to expand cooperation in such prioritized areas as humanitarian cooperation, war legacies, and maritime security. They also looked into the possibility of a visit to a Vietnamese port by a United States aircraft carrier and discussed steps to further cooperation between the naval forces of the two countries. The two leaders welcomed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the working group on the Cooperative Humanitarian Assistance and Medical Storage Initiative, and pledged to implement the arrangement expeditiously.

The two leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation in the fields of security and intelligence. The United States and Vietnam pledged to work together to combat terrorism as well as transnational and cyber-enabled crimes. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc expressed his appreciation and looked forward to the United States' cooperation and assistance to Vietnam in the area of United Nations peacekeeping operations, including the provision of equipment and support for Vietnamese officers' participation in United Nations peacekeeping.

The two leaders pledged to continue cooperation in the fields of science, technology, space, and innovation. The two leaders expressed their support for a Framework Agreement on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, as well as for bilateral discussions and forums on science, technology, and innovation.

The two leaders welcomed the growth of people-to-people ties, especially through academic and professional exchange programs. They recognized the important contributions of the Vietnamese-American community and the nearly 4,000 exchange alumni to United States-Vietnam relations. They also noted that, with over 21,000 Vietnamese students currently in higher education programs in the United States, academic ties between the two countries are strong and will be strengthened even further through Vietnam's support for the launch of the Fulbright University in Ho Chi Minh City. The United States welcomed more Vietnamese students to study in the United States and remains committed to processing visas, including for students, in an expeditious manner in accordance with United States law. The two sides also welcomed the establishment of the Peace Corps program to advance English language learning in Vietnam.

The two sides committed to work together to address war legacy issues, including through such joint efforts as dioxin remediation, taking note of the progress that has been made at Da Nang Airport and intent to discuss continued collaboration at Bien Hoa Airport, and the removal of unexploded ordnances. President Trump expressed appreciation for Vietnam's continuing cooperation in the humanitarian mission of accounting for United States personnel still missing from the war, and pledged to cooperate with Vietnam in its efforts to locate its missing soldiers.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc affirmed that Vietnam will work actively with the United States to expeditiously return Vietnamese nationals subject to final orders of removal, using the 2008 United States-Vietnam Agreement on the Acceptance of the Return of Vietnamese Citizens as a basis. The two leaders pledged to set up a working group to discuss this issue.

The two sides pledged to work actively together to finalize agreement on an appropriate representational site and land tenure arrangement for a new U.S. Embassy in Hanoi. The United States pledged to support Vietnam in acquiring new facilities for its representative offices in the United States.

President Trump and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc welcomed the results of frank and constructive dialogue on human rights, including during the 21st round of the United States-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue in May 2017, to narrow differences and continue to build mutual trust. The two leaders recognized the importance of protecting and promoting human rights, and the interconnection between human rights and the security and sustainable development of each country. They encouraged further cooperation to ensure that everyone, including members of vulnerable groups, regardless of their gender, race, religion, or sexual orientation, and including

persons with disabilities, fully enjoy their human rights. The United States welcomed Vietnam's ongoing efforts to refine its legal system to better protect and promote human rights for everyone.

On regional issues, the two leaders expressed their concern for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile tests, which violate multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions and escalate tensions in the region. Both sides reaffirmed their support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and urged all parties concerned to strictly implement all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

President Trump and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc affirmed that the South China Sea is a waterway of strategic significance to the international community. The two leaders underscored the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the seas, and noted with concern the destabilizing impacts that unlawful restrictions to the freedom of the seas have on peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. The two sides also affirmed full support for the peaceful resolution of disputes without the threat or use of force or coercion, in accordance with international law, including full respect for diplomatic and legal processes, and called upon all parties concerned to implement their international legal obligations in good faith in any resolution to these disputes. They highlighted the importance that parties refrain from actions that would escalate tensions, such as the militarization of disputed features. President Trump stressed that the United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate anywhere international law allows.

The two sides affirmed their continued implementation of the principles decided upon by the leaders of ASEAN and the United States in the 2016 Sunnylands Declaration, and their promotion of activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of ASEAN's founding and the 40th anniversary of United States-ASEAN relations. The United States affirmed its commitment to the United States-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, and to supporting common efforts to develop a rules-based ASEAN Community and ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture.

The two countries pledged to continue to work together to address global challenges, including environmental protection, global health, global health security, and trafficking in persons and wildlife. The United States expressed support for Vietnam in its development of a national reference laboratory to enhance the Vietnam's ability to detect emerging disease threats in the region, and the two countries affirmed their strong support for the Global Health Security Agenda to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The two countries also affirmed their longstanding partnership under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS relief. As a development partner of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and a founding member of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI), the United States reaffirmed its support for cooperation among MRC members, as well as between MRC members and other regional mechanisms, in using, managing, and developing trans-boundary water sources in an effective and sustainable manner. The United States also affirmed its assistance to Vietnam in combating climate change via concrete mitigation and adaptation measures.

The two leaders heralded the bright future for the enhanced United States-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership and are committed to making it deeper, more substantive, and more effective to better serve the interests of the two peoples, and to better contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the Asia-Pacific region and the world.

Statement on the American Embassy in Israel

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 01, 2017
Statement on the American Embassy in Israel

While President Donald J. Trump signed the waiver under the Jerusalem Embassy Act and delayed moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, no one should consider this step to be in any way a retreat from the President's strong support for Israel and for the United States-Israel alliance. President Trump made this decision to maximize the chances of successfully negotiating a deal between Israel and the Palestinians, fulfilling his solemn obligation to defend America's national security interests. But, as he has repeatedly stated his intention to move the embassy, the question is not if that move happens, but only when.

Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 01, 2017
Statement by President Trump on the Paris Climate Accord
Rose Garden
3:32 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you. I would like to begin by addressing the terrorist attack in Manila. We're closely monitoring the situation, and I will continue to give updates if anything happens during this period of time. But it is really very sad as to what's going on throughout the world with terror. Our thoughts and our prayers are with all of those affected.

Before we discuss the Paris Accord, I'd like to begin with an update on our tremendous -- absolutely tremendous -- economic progress since Election Day on November 8th. The economy is starting to come back, and very, very rapidly. We've added \$3.3 trillion in stock market value to our economy, and more than a million private sector jobs.

I have just returned from a trip overseas where we concluded nearly \$350 billion of military and economic development for the United States, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs. It was a very, very successful trip, believe me. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you.

In my meetings at the G7, we have taken historic steps to demand fair and reciprocal trade that gives Americans a level playing field against other nations. We're also working very hard for peace in the Middle East, and perhaps even peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Our attacks on terrorism are greatly stepped up -- and you see that, you see it all over -- from the previous administration, including getting many other countries to make major contributions to the fight against terror. Big, big contributions are being made by countries that weren't doing so much in the form of contribution.

One by one, we are keeping the promises I made to the American people during my campaign for President -- whether it's cutting job-killing regulations; appointing and confirming a tremendous Supreme Court justice; putting in place tough new ethics rules; achieving a record reduction in illegal immigration on our southern border; or bringing jobs, plants, and factories back into the United States at numbers which no one until this point thought even possible. And believe me, we've just begun. The fruits of our labor will be seen very shortly even more so.

On these issues and so many more, we're following through on our commitments. And I don't want anything to get in our way. I am fighting every day for the great people of this country. Therefore, in order to fulfill my solemn duty to protect America and its citizens, the United States will withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord -- (applause) -- thank you, thank you -- but begin negotiations to reenter either the Paris Accord or a really entirely new transaction on terms that are fair to the United States, its businesses, its workers, its people, its taxpayers. So we're getting out. But we will start to negotiate, and we will see if we can make a deal that's fair. And if we can, that's great. And if we can't, that's fine. (Applause.)

As President, I can put no other consideration before the wellbeing of American citizens. The Paris Climate Accord is simply the latest example of Washington entering into an agreement that disadvantages the United States to the exclusive benefit of other countries, leaving American workers -- who I love -- and taxpayers to absorb the cost in terms of lost jobs, lower wages, shuttered factories, and vastly diminished economic production.

Thus, as of today, the United States will cease all implementation of the non-binding Paris Accord and the draconian financial and economic burdens the agreement imposes on our country. This includes ending the implementation of the nationally determined contribution and, very importantly, the Green Climate Fund which is costing the United States a vast fortune.

Compliance with the terms of the Paris Accord and the onerous energy restrictions it has placed on the United States could cost America as much as 2.7 million lost jobs by 2025 according to the National Economic Research Associates. This includes 440,000 fewer manufacturing jobs -- not what we need -- believe me, this is not what we need -- including automobile jobs, and the further decimation of vital American industries on which countless communities rely. They rely for so much, and we would be giving them so little.

According to this same study, by 2040, compliance with the commitments put into place by the previous administration would cut production for the following sectors: paper down 12 percent; cement down 23 percent; iron and steel down 38 percent; coal -- and I happen to love the coal miners -- down 86 percent; natural gas down 31 percent. The cost to the economy at this time would be close to \$3 trillion in lost GDP and 6.5 million industrial jobs, while households would have \$7,000 less income and, in many cases, much worse than that.

Not only does this deal subject our citizens to harsh economic restrictions, it fails to live up to our environmental ideals. As someone who cares deeply about the environment, which I do, I cannot in good conscience support a deal that punishes the United States -- which is what it does -- the world's leader in environmental protection, while imposing no meaningful obligations on the world's leading polluters.

For example, under the agreement, China will be able to increase these emissions by a staggering number of years -- 13. They can do whatever they want for 13 years. Not us. India makes its participation contingent on receiving billions and billions and billions of dollars in foreign aid from developed countries. There are many other examples. But the bottom line is that the Paris Accord is very unfair, at the highest level, to the United States.

Further, while the current agreement effectively blocks the development of clean coal in America -- which it does, and the mines are starting to open up. We're having a big opening in two weeks. Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, so many places. A big opening of a brand-new mine. It's unheard of. For many, many years, that hasn't happened. They asked me if I'd go. I'm going to try.

China will be allowed to build hundreds of additional coal plants. So we can't build the plants, but they can, according to this agreement. India will be allowed to double its coal production by 2020. Think of it: India can double their coal production. We're supposed to get rid of ours. Even Europe is allowed to continue construction of coal plants.

In short, the agreement doesn't eliminate coal jobs, it just transfers those jobs out of America and the United States, and ships them to foreign countries.

This agreement is less about the climate and more about other countries gaining a financial advantage over the United States. The rest of the world applauded when we signed the Paris Agreement -- they went wild; they were so happy -- for the simple reason that it put our country, the United States of America, which we all love, at a very, very big economic disadvantage. A cynic would say the obvious reason for economic competitors and their wish to see us remain in the agreement is so that we continue to suffer this self-inflicted major economic wound. We would find it very hard to compete with other countries from other parts of the world.

We have among the most abundant energy reserves on the planet, sufficient to lift millions of America's poorest workers out of poverty. Yet, under this agreement, we are effectively putting these reserves under lock and key, taking away the great wealth of our nation -- it's great wealth, it's phenomenal wealth; not so long ago, we had no idea we had such wealth -- and leaving millions and millions of families trapped in poverty and joblessness.

The agreement is a massive redistribution of United States wealth to other countries. At 1 percent growth, renewable sources of energy can meet some of our domestic demand, but at 3 or 4 percent growth, which I expect, we need all forms of available American energy, or our country -- (applause) -- will be at grave risk of brownouts and blackouts, our businesses will come to a halt in many cases, and the American family will suffer the consequences in the form of lost jobs and a very diminished quality of life.

Even if the Paris Agreement were implemented in full, with total compliance from all nations, it is estimated it would only produce a two-tenths of one degree -- think of that; this much -- Celsius reduction in global temperature by the year 2100. Tiny, tiny amount. In fact, 14 days of carbon emissions from China alone would wipe out the gains from America -- and this is an incredible statistic -- would totally wipe out the gains from America's expected reductions in the year 2030, after we have had to spend billions and billions of dollars, lost jobs, closed factories, and suffered much higher energy costs for our businesses and for our homes.

As the Wall Street Journal wrote this morning: "The reality is that withdrawing is in America's economic interest and won't matter much to the climate." The United States, under the Trump administration, will continue to be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth. We'll be the cleanest. We're going to have the cleanest air. We're going to have the cleanest water. We will be environmentally friendly, but we're not going to put our businesses out of work and we're not going to lose our jobs. We're going to grow; we're going to grow rapidly. (Applause.)

And I think you just read -- it just came out minutes ago, the small business report -- small businesses as of just now are booming, hiring people. One of the best reports they've seen in many years.

I'm willing to immediately work with Democratic leaders to either negotiate our way back into Paris, under the terms that are fair to the United States and its workers, or to negotiate a new deal that protects our country and its taxpayers. (Applause.)

So if the obstructionists want to get together with me, let's make them non-obstructionists. We will all sit down, and we will get back into the deal. And we'll make it good, and we won't be closing up our factories, and we won't be losing our jobs. And we'll sit down with the Democrats and all of the people that represent either the Paris Accord or something that we can do that's much better than the Paris Accord. And I think the people of our country will be thrilled, and I think then the people of the world will be thrilled. But until we do that, we're out of the agreement.

I will work to ensure that America remains the world's leader on environmental issues, but under a framework that is fair and where the burdens and responsibilities are equally shared among the many nations all around the world.

No responsible leader can put the workers -- and the people -- of their country at this debilitating and tremendous disadvantage. The fact that the Paris deal hamstringing the United States, while empowering some of the world's top polluting countries, should dispel any doubt as to the real reason why foreign lobbyists wish to keep our magnificent country tied up and bound down by this agreement: It's to give their country an economic edge over the United States. That's not going to happen while I'm President. I'm sorry. (Applause.)

My job as President is to do everything within my power to give America a level playing field and to create the economic, regulatory and tax structures that make America the most prosperous and productive country on Earth, and with the highest standard of living and the highest standard of environmental protection.

Our tax bill is moving along in Congress, and I believe it's doing very well. I think a lot of people will be very pleasantly surprised. The Republicans are working very, very hard. We'd love to have support from the Democrats, but we may have to go it alone. But it's going very well.

The Paris Agreement handicaps the United States economy in order to win praise from the very foreign capitals and global activists that have long sought to gain wealth at our country's expense. They don't put America first. I do, and I always will. (Applause.)

The same nations asking us to stay in the agreement are the countries that have collectively cost America trillions of dollars through tough trade practices and, in many cases, lax contributions to our critical military alliance. You see what's happening. It's pretty obvious to those that want to keep an open mind.

At what point does America get demeaned? At what point do they start laughing at us as a country? We want fair treatment for its citizens, and we want fair treatment for our taxpayers. We don't want other leaders and other countries laughing at us anymore. And they won't be. They won't be.

I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris. (Applause.) I promised I would exit or renegotiate any deal which fails to serve America's interests. Many trade deals will soon be under renegotiation. Very rarely do we have a deal that works for this country, but they'll soon be under renegotiation. The process has begun from day one. But now we're down to business.

Beyond the severe energy restrictions inflicted by the Paris Accord, it includes yet another scheme to redistribute wealth out of the United States through the so-called Green Climate Fund -- nice name -- which calls for developed countries to send \$100 billion to developing countries all on top of America's existing and massive foreign aid payments. So we're going to be paying billions and billions and billions of dollars, and we're already way ahead of anybody else. Many of the other countries haven't spent anything, and many of them will never pay one dime.

The Green Fund would likely obligate the United States to commit potentially tens of billions of dollars of which the United States has already handed over \$1 billion -- nobody else is even close; most of them haven't even paid anything -- including funds raided out of America's budget for the war against terrorism. That's where they came. Believe me, they didn't come from me. They came just before I came into office. Not good. And not good the way they took the money.

In 2015, the United Nation's departing top climate officials reportedly described the \$100 billion per year as "peanuts," and stated that "the \$100 billion is the tail that wags the dog." In 2015, the Green Climate Fund's executive director reportedly stated that estimated funding needed would increase to \$450 billion per year after 2020. And nobody even knows where the money is going to. Nobody has been able to say, where is it going to?

Of course, the world's top polluters have no affirmative obligations under the Green Fund, which we terminated. America is \$20 trillion in debt. Cash-strapped cities cannot hire enough police officers or fix vital infrastructure. Millions of our citizens are out of work. And yet, under the Paris Accord, billions of dollars that ought to be invested right here in America will be sent to the very countries that have taken our factories and our jobs away from us. So think of that.

There are serious legal and constitutional issues as well. Foreign leaders in Europe, Asia, and across the world should not have more to say with respect to the U.S. economy than our own citizens and their elected representatives. Thus, our withdrawal from the agreement represents a reassertion of America's sovereignty. (Applause.) Our Constitution is unique among all the nations of the world, and it is my highest obligation and greatest honor to protect it. And I will.

Staying in the agreement could also pose serious obstacles for the United States as we begin the process of unlocking the restrictions on America's abundant energy reserves, which we have started very strongly. It would once have been unthinkable that an international agreement could prevent the United States from conducting its own domestic economic affairs, but this is the new reality we face if we do not leave the agreement or if we do not negotiate a far better deal.

The risks grow as historically these agreements only tend to become more and more ambitious over time. In other words, the Paris framework is a starting point -- as bad as it is -- not an end point. And exiting the agreement protects the United States from future intrusions on the United States' sovereignty and massive future legal liability. Believe me, we have massive legal liability if we stay in.

As President, I have one obligation, and that obligation is to the American people. The Paris Accord would undermine our economy, hamstring our workers, weaken our sovereignty, impose unacceptable legal risks, and put us at a permanent disadvantage to the other countries of the world. It is time to exit the Paris Accord -- (applause) -- and time to pursue a new deal that protects the environment, our companies, our citizens, and our country.

It is time to put Youngstown, Ohio, Detroit, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania -- along with many, many other locations within our great country -- before Paris, France. It is time to make America great again. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much. Very important. I'd like to ask Scott Pruitt, who most of you know and respect, as I do, just to say a few words.

Scott, please. (Applause.)

ADMINISTRATOR PRUITT: Thank you, Mr. President. Your decision today to exit the Paris Accord reflects your unflinching commitment to put America first.

And by exiting, you're fulfilling yet one more campaign promise to the American people. Please know that I am thankful for your fortitude, your courage, and your steadfastness as you serve and lead our country.

America finally has a leader who answers only to the people -- not to the special interests who have had their way for way too long. In everything you do, Mr. President, you're fighting for the forgotten men and women across this country. You're a champion for the hardworking citizens all across this land who just want a government that listens to them and represents their interest.

You have promised to put America First in all that you do, and you've done that in any number of ways -- from trade, to national security, to protecting our border, to rightsizing Washington, D.C. And today you've put America first with regard to international agreements and the environment.

This is an historic restoration of American economic independence -- one that will benefit the working class, the working poor, and working people of all stripes. With this action, you have declared that the people are rulers of this country once again. And it should be noted that we as a nation do it better than anyone in the world in striking the balance between growing our economy, growing jobs while also being a good steward of our environment.

We owe no apologies to other nations for our environmental stewardship. After all, before the Paris Accord was ever signed, America had reduced its CO2 footprint to levels from the early 1990s. In fact, between the years 2000 and 2014, the United States reduced its carbon emissions by 18-plus percent. And this was accomplished not through government mandate, but accomplished through innovation and technology of the American private sector.

For that reason, Mr. President, you have corrected a view that was paramount in Paris that somehow the United States should penalize its own economy, be apologetic, lead with our chin, while the rest of world does little. Other nations talk a good game; we lead with action -- not words. (Applause.)

Our efforts, Mr. President, as you know, should be on exporting our technology, our innovation to nations who seek to reduce their CO2 footprint to learn from us. That should be our focus versus agreeing to unachievable targets that harm our economy and the American people.

Mr. President, it takes courage, it takes commitment to say no to the plaudits of men while doing what's right by the American people. You have that courage, and the American people can take comfort because you have their backs.

Thank you, Mr. President.

END
4:03 P.M. EDT

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 05, 2017
Statement from the Press Secretary

The President's power to assert executive privilege is well-established. However, in order to facilitate a swift and thorough examination of the facts sought by the Senate Intelligence Committee, President Trump will not assert executive privilege regarding James Comey's scheduled testimony.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 05, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama

President Donald J. Trump looks forward to welcoming President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama to the White House on June 19, 2017. President Trump and President Varela will discuss ways to reinforce the strong bilateral ties between the United States and Panama and our shared priorities in the fight against transnational organized crime, illegal migration, and illicit substances. The leaders will also discuss our economic partnership and how to counter democratic backsliding in Venezuela.

Statement by the President on the Terrorist Attacks in Iran

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 07, 2017

Statement by the President on the Terrorist Attacks in Iran

We grieve and pray for the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks in Iran, and for the Iranian people, who are going through such challenging times. We underscore that states that sponsor terrorism risk falling victim to the evil they promote.

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Foreign Travel

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 09, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Foreign Travel

President Donald J. Trump accepted the invitation of the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, to visit Poland in advance of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. The visit will reaffirm America's steadfast commitment to one of our closest European allies and emphasize the Administration's priority of strengthening NATO's collective defense. The leaders will discuss a range of bilateral and regional issues, deepening an alliance based on shared values and common interests. While in Poland, President Trump will deliver a major speech, and he will attend the Three Seas Initiative Summit to demonstrate our strong ties to Central Europe.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 12, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to the White House on June 26, 2017. The President looks forward to discussing ways to strengthen ties between the United States and India and to advance our common priorities: fighting terrorism, promoting economic growth and reforms, and expanding security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi will look to outline a common vision for the United States-India partnership that is worthy of their 1.6 billion citizen

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Moon of the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 13, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of President Moon of the Republic of Korea

President Donald J. Trump will welcome President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea to the White House June 29-30, 2017. President Trump and President Moon will discuss ways to further strengthen the ironclad U.S.-ROK alliance, advance cooperation on economic and global issues, and deepen the friendship between the countries. The leaders will also coordinate on North Korea-related issues, including countering the growing North Korean nuclear and missile threats.

Statement on the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America and the 47th General Assembly of the Organization of American States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 15, 2017

Statement on the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America and the 47th General Assembly of the Organization of American States

President Donald J. Trump commends Mexico for its leadership in co-convening the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America with the United States in Miami, Florida from June 15 to 16. The leaders of the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El

Salvador—along with officials from Mexico, Canada, Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Belize, Nicaragua, Spain, and the European Union—will join Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, and Secretary of the Treasury Steve Mnuchin in a collaborative effort to address the economic, security, and governance challenges and opportunities in the Northern Triangle region and in Central America more broadly.

The United States views the security and prosperity of Central America as key to regional stability and to the security of the United States. We affirm our strong partnership with Central America and the region in supporting our mutual priorities. The President applauds this conference and the efforts of our Central American and regional partners to work toward a future that achieves stability, security, prosperity, and growth in the Western Hemisphere.

The President also affirms the importance of the 47th General Assembly of the Organization of American States, taking place in Cancun, Mexico from June 19 to 21. The President remains greatly concerned about the situation faced by the Venezuelan people and has instructed Secretary Tillerson to collaborate with countries in the region to move discussions on Venezuela forward during this important meeting. The United States stands with the people of Venezuela during these sad and troubling times for their country.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on the Passing of Helmut Kohl

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 16, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on the Passing of Helmut Kohl

On behalf of the American people, I offer my deepest condolences to the people of Germany and to the family and loved ones of former Chancellor Helmut Kohl. We were saddened to learn of his passing today in Ludwigshafen, his boyhood home.

The longest serving Chancellor in modern German history, Chancellor Kohl was a friend and ally to the United States as he led the Federal Republic of Germany through sixteen pivotal years. He was not only the father of German reunification, but also an advocate for Europe and the transatlantic relationship. The world has benefited from his vision and efforts. His legacy will live on.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Passing of Otto Warmbier

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 19, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Passing of Otto Warmbier

Melania and I offer our deepest condolences to the family of Otto Warmbier on his untimely passing. There is nothing more tragic for a parent than to lose a child in the prime of life. Our thoughts and prayers are with Otto's family and friends, and all who loved him.

Otto's fate deepens my Administration's determination to prevent such tragedies from befalling innocent people at the hands of regimes that do not respect the rule of law or basic human decency. The United States once again condemns the brutality of the North Korean regime as we mourn its latest victim.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Eid al-Fitr

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 24, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Eid al-Fitr

On behalf of the American people, Melania and I send our warm greetings to Muslims as they celebrate Eid al-Fitr.

Muslims in the United States joined those around the world during the holy month of Ramadan to focus on acts of faith and charity. Now, as they commemorate Eid with family and friends, they carry on the tradition of helping neighbors and breaking bread with people from all walks of life.

During this holiday, we are reminded of the importance of mercy, compassion, and goodwill. With Muslims around the world, the United States renews our commitment to honor these values.

Eid Mubarak.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 25, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Terrorist Attacks in Pakistan

The United States strongly condemns the terrorist attacks in Parachinar and Quetta on Friday.

These attacks, which deliberately targeted civilians, and killed over 80 people, are a strong reminder of the threat posed throughout the region by the scourge of terrorism.

We stand with the people of Pakistan in their fight against it.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 26, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

Today's unanimous Supreme Court decision is a clear victory for our national security. It allows the travel suspension for the six terror-prone countries and the refugee suspension to become largely effective.

As President, I cannot allow people into our country who want to do us harm. I want people who can love the United States and all of its citizens, and who will be hardworking and productive.

My number one responsibility as Commander in Chief is to keep the American people safe. Today's ruling allows me to use an important tool for protecting our Nation's homeland. I am also particularly gratified that the Supreme Court's decision was 9-0.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 26, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Today, on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, we remember the tens of thousands of American lives lost each year to drug overdoses and violent, drug-related crimes. We reaffirm our commitment to end the drug abuse epidemic that is plaguing our communities and harming our loved ones, and especially our youth.

Since 1999, the rate of opioid overdose deaths in the United States has quadrupled. In many cases, other illicit drugs and pharmaceutical products contribute to these fatalities. Drug overdoses are now the leading cause of accidental death, responsible for more than 50,000 deaths in the United States in 2015 alone.

We will not stand idle as our families are devastated, our communities are hollowed out, and our Nation's future is diminished. My proposed Fiscal Year 2018 Budget supports \$27.8 billion in drug control efforts, including support for state and local law enforcement, drug treatment facilities, and prevention programs. We have also started the process to strengthen enforcement at our southern border to prevent drugs and gangs from coming into our country. I have already taken several executive actions directing my Administration to protect our communities: from dismantling transnational criminal organizations to creating a special commission that targets opioid drug addiction.

Thankfully, treatment options for people facing addiction have never been better. The evidence supporting medication-assisted treatment gives us reasons to be optimistic, as we work to expand access to treatment and long-term recovery support programs.

We resolve today to bring justice to those who threaten the well-being of our people, while we pledge to offer hope to those who have become addicted. Our Nation will continue to collaborate with our international partners to restrict the production and trafficking of illicit drugs around the globe. Together, we will end the scourge of drug abuse and restore safety and peace to our communities.

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 26, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary

The United States has identified potential preparations for another chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime that would likely result in the mass murder of civilians, including innocent children. The activities are similar to preparations the regime made before its April 4, 2017 chemical weapons attack.

As we have previously stated, the United States is in Syria to eliminate the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. If, however, Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price.

Statement from the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Visit to France on Bastille Day

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 28, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Visit to France on Bastille Day

President Donald J. Trump has accepted French President Emmanuel Macron's invitation to visit France on Bastille Day. President Trump looks forward to reaffirming America's strong ties of friendship with France, to celebrating this important day with the French people, and to commemorating the 100th anniversary of America's entry into World War I. The two leaders will further build on the strong counter-terrorism cooperation and economic partnership between the two countries, and they will discuss many other issues of mutual concern.

Joint Statement between the United States and the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 30, 2017

Joint Statement between the United States and the Republic of Korea

President Donald J. Trump hosted President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea (ROK) at the White House on June 29 and 30 in order to advance the comprehensive strategic Alliance between the United States and the ROK and to deepen the two countries' friendship. Since its founding, the Alliance has served as a linchpin for security, stability, and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, in the Asia Pacific region, and increasingly around the world. As we mark the 67th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, the commitment of the United States to the ROK's defense remains ironclad. President Trump reaffirmed that the United States will defend the ROK against any attack and both presidents remain committed to jointly addressing the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Built on mutual trust and shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, the United States-ROK partnership has never been stronger, and the two leaders pledged to build an even greater Alliance going forward.

Strengthening the United States-ROK Alliance

The two leaders affirmed the Alliance's fundamental mission to defend the ROK through a robust combined defense posture and the enhancement of mutual security based on the United States-ROK Mutual Defense Treaty. President Trump reiterated the United States commitment to provide extended deterrence to the ROK, drawing on the full range of United States military capabilities, both conventional and nuclear. Regular dialogue channels, such as the Security Consultative Meeting and the Military Committee Meeting, are instrumental in deepening our Alliance. The two leaders decided to continue the Alliance's work to expeditiously enable the conditions-based transfer of wartime operational control of ROK forces. The ROK will continue to acquire the critical military capabilities necessary to lead the combined defense, and detect, disrupt, destroy, and defend against the DPRK's nuclear and missile threats, including through interoperable Kill-Chain, Korean Air and Missile Defense (KAMD), and other Alliance systems.

The two leaders reaffirmed the Alliance's commitment to counter the growing threat to peace and security posed by the DPRK's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. To increase coordination on Alliance issues, the leaders committed the foreign affairs and defense agencies of the two countries to regularize a "2+2" ministerial meeting, as well as a high-level Extended Deterrence Strategy and Consultation Group to employ all elements of national power to strengthen extended deterrence.

Maintaining Lock-Step Coordination on our Policy regarding the DPRK

President Trump and President Moon pledged to continue to coordinate closely to achieve our shared goal of complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. The two leaders called on the DPRK to refrain from provocative, destabilizing

actions and rhetoric, and to make the strategic choice to fulfill its international obligations and commitments. The two leaders affirmed that the DPRK's nuclear tests and unprecedented number of ballistic missile tests constitute direct violations of multiple United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) and highlight the accelerating threat the DPRK's missile programs pose to international peace and security. They affirmed their commitment to fully implement existing sanctions and impose new measures designed to apply maximum pressure on the DPRK and compel Pyongyang to cease its provocative actions and return to sincere and constructive talks. The two leaders also urged all UN member states to swiftly and fully implement UNSCR obligations and took note, with appreciation, of constructive actions by some countries around the world to exert diplomatic and economic pressure on the DPRK to return to credible negotiations on denuclearization. They noted the important role China could play to this end. In addition, the two sides committed to enhance cooperation to combat the DPRK's dangerous and destabilizing malicious cyber activity.

Noting that sanctions are a tool of diplomacy, the two leaders emphasized that the door to dialogue with the DPRK remains open under the right circumstances. In reaffirming that resolution of the nuclear issue is a top priority for both countries, the two leaders emphasized that the United States and the ROK do not maintain a hostile policy toward the DPRK and, together with the rest of the international community, stand ready to offer a brighter future for the DPRK, if it chooses the right path. The two sides will closely coordinate on a joint the DPRK policy, including efforts to create conditions necessary for denuclearization talks, through a high-level strategic consultation mechanism.

President Trump supported the ROK's leading role in fostering an environment for peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula.

The two leaders expressed deep concern about the well-being of the DPRK's people, particularly in light of the egregious human rights violations and abuses committed against them by the government, and noted their intention to ensure sanctions have minimal impact on the DPRK's vulnerable populations. President Trump expressed support for President Moon's aspiration to restart inter-Korean dialogue on issues, including humanitarian affairs. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of cooperating with the international community to hold the DPRK accountable for substantial progress on the deplorable human rights situation in that country.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to promote regional relations and enhance United States-ROK-Japan trilateral cooperation. The two leaders affirmed that trilateral security and defense cooperation contributes to enhanced deterrence and defense against the DPRK threat. They decided to further develop this cooperation, using established bilateral and trilateral mechanisms. They also underscored the importance of leveraging the United States-ROK-Japan trilateral relationship to address global challenges such as cancer research, energy security, women's empowerment, and cybersecurity. President Trump and President Moon decided to discuss further ways to enhance trilateral cooperation together with Prime Minister Abe of Japan at the upcoming United States-ROK-Japan Trilateral Summit on the margins of the G20 in July.

Advancing Fair Trade to Promote Economic Growth

President Trump and President Moon committed to foster expanded and balanced trade while creating reciprocal benefits and fair treatment between the two countries. In that regard, the two sides further committed to fostering a truly fair and level playing field, including working together to reduce the global overcapacity of such basic materials as steel and non-tariff barriers to trade.

Both sides pledged to work together, as part of the process of the Commercial Dialogue, to promote investment, support entrepreneurs, and facilitate cooperation between the United States and the ROK to boost economic growth and job creation in both countries.

Enhancing Bilateral Cooperation on Other Economic Opportunities

Both sides also committed to work together through the Senior Economic Dialogue to promote and expand cooperation on other economic issues and to explore the enhancement of

economic opportunities through a joint public-private forum. Given the roles of science, technology, and innovation in driving economic growth, the two countries will enhance cooperation in cybersecurity, information and communication technology, and civil space technology. Highlighting the important economic role women play in their societies, the two sides pledged to launch a bilateral partnership to advance women's economic empowerment.

Actively Collaborating as Global Partners

President Trump and President Moon affirmed that United States-ROK cooperation on global issues is an indispensable and expanding aspect of the Alliance. With respect to global health security collaboration, the two leaders affirmed their support in helping partner countries prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats. The two leaders condemned the grave human suffering and violence in Iraq and Syria caused by ISIS, and reaffirmed the strong United States-ROK partnership in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS. President Trump welcomed the ROK's commitment to increase humanitarian assistance to countries most affected by terrorism and violent extremism, including its pledge to provide 10 million United States dollars for Iraq this year. The two sides underscored the importance of joint efforts by the international community, including the United States and the ROK, to rebuild peace and stability in Afghanistan, and pledged to continue to work together to support the Afghan people and government.

Future of the Alliance

The two leaders shared the view that strong and dynamic ties between our two countries are the foundation of the United States-ROK Alliance. They decided to advance future-oriented cooperation through high-level consultations in the areas of economy and trade, renewable and nuclear energy, science and technology, space, environment, health, and defense technology. President Trump and President Moon affirmed that the United States and the ROK will work together to support and uphold the rules-based order in the Asia-Pacific region. The two leaders affirmed that the strength of the United States-ROK Alliance serves as testament to the power of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and acknowledged that the future of the two countries is linked through people-to-people ties, with more than 1.7 million Korean Americans in the United States, hundreds of thousands of Americans visiting and working in the ROK each year, and close ties created through cultural programs and student and professional exchanges. President Trump and President Moon heralded the exemplary nature of the United States-ROK Alliance, from strengthening our security by deterring and defending against the DPRK threat, enhancing strong regional relations, and advancing our economic relationship and expanding our global partnership. Both leaders expressed their expectation that the friendship and partnership between the two countries will continue to strengthen and grow for many decades to come.

President Moon invited President Trump to visit the ROK in 2017; President Trump gladly accepted the invitation. The two leaders will continue to discuss issues of mutual interests on various occasions, including during international multilateral conferences.

Joint Statement from the United States of America, Republic of Korea, and Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 07, 2017

Joint Statement from the United States of America, Republic of Korea, and Japan

President Donald J. Trump, President Moon Jae-in, and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met in Hamburg, Germany, on July 6 to discuss the serious and escalating threat posed by the nuclear and ballistic missile programs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The three leaders condemned the DPRK's unprecedented launch, on July 4, of a ballistic missile with

intercontinental range, a major escalation that directly violates multiple United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and that clearly demonstrates the growing threat the DPRK poses to the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), and Japan, as well as other countries around the world. The leaders affirmed the importance of working together to counter the DPRK threat and to achieve the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner, a shared goal among the three countries. They also committed to continue to cooperate to apply maximum pressure on the DPRK to change its path, refrain from provocative and threatening actions, and take steps necessary to return to serious denuclearization dialogue. The three leaders emphasized that they, together with the rest of the international community, stand ready to offer a brighter future for the DPRK if it chooses the right path. The United States, the ROK, and Japan will never accept a nuclear armed DPRK.

President Trump, President Moon, and Prime Minister Abe decided to press for the early adoption of a new UNSC resolution with additional sanctions to demonstrate to the DPRK that there are serious consequences for its destabilizing, provocative, and escalatory actions. They called on the international community to swiftly and fully implement all UNSC resolutions and to take measures to reduce economic relations with the DPRK. The three leaders also called on the nations that border the DPRK to make further efforts to convince the DPRK regime to abandon its current threatening and provocative path and immediately take steps to denuclearize and to halt its ballistic missile program.

The three leaders underscored their commitment to further strengthen their respective alliances and to ensure they continue to increase their capabilities to deter and respond to any attack from the DPRK. They committed to continue advancing trilateral security cooperation in the face of the threat posed by the DPRK. President Trump reaffirmed the ironclad commitment of the United States to defend the ROK and Japan using the full range of its conventional and nuclear capabilities.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on the Liberation of Mosul

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 10, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on the Liberation of Mosul

Today, Iraqi Security Forces, supported by the United States and the Global Coalition, liberated the city of Mosul from its long nightmare under the rule of ISIS. We congratulate Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, the Iraqi Security Forces, and all Iraqis for their victory over terrorists who are the enemies of all civilized people.

We mourn the thousands of Iraqis brutally killed by ISIS and the millions of Iraqis who suffered at the hands of ISIS. We grieve with the Iraqi people for the loss of the heroic soldiers and Peshmerga who gave their lives to restore life to their country, and we honor their sacrifice. We in the United States and the Global Coalition are proud to stand with the Iraqi Security Forces and all those who made this moment of liberation possible.

We have made tremendous progress against ISIS – more in the past 6 months than in the years since ISIS became a major threat. The victory in Mosul, a city where ISIS once proclaimed its so-called “caliphate,” signals that its days in Iraq and Syria are numbered. We will continue to seek the total destruction of ISIS.

Statement from the Press Secretary Condemning the Terrorist Attack on Religious Pilgrims in India

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
July 12, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary Condemning the Terrorist Attack on Religious Pilgrims in India

The United States strongly condemns the cowardly terrorist attack on religious pilgrims in the state of Jammu and Kashmir on July 10. We extend condolences to the victims' families and the people of India. An attack on religious freedom is an attack on the most fundamental right of liberty. The United States and India will continue to fight together against terrorist threats in every part of the world.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Death of Liu Xiaobo

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 13, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Death of Liu Xiaobo

President Donald J. Trump was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Nobel Peace Prize laureate and prominent Chinese political prisoner Liu Xiaobo. The President's heartfelt condolences go out to Liu Xiaobo's wife, Liu Xia, and his family and friends. A poet, scholar, and courageous advocate, Liu Xiaobo dedicated his life to the pursuit of democracy and liberty.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Bastille Day 2017

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 14, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Bastille Day 2017

On this great day—France's national day and the 228th anniversary of the French Revolution—Melania and I were proud to stand with the President of France and Madame Macron and to celebrate with the French people.

The ties between the United States and France stretch back almost as far as our shared history as democratic republics. France is America's first and oldest ally. In 1778, our two countries signed a treaty of friendship and alliance. We have remained joined in common purpose ever since.

France was instrumental in the United States winning its independence. More than a century later, American doughboys repaid the debt. On July 4, 1917, at the tomb of the great French hero of the American Revolution, an American army officer crystalized his country's gratitude with the immortal words, "Lafayette, we are here."

Ten days later—exactly one hundred years ago today—soldiers from the United States Army's First Infantry Division marched down the Champs-Élysées in this very parade. And today, troops from that same storied unit march once again with their French brothers and sisters.

America and France fought together throughout the rest of the bloody 20th century—sometimes reveling in triumph, other times enduring tragedy. But our spirits never wavered. Today our two countries stand taller—and more united—than ever. From Africa to the Middle East to Central Asia, we are fighting to destroy the terrorist organizations that threaten all civilized peoples

and that continue to exact a terrible toll on the French people, including one year ago today. Together, we will eliminate their safe havens, end their financing, and eradicate their ideology.

America and France will never be defeated or divided. It was my high honor to commemorate, on French soil, France's most historic day and the 100th anniversary of the entry of the United States into World War I. Melania and I thank President and Madame Macron for hosting us. On behalf of the American people, we congratulate the people of France and look forward to many more centuries of friendship and cooperation.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Terror Attack in Jerusalem

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 15, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Terror Attack in Jerusalem

Yesterday, the Holy City of Jerusalem – which means “City of Peace” – became a scene of terror. The people of the United States are heartbroken that terrorists brutally gunned down two Israeli police officers, and we extend our prayers and sympathies to the families of the victims. The United States strongly condemns the terror attack.

There must be zero tolerance for terrorism. It is incompatible with achieving peace and we must condemn it in the strongest terms, defeat it, and eradicate it.

The attack forced the government of Israel to temporarily close the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif to conduct its investigation. Israel has assured the world that it has no intention to alter the status of this holy site, a decision which the United States applauds and welcomes. We urge all leaders and people of good faith to be understanding as this process proceeds and reaches its conclusion.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 17, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump

Yesterday, the Venezuelan people again made clear that they stand for democracy, freedom, and rule of law. Yet their strong and courageous actions continue to be ignored by a bad leader who dreams of becoming a dictator.

The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles. If the Maduro regime imposes its Constituent Assembly on July 30, the United States will take strong and swift economic actions.

The United States once again calls for free and fair elections and stands with the people of Venezuela in their quest to restore their country to a full and prosperous democracy.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Saad Hariri of Lebanon

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 21, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Saad Hariri of Lebanon

President Donald J. Trump will host Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri at the White House on July 25. The two leaders will discuss issues of mutual concern, including the fight against terrorism, the economy, and refugees. This meeting will serve as an important opportunity to strengthen the bilateral relationship and will encourage other international and regional partners to support Lebanon as it faces a wide range of challenges.

Statement on American Citizens Unjustly Detained in Iran

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 21, 2017

Statement on American Citizens Unjustly Detained in Iran

President Donald J. Trump and his Administration are redoubling efforts to bring home all Americans unjustly detained abroad. The United States condemns hostage takers and nations that continue to take hostages and detain our citizens without just cause or due process.

For nearly forty years, Iran has used detentions and hostage taking as a tool of state policy, a practice that continues to this day with the recent sentencing of Xiyue Wang to ten years in prison. Iran is responsible for the care and well-being of every United States citizen in its custody. President Trump urges Iran to return Robert Levinson home, who has been held for over 10 years, and demands Iran release Siamak and Baquer Namazi, who were taken during the Obama administration, along with all other American citizens unjustly detained by Iran. President Trump is prepared to impose new and serious consequences on Iran unless all unjustly imprisoned American citizens are released and returned.

Statement by the Press Secretary in Response to Reports the Government of Israel has Removed Metal Detectors and Cameras from Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 25, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary in Response to Reports the Government of Israel has Removed Metal Detectors and Cameras from Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif

Israel has removed the recently installed magnetometers and cameras, despite the demonstrated need to enhance security at the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif in the wake of the murder of two Israeli police officers at the site on July 14. The United States applauds the efforts of Israel to maintain security while reducing tensions in the region.

Statement from the President on North Korea's Second ICBM Launch

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 28, 2017

Statement from the President on North Korea's Second ICBM Launch

North Korea's test launch today of another intercontinental ballistic missile—the second such test in less than a month—is only the latest reckless and dangerous action by the North Korean regime. The United States condemns this test and rejects the regime's claim that these tests—and

these weapons—ensure North Korea’s security. In reality, they have the opposite effect. By threatening the world, these weapons and tests further isolate North Korea, weaken its economy, and deprive its people. The United States will take all necessary steps to ensure the security of the American homeland and protect our allies in the region.

Statement by the Press Secretary on Russia Sanctions Legislation

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 28, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on Russia Sanctions Legislation

President Donald J. Trump read early drafts of the bill and negotiated regarding critical elements of it. He has now reviewed the final version and, based on its responsiveness to his negotiations, approves the bill and intends to sign it.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 01, 2017
Statement by President Donald J. Trump

The United States condemns the actions of the Maduro dictatorship. Mr. Lopez and Mr. Ledezma are political prisoners being held illegally by the regime. The United States holds Maduro – who publicly announced just hours earlier that he would move against his political opposition – personally responsible for the health and safety of Mr. Lopez, Mr. Ledezma, and any others seized. We reiterate our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Signing of H.R. 3364

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 02, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Signing of H.R. 3364

Today, I have signed into law H.R. 3364, the "Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act." While I favor tough measures to punish and deter aggressive and destabilizing behavior by Iran, North Korea, and Russia, this legislation is significantly flawed.

In its haste to pass this legislation, the Congress included a number of clearly unconstitutional provisions. For instance, although I share the policy views of sections 253 and 257, those provisions purport to displace the President's exclusive constitutional authority to recognize foreign governments, including their territorial bounds, in conflict with the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Zivotofsky v. Kerry*.

Additionally, section 216 seeks to grant the Congress the ability to change the law outside the constitutionally required process. The bill prescribes a review period that precludes the President from taking certain actions. Certain provisions in section 216, however, conflict with the Supreme Court's decision in *INS v. Chadha*, because they purport to allow the Congress to extend the review period through procedures that do not satisfy the requirements for changing the law under Article I,

section 7 of the Constitution. I nevertheless expect to honor the bill's extended waiting periods to ensure that the Congress will have a full opportunity to avail itself of the bill's review procedures.

Further, certain provisions, such as sections 254 and 257, purport to direct my subordinates in the executive branch to undertake certain diplomatic initiatives, in contravention of the President's exclusive constitutional authority to determine the time, scope, and objectives of international negotiations. And other provisions, such as sections 104, 107, 222, 224, 227, 228, and 234, would require me to deny certain individuals entry into the United States, without an exception for the President's responsibility to receive ambassadors under Article II, section 3 of the Constitution. My Administration will give careful and respectful consideration to the preferences expressed by the Congress in these various provisions and will implement them in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations.

Finally, my Administration particularly expects the Congress to refrain from using this flawed bill to hinder our important work with European allies to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, and from using it to hinder our efforts to address any unintended consequences it may have for American businesses, our friends, or our allies.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE
August 2, 2017.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on Signing the “Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act”

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 02, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on Signing the “Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act”

Today, I signed into law the “Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act,” which enacts new sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia. I favor tough measures to punish and deter bad behavior by the rogue regimes in Tehran and Pyongyang. I also support making clear that America will not tolerate interference in our democratic process, and that we will side with our allies and friends against Russian subversion and destabilization.

That is why, since taking office, I have enacted tough new sanctions on Iran and North Korea, and shored up existing sanctions on Russia.

Since this bill was first introduced, I have expressed my concerns to Congress about the many ways it improperly encroaches on Executive power, disadvantages American companies, and hurts the interests of our European allies.

My Administration has attempted to work with Congress to make this bill better. We have made progress and improved the language to give the Treasury Department greater flexibility in granting routine licenses to American businesses, people, and companies. The improved language also reflects feedback from our European allies – who have been steadfast partners on Russia sanctions – regarding the energy sanctions provided for in the legislation. The new language also ensures our agencies can delay sanctions on the intelligence and defense sectors, because those sanctions could negatively affect American companies and those of our allies.

Still, the bill remains seriously flawed – particularly because it encroaches on the executive branch’s authority to negotiate. Congress could not even negotiate a healthcare bill after seven years of talking. By limiting the Executive’s flexibility, this bill makes it harder for the United States to strike good deals for the American people, and will drive China, Russia, and North Korea

much closer together. The Framers of our Constitution put foreign affairs in the hands of the President. This bill will prove the wisdom of that choice.

Yet despite its problems, I am signing this bill for the sake of national unity. It represents the will of the American people to see Russia take steps to improve relations with the United States. We hope there will be cooperation between our two countries on major global issues so that these sanctions will no longer be necessary.

Further, the bill sends a clear message to Iran and North Korea that the American people will not tolerate their dangerous and destabilizing behavior. America will continue to work closely with our friends and allies to check those countries' malignant activities.

I built a truly great company worth many billions of dollars. That is a big part of the reason I was elected. As President, I can make far better deals with foreign countries than Congress.

Statement from the Press Secretary on North Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 05, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on North Korea

President Donald J. Trump commends the United Nations Security Council for passing a new resolution that increases sanctions on North Korea in response to its recent ballistic missile tests. The President appreciates China's and Russia's cooperation in securing passage of this resolution. He will continue working with allies and partners to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea to end its threatening and destabilizing behavior.

Statement by the Press Secretary on Venezuela

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 11, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on Venezuela

Today, Nicolas Maduro requested a phone call with President Donald J. Trump. Since the start of this Administration, President Trump has asked that Maduro respect Venezuela's constitution, hold free and fair elections, release political prisoners, cease all human rights violations, and stop oppressing Venezuela's great people. The Maduro regime has refused to heed this call, which has been echoed around the region and the world. Instead Maduro has chosen the path of dictatorship.

The United States stands with the people of Venezuela in the face of their continued oppression by the Maduro regime. President Trump will gladly speak with the leader of Venezuela as soon as democracy is restored in that country.

Statement by the Press Secretary on Kenya Elections

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on Kenya Elections

The United States congratulates the people of Kenya on the successful conclusion of elections, and President Uhuru Kenyatta on his re-election. We commend the dedication of candidates, officials, and the public to upholding a peaceful, fair, and transparent contest, and we welcome the statements by international and domestic observer missions affirming the credibility of the election.

We are troubled by reports that some demonstrations have turned violent, and call on all Kenyans to reject violence and resolve disputes in accordance with the Kenyan Constitution and the rule of law. We welcome calls by President Kenyatta for peace and national unity.

This historic election is an important step forward, and we urge all Kenyans to unite in peace to continue building their country. The United States will continue to partner with Kenya to secure a prosperous and peaceful future for both of our great nations.

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 20, 2017
Statement from the Press Secretary

President Donald J. Trump will address our Nation's troops and the American people tomorrow night at 9:00 p.m. (EDT) from Fort Myer in Arlington, VA, to provide an update on the path forward for America's engagement in Afghanistan and South Asia.

Statement on the Anniversary of the 2013 Syrian Chemical Weapons Attack

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 21, 2017
Statement on the Anniversary of the 2013 Syrian Chemical Weapons Attack

Today marks the 4th anniversary of the Syrian regime's deadly chemical weapons attack that killed more than 1,400 people in the Damascus suburb of Ghouta. This tragic event precipitated an international effort that led to the destruction of more than 1,000 metric tons of Syrian chemical weapons. Still, on April 4th of this year, Assad proved beyond a doubt that he still possesses these heinous weapons and is willing to use them against innocent civilians.

It is critical that the international community not forget these tragic events. We must speak with one voice and act with one purpose to ensure that the Syrian regime, and any other actor contemplating the use of chemical weapons, understands that doing so will result in serious consequences. As the President has made clear, the United States will do its part to prevent the use or spread of these weapons. Along with the many other nations that have signed the Chemical Weapons Convention, we commit to work together to create a world without chemical weapons.

Today is an appropriate reminder of the importance of that commitment. We reiterate our call for all countries to stand together and leave no doubt that the use of chemical weapons will not be tolerated.

Statement on the Deaths of Sailors on the USS John S. McCain Guided-Missile Destroyer

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 22, 2017

Statement on the Deaths of Sailors on the USS John S. McCain Guided-Missile Destroyer

It is with great sadness that we learned today of the United States sailor fatalities following the August 21st collision between the guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain and a merchant vessel, which occurred east of the Straits of Malacca and Singapore. As the Navy begins the process of recovering our fallen sailors, our thoughts and prayers go out to their families and friends. We are grateful for the rescue and recovery efforts of the officers and crew of the USS John S. McCain, the Malaysian Coast Guard, Royal Malaysian Navy, and Republic of Singapore Navy. The Department of Defense will conduct a thorough and complete investigation of the incident.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of Malaysia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 23, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of Malaysia

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of Malaysia to the White House on September 12. President Trump looks forward to celebrating the 60th anniversary of United States-Malaysia bilateral relations and discussing ways to strengthen and broaden our bilateral relationship and expand regional cooperation with one of America's closest partners in Southeast Asia.

Statement by the Press Secretary on New Financial Sanctions on Venezuela

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 25, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on New Financial Sanctions on Venezuela

President Donald J. Trump has signed an Executive Order imposing strong, new financial sanctions on the dictatorship in Venezuela.

The Maduro dictatorship continues to deprive the Venezuelan people of food and medicine, imprison the democratically-elected opposition, and violently suppress freedom of speech. The regime's decision to create an illegitimate Constituent Assembly—and most recently to have that body usurp the powers of the democratically-elected National Assembly—represents a fundamental break in Venezuela's legitimate constitutional order.

In an effort to preserve itself, the Maduro dictatorship rewards and enriches corrupt officials in the government's security apparatus by burdening future generations of Venezuelans with massively expensive debts. Maduro's economic mismanagement and rampant plundering of his nation's assets have taken Venezuela ever closer to default. His officials are now resorting to opaque financing schemes and liquidating the country's assets at fire sale prices.

As Vice President Mike Pence has said, in Venezuela, "we're seeing the tragedy of tyranny play out before our eyes." No free people has ever chosen to walk the path from prosperity to poverty. No free people has ever chosen to turn what was once, and should still be, one of South America's richest nations into its poorest and most corrupt.

We will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles. The President's new action prohibits dealings in new debt and equity issued by the government of Venezuela and its state oil company. It also prohibits dealings in certain existing bonds owned by the Venezuelan public sector, as well as dividend payments to the government of Venezuela.

To mitigate harm to the American and Venezuelan people, the Treasury Department is issuing general licenses that allow for transactions that would otherwise be prohibited by the Executive Order. These include provisions allowing for a 30-day wind-down period; financing for most commercial trade, including the export and import of petroleum; transactions only involving Citgo; dealings in select existing Venezuelan debts; and the financing for humanitarian goods to Venezuela.

These measures are carefully calibrated to deny the Maduro dictatorship a critical source of financing to maintain its illegitimate rule, protect the United States financial system from complicity in Venezuela's corruption and in the impoverishment of the Venezuelan people, and allow for humanitarian assistance.

The United States is not alone in condemning the Maduro regime. Through the Lima Declaration of August 8, our friends and partners in the region refused to recognize the illegitimate Constituent Assembly or the laws it adopts. The new United States financial sanctions support this regional posture of economically isolating the Maduro dictatorship.

The United States reiterates our call that Venezuela restore democracy, hold free and fair elections, release all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally, and end the repression of the Venezuelan people. We continue to stand with the people of Venezuela during these trying times.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on North Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 29, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on North Korea

The world has received North Korea's latest message loud and clear: this regime has signaled its contempt for its neighbors, for all members of the United Nations, and for minimum standards of acceptable international behavior.

Threatening and destabilizing actions only increase the North Korean regime's isolation in the region and among all nations of the world. All options are on the table.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Amir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 01, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Amir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Amir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait to the White House for an official working visit on September 7, 2017. Amir al-Sabah is leading a Kuwaiti delegation to the United States for the second annual United States-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue, which will include Cabinet-level meetings on education, trade, investment, homeland security, and military cooperation.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Violence in Burma

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release September 11, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Violence in Burma

The United States is deeply troubled by the ongoing crisis in northern Rakhine State in Burma, where at least 300,000 people have fled their homes in the wake of attacks on Burmese security posts on August 25. We reiterate our condemnation of those attacks and ensuing violence.

The massive displacement and victimization of people, including large numbers of the ethnic Rohingya community and other minorities, shows that Burmese security forces are not protecting civilians. We are alarmed by the allegations of human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, burning of villages, massacres, and rape, by security forces and by civilians acting with these forces' consent. We call on Burmese security authorities to respect the rule of law, stop the violence, and end the displacement of civilians from all communities. We also urge Burmese security forces to work with the elected government in implementing the Rakhine Commission's recommendations.

We welcome the Burmese government's commitment to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches victims as quickly as possible. We urge the government to allow media access to the afflicted areas as soon as possible. Most of those displaced by the violence have fled into neighboring Bangladesh and we greatly appreciate the significant efforts of the government of Bangladesh to facilitate humanitarian assistance.

Joint Statement for Enhancing the Comprehensive Partnership between the United States of America and Malaysia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2017

Joint Statement for Enhancing the Comprehensive Partnership between the United States of America and Malaysia

The President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump, hosted the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Najib Razak, at the White House to strengthen the Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries as they mark the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations.

The United States and Malaysia share a long history of close cooperation built on economic ties and mutual security interests. The two leaders pledged to continue building upon that relationship through enhanced diplomatic, economic, security, and people-to-people ties.

President Trump and Prime Minister Najib recognized the grave threat posed by North Korea to security and stability across the Asia-Pacific region. The two leaders expressed their concern over North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile tests, which are a flagrant violation of the multiple United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions and will only further escalate tensions in the region. Both sides reaffirmed their support for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the need for the international community to strictly implement UNSC resolutions. President Trump welcomed Prime Minister Najib's commitment to go beyond the UNSC resolutions, including through a review of its diplomatic relations and business links with North Korea.

The two leaders pledged to nurture the economic ties between the United States and Malaysia to create jobs and opportunities for people in both countries, reflecting a longstanding and substantial trade relationship. The two countries recognized the importance of regular discussions under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement to strengthen the trade relationship by

removing barriers in key sectors. Both sides announced their intent to pursue trade and investment opportunities in the transportation and energy sectors and to address the bilateral trade imbalance. The two leaders welcomed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Malaysia Airlines Berhad and The Boeing Company for eight new Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, purchase rights for eight additional 737 MAX airplanes, and maintenance for the national carrier's fleet, with a potential total value of \$4 billion (USD). President Trump welcomed the probability of additional purchases of Boeing aircraft in the future. Both leaders welcomed the involvement of the United States private sector in the development of the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore high-speed rail project. The two countries also committed to review regulatory frameworks with the aim of facilitating investment in their respective economies.

Prime Minister Najib and President Trump discussed matters relating to the South China Sea and emphasized the importance of ensuring, maintaining, and safeguarding peace and stability, maritime security, freedom of navigation and over-flight, and other lawful uses of the seas. The two leaders underscored the importance of upholding and adhering to the rules-based maritime order. They called upon all disputing parties to implement their international legal obligations in good faith, and to avoid the threat or use of force, intimidation, or coercion. They further called on all disputing parties to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities and refrain from action that erodes trust and confidence, and escalates tension, including the militarization of outposts. The two leaders reaffirmed that all maritime claims must be based on and resolved in accordance with international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of the strategic partnership between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN) and to the continued implementation of the principles decided upon by the leaders of the United States and ASEAN in the 2016 Sunnylands Declaration. They affirmed their support for common efforts to develop a rules-based ASEAN Community, and to maintaining ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture. The two leaders noted the 50th anniversary of ASEAN's founding and the 40th anniversary of relations between the United States and ASEAN and welcomed commemorative activities.

The two leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation to counter the growing threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Southeast Asia. Both leaders re-affirmed the importance of promoting community resilience and mutual respect across religious and ethnic boundaries. As a partner in the fight against ISIS and a member of the Global Coalition led by the United States, the two leaders noted Malaysia's pledge of \$1 million (USD) for humanitarian assistance in areas liberated from ISIS. The United States recognized Malaysia's continued progress toward meeting program requirements for the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, including obligations under the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6 (HSPD-6) and Preventing and Combatting Serious Crime (PCSC) information sharing arrangements. Prime Minister Najib announced Malaysia's commitment to implement its data sharing agreements with the United States and to phased enhancements of passenger screening at all points of entry, and the United States committed to actively work with Malaysia towards this end. The United States and Malaysia acknowledged that cyber and other crimes often help finance terrorist networks. The countries committed to utilize available multilateral instruments, including the Budapest Convention in order to strengthen domestic legislation and foster international cooperation in combating cybercrime.

The United States and Malaysia pledged to strengthen bilateral defense ties. The two leaders underscored the importance of expanding cooperation in priority areas, including maritime security, counterterrorism, and information sharing between our defense and security forces. They committed to pursue additional opportunities for joint exercises and training. The leaders also underscored the importance of enhancing maritime domain awareness through the development of maritime capabilities such as surveillance, communications, and information-sharing, and expressed their intent to continue discussions on funding of assets through the most effective mechanisms for

developing these capabilities in order to advance regional security. President Trump welcomed Malaysia's intent to make an additional \$60 million (USD) in defense procurements from the United States.

They discussed the need to end the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. Both leaders called for an end to the violence targeting civilian populations, and discussed the need for a strong international community response for the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have been victimized and displaced by violence, including those who have arrived in Bangladesh. Both sides urged the Myanmar government to end the violence against innocents and ensure that humanitarian relief reaches victims immediately.

President Trump and Prime Minister Najib held a constructive discussion about the importance of good governance and the free flow of information to prosperity and a positive business environment. They also discussed the importance of protecting human rights, including freedom of expression and freedom of religion. The United States welcomed Malaysia's commitment to increase prosecutions of human traffickers, as well as expedited assessment with the aim of increasing substantially the number of trafficking victims granted freedom of movement.

The two leaders welcomed continued strong people-to-people ties, especially Fulbright academic exchanges. They recognized the growing number of Malaysian undergraduate and graduate students studying in the United States, now numbering nearly eight thousand. They expressed anticipation for the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding sustaining the Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program, one of the largest in the world, through 2020.

The two leaders discussed their commitment to further strengthening the Comprehensive Partnership to promote peace, stability, prosperity, and international consensus in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 26, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand to the White House on October 3, 2017. President Trump looks forward to reaffirming the relationship between the United States and a key partner and longstanding ally in Asia, the Kingdom of Thailand. The President and Prime Minister will discuss ways to strengthen and broaden bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Statement by the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 27, 2017
Statement by the Press Secretary

President Donald J. Trump commends the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's decision today to affirm the right of women to drive in the Kingdom. This is a positive step toward promoting the rights and opportunities of women in Saudi Arabia. We will continue to support Saudi Arabia in its

to efforts to strengthen Saudi society and the economy through reforms like this and the implementation of Saudi Vision 2030.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 28, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha of Thailand to the White House on October 2, 2017, not on October 3, 2017, as previously announced. President Trump looks forward to reaffirming the relationship between the United States and a key partner and longstanding ally in Asia, the Kingdom of Thailand. The President and the Prime Minister will discuss ways to strengthen and broaden bilateral relations and enhance cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Terror Attacks in Edmonton, Canada

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 01, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Terror Attacks in Edmonton, Canada

We condemn the cowardly terror attacks on a police officer and pedestrians that occurred late last night in Edmonton, Canada. Law enforcement authorities from the United States are in touch with their Canadian counterparts to offer assistance with the ongoing investigation. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, as we hope for their speedy and complete recovery.

Joint Statement between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Thailand

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 02, 2017

Joint Statement between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Thailand

Stronger Alliance for Common Security and

Closer Economic Partnership for Common Prosperity

The President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump welcomed the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand General Prayut Chan-o-cha to the White House today to reaffirm the importance of the enduring alliance between the United States and Thailand and to discuss their shared commitment to promoting peace, security, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.

The two leaders shared the view that the long friendship and close cooperation that have existed between their two countries and peoples for almost two centuries constitute a firm foundation for further strengthening of United States-Thailand relations. President Trump extended his profound condolences on behalf of the American people for the passing of His Majesty King

Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who was born in the United States and a true friend of America throughout his 70-year reign.

The two leaders affirmed that a strong and thriving United States-Thailand alliance is underpinned by shared interests and common values. The two leaders shared a vision of a stronger alliance for common security, a closer economic partnership for common prosperity, and growing people-to-people ties.

Stronger alliance for common security

The two leaders emphasized that our historic alliance has been a key feature in underpinning peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific and resolved to further strengthen the alliance through a broad range of measures, including enhanced dialogue, closer coordination, regular exchange of visits, and defense modernization efforts to ensure it continues to help shape the future of the region.

Building on the 2012 Joint Vision Statement for the United States-Thailand Alliance, the two leaders hailed continued efforts to advance their alliance, including through the recent United States-Thailand Strategic Dialogue and the planned Defense Strategic Talks later this year. The two leaders also welcomed closer military-to-military cooperation and joint exercises, including Cobra Gold—the largest multilateral military exercise in Asia, which help promote interoperability and friendship.

Recognizing the leading role of Thailand in promoting regional peace and security, and in support of regional architecture centered on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which advocates a peaceful settlement of disputes and confidence building, the two leaders discussed a number of security issues, including:

South China Sea. The two leaders highlighted the importance of a peaceful and stable South China Sea, a vital waterway for global commerce, and freedom of navigation and overflight. Consonant with the Sunnylands Declaration, they reaffirmed their shared commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). They welcomed the adoption of the framework of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and called for an early conclusion of the COC. They also concurred on the need for a cooperative approach to ensuring a peaceful, stable, and sustainable South China Sea.

Korean Peninsula. The two leaders expressed grave concern about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's unprecedented number of nuclear and ballistic missile tests over the last year, and reaffirmed their resolve, and urged all parties concerned, to strictly implement all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions with a view to realizing a peaceful, stable and denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

The Situation in Rakhine State. The two leaders discussed the situation in Rakhine State of Myanmar, and the need for expeditious humanitarian assistance to affected communities in a coordinated manner. They welcomed the Myanmar government's commitment to end the violence, ensure the safe return of displaced persons, and accept the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, and they look forward to implementation of these efforts. They expressed their support for ASEAN's role in working with the Myanmar government to provide humanitarian assistance.

President Trump recognized the important role of Thailand in ASEAN and noted his appreciation of Thailand's strong support for a wide-ranging partnership between the United States and ASEAN. The two leaders pledged to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation to promote the U.S.-ASEAN Strategic Partnership, including cooperative efforts to combat regional and global security threats like terrorism, pandemics, and transnational trafficking in persons, drugs, and wildlife. The United States welcomes Thailand's active role in promoting regional cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and both sides decided to strengthen their partnership to address this

common challenge. The two sides determined to work more closely on intelligence sharing and law enforcement training, and to make full use of the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok to forge networks and enhance coordination among law enforcement officials in the Indo-Pacific. They pledged to strengthen partnership on global health security, including through close cooperation between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Thai counterparts, and the joint collaboration at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS) in Bangkok. They expressed that they look forward to strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security to advance Indo-Pacific security.

Recognizing Thailand's strategic importance to the United States and the region, President Trump welcomed Thailand's commitment to the Roadmap, which, upon completion of relevant organic laws as stipulated by the Constitution, will lead to free and fair elections in 2018. The two leaders also recognized the importance of protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Closer Economic Partnership for Common Prosperity

The two leaders highlighted the long-standing and mutually-beneficial economic relations between the United States and Thailand. They underscored their shared desire to strengthen bilateral economic ties, grow their respective economies through expansion of trade and investment, and create jobs and favorable conditions for commerce and business in both countries, including in the digital sphere. They stressed the importance of promoting free and fair trade, including in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and noted their interest in continuing discussions under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement to further reenergize their trade relations and ensure balanced trade. The two leaders welcomed the progress made by the Thai Government to enhance intellectual property rights protection and enforcement and the announcement by the U.S. Trade Representative of a Special 301 Out-of-Cycle review of Thailand because of recent actions by Thailand to address intellectual property issues. They also noted recent progress to further expand bilateral trade and tasked their teams to resolve expeditiously concerns related to agricultural trade, customs, and workers' rights.

The two leaders recognize the importance of the 1966 Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations between the United States and Thailand, and affirmed the importance of promoting bilateral trade and creating favorable conditions for the business of both sides. Prime Minister Prayut welcomed the United States as a leading investor in Thailand. President Trump welcomed growing investment from Thai companies in the United States and its potential contribution to the creation of jobs for American workers. The two leaders welcomed the enhancement of collaboration on standards and between the private sectors of the United States and Thailand.

People-to-People Relations

The two leaders stressed the importance of strengthening people-to-people ties, especially youth, as a solid foundation for enduring alliance and partnership. They recognized the important contributions of over 7,000 Thai students currently studying in the United States and the Thai-American community, as well as more than 5,000 Peace Corps volunteers in Thailand over the past decades. They pledged support for closer cooperation in the areas of education, youth exchanges, entrepreneurship, technology and innovation, among others.

President Trump and Prime Minister Prayut saluted the 200th anniversary of the first contact between the United States and Thailand in 1818, and welcomed preparations to celebrate this momentous occasion in 2018.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Death of Former Iraqi President Jalal Talabani

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 03, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Death of Former Iraqi President Jalal Talabani

The United States offers its sincere condolences on the passing of Iraqi statesman and former president, Jalal Talabani. We remember him as a true patriot and partner who was instrumental in transitioning Iraq from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein to the constitutional democracy it is today. We share our deepest sympathies with President Talabani's family, his friends, and the people of the Republic of Iraq during this time of mourning.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 07, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece to the White House on October 17, 2017. President Trump and Prime Minister Tsipras will discuss ways to enhance our partnership and demonstrate our shared commitment to enduring democratic values that are so important to securing peace and prosperity around the world. The President and Prime Minister will discuss a range of bilateral and regional issues, including defense cooperation, economic investment, energy security, and the strong cultural ties that have bound Americans and Greeks together.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore to the White House on October 23, 2017. President Trump looks forward to reaffirming the relationship between the United States and Singapore, which has been one of America's closest partners in Asia for more than 50 years. The President and Prime Minister will discuss ways to further strengthen our economic, political, security, and people-to-people ties, and work to advance United States engagement and mutual interests throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with his National Security Team

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with his National Security Team

This morning President Donald J. Trump met with members of his national security team to receive a briefing from Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford. The briefing and discussion focused on a range of options to respond to any form of North Korean aggression or, if necessary, to prevent North Korea from threatening the United States and its allies with nuclear weapons.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Recovering the Boyle-Coleman Family from Captivity in Pakistan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 12, 2017

Statement from President Donald J. Trump on Recovering the Boyle-Coleman Family from Captivity in Pakistan

In 2012, Caitlan Coleman, an American citizen, and her husband, Joshua Boyle, a Canadian citizen, were taken captive and held hostage by the Haqqani network, a terrorist organization with ties to the Taliban. Ms. Coleman gave birth to the couple's three children while they were in captivity. Yesterday, the United States government, working in conjunction with the Government of Pakistan, secured the release of the Boyle-Coleman family from captivity in Pakistan.

Today they are free. This is a positive moment for our country's relationship with Pakistan. The Pakistani government's cooperation is a sign that it is honoring America's wishes for it to do more to provide security in the region. We hope to see this type of cooperation and teamwork in helping secure the release of remaining hostages and in our future joint counterterrorism operations.

Statement from the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Travel to Asia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 16, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Travel to Asia

As was announced on September 29, 2017, President Donald J. Trump will travel to Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Hawaii, from November 3-14, 2017. This update provides further details about the President's itinerary.

The President's travel will underscore his commitment to longstanding United States alliances and partnerships, and reaffirm United States leadership in promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region.

On November 3, the President will visit Hawaii and receive a briefing from the U.S. Pacific Command. He will visit Pearl Harbor and the USS ARIZONA Memorial.

The President will commence his visit to Asia beginning with Japan on November 5. While in Japan, President Trump will meet with American and Japanese service members, and participate in bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who will also host the President for a meeting with the families of Japanese citizens abducted by the North Korean regime.

During his visit to the Republic of Korea on November 7, the President will participate in a bilateral meeting with President Moon Jae-in and visit American and South Korean service members. The President will speak at the National Assembly, where he will celebrate the enduring

alliance and friendship between the United States and the Republic of Korea, and call on the international community to join together in maximizing pressure on North Korea.

On November 8, President Trump will arrive in Beijing, China for a series of bilateral, commercial, and cultural events, including meetings with President Xi Jinping.

The President will travel to Danang, Vietnam, on November 10. There, he will participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting and deliver a speech at the APEC CEO Summit. In the speech, the President will present the United States' vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific region and underscore the important role the region plays in advancing America's economic prosperity. On November 11, the President will travel to Hanoi, Vietnam for an official visit and bilateral engagements with President Tran Dai Quang and other senior Vietnamese leaders.

President Trump will arrive in Manila, Philippines, on November 12 to participate in the Special Gala Celebration Dinner for the 50th Anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). On November 13, the President will celebrate the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations at the U.S.-ASEAN Summit and participate in bilateral meetings with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines and other leaders.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Attacks in Somalia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 16, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Attacks in Somalia

The United States strongly condemns the senseless mass murder that targeted innocent men, women, and children in Mogadishu, Somalia on October 14. The two attacks targeted a public, commercial area of the capital and resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of civilians, including United States citizens.

The United States extends our deepest condolences and sympathy to the victims, their families, and all those who have suffered from terrorism.

Terrorist organizations are the enemies of all civilized people. The United States stands with the people and government of Somalia in their commitment to defeating these groups, ensuring the security of their people, and rebuilding their country.

Statement Regarding Court Action Affecting the President's Proclamation Regarding Travel to the United States by Nationals of Certain Countries

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 17, 2017

Statement Regarding Court Action Affecting the President's Proclamation Regarding Travel to the United States by Nationals of Certain Countries

Today's dangerously flawed district court order undercuts the President's efforts to keep the American people safe and enforce minimum security standards for entry into the United States. The Department of Justice will vigorously defend the President's lawful action. The proclamation restricting travel was issued after an extensive worldwide security review by the Secretary of Homeland Security, and following consultation by the President with members of the Cabinet, including the Secretaries of Homeland Security, State, and Defense and the Attorney General. The entry restrictions in the proclamation apply to countries based on their inability or unwillingness to

share critical information necessary to safely vet applications, as well as a threat assessment related to terrorism, instability, and other grave national security concerns. These restrictions are vital to ensuring that foreign nations comply with the minimum security standards required for the integrity of our immigration system and the security of our Nation. We are therefore confident that the Judiciary will ultimately uphold the President's lawful and necessary action and swiftly restore its vital protections for the safety of the American people.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Presidential Delegation for the Royal Thai King's Funeral

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 20, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Presidential Delegation for the Royal Thai King's Funeral

President Donald J. Trump will send a Presidential Delegation to Bangkok, Thailand to attend the Royal Cremation Ceremony of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej on October 26, 2017. Secretary of Defense James Mattis will lead the delegation as the President's Special Envoy, joined by United States Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand Glyn Davies. President Trump extends his profound condolences on behalf of the American people for the passing of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. He was a champion of the Thai people and the United States-Thailand alliance. His innovative work, diplomacy, and 70 years of selfless service will ensure that his legacy will live on for many generations to come.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Defeat of ISIS in Raqqa

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 21, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Defeat of ISIS in Raqqa

I am pleased to announce that the Syrian Democratic Forces, our partners in the fight against ISIS in Syria, have successfully recaptured Raqqa – the terrorist group's self-proclaimed capital city. Together, our forces have liberated the entire city from ISIS control.

The defeat of ISIS in Raqqa represents a critical breakthrough in our worldwide campaign to defeat ISIS and its wicked ideology. With the liberation of ISIS's capital and the vast majority of its territory, the end of the ISIS caliphate is in sight.

We will soon transition into a new phase in which we will support local security forces, de-escalate violence across Syria, and advance the conditions for lasting peace, so that the terrorists cannot return to threaten our collective security again. Together, with our allies and partners, we will support diplomatic negotiations that end the violence, allow refugees to return safely home, and yield a political transition that honors the will of the Syrian people.

One of my core campaign promises to the American people was to defeat ISIS and to counter the spread of hateful ideology. That is why, in the first days of my Administration, I issued orders to give our commanders and troops on the ground the full authorities to achieve this mission. As a result, ISIS strongholds in Mosul and Raqqa have fallen. We have made, alongside our coalition partners, more progress against these evil terrorists in the past several months than in the past several years.

I commend all of our coalition partners for the sacrifices they have made in this noble effort. Therefore, as we recognize this military accomplishment, we also pause to honor our service men and women and all they have given to protect us and all civilized people from these modern day barbarians.

Today, we reaffirm that ISIS leaders, and anyone who supports them, must and will face justice.

Joint Statement by the United States of America and the Republic of Singapore

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 24, 2017

1. President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump hosted Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong at the White House on October 23, 2017. They affirmed the strong and enduring partnership between the two countries based on mutually beneficial cooperation, especially in the economic, defense, security, and people-to-people spheres.

2. The two leaders noted the important role that the bilateral United States-Singapore Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has played in strengthening the robust economic relations between the United States and Singapore and in expanding trade, enhancing prosperity, and promoting broader relations for the benefit of both countries. Bilateral trade has almost doubled from pre-FTA levels to reach more than \$68 billion in 2016, with a consistent trade surplus for the United States. The United States is the largest foreign investor in Singapore, and American companies use Singapore as a regional hub for their activities. Conversely, Singapore is among the largest investors from Asia in the United States. Both leaders noted the success of the United States-Singapore FTA, which is reviewed regularly to evaluate performance and resolve bilateral issues.

3. The leaders highlighted the strong commercial relationship between the two countries, demonstrated by the signing for the purchase of 39 Boeing wide-body aircraft by Singapore Airlines (SIA), valued at \$13.8 billion. The order will expand and modernize SIA's fleet to support the increasing demand of business and tourism-related travels, while rewarding innovation and creating jobs in the United States. They acknowledged the expanded commercial cooperation achieved under the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding on e-Commerce, Smart Cities, Infrastructure and Financial Technology (FinTech).

4. The two leaders affirmed their close and long-standing defense ties as a cornerstone of bilateral relations. Singapore hosts the rotational deployment of United States military aircraft and U.S. Navy ships to conduct a variety of maritime patrol activities to counter piracy and terrorism, as well as provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in the region. Singapore trains approximately 1,000 military personnel in the United States each year, including those stationed at training detachments for the Republic of Singapore Air Force's F-15SG and F-16C/D fighter aircraft, CH-47 Chinook and AH-64 Apache helicopters, and the Singapore Army's High Mobility Artillery Rocket System. Singapore has signed more than \$5.8 billion worth of defense contracts with U.S. companies in the past three years, and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) recently received a delivery of F-15SG fighter jets from Boeing. President Trump thanked Prime Minister Lee for the deployment of four of Singapore's Chinook helicopters to assist in Hurricane Harvey relief operations in Texas, and Singapore's search-and-rescue assistance following the August USS John S. McCain tragedy.

5. Both leaders expressed deep concern about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) continued development of its unlawful nuclear and ballistic missile programs, which pose a grave threat to international peace and security. They condemned the DPRK's missile launches and nuclear tests, which are in clear violation of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs). The

leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the DPRK UNSCRs and to consider additional measures to compel the DPRK regime to engage in meaningful dialogue about a different future.

6. The two leaders recognized the grave threat posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and affirmed that urgent action is needed to address this danger. Both sides welcomed Singapore's efforts in non-proliferation and strategic trade control initiatives, such as through its trial of the World Customs Organization's Cargo Targeting System to strengthen global supply chain security, and decided to consider exploring new areas of cooperation to prevent the global transportation sector from being abused by proliferators. The United States also welcomed Singapore's continued support for the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), such as Singapore's hosting of the PSI exercise Deep Sabre in late 2016, and the PSI Operational Expert Groups meeting in August 2017.

7. The two leaders pledged to strengthen cooperation to counter the threat of ISIS and reaffirmed the need for all countries to stand shoulder-to-shoulder against the common scourge of global terrorism. They welcomed the upcoming bilateral Law Enforcement and Homeland Security and Safety Cooperation Dialogue. As a partner in the fight against ISIS and the first and only Asian country to have contributed both assets and personnel to the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, President Trump welcomed Singapore's commitment to extend its existing contributions to the Coalition, including the deployment of a medical task force in Iraq, KC-135R tanker aircraft, and an Imagery Analysis Team.

8. Recognizing the transboundary nature of cybersecurity threats, the two leaders affirmed the progress made under the 2016 Memorandum of Understanding on Cybersecurity Cooperation. Both countries affirmed their commitment to work together during Singapore's 2018 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Chairmanship to secure the digital economy as a key engine for future economic growth.

9. The two leaders supported expanding economic ties through closer cooperation on bilateral tax issues and welcomed continued progress towards the signing of a tax information exchange agreement and a reciprocal intergovernmental agreement to implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. The negotiations have been substantially completed, and both sides are committed to sign the two agreements as soon as possible, with the aim of doing so by the end of the year. The leaders noted the two countries would continue discussions on whether to negotiate an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement in the future, taking into account double taxation with respect to both American investments in Singapore and Singaporean investments in the United States and our mutual interest in avoiding base erosion and profit shifting by multinationals.

10. Both leaders affirmed the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries. They welcomed the continuation of the United States-Singapore Summer Exchange Scholarship Program to foster linkages and new ideas for cooperation between the next generation of young leaders. The two leaders recognized the success of the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI) and looked forward to YSEALI events in the future.

11. Both leaders noted concerns about developments in the South China Sea (SCS). They reaffirmed the importance of safeguarding peace and stability, and they reiterated their commitment to upholding freedoms of navigation and overflight, and other lawful uses of the sea. Consonant with the Sunnylands Declaration, both leaders underscored the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. They also reiterated their support for the expeditious conclusion of an effective and binding Code of Conduct in the SCS.

12. The two leaders expressed concern about the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State and on the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh. Both leaders called for the expeditious delivery of humanitarian assistance to all affected communities, and urged the government of Myanmar to

end the violence, ensure the safe, voluntary and dignified repatriation, resettlement, and rehabilitation of displaced persons, and implement in the shortest time possible the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. They expressed their support for ASEAN's role in working with the government of Myanmar to provide humanitarian assistance to all affected communities.

13. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to ASEAN centrality and the importance of strengthening the regional architecture to effectively address common transnational challenges such as maritime security, cybersecurity, and countering violent extremism. Both sides highlighted the importance of the U.S.-ASEAN strategic partnership and the principles underpinning this relationship, as outlined in the 2016 Sunnylands Declaration. They welcomed the 50th anniversary of ASEAN's founding and the 40th anniversary of United States-ASEAN relations and committed to continuing support for joint contributions to the Third Country Training Program aimed at enhancing connectivity and regional resilience. President Trump looks forward to attending the November multilateral summits in Southeast Asia and offered his full support for Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2018.

14. President Trump warmly accepted Prime Minister Lee's invitation to visit Singapore in 2018, and they both recognized Singapore's steadfast partnership on issues of mutual interest and shared principles. Singapore has been an anchor for the presence of the United States in the Indo-Pacific, underpinning regional peace and prosperity for the common benefit of the region and the United States.

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Apprehension of Mustafa al-Imam for His Alleged Role in the September 11, 2012 Attacks in Benghazi, Libya Resulting in the Deaths of Four Americans

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 30, 2017

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on the Apprehension of Mustafa al-Imam for His Alleged Role in the September 11, 2012 Attacks in Benghazi, Libya Resulting in the Deaths of Four Americans

Yesterday, on my orders, United States forces captured Mustafa al-Imam in Libya. Because of this successful operation, al-Imam will face justice in the United States for his alleged role in the September 11, 2012 attacks in Benghazi, which resulted in the deaths of Ambassador Christopher Stevens, Glen Doherty, Sean Smith, and Tyrone Woods—four brave Americans who were serving our country.

To the families of these fallen heroes: I want you to know that your loved ones are not forgotten, and they will never be forgotten.

Our memory is deep and our reach is long, and we will not rest in our efforts to find and bring the perpetrators of the heinous attacks in Benghazi to justice.

I want to thank our law enforcement, prosecutors, intelligence community, and military personnel for their extraordinary efforts in gathering evidence, interviewing witnesses, and tracking down fugitives associated with the attack, capturing them, and delivering them to the United States for prosecution.

The United States will continue to support our Libyan partners to ensure that ISIS and other terrorist groups do not use Libya as a safe haven for attacks against United States citizens or interests, Libyans, and others.

Libya's long-term stability and security are linked to its ability to form a unified government and military, and we encourage all Libyans to support the ongoing reconciliation process facilitated by the United Nations and to work together to build a peaceful and stable country.

Statement from the President on the Terrorist Attack in New York City

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
October 31, 2017

Statement from the President on the Terrorist Attack in New York City

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of today's terrorist attack in New York City and their families. My Administration will provide its full support to the New York City Police Department, including through a joint investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We offer our thanks to the first responders who stopped the suspect and rendered immediate aid to the victims of this cowardly attack. These brave men and women embody the true American spirit of resilience and courage. I will continue to follow developments closely.

Statement from the Press Secretary

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 01, 2017
Statement from the Press Secretary

On October 26, the United Nations-Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM)—an independent, technical body established by unanimous vote of the UN Security Council—released its most recent report on chemical weapons use in Syria. The experts of the JIM concluded with confidence that the Assad regime used the chemical weapon sarin on April 4, 2017, in Khan Shaykhun, killing more than 100 of its citizens, many of whom were children and women. This unconscionable attack marks the fourth time that the JIM has confirmed that the Assad regime used chemical weapons, underscoring the brutal and horrifying barbarism of Bashar al-Assad and making the protection provided by Russia even more egregious. Russia's attempts to undermine and eliminate the JIM show a callous disregard for the suffering and loss of life caused by the use of chemical weapons and an utter lack of respect for international norms.

All those who use chemical weapons must be held accountable. The United States implores the UN Security Council to renew the mandate of the JIM so that we may continue to identify the perpetrators of these horrific attacks and send a clear message that the use of chemical weapons will not be tolerated. Countries that fail to support the work of the independent investigators stand in direct opposition of all standards of reasonable international conduct. Especially in light of the recent findings, all countries should understand the importance of the JIM's work and that it is critical that such work continue. Our collective standards for human decency make it imperative that we do all in our power to deter such use of chemical weapons in the future.

White House Statement on Iranian-Supported Missile Attacks Against Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

November 08, 2017

White House Statement on Iranian-Supported Missile Attacks Against Saudi Arabia

The United States welcomes the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's statement exposing the Iranian regime's support for Houthi militias, including the supply of illegal arms such as ballistic missiles. We condemn the Iranian regime's activities and stand with Saudi Arabia and all our Gulf partners against the Iranian regime's aggression and blatant violations of international law. These missile systems were not present in Yemen before the conflict, and we call upon the United Nations to conduct a thorough examination of evidence that the Iranian regime is perpetuating the war in Yemen to advance its regional ambitions. The United States calls on all nations to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its repeated violations of UN Security Council Resolutions 2216 and 2231, which ban arms transfers to the Houthis and prohibit Iran from exporting all arms and related materiel and specifically ballistic missile-related items.

Houthi missile attacks against Saudi Arabia, enabled by Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, threaten regional security and undermine UN efforts to negotiate an end to the conflict. The United States seeks a negotiated settlement to the conflict and the provision of humanitarian assistance to the Yemeni people.

The United States will continue working with other like-minded partners to respond to these attacks and expose the Iranian regime's destabilizing activities in the region.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 08, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Fact-Finding Mission on Friday released a report concluding that sarin was used as a chemical weapon in al-Lataminah, Syria, on March 30, 2017. While these findings are unfortunately not surprising to the United States, they are disturbing nonetheless. Al-Lataminah is about 10 miles from Khan Shaykhun, where the Assad regime used sarin against its citizens just five days later, seemingly as part of a concerted campaign. These events show how critical it is that the U.N. Security Council renew the U.N.-OPCW Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), which has the responsibility of officially determining responsibility for such attacks, key to deterring them in the future. Those countries that do not support renewal or are attempting to water down the JIM's mandate – such as Russia – are protecting the Assad regime and the terrorists who continue to use chemical weapons. We urge Russia to change course before the JIM expires, and we believe all responsible nations must vote in favor of extending this critical body. This important decision should further the principles that led the international community to pursue the Chemical Weapons Convention and our collective goal to stop the use of chemical weapons, rather than further a political game. We owe the world – and the victims of these heinous attacks – better.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Political Situation in Lebanon

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 11, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Political Situation in Lebanon

The United States calls upon all states and parties to respect Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, and constitutional processes. In this sensitive time, the United States also rejects any efforts by militias within Lebanon or by any foreign forces to threaten Lebanon's stability, undermine Lebanese government institutions, or use Lebanon as a base from which to threaten others in the region.

Prime Minister Sa'ad Hariri has been a trusted partner of the United States in strengthening Lebanese institutions, fighting terrorism, and protecting refugees. The United States firmly reiterates that the Lebanese Armed Forces and other Lebanese state security forces are the only legitimate security authorities in Lebanon.

Joint Statement between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 12, 2017

Joint Statement between the United States of America and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

1. At the invitation of President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Tran Dai Quang, President of the United States of America Donald J. Trump paid a state visit to Hanoi, Vietnam, from November 11 to 12, 2017. The two leaders discussed measures to strengthen and expand the Comprehensive Partnership between their two countries based on mutual understanding, shared interests, and a common desire to promote peace, cooperation, prosperity, and security in the Indo-Pacific region. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to deepening ties on the basis of previous joint statements between the two sides; respect for the United Nations Charter and international law; and each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and respective political systems.

2. President Trump congratulated Vietnam on hosting a successful Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' Meeting in Danang. The two leaders reaffirmed their intent to continue high-level contacts and exchanges of delegations, and to strengthen existing dialogue mechanisms, including party-to-party dialogues. Both sides highlighted the expanding and mutually beneficial economic relations between the United States and Vietnam, and underscored their shared desire to create jobs and favorable conditions for commerce and business in both countries.

3. The two leaders pledged to deepen and expand the bilateral trade and investment relationship between the United States and Vietnam through formal mechanisms, including the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). They welcomed the return of market access for United States distillers dried grains into the Vietnamese market and new access for Vietnamese star apples into the United States market. The leaders committed to seek resolution of remaining agricultural trade issues, including those regarding siluriformes, shrimp, and mangoes, and to promote free and fair trade and investment in priority areas, including electronic payment services, automobiles, and intellectual property rights enforcement.

4. The two leaders welcomed the announcement of \$12 billion in new commercial agreements during President Trump's visit. Both leaders also welcomed expanding bilateral energy ties, including discussions between companies from both sides on Vietnam's import of liquefied natural gas from the United States, as well as steps by Vietnam to enhance its capacity for solar power generation with the support of the United States.

5. Affirming their commitment to deepened defense cooperation and shared resolve to address regional security challenges, President Quang thanked the United States Government for the transfer of a Hamilton-class Coast Guard cutter to help improve Vietnam's maritime security and law enforcement capabilities. Both leaders welcomed the plan for the first ever visit, in 2018, by a United States aircraft carrier to a Vietnamese port. They affirmed the 2018-2020 Plan of Action for

United States-Viet Nam Defense Cooperation to implement the 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Advancing Bilateral Defense Cooperation and the 2015 Joint Vision Statement on Defense Relations, strengthening bilateral defense relations in areas of maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations, and overcoming war legacy issues. In this regard, the two leaders welcomed the early visit of the United States Secretary of Defense to Vietnam.

6. The two leaders underscored that their two countries would deepen and gradually expand security and intelligence cooperation, enhancing information sharing and joint training on issues of mutual concern. The leaders expressed their intent to strengthen cooperation on cyber security through increased exchanges of delegations and information sharing, in order to promote an open and secure cyberspace. President Quang also expressed interest in closer collaboration on aviation safety and security, and counterterrorism.

7. Both leaders reaffirmed the importance of continued cooperation to address the legacies of war. In this regard, President Quang expressed appreciation for the contribution of the United States to the successful dioxin remediation at Da Nang Airport, and welcomed the United States commitment to contribute to remediation at Bien Hoa Airport. He welcomed further United States assistance for persons with disabilities. President Trump expressed his appreciation for Vietnam's full and continued cooperation in accounting for United States personnel still missing from the war, and pledged to cooperate with Vietnam in its efforts to locate its missing soldiers. The two leaders committed to cooperation in the removal of remnants of explosives from the war.

8. Both leaders affirmed their support for enhancing people-to-people ties to strengthen mutual understanding, cooperation, and friendship between the people of the United States and Vietnam, including through professional and academic exchanges, the launch of the Fulbright University Vietnam, \$500,000 in Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) alumni grants, and the arrival of the first ever Peace Corps volunteers in Vietnam.

9. President Trump and President Quang welcomed the exchange of Agreed Minutes on the intent of the United States to acquire the "D30" site in Hanoi for the construction of a new embassy facility, in accordance with the laws of both countries. President Trump expressed United States support for Vietnam to acquire better diplomatic and consular facilities in the United States.

10. The two leaders recognized the importance of protecting and promoting human rights.

11. The two leaders discussed and welcomed initiatives to preserve peace and stability and to advance cooperation and development in the Indo-Pacific region. The two leaders recognized the central role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the region, and pledged to respect and support the centrality and unity of ASEAN in the evolving regional architecture. Both sides expressed support for ASEAN to play a stronger role in addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism, natural disasters and humanitarian crises, illegal drugs, and transnational criminal organizations. The leaders committed to deepening the United States-ASEAN Strategic Partnership based on the principles outlined in the 2016 Sunnylands Declaration. They welcomed the 50th anniversary of ASEAN's founding and the 40th anniversary of United States-ASEAN relations, and looked forward to commemorative activities, including the ASEAN-United States Commemorative Summit in Manila on November 13, 2017.

12. Both leaders expressed grave concern over North Korea's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs and tests, which violate United Nations Security Council resolutions and threaten international peace and security. They urged all countries around the world to fully and strictly implement all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, and agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation to ensure their effective enforcement. The two leaders agreed on the importance of the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

13. The two leaders underscored the strategic importance to the international community of free and open access to the South China Sea, the importance of unimpeded lawful commerce, the need to respect freedom of navigation and over-flight, and other lawful uses of the sea. The two

sides reiterated the stance on the South China Sea in the previous United States-Vietnam and United States-ASEAN joint statements, including their call on parties to refrain from escalatory actions, the militarization of disputed features, and unlawful restrictions on freedom of the seas. They reaffirmed their shared commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes. They called for the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and an early conclusion to an effective, legally binding Code of Conduct for the South China Sea (COC). They further called for all South China Sea claimants to clarify and comport their maritime claims in accordance with the international law of the sea as reflected in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to implement their international legal obligations in good faith in managing or resolving these disputes.

14. The leaders noted that, as a partner of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and a founding member of the Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI), the United States supports the efforts of the Lower Mekong countries to sustainably manage the region's water and environmental resources for the benefit of all. President Quang acknowledged the leading role of the United States in reducing global carbon emissions and innovating clean energy technologies, and he thanked the United States for its assistance to Vietnam in advancing climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.

Joint Statement between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 13, 2017

Joint Statement between the United States of America and the Republic of the Philippines

U.S. President Donald J. Trump and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte met in Manila, Philippines on November 13, 2017, to discuss a broad range of shared interests and priorities. Both leaders praised the enduring United States-Philippines Alliance, built on a strong foundation of shared values, sacrifices, and history, and bolstered by common interests, people-to-people ties, and full respect for legal and diplomatic processes. They pledged to expand cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the bilateral alliance—a 70-year partnership that has stood the test of time and ensures both countries' mutual security and contributes to regional peace, stability, and economic prosperity.

During the 50th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the 40th anniversary of United States relations with ASEAN, the United States and the Philippines commended ASEAN for its important role in promoting regional peace, stability, and socio-economic development. They pledged to continue to work within the ASEAN framework to pursue these goals throughout the Asia-Pacific. President Trump applauded the Philippines for its leadership as ASEAN chair during the past year.

The two sides underscored that human rights and the dignity of human life are essential, and agreed to continue mainstreaming the human rights agenda in their national programs to promote the welfare of all sectors, including the most vulnerable groups.

Both leaders condemned the unlawful nuclear weapons and missile development by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and called on the DPRK to immediately comply with U.N. Security Council Resolutions and agree to complete verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. President Trump commended the Philippines for its compliance with the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions on the DPRK. The leaders also urged all countries, including those in ASEAN, to voice their opposition to these threatening programs and to take steps to downgrade their diplomatic and economic engagement with North Korea.

President Trump expressed his condolences for the tragic loss of life in Marawi City at the hands of ISIS-affiliated terrorists, and congratulated the Armed Forces of the Philippines for its success in liberating Marawi. He vowed that the United States would continue its support and assistance for the fight against terrorism and the rehabilitation of Marawi. Both sides committed to enhance their counterterrorism cooperation through conducting additional exercises, increasing information sharing, and addressing the drivers of conflict and extremism. Both sides discussed the rehabilitation and reconstruction needs of Marawi and pledged to continue discussions for the rebuilding of Marawi.

The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951, as reinforced by the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement. The two sides discussed proposals to support the United States' efforts to help modernize the Armed Forces of the Philippines, develop capacity and capability for maritime security and domain awareness, and provide rapid humanitarian assistance. They also reaffirmed their commitment to continue defense cooperation, including by reinforcing respective national defense capabilities and interoperability and enhancing joint activities, disaster response, and cybersecurity.

Both sides reiterated their commitment to uphold their principles including the freedom of navigation and overflight, and the exercise of self-restraint. They stressed the importance of peacefully resolving disputes in the South China Sea, in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. They further underscored the need to continue pursuing confidence-building measures to increase mutual trust and confidence, and to refrain from actions that would escalate tensions, including militarization.

They discussed the ongoing humanitarian and security crisis in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Both leaders called for the expeditious delivery of humanitarian assistance to affected communities, and welcomed the Myanmar government's commitment to end the violence, restore media access, ensure the safe return of displaced persons, and implement all of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, and urged all parties to support these government commitments. They expressed their support for ASEAN's role in working with the government of Myanmar to provide humanitarian assistance.

The two sides decided to further deepen the extensive United States-Philippine economic relationship. They discussed ways to expand on their mutual commitment to free, fair, and balanced trade that increases economic opportunity for all. The two leaders pledged to nurture economic ties, including private sector cooperation, to create jobs and opportunities for people in both countries. To this end, both sides will explore strengthening dialogues for innovation and sharing of best practices in technology to optimize the position of the Philippines as a preferred destination for American investments in the Asia-Pacific region.

The two countries recognized the importance of regular discussions under the United States-Philippines Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to strengthen the trade relationship, including by continuing to make progress in the areas of market access related to agricultural products, intellectual property, customs and labor, among others. The United States welcomed the Philippines' interest in a bilateral free trade agreement and both sides agreed to discuss the matter further through the United States–Philippines TIFA.

The two sides discussed the ongoing campaign in the Philippines against criminality including illegal drugs. Both sides acknowledged that illegal drug use is a problem afflicting both countries and committed to share best practices in the areas of prevention; enforcement, including capacity-building and transparency in investigations; and rehabilitation.

Both leaders stressed the strong people-to-people connections between the Philippines and the United States. They acknowledged the many long-standing institutions that connect people of the two countries, including the longest continuing Fulbright program in the world—a program that has sent more than 3,000 Filipino scholars to the United States and nearly 1,000 American scholars to

the Philippines—and the dynamic Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative that held its annual summit in Manila recently, in October.

Both leaders recognized the two countries' successful cooperation in promoting inclusive development, fueled by good governance, partnerships with the private sector and civil society, and investments in health, education, infrastructure, agribusiness, technology, and democratic institutions. The two sides committed themselves to institutionalizing development capacity, which is the foundation of sustainable stability, growth, and prosperity.

President Trump and President Duterte pledged to continue cooperating to promote the mutual goals of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and around the world.

Statement by the Press Secretary on Setbacks to Democracy in Cambodia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 16, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on Setbacks to Democracy in Cambodia

The United States expresses grave concern about the Cambodian government's dissolution of the country's main opposition party, the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), based on meritless and politicized allegations that it participated in a conspiracy to overthrow the government. It is becoming increasingly evident to the world that the Cambodian government's restrictions on civil society, suppression of the press, and banning of more than 100 opposition leaders from political activities have significantly set back Cambodia's democratic development and placed its economic growth and international standing at risk.

The United States will take concrete steps to respond to the Cambodian government's deeply regrettable actions. As a first step, we will terminate support for the Cambodian National Election Committee and its administration of the upcoming 2018 national election. On current course next year's election will not be legitimate, free, or fair.

The Cambodian government still has time to reverse course. We call on the Royal Government of Cambodia to undo its recent actions against the CNRP, release imprisoned CNRP leader Kem Sokha, and allow opposition parties, civil society, and the media to maintain their legitimate activities.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 24, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

The United States welcomes the announcement from Saudi Arabia and the Saudi-led coalition that it is reopening Hudaydah port and Sanaa International Airport to allow the urgent flow of humanitarian aid to the people of Yemen. Full and immediate implementation of the announced measures is a first step in ensuring that food, medicine, and fuel reach the Yemeni people and that the aid organizations on the frontlines of mitigating this humanitarian crisis are able to do their essential work. We look forward to additional steps that will facilitate the unfettered flow of humanitarian and commercial goods from all ports of entry to the points of need. The magnitude of suffering in Yemen requires all parties to this conflict to focus on assistance to those in need. All sides must support a political process with facilitating humanitarian relief as the top priority.

We remain committed to supporting Saudi Arabia and all our Gulf partners against the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' aggression and blatant violations of international law. Backed by the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Houthi rebels have used destabilizing missile systems to target Saudi Arabia—systems that were not present in Yemen before the conflict. The international community must take the necessary steps to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its repeated violations of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2216 and 2231 as the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps exploits the grave humanitarian crisis in Yemen to advance its regional ambitions. Millions of Yemenis are currently enduring severe deprivation; the United States continues to believe that this devastating conflict, and the suffering it causes, must be brought to an end through political negotiations.

Statement from the Press Secretary regarding the Attack at a Mosque in Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 24, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary regarding the Attack at a Mosque in Egypt

The United States condemns in the strongest terms today's horrific terrorist attack at a mosque in Egypt's North Sinai province. We offer our condolences to the families of those killed and wounded, and we stand with the people and government of Egypt against terrorism. There can be no tolerance for barbaric groups that claim to act in the name of a faith but attack houses of worship and murder the innocent and defenseless while at prayer. The international community must continue to strengthen its efforts to defeat terrorist groups that threaten the United States and our partners and we must collectively discredit the extremist ideology that forms the basis of their existence.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj of Libya

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 29, 2017

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj of Libya

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Fayez al-Sarraj of Libya to the White House on December 1, 2017. President Trump looks forward to discussing the bilateral ties between the United States and Libya and reaffirming the United States' support for the Government of National Accord, and commitment to helping the Libyan people realize a more stable, unified, and prosperous future. The President and the Prime Minister will also discuss the importance of the political reconciliation effort being facilitated by the United Nations within the framework of the Libyan Political Agreement, as well as counterterrorism cooperation and ways to expand bilateral engagement in several areas.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Meeting with Foreign Ministers from the Western Balkans

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

November 30, 2017

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Meeting with Foreign Ministers from the Western Balkans

Security Advisor H.R. McMaster met today at the White House with the foreign ministers of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia. They discussed how the United States and Western Balkan countries could further deepen and expand coordinated efforts to promote peace, prosperity, and the rule of law across the region, including in confronting the challenges of corruption and organized crime. They also discussed ways to deepen cooperation on combating terrorism and countering violent extremism. National Security Advisor McMaster noted that the Western Balkans continues to be a high priority for the United States and underscored that the Administration remains fully committed to the region's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and European integration efforts.

Statement by President Trump on Jerusalem

Statement by President Trump on Jerusalem

Issued on: December 6, 2017

Diplomatic Reception Room

1:07 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. When I came into office, I promised to look at the world's challenges with open eyes and very fresh thinking. We cannot solve our problems by making the same failed assumptions and repeating the same failed strategies of the past. Old challenges demand new approaches.

My announcement today marks the beginning of a new approach to conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

In 1995, Congress adopted the Jerusalem Embassy Act, urging the federal government to relocate the American embassy to Jerusalem and to recognize that that city — and so importantly — is Israel's capital. This act passed Congress by an overwhelming bipartisan majority and was reaffirmed by a unanimous vote of the Senate only six months ago.

Yet, for over 20 years, every previous American president has exercised the law's waiver, refusing to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem or to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital city.

Presidents issued these waivers under the belief that delaying the recognition of Jerusalem would advance the cause of peace. Some say they lacked courage, but they made their best judgments based on facts as they understood them at the time. Nevertheless, the record is in. After more than two decades of waivers, we are no closer to a lasting peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. It would be folly to assume that repeating the exact same formula would now produce a different or better result.

Therefore, I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

While previous presidents have made this a major campaign promise, they failed to deliver. Today, I am delivering.

I've judged this course of action to be in the best interests of the United States of America and the pursuit of peace between Israel and the Palestinians. This is a long-overdue step to advance the peace process and to work towards a lasting agreement.

Israel is a sovereign nation with the right like every other sovereign nation to determine its own capital. Acknowledging this as a fact is a necessary condition for achieving peace.

It was 70 years ago that the United States, under President Truman, recognized the State of Israel. Ever since then, Israel has made its capital in the city of Jerusalem — the capital the Jewish people established in ancient times. Today, Jerusalem is the seat of the modern Israeli government. It is the home of the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, as well as the Israeli Supreme Court. It is the

location of the official residence of the Prime Minister and the President. It is the headquarters of many government ministries.

For decades, visiting American presidents, secretaries of state, and military leaders have met their Israeli counterparts in Jerusalem, as I did on my trip to Israel earlier this year.

Jerusalem is not just the heart of three great religions, but it is now also the heart of one of the most successful democracies in the world. Over the past seven decades, the Israeli people have built a country where Jews, Muslims, and Christians, and people of all faiths are free to live and worship according to their conscience and according to their beliefs.

Jerusalem is today, and must remain, a place where Jews pray at the Western Wall, where Christians walk the Stations of the Cross, and where Muslims worship at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

However, through all of these years, presidents representing the United States have declined to officially recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. In fact, we have declined to acknowledge any Israeli capital at all.

But today, we finally acknowledge the obvious: that Jerusalem is Israel's capital. This is nothing more, or less, than a recognition of reality. It is also the right thing to do. It's something that has to be done.

That is why, consistent with the Jerusalem Embassy Act, I am also directing the State Department to begin preparation to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This will immediately begin the process of hiring architects, engineers, and planners, so that a new embassy, when completed, will be a magnificent tribute to peace.

In making these announcements, I also want to make one point very clear: This decision is not intended, in any way, to reflect a departure from our strong commitment to facilitate a lasting peace agreement. We want an agreement that is a great deal for the Israelis and a great deal for the Palestinians. We are not taking a position of any final status issues, including the specific boundaries of the Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem, or the resolution of contested borders. Those questions are up to the parties involved.

The United States remains deeply committed to helping facilitate a peace agreement that is acceptable to both sides. I intend to do everything in my power to help forge such an agreement. Without question, Jerusalem is one of the most sensitive issues in those talks. The United States would support a two-state solution if agreed to by both sides.

In the meantime, I call on all parties to maintain the status quo at Jerusalem's holy sites, including the Temple Mount, also known as Haram al-Sharif.

Above all, our greatest hope is for peace, the universal yearning in every human soul. With today's action, I reaffirm my administration's longstanding commitment to a future of peace and security for the region.

There will, of course, be disagreement and dissent regarding this announcement. But we are confident that ultimately, as we work through these disagreements, we will arrive at a peace and a place far greater in understanding and cooperation.

This sacred city should call forth the best in humanity, lifting our sights to what it is possible; not pulling us back and down to the old fights that have become so totally predictable. Peace is never beyond the grasp of those willing to reach.

So today, we call for calm, for moderation, and for the voices of tolerance to prevail over the purveyors of hate. Our children should inherit our love, not our conflicts.

I repeat the message I delivered at the historic and extraordinary summit in Saudi Arabia earlier this year: The Middle East is a region rich with culture, spirit, and history. Its people are brilliant, proud, and diverse, vibrant and strong. But the incredible future awaiting this region is held at bay by bloodshed, ignorance, and terror.

Vice President Pence will travel to the region in the coming days to reaffirm our commitment to work with partners throughout the Middle East to defeat radicalism that threatens the hopes and dreams of future generations.

It is time for the many who desire peace to expel the extremists from their midst. It is time for all civilized nations, and people, to respond to disagreement with reasoned debate — not violence.

And it is time for young and moderate voices all across the Middle East to claim for themselves a bright and beautiful future.

So today, let us rededicate ourselves to a path of mutual understanding and respect. Let us rethink old assumptions and open our hearts and minds to possible and possibilities. And finally, I ask the leaders of the region — political and religious; Israeli and Palestinian; Jewish and Christian and Muslim — to join us in the noble quest for lasting peace.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless Israel. God bless the Palestinians. And God bless the United States. Thank you very much. Thank you.

(The proclamation is signed.)

END

1:19 P.M. EST

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on Yemen

Statement by President Donald J. Trump on Yemen

Issued on: December 6, 2017

I have directed officials in my Administration to call the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to request that they completely allow food, fuel, water, and medicine to reach the Yemeni people who desperately need it. This must be done for humanitarian reasons immediately.

Statement by the Press Secretary Regarding the Violence and Humanitarian Conditions in Yemen

Statement by the Press Secretary Regarding the Violence and Humanitarian Conditions in Yemen

Issued on: December 8, 2017

The United States is gravely concerned by the recent escalation in violence and continued dire humanitarian conditions in Yemen. We urge all parties to immediately cease hostilities, reenergize political talks, and end the suffering of the Yemeni people. We condemn the Houthis' brutal repression of political opponents in Sana'a, including the killing of their former ally Ali Abdullah Salih and his family members, as well as their reckless missile attacks against the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and its partners are arming, advising, and enabling the Houthis' violent actions, which accelerate the cycle of violence and human suffering, obstruct the flow of humanitarian aid, and disrupt efforts toward a political resolution.

We call on the Saudi-led coalition to facilitate the free flow of humanitarian aid and critical commercial goods, including fuel, through all Yemeni ports and to restore commercial flights through Sana'a Airport. The Iranian-backed Houthi militias must allow food, medicine, and fuel to be distributed throughout the areas they control, rather than diverted to sustain their military campaign against the Yemeni people. This humanitarian aid must be allowed to immediately reach all points of need.

The United States continues to believe that the devastating conflict in Yemen, and the suffering it causes, must be brought to an end through political negotiations in accordance with relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions. Successful political negotiations are necessary to ensure that Yemen can flourish, free of the malign influence of Iranian-backed militias operating outside the structures of the state.

Statement from President Donald J. Trump Regarding Today's Attack in New York City

Statement from President Donald J. Trump Regarding Today's Attack in New York City

Issued on: December 11, 2017

Today's attempted mass murder attack in New York City—the second terror attack in New York in the last two months—once again highlights the urgent need for Congress to enact legislative reforms to protect the American people.

First and foremost, as I have been saying since I first announced my candidacy for President, America must fix its lax immigration system, which allows far too many dangerous, inadequately vetted people to access our country. Today's terror suspect entered our country through extended-family chain migration, which is incompatible with national security. My Executive action to restrict the entry of certain nationals from eight countries, which the Supreme Court recently allowed to take effect, is just one step forward in securing our immigration system. Congress must end chain migration. Congress must also act on my Administration's other proposals to enhance domestic security, including increasing the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers, enhancing the arrest and detention authorities for immigration officers, and ending fraud and abuse in our immigration system. The terrible harm that this flawed system inflicts on America's security and economy has long been clear. I am determined to improve our immigration system to put our country and our people first.

Second, those convicted of engaging in acts of terror deserve the strongest penalty allowed by law, including the death penalty in appropriate cases. America should always stand firm against terrorism and extremism, ensuring that our great institutions can address all evil acts of terror.

Statement by the Press Secretary on Saudi Arabia and Yemen

Statement by the Press Secretary on Saudi Arabia and Yemen

Issued on: December 21, 2017

The United States welcomes Saudi Arabia's announcement that the Saudi-led Coalition will open the Yemeni port of Hudaydah to all humanitarian and commercial goods, including fuel, and move cranes funded by the United States to Hudaydah. As the largest humanitarian donor to the people of Yemen, the United States remains committed to alleviating the dire human suffering in Yemen.

We welcome Saudi Arabia's announcement of these humanitarian actions in the face of this major conflict. The United States condemns in the strongest terms the December 19 Houthi ballistic missile attack against al-Yamamah Royal Palace in Riyadh, the seat of the Saudi Royal Court and official residence of King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Since early November, the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has also enabled Houthi missile attacks against Riyadh's international airport.

We urge the United Nations Security Council to hold Iran responsible for its repeated and blatant violations of Security Council resolutions. We call on all parties to support a political solution to the war in Yemen, which is the only way to advance long-term stability in Yemen and end the suffering of the Yemeni people.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway

Issued on: December 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump will welcome Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway to the White House on January 10, 2018. President Trump looks forward to exchanging views on the bilateral ties between the United States and Norway, and how jointly to advance regional and global security, and economic prosperity. The President and Prime Minister will discuss shared defense and security goals within NATO and the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, as well as trade and investment between the United States and Norway.

Statement from the Press Secretary on the Visit of Prime Minister Erna Solberg of Norway

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Statement by the Press Secretary on the Attack in Kabul

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Attack in Kabul
Issued on: December 28, 2017

The United States strongly condemns today's barbaric attack at a cultural and social center in Kabul, Afghanistan, and offers its deepest condolences to the victims and their families. The United States stands firmly with the government and people of Afghanistan and will work closely with the National Unity Government to bring the perpetrators of this heinous attack to justice. The enemies of Afghanistan will not succeed in their attempts to destroy the country and divide the Afghan people, who are resilient and committed to establishing peace and stability.

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Presidential Election in Liberia

Statement by the Press Secretary on the Presidential Election in Liberia
Issued on: December 29, 2017

The United States congratulates the people of Liberia on the successful conclusion of the presidential runoff election, and President-elect George Weah on his victory. This is Liberia's first peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected head of state to another in decades, and represents a major milestone for Liberia's democracy.

The United States commends the National Elections Commission for administering an orderly election process. We also recognize the important role Liberia's Supreme Court, political parties, security forces, and civil society organizations played in holding a peaceful and transparent contest, and we welcome the statements by international and domestic observer missions affirming the conduct of the election. We also thank Vice President Joseph Boakai for his positive campaign and years of honorable service to Liberia.

The United States is deeply committed to our longstanding relationship with Liberia and its people. We will continue to support the success of this historic democratic transition and the peace and prosperity of Liberia.

Statement from the White House Press Secretary

Statement from the White House Press Secretary

Issued on: December 31, 2017

We support the right of the Iranian people to express themselves peacefully. Their voices deserve to be heard. We encourage all parties to protect this fundamental right to peaceful expression and to avoid any actions that contribute to censorship.

3. РЕЛИЗЫ

President Donald J. Trump Names Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 20, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Names Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

President Donald J. Trump on Monday announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Herbert Raymond “H.R.” McMaster to serve as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

General McMaster is a graduate of West Point and received a Ph.D from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. During more than three decades of service in the United States Army, he has played key roles in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, and as a Captain in the Battle of 73 Easting during the Gulf War. General McMaster earned the Silver Star for his valor during the Gulf War. Prior to accepting the President’s appointment, he served as Director of the Army Capabilities Integration Center and as Deputy Commanding General, Futures at the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command.

“General McMaster has served with distinction in the United States Army for over three decades and will now bring that tremendous experience to his new post as my National Security Advisor,” said President Trump. “My first duty as President is to keep the American people safe. General McMaster has the knowledge and foresight necessary to provide me with expert advice as we work to protect America’s interests at home and abroad. I am pleased to welcome him to our team.”

“I am honored to serve as President Trump’s National Security Advisor,” General McMaster said. “The safety of the American people and the security of the American homeland are our top priorities. I will work tirelessly in this new role to assist the President as he addresses the complex and growing threats our country is facing around the globe.”

First Lady Melania Trump to Host Queen Rania of Jordan

THE WHITE HOUSE,
April 6, 2017.
The White House
Office of the First Lady
For Immediate Release
April 05, 2017

First Lady Melania Trump to Host Queen Rania of Jordan

First Lady Melania Trump, along with her husband President Donald J. Trump, will greet King Abdullah II and Queen Rania of Jordan at the White House. Following a brief meeting in the Oval Office, the First Lady will host Queen Rania for lunch in the residence. After lunch, the ladies will visit a local elementary school. A readout of the visit will be provided later in the day.

Further Guidance for Ivanka Trump's Visit to Germany for the W20 (Women's 20) Summit in Berlin

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 20, 2017

Further Guidance for Ivanka Trump's Visit to Germany for the W20 (Women's 20) Summit in Berlin

Ivanka Trump, First Daughter and Assistant to the President, will visit Berlin, Germany on April 25th at the direct invitation of Chancellor Angela Merkel to participate in the W20 Summit. Ivanka will join a panel conversation with other women leaders regarding Women's Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship.

Ivanka's visit to Berlin stemmed from the roundtable on Vocational Education and Workforce Development she hosted with Chancellor Merkel at the White House in March. With education and skills training being central to Ivanka and Chancellor Merkel's agenda, Ivanka will visit Siemens Technik Akademie for an interactive tour and discussion with program apprentices. In commemoration of Yom HaShoah, Ivanka will visit the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin. Ivanka will also stop by the United States Embassy in Berlin to meet Embassy staff and their families.

Tentative schedule is as follows:

11:20AM: Visit to the United States Embassy in Berlin

Press: Closed Press

Location: Pariser Platz 2

1:00PM: Participation in panel entitled "Inspiring Women: Scaling up Women's Entrepreneurship"

Press: Open Press

Location: Intercontinental Hotel Budapester Str. 2

Participants:

Queen Máxima (Netherlands)

Christine Lagarde (Managing Director, IMF)

Ivanka Trump (First Daughter of the United States)

Chrystia Freeland (Minister for Foreign Affairs, Canada)

Manuela Schwesig (Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Germany)

Nicola Leibinger-Kammüller (Chair Trumpf GmbH)

Juliana Rotich (BRCK)

Anne Finucane (Bank of America)

Moderator: Miriam Meckel, Editor-in-Chief of "Wirtschaftswoche"

3:30PM: Visit to Siemens Technik Akademie

Press: Pool – Coordinated by the Embassy, details forthcoming

Location: Nonnendammallee 104

4:40PM: Visit to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Press: Closed Press

Location: Cora-Berliner-Straße 1

8:00PM: Gala Dinner

Press: Spray at the Top

Location: Deutsche Bank Charlottenstraße 37-38

The President of the United States Will Travel to New York City to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea and to Conduct a Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 25, 2017

The President of the United States Will Travel to New York City to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea and to Conduct a Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia

On May 4th, the President will speak aboard the USS INTREPID museum in New York City to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, a major World War II naval battle in which the United States joined with Australia to halt the advance of enemy forces. That same day, at the museum, the President will also hold a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia. The President looks forward to meeting the Prime Minister and to strengthening the enduring bonds, deep friendship, and close alliance between the United States and Australia.

President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Designate Eli H. Miller as Acting Director of the Asian Development Bank and Acting United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 03, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Designate Eli H. Miller as Acting Director of the Asian Development Bank and Acting United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

President Donald J. Trump today announced his intent to designate Eli H. Miller as Acting United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, and Acting United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, until the positions are filled by appointment or subsequent designation.

Eli H. Miller of Massachusetts will be designated as Acting United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, and Acting United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, until the positions are filled by appointment or subsequent designation. Mr. Miller currently is the Chief of Staff at the Department of the Treasury. Prior to his current position, he served as Chief Operating Officer (Finance) for the Donald. J. Trump for President Campaign. He holds a Bachelor of Arts from Washington and Jefferson College and a Master in Business Administration from Case Western Reserve University.

President Donald J. Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Ecuador to attend the Inauguration of His Excellency Lenín Moreno

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Ecuador to attend the Inauguration of His Excellency Lenín Moreno

President Donald J. Trump today announced the designation of a Presidential Delegation to attend the Presidential Inauguration of His Excellency Lenín Moreno on May 24, 2017.

Mr. Michael J. Fitzpatrick, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South America, will lead the delegation.

Members of the Presidential Delegation:

The Honorable Todd Chapman, United States Ambassador to Ecuador

President Donald J. Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to Serbia to Attend the Inaugural Reception of His Excellency Aleksandar Vučić

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to Serbia to Attend the Inaugural Reception of His Excellency Aleksandar Vučić

President Donald Trump today announced the designation of a Presidential Delegation to Belgrade, Serbia to attend the Inaugural Reception of His Excellency Aleksandar Vučić, President of the Republic of Serbia on June 23, 2017.

Mr. Hoyt Yee, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of State, will lead the delegation.

Members of the Presidential Delegation:

The Honorable Kyle Scott, U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia

Mr. Mark Tervakoski, Director for Balkans, Black Sea, and Caucasus Affairs, National Security Council

United States and India: Prosperity Through Partnership

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 26, 2017

United States and India: Prosperity Through Partnership

President Donald J. Trump hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India at the White House on June 26 for an official visit to Washington, D.C.

In marking 70 years of diplomatic relations between India and the United States, the leaders resolved to expand and deepen the strategic partnership between the countries and advance common objectives. Above all, these objectives include combatting terrorist threats, promoting stability across the Indo-Pacific region, increasing free and fair trade, and strengthening energy linkages. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi expressed confidence that, together, the United States and India will provide strong leadership to address global challenges and build prosperity for their citizens in the decades to come.

Democratic Stalwarts in the Indo-Pacific Region

As responsible stewards in the Indo-Pacific region, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi agreed that a close partnership between the United States and India is central to peace and stability in the region. Recognizing the significant progress achieved in these endeavors, the leaders agreed to take further measures to strengthen their partnership. In accordance with the tenets outlined in the

U.N. Charter, they committed to a set of common principles for the region, according to which sovereignty and international law are respected and every country can prosper. To this end, the leaders:

- reiterate the importance of respecting freedom of navigation, overflight, and commerce throughout the region;

- call upon all nations to resolve territorial and maritime disputes peacefully and in accordance with international law;

- support bolstering regional economic connectivity through the transparent development of infrastructure and the use of responsible debt financing practices, while ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law, and the environment; and

- call on other nations in the region to adhere to these principles.

President Trump welcomed further Indian contributions to promote Afghanistan's democracy, stability, prosperity, and security. Recognizing the importance of their respective strategic partnerships with Afghanistan, the leaders committed to continue close consultations and cooperation in support of Afghanistan's future.

In accord with India's Think West policy, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi resolved to increase cooperation, enhance diplomatic consultations, and increase tangible collaboration with partners in the Middle East.

The leaders strongly condemned continued provocations by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), emphasizing that its destabilizing pursuit of nuclear and ballistic missile programs poses a grave threat to regional security and global peace. The leaders called on DPRK to strictly abide by its international obligations and commitments. The leaders pledged to work together to counter the DPRK's weapons of mass destruction programs, including by holding accountable all parties that support these programs.

Shoulder-to-Shoulder Against Terrorism

The Leaders stressed that terrorism is a global scourge that must be fought and terrorist safe havens rooted out in every part of the world. They resolved that India and the United States will fight together against this grave challenge to humanity. They committed to strengthen cooperation against terrorist threats from groups including Al-Qa'ida, ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, D-Company, and their affiliates. India appreciated the United States designation of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist as evidence of the commitment of the United States to end terror in all its forms. In this spirit, the leaders welcomed a new consultation mechanism on domestic and international terrorist designations listing proposals.

The leaders called on Pakistan to ensure that its territory is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries. They further called on Pakistan to expeditiously bring to justice the perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai, Pathankot, and other cross-border terrorist attacks perpetrated by Pakistan-based groups.

The leaders announced increased cooperation to prevent terrorist travel and to disrupt global recruitment efforts by expanding intelligence-sharing and operational-level counterterrorism cooperation. They welcomed commencement of the exchange of information on known and suspected terrorists for travel screening. They further resolved to strengthen information exchange on plans, movements and linkages of terrorist groups and their leaders, as well as on raising and moving of funds by terrorist groups.

The leaders also affirmed their support for a U.N. Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism that will advance and strengthen the framework for global cooperation and reinforce the message that no cause or grievance justifies terrorism. They also pledged to work together to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and to deny access to such weapons by terrorists and non-state actors.

Growing Strategic Convergence

President Trump and Prime Minister Modi pledged to deepen defense and security cooperation, building on the United States' recognition of India as a Major Defense Partner. The United States and India look forward to working together on advanced defense equipment and technology at a level commensurate with that of the closest allies and partners of the United States. Reflecting the partnership, the United States has offered for India's consideration the sale of Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial Systems, which would enhance India's capabilities and promote shared security interests.

Resolving to expand their maritime security cooperation, the leaders announced their intention to build on the implementation of their "White Shipping" data sharing arrangement, which enhances collaboration on maritime domain awareness. President Trump welcomed Prime Minister Modi's strong support for the United States to join as an Observer in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium. Noting the importance of the upcoming MALABAR naval exercise, the leaders determined to expand their engagements on shared maritime objectives and to explore new exercises.

As global nonproliferation partners, the United States expressed strong support for India's early membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement, and the Australia Group. President Trump reaffirmed the support of the United States for India's permanent membership on a reformed U.N. Security Council.

Increasing Free and Fair Trade

The leaders committed that the United States and India -- leading engines of growth in the global economy -- should intensify their economic cooperation to make their nations stronger and their citizens more prosperous. Noting that extensive economic and tax reforms launched in their respective countries will unlock immense economic opportunities for both countries, the leaders committed to further expanding and balancing the trade relationship and to removing obstacles to growth and jobs creation. They also resolved to pursue increased commercial engagement in a manner that advances the principles of free and fair trade. To this end, the United States and India plan to undertake a comprehensive review of trade relations with the goal of expediting regulatory processes; ensuring that technology and innovation are appropriately fostered, valued, and protected; and increasing market access in areas such as agriculture, information technology, and manufactured goods and services. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi further committed to strengthening cooperation to address excess capacity in industrial sectors. They called on their teams to find creative ways to improve bilateral trade.

Surveying United States-India energy ties and the two countries' respective energy strategies, the leaders affirmed the continued importance of their Strategic Energy Partnership and of leveraging new opportunities to elevate cooperation to enhance global energy security. The leaders called for a rational approach that balances environment and climate policy, global economic development, and energy security needs.

President Trump affirmed that the United States continues to remove barriers to energy development and investment in the United States and to U.S. energy exports so that more natural gas, clean coal, and renewable resources and technologies are available to fuel India's economic growth and inclusive development. Prime Minister Modi and President Trump looked forward to conclusion of contractual agreements between Westinghouse Electric Company and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India for six nuclear reactors in India and also related project financing. Both leaders welcomed upcoming visits between India and the United States that will expand energy and innovation linkages across the energy sector and deepen cooperation, including on more efficient fossil fuel technologies, smart grids, and energy storage. They supported financing of energy projects, including clean coal projects, by Multilateral Development Banks to promote universal access to affordable and reliable energy.

Recognizing that we are in an increasingly digital world, the leaders agreed to intensify the mutually beneficial partnership to fully harness their innovation capabilities to solve global

developmental challenges. As global partners, the United States and India resolved to further strengthen their collaboration in health, space, oceans, and other areas of science and technology. The leaders also agreed to strengthen their cooperation to address the growing threats and challenges from malicious cyber activity and committed to work together to promote an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable cyberspace environment that supports innovation, economic growth, and commerce.

Applauding the entrepreneurship and innovation of Indians and Indian-Americans that have directly benefited both nations, President Trump welcomed India's formal entry into the International Expedited Traveler Initiative (Global Entry program) in order to facilitate closer business and educational ties between the citizens of India and the United States.

President Trump gladly accepted Prime Minister Modi's invitation to visit India. They look forward to working together in a spirit of friendship in the years to come.

President Donald J. Trump Unleashes America's Energy Potential

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 27, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Unleashes America's Energy Potential

"Together, we are going to start a new energy revolution -- one that celebrates American production on American soil." – President Donald J. Trump

ACHIEVING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE: President Donald J. Trump has taken action in his first five months to remove unnecessary and burdensome roadblocks that would have prevented the United States from achieving energy dominance.

President Trump withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord.

According to National Economic Research Associates (NERA), by 2040 the Paris Climate Accord would have cost the economy nearly \$3 trillion and as many as 6.5 million industrial sector jobs, including 3.1 million manufacturing jobs.

President Trump directed the Environmental Protection Agency to rescind the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan.

According to NERA, the Obama plan would have increased electricity rates by as much as 14 percent, costing American households \$79 billion.

President Trump called for TransCanada to resubmit its application to build the Keystone XL Pipeline, and he then fast tracked its approval.

Construction of the Keystone pipeline is expected to support 42,100 jobs and contribute \$3.4 billion to the American economy.

President Trump ended the Obama Administration's coal leasing moratorium on Federal land. Federal land accounts for 40 percent of the nation's coal production.

According to the American Action Forum, the moratorium could have cost the country billions of dollars and killed coal industry jobs.

President Trump rescinded the Obama Administration's Stream Protection Rule.

The Stream Protection rule would have imposed \$1.2 billion in regulatory costs and added 218,000 hours of paperwork on American businesses.

The National Mining Association estimated the rule would cost 280,000 jobs across the economy.

President Trump directed the Department of the Interior to reconsider the Obama Bureau of Land Management's Hydraulic Fracturing Rule.

The Hydraulic Fracturing Rule was expected to cost the industry \$32 million a year, adding \$11,400 to the average cost of a hydraulic fracturing well.

CRITICAL TO AN AMERICAN ECONOMIC BOOM: The United States energy industry is critical to the economy and future economic growth.

The energy sector has become a leading driver in hiring American workers, currently employing 6.4 million Americans.

Last year, the energy sector added over 300,000 new jobs and is expected to add 198,000 new jobs this year.

The average annual wage of workers in the oil and gas extraction industry is over \$90,000.

Approximately 32 percent of the 6.5 million construction industry employees work on energy or energy efficiency projects.

After being a net energy importer since 1953, the United States could be a net energy exporter as soon as 2020.

The natural gas revolution in the United States means our country will be a global player in exporting liquefied natural gas.

According to the American Action Forum, natural gas exports from 2016 to 2040 could bring in \$1.6 trillion in trade value, increase workers earnings by \$110 billion, and raise \$118 billion in Federal revenue.

ENERGY POTENTIAL: While Americans have been told they would have to settle for declining energy resources, innovation and new technology have opened trillions of dollars of energy for development.

For too long, the country's energy policy has operated on the false assumption that the country was running out of energy.

In 2006, Former Vice President Al Gore claimed we are "at or near what they call peak oil."

In 2011, Former President Obama claim "we can't just drill our way out of the problem."

In reality, American innovation and technology have allowed the United States to access an increasing amount of resources.

Current estimates suggest we have 20 percent more oil than Saudi Arabia, valued at over \$13 trillion, if prices average \$50 a barrel.

The United States is on track to export an average 1 million barrels of oil a day this year, double the pace of last year.

Natural gas reserves are expected to be so large that they can meet domestic demand for almost a century.

The United States has the second largest coal reserves in the world.

PROMISE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: President Trump is following through on his promises to the American people.

On March 28, 2017, President Donald Trump said:

"We will unlock job-producing natural gas, oil, and shale energy. We will produce American coal to power American industry. We will transport American energy through American pipelines, made with American steel."

"Together, we will create millions of good American jobs -- also, so many energy jobs -- and really lead to unbelievable prosperity all throughout our country."

On June 28, 2016, then-candidate Donald Trump:

"It will be American hands that remake this country, and it will be American energy -- mined from American resources -- that powers this country."

"We are also going to fully capture America's tremendous energy capacity. This will create vast profits for our workers and begin reducing our deficit."

President Donald J. Trump Taking Action Against Illegal Immigration

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 28, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Taking Action Against Illegal Immigration

We are protecting the freedoms of law-abiding Americans, and we are going after the criminal gangs and cartels that prey on our innocent citizens.” – President Donald J. Trump

TAKING ACTION TO COMBAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION: For too long, politicians across the country have failed to enforce the immigration laws already on the books.

Just months in office, President Donald J. Trump is keeping his promises to the American people and taking action to enforce our country’s immigration laws.

President Trump’s policies have already had an impact, with 64 percent fewer apprehensions and inadmissible entries at the southwest border compared to the same time last year.

In the first 100 days after President Trump signed Executive Orders on immigration enforcement, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has seen nearly 40 percent more Enforcement and Removal Operations compared to the same time last year.

Nearly 75 percent of these illegal aliens have been convicted criminals with offenses ranging from homicide and assault to sexual abuse and drug-related charges.

Arrests of convicted criminal aliens climbed by nearly 20 percent in this time compared to the same time last year.

In fiscal year 2017, ICE has removed 2,798 criminal gang members, compared to 2,057 criminal gang members in all of fiscal year 2016.

ICE has specifically targeted MS-13 criminal gang members for removal on immigration violations.

President Trump has acted to strengthen the country’s ability to enforce the laws and stop illegal aliens at the border:

He has directed the hiring of 5,000 additional Border Patrol agents and 10,000 ICE agents.

He has ordered the construction of a wall on the southern border and prioritized funds in his budget to begin its construction.

SUPPORTING LEGISLATION TO ENFORCE OUR LAWS: President Trump is supporting legislation in Congress that begins to address sanctuary cities and aliens who repeatedly enter our country in violation of our laws.

President Trump supports the passage of the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act (H.R. 3003).

According to a recent Harvard-Harris poll, 80 percent of Americans support ending the practice of sanctuary cities that refuse to turn over criminal illegal aliens to Federal authorities.

Under the bill, States and localities that refuse to follow Federal law and that prevent law enforcement officials from cooperating with Federal authorities will no longer receive certain grants from the Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS).

Instead, States and localities that adhere to Federal law will see grants shifted towards them.

The Secretary of Homeland Security can refuse to transfer illegal aliens in DHS custody to authorities that refuse to cooperate with Federal immigration authorities.

President Trump supports the passage of Kate’s Law (H.R. 3004).

The law is named after 32-year-old Kate Steinle, who, according to law enforcement officials, was gunned down in broad daylight allegedly by a 5-time deported criminal illegal alien with seven prior felony convictions.

The law would increase the mandatory penalties for illegal aliens who re-enter the United States to up to two years in Federal prison.

Illegal aliens who re-enter the United States are eligible to up to 25 years of Federal prison.

In his efforts to help the victims of these crimes, the President ordered the creation of the Department of Homeland Security’s Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) office so the victims of the criminal acts of illegal aliens will no longer be ignored.

A PROMISE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: While running for President, Donald Trump promised the American people that he would bring law and order back to our broken immigration system.

As a Presidential candidate on August 31, 2016, President Trump said:

“We will end the sanctuary cities that have resulted in so many needless deaths. Cities that refuse to cooperate with Federal authorities will not receive taxpayer dollars, and we will work with Congress to pass legislation to protect those jurisdictions that do assist Federal authorities.”

“Countless innocent American lives have been stolen because our politicians have failed in their duty to secure our borders and enforce our laws.”

“Now is the time for all of us, as one country, Democrat and Republican, liberal and conservative, to band together to deliver justice and safety and security for all Americans

President Donald J. Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to Strasbourg, France and Speyer, Germany, to Attend the Funeral of Dr. Helmut J. M. Kohl, Former German Chancellor and Citizen of Honor of Europe

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to Strasbourg, France and Speyer, Germany, to Attend the Funeral of Dr. Helmut J. M. Kohl, Former German Chancellor and Citizen of Honor of Europe

President Donald J. Trump today announced the designation of a Presidential Delegation to Strasbourg, France and Speyer, Germany to attend the Funeral of Dr. Helmut J. M. Kohl, Former German Chancellor and Citizen of Honor of Europe on July 1, 2017.

The Honorable Daniel Ray Coats, Director of National Intelligence and former Ambassador to Germany, will lead the delegation.

Members of the Presidential Delegation:

Mr. Kent D. Logsdon, Charge d’Affaires ad interim, United States Embassy in Berlin, Germany

Mr. Conrad Tribble, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau for European and Eurasian Affairs, United States Department of State

Donald J. Trump Administration Welcomes Israeli-Palestinian Deal to Implement the Red-Dead Water Agreement

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 13, 2017

Donald J. Trump Administration Welcomes Israeli-Palestinian Deal to Implement the Red-Dead Water Agreement

The United States welcomes the agreement reached by the Palestinian Authority and Israeli government about the Palestinian allocation of water from the Red-Dead Sea Conveyance Project to the Palestinian Authority in the amount of 32 million cubic meters (MCM) (22 MCM for the West Bank and 10 MCM for the Gaza Strip). This agreement falls under the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2013 by Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority. The MOU establishes the Red-Dead Sea Conveyance Project, which involves construction of a desalination plant in Aqaba that will provide fresh water to Jordan and Israel and convey brine to the Dead Sea

to reduce its rate of decline. The Project also involves Israel supplying additional water to Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

Under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump, Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt successfully supported the Israeli and Palestinian efforts to bridge the gaps and reach an agreement on this vital issue. President Trump has made it clear that working towards achieving a lasting peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians is a top priority for him, and he strongly believes that peace is possible. The Administration has urged the parties to undertake efforts to promote an environment that is conducive to advancing peace, and this new agreement, the second major Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed this week, is another indication that the parties are capable of working together to achieve mutually beneficial results.

President Donald J. Trump Signs H.R. 3364 into Law

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 02, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Signs H.R. 3364 into Law

On Wednesday, August 2, 2017, the President signed into law:

H.R. 3364, the "Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act," which strengthens and expands statutory sanctions on Iran, Russia, and North Korea, and for other purposes.

President Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan to attend the 2017 Astana Expo

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 15, 2017

President Trump Announces Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan to attend the 2017 Astana Expo

President Donald J. Trump today announced the designation of a Presidential Delegation to the Republic of Kazakhstan to attend the EXPO International Fair on "Future Energy" in the city of Astana on August 28, 2017.

The Honorable Rick Perry, Secretary of Energy, will lead the delegation.

Members of the Presidential Delegation:

The Honorable George Krol, United States Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan

The Honorable Kevin Cramer (R-ND, At-Large District), U.S. House of Representatives

Mr. Ray W. Washburne, President and CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation

Ms. Lisa Curtis, Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Director for South and Central Asia, National Security Council

Mr. Ronald J. Pollett, Vice President of General Electric, President and CEO of General Electric Russia/CIS

Announcement of President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Travel to Asia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

September 29, 2017

Announcement of President Donald J. Trump's Upcoming Travel to Asia

President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump will travel to Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Hawaii from November 3-14, 2017. The President will participate in a series of bilateral, multilateral, and cultural engagements—including the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit—demonstrating his continued commitment to the alliances and partnerships of the United States in the region. President Trump will discuss the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific region to America's prosperity and security. He will also emphasize the importance of fair and reciprocal economic ties with America's trade partners. The President's engagements will strengthen the international resolve to confront the North Korean threat and ensure the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

President Donald J. Trump's New Strategy on Iran

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's New Strategy on Iran

"It is time for the entire world to join us in demanding that Iran's government end its pursuit of death and destruction." – President Donald J. Trump

President Donald J. Trump, in consultation with his national security team, has approved a new strategy for Iran. It is the culmination of nine months of deliberation with Congress and our allies on how to best protect American security.

HIGHLIGHTS

Core Elements of the President's New Iran Strategy

- The United States' new Iran strategy focuses on neutralizing the Government of Iran's destabilizing influence and constraining its aggression, particularly its support for terrorism and militants.
- We will revitalize our traditional alliances and regional partnerships as bulwarks against Iranian subversion and restore a more stable balance of power in the region.
- We will work to deny the Iranian regime – and especially the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) – funding for its malign activities, and oppose IRGC activities that extort the wealth of the Iranian people.
- We will counter threats to the United States and our allies from ballistic missiles and other asymmetric weapons.
- We will rally the international community to condemn the IRGC's gross violations of human rights and its unjust detention of American citizens and other foreigners on specious charges.
- Most importantly, we will deny the Iranian regime all paths to a nuclear weapon.

BACKGROUND

The Nature of the Iranian Regime under Supreme Leader Khamenei

- For 28 years, Ali Khamenei has been Iran's Supreme Leader. Before that, he held the office of President for 8 years. In that time, he has shaped the Iranian regime in his image.
- Khamenei and the IRGC have pursued a steady policy of spreading a revolutionary ideology aimed at undermining the international system and many states by force and subversion. His main enemy and rallying point has been and continues to be the United States of America, which he calls the Great Satan.

- Under Khamenei, Iran exports violence, destabilizes its neighbors, and sponsors terrorism abroad. Within Iran, under Khamenei's rule the Iranian government has oppressed its people, abusing their rights, restricting their access to the internet and the outside world, rigging elections, shooting student protesters in the street, and imprisoning political reformers like Mir Hussein Musavi and Mehdi Karroubi.

The Threats from the Iranian Regime

- The reckless behavior of the Iranian regime, and the IRGC in particular, poses one of the most dangerous threats to the interests of the United States and to regional stability.

- The Iranian regime has taken advantage of regional conflicts and instability to aggressively expand its regional influence and threaten its neighbors with little domestic or international cost for its actions.

- This occurred most recently following the emergence of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) from the vacuum created by the Obama administration's ill-considered withdrawal from the region.

- The full range of the Iranian regime's malign activities extends well beyond the nuclear threat it poses, including:

- o Ballistic missile development and proliferation;

- o Material and financial support for terrorism and extremism;

- o Support for the Assad regime's atrocities against the Syrian people;

- o Unrelenting hostility to Israel;

- o Consistently threatening freedom of navigation, especially in the strategically vital Persian Gulf;

- o Cyber-attacks against the United States, Israel, and America's other allies and partners in the Middle East;

- o Grievous human rights abuses; and

- o Arbitrary detention of foreigners, including United States citizens, on specious charges and without due process.

The Need for a Comprehensive Strategy

- The previous Administration's myopic focus on Iran's nuclear program to the exclusion of the regime's many other malign activities allowed Iran's influence in the region to reach a high-water mark.

- Over the last decade and a half, United States policy has also consistently prioritized the immediate threat of Sunni extremist organizations over the longer-term threat of Iranian-backed militancy.

- In doing so, the United States has neglected Iran's steady expansion of proxy forces and terrorist networks aimed at keeping its neighbors weak and unstable in hopes of dominating the greater Middle East. Recently, the Iranian regime has accelerated the seeding of these networks with increasingly destructive weapons as they try to establish a bridge from Iran to Lebanon and Syria.

- The Trump Administration will not repeat these mistakes.

- The Trump Administration's Iran policy will address the totality of these threats from and malign activities by the Government of Iran and will seek to bring about a change in the Iranian's regime's behavior.

- The Trump Administration will accomplish these objectives through a strategy that neutralizes and counters Iranian threats, particularly those posed by the IRGC.

Countering the IRGC

- Supreme Leader Khamenei's primary tool and weapon in remaking Iran into a rogue state has been the hardline elements of the IRGC.

- The IRGC's stated purpose is to subvert the international order. The IRGC's power and influence have grown over time, even as it has remained unaccountable to the Iranian people,

answering only to Khamenei. It is hard to find a conflict or a suffering people in the Middle East that the IRGC's tentacles do not touch.

- Unaccountable to Iran's elected leaders or its people, the IRGC has tried to gain control over large portions of Iran's economy and choke off competition, all the while working to weaken and undermine Iran's neighbors and perpetuate the chaos and instability in which it thrives.

- The IRGC has armed Bashar al Assad and guided his butchering of his own people in Syria and has cynically condoned his use of chemical weapons.

- The IRGC has sought to undermine the fight against ISIS with the influence of militant groups in Iraq under the IRGC's control.

In Yemen, the IRGC has attempted to use the Houthis as puppets to hide Iran's role in using sophisticated missiles and explosive boats to attack innocent civilians in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as to restrict freedom of navigation in the Red Sea.

- The IRGC has even threatened terrorist attacks right here at home. Senior IRGC commanders plotted the murder of Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the United States, Adel Jubeir, on American soil in 2011. But for exceptional work by our law enforcement and intelligence officers to detect and disrupt this egregious act, the IRGC would have conducted this terrorist attack and assassination in our own capital and would have killed not only a Saudi Arabian diplomat, but a host of other innocent bystanders at a popular restaurant in Washington, D.C.

- The IRGC, which repeatedly displays reckless hostility and disregard for the laws and norms that underpin the international order, threatens all nations and the global economy.

- Our partners in the international community agree with us that the IRGC's reckless behavior threatens international peace and security. They agree that the IRGC is fanning sectarianism and perpetuating regional conflict. They agree that the IRGC is engaged in corrupt economic practices that exploit the Iranian people and suppress internal dissent, human rights, and Iran's economic prosperity.

- For all these reasons, we want to work with our partners to constrain this dangerous organization, for the benefit of international peace and security, regional stability, and the Iranian people.

The Iranian Nuclear Program and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

- The Iranian regime's activities severely undercut whatever positive contributions to "regional and international peace and security" the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) sought to achieve.

- Even with regard to JCPOA itself, the Iranian regime has displayed a disturbing pattern of behavior, seeking to exploit loopholes and test the international community's resolve.

- Iranian military leaders have stated publicly that they will refuse to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections of their military sites. These statements fly in the face of Iran's commitments under JCPOA and the Additional Protocol. Not long ago these same organizations hid nuclear facilities on military sites.

- This behavior cannot be tolerated; the deal must be strictly enforced, and the IAEA must fully utilize its inspection authorities.

President Donald J. Trump's Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 06, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Summit Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump commenced his trip to Asia with a visit to Japan that began on November 5 and will conclude tomorrow on November 7. During the visit, the President met with American and Japanese military service members, participated in bilateral meetings and social events with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, met their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, engaged Japanese and American business leaders, and met with the families of Japanese citizens abducted by the North Korean regime. The President congratulated Prime Minister Abe on his recent electoral victory and reaffirmed his desire to continue working closely with Japan.

President Trump's trip and summit meeting with Prime Minister Abe bolstered the United States-Japan Alliance; strengthened our shared resolve to maximize pressure on North Korea, including through trilateral cooperation with the Republic of Korea; boosted United States-Japan economic engagement; and aligned our strategic priorities toward a shared vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. President Trump reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the United States to Japan's defense through the full range of U.S. military capabilities, both nuclear and conventional.

President Trump thanked Prime Minister Abe for his role in the international pressure campaign toward North Korea, noting that Japan has been at the forefront of efforts at the U.N. Security Council and worldwide to develop and apply measures to politically and economically isolate North Korea in response to its unlawful nuclear and missile development programs.

President Trump affirmed the importance of strengthening bilateral economic, trade, and investment ties. The President noted the importance of expanding trade and foreign direct investment between our two countries to strengthen economic growth and job creation. The President underscored his ongoing concern regarding the United States-Japan trade deficit in goods, which was \$68.8 billion in 2016, and emphasized the importance of taking steps to address this matter and to achieve more balanced trade.

President Trump reaffirmed the unwavering support of the United States for Japan's permanent membership on a reformed U.N. Security Council.

The President welcomed recent steps the United States and Japan have taken to strengthen their security, economic, scientific, and cultural relationship, which include the following:

- In light of regional strategic threats exemplified by the recent unlawful North Korean nuclear tests and two missile launches over Japan, President Trump underscored the commitment of the United States to provide highly sophisticated defensive equipment to Japan, particularly in the area of ballistic missile defense to ensure the readiness and effectiveness of the Japanese Self Defense Forces. The President also welcomed Japan's efforts to expand its roles and augment its capabilities within the Alliance.

- President Trump and Prime Minister Abe reiterated their strong commitment to boost trilateral cooperation with the Republic of Korea in the face of the North Korean threat on anti-submarine warfare, ballistic missile defense, mine sweeping, and information sharing. The United States has already conducted joint exercises with Japan and the Republic of Korea in 2017. The two leaders announced new avenues for engagement to improve aviation and maritime interoperability and coordination.

- President Trump and Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed their commitment to the realignment of the United States forces in Japan, so United States forces maintain operational and deterrent capability, while mitigating the impact on local communities. The leaders reconfirmed that relocation of Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Futenma to Henokosaki is the only solution that avoids the continued use of MCAS Futenma and called for the steady implementation of the construction plan for the Futenma Replacement Facility (FRF), noting the adverse impact of further delays on the ability of the Alliance to provide for peace and security.

- President Trump and Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed their strong commitment to enhance United States-Japan cyber cooperation. The President emphasized North Korea's increasingly disruptive activities in cyberspace, including the repeated targeting of government and military networks as well as networks of private entities and critical infrastructure. As the United States and

Japan recognize the need for expanded cooperation, including with other allies and partners, President Trump and Prime Minister Abe endorsed strengthening United States-Japan coordination on cyber issues, including through the next rounds of the United States-Japan Cyber Dialogue and the United States-Japan-Republic of Korea Cyber Trilateral meeting.

- On the South China Sea, the President underscored the critical importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes, unimpeded lawful commerce, and respect for international law, including freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, and discussed shared concerns over militarization of South China Sea outposts.

- On October 16, 2017, the United States and Japan held the second round of the United States-Japan Economic Dialogue between Vice President Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Aso. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe discussed promoting balanced trade, including across the Indo-Pacific, by taking additional steps bilaterally to advance these objectives. Building on outcomes already achieved under the United States-Japan Economic Dialogue, President Trump recognized further steps taken by Japan in the areas of automotive standards and governmental financial incentives for motor vehicles, as well as efforts to strengthen the transparency of deliberations affecting the life sciences industry, as signs of continuing progress on bilateral trade issues. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe decided to accelerate engagement on trade in ways that expand the potential of the bilateral trade relationship.

- The President noted that Japanese companies have invested more than \$400 billion in the United States, and Japanese investment in the United States is growing at 8.9 percent per year. United States subsidiaries of Japanese-owned firms employ more than 850,000 workers in the United States, nearly half in the manufacturing sector. Just last month, Denso, a Japanese automotive components manufacturer, announced a \$1 billion investment at its Maryville, Tennessee location, which will create more than 1,000 jobs. Since January 2017, Japanese companies have announced investments expected to amount to more than \$8.3 billion in over 100 projects in the United States that will create more than 17,000 jobs.

- President Trump and Prime Minister Abe affirmed that infrastructure projects in the Indo-Pacific should be consistent with market competition and transparency, responsible financing arrangements, open and fair market access, and high standards of good governance. President Trump took note of United States-Japan cooperation to support high-quality infrastructure development in third countries through fair and equal commercial partnerships and public-private collaboration. On November 7, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation will sign memoranda of understanding with its Japanese counterpart agencies, to establish a cooperative framework to provide finance, guarantees, or insurance for joint United States-Japan infrastructure investments in the Indo-Pacific region.

- President Trump and Prime Minister Abe launched the Japan-United States Strategic Energy Partnership within the framework of the United States-Japan Economic Dialogue. The United States and Japan believe open, competitive energy markets are the best way to ensure secure, reliable, and resilient energy supplies. They plan to cooperate on fostering the development and use of advanced energy technologies, encouraging an efficient, transparent global natural gas market, and promoting the development and integration of energy-related infrastructure. On November 6, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency signed a memorandum of cooperation to enhance collaboration with the Ministry of Economy, Trade, and Industry to build the capacity of third countries' to select high quality energy infrastructure solutions.

- The two leaders took note of the long history of bilateral space cooperation and reaffirmed the strategic value of a multi-agency approach to strengthening cooperation in national security, commercial, and civil space activities. President Trump noted that the United States looks forward to continued strong cooperation with Japan, including when Tokyo hosts the second International Space Exploration Forum on March 3, 2018.

- The leaders took note of bilateral health cooperation and the memorandum of cooperation the United States and Japan signed this year to promote research and exchanges in health and biomedical sciences and develop cooperation in healthcare delivery. The leaders reiterated their commitment to build global capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious disease threats, including under the Global Health Security Agenda.

- President Trump noted the memorandum of cooperation the United States and Japan signed this year to facilitate cooperation regarding the challenges associated with an aging population and housing market stability. This cooperation enables joint research on approaches to allow seniors to remain in their own homes and “age in place.”

- President Trump praised the strong United States-Japan people-to-people relations, including two new sister-city relationships between the cities of Birmingham, Alabama and Maebashi, Gunma Prefecture, and Chattanooga, Tennessee and Tono, Iwate Prefecture in 2017, bringing the total number of sister-city relationships to almost 450. Thirty-seven Japan-America Society chapters in the United States are sustained by business ties to Japan. The United States-Japan Fulbright Program, supported by the two governments, has been a cornerstone of cooperation for more than 60 years. Last year, Japanese students added \$620 million to the United States economy.

President Donald J. Trump's Visit to Japan Strengthens the United States-Japan Alliance and Economic Partnership

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Visit to Japan Strengthens the United States-Japan Alliance and Economic Partnership

“For almost 60 years, our alliance has endured as a cornerstone of sovereignty, security, and prosperity for our nations, this region, and indeed the world.” – President Donald J. Trump

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL RESOLVE TO DENUCLEARIZE NORTH KOREA: President Donald J. Trump strengthened international resolve to address the security challenges presented by North Korea.

- The two leaders renewed their commitment to address unprecedented security challenges from North Korea.

- The President underscored his commitment to enhancing Japan’s defense capabilities as part of our commitments to the Alliance and to making available advanced defensive equipment.

- The President pledged to protect the people of Japan, as emphasized in remarks to American and Japanese troops at Yokota Airbase and at his press conference with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

- The President and the First Lady met with families of Japanese nationals abducted by the North Korean regime.

PROMOTE A FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC REGION: President Trump advanced high-standard rules so the Indo-Pacific region can continue to develop and prosper.

- The United States and Japan reaffirmed their mutual commitment to promoting prosperity and development of the Indo-Pacific region by fostering a secure environment and developing high-standard rules.

- On November 7, 2017, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation will sign Memoranda of Understanding with Japanese partners to offer high-quality United States-Japan infrastructure investment alternatives in the Indo-Pacific region.

- The United States and Japan launched the Japan-United States Strategic Energy Partnership to promote universal access to affordable and reliable energy in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

- On November 6, 2017, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to help bring high-quality energy infrastructure solutions to the Indo-Pacific region.

ADVANCE AMERICA'S PROSPERITY: President Trump promoted American prosperity and trade, including new investments that will employ thousands of American workers.

- President Trump and Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed their commitment to fostering strong domestic, demand-driven growth and fair trade practices that result in more balanced trade.

- The President delivered clear public messages on the need for balanced trade and greater market access commitments from Japan.

- Toyota and Mazda announced a \$1.6 billion investment in a new manufacturing plant in the United States that will create an estimated 4,000 jobs.

- Japan committed to taking new trade actions in the areas of motor vehicles and life sciences innovation.

- The two leaders affirmed their commitment to continuing space cooperation at the Second International Space Exploration Forum and at the next Comprehensive Space Dialogue.

- The two leaders committed to enhancing cyber cooperation to counter threats from increasingly harmful and disruptive activities in cyberspace.

Joint Press Release by the United States of America and the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 08, 2017

Joint Press Release by the United States of America and the Republic of Korea

President Donald J. Trump's State Visit to the Republic of Korea

On November 7-8, President Donald J. Trump made the first state visit to the Republic of Korea by a United States President in 25 years. The President participated in an official state dinner at the Cheongwadae and his third bilateral summit with Republic of Korea President Moon Jae-in, addressed the National Assembly, and met with American and South Korean military service members. President Trump laid a wreath at the National Cemetery honoring those South Koreans who gave their lives to defend and support their country during the Korean War and reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the United States to the Republic of Korea's defense. President Trump highlighted that the United States-Republic of Korea Alliance, built upon mutual trust and shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, remains a linchpin for security, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. The two leaders stressed the Alliance had matured over more than six decades into a multi-pillared relationship including security cooperation, economic partnership, people-to-people ties, and global leadership.

President Trump and President Moon pledged to maintain close consultation, coordination, and cooperation on North Korea policy. The two presidents urged North Korea to abandon its illicit weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs, which deepen its diplomatic isolation and economic hardship. The two presidents affirmed their full support and commitment to the coordinated global pressure to bring North Korea back to authentic and credible denuclearization talks. The two leaders noted that North Korea now poses a threat to the entire world and committed to faithfully and thoroughly implement all relevant U.N. Security Council Resolutions, including 2371 and 2375. President Trump welcomed President Moon's recent efforts to harmonize sanctions designations by the Republic of Korea and the United States. President Trump emphasized that his

top priority is protecting the United States and our allies against North Korean aggression, and remains prepared to use the full range of United States military capabilities, both nuclear and conventional, to defend against the growing threat from North Korea. President Trump and President Moon committed on the need for China to exert its unique leverage to make a diplomatic solution possible. President Trump and President Moon discussed North Korea's malicious cyber activities and emphasized efforts to enhance cyber cooperation, including through the United States-Republic of Korea Cyber Dialogue. The two presidents condemned North Korea's egregious human rights record and committed to continue to compelling North Korea to respect its people's human rights, including through cooperation with international organizations. President Trump and President Moon reaffirmed that the United States and Republic of Korea stand ready to support a brighter future for North Korea if it chooses the right path.

Defense Measures and Foreign Military Sales: In response to the North Korea threat, President Trump and President Moon decided to further strengthen the United States-Republic of Korea Alliance defensive posture and capabilities through the acquisition of advanced military equipment and the enhanced deployment of United States strategic military assets in and around the Republic on a rotational basis.

- President Trump and President Moon acknowledged the desire for equitable cost sharing of United States military forces stationed in the Republic of Korea and noted the more than \$9 billion contribution from the Republic of Korea to the Camp Humphreys expansion. The two leaders intend to continue to strengthen the Alliance's combined defense posture and capabilities, including through defense cost-sharing measures in the upcoming Special Measures Agreement discussions.

- President Trump acknowledged the Republic of Korea's adoption of its Revised Missile Guidelines 2017 to remove payload restrictions on Republic of Korea ballistic missiles to combat the nature of the North Korean threat. President Trump highlighted the successful Alliance deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile defense system.

- President Trump and President Moon reiterated their intent to boost trilateral security cooperation with Japan for enhanced deterrence and defense against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. The two leaders committed to continue trilateral exercises on missile warning and anti-submarine warfare, as well as to expand information sharing and to enhance joint response capabilities against the North Korean threat. President Trump and President Moon noted that in an effort to modernize the military, and in part to meet the Alliance's operational requirements, the Republic of Korea made more than \$13 billion in military purchases over the past three years from the United States through the Foreign Military Sales and Direct Commercial Sales systems.

- President Moon shared his plan to substantially increase defense spending by 2022, which will help cover the Republic of Korea's financial commitments made by past administrations to major United States origin programs such as F-35A Joint Strike Fighter, KF-16 Fighter Jets upgrade, Patriot PAC-3 ballistic missile defense upgrade, AH-64E Apache heavy attack helicopter, Global Hawk high-altitude UAV, and AEGIS combat systems. President Trump reaffirmed his support for the Republic of Korea's acquisition and development of highly advanced military assets, including advanced reconnaissance systems.

Economics, Trade, and Investment: President Trump and President Moon affirmed the importance of strengthening United States-Republic of Korea economic, trade, and investment ties. President Trump underscored the need to rebalance KORUS FTA in order to reduce the substantial United States trade deficit with the Republic of Korea and to achieve more expanded, balanced and reciprocal trade. President Trump and President Moon instructed their trade officials to conclude an improved agreement expeditiously.

- During the President's visit to the Republic of Korea, at the Republic of Korea Chamber of Commerce Business Roundtable on November 8, 42 ROK companies announced their intent to implement 64 projects in the United States over the next four years (2017-2021) valued at \$17.3

billion. Twenty-four South Korean companies announced planned purchases of U.S. goods and services valued at \$57.5 billion, to include \$22.8 billion in energy purchases.

- Republic of Korea foreign direct investment (FDI) in the United States has nearly doubled since 2011 from \$19.7 billion to \$38.8 billion in 2016 – making the ROK the second largest Asian source of foreign direct investment into the United States. ROK firms support nearly 52,000 U.S. jobs. According to the announcements made by Korean firms concerned, major recent investments by South Korean firms include: \$3.1 billion by Lotte Chemical to build a petrochemical facility in Louisiana; \$800 million by Hankook Tire to build a new factory in Clarksville, Tennessee, employing 1,800 people; and \$370 million by SK in Texas in the manufacturing of ethylene acrylic acid.

- Additional planned investments announced recently include \$300 million by LG Electronics for a new facility in New Jersey by 2019, and new investments in major research and development facilities by Samsung and others in California and expansion of Samsung's semiconductor fabrication facility in Austin, Texas, making it the largest single foreign investment in the United States.

Global Partnership: President Trump and President Moon affirmed that United States-Republic of Korea cooperation on global issues is an indispensable and expanding aspect of our Alliance and decided to advance future-oriented cooperation through high-level consultations in the areas of energy, science and technology, space, environment, and health. They announced a new Partnership in Energy Security, Health Security, and Women's Economic Empowerment.

- The United States and Republic of Korea support universal access to affordable and reliable energy, which supports job creation, enhances security, and promotes economic growth. The Korea Gas Corp. (KOGAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Alaska Gasline Development Corp. that establishes a cooperative framework for the development of Alaska's natural gas infrastructure. KOGAS also signed an MOU with Lake Charles LNG Export Company, LLC, to review a potential liquefaction project. The Republic of Korea's SK Group signed a long-term agreement with Continental Resources to develop Oklahoma's unconventional hydrocarbon fields that could lead to new exports of American energy.

- Both countries committed to continue demonstrating leadership within the Global Health Security Agenda and each country recognized the benefits of combining efforts to combat the spread of infectious diseases, conduct joint research, and share information and best practices.

- The two countries committed to working together to support the important economic role that women play in their societies, including launching an initiative to promote women's entrepreneurship and women in STEM, both domestically and in developing countries.

- President Trump and President Moon decided to convene a multilateral, non-military regional dialogue on disaster management planning and support efforts in U.N. peacekeeping operations, the refugee crisis and other humanitarian crises, Afghanistan, Syria, counterpiracy, and counter terrorism and violent extremism.

- President Trump congratulated President Moon on the upcoming February 2018 Winter Olympics in PyeongChang, and highlighted United States support for a successful Olympic Games.

- President Trump expressed his appreciation for President Moon's hospitality during his visit to the Republic of Korea. The two leaders stated that they look forward to meeting again to continue close coordination on North Korea and other important bilateral issues at a mutually convenient time.

President Donald J. Trump's Visit to the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

November 08, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Visit to the Republic of Korea

“Together, our two nations will handle threats to peace and security, stand up to those who would threaten our freedom, and boldly seize the incredible opportunities for a better, brighter, and more prosperous tomorrow.” – President Donald J. Trump

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL RESOLVE TO DENUCLEARIZE NORTH KOREA: President Donald J. Trump strengthened international resolve to address the security challenges presented by North Korea.

- The United States and Republic of Korea urged North Korea to abandon its illicit weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs that deepen its diplomatic and economic isolation.

- The United States and Republic of Korea reaffirmed their commitment to the Maximum Pressure Campaign to bring North Korea back to the path of denuclearization.

- President Trump emphasized the United States’ priority of defending the Republic of Korea against North Korean aggression, and reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to enhancing United States strategic asset deployment on a rotational basis.

- President Trump and President Moon welcomed the adoption of the Republic of Korea’s Revised Missile Guidelines (2017) to remove Republic of Korea missile payload restrictions to combat the North Korean threat.

- The two leaders pledged to boost trilateral security cooperation with Japan for enhanced deterrence and defense against North Korean aggression.

PROMOTE A FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC REGION: President Trump strengthened the United States-Republic of Korea alliance, which contributes to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

- The President delivered clear public messages that the United States-Republic of Korea alliance, which is built on mutual trust and shared values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law, remains the linchpin of security, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

- President Trump and President Moon committed to strengthening alliance defense and deterrence capabilities, including through the Republic of Korea’s acquisition and development of highly advanced military assets to counter North Korean aggression, which now threatens the entire world.

ADVANCE AMERICA’S PROSPERITY: President Trump promoted American prosperity and trade, including through new investments and energy sales that will lead to more American jobs.

- The two leaders stated their commitment to improving the Korea-United States Free Trade Agreement (KORUS) and to reducing the United States’ trade deficit with the Republic of Korea and achieving balanced and reciprocal trade between the two countries.

- On November 8, Republic of Korea companies announced 64 new projects, worth over \$17 billion, in the United States over the next four years and plans to purchase \$58 billion in United States goods and services, including \$23 billion in energy purchases.

- President Trump and President Moon praised robust Korean investment in the United States, which will result in thousands of jobs for Americans.

President Donald J. Trump's State Visit to China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 10, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's State Visit to China

From November 8th through 10th, China hosted President Donald J. Trump on an official state visit, at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. President Trump and President Xi had candid and in-depth conversations about United States-China relations, as well as international and regional issues of mutual concern. The two presidents affirmed that the United States-China relationship is shaped by shared interests and a common commitment to addressing global challenges. Both leaders committed to expand areas of cooperation and generate positive outcomes for the benefit of the citizens of both countries. They committed to directly and frankly address areas of differences, with the aim of solving or narrowing them. The two sides also discussed the progress of United States-China relations since the presidential meeting in Florida in April.

During their April meeting, the two presidents set up the United States-China Comprehensive Dialogue with four pillars: the Diplomatic and Security Dialogue; the Comprehensive Economic Dialogue; the Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity Dialogue; and the Social and Cultural Dialogue. Each of these dialogues have met since April, to prepare for President Trump's state visit and produce meaningful results.

During this visit, President Trump raised his concerns about the North Korean nuclear program. The two sides committed to upholding the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the goal of full, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and stated that they will not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapons state. Both sides recognized that North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile tests violate relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions, and affirmed a commitment to keep up pressure to curb these programs, including through full and strict implementation of relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. Both sides will work toward resolving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through dialogue and to addressing the reasonable concerns of all parties. Both sides affirmed they will maintain communication about the Korean Peninsula situation and the steps that the United States and China ought to take, and will continue to strengthen communication and cooperation through existing mechanisms.

The United States and China committed to maintain communication regarding macroeconomic policy topics, including fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies; respective structural reforms; and global economic governance-related issues. The United States and China intend to jointly promote a strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive global growth.

The two presidents recognized the importance of United States-China economic relations to both nations' prosperity and to the international trading system. During the visit, companies of the two nations signed trade and investment deals worth more than \$250 billion. These deals will create jobs for American workers, farmers, and ranchers by increasing United States exports to China and stimulating investment in American communities.

President Trump underscored the importance of rebalancing the bilateral economic relationship, emphasizing the need for a more equitable relationship that strengthens American jobs and exports. He called on China to guarantee fair and reciprocal treatment to United States companies, provide greater market access to United States exports and firms, and accelerate the implementation of market-oriented reforms to reduce the bilateral trade deficit. The President emphasized that Chinese government intervention in the Chinese economy has caused stresses in the global trading system. He reiterated that the United States will use all available trade remedies to create a level playing field for United States workers and businesses.

The two presidents announced their plans to enhance cooperation in combatting drugs, including synthetic opioids. The United States and China committed to quickly take steps to regulate and control two fentanyl precursors. Both sides committed to discuss the possibility of scheduling fentanyl as a class; coordinating on international drug policy, such as scheduling ketamine under U.N. conventions; enhancing precursors control and intelligence sharing; conducting case cooperation on mailed packages containing drugs and precursors; and exchanging

tracking information on packages between the United States and China, so as to identify individuals and criminal networks responsible for trafficking.

Both sides committed to enhancing cooperation on cybercrime cases and network protection, including by responding to outstanding requests for assistance and enforcement actions, in particular those cases involving cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, the use of the internet by terrorists for criminal activities, and online firearm trafficking and online child pornography. The United States and China committed to fulfilling responsibilities under the U.N. law enforcement and terrorism conventions, as well as under the United States-China Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement, to prevent either country from becoming a safe haven for fugitives and to provide cooperation and mutual legal assistance in response to law enforcement requests, including cooperation with regards to business email compromise cases. Both sides committed to coordinating all law enforcement activities on each other's territory, and cooperating in investigations of uncoordinated activity. In order to better enhance law enforcement cooperation, both sides recognized the need to carry forward working-level mechanisms to resolve outstanding issues.

The two presidents confirmed plans to establish a repeatable process of repatriation of illegal immigrants by the date agreed upon at the Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity Dialogue.

The two presidents also reaffirmed the 2015 commitments on cybersecurity, and they emphasized the need for full cooperation into investigations of potentially contravening activity. They pledged to work together to prevent and mitigate the malicious exploitation of their networks by third countries.

The two sides reaffirmed the importance of the military-to-military relationship and reducing the risk of miscalculation between our two militaries. The two sides plan to organize an early exchange of high-level visits, with Secretary of Defense James Mattis visiting China in 2018 and a senior high-level Chinese military delegation visiting the United States, also in 2018. The two sides committed to working together to hold exchanges on space security, cyberspace, and nonproliferation before the next round of the Diplomatic and Security Dialogue. Both sides expressed readiness to deepen practical nonproliferation cooperation.

The two sides candidly discussed regional and maritime security. President Trump underscored the critical importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes, unimpeded lawful commerce, and respect for international law in the East and South China Sea, including freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, and raised concerns about militarization of outposts in the South China Sea.

To enhance regional and global security, the United States discussed measures to support a stable and prosperous Afghanistan and promote Afghanistan-Pakistan cooperation, including addressing these issues in the Quadrilateral Coordination Group. The United States and China plan to jointly engage states in the Middle East about promoting these goals and taking measures against terrorist groups that threaten regional stability.

The two leaders affirmed their commitment to strengthening bilateral cooperation on nuclear security and countering nuclear smuggling, and continuing to support the global nuclear security architecture. The United States and China reaffirmed their commitment to enhance regional capacity building through the China Nuclear Security Centre of Excellence and the China Customs Training Centre for Radiation Detection, and preventing terrorists and criminals from acquiring nuclear or other radioactive materials, including by enhancing the security of radioactive sources.

Trump and President Xi committed to create an environment enabling their two peoples to promote mutual understanding and enjoy productive exchange. The two sides had a candid exchange of views on human rights and the United States side highlighted the role that the free flow of information, including citizens' access to media, plays in fostering mutual understanding.

Both sides affirmed the important role that civil society organizations play in furthering social and economic development and people-to-people ties. The United States looks forward to consultations with China on the Foreign NGO Management Law by the end of the year.

The two sides decided to carry out joint projects on HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. Both sides plan to continue to implement the International Health Regulations and carry out their National Action Plans on Anti-Microbial Resistance. The two sides committed to setting up a clear process and timeline to rapidly and continuously share influenza viruses with human pandemic potential. The two sides committed to working toward establishing an annual consultation mechanism for senior health officials from both countries.

The President recognizes the important outcomes arising from this visit. He thanks President Xi and the people of China for their hospitality, and hopes that the visit sets a foundation for productive engagement. The two presidents plan to keep in close contact, including on major issues of shared interest.

President Donald J. Trump's Visit to China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 10, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Visit to China

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL RESOLVE TO DENUCLEARIZE NORTH KOREA: President Donald J. Trump strengthened international resolve to address the security challenges presented by North Korea.

- President Trump and President Xi reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the goal of full, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and stated they will not accept the DPRK as a nuclear weapons state.

- Both sides together affirmed a commitment to fully implement the DPRK U.N. Security Council resolutions to pressure DPRK to eliminate its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

PROMOTE A FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC REGION: President Trump advanced high-standard rules so the Indo-Pacific region can continue to develop and prosper.

- The United States and China affirmed their commitment to strengthen bilateral cooperation on nuclear security, countering nuclear smuggling, and continuing support of global nuclear security. They reaffirmed their commitment to enhance regional capacity to prevent terrorists and criminals from acquiring nuclear and radioactive materials.

- The two sides agreed to joint projects on HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. They committed to rapidly and continuously share influenza viruses with human pandemic potential.

- The two sides had a candid and constructive exchange of views on regional security and maritime issues and reaffirmed the importance of reducing the risk between our two militaries while maintaining the longstanding American commitment to free and open navigation for all nations.

- President Trump and President Xi committed to create an environment enabling the two peoples to promote mutual understanding and had a frank exchange of views on human rights issues.

ADVANCE AMERICA'S PROSPERITY: President Trump promoted American prosperity and trade, including new investments that will employ thousands of American workers.

- The President underscored the importance of rebalancing the bilateral economic relationship and pressed China to reduce the trade deficit by eliminating barriers to trade, guaranteeing fair and reciprocal treatment to United States companies and exports, and implementing market-oriented reforms.

- Both presidents committed to take new actions to save American lives by curbing the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States. These actions include agreement to control the export of new fentanyl precursors, share intelligence on drug trafficking, and exchange tracking information for packages to identify individuals and criminal networks responsible for trafficking.
- The two presidents decided to establish a process to expedite removal of China's deportable illegal nationals residing in the United States.
- The presidents pledged to work together to prevent malicious exploitation of computer networks by other countries.
- Trade and investment deals worth more than \$250 billion were announced. These will create jobs for American workers, farmers, and ranchers by increasing U.S. exports to China and stimulating investment in American communities.

President Donald J. Trump's Participation in the 25th Annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting and 2017 APEC CEO Summit

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 11, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Participation in the 25th Annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting and 2017 APEC CEO Summit

“We will find opportunities for our private sector to work with yours and to create jobs and wealth for us all. We seek strong partners, not weak partners. We seek strong neighbors, not weak neighbors. Above all, we seek friendship, and we don't dream of domination.” – President Donald J. Trump

PROMOTE A FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC REGION: President Donald J. Trump advanced high-standard rules so the Indo-Pacific region can continue to develop and prosper.

- President Trump delivered a clear public message at the APEC CEO Summit that the United States seeks robust trade relationships rooted in the principles of fairness and reciprocity and is willing to make bilateral trade agreements on that basis with any country in the region.
- The President emphasized that it is in America's interest to have partners throughout the region that are thriving, prosperous, and self-reliant.
- President Trump committed to reforming United States development finance institutions to better incentivize private-sector investment as an alternative to state-directed initiatives that come with many strings attached.
- The President highlighted that the United States has been an active partner in the region since America won independence, and will be a reliable friend, partner, and ally in the region for a long time to come.

ADVANCE AMERICA'S PROSPERITY: President Trump promoted American prosperity and trade, including through new investments and energy sales that will lead to more American jobs.

- President Trump and other APEC leaders underlined APEC's crucial role in support of a trading system that is free and open, but also fair.
- APEC leaders recognized the importance of reciprocal and mutually advantageous trade and investment frameworks, and committed to work together to address unfair trade practices.
- The President and his counterparts urgently called for the removal of market-distorting subsidies and other types of support by governments and related entities.

- President Trump delivered a strong public message at the APEC CEO Summit that the World Trade Organization (WTO) can only function properly when all members follow the rules as negotiated.
- APEC leaders committed to improve the functioning of the WTO to adequately address challenges it is facing, and pledged to work to ensure effective and timely enforcement of WTO rules.
- The President and other APEC leaders committed to lowering barriers that impede services exports, and committed to enhancing regional market access for service providers.
- APEC leaders pledged to consider actions to facilitate the development of the internet and digital economy, including e-commerce and digital trade.
- President Trump and other APEC leaders called for the full implementation of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation to realize meaningful and widespread benefits; encouraged the facilitation of energy-related trade and investment; and committed to enhancing regional food markets and food standards, and reducing barriers to food trade, including burdensome and unnecessarily restrictive trade measures.
- The President and other APEC leaders encouraged public and private sector initiatives that enhance women's economic empowerment; improve women's access to capital, assets, and markets; increase women's participation in high-growth and high-wage sectors; and promote women's leadership.
- The United States, with Australia and Chinese Taipei, established the first-ever APEC fund to support and promote women's economic participation.
- The President and his counterparts resolved to enhance energy security.
- APEC leaders committed to strengthening the ability of small businesses to compete in international markets and to increasing the preparedness of workers for the digital age.
- Before arriving in Vietnam, President Trump made permanent the United States issuance of APEC Business Travel Cards, in order to facilitate United States business travel in the region.

President Donald J. Trump's Trip to Vietnam

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 12, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Trip to Vietnam

"Today the Vietnamese economy is one of the fastest-growing on earth... We know it is in America's interests to have partners throughout this region that are thriving, prosperous, and dependent on no one... We want strong partners, not weak neighbors. And above all, we seek friendship."—President Donald J. Trump

President Donald J. Trump's state visit to Vietnam reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the United States-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership.

STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL RESOLVE TO DENUCLEARIZE NORTH KOREA: President Donald J. Trump strengthened international resolve to address the security challenges presented by North Korea.

• The President secured new commitments from Vietnam's leaders to support the global Maximum Pressure Campaign to bring North Korea back to the path of denuclearization.

PROMOTE A FREE AND OPEN INDO-PACIFIC REGION: President Trump strengthened the United States-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership, an important element of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

• The United States and Vietnam released a Joint Statement sending a clear message to the region of close and expanding cooperation and coordination between the two nations.

- The United States and Vietnam reached an agreement for the United States to acquire land in Hanoi to construct a new embassy compound, a tangible example of the growing partnership between the two nations.
 - The two nations concluded a new Three Year Plan of Action for Defense Cooperation, which will increase bilateral naval activities.
 - The United States formally transferred the first United States Coast Guard cutter to the Vietnamese Navy, enhancing Vietnam's maritime security and domain awareness capabilities.
 - President Trump and President Quang welcomed the planned first visit of a United States aircraft carrier to Vietnam in 2018.
 - President Trump and Vietnamese leaders celebrated the conclusion of a joint effort to clean dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment in Danang, Vietnam, and welcomed the United States commitment to contribute to remediation at Bien Hoa Airport.
 - Both sides reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation, overflight, and unfettered commerce in the South China Sea and their commitment to a rules-based approach to resolving maritime disputes.
 - The two leaders recognized the importance of protecting and promoting human rights.
- ADVANCE AMERICA'S PROSPERITY: President Trump promoted American prosperity and trade, including new investments and energy sales that will lead to jobs for Americans.
- President Trump and Vietnamese leaders pledged to deepen and expand bilateral trade and investment relations—in line with the President's commitment to pursuing fair and reciprocal trade with key trading partners.
 - The United States and Vietnam welcomed the conclusion of \$12 billion in commercial agreements, which when implemented will include \$10 billion in United States content.
 - The United States supported the successful conclusion of Vietnam's 2017 chairmanship of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, the region's premier forum for promoting free, fair, and reciprocal trade that promotes United States exports and creates jobs for Americans.

President Donald J. Trump's Proclamation on Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel

President Donald J. Trump's Proclamation on Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel
Issued on: December 6, 2017

"My announcement today marks the beginning of a new approach to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians." – President Donald J. Trump

RECOGNIZING JERUSALEM: President Donald J. Trump is following through on his promise to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and has instructed the State Department to begin to relocate the U.S. Embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Today, December 6, 2017, President Trump recognized Jerusalem, the ancient capital of the Jewish people, as the capital of the State of Israel.

In taking this action, President Trump fulfilled a major campaign promise of his and many previous Presidential candidates.

The Trump Administration is fully coordinated in supporting this historic action by the President, and has engaged broadly with both our Congressional and international partners on this issue.

President Trump's action enjoys broad, bipartisan support in Congress, including as expressed in the Jerusalem Recognition Act of 1995. This Act was reaffirmed by a unanimous vote of the Senate only six months ago.

President Trump has instructed the State Department to develop a plan to relocate the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Departments and Agencies have implemented a robust security plan to ensure the safety of our citizens and assets in the region.

STATUS OF JERUSALEM: President Trump recognizes that specific boundaries of sovereignty in Jerusalem is highly sensitive and subject to final status negotiations.

President Trump recognizes that the status of Jerusalem is a highly-sensitive issue, but he does not think the peace process is aided by ignoring the simple truth that Jerusalem is home to Israel's legislature, supreme court, President, and Prime Minister.

President Trump recognizes that the specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem are subject to final status negotiations between the parties.

President Trump reaffirms United States support for the status quo at the Temple Mount, also known as Haram al Sharif.

COMMITTED TO THE PEACE PROCESS: President Trump is committed to achieving a lasting peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians.

President Trump remains committed to achieving a lasting peace agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians, and he is optimistic that peace can be achieved.

Delaying the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel has not helped achieve peace over the past two decades.

President Trump is prepared to support a two-state solution to the dispute between the Israelis and Palestinians, if agreed to by the parties.

4.

ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЯ

Remarks by President Trump and Vice President Pence at CIA Headquarters

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 21, 2017
Remarks by President Trump and Vice President Pence at CIA Headquarters
Langley, Virginia
3:21 P.M. EST

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you to the Acting Director Meroe Park. Thank you for 27 years serving the United States of America here at CIA. (Applause.)

It's a great privilege for me to be with you today and to have the opportunity to introduce at his first event, on his first full day, the new President of the United States, Donald Trump. (Applause.)

As you can imagine, it's deeply humbling for my family and I to find ourselves in this role. I'm grateful to our new President for the opportunity he's given me and the opportunity the American people have given us to serve. But it's especially humbling for me to be before all of you today -- men and women of character, who have sacrificed greatly -- and to stand before this hallowed wall, this memorial wall, where we remember 117 who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

I can assure you this new President and our entire team recognizes and appreciates the sacrifices of all of the men and women of the intelligence community of the United States of America. (Applause.)

I've gotten to know our new President. We traveled a lot together. When the cameras are off and the -- lights are off, I'll tell you two things I know for sure. Number one, I've never met anyone more dedicated to the safety and security of the people of the United States of America, or anyone who is a greater strategic thinker about how we accomplish that for this nation. In fact, to understand the life of our new President is -- his whole life was strategy. He built an extraordinary success in the private sector, and I know he's going to make America safe again. (Applause.)

And lastly, I can honestly tell you, for all my years serving in the Congress, serving as governor of my home state, traveling cross-country and seeing the connection that he's made to men and women who serve and protect in every capacity in this country, I've never met anyone with a greater heart for those who every day, in diverse ways, protect the people of this nation through their character and their service and their sacrifice.

And so let me say, it is my high honor and distinct privilege to introduce all of you the President of the United States. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I want to thank everybody. Very, very special people. And it is true, this is my first stop, officially. We're not talking about the balls, or we're not talking about even the speeches -- although they did treat me nicely on that speech yesterday. (Laughter.) I always call them the dishonest media, but they treated me nicely. (Laughter.)

But I want to say that there is nobody that feels stronger about the intelligence community and the CIA than Donald Trump. There's nobody. (Applause.)

The wall behind me is very, very special. We've been touring for quite a while, and I'll tell you what -- 29? I can't believe it.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Twenty-eight.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, 28. We got to reduce it. That's amazing. And we really appreciate what you've done in terms of showing us something very special. And your whole group, these are really special, amazing people. Very, very few people could do the job you people do. And I want to just let you know, I am so behind you. And I know maybe sometimes you haven't gotten the backing that you've wanted, and you're going to get so much backing. Maybe you're going to say, please don't give us so much backing. (Laughter.) Mr. President, please, we don't need that much backing. (Laughter.) But you're going to have that. And I think everybody in this room knows it.

You know, the military and the law enforcement, generally speaking, but all of it -- but the military gave us tremendous percentages of votes. We were unbelievably successful in the election with getting the vote of the military. And probably almost everybody in this room voted for me, but I will not ask you to raise your hands if you did. (Laughter.) But I would guarantee a big portion, because we're all on the same wavelength, folks. (Applause.) We're all on the same wavelength, right? He knows. It took Brian about 30 seconds to figure that one out, right, because we know we're on the same wavelength.

But we're going to do great things. We're going to do great things. We've been fighting these wars for longer than any wars we've ever fought. We have not used the real abilities that we have. We've been restrained. We have to get rid of ISIS. Have to get rid of ISIS. We have no choice. (Applause.) Radical Islamic terrorism. And I said it yesterday -- it has to be eradicated just off the face of the Earth. This is evil. This is evil. And you know, I can understand the other side. We can all understand the other side. There can be wars between countries, there can be wars. You can understand what happened. This is something nobody can even understand. This is a level of evil that we haven't seen. And you're going to go to it, and you're going to do a phenomenal job. But we're going to end it. It's time. It's time right now to end it.

You have somebody coming on who is extraordinary. For the different positions of "Secretary of This" and "Secretary of That" and all of these great positions, I'd see five, six, seven, eight people. And we had a great transition. We had an amazing team of talent. And, by the way, General Flynn is right over here. Put up your hand. What a good guy. (Applause.) And Reince and my whole group. Reince -- you know -- they don't care about Reince. He's like this political guy that turned out to be a superstar, right? We don't have to talk about Reince.

But we did -- we had such a tremendous, tremendous success. So when I'm interviewing all of these candidates that Reince and his whole group is putting in front, it went very, very quickly, and, in this case, went so quickly -- because I would see six or seven or eight for Secretary of Agriculture, who we just named the other day, Sonny Perdue, former governor of Georgia. Fantastic guy. But I'd see six, seven, eight people for a certain position. Everybody wanted it.

But I met Mike Pompeo, and it was the only guy I met. I didn't want to meet anybody else. I said, cancel everybody else. Cancel. Now, he was approved, essentially, but they're doing little political games with me. He was one of the three. Now, last night, as you know, General Mattis, fantastic guy, and General Kelly got approved. (Applause.) And Mike Pompeo was supposed to be in that group. It was going to be the three of them. Can you imagine all of these guys? People respect -- you know, they respect that military sense. All my political people, they're not doing so well. The political people aren't doing so well but you. We're going to get them all through, but some will take a little bit longer than others.

But Mike was literally -- I had a group of -- what, we had nine different people? Now, I must say, I didn't mind cancelling eight appointments. That wasn't the worst thing in the world. But I met him and I said, he is so good. Number one in his class at West Point.

Now, I know a lot about West Point. I'm a person that very strongly believes in academics. In fact, every time I say I had an uncle who was a great professor at MIT for 35 years who did a fantastic job in so many different ways, academically -- was an academic genius -- and then they say, is Donald Trump an intellectual? Trust me, I'm like a smart persona. (Laughter.) And I recognized immediately. So he was number one at West Point, and he was also essentially number

one at Harvard Law School. And then he decided to go into the military. And he ran for Congress. And everything he's done has been a homerun. People like him, but much more importantly to me, everybody respects him. And when I told Paul Ryan that I wanted to do this, I would say he may be the only person that was not totally thrilled -- right, Mike? Because he said, I don't want to lose this guy.

But you will be getting a total star. You're going to be getting a total gem. He's a gem. (Applause.) You'll see. You'll see. And many of you know him anyway. But you're going to see. And again, we have some great people going in. But this one is something -- is going to be very special, because this is one, if I had to name the most important, this would certainly be perhaps -- you know, in certain ways, you could say my most important. You do the job like everybody in this room is capable of doing. And the generals are wonderful, and the fighting is wonderful. But if you give them the right direction, boy, does the fighting become easier. And, boy, do we lose so fewer lives, and win so quickly. And that's what we have to do. We have to start winning again.

You know, when I was young and when I was -- of course, I feel young. I feel like I'm 30, 35, 39. (Laughter.) Somebody said, are you young? I said, I think I'm young. You know, I was stopping -- when we were in the final month of that campaign, four stops, five stops, seven stops. Speeches, speeches, in front of 25,000, 30,000 people, 15,000, 19,000 from stop to stop. I feel young.

When I was young -- and I think we're all sort of young. When I was young, we were always winning things in this country. We'd win with trade. We'd win with wars. At a certain age, I remember hearing from one of my instructors, "The United States has never lost a war." And then, after that, it's like we haven't won anything. We don't win anymore. The old expression, "to the victor belong the spoils" -- you remember. I always used to say, keep the oil. I wasn't a fan of Iraq. I didn't want to go into Iraq. But I will tell you, when we were in, we got out wrong. And I always said, in addition to that, keep the oil. Now, I said it for economic reasons. But if you think about it, Mike, if we kept the oil you probably wouldn't have ISIS because that's where they made their money in the first place. So we should have kept the oil. But okay. (Laughter.) Maybe you'll have another chance. But the fact is, should have kept the oil.

I believe that this group is going to be one of the most important groups in this country toward making us safe, toward making us winners again, toward ending all of the problems. We have so many problems that are interrelated that we don't even think of, but interrelated to the kind of havoc and fear that this sick group of people has caused. So I can only say that I am with you 1,000 percent.

And the reason you're my first stop is that, as you know, I have a running war with the media. They are among the most dishonest human beings on Earth. (Laughter and applause.) And they sort of made it sound like I had a feud with the intelligence community. And I just want to let you know, the reason you're the number-one stop is exactly the opposite -- exactly. And they understand that, too.

And I was explaining about the numbers. We did a thing yesterday at the speech. Did everybody like the speech? (Applause.) I've been given good reviews. But we had a massive field of people. You saw them. Packed. I get up this morning, I turn on one of the networks, and they show an empty field. I say, wait a minute, I made a speech. I looked out, the field was -- it looked like a million, million and a half people. They showed a field where there were practically nobody standing there. And they said, Donald Trump did not draw well. I said, it was almost raining, the rain should have scared them away, but God looked down and he said, we're not going to let it rain on your speech.

In fact, when I first started, I said, oh, no. The first line, I got hit by a couple of drops. And I said, oh, this is too bad, but we'll go right through it. But the truth is that it stopped immediately. It was amazing. And then it became really sunny. And then I walked off and it poured right after I left. It poured. But, you know, we have something that's amazing because we had -- it looked -- honestly, it looked like a million and a half people. Whatever it was, it was. But it went all the way

back to the Washington Monument. And I turn on -- and by mistake I get this network, and it showed an empty field. And it said we drew 250,000 people. Now, that's not bad, but it's a lie. We had 250,000 people literally around -- you know, in the little bowl that we constructed. That was 250,000 people. The rest of the 20-block area, all the way back to the Washington Monument, was packed. So we caught them, and we caught them in a beauty. And I think they're going to pay a big price.

We had another one yesterday, which was interesting. In the Oval Office there's a beautiful statue of Dr. Martin Luther King. And I also happen to like Churchill, Winston Churchill. I think most of us like Churchill. He doesn't come from our country, but had a lot to do with it. Helped us; real ally. And, as you know, the Churchill statue was taken out -- the bust. And as you also probably have read, the Prime Minister is coming over to our country very shortly. And they wanted to know whether or not I'd like it back. I say, absolutely, but in the meantime we have a bust of Churchill.

So a reporter for Time magazine -- and I have been on there cover, like, 14 or 15 times. I think we have the all-time record in the history of Time Magazine. Like, if Tom Brady is on the cover, it's one time, because he won the Super Bowl or something, right? (Laughter.) I've been on it for 15 times this year. I don't think that's a record, Mike, that can ever be broken. Do you agree with that? What do you think?

But I will say that they said -- it was very interesting -- that Donald Trump took down the bust, the statue, of Dr. Martin Luther King. And it was right there. But there was a cameraman that was in front of it. (Laughter.) So Zeke -- Zeke from Time Magazine writes a story about I took down. I would never do that because I have great respect for Dr. Martin Luther King. But this is how dishonest the media is.

Now, the big story -- the retraction was, like, where? Was it a line? Or do they even bother putting it in? So I only like to say that because I love honesty. I like honest reporting.

I will tell you, final time -- although I will say it, when you let in your thousands of other people that have been trying to come in -- because I am coming back -- we're going to have to get you a larger room. (Applause.) We may have to get you a larger room. You know? And maybe, maybe, it will be built by somebody that knows how to build, and we won't have columns. (Laughter.) You understand that? (Applause.) We get rid of the columns.

No, I just wanted to really say that I love you, I respect you. There's nobody I respect more. You're going to do a fantastic job. And we're going to start winning again, and you're going to be leading the charge.

So thank you all very much. (Applause.) Thank you -- you're beautiful. Thank you all very much. Have a good time. I'll be back. I'll be back. Thank you.

END

3:40 P.M. EST

President Trump and Prime Minister May's Opening Remarks

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 27, 2017

President Trump and Prime Minister May's Opening Remarks

President Donald J. Trump: "Thank you very much. I am honored to have Prime Minister Theresa May here for our first official visit from a foreign leader. This is our first visit, so -- great honor.

The special relationship between our two countries has been one of the great forces in history for justice and for peace. And, by the way, my mother was born in Scotland -- Stornoway -- which is serious Scotland.

Today, the United States renews our deep bond with Britain -- military, financial, cultural, and political. We have one of the great bonds. We pledge our lasting support to this most special relationship. Together, America and the United Kingdom are a beacon for prosperity and the rule of law. That is why the United States respects the sovereignty of the British people and their right of self-determination. A free and independent Britain is a blessing to the world, and our relationship has never been stronger.

Both America and Britain understand that governments must be responsive to everyday working people, that governments must represent their own citizens.

Madam Prime Minister, we look forward to working closely with you as we strengthen our mutual ties in commerce, business and foreign affairs. Great days lie ahead for our two peoples and our two countries.

On behalf of our nation, I thank you for joining us here today. It's a really great honor. Thank you very much."

Prime Minister Theresa May: "Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. And can I start by saying that I'm so pleased that I've been able to be here today. And thank you for inviting me so soon after your inauguration. And I'm delighted to be able to congratulate you on what was a stunning election victory.

And, as you say, the invitation is an indication of the strength and importance of the special relationship that exists between our two countries -- a relationship based on the bonds of history, of family, kinship and common interest. And in a further sign of the importance of that relationship, I have today been able to convey Her Majesty The Queen's hope that President Trump and the First Lady would pay a state visit to the United Kingdom later this year. And I'm delighted that the President has accepted that invitation.

Now, today, we're discussing a number of topics, and there's much on which we agree. The President has mentioned foreign policy. We're discussing how we can work even more closely together in order to take on and defeat Daesh and the ideology of Islamist extremism wherever it's found.

Our two nations are already leading efforts to face up to this challenge, and we're making progress with Daesh losing territory and fighters, but we need to redouble our efforts. And today, we are discussing how we can do this by deepening intelligence and security cooperation and, critically, by stepping up our efforts to counter Daesh in cyberspace. Because we know we will not eradicate this threat until we defeat the idea -- the ideology that lies behind it.

Our talks will be continuing later. I'm sure we'll discuss other topics -- Syria and Russia.

On defense and security cooperation, we are united in our recognition of NATO as the bulwark of our collective defense. And today, we've reaffirmed our unshakeable commitment to this alliance. Mr. President, I think you said -- you confirmed that you're 100 percent behind NATO. But we're also discussing the importance of NATO continuing to ensure it is as equipped to fight terrorism and cyber warfare as it is to fight more conventional forms of war.

And I've agreed to continue my efforts to encourage my fellow European leaders to deliver on their commitments to spend 2 percent of their GDP on defense so that the burden is more fairly shared. It's only by investing properly in our defense that we can ensure we're properly equipped to face our shared challenges together.

And finally, the President and I have mentioned future economic cooperation and trade. Trade between our two countries is already worth over \$150 billion pounds a year. The U.S. is the single-biggest source of inward investment to the UK, and together we've around \$1 trillion invested in each other's economies. And the UK-U.S. defense relationship is the broadest, deepest, and most advanced of any two countries sharing military hardware and expertise. And I think the President and I are ambitious to build on this relationship in order to grow our respective economies, provide the high-skilled, high-paid jobs of the future for working people across America and across the UK.

And so we are discussing how we can establish a trade negotiation agreement, take forward immediate, high-level talks, lay the groundwork for a UK-U.S. trade agreement, and identify the practical steps we can take now in order to enable companies in both countries to trade and do business with one another more easily.

And I'm convinced that a trade deal between the U.S. and the UK is in the national interest of both countries and will cement the crucial relationship that exists between us, particularly as the UK leaves the European Union and reaches out to the world.

Today's talks I think are a significant moment for President Trump and I to build our relationship. And I look forward to continuing to work with you as we deliver on the promises of freedom and prosperity for all the people of our respective countries."

Remarks by President Trump and Vice President Pence at Swearing-In Ceremony for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 01, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Vice President Pence at Swearing-In Ceremony for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

Oval Office
7:12 P.M. EST

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Welcome to the White House. Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mike. Just returned from an amazing visit with a great, great family at Dover, and it was something -- very sad, very beautiful. Ryan, a great man.

Secretary Tillerson, I first want to congratulate you, Renda, and your entire family on this incredible honor -- and it is that, an incredible honor. You bring the unique skills and deep, deep insights -- and I've gotten to see it firsthand -- into foreign diplomacy our nation needs to foster stability and security in a world too often trapped -- and right now it's trapped -- in violence and in war.

You understand that the job of our diplomats and the mission of the State Department is to serve the interests of the United States of America to make our nation safer, our country more prosperous, and our people much more secure. In that mission, you also understand the importance of strengthening our alliances and forming new alliances to enhance our strategic interests and the safety of our people.

Your whole life has prepared you for this moment, and you really have had a tremendous life -- heading up one of the great companies of the world and doing it magnificently, absolutely magnificently. And I can say this is a man that's respected all over the world, before he even begins.

But as Renda said, now he's beginning his big, big, and most important journey. This is where you were meant to be, right here, today, at this crossroads in history. It's time to bring a clear-eyed focus to foreign affairs, to take a fresh look at the world around us, and to seek new solutions grounded in very ancient truths. These truths include the fact that nations have a right to protect to their interests, that all people have a right to freely pursue their own destiny, and that all of us are better off when we act in concert and not in conflict. And there's rarely been conflict like we have in the world today -- very sad.

I am excited for you. I am excited for your family. And perhaps most importantly, I am excited for our great country. Though you inherit enormous challenges in the Middle East and around the world, I do believe we can achieve peace and stability in these very, very troubled times.

May God bless you in this journey. And may God bless our very, very special and great country. Thank you very much.

Mike, you can do the honors. Thank you.

(The Secretary is sworn in.)

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, first, I want to express my profound thanks to President Trump for giving me this extraordinary opportunity to serve my country. I also want to thank Vice President Pence for giving me the honor of swearing me into this office today.

I have a few folks in the room that are with me that have helped me over the last month to get to this point of confirmation. They represent a much larger cadre of people who have worked enormously long hours, tirelessly, helping me and guiding me through the confirmation process. And to them, I will always be eternally grateful for the sacrifice they've made of their time and effort these past weeks.

I've also received over the last month so many messages, letters, phone calls of best wishes, encouragement, prayers from family, friends and colleagues who know me well. But I've also received an enormous outpouring of wonderful messages from people all over the country whom I do not know -- words of encouragement and their prayers. And it's their messages that are going to really stand in steadfast reminder to me as I enter the responsibilities of Secretary of State, that as I serve this President, I serve their interest and will always represent the interest of all of the American people at all times.

And again, Mr. President, thank you for this extraordinary opportunity. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: He left a very good job for this, I want to tell you. (Laughter and applause.)

END

7:19 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump to Coalition Representatives and Senior U.S. Commanders

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump to Coalition Representatives and Senior U.S. Commanders

MacDill Air Force Base

Tampa, Florida

1:48 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. (Applause.) Thank you, everybody. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. That's so nice. A lot of spirit. Great spirit for this country. Thank you, all. We have tremendous spirit and I want to thank you.

We had a wonderful election, didn't we? (Applause.) And I saw those numbers -- and you like me, and I like you. That's the way it worked. (Laughter.)

I'm honored to be here today among so many of our really and truly great heroes. I want to begin by thanking General Votel and General Thomas for their distinguished leadership and service on behalf of our country. Very, very outstanding people. I'd also like to thank General Dunford, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. That's big stuff, when you have the Chairman. Where is -- Joe, stand up for a second. This is one of the great people. (Applause.) Thank you.

Also, Commander Vogel and everyone serving at MacDill Air Force Base. Quite a place. And we're going to be loading it up with beautiful new planes and beautiful new equipment. You've been lacking a little equipment. We're going to load it up. You're going to get a lot of equipment. Believe me. (Applause.)

So importantly, also, let me thank all of the coalition partners and their representatives assembled here today. We proudly -- very proudly -- stand with you, and we will be fighting for your security. They're fighting for our security and freedom.

Let me recognize our great governor and a very good friend of mine, and somebody who endorsed me -- that makes him a better friend of mine. (Laughter.) You know, if they don't endorse, believe me, if you're ever in this position, it's never quite the same, okay? (Laughter.) You can talk, but it never means the same. But this man is a great, great governor and has done a fantastic job -- Rick Scott, governor, stand up please. (Applause.) Thank you, Rick.

Finally, on behalf of the entire nation, let me express our gratitude to all members -- and I mean all members -- of our military serving in the United States Central Command and the United States Special Operations Command. We salute the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, along with our civilian defense personnel, who are so important to the success of what we're doing.

Let me also recognize the military families and spouses who bravely shoulder the burdens of war. I want every military family in this country to know that our administration is at your service. We stand with you 100 percent. We will protect those who protect us, and we will never ever let you down. As your President, I have no higher duty than to protect the American people -- highest duty we have. I said it the other night. Great, great Supreme Court nominee -- you all saw that -- but I said to myself, perhaps the only thing more important to me definitely is the defense of our nation. The Supreme Court is so important, but we have to defend our nation. And we will do that, believe me. (Applause.) We will do that. And each and every one of you is central to that mission.

The men and women serving at CENTCOM and SOCOM have poured out their hearts and souls for this country. They really experience things that very few people get to experience. You've shed your blood across the continents and the oceans. You've engaged the enemy on distant battlefields, toiled in the burning heat and bitter cold, and sacrificed everything so that we can remain safe and strong and free. Our administration will always honor our sacred bond to those who serve, and we will never ever forget you. Believe me, we will never ever forget you.

We will ensure that the men and women of our military have the tools, equipment, resources, training, and supplies you need to get the job done. You've seen me say we've been depleted. Our navy is at a point almost as low as World War I. That's a long time ago. That's a long time ago. It's not going to happen anymore, folks. It's not going to happen anymore -- not with me.

But we will ensure no taxpayer dollars are wasted. I have already saved more than \$700 million when I got involved in the negotiation on the F-35. You know about that. And I want to thank Lockheed Martin and I want to thank Boeing, and I want to thank all of the companies that have really opened up. And when I say opened up, Rick Scott understands this very well -- opened up and cut their prices. Okay? Because that's what they did. And we've got that program, it's going to be back in really great shape from really being very troubled.

And we are going to be taking care of our great veterans. We will make a historic financial investment in the Armed Forces of the United States and show the entire world that America stands with those who stand in defense of freedom. We have your back every hour, every day, now and always. That also means getting our allies to pay their fair share. It's been very unfair to us. We strongly support NATO. We only ask that all of the NATO members make their full and proper financial contributions to the NATO Alliance, which many of them have not been doing. Many of them have not been even close, and they have to do that.

Central Command and Central [Special] Operations Command are at the very center of our fight against radical Islamic terrorism. America stands in awe of your courage. Those serving at CENTCOM have bravely fought across the theater of war in the Middle East, and bravely battled a vicious enemy that has no respect for human life. Today, we express our gratitude to everyone serving overseas, including all of our military personnel in Afghanistan.

SOCOM has dispatched its legendary warriors to the most secret, sensitive and daring missions in defense of the United States of America. No enemy stands a chance against our Special Forces -- not even a chance. They don't have a chance, and that's the way we're going to keep it. And you're going to be better off because you're going to have the finest equipment known to man. Going to be better off.

For proof that our nation has been blessed by God, look no further than the men and women of the United States military. They are the greatest fighters and the greatest force of justice on the face of the Earth and that the world has ever known. The challenges facing our nation nevertheless are very large -- very, very large.

We're up against an enemy that celebrates death and totally worships destruction -- you've seen that. ISIS is on a campaign of genocide, committing atrocities across the world. Radical Islamic terrorists are determined to strike our homeland as they did on 9/11; as they did from Boston to Orlando, to San Bernardino. And all across Europe, you've seen what happened in Paris and Nice. All over Europe it's happening. It's gotten to a point where it's not even being reported and, in many cases, the very, very dishonest press doesn't want to report it. They have their reasons and you understand that.

So today, we deliver a message in one very unified voice: To these forces of death and destruction, America and its allies will defeat you. We will defeat them. We will defeat radical Islamic terrorism, and we will not allow it to take root in our country. We're not going to allow it. You've been seeing what's been going on over the last few days. We need strong programs so that people that love us and want to love our country and will end up loving our country are allowed in - - not people that want to destroy us and destroy our country. (Applause.)

Freedom, security and justice will prevail. In his first State of the Union message, President George Washington wrote that, "To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace." Almost 200 years later, as the General was also speaking about Ronald Reagan, he said that wisdom comes in three very, very strong words: "Peace through strength." I've said it many times during the campaign, speaking in front of tens of thousands of people at one sitting, and I'd always mention America first -- a phrase that you probably never heard, "Make America Great Again." (Applause.) Anybody ever heard that? (Applause.) And peace through strength.

The men and women of the United States military provide the strength to bring peace to our troubled, troubled times. We stand behind you. We support your mission. We love our country. We are loyal to our people. We respect our flag. We celebrate our traditions. We honor our heroes. You are our heroes. And we are prepared to fight. And we pray for peace.

Thank you. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

2:00 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference

East Room

1:08 P.M. EST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Prime Minister Abe, on behalf of the American people, I welcome you to the very famous White House. You honor us with your

presence. This is one of our earliest visits from a foreign leader, and I am truly glad that it could be from such an important and steadfast ally.

The bond between our two nations, and the friendship between our two peoples, runs very, very deep. This administration is committed to bringing those ties even closer. We are committed to the security of Japan and all areas under its administrative control, and to further strengthening our very crucial alliance.

The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Pacific region. It is important that both Japan and the United States continue to invest very heavily in the alliance to build up our defense and our defensive capabilities, which, under our mutual leadership, will become stronger and stronger, and, as time goes by, ultimately they will be impenetrable.

We face numerous challenges, and bilateral cooperation is essential. Our country is committed to being an active and fully engaged partner. We will work together to promote our shared interests, of which we have many in the region, including freedom from navigation and of navigation, and defending against the North Korean missile and nuclear threat, both of which I consider a very, very high priority.

On the economy, we will seek a trading relationship that is free, fair and reciprocal, benefitting both of our countries. The vibrant exchange between us is a true blessing. Japan is a proud nation with a rich history and culture, and the American people have profound respect for your country and its traditions. I also want to take this opportunity, Mr. Prime Minister, to thank you and the people of Japan for hosting our armed forces.

Working together, our two countries have the ability to bring greater harmony, stability and prosperity to the Pacific region and beyond, improving countless lives in the process. We are committed to that goal -- highly committed.

Prime Minister Abe, on behalf of the United States of America, I thank you for being with us today. We will soon be traveling to the great state of Florida, where I know we will have a long and very successful talk, negotiations, and a very, very productive weekend.

Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) This is the fourth time in six months for me to visit the United States. The last time was in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii at the end of last year. I am indeed sincerely grateful for the always heartwarming welcome accorded to me by the American people.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to President Trump. Donald, you must have been very busy in this very important period of 100 days after your inauguration. And thank you very much for inviting me over to the White House. My name is Abe, but in the United States some people mistakenly pronounce my name as "Abe." But that is not bad, because even in Japan everybody knows the name of that great President, that a farmer and carpenter's son can become a President. And that fact, 150 years ago, surprised the Japanese, who were still under the shogunate rule. The Japanese opened their eyes to democracy. The United States is the champion of democracy.

Donald, President, you are excellent businessman, but you have never been in the Congress or been a governor. You have not experienced being in the public office. But you have fought the uphill struggle and fight for more than a year in the election campaign to become a new President. And this is the dynamism of democracy. I would like to celebrate and congratulate Donald being sworn in as the President.

The United States is a country having the largest number of chances, opportunities in the world. That has always been the case right now, as well as going forward. This will never change. And that is the reason why automotive industries and other Japanese businesses have built factories all over the United States, to engage in local production here. Last year, from Japan to the United States, there have been more than \$150 billion of new investment being made into the United States. And those Japanese businesses have created a large number of jobs. The mutually

beneficial economic relations have been built by Japan and the United States. With President Trump taking on the leadership, I'm sure there will be -- major-scale infrastructure investment will be made, including the fast-speed train.

Those of you who have rode on the Japanese Shinkansen, I'm sure you would appreciate the speed, the comfort and safety with the latest maglev technology. From Washington, D.C. to New York, where Trump Tower exists, only one hour would it take if you ride the maglev train from Washington, D.C. to New York. Japan, with our high level of technical capability, we will be able to contribute to President Trump's growth strategy. There will be even more new jobs being born in the United States.

And to further deepen these bilateral economic relations between Deputy Prime Minister Aso and Vice President Pence, there will be a cross-sectoral dialogue to be held. And we have agreed on this.

And furthermore, in Asia Pacific, where we see dramatic growth to expand free trade and investment, this will be a big chance for both Japan and the United States. But, of course, it must be done in a fair manner. Never should a state-owned company, backed by state capital, should not make any economic intervention. Free ride on intellectual property should not be condoned. In Asia Pacific region, with Japan and U.S. taking on the leadership to create free and fair market based upon rules, should be built. I and President Trump have confirmed on our strong will to do so.

The cornerstone of peace and prosperity in Asia Pacific, that is the strong Japan-U.S. alliance. And this is unwavering ties between our two countries. I and President Trump will work together to further strengthen our alliance. We have shared this strong resolve.

As we see increasingly difficult security environment, we have confirmed that U.S.-Japan Security Pact Article 5 will be applied to Senkaku Islands. The United States will strengthen its presence in the region. And under the banner of the proactive contribution to peace, Japan will play a greater role. At the same time, we will maintain the deterrence and also to proceed on reducing the impact we had fought through on the realignment of the U.S. forces in Japan.

And Henoko's -- relocation to Henoko of the impasse Futenma is the only solution. And Japan and U.S. will continue to work closely on this.

On North Korea, we would strongly demand North Korea to abandon nuclear and ballistic missile program, and not to make any more provocations. And we have completely agreed on the importance of the early solution for the abduction issue in East China Sea, South China Sea, and Indian Ocean -- everywhere we need to maintain the freedom of navigation and rule of law. And such international order there must be maintained.

Japan and United States have confirmed that we will strongly protest any use of force, as well as coercion to change the status quo. I and the President will address not only bilateral but regional issues. And we have had a very frank exchange of views on the peace and prosperity of the world that we should contribute, for any form of terrorism should be strongly condemned. And we will cooperate in our fight against terrorism. Japan will, of course, exercise a commensurate role in this regard. And furthermore, the regional conflict of the refugees, of poverty and infectious diseases -- there are many challenges faced by the world, which will be a serious issue to threaten the peace and stability for Japan as well as the United States.

But Japan and the United States and the international community must work hand in hand in order to solve these questions. Of course, there are disagreements, but we should not close down dialogue just by pointing to the differences and ignoring the common interests and common goals. We need to have dialogue because there are disagreements. What we mostly desire -- what is most desired by those who are challenging the existing international order is to just focus on differences. We should not close the dialogue of Japan -- have for four years that I have consistently followed through on our foreign policy.

Now, whatever the challenge and difficulty ahead of us, I and Trump -- President Trump will continue our dialogue to seek shared solutions. And after lunch, I am looking forward for a weekend in Florida with Donald. We will play golf together. My scores in golf is not up to the level of Donald at all, but my policy is never up, never in, always aiming for the cup -- never cut to just the goal with shortcuts and short chops. Those are the words never found in my dictionary. (Laughter.)

But in a relaxed atmosphere, I hope to take time to discuss with Donald on the future of the world, future of the region, and future of Japan and the United States.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. We'll take a few questions, unless you don't want to ask any questions, if that's possible. Maybe we'll start -- where is Daniel Halper, New York Post? Daniel.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I'm curious about yesterday's ruling in the 9th Circuit Court. Has it caused you to rethink your use of executive power? And how will you respond? And will you sign new executive orders and perhaps a new travel ban?

And, Mr. Prime Minister, I'm curious about your reaction to America's withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, the TPP. Do you think that that's weakened America's position in Asia? And how do you think -- how do you envision any sort of trade deal with the President working out?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, your question was unrelated to what we're here for today, but I'll answer it. We are going to keep our country safe, we are going to do whatever is necessary to keep our country safe. We had a decision which we think we'll be very successful with. It shouldn't have taken this much time because safety is a primary reason. One of the reasons I'm standing here today is the security of our country. The voters felt that I would give it the best security. So we'll be doing something very rapidly having to do with additional security for our country. You'll be seeing that sometime next week.

In addition, we will continue to go through the court process, and ultimately I have no doubt that we'll win that particular case.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) Now, in the world, we are also facing the issues of the refugees and terrorism. We need to work closely together on these global issues. Japan have always played our own role, but going forward, we will continue to work with the international community to execute our responsibility in a commensurate manner. And each of our country has immigration control scheme, as well as policy on immigration, as well as refugees. These are to do with domestic affairs of that country, so I would refrain from making any comments.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay. Blake Berman, Fox. Blake Berman.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to pick up where Daniel left off, if you don't mind. You said earlier this week -- and I'm quoting for you -- you said, "I've learned a lot in the last two weeks, and terrorism is a far greater threat than the people of our country understand, but we're going to take care of it."

Based off of what you have learned, and now knowing that your executive order is at least temporarily on hold, do you still feel as confident now as you have been at any point, that you and the administration will be able to protect the homeland?

And, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you. I would just like to pick off again on what Daniel had asked about TPP. Do you feel it's a mistake that the United States has at least signaled its intention to withdraw from the deal? Thank you, both.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I feel totally confident that we will have tremendous security for the people of the United States. We will be extreme vetting, which is a term that I developed early in my campaign because I saw what was happening. And while I've been President, which is just for a very short period of time, I've learned tremendous things that you could only learn, frankly, if you

were in a certain position, namely, President. And there are tremendous threats to our country. We will not allow that to happen, I can tell you that right now. We will not allow that to happen.

So we'll be going forward. We'll be doing things to continue to make our country safe. It will happen rapidly. And we will not allow people into our country who are looking to do harm to our people. We will allow lots of people into our country that will love our people and do good for our country. It's always going to be that way, at least during my administration, I can tell you that.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) On TPP -- oh, of course, we are fully aware of President Trump's decision. On economic issues, we will be discussing at the working lunch to follow. As for Japan and United States, trade and investment, as well as economic relations, how can we develop and grow our relationship. As I have already mentioned, Deputy Prime Minister Aso and Vice President Pence will create a new framework for dialogue, and I am quite optimistic that the good results will be seen from the dialogue.

Now, for the free and fair common set of rules to be created for the free trade regime in the region, and that was the purpose of TPP, and that importance have not changed. I, myself, believe that.

Q (As interpreted.) Thank you. My name is Hara from NHK. I have a question to Prime Minister Abe. Now, for the automotive market in Japan, as well as foreign exchange of Japan, in the prior remarks there have been discrepancy in your positions. So at the summit meeting, what were the discussions? And were you able to narrow down the gap?

And President Trump had said that he will make the United States a great country. What is meant by the "great country"? And, Prime Minister, what do you mean when you say United States is a great ally for you?

PRIME MINISTER ABE: Now with the birth of the Trump administration, a new genesis will be built between Japan and U.S. in economic relations. In order to put forward such strong message, I have proposed to launch a new framework for economic dialogue, and we were able to agree on this.

As for sectoral discussions, we will be having a discussion at our working lunch. In any case, between President Trump and I, myself, on Japan and U.S. economic relations, we will -- we have already agreed that we will have Vice President Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Aso to discuss fully on the economic relations between our two countries. And we are looking forward for the good results to ensue from the debate between the experts.

As for the foreign exchange, we will have -- Secretary of Treasury and the Minister of Finance will continue the close communication.

For the United States to become a great nation, the various roles played by the United States and the responsibility to go with it, the world over is faced with increasing uncertainty. That United States will become a great America and become a great and strong ally would be good for Japan. And for Japan and U.S. alliance to be further strengthened would be good not only for our two nations, but also contribute to the peace and prosperity of the Asia Pacific and United States to become even greater. We will welcome that.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. I will say that -- and you've seen it -- ever since I won the election and became President-elect, I've been telling companies, car companies and other companies -- many companies: Come back into the United States. And they've been coming back in. And big announcements are going to be made over the next short period of time. Some of you already know what those announcements are.

We lost a lot of our factories, a lot of our plants. And those factories and those plants will be coming back. And jobs will be coming back to Michigan and Ohio and Pennsylvania and North Carolina, and so many other places where we've lost so many jobs. And those are the people that were so good to me, and now I'm being good to them.

So we've had a tremendous number of announcements. We've had Ford and General Motors and many, many others -- Intel yesterday made a major announcement. And they did that because

of what is happening with our tax structure, which is going along very well. And we'll be having some very big news over the next short period of time.

But we are a nation of tremendous potential. And the expression "Make America Great Again," I will tell you -- and I will add very strongly and with great assurance, it will be greater than ever before.

And I just want to thank the Prime Minister for a friendship. We developed a great friendship when we met in New York City, at Trump Tower. We spoke for a long, long period of time. And when I greeted him today at the car, I was saying -- I shook hands, but I grabbed him and hugged him because that's the way we feel. We have a very, very good bond -- very, very good chemistry. I'll let you know if it changes, but I don't think it will. (Laughter.)

So I just want to thank the Prime Minister for being here. We're going to be meeting your wife in a very short period of time, and I look very much forward to that.

And I want to thank everybody in the room. We're going to have a tremendous relationship, long-term relationship of mutual benefit with Japan.

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: One more.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, certainly. Go ahead.

Q (As interpreted.) Thank you very much. From Sankei Shimbun, my name is Takita. I have a question to President Trump. Obama administration, under the rebalance to Asia, have emphasized Asia. But China is taking hardline stance in South China Sea, as well as China Sea. And North Korea has went on with the missiles and nuclear development. So some countries in Asia are concerned over commitment of United States in Asia. So against this backdrop, as was mentioned earlier, for the Trump administration, for the situations in Asia, how would you respond to the increasing difficulty here?

And, President, you have repeatedly stated about China taking on the currency -- foreign exchange policies which are not good for the United States. Do you think that eventually it will change in the future?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I had a very, very good conversation, as most of you know, yesterday with the President of China. It was a very, very warm conversation. I think we are on the process of getting along very well. And I think that will also be very much of a benefit to Japan. So we had a very, very good talk last night and discussed a lot of subjects. It was a long talk. And we are working on that as we speak. We have conversations with various representatives of China, I believe, that that will all work out very well for everybody -- China, Japan, the United States, and everybody in the region.

As far as the currency devaluations, I've been complaining about that for a long time. And I believe that we will all eventually -- and probably very much sooner than a lot of people understand or think -- we will be all at a level playing field, because that's the only way it's fair. That's the only way that you can fairly compete in trade and other things. And we will be on that field, and we will all be working very hard to do great for our country. But it has to be fair. And we will make it fair.

I think the United States is going to be an even bigger player than it is right now, by a lot, when it comes to trade. A lot of that will have to do with our tax policy, which you'll be seeing in the not-too-distant future. We'll have an incentive-based policy much more so than we have right now. Right now we don't even know -- nobody knows what policy we have. But we're going to have a very much incentive-based policy. We're working with Congress, working with Paul Ryan, working with Mitch McConnell. And I think people are going to be very, very impressed.

We're also working very much -- and this has a lot to do with business -- on health care, where we can get great health care for our country at a much-reduced price, both to the people receiving the health care and to our country. Because our country is paying so much, and Obamacare, as you know, is a total and complete disaster. So we're going to end up with tremendous health care at a lower price. And I think people are going to be extremely happy.

Difficult process, but once we get going -- and, as you know, Tom Price was just approved a few hours ago. So we finally have our Secretary, and now we get down to the final strokes.

Again, I want to thank everybody for being here. I want to thank Mr. Prime Minister. What an honor, what a great honor it is. And let's go to Florida. (Applause.)

END

1:37 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada in Roundtable with Women Entrepreneurs

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 13, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada in Roundtable with Women Entrepreneurs

Cabinet Room

12:13 P.M. EST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'm honored to be here with Prime Minister Trudeau, whose father I knew and respected greatly. And he gave me a picture of myself and your father, and what a great picture. I will keep that in very special place -- at the Waldorf Astoria, together.

We're going to launch the Canada-United States Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs. We have some of the great ones in this room -- and business leaders. We have so many great women leaders around the table today, and we're going to go through your names exactly, because many of you I know, some of you I don't, so I want to find out all about you.

Women, as you know, I can say that from my past life, I had so many women executives who were phenomenal -- phenomenal -- and really helped me a great deal in business. So it was really fantastic. They play a tremendously important role, women in our economy. Women are the primary source of income in 40 percent of American households and households with children under the age of 18. In order to create economic growth and lots of very good, well-paying jobs, we must ensure that our economy is a place where women can work and thrive. And I think that's happening in the United States much more so, and Ivanka is very much involved in this. And I appreciate you being involved in it.

And I know, Justin, in Canada it's happening big league, and it's very important. We need policies that help to keep women in the workforce and to address the unique barriers faced by female entrepreneurs -- and they are unique. We need to make it easier for women to manage the demands of having both a job and a family, and we also need to make it easier for women entrepreneurs to get access to capital. And I guess pretty much all entrepreneurs, we have to help them out, because the system is not working so well for entrepreneurs getting capital. But it's in particular difficult for women, so we're going to get access to markets and access to networks.

And I look forward to hearing your advice. We're going to go around the table, and I want to really learn something today. And again, it's a great honor to be with you. And, Justin, I can say on behalf of our country, it's an honor to be with you.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Thank you, Donald, for welcoming us. And I'm really excited about launching this, sitting around the table here with a number of successful executives who just happen to be women. One of the things that I've been lucky enough to do over the past year in New York and Beijing and across Canada is sit down with women CEOs, women executives to talk about both their successes and the challenges they're facing that are particular, but also how, of course, we create more paths to success for women across our community and across our society.

Whenever I sit down with a woman executive, I know that she has had to overcome significant barriers that exist, and therefore is likely to have greater insight into how to help reduce those barriers for others, but also be a formidable contributor to the success of business and her economy.

So I think for me, it's not just about doing the right thing, it's about understanding that women in leadership positions is a very powerful leverage for success, for business, for communities, and for our entire economy.

(Speaks in French.)

It's a great pleasure to sit with you now and to hear from your extraordinary leadership.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. So how about we start with Ivanka, we go around the room. Ivanka, you might just want to say a couple of words.

MS. TRUMP: Welcome. I'm honored to be here, and really looking forward to hearing from each of you who serve as tremendous role models for me and so many other business leaders. (Inaudible) our countries can lend some tremendously valuable perspective as we think about the unique challenges that entrepreneurs, women in the workforce, female small-business owners are confronted with each and every day. And as we think about how we level the playing field for this generation and for the next.

So thank you for being here. And I look forward to hearing from you today.

MR. FARRELL: Thank you. I'm Dawn Farrell and I'm from a company called TransAlta, which is located in Alberta, where you're going to build the Keystone Pipeline.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: A big chunk of it, that's right.

MS. FARRELL: So thanks for the opportunity to contribute to this important dialogue, and a dialogue that we've had for 100 -- over hundreds of years. My company is in the business of making electricity. We generate electricity from coal, natural gas, and also from renewable sources -- wind, hydro and solar. We have operations in Canada, the United States and in Australia.

And, really, for us to excel, we have to be excellent at operations, engineering, finance and trading, and we have to excel in the public policy dialogue that happens around energy. And I'll talk about that as part of today, because we've done some excellent work with the Trudeau government.

Now, future jobs in our space absolutely depend on growth. There's no question of that. And I truly believe for there to be future opportunities for women, we have to have growth, because the more jobs there are, the more opportunities. And collaborations like this where we break down barriers and simplify, and build trust and build confidence -- because I think businesses invest when there's confidence. And my hope is that's what comes out of here.

Now, for us, having operations in Canada and the United States makes us absolutely more competitive. Our Centralia operation, which is in Washington State, is one of the most competitive plants. They have twice won our most coveted award for plant of the year. But the reality is, teams of people from the United States and teams of people from Canada cross the border often to work with each other to share and to -- so that we can excel as a company overall. So it's huge --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's good. Well, we're going to go around. Thank you. Good job. Boy, she did a hell of a job. (Laughter.) Wow, no wonder she's successful. (Laughter.)

Monique, thank you.

MS. LEROUX: Monique Leroux. I am the chair of the Board of the Quebec Investment Fund and the chair of the Economy Council of the province. I'm also a board member of large, global corporations like S&P Global, Michelin, and Couche-Tard, which is a very interesting Canadian company. Each of those organizations, of course, have significant businesses in the U.S. and also employs a lot of people in this country.

I feel really honored and privileged to be part of the council. I would like to thank you for this great opportunity.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

MS. LEROUX: We have long history of cooperation, and I think that for the woman agenda it will contribute a lot for our great countries.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you, Monique. Appreciate it.

MS. LEE: My name is Tina Lee. I'm CEO of T&T Supermarket. We're Canada's largest Asian supermarket chain. I employ 5,000 staff and serve 500,000 people across the country every week.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Wow. Fantastic.

MS. LEE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

MS. STEPHENSON: I'm Carol Stephenson. I'm on the board of directors at General Motors, and I don't think that General Motors needs any introduction. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, we had -- Mary Barra was here last week, and she's terrific.

MS. STEPHENSON: She is.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. LUNDGREN: I'm Tamara Lundgren. I'm the president and CEO of Schnitzer Steel Industries, which is one of the world's largest recyclers of metal products, sold to steel mills around the world. I also sit on the board of Parsons Corporation, which has been a big participant in the public-private partnerships in Canada. And I sit on the board of Ryder, which goes back and forth between the U.S. and Canada over 400 times every day. And lastly, I'm the chair of the board of the Portland branch of the 12th District Federal Reserve Board.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very good. Thank you very much.

MS. ALLAN: Hello, Elyse Allan. I'm vice president of GE, as well as GE's operations in Canada. And we're a digital industrial company. We have business in 190 countries in the world.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Right. That's good. Good, thank you.

MS. VERSCHUREN: I'm Annette Verschuren. I'm the CEO of NRStor, which is an energy storage development company. Half of my career I've worked with U.S. based companies -- Home Depot, (inaudible) and Michaels -- craft store. I think that our countries are so absolutely bound together by our people, our resources, our trade. Linda Hasenfratz and I worked for many years on North American competitiveness and found ways in which we could get products and services and people through the border efficiently because, as you know, we're the biggest trading partners in the world.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we're going to be working on that very closely over the next very short period of time. There are some new things happening that can be very good. Thank you very much.

MS. SWEET: Hello, I'm Julie Sweet. I'm CEO of North America for Accenture, responsible for both the U.S. and Canadian businesses.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

MS. HASENFRATZ: Hi, I'm Linda Hasenfratz. I'm CEO of Linamar Corporation. We're a diversified manufacturing company. We have 57 plants and 25,000 employees around the world, including right here in the U.S. and, of course, also heavily invested in Canada. We've doubled our workforce in the U.S. over the last five years. We've also doubled our workforce in Canada over the last five years and have a lot of exciting opportunities for growth. We're mainly in the auto parts and access equipment sectors.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody.

END

12:24 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada in Joint Press Conference

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 13, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada in Joint Press Conference

East Room
2:16 P.M. EST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Prime Minister Trudeau, on behalf of all Americans, I thank you for being with us today. It is my honor to host such a great friend, neighbor, and ally at the White House, a very special place. This year, Canada celebrates the 150th year of Confederation. For Americans, this is one of the many milestones in our friendship, and we look forward -- very much forward, I must say -- to many more to come.

Our two nations share much more than a border. We share the same values. We share the love, and a truly great love, of freedom. And we share a collective defense. American and Canadian troops have gone to battle together, fought wars together, and forged the special bonds that come when two nations have shed their blood together -- which we have.

In these dangerous times, it is more important than ever that we continue to strengthen our vital alliance. The United States is deeply grateful for Canada's contribution to the counter-ISIS effort. Thank you. And we continue to work in common, and in common cause, against terrorism, and work in common cooperation toward reciprocal trade and shared growth.

We understand that both of our countries are stronger when we join forces in matters of international commerce. Having more jobs and trade right here in North America is better for both the United States and is also much better for Canada. We should coordinate closely -- and we will coordinate closely -- to protect jobs in our hemisphere and keep wealth on our continent, and to keep everyone safe.

Prime Minister, I pledge to work with you in pursuit of our many shared interests. This includes a stronger trading relationship between the United States and Canada. It includes safe, efficient, and responsible cross-border travel and migration. And it includes close partnership on domestic and international security.

America is deeply fortunate to have a neighbor like Canada. We have before us the opportunity to build even more bridges, and bridges of cooperation and bridges of commerce. Both of us are committed to bringing greater prosperity and opportunity to our people.

We just had a very productive meeting with women business leaders from the United States and Canada, where we discussed how to secure everything that we know the full power of women can do better than anybody else. We know that. I just want to say, Mr. Prime Minister, that I'm focused and you're focused on the important role women play in our economies. We must work to address the barriers faced by women and women entrepreneurs, including access to capital, access to markets, and, very importantly, access to networks.

In our discussion today we will focus on improving the ways our government and our governments together can benefit citizens of both the United States and Canada, and, in so doing, advance the greater peace and stability of the world.

Mr. Prime Minister, I look forward to working closely with you to build upon our very historic friendship. There are incredible possibilities for us to pursue, Canada and the United States together.

Again, thank you for joining us, and I know our discussions will be very, very productive for the future of both countries.

Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Thank you, Mr. President. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you very much for joining us.

I'd first like to start by extending my sincere thanks to President Trump for inviting me down to Washington. Any day I get to visit our southern neighbors is a good day in my book, particularly when it's so nice and warm compared to what it is back home. We are suffering under a significant winter storm that's hitting our Atlantic provinces particularly harsh, so I just want to send everyone back at home my thoughts as they shovel out, and impress on everyone to stay safe.

(As interpreted from French.) The President and myself have had a very productive first meeting today. We had the opportunity to get to know one another better, and, more importantly, we had the opportunity to talk about the unique relationship between Canada and the United States.

(In English.) Ends on both sides of the 49th parallel have understood that the bond between our nations is a special one. No other neighbors in the entire world are as fundamentally linked as we are. We've fought in conflict zones together, negotiated environmental treaties together, including 1991's historic Air Quality Agreement. And we've entered into groundbreaking economic partnerships that have created good jobs for both of our peoples.

Canadians and Americans alike share a common history as well as people-to-people ties that make us completely and totally integrated. Our workers are connected by trade, transportation and cross-border commerce. Our communities rely on each other for security, stability and economic prosperity. Our families have long lived together and worked together. We know that, more often than not, our victories are shared. And just as we celebrate together, so too do we suffer loss and heartbreak together.

Through it all, the foundational pillar upon which our relationship is built is one of mutual respect. And that's a good thing, because as we know, relationships between neighbors are pretty complex and we won't always agree on everything. But because of our deep, abiding respect for one another, we're able to successfully navigate those complexities and still remain the closest of allies and friends. Make no mistake -- at the end of the day, Canada and the U.S. will always remain each other's most essential partner.

And today's conversations have served to reinforce how important that is for both Canadians and Americans. As we know, 35 U.S. states list Canada as their largest export market, and our economies benefit from the over \$2 billion in two-way trade that takes place every single day. Millions of good, middle-class jobs on both sides of the border depend on this crucial partnership. Maintaining strong economic ties is vital to our mutual success, and we're going to continue to work closely together over the coming years so that Canadian and American families can get ahead.

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(In English.) I'd like to highlight just a few of the specifics that President Trump and I discussed today. At the end of the day, the President and I share a common goal. We both want to make sure that hardworking folks can go to work at a good job, put food on the table for their families, and save up to take a vacation every once in a while. That's what we're trying to do here.

Today, we reiterated that our nations are committed to collaborating on energy infrastructure projects that will create jobs while respecting the environment. And, as we know, investing in infrastructure is a great way to create the kind of economic growth that our countries so desperately need.

In that same vein, we know that ensuring equal opportunities for women in the workforce is essential for growing the economy and maintaining American and Canadian competitiveness on the

world stage. As such, the President and I have agreed to the creation of the Canada-United States Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders. This initiative is more than just about dollars and cents. This is about ensuring that women have access to the same opportunities as men, and prioritizing the support and empowerment of women who are senior business leaders and entrepreneurs. In doing so, we'll grow the Canadian and American economies, and help our businesses prosper.

(As interpreted from French.) Finally, President Trump and myself have agreed to work together to fight against the traffic of opioids across our border. The rise of illegal use of opioids in our society is nothing less than a tragedy. We will do everything we can to ensure the safety of Canadians and Americans.

Ladies and gentlemen, President Trump: I know that if our countries continue to work together, our people will greatly benefit from this cooperation.

(In English.) History has demonstrated time and again that in order to tackle our most pressing issues, both foreign and domestic, we must work with our closest allies, learn from each other, and stand in solidarity as a united voice.

With a level of economic and social integration that is unmatched on the world stage, Canada and the United States will forever be a model example of how to be good neighbors. Winston Churchill once said, "That long Canadian frontier from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, guarded only by neighborly respect and honorable obligations, is an example to every country, and a pattern for the future of the world." That, my friends, is the very essence of the Canada-U.S. relationship.

I look forward to working with President Trump over the coming years to nurture and build upon this historic partnership. Once again, it's a tremendous pleasure to be here in Washington. Merci beaucoup.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay, we'll take a couple of questions. Scott Thuman. Scott.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. You just spoke about the desire to build bridges, although there are some notable and philosophical differences between yourself and Prime Minister Trudeau. I'm curious, as you move forward on issues from trade to terrorism, how do you see this relationship playing out? And are there any specific areas with which during your conversations today you each decided to perhaps alter or amend your stances already on those sensitive issues like terrorism and immigration?

And, Prime Minister Trudeau, while only in its infancy so far, how do you see this relationship compared to that under the Obama administration?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we just began discussions. We are going to have a great relationship with Canada, maybe as good or better, hopefully, than ever before. We have some wonderful ideas on immigration. We have some, I think, very strong, very tough ideas on the tremendous problem that we have with terrorism. And I think when we put them all together, which will be very, very quickly -- we have a group of very talented people -- we will see some very, very obvious results. We're also doing some cross-border things that will make it a lot easier for trade and a lot better and a lot faster for trade.

We have -- through technology, we have some really great ideas, and they'll be implemented fairly quickly.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: One of the things we spoke about was the fact that security and immigration need to work very well together. And certainly Canada has emphasized security as we look towards improving our immigration system and remaining true to the values that we have. And we had a very strong and fruitful discussion on exactly that.

There's plenty that we can draw on each other from in terms of how we move forward with a very similar goal, which is to create free, open societies that keep our citizens safe. And that's certainly something that we're very much in agreement on.

Tonda MacCharles.

Q Good afternoon, Mr. President and Mr. Prime Minister. And, Mr. Prime Minister, could you answer in English and French for us, please?

A little bit of a follow-on on my American colleague's question. President Trump, you seem to suggest that Syrian refugees are a Trojan horse for potential terrorism, while the Prime Minister hugs refugees and welcomes them with open arms. So I'd like to know, are you confident the northern border is secure?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You can never be totally confident. But through the incredible efforts -- already I see it happening -- of formerly General Kelly, now Secretary Kelly, we have really done a great job. We're actually taking people that are criminals -- very, very hardened criminals in some cases, with a tremendous track record of abuse and problems -- and we're getting them out. And that's what I said I would do. I'm just doing what I said I would do when we won by a very, very large Electoral College vote.

And I knew that was going to happen. I knew this is what people were wanting. And that wasn't the only reason, that wasn't my only thing that we did so well on. But that was something that was very important. And I said we will get the criminals out, the drug lords, the gang members. We're getting them out.

General Kelly, who is sitting right here, is doing a fantastic job. And I said at the beginning we are going to get the bad ones -- the really bad ones, we're getting them out. And that's exactly what we're doing.

I think that in the end everyone is going to be extremely happy. And I will tell you right now, a lot of people are very, very happy right now.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Canada has always understood that keeping Canadians safe is one of the fundamental responsibilities of any government. And that's certainly something that we're very much focused on.

At the same time, we continue to pursue our policies of openness towards immigration, refugees, without compromising security. And part of the reason we have been successful in doing that over the past year -- welcoming close to 40,000 Syrian refugees -- is because we have been coordinating with our allies, the United States and around the world, to demonstrate that security comes very seriously to us. And that's something that we continue to deal with.

(As interpreted from French.) It is clear that if you want to have a healthy and secure society or safe society, you have to make sure that you maintain -- that you focus on security. And we have welcomed refugees from Syria. We have been very successful, but we have always taken our responsibility toward security very seriously. And our allies, including the United States, understand this focus very well. And they have done so since the very beginning.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Caitlin Collins (ph), please.

Q Thank you. President Trump, now that you've been in office and received intelligence briefings for nearly one month, what do you see as the most important national security matters facing us?

And, Prime Minister Trudeau, you've made very clear that Canada has an open-door policy for Syrian refugees. Do you believe that President Trump's moratorium on immigration has merit on national security grounds?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay. Thank you. Many, many problems. When I was campaigning, I said it's not a good situation. Now that I see it -- including with our intelligence briefings -- we have problems that a lot of people have no idea how bad they are, how serious they are, not only internationally, but when you come right here.

Obviously, North Korea is a big, big problem, and we will deal with that very strongly. We have problems all over the Middle East. We have problems just about every corner of the globe, no matter where you look. I had a great meeting this weekend with Prime Minister Abe of Japan and got to know each other very, very well -- extended weekend, really. We were with each other for long periods of time, and our staffs and representatives.

But on the home front, we have to create borders. We have to let people that can love our country in, and I want to do that. We want to have a big, beautiful, open door, and we want people to come in and come in our country. But we cannot let the wrong people in, and I will not allow that to happen during this administration. And people -- citizens of our country want that, and that's their attitude, too.

I will tell you, we are getting such praise for our stance, and it's a stance of common sense -- maybe a certain toughness, but it's really more than toughness, it's a stance of common sense -- and we are going to pursue it vigorously. And we don't want to have our country have the kinds of problems that you're witnessing taking place not only here but all over the world. We won't stand for it. We won't put up with it. We're just not going to let it happen. We're going to give ourselves every bit of chance so that things go well for the United States. And they will go well. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Canada and the United States have been neighbors a long time, and Canadians and Americans have stood together, worked together at home and around the world. We've fought and died together in battlefields in World War I and World War II, in Korea, in Afghanistan. But there have been times where we have differed in our approaches, and that's always been done firmly and respectfully.

The last thing Canadians expect is for me to come down and lecture another country on how they choose to govern themselves. My role and our responsibility is to continue to govern in such a way that reflects Canadians' approach and be a positive example in the world.

Richard Latendresse.

Q Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. I'll ask my question in French first and then, for you, I'll -- again in English.

(As interpreted from French.) Mr. Prime Minister, if I heard you correctly, you said that Canadian businesses, Canadian workers are concerned for their businesses and for their work and jobs concerning the renegotiation of NAFTA. So what guarantees did you get from this government that we will keep our jobs and our businesses in the renegotiation of NAFTA?

(In English.) Mr. President, again, during the last three months, you have denounced NAFTA. You have talked over and over about the Mexican portion of the agreement, very little about the Canadian one. My question is in two short part is, is Canada a fair trader? And when you talk about changes to NAFTA concerning Canada, are you talking about big changes or small changes? Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: (As interpreted.) First of all, Richard, thank you for your question. It is a real concern for many Canadians because we know that our economy is very dependent on our bonds, our relationship with the United States. Goods and services do cross the border each way every single day, and this means a lot of millions of jobs for Canadians, and good jobs for Canadians. So we are always focusing on these jobs, but there are also good jobs, millions of jobs, in the United States that depend on those relationships between our two countries.

So when we sit down as we did today, and as our teams will be doing in the weeks and months to come, we will be talking about how we can continue to create good jobs for our citizens on both sides of the border. And during this exercise, we continue to understand that we have to allow this free flow of goods and services, and we have to be aware of the integration of our economies, which is extremely positive for both our countries. And this is the focus that we will have in the coming weeks and months to come.

(In English.) Canadians are rightly aware of the fact that much of our economy depends on good working relationships with the United States, a good integration with the American economy. And the fact is, millions of good jobs on both sides of the border depend on the smooth and easy flow of goods and services and people back and forth across our border.

And both President Trump and I got elected on commitments to support the middle class, to work hard for people who need a real shot at success. And we know that by working together, by

ensuring the continued effective integration of our two economies, we are going to be creating greater opportunities for middle-class Canadians and Americans now and well into the future.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I agree with that 100 percent. We have a very outstanding trade relationship with Canada. We'll be tweaking it. We'll be doing certain things that are going to benefit both of our countries. It's a much less severe situation than what's taking place on the southern border. On the southern border, for many, many years, the transaction was not fair to the United States. It was an extremely unfair transaction. We're going to work with Mexico, we're going to make it a fair deal for both parties. I think that we're going to get along very well with Mexico; they understand and we understand.

You probably have noticed that Ford is making billions of dollars of new investments in this country. You saw Intel the other day announce that because of what I've been doing and what I'm doing in terms of regulation -- lowering taxes, et cetera -- they're coming in with billions and billions of dollars of investment, and thousands of thousands of jobs. General Motors, likewise, is expanding plants and going to build new plants. Fiat Chrysler was at a meeting where they're doing the same. Jack Ma -- we have so many people that want to come into the United States. It's actually very exciting.

I think it's going to be a very exciting period of time for the United States and for the workers of the United States, because they have been truly the forgotten man and forgotten women. It's not going to be forgotten anymore, believe me.

So our relationship with Canada is outstanding, and we're going to work together to make it even better. And as far as the southern border is concerned, we're going to get that worked out. We're going to make it fair, but we are going to make it so that everybody is happy. It's very important to me.

Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

2:42 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel in Joint Press Conference

The White House
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Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel in Joint Press Conference

[As prepared by White House stenographer in real time]
East Room
12:15 P.M. EST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you. Today I have the honor of welcoming my friend, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, to the White House. With this visit, the United States again reaffirms our unbreakable bond with our cherished ally, Israel. The partnership between our two countries built on our shared values has advanced the cause of human freedom, dignity and peace. These are the building blocks of democracy.

The state of Israel is a symbol to the world of resilience in the face of oppression -- I can think of no other state that's gone through what they've gone -- and of survival in the face of genocide. We will never forget what the Jewish people have endured.

Your perseverance in the face of hostility, your open democracy in the face of violence, and your success in the face of tall odds is truly inspirational. The security challenges faced by Israel

are enormous, including the threat of Iran's nuclear ambitions, which I've talked a lot about. One of the worst deals I've ever seen is the Iran deal. My administration has already imposed new sanctions on Iran, and I will do more to prevent Iran from ever developing -- I mean ever -- a nuclear weapon.

Our security assistance to Israel is currently at an all-time high, ensuring that Israel has the ability to defend itself from threats of which there are unfortunately many. Both of our countries will continue and grow. We have a long history of cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the fight against those who do not value human life. America and Israel are two nations that cherish the value of all human life.

This is one more reason why I reject unfair and one-sided actions against Israel at the United Nations -- just treated Israel, in my opinion, very, very unfairly -- or other international forums, as well as boycotts that target Israel. Our administration is committed to working with Israel and our common allies in the region towards greater security and stability. That includes working toward a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The United States will encourage a peace and, really, a great peace deal. We'll be working on it very, very diligently. Very important to me also -- something we want to do. But it is the parties themselves who must directly negotiate such an agreement. We'll be beside them; we'll be working with them.

As with any successful negotiation, both sides will have to make compromises. You know that, right? (Laughter.)

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Both sides.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I want the Israeli people to know that the United States stands with Israel in the struggle against terrorism. As you know, Mr. Prime Minister, our two nations will always condemn terrorist acts. Peace requires nations to uphold the dignity of human life and to be a voice for all of those who are endangered and forgotten.

Those are the ideals to which we all, and will always, aspire and commit. This will be the first of many productive meetings. And I, again, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much for being with us today.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: President Trump, thank you for the truly warm hospitality you and Melania have shown me, my wife Sara, our entire delegation. I deeply value your friendship. To me, to the state of Israel, it was so clearly evident in the words you just spoke -- Israel has no better ally than the United States. And I want to assure you, the United States has no better ally than Israel.

Our alliance has been remarkably strong, but under your leadership I'm confident it will get even stronger. I look forward to working with you to dramatically upgrade our alliance in every field -- in security, in technology, in cyber and trade, and so many others. And I certainly welcome your forthright call to ensure that Israel is treated fairly in international forums, and that the slander and boycotts of Israel are resisted mightily by the power and moral position of the United States of America.

As you have said, our alliance is based on a deep bond of common values and common interests. And, increasingly, those values and interests are under attack by one malevolent force: radical Islamic terror. Mr. President, you've shown great clarity and courage in confronting this challenge head-on. You call for confronting Iran's terrorist regime, preventing Iran from realizing this terrible deal into a nuclear arsenal. And you have said that the United States is committed to preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons. You call for the defeat of ISIS. Under your leadership, I believe we can reverse the rising tide of radical Islam. And in this great task, as in so many others, Israel stands with you and I stand with you.

Mr. President, in rolling back militant Islam, we can seize an historic opportunity -- because, for the first time in my lifetime, and for the first time in the life of my country, Arab countries in the region do not see Israel as an enemy, but, increasingly, as an ally. And I believe that under your

leadership, this change in our region creates an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen security and advance peace.

Let us seize this moment together. Let us bolster security. Let us seek new avenues of peace. And let us bring the remarkable alliance between Israel and the United States to even greater heights.

Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Again, thank you.

We'll take a couple of questions. David Brody, Christian Broadcasting. David.

Q Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister. Both of you have criticized the Iran nuclear deal, and at times even called for its repeal. I'm wondering if you're concerned at all as it relates to not just the National Security Advisor, Michael Flynn, who is recently no longer here, but also some of those events that have been going on with communication in Russia -- if that is going to hamper this deal at all, and whether or not it would keep Iran from becoming a nuclear state.

And secondly, on the settlement issue, are you both on the same page? How do you exactly term that as it relates to the settlement issue? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Michael Flynn, General Flynn is a wonderful man. I think he's been treated very, very unfairly by the media -- as I call it, the fake media, in many cases. And I think it's really a sad thing that he was treated so badly. I think, in addition to that, from intelligence -- papers are being leaked, things are being leaked. It's criminal actions, criminal act, and it's been going on for a long time -- before me. But now it's really going on, and people are trying to cover up for a terrible loss that the Democrats had under Hillary Clinton.

I think it's very, very unfair what's happened to General Flynn, the way he was treated, and the documents and papers that were illegally -- I stress that -- illegally leaked. Very, very unfair.

As far as settlements, I'd like to see you hold back on settlements for a little bit. We'll work something out. But I would like to see a deal be made. I think a deal will be made. I know that every President would like to. Most of them have not started until late because they never thought it was possible. And it wasn't possible because they didn't do it.

But Bibi and I have known each other a long time -- a smart man, great negotiator. And I think we're going to make a deal. It might be a bigger and better deal than people in this room even understand. That's a possibility. So let's see what we do.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Let's try it.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Doesn't sound too optimistic, but -- (laughter) -- he's a good negotiator.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: That's the "art of the deal." (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I also want to thank -- I also want to thank -- Sara, could you please stand up? You're so lovely and you've been so nice to Melania. I appreciate it very much. (Applause.) Thank you.

Your turn.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Yes, please. Go ahead.

Q Thank you very much. Mr. President, in your vision for the new Middle East peace, are you ready to give up the notion of two-state solution that was adopted by previous administration? And will you be willing to hear different ideas from the Prime Minister, as some of his partners are asking him to do, for example, annexation of parts of the West Bank and unrestricted settlement constructions? And one more question: Are you going to fulfill your promise to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? And if so, when?

And, Mr. Prime Minister, did you come here tonight to tell the President that you're backing off the two-state solution?

Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: So I'm looking at two-state and one-state, and I like the one that both parties like. (Laughter.) I'm very happy with the one that both parties like. I can live with either one.

I thought for a while the two-state looked like it may be the easier of the two. But honestly, if Bibi and if the Palestinians -- if Israel and the Palestinians are happy, I'm happy with the one they like the best.

As far as the embassy moving to Jerusalem, I'd love to see that happen. We're looking at it very, very strongly. We're looking at it with great care -- great care, believe me. And we'll see what happens. Okay?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Thank you. I read yesterday that an American official said that if you ask five people what two states would look like, you'd get eight different answers. Mr. President, if you ask five Israelis, you'd get 12 different answers. (Laughter.)

But rather than deal with labels, I want to deal with substance. It's something I've hoped to do for years in a world that's absolutely fixated on labels and not on substance. So here's the substance: There are two prerequisites for peace that I laid out two years -- several years ago, and they haven't changed.

First, the Palestinians must recognize the Jewish state. They have to stop calling for Israel's destruction. They have to stop educating their people for Israel's destruction.

Second, in any peace agreement, Israel must retain the overriding security control over the entire area west of the Jordan River. Because if we don't, we know what will happen -- because otherwise we'll get another radical Islamic terrorist state in the Palestinian areas exploding the peace, exploding the Middle East.

Now, unfortunately, the Palestinians vehemently reject both prerequisites for peace. First, they continue to call for Israel's destruction -- inside their schools, inside their mosques, inside the textbooks. You have to read it to believe it.

They even deny, Mr. President, our historical connection to our homeland. And I suppose you have to ask yourself: Why do - - why are Jews called Jews? Well, the Chinese are called Chinese because they come from China. The Japanese are called Japanese because they come from Japan. Well, Jews are called Jews because they come from Judea. This is our ancestral homeland. Jews are not foreign colonialists in Judea.

So, unfortunately, the Palestinians not only deny the past, they also poison the present. They name public squares in honor of mass murderers who murdered Israelis, and I have to say also murdered Americans. They fund -- they pay monthly salaries to the families of murderers, like the family of the terrorist who killed Taylor Force, a wonderful young American, a West Point graduate, who was stabbed to death while visiting Israel.

So this is the source of the conflict -- the persistent Palestinian refusal to recognize the Jewish state in any boundary; this persistent rejection. That's the reason we don't have peace. Now, that has to change. I want it to change. Not only have I not abandoned these two prerequisites of peace; they've become even more important because of the rising tide of fanaticism that has swept the Middle East and has also, unfortunately, infected Palestinian society.

So I want this to change. I want those two prerequisites of peace -- substance, not labels -- I want them reinstated. But if anyone believes that I, as Prime Minister of Israel, responsible for the security of my country, would blindly walk into a Palestinian terrorist state that seeks the destruction of my country, they're gravely mistaken.

The two prerequisites of peace -- recognition of the Jewish state, and Israel's security needs west of the Jordan -- they remain pertinent. We have to look for new ways, new ideas on how to reinstate them and how to move peace forward. And I believe that the great opportunity for peace comes from a regional approach from involving our newfound Arab partners in the pursuit of a broader peace and peace with the Palestinians.

And I greatly look forward to discussing this in detail with you, Mr. President, because I think that if we work together, we have a shot.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And we have been discussing that, and it is something that is very different, hasn't been discussed before. And it's actually a much bigger deal, a much more important deal, in a sense. It would take in many, many countries and it would cover a very large territory. So I didn't know you were going to be mentioning that, but that's -- now that you did, I think it's a terrific thing and I think we have some pretty good cooperation from people that in the past would never, ever have even thought about doing this. So we'll see how that works out.

Katie from Townhall. Where's Katie? Right there. Katie.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. You said in your earlier remarks that both sides will have to make compromises when it comes to a peace deal. You've mentioned a halt on settlements. Can you lay out a few more specific compromises that you have in mind, both for the Israelis and for the Palestinians?

And, Mr. Prime Minister, what expectations do you have from the new administration about how to either amend the Iran nuclear agreement or how to dismantle it altogether, and how to overall work with the new administration to combat Iran's increased aggression, not only in the last couple of months but the past couple of years as well?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's actually an interesting question. I think that the Israelis are going to have to show some flexibility, which is hard, it's hard to do. They're going to have to show the fact that they really want to make a deal. I think our new concept that we've been discussing actually for a while is something that allows them to show more flexibility than they have in the past because you have a lot bigger canvas to play with. And I think they'll do that.

I think they very much would like to make a deal or I wouldn't be happy and I wouldn't be here and I wouldn't be as optimistic as I am. I really think they -- I can tell you from the standpoint of Bibi and from the standpoint of Israel, I really believe they want to make a deal and they'd like to see the big deal.

I think the Palestinians have to get rid of some of that hate that they're taught from a very young age. They're taught tremendous hate. I've seen what they're taught. And you can talk about flexibility there too, but it starts at a very young age and it starts in the school room. And they have to acknowledge Israel -- they're going to have to do that. There's no way a deal can be made if they're not ready to acknowledge a very, very great and important country. And I think they're going to be willing to do that also. But now I also believe we're going to have, Katie, other players at a very high level, and I think it might make it easier on both the Palestinians and Israel to get something done.

Okay? Thank you. Very interesting question. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: You asked about Iran. One thing is preventing Iran from getting nuclear weapons -- something that President Trump and I think are deeply committed to do. And we are obviously going to discuss that.

I think, beyond that, President Trump has led a very important effort in the past few weeks, just coming into the presidency. He pointed out there are violations, Iranian violations on ballistic missile tests. By the way, these ballistic missiles are inscribed in Hebrew, "Israel must be destroyed." The Palestinian -- rather the Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif said, well, our ballistic missiles are not intended against any country. No. They write on the missile in Hebrew, "Israel must be destroyed."

So challenging Iran on its violations of ballistic missiles, imposing sanctions on Hezbollah, preventing them, making them pay for the terrorism that they foment throughout the Middle East and beyond, well beyond -- I think that's a change that is clearly evident since President Trump took office. I welcome that. I think it's -- let me say this very openly: I think it's long overdue, and I think that if we work together -- and not just the United States and Israel, but so many others in the region who see eye to eye on the great magnitude and danger of the Iranian threat, then I think we

can roll back Iran's aggression and danger. And that's something that is important for Israel, the Arab states, but I think it's vitally important for America. These guys are developing ICBMs. They're developing -- they want to get to a nuclear arsenal, not a bomb, a hundred bombs. And they want to have the ability to launch them everywhere on Earth, and including, and especially, eventually, the United States.

So this is something that is important for all of us. I welcome the change, and I intend to work with President Trump very closely so that we can thwart this danger.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Great. Do you have somebody?

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Moav (ph)?

Q Mr. President, since your election campaign and even after your victory, we've seen a sharp rise in anti-Semitic incidents across the United States. And I wonder what you say to those among the Jewish community in the States, and in Israel, and maybe around the world who believe and feel that your administration is playing with xenophobia and maybe racist tones.

And, Mr. Prime Minister, do you agree to what the President just said about the need for Israel to restrain or to stop settlement activity in the West Bank? And a quick follow-up on my friend's questions -- simple question: Do you back off from your vision to the end of the conflict of two-state solution as you laid out in Bar-Ilan speech, or you still support it? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I just want to say that we are very honored by the victory that we had -- 306 Electoral College votes. We were not supposed to crack 220. You know that, right? There was no way to 221, but then they said there's no way to 270. And there's tremendous enthusiasm out there.

I will say that we are going to have peace in this country. We are going to stop crime in this country. We are going to do everything within our power to stop long-simmering racism and every other thing that's going on, because lot of bad things have been taking place over a long period of time.

I think one of the reasons I won the election is we have a very, very divided nation. Very divided. And, hopefully, I'll be able to do something about that. And, you know, it was something that was very important to me.

As far as people -- Jewish people -- so many friends, a daughter who happens to be here right now, a son-in-law, and three beautiful grandchildren. I think that you're going to see a lot different United States of America over the next three, four, or eight years. I think a lot of good things are happening, and you're going to see a lot of love. You're going to see a lot of love. Okay? Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: I believe that the issue of the settlements is not the core of the conflict, nor does it really drive the conflict. I think it's an issue, it has to be resolved in the context of peace negotiations. And I think we also are going to speak about it, President Trump and I, so we can arrive at an understanding so we don't keep on bumping into each other all the time on this issue. And we're going to discuss this.

On the question you said, you just came back with your question to the problem that I said. It's the label. What does Abu Mazen mean by two states, okay? What does he mean? A state that doesn't recognize the Jewish state? A state that basically is open for attack against Israel? What are we talking about? Are we talking about Costa Rica, or are we talking about another Iran?

So obviously it means different things. I told you what are the conditions that I believe are necessary for an agreement: It's the recognition of the Jewish state and it's Israel's -- Israel's -- security control of the entire area. Otherwise we're just fantasizing. Otherwise we'll get another failed state, another terrorist Islamist dictatorship that will not work for peace but work to destroy us but also destroy any hope -- any hope -- for a peaceful future for our people.

So I've been very clear about those conditions, and they haven't changed. I haven't changed. If you read what I said eight years ago, it's exactly that. And I repeated that again, and again, and again. If you want to deal with labels, deal with labels. I'll deal with substance.

And finally, if I can respond to something that I know from personal experience. I've known President Trump for many years, and to allude to him, or to his people -- his team, some of whom I've known for many years, too. Can I reveal, Jared, how long we've known you? (Laughter.) Well, he was never small. He was always big. He was always tall.

But I've known the President and I've known his family and his team for a long time, and there is no greater supporter of the Jewish people and the Jewish state than President Donald Trump. I think we should put that to rest.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Very nice. I appreciate that very much.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Thank you.

END

12:42 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump and President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 24, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

3:06 P.M. EST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much, everybody. It's a great honor to have President Kuczynski with us from Peru. Peru has been a fantastic neighbor. We've had great relationships -- better now than ever before. And I have known him for quite a while through reading about the work that he's done, and I believe he's here to get an award at Princeton. An award for what? Explain, please.

PRESIDENT KUCZYNSKI: For being an alumnus who did okay, I guess. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yeah, did very okay. And your daughter goes to --

PRESIDENT KUCZYNSKI: Alex? Oh, my other daughter, Susie, goes to Princeton.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Right. That's exactly right.

PRESIDENT KUCZYNSKI: She wants to study medicine.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And I assume she's very proud of you getting the big award tomorrow, right?

PRESIDENT KUCZYNSKI: Right. And Alex went to Columbia.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's great. Good students, good children. So a very, very special man, and it's an honor to have him in Washington, at the White House. And we're going to talk some business. I understand they're going to be buying quite a bit of our military -- some of our military vehicles. And they are great vehicles. I just looked at it and we're approving it. And use them well. Use them well.

And if you'd like to say something, Mr. President, please.

PRESIDENT KUCZYNSKI: Well, I'm happy to be in Washington. I lived here for a while. I lived in New York. We greatly respect the U.S. We have excellent relations. And Latin America needs to grow more, and we're going to talk about how to do that. Maybe you have a few ideas.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I guess I do. I guess I do. And we have a problem with Venezuela. They're doing very poorly. And so we'll be talking about a lot of different things.

And thank you all for being here. Thank you.

END

3:08 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump in Joint Address to Congress

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 28, 2017
Remarks by President Trump in Joint Address to Congress
U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C.
9:09 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, members of Congress, the First Lady of the United States -- (applause) -- and citizens of America:

Tonight, as we mark the conclusion of our celebration of Black History Month, we are reminded of our nation's path towards civil rights and the work that still remains to be done. (Applause.) Recent threats targeting Jewish community centers and vandalism of Jewish cemeteries, as well as last week's shooting in Kansas City, remind us that while we may be a nation divided on policies, we are a country that stands united in condemning hate and evil in all of its very ugly forms. (Applause.)

Each American generation passes the torch of truth, liberty and justice in an unbroken chain all the way down to the present. That torch is now in our hands. And we will use it to light up the world. I am here tonight to deliver a message of unity and strength, and it is a message deeply delivered from my heart. A new chapter -- (applause) -- of American Greatness is now beginning. A new national pride is sweeping across our nation. And a new surge of optimism is placing impossible dreams firmly within our grasp.

What we are witnessing today is the renewal of the American spirit. Our allies will find that America is once again ready to lead. (Applause.) All the nations of the world -- friend or foe -- will find that America is strong, America is proud, and America is free.

In nine years, the United States will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our founding -- 250 years since the day we declared our independence. It will be one of the great milestones in the history of the world. But what will America look like as we reach our 250th year? What kind of country will we leave for our children?

I will not allow the mistakes of recent decades past to define the course of our future. For too long, we've watched our middle class shrink as we've exported our jobs and wealth to foreign countries. We've financed and built one global project after another, but ignored the fates of our children in the inner cities of Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, and so many other places throughout our land.

We've defended the borders of other nations while leaving our own borders wide open for anyone to cross and for drugs to pour in at a now unprecedented rate. And we've spent trillions and trillions of dollars overseas, while our infrastructure at home has so badly crumbled.

Then, in 2016, the Earth shifted beneath our feet. The rebellion started as a quiet protest, spoken by families of all colors and creeds -- families who just wanted a fair shot for their children and a fair hearing for their concerns.

But then the quiet voices became a loud chorus as thousands of citizens now spoke out together, from cities small and large, all across our country. Finally, the chorus became an earthquake, and the people turned out by the tens of millions, and they were all united by one very simple, but crucial demand: that America must put its own citizens first. Because only then can we truly make America great again. (Applause.)

Dying industries will come roaring back to life. Heroic veterans will get the care they so desperately need. Our military will be given the resources its brave warriors so richly deserve. Crumbling infrastructure will be replaced with new roads, bridges, tunnels, airports and railways

gleaming across our very, very beautiful land. Our terrible drug epidemic will slow down and, ultimately, stop. And our neglected inner cities will see a rebirth of hope, safety and opportunity. Above all else, we will keep our promises to the American people. (Applause.)

It's been a little over a month since my inauguration, and I want to take this moment to update the nation on the progress I've made in keeping those promises.

Since my election, Ford, Fiat-Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Softbank, Lockheed, Intel, Walmart and many others have announced that they will invest billions and billions of dollars in the United States, and will create tens of thousands of new American jobs. (Applause.)

The stock market has gained almost \$3 trillion in value since the election on November 8th, a record. We've saved taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars by bringing down the price of a fantastic -- and it is a fantastic -- new F-35 jet fighter, and we'll be saving billions more on contracts all across our government. We have placed a hiring freeze on non-military and non-essential federal workers.

We have begun to drain the swamp of government corruption by imposing a five-year ban on lobbying by executive branch officials and a lifetime ban -- (applause) -- thank you -- and a lifetime ban on becoming lobbyists for a foreign government.

We have undertaken a historic effort to massively reduce job-crushing regulations, creating a deregulation task force inside of every government agency. (Applause.) And we're imposing a new rule which mandates that for every one new regulation, two old regulations must be eliminated. (Applause.) We're going to stop the regulations that threaten the future and livelihood of our great coal miners. (Applause.)

We have cleared the way for the construction of the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines -- (applause) -- thereby creating tens of thousands of jobs. And I've issued a new directive that new American pipelines be made with American steel. (Applause.)

We have withdrawn the United States from the job-killing Trans-Pacific Partnership. (Applause.) And with the help of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, we have formed a council with our neighbors in Canada to help ensure that women entrepreneurs have access to the networks, markets and capital they need to start a business and live out their financial dreams. (Applause.)

To protect our citizens, I have directed the Department of Justice to form a Task Force on Reducing Violent Crime. I have further ordered the Departments of Homeland Security and Justice, along with the Department of State and the Director of National Intelligence, to coordinate an aggressive strategy to dismantle the criminal cartels that have spread all across our nation. (Applause.) We will stop the drugs from pouring into our country and poisoning our youth, and we will expand treatment for those who have become so badly addicted. (Applause.)

At the same time, my administration has answered the pleas of the American people for immigration enforcement and border security. (Applause.) By finally enforcing our immigration laws, we will raise wages, help the unemployed, save billions and billions of dollars, and make our communities safer for everyone. (Applause.) We want all Americans to succeed, but that can't happen in an environment of lawless chaos. We must restore integrity and the rule of law at our borders. (Applause.)

For that reason, we will soon begin the construction of a great, great wall along our southern border. (Applause.) As we speak tonight, we are removing gang members, drug dealers, and criminals that threaten our communities and prey on our very innocent citizens. Bad ones are going out as I speak, and as I promised throughout the campaign.

To any in Congress who do not believe we should enforce our laws, I would ask you this one question: What would you say to the American family that loses their jobs, their income, or their loved one because America refused to uphold its laws and defend its borders? (Applause.)

Our obligation is to serve, protect, and defend the citizens of the United States. We are also taking strong measures to protect our nation from radical Islamic terrorism. (Applause.) According to data provided by the Department of Justice, the vast majority of individuals convicted of

terrorism and terrorism-related offenses since 9/11 came here from outside of our country. We have seen the attacks at home -- from Boston to San Bernardino to the Pentagon, and, yes, even the World Trade Center.

We have seen the attacks in France, in Belgium, in Germany, and all over the world. It is not compassionate, but reckless to allow uncontrolled entry from places where proper vetting cannot occur. (Applause.) Those given the high honor of admission to the United States should support this country and love its people and its values. We cannot allow a beachhead of terrorism to form inside America. We cannot allow our nation to become a sanctuary for extremists. (Applause.)

That is why my administration has been working on improved vetting procedures, and we will shortly take new steps to keep our nation safe and to keep out those out who will do us harm. (Applause.)

As promised, I directed the Department of Defense to develop a plan to demolish and destroy ISIS -- a network of lawless savages that have slaughtered Muslims and Christians, and men, and women, and children of all faiths and all beliefs. We will work with our allies, including our friends and allies in the Muslim world, to extinguish this vile enemy from our planet. (Applause.)

I have also imposed new sanctions on entities and individuals who support Iran's ballistic missile program, and reaffirmed our unbreakable alliance with the State of Israel. (Applause.)

Finally, I have kept my promise to appoint a justice to the United States Supreme Court, from my list of 20 judges, who will defend our Constitution. (Applause.)

I am greatly honored to have Maureen Scalia with us in the gallery tonight. (Applause.) Thank you, Maureen. Her late, great husband, Antonin Scalia, will forever be a symbol of American justice. To fill his seat, we have chosen Judge Neil Gorsuch, a man of incredible skill and deep devotion to the law. He was confirmed unanimously by the Court of Appeals, and I am asking the Senate to swiftly approve his nomination. (Applause.)

Tonight, as I outline the next steps we must take as a country, we must honestly acknowledge the circumstances we inherited. Ninety-four million Americans are out of the labor force. Over 43 million people are now living in poverty, and over 43 million Americans are on food stamps. More than one in five people in their prime working years are not working. We have the worst financial recovery in 65 years. In the last eight years, the past administration has put on more new debt than nearly all of the other Presidents combined.

We've lost more than one-fourth of our manufacturing jobs since NAFTA was approved, and we've lost 60,000 factories since China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001. Our trade deficit in goods with the world last year was nearly \$800 billion dollars. And overseas we have inherited a series of tragic foreign policy disasters.

Solving these and so many other pressing problems will require us to work past the differences of party. It will require us to tap into the American spirit that has overcome every challenge throughout our long and storied history. But to accomplish our goals at home and abroad, we must restart the engine of the American economy -- making it easier for companies to do business in the United States, and much, much harder for companies to leave our country. (Applause.)

Right now, American companies are taxed at one of the highest rates anywhere in the world. My economic team is developing historic tax reform that will reduce the tax rate on our companies so they can compete and thrive anywhere and with anyone. (Applause.) It will be a big, big cut.

At the same time, we will provide massive tax relief for the middle class. We must create a level playing field for American companies and our workers. We have to do it. (Applause.) Currently, when we ship products out of America, many other countries make us pay very high tariffs and taxes. But when foreign companies ship their products into America, we charge them nothing, or almost nothing.

I just met with officials and workers from a great American company, Harley-Davidson. In fact, they proudly displayed five of their magnificent motorcycles, made in the USA, on the front

lawn of the White House. ((Laughter and applause.) And they wanted me to ride one and I said, "No, thank you." (Laughter.)

At our meeting, I asked them, how are you doing, how is business? They said that it's good. I asked them further, how are you doing with other countries, mainly international sales? They told me -- without even complaining, because they have been so mistreated for so long that they've become used to it -- that it's very hard to do business with other countries because they tax our goods at such a high rate. They said that in the case of another country, they taxed their motorcycles at 100 percent. They weren't even asking for a change. But I am. (Applause.)

I believe strongly in free trade but it also has to be fair trade. It's been a long time since we had fair trade. The first Republican President, Abraham Lincoln, warned that the "abandonment of the protective policy by the American government... will produce want and ruin among our people." Lincoln was right -- and it's time we heeded his advice and his words. (Applause.) I am not going to let America and its great companies and workers be taken advantage of us any longer. They have taken advantage of our country. No longer. (Applause.)

I am going to bring back millions of jobs. Protecting our workers also means reforming our system of legal immigration. (Applause.) The current, outdated system depresses wages for our poorest workers, and puts great pressure on taxpayers. Nations around the world, like Canada, Australia and many others, have a merit-based immigration system. (Applause.) It's a basic principle that those seeking to enter a country ought to be able to support themselves financially. Yet, in America, we do not enforce this rule, straining the very public resources that our poorest citizens rely upon. According to the National Academy of Sciences, our current immigration system costs American taxpayers many billions of dollars a year.

Switching away from this current system of lower-skilled immigration, and instead adopting a merit-based system, we will have so many more benefits. It will save countless dollars, raise workers' wages, and help struggling families -- including immigrant families -- enter the middle class. And they will do it quickly, and they will be very, very happy, indeed. (Applause.)

I believe that real and positive immigration reform is possible, as long as we focus on the following goals: To improve jobs and wages for Americans; to strengthen our nation's security; and to restore respect for our laws. If we are guided by the wellbeing of American citizens, then I believe Republicans and Democrats can work together to achieve an outcome that has eluded our country for decades. (Applause.)

Another Republican President, Dwight D. Eisenhower, initiated the last truly great national infrastructure program -- the building of the Interstate Highway System. The time has come for a new program of national rebuilding. (Applause.) America has spent approximately \$6 trillion in the Middle East -- all the while our infrastructure at home is crumbling. With this \$6 trillion, we could have rebuilt our country twice, and maybe even three times if we had people who had the ability to negotiate. (Applause.)

To launch our national rebuilding, I will be asking Congress to approve legislation that produces a \$1 trillion investment in infrastructure of the United States -- financed through both public and private capital -- creating millions of new jobs. (Applause.) This effort will be guided by two core principles: buy American and hire American. (Applause.)

Tonight, I am also calling on this Congress to repeal and replace Obamacare -- (applause) -- with reforms that expand choice, increase access, lower costs, and, at the same time, provide better healthcare. (Applause.)

Mandating every American to buy government-approved health insurance was never the right solution for our country. (Applause.) The way to make health insurance available to everyone is to lower the cost of health insurance, and that is what we are going do. (Applause.)

Obamacare premiums nationwide have increased by double and triple digits. As an example, Arizona went up 116 percent last year alone. Governor Matt Bevin of Kentucky just said Obamacare is failing in his state -- the state of Kentucky -- and it's unsustainable and collapsing.

One-third of counties have only one insurer, and they are losing them fast. They are losing them so fast. They are leaving, and many Americans have no choice at all. There's no choice left. Remember when you were told that you could keep your doctor and keep your plan? We now know that all of those promises have been totally broken. Obamacare is collapsing, and we must act decisively to protect all Americans. (Applause.)

Action is not a choice, it is a necessity. So I am calling on all Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work with us to save Americans from this imploding Obamacare disaster. (Applause.)

Here are the principles that should guide the Congress as we move to create a better healthcare system for all Americans:

First, we should ensure that Americans with preexisting conditions have access to coverage, and that we have a stable transition for Americans currently enrolled in the healthcare exchanges. (Applause.)

Secondly, we should help Americans purchase their own coverage through the use of tax credits and expanded Health Savings Accounts -- but it must be the plan they want, not the plan forced on them by our government. (Applause.)

Thirdly, we should give our great state governors the resources and flexibility they need with Medicaid to make sure no one is left out. (Applause.)

Fourth, we should implement legal reforms that protect patients and doctors from unnecessary costs that drive up the price of insurance, and work to bring down the artificially high price of drugs, and bring them down immediately. (Applause.)

And finally, the time has come to give Americans the freedom to purchase health insurance across state lines -- (applause) -- which will create a truly competitive national marketplace that will bring costs way down and provide far better care. So important.

Everything that is broken in our country can be fixed. Every problem can be solved. And every hurting family can find healing and hope.

Our citizens deserve this, and so much more -- so why not join forces and finally get the job done, and get it done right? (Applause.) On this and so many other things, Democrats and Republicans should get together and unite for the good of our country and for the good of the American people. (Applause.)

My administration wants to work with members of both parties to make childcare accessible and affordable, to help ensure new parents that they have paid family leave -- (applause) -- to invest in women's health, and to promote clean air and clean water, and to rebuild our military and our infrastructure. (Applause.)

True love for our people requires us to find common ground, to advance the common good, and to cooperate on behalf of every American child who deserves a much brighter future.

An incredible young woman is with us this evening, who should serve as an inspiration to us all. Today is Rare Disease Day, and joining us in the gallery is a rare disease survivor, Megan Crowley. (Applause.)

Megan was diagnosed with Pompe disease, a rare and serious illness, when she was 15 months old. She was not expected to live past five. On receiving this news, Megan's dad, John, fought with everything he had to save the life of his precious child. He founded a company to look for a cure, and helped develop the drug that saved Megan's life. Today she is 20 years old and a sophomore at Notre Dame. (Applause.)

Megan's story is about the unbounded power of a father's love for a daughter. But our slow and burdensome approval process at the Food and Drug Administration keeps too many advances, like the one that saved Megan's life, from reaching those in need. If we slash the restraints, not just at the FDA but across our government, then we will be blessed with far more miracles just like Megan. (Applause.) In fact, our children will grow up in a nation of miracles.

But to achieve this future, we must enrich the mind and the souls of every American child. Education is the civil rights issue of our time. (Applause.) I am calling upon members of both

parties to pass an education bill that funds school choice for disadvantaged youth, including millions of African American and Latino children. (Applause.) These families should be free to choose the public, private, charter, magnet, religious, or home school that is right for them. (Applause.)

Joining us tonight in the gallery is a remarkable woman, Denisha Merriweather. As a young girl, Denisha struggled in school and failed third grade twice. But then she was able to enroll in a private center for learning -- a great learning center -- with the help of a tax credit and a scholarship program.

Today, she is the first in her family to graduate, not just from high school, but from college. Later this year she will get her master's degree in social work. We want all children to be able to break the cycle of poverty just like Denisha. (Applause.)

But to break the cycle of poverty, we must also break the cycle of violence. The murder rate in 2015 experienced its largest single-year increase in nearly half a century. In Chicago, more than 4,000 people were shot last year alone, and the murder rate so far this year has been even higher. This is not acceptable in our society. (Applause.)

Every American child should be able to grow up in a safe community, to attend a great school, and to have access to a high-paying job. (Applause.) But to create this future, we must work with, not against -- not against -- the men and women of law enforcement. (Applause.) We must build bridges of cooperation and trust -- not drive the wedge of disunity and, really, it's what it is, division. It's pure, unadulterated division. We have to unify.

Police and sheriffs are members of our community. They're friends and neighbors, they're mothers and fathers, sons and daughters -- and they leave behind loved ones every day who worry about whether or not they'll come home safe and sound. We must support the incredible men and women of law enforcement. (Applause.)

And we must support the victims of crime. I have ordered the Department of Homeland Security to create an office to serve American victims. The office is called VOICE -- Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement. We are providing a voice to those who have been ignored by our media and silenced by special interests. (Applause.) Joining us in the audience tonight are four very brave Americans whose government failed them. Their names are Jamiel Shaw, Susan Oliver, Jenna Oliver, and Jessica Davis.

Jamiel's 17-year-old son was viciously murdered by an illegal immigrant gang member who had just been released from prison. Jamiel Shaw, Jr. was an incredible young man, with unlimited potential who was getting ready to go to college where he would have excelled as a great college quarterback. But he never got the chance. His father, who is in the audience tonight, has become a very good friend of mine. Jamiel, thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

Also with us are Susan Oliver and Jessica Davis. Their husbands, Deputy Sheriff Danny Oliver and Detective Michael Davis, were slain in the line of duty in California. They were pillars of their community. These brave men were viciously gunned down by an illegal immigrant with a criminal record and two prior deportations. Should have never been in our country.

Sitting with Susan is her daughter, Jenna. Jenna, I want you to know that your father was a hero, and that tonight you have the love of an entire country supporting you and praying for you. (Applause.)

To Jamiel, Jenna, Susan and Jessica, I want you to know that we will never stop fighting for justice. Your loved ones will never, ever be forgotten. We will always honor their memory. (Applause.)

Finally, to keep America safe, we must provide the men and women of the United States military with the tools they need to prevent war -- if they must -- they have to fight and they only have to win. (Applause.)

I am sending Congress a budget that rebuilds the military, eliminates the defense sequester -- (applause) -- and calls for one of the largest increases in national defense spending in American

history. My budget will also increase funding for our veterans. Our veterans have delivered for this nation, and now we must deliver for them. (Applause.)

The challenges we face as a nation are great, but our people are even greater. And none are greater or braver than those who fight for America in uniform. (Applause.)

We are blessed to be joined tonight by Carryn Owens, the widow of a U.S. Navy Special Operator, Senior Chief William "Ryan" Owens. Ryan died as he lived: a warrior and a hero, battling against terrorism and securing our nation. (Applause.) I just spoke to our great General Mattis, just now, who reconfirmed that -- and I quote -- "Ryan was a part of a highly successful raid that generated large amounts of vital intelligence that will lead to many more victories in the future against our enemies." Ryan's legacy is etched into eternity. Thank you. (Applause.) And Ryan is looking down, right now -- you know that -- and he is very happy because I think he just broke a record. (Laughter and applause.)

For as the Bible teaches us, "There is no greater act of love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Ryan laid down his life for his friends, for his country, and for our freedom. And we will never forget Ryan. (Applause.)

To those allies who wonder what kind of a friend America will be, look no further than the heroes who wear our uniform. Our foreign policy calls for a direct, robust and meaningful engagement with the world. It is American leadership based on vital security interests that we share with our allies all across the globe.

We strongly support NATO, an alliance forged through the bonds of two world wars that dethroned fascism, and a Cold War, and defeated communism. (Applause.)

But our partners must meet their financial obligations. And now, based on our very strong and frank discussions, they are beginning to do just that. In fact, I can tell you, the money is pouring in. Very nice. (Applause.) We expect our partners -- whether in NATO, the Middle East, or in the Pacific -- to take a direct and meaningful role in both strategic and military operations, and pay their fair share of the cost. Have to do that.

We will respect historic institutions, but we will respect the foreign rights of all nations, and they have to respect our rights as a nation also. (Applause.) Free nations are the best vehicle for expressing the will of the people, and America respects the right of all nations to chart their own path. My job is not to represent the world. My job is to represent the United States of America. (Applause.)

But we know that America is better off when there is less conflict, not more. We must learn from the mistakes of the past. We have seen the war and the destruction that have ravaged and raged throughout the world -- all across the world. The only long-term solution for these humanitarian disasters, in many cases, is to create the conditions where displaced persons can safely return home and begin the long, long process of rebuilding. (Applause.)

America is willing to find new friends, and to forge new partnerships, where shared interests align. We want harmony and stability, not war and conflict. We want peace, wherever peace can be found.

America is friends today with former enemies. Some of our closest allies, decades ago, fought on the opposite side of these terrible, terrible wars. This history should give us all faith in the possibilities for a better world. Hopefully, the 250th year for America will see a world that is more peaceful, more just, and more free.

On our 100th anniversary, in 1876, citizens from across our nation came to Philadelphia to celebrate America's centennial. At that celebration, the country's builders and artists and inventors showed off their wonderful creations. Alexander Graham Bell displayed his telephone for the first time. Remington unveiled the first typewriter. An early attempt was made at electric light. Thomas Edison showed an automatic telegraph and an electric pen. Imagine the wonders our country could know in America's 250th year. (Applause.)

Think of the marvels we can achieve if we simply set free the dreams of our people. Cures to the illnesses that have always plagued us are not too much to hope. American footprints on distant worlds are not too big a dream. Millions lifted from welfare to work is not too much to expect. And streets where mothers are safe from fear, schools where children learn in peace, and jobs where Americans prosper and grow are not too much to ask. (Applause.)

When we have all of this, we will have made America greater than ever before -- for all Americans. This is our vision. This is our mission. But we can only get there together. We are one people, with one destiny. We all bleed the same blood. We all salute the same great American flag. And we all are made by the same God. (Applause.)

When we fulfill this vision, when we celebrate our 250 years of glorious freedom, we will look back on tonight as when this new chapter of American Greatness began. The time for small thinking is over. The time for trivial fights is behind us. We just need the courage to share the dreams that fill our hearts, the bravery to express the hopes that stir our souls, and the confidence to turn those hopes and those dreams into action.

From now on, America will be empowered by our aspirations, not burdened by our fears; inspired by the future, not bound by the failures of the past; and guided by our vision, not blinded by our doubts.

I am asking all citizens to embrace this renewal of the American spirit. I am asking all members of Congress to join me in dreaming big, and bold, and daring things for our country. I am asking everyone watching tonight to seize this moment. Believe in yourselves, believe in your future, and believe, once more, in America.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States. (Applause.)

END

10:09 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump Aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 02, 2017

Remarks by President Trump Aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford

Newport News, Virginia

2:28 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much. What an honor. They just gave me this beautiful jacket. They said, here, Mr. President, please take this home. I said, let me wear it. (Laughter.) And then they gave me the beautiful hat, and I said, you know, maybe I'll do that. We have a great "Make America Great Again" hat, but I said, this is a special day, we're wearing this. Right? (Applause.) I have no idea how it looks, but I think it looks good. It's a great-looking hat -- just like this is a great-looking ship.

Thank you. I'm privileged to stand here today with the incredible men and women of the United States Navy. (Applause.) American sailors are the best warfighting sailors anywhere in the world. And it's not even close. And, Susan, I am so glad you could be with us. I know how hard you work -- 17 visits. And she wanted things done right, I will tell you. They told me she wanted this one done right, in honor of both of her parents, who were great, great people. And we wanted to introduce this beautiful vessel to the American people. And I wanted to be here, I wanted to be with you. So, Susan, and to your family -- unbelievable job. Unbelievable. (Applause.)

The soon-to-be commissioned Gerald R. Ford USS -- what a place. It really feels like a place. You stand on that deck, and you feel like you're standing on a very big piece of land. But

this is better than land. It will not only be a great symbol of American strength, but a great legacy for your father, and our former President, Gerald Ford.

President Ford was a Navy man. By the way, he was also a great athlete, for those of you that didn't know. He saw action in the South Pacific during World War II. He served this country with honor -- in the military, in Congress, and in the White House. The proud dignity of this ship is a fitting tribute to Gerald Ford, the man and the President.

Congratulations to all of the men and women who helped build it. This is American craftsmanship at its biggest, at its best, at its finest. American workers are the greatest anywhere in the world. This warship, and all who serve on it, should be a source of shared pride for our nation. We are joined today -- (applause) -- better believe it, right? Better believe it. (Applause.) Better believe it. And, by the way, we're going to soon have more coming. We'll have more coming. (Applause.)

We are joined today by General Mattis, now Secretary Mattis -- (applause) -- where is he? -- who will be charged with overseeing this great rebuilding of our military might. We will give the men and women of America's armed services the resources you need to keep us safe. We will have the finest equipment in the world -- planes, ships and everything else. We are going to have, very soon, the finest equipment in the world. (Applause.)

We will give our military the tools you need to prevent war and, if required, to fight war and only do one thing -- you know what that is? Win! Win! (Applause.) We're going to start winning again.

Admiral John Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, is with us today as well -- great gentleman. Admiral, we're going to ensure our Navy has the resources, personnel training and equipment -- the kind of equipment that you need. So, congratulations, Admiral. And a lot more is coming. (Applause.)

Let me congratulate Captain Richard McCormack, Commanding Officer of the Gerald R. Ford. This ship will make an extraordinary addition to the fleet like no other -- like no other. Anywhere in the world there's nothing like this. It represents the future of naval aviation. I have no greater privilege than to serve as your Commander-in-Chief and the Commander-in-Chief of the men and women of the United States military. Great people. (Applause.) Great, great people.

I salute you, and I salute our sailors. I will always support you and your mission. I will never, ever let you down. And I also have to recognize Mike Petters, President and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries along with Matt Mulherin, President of Newport News Shipbuilding. (Applause.) They won't let you down either. (Applause.) They're not going to let you down either. (Applause.)

To those who serve our nation in uniform and to those who build the instruments of our defense, I thank you on behalf of our nation.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: U-S-A!

THE PRESIDENT: (Laughter.) I agree, I agree. (Laughter.)

Our carriers are the centerpiece of American military might overseas. We are standing today on 4.5 acres of combat power and sovereign U.S. territory, the likes of which there is nothing to compete. There is no competition to this ship. It is a monument to American might that will provide the strength necessary to ensure peace. This ship will carry 4,500 personnel and 70 aircraft, and will be a vital component of our defense. This carrier and the new ships in the Ford class will expand the ability of our nation to carry out vital missions on the oceans to project American power in distant lands. Hopefully, it's power we don't have to use, but if we do, they're in big, big trouble. (Applause.)

This great aircraft carrier provides essential capabilities to keep us safe from terrorism and take the fight to the enemy for many years in the future. The great Admiral Nimitz, who commanded the U.S. Pacific fleet through the Second World War, once said, "It is the function of the Navy to carry the war to the enemy so that we'll not be fought on U.S. soil." True. (Applause.)

And it was under Admiral Nimitz's command 75 years ago this June that the Navy did just that at the Battle of Midway. You've all known about the Battle of Midway, where the sailors of the U.S. Navy fought with the bravery that will be remembered throughout the ages. Storied bravery throughout the ages.

The backbone of the American fleet at Midway was three beautiful aircraft carriers: the Yorktown, the Enterprise and the Hornet. All three were built with American hands right here at the Newport News Shipyard. (Applause.) At Midway, America was greatly outnumbered by, I mean, a lot -- (laughter) -- and its fleet badly damaged. But the heroic deeds changed the course of history. Many brave Americans died that day, and, through their sacrifice, they turned the tide of the Pacific War. It was a tough tide, it was a big tide, it was a vicious tide, and they turned it.

Countless other Americans in that war, some of them parents and grandparents to people in this room today, came home thanks to their very heroic deeds. The sailors at Midway are part of a long line of American heroes, an unbroken chain of patriots from each generation to the next, who rose to defend our flag and our freedom.

That legacy continues today as American warriors protect our people from the threat of terrorism. On Tuesday, in my address to a joint session of Congress, I asked Congress to eliminate the defense sequester and to support my request for a great rebuilding of the United States military and the United States Navy. (Applause.)

After years of endless budget cuts that have impaired our defenses, I am calling for one of the largest defense-spending increases in history. And by eliminating the sequester and the uncertainty it creates, we will make it easier for the Navy to plan for the future and thus to control costs and get the best deals for the taxpayer, which, of course, is very important, right? Got to get a good deal. If we don't make a good deal, we're not doing our job.

The same boat for less money. The same ship for less money. The same airplanes for less money. That's what we're doing. That's what we're doing. Means we're going to get more of them, and we can use them.

Our military requires sustained, stable funding to meet the growing needs placed on our defense. Right now, our aging frontline strike and strike-fighters -- the whole aircraft; many, many aircraft -- are often more likely to be downed for maintenance than they are to be up in the sky. Our Navy is now the smallest it's been since, believe it or not, World War I. Don't worry, it's going to soon be the largest it's been. Don't worry. (Applause.) Think of that. Think of that.

In these troubled times, our Navy is the smallest it's been since World War I. That's a long time ago. In fact, I just spoke with Navy and industry leaders and have discussed my plans to undertake a major expansion of our entire Navy fleet, including having the 12-carrier Navy we need. (Applause.)

We also need more aircraft, modernized capabilities, and greater force levels. Additionally, we must vastly improve our cyber capabilities. This great rebuilding effort will create many jobs in Virginia, and all across America, and it will also spur new technology and new innovation.

America has always been the country that boldly leads the world into the future, and my budget will ensure we do so and continue to do exactly that. American ships will sail the seas. American planes will soar the skies. American workers will build our fleets. (Applause.) And America's military will ensure that even though the darkest nights and throughout, a bright and glowing sun will always shine on our nation and on our people. Our Navy is great. Our Navy is great. Our people are great. Great. (Applause.)

Our Republic will meet any challenge, defeat any danger, face any threat, and always seek true and lasting peace.

May God bless our military. May God bless our Navy. May God bless the wonderful Gerald Ford family. And may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

2:42 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump in Roundtable Discussion on Vocational Training with U.S. and German Business Leaders

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 17, 2017

Remarks by President Trump in Roundtable Discussion on Vocational Training with U.S. and German Business Leaders

Cabinet Room
12:58 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Chancellor, thank you very much. Such a great honor to get to know you, to be with you. I want to thank all of the business leaders who have joined us to discuss a subject that's very important to me -- training our workforce for the 21st century, especially with respect to manufacturing jobs.

We're working every day to bring back jobs to our country, and thousands and thousands are already coming back. You're seeing it, you're reading about it in the papers every single day. We want to make sure that we have the workforce development programs we need to ensure these jobs are being filled by American workers.

Germany and the United States have incredible opportunity to deepen our partnership as we continue to develop a strong workforce in both of our countries. Both Germany and the United States are pioneering job-training programs. Here in the United States, companies have created revolutionary high-tech and online courses. And, of course, for decades, Germany has been a model for highly successful apprenticeship -- that's a name I like, "apprentice" -- apprenticeship programs. As a result, Germany's youth unemployment rate is much lower than many of the other countries, especially the EU countries.

I welcome collaboration between our two countries and our industry leaders. We have some of our great industry leaders here, as you know, Chancellor. Great people. We must embrace new and effective job-training approaches, including online courses, high school curriculums, and private-sector investment that prepare people for trade, manufacturing, technology, and other really well-paying jobs and careers. These kinds of options can be a positive alternative to a four-year degree. So many people go to college, four years, they don't like it, they're not necessarily good at it, but they're good at other things, like fixing engines and building things. I see it all the time, and I've seen it -- when I went to school, I saw it. I sat next to people that weren't necessarily good students but they could take an engine apart blindfolded.

Companies across the country have a chance to develop vocational training programs that will meet their growing needs and to help us achieve greater prosperity. The German apprenticeship model is one of the proven programs to developing a highly skilled workforce. Germany has been amazing at this, and I'm glad that the leaders of so many companies represented today have recently launched successful programs right here in the United States. And we need that because we're training people as the jobs are pouring back in -- and they are coming back in big league.

I believe that both countries will be stronger if we continue to deepen our bilateral cooperation on vocational training as we build off the best ideas, create the greatest opportunity for growth, and improve the lives of so many workers.

I want to thank everybody in the room. I want to thank my daughter Ivanka, who's with us today. And mostly -- and most of all, I want to thank -- Chancellor, I want to thank you very much.

It's a great honor to have you in the White House. It's a great honor to have you in the United States. And I look forward to spending time with you.

Thank you.

CHANCELLOR MERKEL: (Speaks German.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Maybe before the press leaves I'd like to ask some of the folks around -- the great leaders of industry and business to introduce themselves, say a couple of words. And then we'll get onto a little bit more private meeting, okay?

Ginni.

MS. ROMETTY: Okay. I'm Ginni Rometty with IBM. And we're going to talk about two programs. One is a certification program, which, Mr. President, today, we're going to announce 2,000 veterans that we're certifying in cybersecurity to be employed.

And then the second is something called P-TECH, a public-private partnership. Think of it as a six-year high school, but the graduates come out with an associate degree and with a curriculum that business will hire. And we will have 100 schools by the end of the year. And you'll meet one of our recent graduates. In a second, Janiel Richards will introduce herself and tell you about herself -- trained at the intersection of business and technology.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Great job.

PARTICIPANT: We've found that a lot of the private-sector companies have done a great job trying to train the workforce for the jobs that they need, the jobs of the future. In a lot of cases in America, we're finding that we don't have enough qualified applicants for the jobs that we have available, so in working with the private sector -- and Ginni has been a great leader of that -- the White House has been trying to get behind a lot of these programs that can help make sure we're training the American people for the jobs that we're hopefully going to be producing in the future.

SECRETARY ROSS: Our hope is that, today, we really come with a way forward, some specific programs where we can interact between the educational community, the business community, and the government. Because this is a monumental problem that needs a monumental solution.

MS. RICHARDS: Thank you for the introduction. Good afternoon, all. Thank you for the opportunity to share my story. It is both an honor and a pleasure to be here today.

As mentioned, my name is Janiel Richards. I am 19 years old, and I am from (inaudible). Enrolling in IBM's P-TECH school was the best decision for me personally and professionally. I did not fully realize the weight of the opportunity I was given; however, looking back, it was a life chance.

P-TECH strengthened my confidence and provided me with mentors who helped me strive. I learned the importance of understanding computers, and gained new skills in both coding and programming. I graduated the program in four and a half years -- relatively early -- and I graduated with my high school diploma and associate's degree in computer science, as well as internship experience at IBM.

I learned that technology is omnipresent and opens endless doors. I am now a digital commerce design developer at IBM, where I use my skills to create website pages and checkout pages for the marketplace. I'm also pursuing my bachelor's degree at Early College. Without the support of P-TECH and IBM, I would not be where I am today. I believe that every student should be offered this chance.

Thank you all.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's a great job. Thank you very much. Great job. Wow. Who wants to follow that? (Laughter.)

MR. KAESER: Mr. President, Chancellor, Vice President, my name is Joe Kaeser, and I work for Siemens. It's a company which has been in this great country for more than 160 years. We produce revenues and services worth \$24 billion every year, and 60 manufacturing sites in all 50 states in the country.

So thank you for what you're doing. (Inaudible) in that aspect we brought the apprenticeship to the country, which has, in the meantime, also (inaudible) Department of Labor, so we roll it out everywhere in the community. And I feel very honored today to be part of an initiative that brings not only the apprenticeship and the training for the current manufacturing into play, but also the next generation of manufacturing going forward so we combine the present and the future for our great America and great manufacturing.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Great job. Great company too, by the way. Great company.

Marc.

MR. BENIOFF: Well, thank you very much, Mr. President, I am delighted to be here, and great to see you and the Vice President as well.

Salesforce, as you know, is the fastest-growing of the top five software companies in the world today, and we're on a path to create 2 million jobs and add 200 GDP to the world economy through our platform. Our software, as you know, 90 percent is engineered here in the United States, and, as the Vice President knows, handmade in Indianapolis and in San Francisco, where I'm from.

And I'll tell you, as we have kind of created these jobs all over the world, I see a great opportunity right here in the United States to create apprenticeships. And we'd love to encourage you to take a moonshot goal to create 5 million apprenticeships in the next five years.

And I think the key is, is that we see all these great programs and all these great companies doing workforce development. But if we all came together, if we all unified and created a great program with your leadership, I think we could create this 5 million extra jobs in the U.S.

And you know, our companies are some of the greatest universities in the world. We shape these employees, we train them, we educate them, we bring them in, and I think we can do this. I think this is really exciting.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, congratulations, and you're going an incredible job. And nice to know you. And really, what you've done is just amazing. And let's do that, let's go for that 5 million. Okay? (Laughter.) Very good.

Ivanka, go ahead. Say something.

MS. TRUMP: Thank you. And welcome, Chancellor, and to the many U.S. and German CEOs who are here today to discuss vocational education and workforce development. I applaud my father's commitment to creating millions of jobs, and specifically making sure that all Americans have the skills required and necessary to fill the jobs both of today and of the future.

As many of us realize, ingenuity, creativity often comes from the determination of the private sector, so it's great to have such great private sector leaders here to share their thoughts and best practices with us today. And thank you for being here.

THE PRESIDENT: Klaus.

MR. ROSENFELD: Mr. President, Madam Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Klaus Rosenfeld. I am the CEO of Schaeffler. Schaeffler is a global automotive and industrial supplier with more than \$14 billion U.S. sales, around 87,000 people globally and 75 clients.

We manufacture bearings and other high-precision components and systems for a broad variety of applications and sectors. Our products are everywhere where things turn, be it in cars, machines, airplanes, trucks, or even in washing machines. The company is family-owned, so we place great value on a culture where we think long-term and focus on quality, technology, and innovation. For us, the employee has always been critical, and will always be critical.

We have started business in 1969 in South Carolina. Since then, the Schaeffler family has invested more than a billion in the Palmetto State. We have grown through acquisitions. We're about to finish multimillion expansions in Ohio and South Carolina.

For us, the U.S. is critical. We have started our first program here in the '80s -- 1980 in Wooster, Ohio -- and since then we have spent a lot of money in vocational dual training. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you, Klaus, very much.

MR. KRÜGER: Thank you, Mr. President and Mr. Vice President. From my side, thank you for inviting us. Yeah, it's a great pleasure for us, for me. I would like to explain why, at BMW, we call the United States of America our second home.

I'm proud to be here because we were -- nearly 25 years ago we were founding our biggest plant in the BMW Group network in South Carolina. We created 9,000 jobs, and we know that in the area around South Carolina, I know we created an additional 4 to 5 to 6, 7 jobs -- the 9,000 people we employ at BMW in South Carolina.

We have invested heavily in the further education and training and vocational training. It was around about \$200 million in the last five years, and I can commit that we will invest another \$200 million into training in the next five years.

We are proud, as we are the biggest net exporter of vehicles in the United States. We have an annual net (inaudible) of \$10 billion -- exported from South Carolina. Seventy percent of our production is being exported. And I'm proud to be here because we have one apprentice who's with us from -- we have two main programs at Spartanburg, a BMW Scholar Program, which was founded in 2011 and has around about 100 people in the program, and they graduate and create -- get a great job at BMW. We are very proud on the skillset -- we need them for maintenance jobs.

And I would like to talk about as well employment of skilled veterans, which we are setting up with our dealers in the United States to have their highly qualified veterans working for BMW dealers in the future.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I've seen your plant in South Carolina. It is incredible. And congratulations, that's really great. Thank you.

MR. KRÜGER: Thank you. May I invite you for the 25th anniversary in June? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: I know I shouldn't have said that. (Laughter.) You know what, if I can, I will do it.

MR. KRÜGER: Thank you very much.

THE PRESIDENT: I wish I could, but if I can I'll do it. Absolutely.

MS. DAVIS: Mr. President, Madam Chancellor, ladies and gentlemen, my name is Marie Davis, and I work at Schaeffler's Automotive and Industrial Plant in Cheraw, South Carolina. Cheraw is a small town with a population of 5,800, and is nicknamed "The Prettiest Town in Dixie."

It is a great honor for me to be here today along with my peers -- apprentice Chad Robinson with Siemens Gas Turbine Plant of Charlotte, North Carolina, and Maria Puckett with BMW, from BMW plant Spartanburg, South Carolina -- and to be able to share my experiences with you regarding the Schaeffler apprenticeship program. BMW and Siemens also have very similar programs.

I joined the Air Force after high school and served for four years. After returning home, I applied to and was accepted into the Schaeffler apprenticeship program. This is a very unique three-year program of classroom and hands-on experience, completed in conjunction with Northeastern Technical College, which provided me with special skills for my career. As part of the program, I also received an associate's degree in machine tool technology and a Department of Labor certificate as a certified journeyman apprentice.

After completing my apprenticeship, I worked as a CNC operator, was then promoted to (inaudible) leader, and am now planned maintenance supervisor. I am very glad that such an apprenticeship program existed in Cheraw, which allowed me to start and build my career with Schaeffler. I hope that more companies will follow BMW, Siemens, and Schaeffler and offer apprenticeship programs to develop skills that will allow for more manufacturing in the United States.

It is an incredible privilege to be invited here today. Thank you so much for listening to me.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Great job. Thank you. Very nice.

I know this one. (Laughter.)

MR. LIVERIS: Mr. President and Madame Chancellor, what an honor it is for me to be here. I'm Andrew Liveris from Dow Chemical. I feel like Germany is our home, to match my BMW colleague's point about the U.S. being home. We have been in Germany, and in fact the Chancellor's backyard of former Eastern Germany for a long time. And the Chancellor graced us with a visit to our apprenticeship program there which -- Mr. President, the two things I want to talk about today is in fact apprenticeship, and -- there's a book here that I can show which has DOW and Siemens' name on it. And just to let you know that we are working already together as two collaborators across the Atlantic to actually scale up programs like the one that was mentioned by the young lady to my right.

So I want to talk about that and how we can scale it up through this great leadership that you're showing. And I also want to talk about veterans and displaced workers, especially in places like Michigan, where we are based. We have community college work called Fast Start, which is taking displaced workers and reskilling them. When new tech meets industrial tech, as Madame Chancellor says, opportunity is there. But we've got to create it by scaling right. So I want to also talk about that.

And my last comment is, a big thank you for lending us or giving us Ivanka and Jared. They've been a tremendous duo in making this program real in very short weeks. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Mr. Vice President.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you, Mr. President. Let me just express my appreciation, along with the President, for the participants in this important conversation. All the businesses that are gathered here from across the United States and across Germany are an inspiration, and the innovation that you're bringing to career and technical and vocational education and to apprenticeship.

I'm especially impressed, Mr. President, with Janiel, and I don't know that I've seen a more inspiring debut at the Cabinet table than anyone. (Laughter.)

Let me also express my appreciation to the Chancellor for suggesting that we bring together, across the Atlantic, business leaders who have really been breaking new ground in this area, for which Germany is so celebrated. We're grateful for your leadership and look forward to sharing ideas about how we can strengthen the workforce in both of our countries.

And lastly, let me just thank the President. As a former governor from a great manufacturing state, I can tell you that one of our very first conversations was about the innovation that Indiana was bringing to career and technical and vocational education. I can assure you that the passion that you see at this table today by the President is authentic, and at his direction, we're going to work as an administration to strengthen the opportunities from secondary education on forward to open the doors for more vocational education, more technical education, and more apprenticeships across the United States to the betterment of the people of this country. And we look forward to working with our international partners to drive greater opportunities for Americans.

So thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mike. Appreciate it. Okay, thank you folks.

END

1:18 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Taoiseach Enda Kenny of Ireland at Friends of Ireland Luncheon

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 16, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Taoiseach Enda Kenny of Ireland at Friends of Ireland Luncheon

U.S. Capitol

Washington, D.C.

12:12 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Speaker Ryan, for that wonderful toast -- although I've heard better jokes. (Laughter.) And thank you to all of our friends and distinguished members of Congress for joining us here today -- a great honor. And a really great honor to be with you, Vice President Pence. You have been terrific. (Applause.)

And all of our friends welcoming Taoiseach. That's my new friend; he's my new friend. Great guy. (Applause.) And, Fionnuala, you know, you are something very special. We sat, we talked, and I think we're friends now too, right? And it's really an honor. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.) Thanks, Fionnuala. Appreciate it.

Also, the delegation members -- very, very special. Spent some time together, and we're going to have a very, very great long-term relationship, as we would with Ireland anyway. But this is a very special group, so I very much appreciate it.

We're here today to celebrate America's commitment to Ireland and the tremendous contributions -- and I know it well -- the Irish immigrants and their descendants have made right here in the United States and throughout the world. The very first St. Patrick's Day parade -- I spent a lot of time at St. Patrick's Day parades over the years, I will tell you that -- was held in my hometown, New York City, on March 17th, 1762. With each subsequent year, the Irish people marched, passed another accomplishment, and celebrated another very hard-earned success. And they have had tremendous success all over the world, but in this country they have had tremendous success.

Over the years, they marched past the beautiful St. Patrick's Cathedral, now an immortal monument to the faith of Irish Catholics in America. They celebrated their shared success in American society with the election of John F. Kennedy. (Applause.) They fought for America in war and combat. And their battlefield courage has earned admiration and acclaim throughout the world. They have great courage.

The proud tradition that started in 1762 has flourished and is now celebrated by Americans of all faiths and backgrounds all across our very beautiful and very special land. As we stand together with our Irish friends, I'm reminded of that proverb -- and this is a good one, this is one I like; I've heard it for many, many years and I love it -- "Always remember to forget the friends that proved untrue. But never forget to remember those that have stuck by you." We know that, politically speaking. A lot of us know that, we know it well. (Applause.) It's a great phrase.

The people of Ireland and the people of the United States have stuck together through good times and bad times. Over many centuries we have built a bond that thrives, inspires and endures. And with us, it's going to be closer than ever before, I can tell you that. (Applause.)

So as we celebrate our shared history and our enduring friendship, let us commit ourselves to working together, as we will, to build on that bond for the benefit of our citizens for many more generations to come.

Thank you. God bless you. And may God always bless our deep and lasting friendship and relationship. We love Ireland and we love the people of Ireland. Thank you very much for being here. (Applause.)

SPEAKER RYAN: Thank you so much, Mr. President. It is now my pleasure to introduce An Taoiseach, our friend, Enda Kenny. (Applause.)

TAOISEACH KENNY: Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, members of Congress, ambassadors, friends of Ireland, distinguished guests.

(Speaks in Irish.)

I didn't say anything disparaging about you there. (Laughter.) What I said was, it's a pleasure for me to be here, along with my wife, Fionnuala, to be amongst this august gathering. And on behalf of the government of Ireland and the people of Ireland, I wish you all a very happy St. Patrick's festival for you all.

They say the Irish have the capacity to change everything. I just saw the President of the United States read from his script, entirely. (Laughter and applause.) I was going to say "a change is coming." (Laughter.)

Paul, it's a pleasure. And thank you for your visit to Ireland when you called to see me in government buildings with your family and on your visit down to Kilkenny. When I had the privilege of speaking to the President on the telephone very shortly after his election, I said to him if it would be possible to continue this tradition, which began so many years ago, and he said, without hesitation, of course -- followed by the Vice President and U.S. Speaker.

This is a unique occasion for Ireland and for its people. To have the facility of being honored by the Speaker of the House, the access to the President of the United States, the Vice President, and most of the team is something that we really do cherish. It goes back a very long way from when Tip O'Neill and Ronald Reagan and all of the others put this together in the first place. So it's a really important day for us, and we're very grateful to stand between these two flags, united in history and so much.

I haven't had the opportunity to present you with a particular piece of sculpture which is entitled "Arrival," by John Behan. It's a miniature -- but it's quite large -- of what stands at the United Nations in New York of the tale and the story and the history of Irish immigrants after the famine years.

So let me congratulate you, President Trump, on your election. You beat them all. (Laughter and applause.) Whatever they say, elections are tough-going. I know, I've been through 20 of them myself. (Laughter.) But the President and the Vice President and this administration now holds within its hands the responsibility of dealing with so many global international issues in a world that is changing so rapidly and that is so fragile in so many respects. And I know that you will do your utmost to work in the interests of our common humanity, and you will have the prayers and the support of the Irish people. And let me say to you, and the European Union -- and the work that you have to do in the times -- in the challenging times ahead.

We discussed the kind of driver that the President uses -- Titleist, 9-degree loft, Doonbeg, wind off the Atlantic. You have to roll the wrist at the top to get that shot straight. And during the course of this presidency, President Trump will visit Ireland, and he said he would put the sticks in the hold of Air Force One.

Anyway, let me just say a few words here about our country. We've come through a torrid time a number of years ago. When I took over the government back in 2011, we were blocked out of all the markets, the Troika were in town, our sovereignty was gone, our hope was gone; hemorrhage of immigration, and a falloff in all business right across every sector.

Now, because of the sacrifices of the people and tough choices made, we're in a different spot. Unemployment, which was 15.2, is now down to 6.6 percent and falling. Employment is the highest in 10 years. A growth rate of 5.2 percent last year. Fourth year running. Ireland is the fastest-growing country in Europe. Deficit eliminated next year. Two million-plus working now. I was accused in Cork three weeks ago of blocking up the Irish roads with people going to work. (Laughter and applause.) That's the challenge of success, I suppose.

It's fair to say, as you know, Mr. President, we've got 700 Irish firms, and 65 percent of the 700 firms working in America have a full-time presence in this market. And they now employ 100,000 people across 50 states. And that's because of our participation in the European Union and the confidence that our people have to expand now beyond their own shores. And this two-way conduit is to the mutual benefit of our people and of the United States. And let me say that Ireland

and the European Union will never be anything but a friend to your country, to these United States here. (Applause.)

And I want you to understand that all administrations, over the last 40 years and beyond, have worked in the interests of the fragility of our country. We've had our troubles. We've had real difficulties. And George Mitchell spoke last night at the Ireland Funds about the contribution that both Europe, and particularly the United States, made towards putting that fragile peace together. We're glad to see Ian Paisley here and, indeed, Gerry Adams, who have had their difficulties. We have put it all together and have maintained a fragile peace. And that's why it's important that we recognize the contribution made by the United States to that peace, where we have no border and where people can live their lives as one would expect to contribute to their country and their economies. And all presidents and all administrations over the years have assisted us in that regard. (Applause.)

So we want to protect this peace process, and I know that you're going to work with us in that context also. We have agreed with the British government that there would be no return to the border, as it used to apply years ago, with customs, posts on major roads, and every other road blown up or impassable because of sectarian violence that that brought with it. We have banished that. We want to see it remain banished. And the political agreement is no return to that kind of border of the past, and the challenge is to implement that in a way that works in the interests of the people North and South.

And let me say to you that as a member of the European Council, what we want to do is to work with America. I believe genuinely, with Europe having created 4.5 million jobs in the last three years, that we can work with the United States to create more employment here, create opportunities for so many millions of Americans. And it may well be that in a revised trade agenda, that we can do that to the mutual benefit of 500 million people in the European Union and your population here across the United States. We will work with this administration, Paul and Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, in the interests of everybody.

Thank you, Peter King, and thank you, Richard Neal -- I know you're here somewhere -- for the work you've done over the years with the (inaudible). (Applause.) It may well be that it might be appropriate for the government and the administration to have a desk here in Washington which will associate itself with Northern Ireland, so that in the event of contact having to be made, that there's a voice to answer that.

You had in the past envoys appointed to Northern Ireland on practically a full-time basis. I think we can work now as a priority to get this executive up and running in the next short period. But to have continued connection here with the administration would be very important, and I'm sure Peter and Rich will work at that.

I just want to say, I had a very good meeting this morning with the Vice President and with General John Kelly. Sitting at the table, we were hosted by the Vice President in the traditional breakfast in the Naval Observatory. Didn't get much chance to eat the breakfast, I have to say; it's one of the difficulties in politics -- it's in front of you but you can't get near it. (Laughter.) We did discuss the question of immigration, which is so important to the fabric of our people. And I know that in this country, this is an issue that the administration and the President are reflecting upon. And that's something that, again, we will work with you diligently in this regard in the two sectors that we used to have a facility for E3 visas for young people who want to come to America and to work here. We discussed that very constructively this morning.

And secondly, as a part of the overall immigration reform that the Irish have contributed so much, it would be part of that. And we look forward to the works that will take place at the time ahead.

You might say that when Mike Pence's grandfather landed here in Ellis Island in 1923, that the contribution had been made by so many Irish for so many years. It was in 1771 that the friendly Sons of St. Patrick were put together in Philadelphia, and one of their first honorary members was a

young man called George Washington. And seven years later, he handed the first commission to a naval officer called John Barry, who was co-founder of the American Navy. And he was joined later by John Holland, who designed the first submarine. And he was followed by Louis Brennan, from my hometown, who had a major impact on the navigation systems for torpedoes.

And so many others, from Henry Ford, through music and culture, and so many other areas, that 22 members of the American Presidents who sat in the White House had either Scots or Irish blood in them. And you follow in that line, sir.

And I'd just like to say in finality, this is what I said to your predecessor on a number of occasions: We would like this to be sorted. It would remove a burden of so many people that they can stand out in the light and say, now I am free to contribute to America as I know I can. And that's what people want. (Applause.)

I know you'll reflect on this, but I'm always struck by the American National Anthem when it's sung before the great occasions. And I suppose being an emotional Irishman, the hairs tingle at the back of your neck when you hear your own national anthem. But for us, when Old Glory waves, and you put your hand on your heart and you say, "The land of the free and the home of the brave," ours is still as brave as ever, but maybe not as free. Because of the 4,000 Congressional Medals of Honor given out to the defense forces, over 2,000 go to the Irish Americans. So they fought in the Revolutionary War. They beat the daylights out of each other in Fredericksburg and Gettysburg and Yorktown, and other places, in Atlanta. They fought every war for America and died for America -- and will continue to do so. All they want is the opportunity to be free.

And this administration, working with Democrats and Republicans, I hope, can sort this out once and for all. And for future years, you determine what it is that you want to do. As George Mitchell said last evening, you can't return to open immigration, but for the people who are here -- who should be here, might be here -- that's an issue that I'm sure your administration will reflect on. And we in Ireland will give you every assistance in that regard.

There are millions out there who want to play their part for America -- if you like, who want to make America great. (Laughter.) Heard it before? Heard that before? (Applause.)

So I see Vicki here in front of me. We didn't get as far as the Kennedy Center the other evening. I was talking to young people the other day, they were on about all the different things that are happening in the world, and they reminded me of one of JFK's statements: "This is our planet. Together, we shall save or we shall perish in its flames."

We have work to do. Let's eat. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

12:31 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and German Chancellor Merkel in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 17, 2017

Joint Press Conference with President Trump and German Chancellor Merkel

East Room

2:09 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Chancellor Merkel, it is a great honor to welcome you to the People's House, the White House. Our two nations share much in common, including our desire for security, prosperity and peace.

We just concluded a productive meeting with the German and American companies to discuss workforce development and vocational training -- very important words. Germany has done

an incredible job training the employees and future employees, and employing its manufacturing and industrial workforce. It's crucial that we provide our American workers with a really great employment outlook, and that includes making sure that we harness the full potential of women in our economy.

My administration is in the process of rebuilding the American industrial base. A stronger America is in the interests, believe me, of the world as a whole. I reiterated to Chancellor Merkel my strong support for NATO, as well as the need for our NATO allies to pay their fair share for the cost of defense. Many nations owe vast sums of money from past years, and it is very unfair to the United States. These nations must pay what they owe.

During our meeting, I thanked Chancellor Merkel for the German government's commitment to increase defense spending and work toward contributing at least 2 percent of GDP. I want to thank the Chancellor for her leadership in supporting NATO and its efforts in Afghanistan. This has come at significant cost, including the lives of over 50 German soldiers, whose sacrifice we greatly honor.

I also appreciate Chancellor Merkel's leadership, along with the French President, to resolve the conflict in Ukraine, where we ideally seek a peaceful solution.

Most importantly, our two countries must continue to work together to protect our people from radical Islamic terrorism and to defeat ISIS. I applaud Chancellor Merkel for Germany's contributions, both civilian and military, as a counter-ISIS coalition member.

We also recognize that immigration security is national security. We must protect our citizens from those who seek to spread terrorism, extremism and violence inside our borders. Immigration is a privilege, not a right, and the safety of our citizens must always come first, without question.

Over lunch, the Chancellor and I will talk about our economic partnership. We must work together towards fair and reciprocal trade policies that benefit both of our peoples.

Millions of hardworking U.S. citizens have been left behind by international commerce, and together, we can shape a future where all of our citizens have a path to financial security.

The United States will respect historic institutions, and we will also recognize the right of free people to manage their own destiny.

The close friendship between America and Germany is built on our shared value. We cherish individual rights, we uphold the rule of law, and we seek peace among nations. Our alliance is a symbol of strength and cooperation to the world. It is the foundation of a very, very hopeful future.

Thank you.

CHANCELLOR MERKEL: (As interpreted.) Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, it is a great pleasure and privilege to be here today in the White House, together with President Donald Trump, and have a first personal, one-on-one meeting and an exchange of views.

In the period leading up to this visit, I've always said it's much, much better to talk to one another and not about one another, and I think our conversation proved this. We talked about the international situation. We talked about also apprenticeship programs when we met with CEOs and apprentices around a roundtable, as regards the shared interests that we have.

Let me look back into the past. We, the Germans, owe a lot to the United States of America, particularly as regards the economic rise of Germany. This was primarily due to the help through the Marshall Plan. We were also able to regain German unity after decades of the United States standing up for this, together with other allies, and standing by our side during the period of the Cold War. And we are very gratified to know that today we can live in peace and freedom as a unified country due to that.

I was gratified to know that the President had aligned how important he thinks NATO is. NATO is of prime importance for us, and it was not without very good reason that we said during our summit meeting in Wales that also Germany needs to increase expenditure. We committed to

this 2-percent goal until 2024. Last year we increased our defense spending by 8 percent, and we're going to work together again and again on this.

And we said that, obviously, defense and security has a lot of different assets and facets to it. One the one hand, it's supporting missions in Africa, for example. It's also promoting development assistance, but it's also helping mission in Africa, for example, in trying to stand up for their own safety and security.

We continue to be in conversation. What was important for us today was that we were able to talk about Afghanistan, talk about, as the President quite rightly said, the continuing mission of Germany in Afghanistan. I am very glad that the United States are intending to continue to commit to the Afghan mission as well.

Together, we fight against Islamist terrorism. Germany is going to step up its work and is going to continue its work in Afghanistan and also in Syria. We're going to monitor the situation there very closely. We're going to work on political solutions in Syria, but also in Libya -- what we talked about.

I am very gratified to know that the American administration and also the President, personally, commits himself to the Minsk process. We need to come to a solution of this problem. There has to be a safe and secure solution for Ukraine, but the relationship with Russia has to be improved, as well, once the situation there on the ground is clarified.

Minsk is a good basis, but, unfortunately, we haven't made yet the headway that we want to. But we are going to work together with our experts in the next few months to come on this issue.

I am also here in my capacity as G20 president. You know that we will be hosting the G20 visit -- the G20 Summit -- sorry -- this year, and I'm very pleased that the President has committed to attending this summit. We're going to talk at some length over lunch about the issues.

We say trade has to be rendered fairer, there has to be a win-win situation. We can talk about the details of that. We've already seen today when we had an exchange with our CEOs and also with our apprentices what sort of potential we can tap, what sort our potential our two economies have. It's very moving to see, particularly meeting with these young people, what sort of work towards the future is being done by our companies there.

So, particularly in this period where we are transiting from traditional manufacturing to industry -- capacity-building skills are so important, incidentally, not only for young people, but also for those who maybe have lost their jobs and need to be reskilled in order to find a job again. And that is an issue I know is very important for you here in the United States, but it's also important for us in Germany.

So I can say there are a number of issues where we will continue to cooperate very closely on the level of our experts, but also on our level. We had a very good first exchange of views, so I'm very much looking forward to the talks we will have over lunch.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. We'll do a couple of questions.

Mark Halperin.

Q Mr. President, thank you. There are a lot of Americans who have anxiety now like they did eight years ago as the government debates what to do about healthcare. I'm wondering if you can tell people what your bottom lines are, what's non-negotiable. You've talked in the past saying no one should be denied health insurance if they can't afford it. You've talked about no cuts to Medicaid and Medicare. Are those your bottom lines and would you veto legislation that violated those?

Q Chancellor Merkel, if I could ask you, President Trump has got a different style than most recent, past U.S. Presidents. I'm wondering what you think about that style, if you think it's good for the world, or if you've got reservations about it.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you, Mark. We just have a really wonderful group of people meeting later. We met with 12 pretty much "no's" in Congress -- you saw that a little while ago --

and they went from all “no’s” to all “yeses” and we have a lot of “yeses” coming in. It's all coming together. We're going to have great healthcare. It's going to be passed, I believe, I think substantially, pretty quickly. It's coming together beautifully. You have conservative groups, you have other groups. Everybody wants certain things. In the end, we're going to have a great healthcare plan.

Now, I have to tell you that Obamacare is a disaster. It's failing. I was in Tennessee -- we had a tremendous crowd the other night, and they have -- half of the state is uncovered. The insurance companies have left, and the other half has one insurance company and that will probably be bailing out pretty soon also. They'll have nobody. You have many states where they have one. You have a lot of places now where they'll have none. Obamacare will fail. It will fold. It will close up very, very soon if something isn't done.

I've often said politically, the best thing I can do is absolutely nothing. Wait one year and then even the Democrats will come say, please, please, you got to help us. But it's not the right thing to do for the people. We have a great plan. We have a plan that's getting more and more popular with the Republican base, with the conservative base, and with people, generally. The press has covered it very inaccurately. People are truly covered well, and I think it's going to be something that's going to be a model to be looked upon.

Q May I ask what's non-negotiable for you, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'll tell you after we're finished. (Laughter.)

CHANCELLOR MERKEL: (As interpreted.) Thank you very much. Well, I'm here as Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. I represent German interests. I speak with the President of the United States, who stands up for, as is right, American interests. That is our task, respectively. And I must say that I was very gratified to know the very warm and gracious hospitality with which I have been received here.

We held a conversation where we were trying to address also those areas where we disagree, but to try to bring people together, try to show what is our vantage point, what is the American vantage point, and then try to find a compromise which is good for both sides. Because we need to be fair with each other. Each and every one is expecting for his or her leader that something good comes out of it for their own people.

For Germany, I can say, well, people are different. People have different abilities, have different traits of character, have different origins, have found their way into politics along different pathways. All that is diversity, which is good. Sometimes it's difficult to find compromises, but that's what we've been elected for. If everything just went like that and without problem, we wouldn't need politicians to do these jobs.

Q -- from the German Press Agency. Madam Chancellor, given the experience of the GDR, you are always saying that you are so confident that walls can fall also. How dangerous do you think this isolationist policy of the U.S. President is? What was the import of terrorists that he plans? And also, with the fact that he doesn't think that the EU -- doesn't deal with the EU in a very respectful way?

And then, Mr. President, America First -- don't you think that this is going to weaken also the European Union? And why are you so scared of diversity? In the news and in the media, you speak so awful of fake news and that things, also, cannot be proven. For example, the fact that you have been wiretapped by Mr. Obama.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Nice, friendly reporter. (Laughter.) First of all, I don't believe in an isolationist policy, but I also believe a policy of trade should be a fair policy. And the United States has been treated very, very unfairly by many countries over the years. And that's going to stop.

But I'm not an isolationist. I'm a free trader, but I'm also a fair trader. And free trade has led to a lot of bad things happening -- you look at the deficits that we have and you look at all of the accumulation of debt. We're a very powerful company -- country. We're a very strong, very strong

country. We'll soon be at a level that we perhaps have never been before. Our military is going to be strengthened -- it's been depleted.

But I am a trader. I am a fair trader. I am a trader that wants to see good for everybody, worldwide. But I am not an isolationist by any stretch of the imagination. So I don't know what newspaper you're reading, but I guess that would be another example of, as you say, fake news.

CHANCELLOR MERKEL: (As interpreted.) Well, allow me, if I may, to project in the following terms. We haven't yet had time to talk at great length about economic issues, but I would say that the success of Germany in the economic area, but also on security and peace -- that the success of Germans have always been one where the German success is one side of the coin, and the other side of the coin has been European unity and European integration. That's something of which I'm deeply convinced. And I'm not only saying this back home, I'm saying this here. I'm saying it in the United States and also here in Washington in my talks with the President.

Secondly, I believe that globalization ought to be shaped in an open-minded way, but also in a very fair way. Freedom of movement within the European Union, for example, is a very important element of our economic progress, of peace; has been for many, many decades. The European countries for many, many centuries waged wars against each other. We have to protect our external borders because -- and there we have to work on the basis of mutual interests with our neighbors.

Migration, immigration, integration has to be worked on, obviously. Traffickers have to be stopped. But this has to be done while looking at the refugees as well, giving them opportunities to shape their own lives where they are; help countries who right now are not in an ability to do so -- sometimes because they have civil war. I think that's the right way of going about it. And this is obviously what we have an exchange of views about, but my position is the one that I have just set out for you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I might add that we have many plants and factories coming back into the United States. Many jobs are coming back to Michigan, to Ohio, to Pennsylvania, to a lot of places where they were losing jobs. And we will have a different policy, but it's going to be a great policy for not only the United States but a great policy worldwide, and I look very much forward to it.

Kevin Cirilli.

Q Yes, Mr. President, (inaudible) healthcare -- what exactly does the (inaudible)?

And then, for Chancellor Merkel, what do you anticipate could be a concession you would be willing to give to the administration (inaudible)?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, Kevin, I think we have a very unified Republican Party. After all, we have the presidency, we have the House, we have the Senate. And we're getting along very well, I will tell you. And if you were at the meeting that I just attended where we took 12 "no's" or semi-"no's" -- no "yeses" -- and within a short period of time, everybody was very much on board, and a commitment to vote yes.

I think we have a very unified party. I think we're actually more unified than even the election. You see -- when they talk about me, I seem to be very popular, at least this week, within the party because we have our highest numbers -- the highest numbers that I've ever had in the party. So I think there's a great unification.

Now, healthcare is a very, very difficult subject, it's a very complex subject, and it's a subject that goes both ways. You do something for one side and the other side doesn't like it. But it's really something that's come together very well, and I think it's going to be very, very popular -- extremely popular.

On trade with Germany, I think we're going to do fantastically well. Right now, I would say that the negotiators for Germany have done a far better job than the negotiators for the United States. But hopefully we can even it out. We don't want victory, we want fairness. All I want is fairness.

Germany has done very well in its trade deals with the United States, and I give them credit for it, but -- and I can speak to many other countries. I mean, you look at China, you look at virtually any country that we do business with. It's not exactly what you call good for our workers.

You look at the horrible NAFTA transaction -- NAFTA has been a disaster for the United States. It's been a disaster for companies, and in particular, it's been a disaster for the workers. A lot of the companies just moved, but the workers are screwed. And it's probably the reason I'm standing here, maybe number one -- that and maybe the military -- building up our military, which we will do, and we will be stronger than ever before -- and hopefully not have to use it. But we will be stronger, and perhaps far stronger than ever before. But it's probably the reason I'm here, is when you talk about trade.

So I think that we are going to be a very different country. I think we're going to be -- we're going to have great values. But in terms of our military, it's going to be much stronger. And our trade deals are going to be good, solid deals. Not deals that lead to closing plants and tremendous unemployment.

Okay? Thank you.

CHANCELLOR MERKEL: (As interpreted.) When we speak about trade agreements, and the European Union is negotiating those agreements for all of the member states of the European Union, but obviously there's also input by the member states -- they bring to the table what's important to them.

We have underlined as a German industry, German business community, and have made the experience that any kind of agreement that we have concluded -- for example, at the very latest with South Korea -- brought us more jobs, actually. People were very much concerned about losing jobs -- for example, the automotive industry -- but in the end, it turned out -- particularly as it regards South Korea -- in the end it turned out that both sides benefited.

And I think it's only fair. That's the purpose of concluding agreements -- that both sides win. And that is the sort of spirit, I think, in which we ought to be guided in negotiating any agreement between the United States of America and the EU. I hope that we can resume the agreement that we started. We have just now concluded our agreement with Canada, and I hope that we will come back to the table and talk about the agreement between EU and the U.S. again.

Q Madam Chancellor, a question addressed to you. Today we're talking about trade. The President, in the past, always said that he doesn't like multinational trade agreements but he does bilateral trade agreements. Do you think from the EU's point of view, T-TIP is a bilateral agreement with Washington on one side, the EU the other side? Now, is the problem that America, the President of the United States, and the Europeans have a basically different understanding of what the EU is all about? That's my question addressed to you.

And Mr. President, my question addressed to you, if I may -- rejected White House claims, is that the alleged wiretapping on you, on the Trump Tower, on Trump organization, or on members of your campaign was -- that British intelligence was either responsible for it or involved in it? After these claims are rejected, what is your take on that? Are there other suspects, or do you think it was a mistake to blame British intelligence for this.

And by the way, my second question, are there, from time to time, tweets that you regret in hindsight --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very seldom.

Q Very seldom. So you never would have wished not to have --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very seldom. Probably wouldn't be here right now -- but very seldom. We have a tremendous group of people that listen, and I can get around the media when the media doesn't tell the truth, so I like that.

As far as wiretapping, I guess, by this past administration, at least we have something in common perhaps. (Laughter.) And just to finish your question, we said nothing. All we did was quote a certain very talented legal mind who was the one responsible for saying that on television. I

didn't make an opinion on it. That was a statement made by a very talented lawyer on Fox. And so you shouldn't be talking to me, you should be talking to Fox, okay?

Q Thank you.

CHANCELLOR MERKEL: (As interpreted.) Well, I believe that the President has clearly set out his philosophy as to what trade agreements have to bring about for the American side as well. I personally don't think that Germany needs to negotiate and not the European Union. We've devolved our competences to the European Union, so the European Union, or rather the Commission negotiates on behalf of the member states, so that's not going to prevent us from concluding agreements. Indeed, this would be then qualify as a bilateral agreement between the EU and the United States if we had it.

But the question is, will it be of benefit to both countries or not, and let me be very honest, very candid -- a free trade agreement with the United States of America has not always been all that popular in Germany either. There have been less demonstrations against this free trade agreements in the United States than in Europe, and also in Germany. So I am very glad to note that apparently the perspective on that has changed a little bit at least in Germany, too.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Great honor. Thank you. Thank you.

END

2:36 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump in a Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister al-Abadi of Iraq

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2017

Remarks by President Trump in a Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister al-Abadi of Iraq

Cabinet Room

3:28 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Mr. Prime Minister, it's an honor to have you here before our Cabinet, which I hope in years to come will be thought of one the great Cabinets in the history of the United States. We just spent a few minutes speaking in the Oval Office and learning and giving each other ideas. One of the things I did ask is why did President Obama sign that agreement with Iran, because nobody has been able to figure that one out. But maybe someday we'll be able to figure it out.

I want to thank you very much for being here, great respect for you. I know you're working very hard, and General Mattis and General McMaster and Rex Tillerson have all been telling me that you're doing a job -- it's not an easy job, it's a very tough job. Your soldiers are fighting hard. I know Mosul is moving along, but Mosul was ours until we left. So perhaps we shouldn't have gone in, and certainly we shouldn't have left. We should never ever have left, and the vacuum was created, and we discussed what happened.

But we'll spend a lot of time with you, with your group. And thank you all very much for being here. We appreciate it. And we will figure something out. Our main thrust is we have to get rid of ISIS. We're going to get rid of ISIS. It will happen. It's happening right now. General Mattis and his team have done an incredible job. A lot of things are different than they were even five or six weeks ago. We've been here a short while and people have said they'd never seen such a difference.

So we are with you. And again, thank you very much for being with us.

PRIME MINISTER AL-ABADI: Excuse me a second.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, please.

PRIME MINISTER AL-ABADI: (Speaks Arabic.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister. We very much appreciate your words, and we will start discussing certain things right now.

Thank you very much, everybody.

END

3:33 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump at Greek Independence Day Celebration

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 24, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at Greek Independence Day Celebration

East Room

2:37 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: I love the Greeks. Oh, do I love the Greeks. (Laughter and applause.) Don't forget, I come from New York. That's all I see, is Greeks. They are all over the place. (Laughter.)

Thank you very much, Reince. Very much appreciated. Reince was the most successful leader the RNC -- that's called the Republican National Committee -- has ever had. And now, as my really terrific and hardworking Chief of Staff, he has really one of the number-one -- and I guess you'd have to say, he's one of the top Greeks in the country. And I know a lot of them right in the audience -- they're my friends. (Applause.)

And the list also includes, as you know, George Gigicos -- (applause) -- George. George is great. I said, make sure that microphone is absolutely perfect, George. He never lets me -- the Director of White House Advance. And George Sifakis -- (applause) -- where's George? And these guys are with me right from the beginning -- the Director of the Office of Public Liaison. It's a great team. It's a great, great team. Can't do any better.

They helped organize this wonderful event with the Greek Archdiocese of America and so many local parishioners. And I want to thank you all. You're here, you're all over the audience. I want to thank you all.

Your Eminence and Father Alex, it is a true privilege to host you at the White House. I was deeply honored to have you both at my inauguration -- it was a great day -- and I am grateful for your presence here today. I also want to thank you for awarding Reince and George the highest honor of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America -- the Medal of Saint Paul.

To everyone in the youth choir who just performed -- they were beautiful. (Applause.) I heard that music. I heard that music. With such elegance and grace, you're amazing -- you really are. Beautiful, beautiful sounds. I know you made your parents very proud. And you make all of us proud, right?

Today we commemorate an event that we have marked with a national day of celebration for 30 years: Greek Independence Day. Very important. President Ronald Reagan started this wonderful tradition, and we are thrilled to continue it, and always will. Greek Independence Day celebrates the rebirth of liberty for the Greek people. It commemorates the fight for the Greek Independence that began on March 25th, 1821. After nearly 400 years of outside rule, the Greeks longed to regain their sovereignty.

This love of freedom and democracy has formed a lasting bond between our two countries. It is a bond that has its origins in Ancient Greece -- "the birthplace of Democracy."

American President James Monroe and the great American statesman Daniel Webster both supported Greece's struggle for independence. And it was a tough, tough struggle, you know that.

Then-Representative Webster honored the role of Greece in forming civilization, and said that “We, like the rest of mankind, are greatly her debtors.”

In years to come, we don’t know what will be required to defend our freedom, but we do know that it will demand great, great courage -- a courage from all of us -- and we will show it, and I have no doubt about that.

Drawing inspiration from our history and those who come before, we will rise to any occasion. We have a country that, as you know, has certain difficulties, has certain problems. We will solve those problems and we will quickly solve those difficulties. Just watch. (Applause.)

I want to thank you all for coming to the White House today. We celebrate Greek history, and we applaud the tremendous contributions of your people to our beloved country.

May God bless you all. And with that, I would like to recognize His Eminence. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

2:42 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Al-Sisi of Egypt Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 03, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Al-Sisi of Egypt Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

12:04 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's great to be with the President of Egypt. And I will tell you, President al-Sisi has been somebody that's been very close to me from the first time I met him. I met during the campaign, and at that point there were two of us, and we both met. And hopefully you like me a lot more. But it was very long. It was supposed to be just a quick brief meeting, and we were with each other for a long period of time. We agreed on so many things.

I just want to let everybody know, in case there was any doubt, that we are very much behind President al-Sisi. He's done a fantastic job in a very difficult situation. We are very much behind Egypt and the people of Egypt. And the United States has, believe me, backing, and we have strong backing. We are very much -- and as you and I will be soon talking -- we're building up our military to a level that will be the highest -- probably the highest that we've ever had -- plane orders, ship orders, aircraft carrier orders.

We are rejuvenating our military to the highest level I think in these times, probably more than ever before, or certainly almost more than ever before. That's what we need.

And I just want to say to you, Mr. President, that you have a great friend and ally in the United States and in me.

PRESIDENT AL-SISI: (As interpreted.) Your Excellency, allow me to extend my thanks and appreciation for your kind invitation for me to visit the United States. Actually, this is my first state visit to the United States since my inauguration in office. And, as a matter of fact, this is the first visit in eight years from an Egyptian president to the United States.

Your Excellency, since we met last September, I've had a deep appreciation and admiration of your unique personality, especially as you are standing very strong in the counterterrorism field to counter this evil ideology that is claiming innocent lives, that is bringing devastation to communities and nations, and that is terrorizing innocent people.

Your Excellency, very strongly and very openly, you will find Egypt and myself always beside you in this, in bringing about an effective strategy in the counterterrorism.

The second point, Your Excellency, is that you'll find me supporting you very strongly and very earnestly in finding solution to the problem of the century. And I'm quite confident that you will be able to bring a solution to this issue.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We will -- that I tell you. We will.

PRESIDENT AL-SISI: Yes. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We will do that together. We will fight terrorism and other things, and we're going to be friends for a long, long period of time. We have a great bond with the people of Egypt, and I look forward to working with the President. And we have some interesting conversations going to start effective immediately, and then we're going into the Cabinet Room and we're going to meet with your representatives.

So again, thank you very much for coming. And I look forward to a very long and strong relationship.

END

12:09 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 05, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan in Joint Press Conference

Rose Garden

1:10 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Your Majesty, thank you for being with us today. Very much appreciate it. This is our second meeting since my inauguration, but our first at the White House. A very special place, I can tell you that. I've gotten to know it well. Long hours. Very special.

It's really an honor to welcome you here today. But before we begin, let me say a few words about recent events.

Yesterday, a chemical attack -- a chemical attack that was so horrific, in Syria, against innocent people, including women, small children, and even beautiful little babies. Their deaths was an affront to humanity. These heinous actions by the Assad regime cannot be tolerate.

The United States stands with our allies across the globe to condemn this horrific attack and all other horrific attacks, for that matter.

Your Majesty, Jordanians are known for their legendary hospitality, and we will do our very best to be equally gracious hosts. They're also known, however -- I have to say this -- for their fighting ability. And you are a great warrior, and we appreciate it. Thank you.

The historical ties and close friendship between our two countries dates back three-quarters of a century. In that time, the Middle East has faced many periods of crisis and unrest, perhaps never like it is today, however. Through them all, America has looked to Jordan as a valued partner, an advocate for the values of civilization, and a source of stability and hope.

I am deeply committed to preserving our strong relationship -- which I will -- and to strengthening America's longstanding support for Jordan. And you do have tremendous support within our country, I can tell you that.

As we know, the Middle East -- and the entire world -- is faced with one of its gravest threats in many, many years. Since the earliest days of the campaign against ISIS, Jordan has been a staunch ally and partner, and we thank you for that. Jordanian servicemembers have made

tremendous sacrifices in this battle against the enemies of civilization, and I want to thank all of them for their, really, just incredible courage. So many have been lost, and we pay homage. So many.

In King Abdullah, America is blessed with a thoughtful and determined partner. He is a man who has spent years commanding his country's special forces. He really knows what being a soldier is, that I can tell you. And he knows how to fight. The King has been a leader in calling for a plan to defeat ISIS once and for all. And I'm with you on that. We're both leaders on that, believe me. That's what we speak about today, and that is what we are going to do. And it will be a shorter fight than a lot of people are thinking about, believe me. We've made tremendous strides as we discussed.

As you know, we had a very, very fine delegation come over from Egypt and also from Iraq, and they said more has been done in the last six weeks than has been done in years with the previous administration. And believe me, we're going to keep it that way.

We will destroy ISIS and we will protect civilization. We have no choice -- we will protect civilization. King Abdullah and I also discussed measures to combat the evil ideology that inspires ISIS and plagues our planet. In addition, we also acknowledge the vital role that Jordan has played in hosting refugees from the conflict in Syria. We have just announced that the United States will contribute additional funds to Jordan for humanitarian assistance. This aid will help countries like Jordan host refugees until it is safe for them to return home. The refugees want to return home. I know that from so many other instances. They want to return back to their home. And that's a goal of any responsible refugee policy.

Finally, we discussed to advance the cause of peace in the Middle East, including peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. And I'm working very, very hard on trying to finally create peace between the Palestinians and Israel, and I think we'll be successful. I hope to be successful, I can tell you that.

The King has been a really tireless advocate for a solution, and he's going to help me with that and help me at the highest level. And we will be consulting with him closely in the days ahead.

King Abdullah, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your partnership. Working together, the United States and Jordan can help bring peace and stability to the Middle East and, in fact, the entire world. And we will do that.

Thank you very, very much for being with us. (Applause.)

KING ABDULLAH: Thank you. Mr. President, thank you for such a kind and warm welcome to the White House. I fondly remember the meetings we've had many years ago and, more recently, several months ago. You've always been a generous host and have always looked after us. We are very delighted with the way the discussions have gone so far, and we're delighted to be here in such a wonderful setting on such a beautiful day, which I think is a tremendous mark of how we are going to move into the future.

We've had a very good round of talks today, and I'm looking forward to continuing these discussions later on in our meetings after the press conference. What I do want to say is how much we deeply appreciate the close relations we have with the United States, with you, Mr. President, and with the American people. This is a strategic partnership that we keep very close to our hearts, and it is a partnership on so many levels that we will continue, I think, with the frank discussions that we had today to improve on as we face the challenges of the future. And I am very delighted for your vision, your holistic approach to all the challenges in our region, and to the dedication of your team in being able to translate your policies into action successfully, hopefully, as we move forward.

The challenges we face today are many and are not exclusive to my region, as I've just mentioned. They are global, and particularly the threats to global security. Terrorism has no borders, no nationality, no religion, and, therefore, joint action with a holistic approach, as I had just mentioned, Mr. President, is crucial. I am very delighted that you have the vision to be able to

move in that direction, and I think that the world will be in a very good place as we move with all these challenges ahead.

No doubt, with all the challenges that we face in the world, the role of the U.S. is key to all the issues that we have around the world, but it's not just the fact that we should expect the United States to do all the heavy lifting. The heavy lifting has to be done by all of us in the international community to support the United States in being able to translate that vision into the right direction. So there's a lot of responsibility for all of us in the international community to support the President, the administration, and the American people to bring brighter days to all of us.

We are very encouraged with the President's determination to support Arab and Muslim states in their fight against terrorism. But it is not only the fight of terrorism inside of our societies, but we, as Arab-Muslim states standing behind the international community in being able to defeat this international scourge.

In Syria, we need a political solution that ends the conflict in the country and preserve its unity and territorial integrity.

As the President mentioned, the issue we discussed was the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is essentially the core conflict in our region. And the President's early engagement as beginning in bringing the Palestinians and Israelis together has been a very encouraging sign for all of us. And I think, sir, it was that initiative that allowed us at the Arab Summit last week to extend through the Arab Peace Initiative the message of peace to Israel, which we all hopefully will work together to make that come about.

All Arab countries -- we launched the Arab Peace Initiative, as I said, last week. It offers a historic reconciliation between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as all member states of the Arab League. It is the most comprehensive framework for lasting peace and it ensures statehood for the Palestinians, but also security, acceptance and normal ties for Israel with all Arab countries and hopefully all Islamic countries.

So we appreciate your commitment in all these issues where others have failed. You will find a strong ally in Jordan in supporting you in all your policies. And if I may just say, as you have, on Syria and the gas attack -- unfortunately, as you and I both agree, this is another testament to the failure of the international diplomacy to find the solutions to this crisis. But I believe under your leadership we will be able to unravel this very complicated situation.

This has been ongoing for seven years now, has descended into proxy wars from different parties with dubious agendas. But at the end of the day, as you pointed out, Mr. President, it is the civilians -- women and children -- that are paying the heaviest price. This is happening on our watch, on our conscience, as well as the global community. And I know the passion and the emotion that the President has expressed and how this should not be tolerated whatsoever. And this threshold of inhumanity and savagery that are being crossed every day is something that I know the President will not allow to happen, wherever it may be. And I fully support and endorse the President in this issue.

So I want to thank you, sir, because you have the outlook of looking not just at the Syrian challenges but that of Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Libya, and everything that is in our region. So I think your message to all of us is a message of hope, and that's what I take away from this conference.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

KING ABDULLAH: And I thank you for all that you have done so far and all that you will do, sir. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll take a few questions. Julie Pace.

Q Thank you, sir. I have questions on Syria for both leaders. But if I could start with you, Mr. President. You've condemned the chemical attacks in Syria, but you also appeared in your statement yesterday to pin some of the blame on the Obama administration. You are the President now. Do you feel like you bear responsibility for responding to the chemical attack? And does the chemical attack cross a red line for you?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I think the Obama administration had a great opportunity to solve this crisis a long time ago when he said the red line in the sand. And when he didn't cross that line after making the threat, I think that set us back a long ways, not only in Syria, but in many other parts of the world, because it was a blank threat. I think it was something that was not one of our better days as a country.

So I do feel that, Julie. I feel it very strongly.

Q So you feel like you now have the responsibility to respond to the chemical attack?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I now have responsibility, and I will have that responsibility and carry it very proudly, I will tell you that. It is now my responsibility. It was a great opportunity missed. As you know, I'll be meeting with the President of China very soon, in Florida, and that's another responsibility we have -- and that's called the country of North Korea. We have a big problem. We have somebody that is not doing the right thing. And that's going to be my responsibility. But I'll tell you, that responsibility could have been made a lot easier if it was handled years ago.

Q Before I move on to the King, could I just quickly ask you if the chemical attack crosses a red line for you?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It crossed a lot of lines for me. When you kill innocent children, innocent babies -- babies, little babies -- with a chemical gas that is so lethal -- people were shocked to hear what gas it was -- that crosses many, many lines, beyond a red line. Many, many lines.

Thank you very much.

Q And, Your Majesty, if I could ask about refugees. Your country has really borne the brunt of the refugee crisis in Syria. The President has signed travel bans that would block Syrians from coming to the U.S. If that goes into effect, what would the impact on your country and across the region be?

KING ABDULLAH: Well, I think as the President pointed out, most, if not all, Syrian refugees actually want to go back to Syria. And what we're working with the United States and the international community is to be able to stabilize the refugees in our country, give them the tools so that, as we're working with the solutions in Syria, we have the ability to be able to send them back as a positive influence into their economies.

And again, the President and the Europeans are being very forward-leaning in being able look after our host community -- tremendous burden on our country, but again, tremendous appreciation to the United States and the Western countries for being able to help us deliver that.

Q Your Majesty, how does the outcome of the recent Arab Summit help the U.S. in its policy to advance Palestinian-Israeli negotiations?

KING ABDULLAH: Well, as I said, our peace initiative came out with a resounding resolution to offer peace to the Israelis, to make them feel that they're accepted into the neighborhood, and to be able to support the President as he brings both parties together.

And again, I have to remind people that very early on there was an early engagement by the President and his team to the Israelis and the Palestinians to be able to see what he can do to bring them together. It is the core conflict for a lot of us in the region. The President knows this. He has his instincts in the right place. And working with his team, our job, as I said, is to do the heavy lifting. The Arabs are prepared to do whatever they can to bring Israelis and Palestinians together under the leadership of the President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. John Yang (ph).

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to follow up on Julie's question and press you a little more on Syria. How will you distinguish your policy and your actions on Syria from the inaction that you criticized of the previous administration? You say it's now your responsibility. What should we see or what should we look for that will be different?

And, Your Majesty, I'd like to ask you, what gives you -- this is now your second meeting with the President -- what gives you the optimism that Mr. Trump will succeed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict where so many others have failed before him to be a broker for peace?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I like to think of myself as a very flexible person. I don't have to have one specific way, and if the world changes, I go the same way, I don't change. Well, I do change and I am flexible, and I'm proud of that flexibility. And I will tell you, that attack on children yesterday had a big impact on me -- big impact. That was a horrible, horrible thing. And I've been watching it and seeing it, and it doesn't get any worse than that.

And I have that flexibility, and it's very, very possible -- and I will tell you, it's already happened that my attitude toward Syria and Assad has changed very much. And if you look back over the last few weeks, there were other attacks using gas. You're now talking about a whole different level.

And so, as you know, I would love to have never been in the Middle East. I would love to have never seen that whole big situation start. But once it started, we got out the wrong way, and ISIS formed in the vacuum, and lots of bad things happened. I will tell you, what happened yesterday is unacceptable to me.

Q Can I follow up, sir? Last year, you seemed to be reluctant to get involved -- or to intervene in Syria directly. Is that one thing that's changed after yesterday?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, one of the things I think you've noticed about me is, militarily, I don't like to say where I'm going and what I doing. And I watched past administrations say, we will attack at such and such a day at such and such an hour. And you, being a warrior -- you would say, why are they saying that? And I'm sure you sat back in Jordan, and you said, why are they saying that?

I watched Mosul, where the past administration was saying, we will be attacking in four months. And I said, why are they doing that? Then a month goes by, and they say, we will be attacking in three months, and then two months, and then we will be attacking next week. And I'm saying, why are they doing that? And as you know, Mosul turned out to be a much harder fight than anyone thought, and a lot of people have been lost in that fight.

I'm not saying I'm doing anything one way or the other, but I'm certainly not going to be telling you, as much as I respect you, John. Thank you.

KING ABDULLAH: Sir, I think, on behalf of the President, what I saw was an early engagement by the President and his team, with all of us in the region, about the challenges between the Israelis and Palestinians. I had the honor of seeing the President and his team again in January where this was discussed. The President understands the nuances and the challenges. I think he has the courage and the dedication to be able to do this. Like I said before, all of us have a responsibility to help the President push us over the finish line.

And so, his team had been in the region, they've been talking to all the partners, and it is our job to facilitate the atmospherics between Israelis and Palestinians to move together, and give the support to the President to be able to smooth the edges over between Israelis and Palestinians to achieve this. And the President understands that if we don't solve this problem, how are we going to win the global fight against terrorism, which is his number-one priority? So this is a core issue that he understands, and I think he has the commitment and he has my full support for this, as he does from many, many countries in our region.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And I have to just say that the world is a mess. I inherited a mess. Whether it's the Middle East, whether it's North Korea, whether it's so many other things, whether it's in our country -- horrible trade deals -- I inherited a mess. We're going to fix it. We're going to fix it.

Okay.

Q Thank you, Your Majesty. You touch upon the subject now, but if I ask you to look forward, how do you see the future of fighting terrorism post-Raqqa and Mosul, especially the role that Jordan will play in the eastern part of Iraq? And do you believe the real battle will start then?

And if I may, Mr. President, you know very well that the Iranian militias and Hezbollah has been propping the Syrian regime for a while -- over a few years now. Will you go after them? What message will you give them today? And will you work with the Russians to ground the Syrian air force and to establish safe zones? Thank you.

KING ABDULLAH: Well, the first part is that we are seeing, very recently, tremendous gains on the ground in Raqqa and Mosul. Again, I think, as the President alluded to, it's very difficult to put timelines on this issue because the battle space is always very fluid. But I think that the war is being won on the ground.

Having said that, terrorists are on the move. They'll be on the move inside of Iraq and inside of Syria, so that we have to make sure that we adapt our plans accordingly. And they move beyond borders, beyond our region and elsewhere. So as we and the administration have discussed, it's this holistic approach: How do we fight them wherever they are? And I think that is the understanding.

Terrorists have no respect for borders and religions and people. So it's the seriousness of how we do this holistic approach that I've mentioned several times. And what I am really delighted is that the understanding by the President and the administration in how to deal with this globally.

And I think you're seeing a move in the right direction because the policy now is being charted out, and my discussions with the Defense Secretary and the Foreign Secretary allows us to be then able to decide how we adapt ourselves in the region to be able to come in line with international diplomacy.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: The Iran deal made by the previous administration is one of the worst deals I have ever witnessed -- and I've witnessed some beauties. It's one of the worst deals I've ever witnessed. It should never have been made. It was totally one-sided against the United States, and, frankly, against much of the Middle East.

I will do whatever I have to do. They have a deal. It was, some people say, not done properly even in the form of its finalization. There was no vote from Congress. There was no real ratification. But I will do what I have to do with respect to the Iran deal. As far as ISIS is concerned, the United States will work with whoever it's appropriate to work with to totally eradicate ISIS and other terrorists. And, by the way, ISIS is one group, but others have formed. Frankly, they're all over the place. We will do what we have to do to eradicate terrorism.

Q But, sir, I'm talking about the Iranian militias in Syria supporting the Syrian regime separate of the nuclear deal. What message do you have for them today?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You will see. They will have a message. You will see what the message will be. Okay? Thank you.

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you.

END

1:35 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump After Meeting with President Xi of China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump After Meeting with President Xi of China

Mar-a-Lago

Palm Beach, Florida

11:22 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I just want to say that President Xi and all of his representatives have been really interesting to be with. I think we have made tremendous progress in our relationship with China. My representatives have been meeting one-on-one with their counterparts from China. And I think, truly, progress has been made. We'll be making a lot of additional progress.

The relationship developed by President Xi and myself I think is outstanding. We look forward to being together many times in the future. And I believe lots of very potentially bad problems will be going away.

So I just want to thank President Xi for being with us in the United States. It's a tremendous honor for me and all of my representatives to host the President and his representatives. And again, progress has been made.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

(President Xi speaks in Chinese.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I agree 100 percent, Mr. President. And thank you very much. And again, a tremendous honor to have you in the United States and in Mar-a-Lago. Thank you very much.

END

11:26 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2017

Joint Press Conference of President Trump and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

AND NATO SECRETARY GENERAL JENS STOLTENBERG

IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE

East Room

4:03 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Secretary General Stoltenberg, it's a pleasure to welcome you to the White House -- especially at such an important moment in our great Alliance.

I also want to acknowledge the great work being done by our Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, to strengthen the NATO Alliance, as well as the Secretary's trip to Moscow to promote the security interest of the United States and its allies. He did a terrific job. Just watched parts of it -- an absolutely terrific job.

Sixty-eight years ago this month, not far from where we are gathered today, President Harry Truman spoke at the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty. In the nearly seven decades since Harry Truman spoke those words, the NATO Alliance has been the bulwark of international peace and security.

NATO allies defeated communism and liberated the captive nations of the Cold War. They secured the longest period of unbroken peace that Europe has ever known. This enduring partnership rooted out of so many different things, but our common security is always number one, and our common devotion to human dignity and freedom.

Since 1949, the NATO member states have more than doubled, increasing from 12 to 28. On Monday, I signed the protocol to approve the 29th -- the country of Montenegro. In the coming months and years, I'll work closely with all of our NATO allies to enhance this partnership and to adapt to the challenges of the future -- of which there will be many. This includes upgrading

NATO to focus on today's most pressing security and all of its challenges, including migration and terrorism.

We must also work together to resolve the disaster currently taking place in Syria. We are grateful for the support of NATO members and partners in their condemnation of Assad's murderous attack, using the most horrible weapons. The vicious slaughter of innocent civilians with chemical weapons, including the barbaric killing of small and helpless children and babies, must be forcefully rejected by any nation that values human life. It is time to end this brutal civil war, defeat terrorists, and allow refugees to return home.

In facing our common challenges, we must also ensure that NATO members meet their financial obligations and pay what they owe. Many have not been doing that. The Secretary General and I agree that other member nations must satisfy their responsibility to contribute 2 percent of GDP to defense. If other countries make their fair share, instead of relying on the United States to make up the difference, we will all be much more secure and our partnership will be made that much stronger.

The Secretary General and I had a productive discussion about what more NATO can do in the fight against terrorism. I complained about that a long time ago and they made a change, and now they do fight terrorism. I said it was obsolete; it's no longer obsolete. It's my hope that NATO will take on an increased role in supporting our Iraqi partners in their battle against ISIS. I'm also sending General McMaster to Afghanistan to find out how we can make progress alongside our Afghan partners and NATO allies.

Every generation has strived to adapt the NATO Alliance to meet the challenges of their times -- and on my visit to Brussels this spring -- I look very much forward to -- we will work together to do the same. We must not be trapped by the tired thinking that so many have, but apply new solutions to face new circumstances. And that's all throughout the world. We're not here to stand on ceremony but to develop real strategies to achieve safety, security and peace. We're here to protect the freedom and prosperity of our citizens and to give them the future they so richly deserve.

Secretary General, I'm honored to have you here today, and to reaffirm our commitment to this Alliance and to the enduring values that we proudly -- and I mean, very proudly -- share. Thank you very much. Thank you for being here.

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: Thank you so much, sir, Mr. President.

We just had an excellent and very productive meeting, and it's really an honor to meet you for the first time here in the White House.

We agree that NATO is a bedrock of security, both for Europe and for the United States. Two world wars and a Cold War have taught us all that peace in Europe is not only important for Europeans but is also important for the prosperity and the security of North America. So a strong NATO is good for Europe, but a strong NATO is also good for the United States.

And, therefore, I welcome the very strong commitment of the United States to the security of Europe. We see this commitment not only in words but also in deeds. Over the past months, thousands of U.S. troops have been deploying to Europe, a clear demonstration that America stands with allies to protect peace and defend our freedom. And yesterday, you announced the completion of the ratification of Montenegro's membership in NATO, another expression of your strong commitment to Europe and to the transatlantic bond. And we thank you for that.

In a more dangerous and more unpredictable world, it is important to have friends and allies. And in NATO, America has the best friends and the best allies in the world. Together, we represent half of the world's economic and military power. No other superpower has ever had such a strategic advantage. This makes the United States stronger and safer.

We saw that after the 9/11 attacks on the United States. That was the first time NATO invoked our Article 5, the collective defense clause. Allies sent AWACS surveillance planes to help patrol American skies, and we launched NATO's biggest military operation ever in

Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands of Europeans and Canadian soldiers have served shoulder-to-shoulder with American troops. More than a thousand have paid the ultimate price.

Earlier today, I laid a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery in tribute to the fallen. It was a deeply moving experience. We owe it to our servicemen and women to preserve the hard-earned gains we have made together in Afghanistan. We were reminded of their sacrifice just this week when a U.S. soldier was killed there fighting ISIL. Our mission in Afghanistan is a major contribution to the fight against international terrorism.

NATO plays a key role in many other ways also. All NATO allies are part of the global coalition to counter ISIL, and NATO provides support to the coalition with training for Iraqi forces in their fight against terrorists and more intelligence-sharing. And you are right, we have established a new division for intelligence, which enhances our ability to fight terrorism, and working together in the Alliance to fight terrorism in an even more effective way.

But we agreed today, you and I, that NATO can, and must, do more in the global fight against terrorism. In the fight against terrorism, training local forces is one of the best weapons we have. NATO has the experience, the expertise, and the staying power to make a real difference, and fighting terrorism will be an important topic when NATO leaders meet in Brussels in May.

The other major topic will be fair burden-sharing in our Alliance. And we had a total discussion on this issue today. And, Mr. President, I thank you for your attention to this issue. We are already seeing the effect of your strong focus on the importance of burden-sharing in the Alliance. We agree that allies need to redouble their efforts to meet the pledge we all made in 2014 to invest more in our Alliance.

It is about spending more on defense. It is about delivering the capabilities we need. And it is about contributing forces to NATO missions and operations. This means cash, capabilities, and contributions.

Fair burden-sharing has been my top priority since taking office. We have now turned a corner. In 2016, for the first time in many years, we saw an increase in defense spending across European allies and Canada -- a real increase of 3.8 percent or \$10 billion more for our defense. We are now working to keep up the momentum, including by developing national plans outlining how to make good on what we agreed in 2014. We know that we all need to contribute our fair share because we need to keep our nations safe in a more dangerous world.

We discussed many different topics during our meeting today, including the horrendous use of chemical weapons in Syria. Any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable, cannot go unanswered, and those responsible must be held accountable.

So, Mr. President, thank you once again. I look forward to working with you to keeping the Alliance strong, and I look forward to welcoming you to Brussels in May when heads of state and government in the Alliance meet there to address the challenges and the need to continue to adapt the Alliance to a more challenging security environment, and to respond both to the need for fair burden-sharing, and stepping up our efforts to fight international terrorism. So thank you, once again.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Great. Thank you.

So we'll have a couple of questions.

Jeff Mason.

Q Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to ask you about two topics, if I may. First, has your view of Vladimir Putin changed after what's happened in Syria? And what is the United States prepared to do if he continues to support Assad?

And on a separate question, have you made a deal after your chat last night with the President of China, about China helping to reign in North Korea? And is that one reason you've decided not to label Beijing a currency manipulator?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'll be speaking to -- do you want to go ahead. Go ahead.

Q May I? For the Secretary General, do you believe NATO should continue to bolster its presence along the Alliance's eastern border? And do you have -- are you confident that you have President Trump and the United States' support for that? Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: I'll be speaking with Rex Tillerson in a little while -- he's calling in. I think he had a very successful meeting in Russia. We'll see. We'll see the end result, which will be in a long period of time, perhaps. But the end result is what's most important -- not just talk. And I think that, based on everything I'm hearing, things went pretty well, maybe better than anticipated.

It would be wonderful, as we were discussing just a little while ago, if NATO and our country could get along with Russia. Right now, we're not getting along with Russia at all. We may be at an all-time low in terms of a relationship with Russia. This has built for a long period of time. But we're going to see what happens. Putin is the leader of Russia. Russia is a strong country. We're a very, very strong country. We're going to see how that all works out.

Last night, separately, I spoke with a man that I've gotten to know. I don't know Putin, but I do know this gentleman -- I've spent a lot of time with him over the last two days, and he is the President of China. You were there -- most of you were there, and it was quite an interesting period of time.

President Xi wants to do the right thing. We had a very good bonding. I think we had a very good chemistry together. I think he wants to help us with North Korea. We talked trade. We talked a lot of things. And I said, the way you're going to make a good trade deal is to help us with North Korea; otherwise we're just going to go it alone. That will be all right, too. But going it alone means going it with lots of other nations.

But I was very impressed with President Xi, and I think he means well and I think he wants to help. We'll see whether or not he does.

Q Do you feel like you have a deal with him? And if I could just --

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me?

Q Do you feel like you have a deal with him in terms of the currency manipulation designation? And have your views changed on Putin?

THE PRESIDENT: We're going to see, we're going to see about that. And I'll also see about Putin over a period of time. It would be a fantastic thing if we got along with Putin and if we got along with Russia. And that could happen, and it may not happen, it may be just the opposite.

I can only tell you what I would like to do. I would love to be able to get along with everybody. Right now, the world is a mess. But I think by the time we finish, I think it's going to be a lot better place to live. And I can tell you that, speaking for myself, by the time I'm finished, it's going to be a lot better place to live in -- because right now it's nasty.

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: NATO is in the process of implementing the biggest reinforcement of our collective defense since the end of the Cold War. And one element of that is to increase our military presence in the eastern part of the Alliance. And we are now deploying four battle groups to the three Baltic countries and Poland, and there have also been more U.S. forces in that part of Europe.

And this is the first time in many, many years that we see an increase in the military presence of the United States in Europe. So we are increasing our presence, and we're also increasing the readiness and the preparedness of our forces so we can quickly reinforce if needed.

We consider the presence we will have when the four battle groups are in place as sufficient given the current security situation in Europe. But, of course, we will assess the situation and follow the developments very closely.

The message from NATO is that what we do is proportionate; it is defensive. And we don't want a new Cold War. We don't want a new arms race. And actually we strongly believe that there is no contradiction between a strong NATO, a credible deterrence on defense, and political dialogue with Russia. Actually, we believe that a precondition for the political dialogue with Russia is that

we are strong and that we are united. But based on that, we can talk to Russia because Russia is our neighbor, Russia is here to stay, so we have to find ways to manage our relationship with Russia.

And I am absolutely certain that the United States supports this approach -- partly because the United States is contributing with forces to our enhanced presence in the eastern part of the Alliance and also in the southeast of the Alliance in Romania, and the United States and the President has clearly expressed that they want dialogue with Russia, but based on unity and strength in the Alliance.

Then the next question is from Jon Sopel.

Q Thank you very much. Secretary General, how long do you think it will take you to persuade the other European countries to burden-share? And what are you going to do to persuade them?

Mr. President, could I ask you --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I like that question. (Laughter.)

Q I'm here to help. (Laughter.)

And, Mr. President, do you think it's conceivable, what's your instinct -- was it possible that Syrian forces could have launched that attack in Idlib last week without the Russians knowing? And have you been disappointed, surprised by Vladimir Putin's reaction since then?

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think it's certainly possible; I think it's probably unlikely. And I know they're doing investigations into that right now. I would like to think that they didn't know, but certainly they could have. They were there. So we'll find out. General Mattis is looking into it with the entire Pentagon group that does that kind of work.

So it was very disappointing to see. It's disappointing no matter who does it, but when you get into the gases -- especially that form -- it's vicious and violent. And everybody in this room saw it all too many times over the last three or four days -- young children dying, babies dying, fathers holding children in their arms that were dead. Dead children -- there can't be a worse sight, and it shouldn't be allowed. That's a butcher. That's a butcher.

So I felt we had to do something about it. I have absolutely no doubt we did the right thing, and it was very, very successfully done, as you well know. Thank you.

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: On defense spending and burden-sharing, that has been my top priority. I have raised it in all my meetings, in all capitals I visited, with Prime Ministers, Presidents, ministers of finance and, of course also defense and foreign ministers. And I expect, of course, all allies to make good on what they decided back in 2014.

And the very strong and clear message from President Trump has been very helpful. So now we see that things are starting to move in the right direction. For the first time after many, many years of decline in defense spending, we now see an increase in defense spending across Europe and Canada. So they have started to move in the right direction -- 3.8 percent real increase in defense spending across Europe and Canada is a significant step in the right direction. It's not enough. We still have a long way to go, but at least they have turned a corner -- the European allies have turned a corner. Instead of reducing defense spending, they have started to increase defense spending.

Then I think it is important to remember that this something the Europeans do because they know that this is in their own security interest. It is in their interest to invest more in Europe defense because the world has become more dangerous.

Many European allies, of course, reduced -- or all European allies reduced defense spending after the end of the Cold War because then tensions went down. But if you are decreasing defense spending when tensions are going down, then you have to be able to increase the defense spending when tensions are going up. And now they are going up.

So we have still a long way to go, but I'm encouraged by the fact that we have started to move in the right direction. And last year there were five allies spending 2 percent. This year

Romania has declared that they will reach 2 percent. Next year Latvia and Lithuania will also reach 2 percent, so we go from five to eight -- which is at least going in the right direction. But still we have some work to do.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And I did ask about all the money that hasn't been paid over the years, will that money be coming back. We'll be talking about that, right? (Laughter.) We want to talk about that, too.

Anita Kumar, where are you? Hi. McClatchy.

Q Mr. President, what's your reaction to the U.N. (inaudible) overall? Can you talk a little bit about your reaction to China -- we're you aware that was going to happen? Did President Xi talk to you about that? And how does that affect your relationship?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We did talk last night. I think it's wonderful that they abstained. As you know very few people expected that. And, no, I was not surprised that China did abstain. Very, very few people thought that that was going to happen. So we're honored by the vote. That's the vote that should have taken place.

Q Mr. Secretary General, you talked a little bit about Moscow, about Russia. How do you (inaudible) the impression in general? They've been interfering in recent democratic elections -- how do you counter Moscow's --

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: The most important thing is to have a strong Alliance, to stay united, and be firm and predictable in our approach to Russia. And that means that we have to invest in our collective defense. That's exactly what we are doing. Deploy more troops in the eastern part of the Alliance, increase the readiness of our forces, and increase defense spending. And I welcome the very strong message from President Trump on the importance of increased defense spending.

We have started to do this, so we are implementing the biggest reinforcement of our collective defense since the end of the Cold War, providing credible deterrence. But at the same time, we have to find ways to engage with Russia, to talk with Russia. Because Russia will not go away; Russia will be our biggest neighbor, and we have to find ways to live with them and to try to avoid a new Cold War, a new arms race.

And that's exactly why I am very much in favor of what we call the dual-track approach to Russia. And as a former Norwegian politician, I have the experience to work with the Russians, because Norway is bordering Russia. And Norway was able, even during the Cold War, to develop, I would call it, a pragmatic working relationship with Russia, cooperating with them on energy, on border issues, on environment, on fishery, and also in military affairs. And that was not despite our membership in NATO, but it was because of our membership in NATO. Because NATO provided the strength, the predictability, the platform for a small country to have a political dialogue with Russia.

So I strongly believe that the only way to deter Russia is to be strong. But the only way to avoid a new Cold War, avoid a new arms race and avoid increasing tensions is to continue to engage Russia is a political dialogue, and to make sure that what we do is defensive and proportionate in response to a more assertive Russia.

Q Thank you. Mr. President, I'm from Norway. Russia is our neighboring country. What do you think Europe has to fear from Russia if this tension continues?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Say it --

Q What do you think that European countries have to fear from Russia if this tension continues?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I cannot hear. I cannot understand --

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: She asked --

Q I'll do it again. What do you think European countries have to fear from Russia if this tension continues to escalate?

And for you, Mr. Secretary General, the President has said the attack in Syria last week was warranted and was also an attack on U.S. allies. Do you think that this attack was warranted? And do you see NATO playing any supporting role in future actions in Syria?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I want to just start by saying hopefully they're going to have to fear nothing, ultimately. Right now there is a fear, and there are problems -- there are certainly problems. But ultimately, I hope that there won't be a fear and there won't be problems, and the world can get along. That would be the ideal situation.

It's crazy what's going on -- whether it's the Middle East or you look at -- no matter where the -- Ukraine -- you look at -- whatever you look at, it's got problems, so many problems. And ultimately, I believe that we are going to get rid of most of those problems, and there won't be fear of anybody. That's the way it should be.

We have a very big problem in North Korea. And, as I said, I really think that China is going to try very hard, and has already started. A lot of the coal boats have already been turned back -- you saw that yesterday and today -- they've been turned back. The vast amount of coal that comes out of North Korea going to China, they've turned back the boats. That's a big step, and they have many other steps that I know about.

So we'll see what happens. It may be effective, it may not be effective. If it's not effective, we will be effective, I can promise you that. Thank you.

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: NATO has constantly condemned the use of chemical weapons in Syria. And the use of chemical weapons is horrendous and it's a clear violation of international law. And any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable and cannot go unanswered, so those responsible must be held accountable.

The strike against the airbase in Syria was a U.S. operation based on U.S. intelligence. But you have seen that within the Alliance, this has been something which has been met with a lot of understanding because NATO allies do not accept that chemical weapons are used. And therefore we also strongly support the efforts of the fact-finding commission to try to find out actually what happened and to make sure that we don't see any use of chemical weapons in the future.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you.

END

4:34 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Gentiloni of Italy in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Gentiloni of Italy in Joint Press Conference
East Room

3:56 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Prime Minister Gentiloni, welcome. Great honor. Thank you.

It's wonderful to have you in our wonderful People's House, known as the White House. And so many great Italian friends are with us today. And we renew, always, the deep ties of history and friendship that link together the American and the Italian peoples. That history traces its roots to the timeless contributions of Italy to civilization and human progress -- so true -- stretching all the way back to Ancient Rome.

Through the ages, your country has been a beacon of artistic and scientific achievement -- and that continues today -- from Venice to Florence, from Verdi to Pavarotti, a friend of mine. Great

friend of mine. These bonds of history and culture have only grown stronger as our two nations have become close partners, dear friends, and very vital allies.

Mr. Prime Minister, I'm thrilled that you are here today to discuss how we can make this great relationship even more productive in the years to come. On the economy, Italy is one of America's largest trading partners. A lot of people don't know that. We both seek a trading relationship that is balanced, reciprocal -- I love the word "reciprocal," because we don't have too many reciprocal trading partnerships, I will tell you that, but we will very soon -- and fair, benefitting both of our countries. And we can work together to achieve that outcome, and that will happen.

Italy is also a key partner in the fight against terrorism. Italy is now the second-largest contributor of troops to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. I would also like to thank you, Prime Minister, for your leadership on seeking stabilization in Libya, and for your crucial efforts to deny ISIS a foothold in the Mediterranean. You fought hard. We're grateful for your role in the anti-ISIS campaign. All nations must condemn this barbaric enemy and support the effort to achieve its total and complete destruction.

Also, as you know, Mr. Prime Minister, we have more than 30,000 American servicemembers, families, and personnel who are stationed across your country. As we reaffirm our support for historic institutions, we must also reaffirm the requirement that everyone must pay their full and fair share for the cost of defense.

Together, we can address many pressing challenges, including two that greatly affect both of our countries, those of large-scale migration and international smuggling. Maintaining strong borders is a vital component of any security policy, and a responsible approach to refugees is one that seeks the eventual return of refugees to their home countries so that they can help to rebuild their own nations.

Finally, I want to say how much I look forward to visiting Sicily for the G7, as we seek to foster cooperation not only on matters of security, but also science, commerce, health, and technology. Our two countries have shared interests and shared values, and we can each make great contributions to the other.

Mr. Prime Minister, I again want to thank you for being with us and being our true friend. Italy is a spectacular place; I know it well. I love the people of Italy. We have 18 million Italians living in the United States, people originally from Italy. And it's a great honor to have many of them as my friends. Thank you for being here.

PRIME MINISTER GENTILONI: Thank you for hosting us here. It's an honor to be here at the White House today. And I'll now switch to Italian.

(As interpreted.) We had a very fruitful meeting which reflects an ancient friendship, as the President reminded us with his words. This friendship is also a sign of the 18 million Italian Americans who have such an important role in our country -- in this country. And this friendship is witnessed also by the fact that Italy is the second choice of American students to study abroad, and we're very proud of this. And this confirms the importance that the United States gives to the cultural dimension of our country, as the President, himself, just said.

This friendship is based on a common commitment against terrorism. This commitment is a commitment in which we are both very active -- our country is very active in Iraq and in Afghanistan, and I think that the stabilization work will be decisive, the civilization work of Iraq, after the military defeat that we expect for Daesh.

We know that this action against terrorism must take place within our individual countries. In Europe, with the social and cultural commitment against radicalization, by cooperating with Islamic communities, Italy contributes to peace and to stability in the Mediterranean. In Syria, where I believe the U.S. choice to react to the use of chemical weapons by Bashar al-Assad, and where a negotiated solution is more necessary than ever. In Libya -- and we discussed this in our meeting -- where we need to work against the division of the country in order to stabilize it.

This is a very decisive task if we want to manage the migratory flows without giving up on our values and our humanitarian principles. And we need to contrast the horrible traffic of people and clandestine refugees.

Italy is convinced of its strategic commitment in favor of the transatlantic relationship. We have also spoken about common commitments in NATO and the goals that were identified in 2014, and the commitments on military expenses and the contribution that each country must make towards collective security. We are proud of our contribution.

And finally, Italy is a country of dialogue. We are proud because we succeeded in keeping open the doors in difficult crises. Dialogue can be useful even vis-à-vis Russia, without obviously giving up our unity and our principles, and without giving up our strength and our values.

I also told President Trump that we have confidence -- even though this is a difficult moment, and we all know it's difficult right now -- we have confidence in the future of the European Union and certainly in the importance of the relationship between the U.S. and Italy. These are the two pillars that the transatlantic relationship is based on and a great part of peace and freedom in the world. We are going through a difficult time, but I have confidence that the European Union will continue to be a positive response to this.

And, finally, we are expecting and I look forward to the President's visit to the summit in Taormina, and I trust that this will be the opportunity to show him the unity of our leaders and of the principal free economies of the planet. Because right now, we really do need this unity.

Once again, thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you. Appreciate it.

I'll take a few questions. John Roberts of Fox, please.

Q Mr. President, thanks so much. I hope you'll forgive me for asking you a three-part question -- it's been a while. In just the last few minutes -- I believe it was while you were meeting with the Prime Minister -- there was a shooting in downtown Paris.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I see that.

Q It's being described as a potential terrorist attack. I wonder if you have something on that.

And further to that, to the big trouble spots that you're dealing with right now, North Korea and Iran. Do you believe that the leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un, is mentally unstable? Is that one of the reasons why you're so concerned about these latest developments? Is he a man who can be reasoned with? And on Iran, do you have reason to suspect that they are cheating on the JCPOA?

And to Mr. Prime Minister, you talked just a moment ago about your commitment to NATO. President Trump would like to see all NATO members contribute 2 percent of their GDP to NATO. Your contribution is slightly less than 1 percent. Will you commit to committing 2 percent of your GDP to the Alliance going forward? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, first of all, I love the question you asked the Prime Minister. I look forward to his answer -- (laughter) -- because I'm going to be asking him that same question very soon.

Well, first of all, our condolences from our country to the people of France. Again, it's happening, it seems. I just saw it as I was walking in, so that's a terrible thing and it's a very, very terrible thing that's going on in the world today. But it looks like another terrorist attack. And what can you say -- it just never ends. We have to be strong and we have to be vigilant. And I've been saying it for a long time.

As far as North Korea is concerned, we are in very good shape. We're building our military rapidly. A lot of things have happened over the last short period of time. I've been here for approximately 91 days; we're doing a lot of work. We're in very good position. We're going to see what happens.

I can't ask your -- answer your question on stability. I hope the answer is a positive one, not a negative one. But hopefully that will be something that gets taken care of. I have great respect for the President of China. As you know, we had a great summit in Florida, and Palm Beach, and got to know each other and I think like each other. I can say from my standpoint I liked him very much. I respect him very much. And I think he's working very hard.

I can say that all of the pundits out there are saying they never have seen China work like they're working right now. Many coal ships have sent back. Many other things have happened. Some very unusual moves have been made over the last two or three hours. And I really have confidence that the President will try very hard. We don't know whether or not they're able to do that, but I have absolute confidence that he will be trying very, very hard.

And one of the reasons that we're talking about trade deals and we're talking about all of the different things -- but we're slowing up a little bit. I actually told him, I said, you'll make a much better deal on trade if you get rid of this menace or do something about the menace of North Korea. Because that's what it is, it's a menace right now.

So we'll see what happens. As far as Iran is concerned, I think they are doing a tremendous disservice to an agreement that was signed. It was a terrible agreement. It shouldn't have been signed. It shouldn't have been negotiated the way it was negotiated. I'm all for agreements, but that was a bad one, as bad as I've ever seen negotiated.

They are not living up to the spirit of the agreement, I can tell you that. And we're analyzing it very, very carefully and we'll have something to say about it in the not-too-distant future. But Iran has not lived up to the spirit of the agreement. And they have to do that. They have to do that. So we will see what happens.

Thank you very much, John.

PRIME MINISTER GENTILONI: Thank you, Mr. President. (As interpreted.) First of all, allow me to join President Trump's words for what happened in Paris. These words of condolences and closeness to the French people. And this is a very delicate period for them, just three days before the election.

As far as the question is concerned, the commitment has been made. It was made during a NATO summit. And we are used to respecting our commitments. We know that this will be a gradual process; it has already begun. And we know that Italy has certain limitations when it comes to its budget, but despite these limitations our commitment for common defense is very clear.

And, as I said earlier, I'm very proud not only of the progress made in our financial commitment, but also proud of the contribution that we give to the security of the Alliance in so many areas of the world. We talked about Iraq and Afghanistan, but we could also talk about the Baltic Sea or the Balkans. And in all of these areas, you will see the presence of Italian forces within the Alliance, and we are proud of that.

Q Sky Italia. (As interpreted.) First, for you, President [sic] Gentiloni, I wanted to ask you -- we saw from this new administration a new type of policy on the international scene, very different from what we had in the past. And one of the last important operations which was carried out by President Trump was in Syria with a bombing following the use of chemical weapons by the Assad regime. I wanted to ask you, does Italy think or conceive a possibility to take action in -- more action in Syria?

(In progress.) (In English.) -- since my colleague from Fox News did, so I'm going to take as well the possibility to ask you two questions. First of all, about European Union. You have said in the past that Brexit was a great thing, and that you think that other country will follow. So you know that Italy is an important player and supporter of European integration. Do you believe that actually a strong Europe is important for the United States, also looking forward at a French election?

And on the second question, is that you said that you're looking forward to come to Italy for the G7, and I wanted to know if you're also looking forward, if it's going to be possible, to meet Pope Francis during your Italian trip. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER GENTILONI: (As interpreted.) Syria: We immediately assessed the operation that was ordered by President Trump and decided that this was a motivated response to the use of chemical weapons. We added that it's up to everyone to consider negotiation as the road through which we hopefully can put an end to this infinite dramatic war and come to peace. Italy is not directly involved in the operations and military operations in Syria other than marginal aspects, but it's not our plan to change this attitude.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, a strong Europe is very, very important to me as President of the United States. And it's also, in my opinion, in my very strong opinion, important for the United States. We want to see it. We will help it be strong, and it's very much to everybody's advantage. And I look very much forward to meeting the Pope.

Fabian of The Hill. Fabian. Yes.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Some people on Capitol Hill believe you can get one of two things next week: a vote on healthcare or a vote on a government funding bill. So my question is, which one is more important to you have: a vote on healthcare or a vote on a bill to keep the government open?

And, Mr. Prime Minister, I want to get your thoughts on a referendum in Turkey that occurred last week. You spoke about democratic values in the European continent, so are you concerned with the result of the Turkish referendum? Is that something that you discussed with President Trump?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay, I want to get both. Are you shocked to hear that? And we're doing very well on healthcare. We'll see what happens. But this is a great bill. There's a great plan. And this will be great healthcare. It's evolving. You know, there was never a give-up. The press sort of reported there was like a give-up. There's no give-up. We started. Remember, it took Obamacare 17 months. I've really been negotiating this for two months, maybe even less than that, because we had a 30-day period where we did lots of other things the first 30 days.

But this has really been two months. And this is a continuation. And the plan gets better and better and better. And it's gotten really, really good. And a lot of people are liking it a lot. We have a good chance of getting it soon. I'd like to say next week, but it will be -- I believe we will get it. And whether it's next week or shortly thereafter. As far as keeping the government open, I think we want to keep the government open. Don't you agree? So, yeah, I think we'll get both. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER GENTILONI: (As interpreted.) The Turkish referendum is a fact that we must take note of, leaving aside any debates that can take place about how the vote took place. But I believe the European leadership have taken note of the vote. The consequences will depend a great deal on how the Turkish government and President Erdogan, especially, will take into account almost half of the population's expression of a different opinion. Will there be an inclusive approach, or will there be a confrontation in this part of Turkey? This will be very important for us and the European Union.

The other thing that's going to be very important is the respect of the certain fundamental principles. We are members of the Atlantic alliance -- Italy and Turkey -- and Italy contributes to Turkey's defense with its own military assets. We believe that, among our countries, there should be a cooperation, and hopefully -- and we trust -- that this cooperation will have, among its consequences, the solution of the case concerning the journalist who's been detained over the last few days in Turkey.

Q (As interpreted.) President Gentiloni, you have focused a lot on the leadership -- Italian leadership and American leadership -- in order to stabilize Libya. What do you expect exactly from

Washington? And especially, I am asking you, what is necessary in this process, in this relationship of cooperation with Russia?

(In English.) President Trump, do you see a role for your administration in helping stabilizing Libya? And do you agree that stabilizing Libya means combating terrorism and ISIS?

PRESIDENT GENTILONI: (As interpreted.) America has played a very key role -- first of all, to prevent the consolidation of an important basis for terrorism while Daesh was undergoing defeat in Iraq and Syria. There were operations that were sustained by the U.S. against Daesh in the city of Sirte which were successful. Now the commitment must be political. And, therefore, in the cooperation of U.S. and Italy and other key partners in the region, the goal is to broaden the basis -- the consensus for the Tripoli government, which is recognized by the international community, but which must be able to count on a broader consensus.

I believe that one clear goal should be this: We need the region, and we need countries like Egypt and Tunisia that are close to Libya. We need a stable and unified Libya. A divided country and in conflict would make stability worse. The U.S. role in this is very critical.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I do not see a role in Libya. I think the United States has right now enough roles. We're in a role everywhere. So I do not see that. I do see a role in getting rid of ISIS. We're being very effective in that regard. We are doing a job, with respect to ISIS, that has not been done anywhere near the numbers that we're producing right now. It's a very effective force we have. We have no choice. It's a horrible thing to say, but we have no choice. And we are effectively ridding the world of ISIS. I see that as a primary role, and that's what we're going to do, whether it's in Iraq or in Libya or anywhere else. And that role will come to an end at a certain point, and we'll be able to go back home and rebuild our country, which is what I want to do.

Thank you all very much. I appreciate it. Thank you.

END

4:21 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump at a Working Lunch with U.N. Security Council Ambassadors

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at a Working Lunch with U.N. Security Council Ambassadors

State Dining Room

11:50 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: This is a very, very important and powerful group of people, and it's really wonderful to have you with us. And I have to say, welcome to the White House. It's a privilege to have all of the ambassadors and their spouses. You know, they were going to leave out the spouses, and I said, you must bring your spouses. (Laughter.) You know, I heard there were a lot of very angry spouses -- (laughter) -- and this is their first time to the White House. So it's a great honor to those of you that brought your wife or spouse.

As you know, the United States holds the presidency of the Security Council this month, and I'm glad that we are continuing the tradition of hosting the Council's ambassadors in our nation's capital. It's our great honor, believe me.

I want to thank Ambassador Nikki Haley for her outstanding leadership, and for acting as my personal envoy on the Security Council. She's doing a good job. Now, does everybody like Nikki? Because if you don't -- (laughter) -- otherwise, she can easily be replaced. (Laughter.) No, we won't do that, I promise. We won't do that. She's doing a fantastic job. And everyone, I see --

even as we took pictures before -- the friendship that you've developed, all of you together. That's really a fantastic thing.

The mission of the United Nations and the U.N. Security Council is to maintain international peace and security. These are important aims and shared interests. But as we look around the world, it's clear that there is much work for you to achieve. You're going to be very busy people, I suspect, over these coming months and years.

Our nation faces serious and growing threats, and many of them stem from problems that have been unaddressed for far too long. In fact, the United Nations doesn't like taking on certain problems. But I have a feeling that people in this room -- and I know for a fact that Nikki feels very, very strongly about taking on problems that really people steered away from.

I encourage the Security Council to come together and take action to counter all of these many threats. On Syria, the Council failed again this month to respond to Syria's use of chemical weapons. A great disappointment; I was very disappointed by that.

The status quo in North Korea is also unacceptable, and the Council must be prepared to impose additional and stronger sanctions on North Korean nuclear and ballistic missile programs. This is a real threat to the world, whether we want to talk about it or not. North Korea is a big world problem, and it's a problem we have to finally solve. People have put blindfolds on for decades, and now it's time to solve the problem.

For the United Nations to play an effective role in solving these and other security challenges, big reforms will be required. In addition, we must also take a close look at the U.N. budget. Costs have been -- absolutely gone out of control. But I will say this: If we do a great job, I care much less about the budget, because you're talking about peanuts compared to the important work you're doing. You really are. You're talking about the most important things ever. And I must say, I'm a budget person. You see the way I'm talking about NATO, the same thing, but if you do a great job at the United Nations, I feel much differently about it because we're talking pennies compared to the kind of lives and money that you'll be saving.

The United States, just one of 193 countries in the U.N., pays for 22 percent of the budget and almost 30 percent of the United Nations peacekeeping, which is unfair. We need the member states to come together to eliminate inefficiency and bloat, and to ensure that no one nation shoulders a disproportionate share of the burden militarily or financially. This is only fair to our taxpayers.

I look forward to a productive discussion about our shared role in keeping the peace, advancing reforms, and getting everyone to do their fair share.

I also want to say to you that I have long felt the United Nations is an underperformer but has tremendous potential. There are those people that think it's an underperformer and will never perform. I think -- and I think especially I'm so happy with the job that Nikki is doing and our representatives -- but Nikki and the group -- and I see the relationship that she has already developed.

I think that the United Nations has tremendous potential -- tremendous potential -- far greater than what I would say any other candidate in the last 30 years would have even thought to say. I don't think it's lived up -- I know it hasn't lived up to the potential. I mean, I see a day when there's a conflict where the United Nations, you get together, and you solve the conflict. You just don't see the United Nations, like, solving conflicts. I think that's going to start happening now. I can see it. And the United Nations will get together and solve conflicts. It won't be two countries, it will be the United Nations mediating or arbitrating with those countries.

So I see fantastic potential and fantastic things ahead for the United Nations. And I have to say, it's a tremendous honor to know you and to meet you. And Nikki has given me a little briefing on each and every one of you, and I must tell you -- I will tell you, you know, I'm a very blunt person, if she didn't like I would tell you right now -- (laughter) -- but she gets along with everybody and respects everybody in this room.

I'll end by saying that -- unless you would rather not do it -- so we have an office in the White House, you may have heard of it, called the Oval Office. So what we'll do is we'll go down as a group and we'll take some pictures in the Oval Office. I know you've never seen it. Nobody seems to get to see the Oval Office very much, but we're going to show you the Oval Office. So we'll go down, take some pictures of the Oval Office, and we'll have a good luncheon, and we'll talk about the United Nations and we'll talk about peace.

Thank you all very much for being here. It's a great honor, and I'm glad you brought your spouses. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:56 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with President Macri of Argentina

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2017

Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with President Macri of Argentina

Oval Office

11:32 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: First time in the Oval Office for the President and Mrs. Macri. And it's a great, great honor to have them here. He's been my friend for many years. We've known each other for long, prior to politics. And who would have thought this was going to happen --

PRESIDENT MACRI: Nobody.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: -- for both of us. But he is a great, wonderful person, and he will be a great President of Argentina, I have absolutely no doubt. Absolutely no doubt.

Q Mr. Trump, what do you want to achieve with our country, with Argentina?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We're just going to be great friends, better than ever before. And we're off to a wonderful start, because I've known Mauricio for so many years, and I know the kind of person he is. He's a great person and he's a great leader. He will do a fantastic job for Argentina. And I feel very comfortable backing him, because they need certain things from the United States. I feel very comfortable backing him because I know what I'm backing. I'm backing a man who loves his people and loves his country.

Q If he's such a good President, Mr. President, are you going to let the lemons -- the Argentine lemons in, in your country? They are very good. People will love you if you let them in.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I know about all the lemons. And believe it or not, the lemon business is a big, big business.

Q Just say yes! (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: But we are going to give that very serious consideration. One of the reasons he's here is about lemons -- (laughter) -- and I'll tell him about North Korea, and he'll tell me about lemons. I think that we're going to be very favorably disposed. We're going to be talking.

Q What do you think about Venezuela, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Venezuela is a mess. Venezuela is a mess.

Q Mr. President, on renegotiating NAFTA, tell me how you came about the decision --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I was going to terminate NAFTA as of two or three days from now. The President of Mexico, who I have a very, very good relationship, called me, and also the Prime Minister of Canada, who I have a very good relationship. And I like both of these gentlemen very much. They called me and they said, rather than terminating NAFTA, could you please renegotiate? I like them very much. I respect their countries very much. The relationship is very

special. And I said, I will hold on the termination; let's see if we can make it a fair deal. Because NAFTA has been a horrible deal for the United States. It's been very good for Canada, it's been very good for Mexico, but it's been horrible for the United States.

And if you check my campaign -- any of my speeches -- I said, I'll either renegotiate or I'll terminate. So they asked me to renegotiate -- I will. And I think we'll be successful in the renegotiation, which, frankly, would be good because it would be simpler. But we have to make a deal that's fair for the United States. They understand that. And so I decided rather than terminating NAFTA, which would be a pretty big shock to the system, we will renegotiate.

Now, if I'm unable to make a fair deal, if I'm unable to make a fair deal for the United States, meaning a fair deal for our workers and our companies, I will terminate NAFTA. But we're going to give renegotiation a good, strong shot.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you very much.

Q What about Venezuela, Mr. President? Mr. President, about Venezuela, what is your position?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'm very sad for Venezuela. I'm very sad to see what's happened in Venezuela. Venezuela is a very sad situation.

END

11:36 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority in Joint Statement

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 03, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority in Joint Statement

Roosevelt Room
12:15 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Today I am pleased to welcome President Abbas to the White House for his first visit to Washington in quite a while.

Almost 24 years ago, it was on these grounds that President Abbas stood with a courageous peacemaker, then-Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Here at the White House, President Abbas signed a Declaration of Principles -- very important -- which laid the foundation for peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.

The President -- Mr. President, you signed your name to the first Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. You remember that well, right? And I want to support you in being the Palestinian leader who signs his name to the final and most important peace agreement that brings safety, stability, and prosperity to both peoples and to the region.

I'm committed to working with Israel and the Palestinians to reach an agreement. But any agreement cannot be imposed by the United States, or by any other nation. The Palestinians and Israelis must work together to reach an agreement that allows both peoples to live, worship, and thrive and prosper in peace. And I will do whatever is necessary to facilitate the agreement -- to mediate, to arbitrate anything they'd like to do. But I would love to be a mediator or an arbitrator or a facilitator. And we will get this done.

Peace also means defeating ISIS and other terrorist groups. These groups are a threat to all people who cherish human life. I know President Abbas has spoken out against ISIS and other terrorist groups, and we must continue to build our partnership with the Palestinian security forces to counter and defeat terrorism.

I also applaud the Palestinian Authority's continued security coordination with Israel. They get along unbelievably well. I had meetings, and at these meetings I was actually very impressed and somewhat surprised at how well they get along. They work together beautifully. But there cannot be lasting peace unless the Palestinian leaders speak in a unified voice against incitement to violate -- and violence and hate. There's such hatred. But hopefully there won't be such hatred for very long. All children of God must be taught to value and respect human life, and condemn all of those who target the innocent.

As part of our efforts to move forward toward peace today, we will also discuss my administration's effort to help unlock the potential of the Palestinian people through new economic opportunities.

Lastly, I want to note the positive ongoing partnership between the United States and the Palestinians on a range of issues -- private sector development and job creation, regional security, counterterrorism, and the rule of law -- all of which are essential to moving forward toward peace.

I welcome President Abbas here today as a demonstration of that partnership, that very special partnership that we all need to make it all work. And I look forward to welcoming him back as a great marker of progress and, ultimately, toward the signing of a document with the Israelis and with Israel toward peace. We want to create peace between Israel and the Palestinians. We will get it done. We will be working so hard to get it done. It's been a long time, but we will be working diligently. And I think there's a very, very good chance, and I think you feel the same way.

Mr. President, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ABBAS: (As interpreted.) Mr. President, Your Excellency, I would like to thank you for this honorable invitation to come and meet with you, and I look much forward to working with you in order to come to that deal, to that historic agreement, historic deal to bring about peace.

Mr. President, our strategic option, our strategic choice is to bring about peace based on the vision of the two-state -- a Palestinian state with its capital of East Jerusalem that lives in peace and stability with the state of Israel based on the borders of 1967.

Mr. President, for us to bring about a comprehensive and just peace based on the two-state solution, such matter would give a great impetus to the Arab peace initiative and the other initiatives, international initiatives -- as well as it enables to fight and deter terrorism, and fight the criminal ISIS group, ISIS -- that is totally innocent and has nothing to do with our noble religion. And that also, if we create peace that is just and comprehensive, that will also lead the Arab and the Islamic countries to have normal relations with Israel based, as stipulated in the previous Arab summits, the latest of which was the Arab summit in Jordan.

Mr. President, we believe that we are capable and able to bring about success to our efforts because, Mr. President, you have the determination and you have the desire to see it become to fruition and to become successful. And we, Mr. President, inshallah, God willing, we are coming into a new opportunity, a new horizon that would enable us to bring about peace in that regard.

Mr. President, as far as a permanent solution, we believe that this is possible and able to be resolved. I am firmly believing that this is possibly -- we are able to resolve it. And in that, I also believe that we will be able to resolve the issue of the refugees and the issue of the prisoners. According to the international law, according to the terms of international law, the international legitimacy, and the various relevant references and terms of reference in that regard, and based on what is stipulated in the previous treaties and agreements, that no unilateral steps must be taken to get ahead of the agreement and discussing those issues.

Mr. President, it's about time for Israel to end its occupation of our people and of our land after 50 years. We are the only remaining people in the world that still live under occupation. We are aspiring and want to achieve our freedom, our dignity, and our right to self-determination. And we also want for Israel to recognize the Palestinian state just as the Palestinian people recognize the state of Israel.

Mr. President, I affirm to you that we are raising our youth, our children, our grandchildren on a culture of peace. And we are endeavoring to bring about security, freedom and peace for our children to live like the other children in the world, along with the Israeli children in peace, freedom and security.

Mr. President, I bring with me today the message of the suffering of my people, as well as their aspiration and hope -- the hopes and aspirations of the Palestinian people from the Holy Land, from that land where the three monotheist religions thrived, and the Jewish faith, the Christian faith and the Muslim faith, where they all coexist together to foster it in an environment of security, peace and stability, and love for all.

Mr. President, I believe that we are capable under your leadership and your stewardship to -- your courageous stewardship and your wisdom, as well as your great negotiating ability, I believe, with the grace of God and with all of your effort -- we believe that we can be partners, true partners, to you to bring about a historic peace treaty under your stewardship to bring about peace.

(In English.) Now, Mr. President, with you we have hope.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: So we're going to start a process. We've spoken to Bibi Netanyahu. We've spoken to many of the great Israeli leaders. We've spoken with many of your great representatives. Many of them are here today for lunch with us. We'll start a process which hopefully will lead to peace. Over the course of my lifetime, I've always heard that perhaps the toughest deal to make is the deal between the Israelis and the Palestinians. Let's see if we can prove them wrong. Okay?

PRESIDENT ABBAS: Okay.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good. Thank you. Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

END

12:30 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Erdogan of Turkey in Joint Statement

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Erdogan of Turkey in Joint Statement

Roosevelt Room

1:07 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's a lot of press. Really, a lot of press. I'm shocked.

It is a pleasure to welcome President Erdogan for his first visit to the White House in years. The American and Turkish peoples have been friends and allies for many, many decades.

Turkey was a pillar in the Cold War against communism. It was a bastion against Soviet expansion. And Turkish courage in war is legendary. That is so true.

Turkish soldiers fought bravely alongside of American soldiers in the Korean War, and we haven't forgotten what they did. In some ways, when we looked at their great bravery in the fight of Korea -- and in Korea, it was just something that our soldiers and our great generals still remember. Supreme Commander General Douglas MacArthur singled out and praised the exemplary valor of the Turkish soldier -- said, some of the great soldiers of the world.

Today we face a new enemy in the fight against terrorism, and again we seek to face this threat together. The Turkish people have faced horrible terrorist attacks in recent years and even recently. We offer our compassion to the victims, and we offer our support to the Turkish nation.

We support Turkey in the first fight against terror and terror groups like ISIS and the PKK, and ensure they have no safe quarter, the terror groups. We also appreciate Turkey's leadership in

seeking an end to the horrific killing in Syria. The Syrian civil war shocks the conscience of the whole world. And all you have to do is look in the front page of the papers today and you'll see exactly what we're talking about. We also support any effort that can be used to reduce the violence in Syria and create the conditions for a peaceful resolution.

President Erdogan and I are also discussing the need to reinvigorate our trade and commercial ties. These are areas where we can build our relationship that will benefit both of our countries. Military equipment was ordered by Turkey and the President, and we've made sure that it gets there quickly.

I look forward to working together with President Erdogan on achieving peace and security in the Middle East, on confronting the shared threats, and on working toward a future of dignity and safety for all of our people.

Mr. President, thank you for visiting our country and joining us today at the White House. It is a great honor to have you with us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ERDOGAN: (As interpreted.) Mr. President, my dear friend, distinguished members of the press, at the outset I'd like to whole-heartedly salute you all. And I would like to take all this opportunity to thank President Trump and his team for the generous hospitality they have shown us upon arrival, not only to my personal self but to the entire members of my delegation. On behalf of the entire Turkish nation, thank you, Mr. President.

And once again, in your presence, I would like to congratulate President Trump for the legendary triumph that he has garnered in the aftermath of the elections.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

PRESIDENT ERDOGAN: (As interpreted.) Quite recently, we've had bilateral discussions with President Trump, and we've had the opportunity to focus on the outstanding relations between Turkey and the United States that date back a long time in history, which are very well rooted and which have quite happily reached a level of strategic partnership.

The relations between Turkey and the United States have been erected upon common democratic values and common interests. Keeping our outstanding relations stronger than ever will be very important not only for our common interests, but also stability of the globe and peace around the world.

The close cooperation that both of the countries shall demonstrate, especially in the region, which is currently in turmoil, will be very important for the rest of the world. And, primarily, we are alongside by each other as Turkey and the United States, under the roof of the United Nations, NATO, and the G20.

We have been enjoying a close cooperation in all of these platforms, in all of these fora around the world. And in the future to come, we are going to focus on making sure that we're going to expand our close cooperation and build on the outstanding dialogue that we enjoy.

We are determined to expand our relations, and I believe my current official visit to the United States will mark a historical turn of tide. Whether it be throughout our bilateral discussions, whether it be the discussions that we shall have between the delegations, I think we are going to enjoy some further gains in terms of the future of our relations. We seem to agree on expanding our relations in the field of economy, trade, reciprocal investments, energy, and defense industry.

It is going to be very important for us to forge a close solidarity and cooperation in the field of fighting terrorism, primarily with Daesh and all the other terrorist organizations in the region. And we are committed to fighting all forms of terrorism, without any discrimination whatsoever, that impose a clear and a present threat upon our future.

There is no place for the terrorist organizations in the future of our region. Taking YPG and PYD in the region -- taking them into consideration in the region, it will never be accepted, and it is going to be against a global agreement that we have reached. And we should never allow those groups to manipulate the religious structure and the ethnic structure of the region making terrorism as a pretext or an excuse.

Those who are willing to turn to chaos in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya are bound to lose eventually. They will never be able to turn that chaos in that part of the world into an opportunity, and the terrorist organizations with blood on their hands are bound to fail.

And as I have previously done so, I have been frankly communicating our expectations with regard to the Fethullahist Terrorist Organization, which we have notified our friends of their involvement in the failed coup of July the 15th in Turkey. And we have taken into consideration the joint steps that we can take forward in Syria and Iraq.

Of course, President Trump's recent election victory has led to the awakening of a new set of aspirations and expectations and hopes in our region. And we know that, by the help of the new U.S. administration, these hopes will not be lost in vain. And we find that it was the most necessary answer to be given to the Syrian regime, especially in the aftermath of the recent chemical attacks that took place. And we know that, in terms of keeping up with the principled and committed fight against the terrorists organizations all around the world, we will not repeat the mistakes of the past, and we will continue down this path together.

In the restoration and the establishment of stability and security of the region in question, the alliance and this partnership and cooperation between the United States and Turkey is of vital importance. I hope and pray that both of us will be committed to expanding further our cooperation in the future along with consulting each other more frequently. We are laying the foundation of a new era between the two countries in terms of our relations. I hope and pray that this new administration will bring forth auspicious results for the relations.

And I would like to thank President Trump for his very kind and cordial invitation, and I'm looking forward to hosting him in Turkey along with his entire family.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you all very much. Appreciate it. We're going to go to meetings now.

Q Mr. President, (inaudible) the intelligence that you spoke with the Russians about?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we had a very, very successful meeting with the Foreign Minister of Russia. Our fight is against ISIS, as General McMaster said. I thought he said, and I know he feels, that we had actually a great meeting with the Foreign Minister.

So we're going to have a lot of great success over the next coming years, and we want to get as many to help fight terrorism as possible. And that's one of the beautiful things that's happening with Turkey. The relationship that we have together will be unbeatable.

So thank you all very much. I appreciate it. We're going to meetings right now. Thank you.

END

1:20 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President at the US Chamber of Commerce's Invest in America Summit

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

May 18, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at the US Chamber of Commerce's Invest in America Summit

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Washington, D.C.

12:17 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Tom Donohue. Thank you all for that warm welcome.

And on behalf of President Trump, let me just say thank you to Tom Donohue for your decades of tireless advocacy for business in America. Would you all join me in showing your appreciation for Tom Donohue's years of leadership for American free enterprise? (Applause.)

It's an honor for me to be back at the United States Chamber of Commerce, the leading voice for American industry for more than 100 years, and to have the privilege to participate in this Invest in America Summit.

I bring greetings this morning from a champion of American workers and of American free enterprise -- the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

From the very first day of this administration, President Trump has been fighting to restore jobs and opportunities for the forgotten men and women of this country.

And whatever Washington, D.C. may be focused on at any given time, rest assured, President Donald Trump will never stop fighting for the issues that matter most to the American people -- good jobs, safe streets, and a boundless American future. (Applause.)

But I'm here today with a very specific message to all of those that are gathered here, on behalf of the President, it's my pleasure to announce: America is open for business. (Applause.)

It's great to be with you all today. I'm especially honored to be joined by two friends who were job creators in their prior life and now they're leading two of the great states of America -- Governor Doug Ducey and Governor Matt Bevin of Arizona and Kentucky respectively. Thank you for being with us today. Thanks for being such great, great leaders. (Applause.)

I'm also grateful to have with us so many American and international business leaders, and representatives of nearly 40 nations across the wider world. On behalf of President Trump and the American people, thank you for all that each of you do to strengthen the bonds of commerce and friendship between our land and yours.

From factories to finance, from real estate to retail, your nations, your businesses recognize that investing in America means investing in success -- for you and for us.

And as you know, placing a bet on America is really no bet at all. It's a prudent, safe, and smart decision, and one that will reap rewards for many years to come.

The advantages of investing in the American economy are really too numerous to count. They include our unparalleled system of capital, the quality and caliber of our workforce, and, of course, the entrepreneurial spirit that fuels the economic engine of the most powerful economy in the world.

For all these reasons, and so many more, today foreign direct investment in America tops a stunning \$3.1 trillion. No other nation in the world even comes close.

The benefits of foreign investment, either from firms headquartered overseas or in domestic businesses with majority foreign ownership, are felt in American communities large and small.

You know I saw it firsthand, as Tom mentioned, back when I was Governor of the state of Indiana. My former Secretary of Commerce, Victor Smith, is with us here today, and he can attest that foreign investment means jobs and opportunities for people all across our state and all across America.

In our case in 2014, over 170,000 Hoosiers worked at foreign-owned companies, and the billions of dollars invested in our economy by international businesses contributed to Indiana's reputation as a great place to live and work and raise a family.

The truth is America as a whole is better off.

All told, foreign investment is responsible for more than 6.3 million American jobs -- \$57 billion in research and development in every field and industry and \$425 billion in annual American exports.

So let me just say on behalf of President Trump, thank you to all of the nations that are represented here for your businesses playing such an indispensable role in the prosperity of the United States of America. (Applause.)

Your investment in our nation is vital to the American people, and ultimately it's a win-win for both of us. But we're here today because the truth is that we have a tremendous opportunity for growth in America.

And rest assured, President Donald Trump is firmly committed to renewing America's reputation as the best place in the world to make an investment and the premier investment destination on Earth.

Since day one, President Trump has taken decisive action to strengthen the American economy and extend our competitive edge. This President has signed more bills to slash red tape than any President in American history. Before this administration, only one President had ever signed a Congressional Review Act measure -- President Trump has already used that legislation 14 different times.

He's used what is known as the Congressional Review Act to repeal overreaching, unnecessary, and harmful regulations ranging from the Department of the Interior, the Department of Labor, the SEC, the Federal Communications Commission, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and more. It's been a restoration of common sense in regulations in America.

And beyond that legislation, President Trump has ordered every agency in Washington, D.C. to find two regulations to get rid of before they issue any new regulations on American businesses and American free enterprise. (Applause.)

Overall, this President has already eliminated rules and mandates that would have cost our economy as much as \$18 billion every single year. And the President's leadership doesn't start there.

He's been rolling back the ban on offshore drilling. He's put the Clean Power Plan on a path to extinction. President Trump recently approved the Keystone and Dakota pipelines what will create thousands of American jobs and strengthen America's energy future. (Applause.)

And President Trump is keeping his promise to repeal and replace Obamacare, and to end its burden on businesses and give the American people finally the quality of healthcare that they deserve.

The President's leadership has made a tremendous impact on our economy, and we're just getting started.

Since the start of this year, businesses from across this country and across the wider world have created more than 700,000 American jobs. Company after company all across this nation are making record investments in American workers and in America's future -- billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs.

This represents nothing short than a vote of confidence in the President's agenda. And make no mistake about it, we've only just begun.

If you take nothing else from what I say today, know this: President Donald Trump is committed to signing the most significant and consequential tax relief in American history, releasing the boundless potential of the American economy. (Applause.)

As Secretary Mnuchin said just a few weeks back, the President's plan will strengthen the American economy and create untold opportunities of investment from across the wider world.

We're going to cut taxes across the board for working families, small businesses, and family farms. We're also going to put more money in the American people's pockets -- and make the tax code simpler, flatter, and fairer for everyone.

But when it comes to business, like all of you gathered here, President Trump's tax plan will give you more incentive to invest in America than ever before. Our administration under President Trump's leadership is going to fight to cut the corporate tax rate in America to 15 percent and make America competitive -- American businesses competitive again with businesses all over the world. (Applause.)

He'll end the outdated policy of worldwide taxation and enact a territorial system in its place. And President Trump will make sure that our businesses can finally bring back the trillions of dollars that are locked overseas and invest them in American workers and America's future.

The bottom line is that President Trump's tax plan will strengthen our economy and strengthen our reputation as the best place to invest and the best place to do business anywhere in the world.

The same is true of the rest of our agenda. In case you hadn't noticed, the American people elected a builder to be President of the United States, and President Donald Trump is going to rebuild the infrastructure of America. (Applause.)

The President is committed to make historic investments in our infrastructure to ensure that our businesses and yours have the best roads, the best bridges, the best airports, and the best future possible.

The truth is that every dollar we invest in infrastructure is a dollar we invest in America's future, and we look forward to leveraging the expertise of other nations, including many of you here today. We have much to learn from one another in areas we can work together to strengthen the infrastructure of this great nation and our great economy.

And President Trump, I can assure you, has a deep appreciation for the role that international trade plays in enriching the American economy and opening doors of opportunity to the American people.

But as the President has made clear, too many of America's established trade relationships don't fulfill the stated goal of being a win-win agreement for both sides. In fact, in far too many cases, as the President has observed, America has been on the losing side of its trade deals.

The President has placed a high priority on fostering trade relationships that are free and fair; trade relationships that don't work for one party simply don't work at all.

And under the President's leadership, our administration will continue to work with all of our trading partners on a bilateral basis to roll back the policies that put American businesses at a disadvantage. We're going to work to break down barriers to investment. We're going to work to create a truly level playing field for companies on both sides so we can prosper together. (Applause.)

The agreement announced last week between America and China is actually a model of what President Trump will continue to achieve. It opens the path to greater commerce by breaking down barriers to trade and investment in beef, biotechnology, energy, financial services, and more.

It was an important accomplishment. I'm confident this agreement will be the first of many -- not only with China but with nations across the wider world.

In fact, just last month I traveled to the Asia Pacific on the President's behalf to promote our economic relationships with South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and Australia. And at the President's direction, together with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso, I had the privilege of announcing a new U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue.

We look forward to this dialogue, to seeing it progress, and to exploring ways that we can begin similar discussions with other nations around the world, including many of those gathered here.

President Trump and our administration, I can assure you, will work tirelessly to ensure that our trade policies with all of trade partners are mutually beneficial and that they maximize the opportunity for investment in America.

Thanks to the leadership of President Donald Trump, there simply is no better time to invest in America and no better time for you to attend this summit.

Our President has already taken decisive action to renew America's promise as a land of opportunity and prosperity. And in the days and weeks ahead, we will continue to work tirelessly to enact our agenda to make the strongest economy in the world stronger still.

So today I say with confidence that with your continued help, with your innovation and with your industry, the companies that are represented here today, along with the leadership of President Donald Trump, I know the best days for America and all of her friends across the world are yet to come.

Thank you. God bless you all and God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

12:31 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Santos of Colombia in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Santos of Colombia in Joint Press Conference

East Room

4:04 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It is a great pleasure to welcome President Santos to the White House. Colombia is one of our closest allies in the hemisphere, and today we reaffirm partnership between our two great nations.

President Santos and I had a very productive meeting, and we will continue to work very closely together to bring peace, safety and prosperity to the hemisphere. Perhaps no area is really more important in terms of cooperation than our joint effort to end the terrible drug crimes that plague both of our countries.

Recently, we have seen an alarmed -- and I mean really a very highly alarmed and alarming trend. Last year, Colombia coca cultivation and cocaine production reached a record high, which, hopefully, will be remedied very quickly by the President. We must confront this dangerous threat to our societies together.

Today, I affirmed the United States' willingness to assist Colombia's strategy to target and eliminate drug trafficking networks, illicit financings, coca cultivation, and cocaine production, of which there is far too much. The drug epidemic is poisoning too many American lives, and we're going to stop it many different ways. One of them will be the wall.

My administration is committed to keeping drugs and gangs from pouring into our country. Already border crossings are down more than 73 percent. Secretary Kelly is with us; he's done a fantastic job. Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. And, in short, we have a tremendous group of people working with us in terms of ICE, the ICE Patrol and the Border Patrol agents. They've done a fantastic job, and I'd like you to give them my highest compliments, Mr. Secretary.

And MS-13, likewise -- a horrible, horrible, large group of gangs that have been let into our country over a fairly short period of time -- are being decimated by the Border Patrol, by ICE, and by our incredible local police forces. And they are getting out of our country, or, in some cases, going directly into prisons throughout our country. But they've literally taken over towns and cities of the United States. They will be gone very quickly.

I look forward to working with President Santos as we target drug trafficking. Both the United States and Colombia have strong law enforcement and security relationship. We've had it -- and especially over the last fairly short period of time. Together, we will continue to fight the criminal networks responsible for the deadly drug trade that our people have a really strong commitment to getting rid of, because they want a much brighter future.

President Santos and I also discussed the deteriorating situation in Venezuela, and it is really in a very bad state, as you see and as we all see through the media. The stable and peaceful

Venezuela is in the best interest of the entire hemisphere, and America stands with all of the people in our great hemisphere yearning to be free. We will be working with Colombia and other countries on the Venezuelan problem. It is a very, very horrible problem. And from a humanitarian standpoint, it is like nothing we've seen in quite a long time.

The United States and Colombia are also strong economic partners, and we will continue to pursue trade policies that benefit both of our peoples. The nations' common goals of protecting our citizens, expanding opportunity, and confronting the drug crisis will improve the lives of our people and many throughout the region.

So many people are being so horribly affected by what's going on in terms of violence and in terms of drugs, and we're going to take care of the situation. And we've both agreed to take care of it strongly and quickly.

President Santos, it was an honor to meet with you and your entire group of representatives, very talented people indeed, who have been working with us and my representatives. And I look forward to many more productive meetings, such as the one we just had. I'd like to thank you very much for being at the White House, being our guest. And I'd like to congratulate you on winning the Nobel Peace Prize. That's a very great achievement. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT SANTOS: (In English.) Mr. President, I want to thank you personally for this warm and productive visit and for the strong support Colombia has received from your administration, from Congress, and from the American people.

(As interpreted.) As you know, our nations have had for a long time a strategic alliance and extraordinary friendship. We believe in the same principles of democracy, freedom and the rule of law. And we work so that the Western Hemisphere can be more prosperous and safe.

The United States and Colombia, both democracies of greater -- of longer standing in the hemisphere, we have supported each other. Our soldiers fought shoulder-to-shoulder in the Korean War. At the request of the United States, we sent anti-drug experts to Afghanistan. And today, Colombia and the United States are working together to support Central America in their fight against drug cartels and the violence of organized crime.

I can say, Mr. President, based on our conversation this afternoon, that I have no doubt that the United States and Colombia continue to be, today, more than ever, a support, one for the other. Our alliance was strengthened. Our most valuable cooperation has been Plan Colombia, which I can sum up in very simple terms.

When Colombians were fighting to survive -- for our democracy to survive, actually -- faced with the threat of terrorism and drug trafficking, the United States stretched out a hand and helped us win that battle. We will never forget it.

Today, we live in a different country. Today, Colombia is a more peaceful society, a more modern and a fairer society. In November last year, we ended the longest and last armed conflict existing in our hemisphere. The guerilla is putting down weapons at this precise time to the United Nations. Insecurity has gone down significantly. Today, we have the lowest levels of violence of the last 40 years.

At the same time, we have had significant progress for our citizens on issues such as education, housing, health, and social services. Millions of Colombians have been lifted out of poverty. Today, we continue next to you as partners in Peace Colombia to consolidate peace in the most affected areas. With the robust support of your government, we are removing thousands of anti-personnel mines that murdered and mutilated children, women and soldiers. We are healing the wounds of our victims, and we are embarking on a big social-development program.

Such as we said today, we are working with your administration to take advantage of the unique opportunity peace offers so as to reduce permanently the production of coca leaf in Colombia and fight more effectively the other links in drug trafficking, including consumption. We must continue and deepen the fight against organized crime, transnational crime responsible not just for drug trafficking, but also for human trafficking and illegal mining.

Our shared agenda, framed within a high-level dialogue that we Colombians value so much, includes cooperation which has allowed us to have unprecedented progress towards quality education for everyone. And this is a priority in the policies of my government, and we wish to do more with regards to innovation and technology.

With the active participation of the private sector, we have reached trade agreements, investment agreements that are mutually beneficial. This morning, we established the entrepreneurial council between the United States and Colombia. We are and wish to continue to be the best destination in Latin America for American businesses. Colombia will continue to be very proudly a close friend and a strategic ally of the United States.

Dear President Trump, I hope you can visit us soon so that you can personally witness the transformation underway in our country. I hope to be able to welcome you to a Colombia in peace, a more equitable Colombia, a better-educated Colombia that you have so much contributed to.

Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Does anybody have any questions? (Laughter.) I'm shocked.

Jon, go ahead.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

Q Mr. President, I'd like to get your reaction to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's decision to appoint a special counsel to investigate the Russian interference in the campaign. Was this the right move, or is this part of a "witch hunt"?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I respect the move, but the entire thing has been a witch hunt. And there is no collusion between certainly myself and my campaign, but I can always speak for myself -- and the Russians, zero.

I think it divides the country. I think we have a very divided country because of that and many other things. So I can tell you that we want to bring this great country of ours together, Jon. And I will also say very strongly, we've had tremendous success. You look at our job numbers, you look at what's going on at the border, as we discussed before; if you look at what will be happening -- you're going to see some incredible numbers with respect to the success of General Mattis and others with the ISIS situation. The numbers are staggering, how successful they've been, the military has been.

Tomorrow, as you know, I'm going to Saudi Arabia, going to Israel. I'm going to Rome. And we have the G7. We have a lot of great things going on.

So I hate to see anything that divides. I'm fine with whatever people want to do, but we have to get back to running this country really, really well. We've made tremendous progress in the last 100-some-odd days. Tremendous progress. And you see job numbers, you see all of the production that's starting. Plants starting to open again. Haven't been open in years. I'm very proud of it. That's what I want to be focused on. Because, believe me, there's no collusion. Russia is fine. But whether it's Russia or anybody else, my total priority, believe me, is the United States of America.

So, thank you very much.

Q (As interpreted.) President Trump, President Santos, can we say that today we are setting a new roadmap in the relationship between Colombia and the United States? Which are the concrete commitments? You were talking about the post-conflict time. Many funds are needed for that.

And on the issue of Venezuela, President Trump, many deaths, human rights violations. There's plenty to be done.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, that's true. Venezuela has a very, very serious problem. We haven't really seen a problem like that, I would say, Mr. President, in decades, in terms of the kind of violence that we're witnessing. The President was telling me -- and I knew -- that Venezuela was a very, very wealthy country, just about the wealthiest in your neck of the woods, and had

tremendous strengths in so many different ways. And now it's poverty-stricken. People don't have enough to eat. People have no food. There's great violence. And we will do whatever is necessary -- and we'll work together to do whatever is necessary -- to help with fixing that. And I'm really talking on a humanitarian level.

When you look at the oil reserves that they have, when you look at the potential wealth that Venezuela has, you sort of have to wonder, why is that happening? How is that possible? But it's been unbelievably poorly run for a long period of time. And hopefully that will change, and they can use those assets for the good and to take care of their people. Because right now what's happening is, really, a disgrace to humanity.

And, Jon, I think you also had a question for the President, if you'd like to.

Q Does he have another one?

PRESIDENT SANTOS: His question about the commitment. (As interpreted.) The commitment on President Trump's side and his administration was shown through the approval of the budget that, for Colombia, means an increase in the support to fund the post-conflict era. Last night we received from a very important organization, The Atlantic Council, a report, which includes both parties presided by a Republican senator and a Democrat senator with a roadmap recommending the governments of the United States and Colombia to follow.

This morning, we established this entrepreneurship council, United States-Colombia, so that the private sector can also have a voice in that roadmap. This means we are working together on every front that can be convenient for both countries. But we'll continue to work together. We have ratified that commitment today, during our conversation.

And as I said before, we have the best of relations with the United States. We are strategic allies in the region, and we will continue to be so.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. President Santos, to you, you heard President Trump say that critical to stopping the flow of drugs into the United States will be the wall that he wants to build on the Mexican border. Do you agree with him? Would that wall be a step -- a positive step and a step towards reducing the flow of drugs across the border?

PRESIDENT SANTOS: I believe that the best way to fight the drug trafficking is by collaborating. This is not a problem of Colombia only or a problem of the United States only. It's a world problem. And we have to all work together. We declared the war on drugs 40 years ago. The world declared the war on drugs. And it's a war that has not been won. So we must be more effective and more efficient.

Now, we are doing a very big effort, because of the peace process, to have a new strategy -- carrot and stick. Stick, by forced eradication. We have already eradicated, this year only, 15,000 hectares, which is the whole volume that we eradicated last year. And we're starting to eradicate -- to substitute voluntarily, through a program where the peasants -- and we have 80,000 families already in the program -- that they are going to substitute for legal crops. And this is the first time that this could be done because of the peace. Before, the conflict did not allow us to build roads and to give these peasants an alternative. Now we have. So we have to take advantage of this opportunity and continue reducing the production of coca.

In the meantime, we will work together, the U.S. and Colombia, with other countries -- Central America -- to fight the other links of the chain, the intermediaries. We have destroyed 22,000 laboratories in the Colombian jungles, seizing cocaine in transit. We have seized record amount of tons last year, and this year we're doing even better than last year.

So by working together we can be much more effective, and that is the commitment we just made or ratified this afternoon.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And that was a long and very diplomatic answer to your question. I will say it a little bit shorter: Walls work. Just ask Israel. They work. Believe me, they work. And we have no choice.

Peter Baker. Yes.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. In the light of a very busy news week, a lot of people would like to get to the bottom of a couple of things, give you a chance to go on record here. Did you at any time urge former FBI Director James Comey in any way, shape, or form to close or to back down the investigation into Michael Flynn?

And also as you look back --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No. No. Next question.

Q Next question. As you look back over the past six months or year, have you had any recollection where you've wondered if anything you have done has been something that might be worthy of criminal charges in these investigations or impeachment, as some on the left are implying?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think it's totally ridiculous. Everybody thinks so. And again, we have to get back to working our country properly so that we can take care of the problems that we have. We have plenty of problems. We've done a fantastic job. We have a tremendous group of people. Millions and millions of people out there that are looking at what you had just said, and said, "What are they doing?"

Director Comey was very unpopular with most people. I actually thought when I made that decision -- and I also got a very, very strong recommendation, as you know, from the Deputy Attorney General, Rod Rosenstein. But when I made that decision, I actually thought that it would be a bipartisan decision, because you look at all of the people on the Democratic side -- not only the Republican side -- they were saying such terrible things about Director Comey.

Then he had the very poor performance on Wednesday. That was a poor, poor performance. So poor, in fact, that I believe -- and you'd have to ask him, because I don't like to speak for other people -- but I believe that's why the Deputy Attorney General went out and wrote his very, very strong letter.

And then, on top of that, after the Wednesday performance by Director Comey, you had a person come and have to readjust the record, which many people have never seen before, because there were misstatements made. And I thought that was something that was terrible.

We need a great director of the FBI. I cherish the FBI. It's special. All over the world, no matter where you go, the FBI is special. The FBI has not had that special reputation with what happened in the campaign, what happened with respect to the Clinton campaign, and even you could say -- directly or indirectly -- with respect to the much more successful Trump campaign.

We're going to have a director who is going to be outstanding. I'll be announcing that director very soon, and I look forward to doing it. I think the people in the FBI will be very, very thrilled.

And just in concluding, we look forward to getting this whole situation behind us so that when we go for the jobs, we go for the strong military, when we go for all of the things that we've been pushing so hard and so successfully, including healthcare -- because Obamacare is collapsing. It's dead; it's gone. There's nothing to compare anything to because we don't have healthcare in this country. You just look at what's happening. Aetna just pulled out. Other insurance companies are pulling out. We don't have healthcare. Obamacare is a fallacy. It's gone. We need healthcare.

We need to cut taxes. We're going to cut taxes. Forget what I want; it will be the biggest tax cut in the history of our nation. And that's what I want. It's going to bring back companies. It's going to bring back jobs. We lost so many jobs and so many companies to countries that are not so far from you, Mr. President -- they're very close to you, actually -- and to many other places throughout the world. We're going to change that. We're going to have expansion.

We already do. You look at what's happening with Ford and with General Motors in Michigan and Ohio. You look at the tremendous number of jobs that are being announced in so many different fields. That's what I'm proud of, and that's what we want to focus our energy on.

The other is something I can only tell you: There was no collusion. And everybody -- even my enemies have said, there is no collusion.

So we want to get back and keep on the track that we're on. Because the track that we're on is record-setting, and that's what we want to do, is we want to break very positive records.

Thank you.

You could ask a question.

PRESIDENT SANTOS: Sorry, you have another question?

Q For you -- yes, sir, Mr. President. My question is, as someone who led a nation that's really done a lot of rebuilding and had to rebound from an epidemic of crime and drugs over quite a many years, what do you make of Mr. Trump's America First policy? And further, you've had a tough time with conservative radio, sometimes been called a punching bag. And you've said you have to persevere. I'm curious if you've given any advice to President Trump on how to do so.

PRESIDENT SANTOS: I don't think I'm in a position to give any advice to President Trump. He can take care of himself. (Laughter.)

And what we did in Colombia, you quite rightly mentioned it, is persevere. When you know your port of destination, and you know that you're doing the correct thing, you simply have to persevere. And that's what we've done in Colombia, and that's why we were on the verge of being a failed state some years ago. And now we're one of the stars of the region. And that's through hard work, perseverance, and clarity of your objectives. And that's what we have done, and we have to continue because the trip is not over.

Q (As interpreted.) Mr. President, I'd like to ask you about trade. You're about to start the renegotiation of NAFTA on Colombia. And like other countries in the hemisphere, it has a large trade deficit with the United States. Are you worried about the fact that that could contribute to increasing that trade deficit? What is your position on the peace process in Colombia?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, it's been a long process, and it's been a great thing to watch in the sense that the President did a fantastic job. That's not easy after so many years of war. So I'm very, very proud to get to know you, and I really congratulate you. There's nothing tougher than peace, and we want to make peace all over the world. And you are really a great example of somebody that started it.

I mean, FARC is -- that was a long, tough situation, as you know very well, coming from the country. But I think the President has done a magnificent job. Not easy. But he's done a magnificent job.

PRESIDENT SANTOS: (As interpreted.) Clearer impossible. (Laughter.)

On the trade issue, our deficit with the United States is not so large. It is a moderate deficit, which, of course, both countries will try to increase the volume of trade in both directions, and investments also in both directions.

Colombia is becoming an important investor here in the United States, and this is something not many people know. But we have considerable investments in the United States.

We have attempted to give dynamism to these flows of trade, of investment, getting together those main players who are the investors in the private sector. I believe the foundations have been laid. We have the free-trade agreement, which is working well. The number of Colombian businesses that are exporting to the United States has grown. And we both believe that we can take greater advantage of those agreements in order to increase flows in both directions for the benefit both of the Colombian and American peoples.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you, thank you.

END

4:36 P.M. EDT

President Trump's Speech to the Arab Islamic American Summit

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 21, 2017

President Trump's Speech to the Arab Islamic American Summit

Remarks as prepared for delivery

Thank You.

I want to thank King Salman for his extraordinary words, and the magnificent Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting today's summit. I am honored to be received by such gracious hosts. I have always heard about the splendor of your country and the kindness of your citizens, but words do not do justice to the grandeur of this remarkable place and the incredible hospitality you have shown us from the moment we arrived.

You also hosted me in the treasured home of King Abdulaziz, the founder of the Kingdom who united your great people. Working alongside another beloved leader – American President Franklin Roosevelt – King Abdulaziz began the enduring partnership between our two countries. King Salman: your father would be so proud to see that you are continuing his legacy – and just as he opened the first chapter in our partnership, today we begin a new chapter that will bring lasting benefits to our citizens.

Let me now also extend my deep and heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of the distinguished heads of state who made this journey here today. You greatly honor us with your presence, and I send the warmest regards from my country to yours. I know that our time together will bring many blessings to both your people and mine.

I stand before you as a representative of the American People, to deliver a message of friendship and hope. That is why I chose to make my first foreign visit a trip to the heart of the Muslim world, to the nation that serves as custodian of the two holiest sites in the Islamic Faith.

In my inaugural address to the American People, I pledged to strengthen America's oldest friendships, and to build new partnerships in pursuit of peace. I also promised that America will not seek to impose our way of life on others, but to outstretch our hands in the spirit of cooperation and trust.

Our vision is one of peace, security, and prosperity—in this region, and in the world.

Our goal is a coalition of nations who share the aim of stamping out extremism and providing our children a hopeful future that does honor to God.

And so this historic and unprecedented gathering of leaders—unique in the history of nations—is a symbol to the world of our shared resolve and our mutual respect. To the leaders and citizens of every country assembled here today, I want you to know that the United States is eager to form closer bonds of friendship, security, culture and commerce.

For Americans, this is an exciting time. A new spirit of optimism is sweeping our country: in just a few months, we have created almost a million new jobs, added over 3 trillion dollars of new value, lifted the burdens on American industry, and made record investments in our military that will protect the safety of our people and enhance the security of our wonderful friends and allies – many of whom are here today.

Now, there is even more blessed news I am pleased to share with you. My meetings with King Salman, the Crown Prince, and the Deputy Crown Prince, have been filled with great warmth, good will, and tremendous cooperation.

Yesterday, we signed historic agreements with the Kingdom that will invest almost \$400 billion in our two countries and create many thousands of jobs in America and Saudi Arabia.

This landmark agreement includes the announcement of a \$110 billion Saudi-funded defense purchase – and we will be sure to help our Saudi friends to get a good deal from our great American defense companies. This agreement will help the Saudi military to take a greater role in security operations.

We have also started discussions with many of the countries present today on strengthening partnerships, and forming new ones, to advance security and stability across the Middle East and beyond.

Later today, we will make history again with the opening of a new Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology – located right here, in this central part of the Islamic World. This groundbreaking new center represents a clear declaration that Muslim-majority countries must take the lead in combatting radicalization, and I want to express our gratitude to King Salman for this strong demonstration of leadership.

I have had the pleasure of welcoming several of the leaders present today to the White House, and I look forward to working with all of you.

America is a sovereign nation and our first priority is always the safety and security of our citizens. We are not here to lecture—we are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be, or how to worship. Instead, we are here to offer partnership – based on shared interests and values – to pursue a better future for us all.

Here at this summit we will discuss many interests we share together. But above all we must be united in pursuing the one goal that transcends every other consideration. That goal is to meet history's great test—to conquer extremism and vanquish the forces of terrorism.

Young Muslim boys and girls should be able to grow up free from fear, safe from violence, and innocent of hatred.

And young Muslim men and women should have the chance to build a new era of prosperity for themselves and their peoples.

God's help, this summit will mark the beginning of the end for those who practice terror and spread its vile creed. At the same time, we pray this special gathering may someday be remembered as the beginning of peace in the Middle East – and maybe, even all over the world.

But this future can only be achieved through defeating terrorism and the ideology that drives it.

Few nations have been spared its violent reach.

America has suffered repeated barbaric attacks – from the atrocities of September 11th to the devastation of the Boston Bombing, to the horrible killings in San Bernardino and Orlando.

The nations of Europe have also endured unspeakable horror. So too have the nations of Africa and even South America. India, Russia, China and Australia have been victims.

But, in sheer numbers, the deadliest toll has been exacted on the innocent people of Arab, Muslim and Middle Eastern nations. They have borne the brunt of the killings and the worst of the destruction in this wave of fanatical violence.

Some estimates hold that more than 95 percent of the victims of terrorism are themselves Muslim.

We now face a humanitarian and security disaster in this region that is spreading across the planet. It is a tragedy of epic proportions. No description of the suffering and depravity can begin to capture its full measure.

The true toll of ISIS, Al Qaeda, Hezbollah, Hamas, and so many others, must be counted not only in the number of dead. It must also be counted in generations of vanished dreams.

The Middle East is rich with natural beauty, vibrant cultures, and massive amounts of historic treasures. It should increasingly become one of the great global centers of commerce and opportunity.

This region should not be a place from which refugees flee, but to which newcomers flock.

Saudi Arabia is home to the holiest sites in one of the world's great faiths. Each year millions of Muslims come from around the world to Saudi Arabia to take part in the Hajj. In addition to ancient wonders, this country is also home to modern ones—including soaring achievements in architecture.

Egypt was a thriving center of learning and achievement thousands of years before other parts of the world. The wonders of Giza, Luxor and Alexandria are proud monuments to that ancient heritage.

All over the world, people dream of walking through the ruins of Petra in Jordan. Iraq was the cradle of civilization and is a land of natural beauty. And the United Arab Emirates has reached incredible heights with glass and steel, and turned earth and water into spectacular works of art.

The entire region is at the center of the key shipping lanes of the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and the Straits of Hormuz.

The potential of this region has never been greater. 65 percent of its population is under the age of 30. Like all young men and women, they seek great futures to build, great national projects to join, and a place for their families to call home.

But this untapped potential, this tremendous cause for optimism, is held at bay by bloodshed and terror. There can be no coexistence with this violence.

There can be no tolerating it, no accepting it, no excusing it, and no ignoring it.

Every time a terrorist murders an innocent person, and falsely invokes the name of God, it should be an insult to every person of faith.

Terrorists do not worship God, they worship death.

If we do not act against this organized terror, then we know what will happen. Terrorism's devastation of life will continue to spread. Peaceful societies will become engulfed by violence. And the futures of many generations will be sadly squandered.

If we do not stand in uniform condemnation of this killing—then not only will we be judged by our people, not only will we be judged by history, but we will be judged by God.

This is not a battle between different faiths, different sects, or different civilizations.

This is a battle between barbaric criminals who seek to obliterate human life, and decent people of all religions who seek to protect it.

This is a battle between Good and Evil.

When we see the scenes of destruction in the wake of terror, we see no signs that those murdered were Jewish or Christian, Shia or Sunni. When we look upon the streams of innocent blood soaked into the ancient ground, we cannot see the faith or sect or tribe of the victims – we see only that they were Children of God whose deaths are an insult to all that is holy.

But we can only overcome this evil if the forces of good are united and strong – and if everyone in this room does their fair share and fulfills their part of the burden.

Terrorism has spread across the world. But the path to peace begins right here, on this ancient soil, in this sacred land.

America is prepared to stand with you – in pursuit of shared interests and common security.

But the nations of the Middle East cannot wait for American power to crush this enemy for them. The nations of the Middle East will have to decide what kind of future they want for themselves, for their countries, and for their children.

It is a choice between two futures – and it is a choice America CANNOT make for you.

A better future is only possible if your nations drive out the terrorists and extremists. Drive. Them. Out. **DRIVE THEM OUT** of your places of worship. **DRIVE THEM OUT** of your communities. **DRIVE THEM OUT** of your holy land, and **DRIVE THEM OUT OF THIS EARTH**.

For our part, America is committed to adjusting our strategies to meet evolving threats and new facts. We will discard those strategies that have not worked—and will apply new approaches informed by experience and judgment. We are adopting a Principled Realism, rooted in common values and shared interests.

Our friends will never question our support, and our enemies will never doubt our determination. Our partnerships will advance security through stability, not through radical disruption. We will make decisions based on real-world outcomes – not inflexible ideology. We

will be guided by the lessons of experience, not the confines of rigid thinking. And, wherever possible, we will seek gradual reforms – not sudden intervention.

We must seek partners, not perfection—and to make allies of all who share our goals.

Above all, America seeks peace – not war.

Muslim nations must be willing to take on the burden, if we are going to defeat terrorism and send its wicked ideology into oblivion.

The first task in this joint effort is for your nations to deny all territory to the foot soldiers of evil. Every country in the region has an absolute duty to ensure that terrorists find no sanctuary on their soil.

Many are already making significant contributions to regional security: Jordanian pilots are crucial partners against ISIS in Syria and Iraq. Saudi Arabia and a regional coalition have taken strong action against Houthi militants in Yemen. The Lebanese Army is hunting ISIS operatives who try to infiltrate their territory. Emirati troops are supporting our Afghan partners. In Mosul, American troops are supporting Kurds, Sunnis and Shias fighting together for their homeland. Qatar, which hosts the U.S. Central Command, is a crucial strategic partner. Our longstanding partnership with Kuwait and Bahrain continue to enhance security in the region. And courageous Afghan soldiers are making tremendous sacrifices in the fight against the Taliban, and others, in the fight for their country.

As we deny terrorist organizations control of territory and populations, we must also strip them of their access to funds. We must cut off the financial channels that let ISIS sell oil, let extremists pay their fighters, and help terrorists smuggle their reinforcements.

I am proud to announce that the nations here today will be signing an agreement to prevent the financing of terrorism, called the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center – co-chaired by the United States and Saudi Arabia, and joined by every member of the Gulf Cooperation Council. It is another historic step in a day that will be long remembered.

I also applaud the Gulf Cooperation Council for blocking funders from using their countries as a financial base for terror, and designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization last year. Saudi Arabia also joined us this week in placing sanctions on one of the most senior leaders of Hezbollah.

Of course, there is still much work to do.

That means honestly confronting the crisis of Islamist extremism and the Islamist terror groups it inspires. And it means standing together against the murder of innocent Muslims, the oppression of women, the persecution of Jews, and the slaughter of Christians.

Religious leaders must make this absolutely clear: Barbarism will deliver you no glory – piety to evil will bring you no dignity. If you choose the path of terror, your life will be empty, your life will be brief, and **YOUR SOUL WILL BE CONDEMNED**.

And political leaders must speak out to affirm the same idea: heroes don't kill innocents; they save them. Many nations here today have taken important steps to raise up that message. Saudi Arabia's Vision for 2030 is an important and encouraging statement of tolerance, respect, empowering women, and economic development.

The United Arab Emirates has also engaged in the battle for hearts and souls—and with the U.S., launched a center to counter the online spread of hate. Bahrain too is working to undermine recruitment and radicalism.

I also applaud Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon for their role in hosting refugees. The surge of migrants and refugees leaving the Middle East depletes the human capital needed to build stable societies and economies. Instead of depriving this region of so much human potential, Middle Eastern countries can give young people hope for a brighter future in their home nations and regions.

That means promoting the aspirations and dreams of all citizens who seek a better life – including women, children, and followers of all faiths. Numerous Arab and Islamic scholars have eloquently argued that protecting equality strengthens Arab and Muslim communities.

For many centuries the Middle East has been home to Christians, Muslims and Jews living side-by-side. We must practice tolerance and respect for each other once again—and make this region a place where every man and woman, no matter their faith or ethnicity, can enjoy a life of dignity and hope.

In that spirit, after concluding my visit in Riyadh, I will travel to Jerusalem and Bethlehem, and then to the Vatican – visiting many of the holiest places in the three Abrahamic Faiths. If these three faiths can join together in cooperation, then peace in this world is possible – including peace between Israelis and Palestinians. I will be meeting with both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Starving terrorists of their territory, their funding, and the false allure of their craven ideology, will be the basis for defeating them.

But no discussion of stamping out this threat would be complete without mentioning the government that gives terrorists all three—safe harbor, financial backing, and the social standing needed for recruitment. It is a regime that is responsible for so much instability in the region. I am speaking of course of Iran.

From Lebanon to Iraq to Yemen, Iran funds, arms, and trains terrorists, militias, and other extremist groups that spread destruction and chaos across the region. For decades, Iran has fueled the fires of sectarian conflict and terror.

It is a government that speaks openly of mass murder, vowing the destruction of Israel, death to America, and ruin for many leaders and nations in this room.

Among Iran's most tragic and destabilizing interventions have been in Syria. Bolstered by Iran, Assad has committed unspeakable crimes, and the United States has taken firm action in response to the use of banned chemical weapons by the Assad Regime – launching 59 tomahawk missiles at the Syrian air base from where that murderous attack originated.

Responsible nations must work together to end the humanitarian crisis in Syria, eradicate ISIS, and restore stability to the region.

The Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims are its own people. Iran has a rich history and culture, but the people of Iran have endured hardship and despair under their leaders' reckless pursuit of conflict and terror.

Until the Iranian regime is willing to be a partner for peace, all nations of conscience must work together to isolate Iran, deny it funding for terrorism, and pray for the day when the Iranian people have the just and righteous government they deserve.

The decisions we make will affect countless lives.

King Salman, I thank you for the creation of this great moment in history, and for your massive investment in America, its industry and its jobs. I also thank you for investing in the future of this part of the world.

This fertile region has all the ingredients for extraordinary success – a rich history and culture, a young and vibrant people, a thriving spirit of enterprise. But you can only unlock this future if the citizens of the Middle East are freed from extremism, terror and violence.

We in this room are the leaders of our peoples. They look to us for answers, and for action. And when we look back at their faces, behind every pair of eyes is a soul that yearns for justice.

Today, billions of faces are now looking at us, waiting for us to act on the great question of our time.

Will we be indifferent in the presence of evil? Will we protect our citizens from its violent ideology? Will we let its venom spread through our societies? Will we let it destroy the most holy sites on earth?

If we do not confront this deadly terror, we know what the future will bring—more suffering and despair.

But if we act—if we leave this magnificent room unified and determined to do what it takes to destroy the terror that threatens the world—then there is no limit to the great future our citizens will have.

The birthplace of civilization is waiting to begin a new renaissance. Just imagine what tomorrow could bring.

Glorious wonders of science, art, medicine and commerce to inspire humankind. Great cities built on the ruins of shattered towns. New jobs and industries that will lift up millions of people. Parents who no longer worry for their children, families who no longer mourn for their loved ones, and the faithful who finally worship without fear.

These are the blessings of prosperity and peace. These are the desires that burn with a righteous flame in every human heart. And these are the just demands of our beloved peoples.

I ask you to join me, to join together, to work together, and to FIGHT together— BECAUSE UNITED, WE WILL NOT FAIL.

Thank you. God Bless You. God Bless Your Countries. And God Bless the United States of America.

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu in Joint Statement

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 22, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu in Joint Statement

Prime Minister's Residence

Jerusalem

8:17 P.M. SAST

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: President Trump, Donald, Sara and I are absolutely delighted to welcome you and Melania to the Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem, the eternal capital of the Jewish people, the united capital of the Jewish state.

We've known each other for many years, and it's always good to see you. But it's also wonderful to see the blossoming friendship between our two beautiful wives, Sara and Melania. You're so welcome here, and we're so pleased to see you. We're honored to have you in our home.

You've been today, Mr. President, to the Western Wall, one of the holiest sites of Judaism. You have been to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, one of the holiest sites of Christianity. We protect the Christian sites as no one else does anywhere in this region. We protect Christian sites, Muslim sites, obviously Jewish sites. We're committed to the freedom of all faiths and to the rights of all.

Mr. President, I appreciate the fact that you went to the Western Wall and you're the first acting President who's done that. The people of Israel applaud you for it. (Applause.)

We had a terrific discussion today. And when I say terrific, it encompasses everything. We can talk about deregulation, we can talk about economics. I think we quote each other. We understand each other and so much of the things that we wish to accomplish for both our countries.

But I want to thank you especially today for your deep commitment to Israel's security, its wellbeing, and its future. I have no doubt that, as we work together, you and I, the alliance between our countries will grow ever stronger. I want you to know how much we appreciate the change in American policy on Iran, which you enunciated so clearly just an hour ago.

I want you to know how much we appreciate your bold decision to act against the use of chemical weapons in Syria. And I want to tell you also how much we appreciate the reassertion of American leadership in the Middle East.

I look forward to working closely with you to confront the dangers we face together in this violent and volatile Middle East. I believe that together we can roll back Iran's march of aggression and terror in this region, and we can thwart Iran's unbridled ambition to become a nuclear weapon state.

I also look forward to working closely with you to advance peace in our region, because you have noted so succinctly that common dangers are turning former enemies into partners. And that's where we see something new and potentially something very promising. It won't be simple. But for the first time in many years -- and, Mr. President, for the first time in my lifetime -- I see a real hope for change.

The Arab leaders who you met yesterday could help change the atmosphere, and they could help create the conditions for a realistic peace. These are all great signs on your historic visit. It's a visit that I think has echoed down the ages, because the great Abraham Lincoln is reported to have said that there was no city on Earth he so much desired to see as Jerusalem.

Well, Mr. President, Donald, there's no city on Earth where you are more welcome than right here with us in Jerusalem. Welcome to Jerusalem. Welcome to Israel. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. And it's a great honor to be with my good friend, Prime Minister Netanyahu, and, of course, Sara. Thank you. And also thank you for that beautiful tour. Melania is still talking about it. Thank you very much.

You honored me and Melania by being one of the first world leaders to visit the White House, as you know. And we had a very good and sound discussion. And now you honor us again by welcoming us to your home on my first trip abroad as the President of the United States.

This is a land filled with beauty, wonder, and the spirit of God. I've been amazed by the glorious and beautiful monuments and holy sites, and the generosity of your incredible people. Because it's all about the people. I was deeply moved by my visit today to the Western Wall. Words fail to capture the experience. It will leave an impression on me forever.

Today, we reaffirmed the unbreakable bond of friendship between Israel and the United States -- a friendship built on our shared love of freedom, our shared belief in human dignity, and our shared hope for an Israel at lasting peace. We want Israel to have peace.

But we are more than friends. We are great allies. We have so many opportunities in front of us. But we must seize them together. We must take advantage of the situation, and there are many, many things that can happen now that would never have been able to happen before. And we understand that very well. That includes advancing prosperity, defeating the evils of terrorism, and facing the threat of an Iranian regime that is threatening the region and causing so much violence and suffering.

During my travels, I have seen many hopeful signs that lead me to believe that we can truly achieve a more peaceful future for this region and for people of all faiths and all beliefs and, frankly, all over the world.

In my visit to Saudi Arabia, I met with many leaders of the Arab and Muslim world, including King Salman, who treated us so beautifully and really wants to see great things happen for the world. He really does. I got to know him well, and he really does.

These leaders voiced concerns we all share -- about ISIS, about Iran's rising ambitions and rolling back its gains, and about the menace of extremism that has spread through too many parts of the Muslim world. I'm encouraged that they pledge cooperation to confront terrorism and the hateful ideology that drives it so hard. America welcomes the action and support of any nation willing to do the hard but vital work in eradicating the violent ideologies that have caused so much needless bloodshed and killing here and all over the world.

We are willing to work together. I believe that a new level of partnership is possible and will happen -- one that will bring greater safety to this region, greater security to the United States, and greater prosperity to the world. This includes a renewed effort at peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians, and I thank the Prime Minister for his commitment to pursuing the peace process.

He's working very hard at it. It's not easy. I've heard it's one of the toughest deals of all, but I have a feeling that we're going to get there eventually, I hope.

I'm certain we will have very productive discussions. And we're going to have very productive discussions, in my opinion, with the leaders of other nations also. And I feel strongly about that, because there's a lot of love out there. And people from all nations, even nations that you would be surprised to hear, they want to stop the killing. They've had enough.

America stands ready to assist in every way we can. Our deep and lasting friendship will only grow deeper and stronger as we work together in the days ahead. I thank you again for hosting us in this beautiful and ancient land. Truly, it's a land of wonders. And it's my honor to be here with you.

Sara, thank you. Bibi, thank you. I appreciate it very much. Great honor. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Thank you. (Applause.)

END

8:28 P.M. SAST

Remarks by President Trump and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority in Joint Statements

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority in Joint Statements

Presidential Palace

Bethlehem

11:05 A.M. IDT

PRESIDENT ABBAS: (As interpreted.) In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful -- Your Excellency, Mr. President and dear friend, Donald Trump, it's my pleasure to welcome you here in Palestine and receive you as a great guest of our people here in Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus -- peace be upon Him -- from which the message of love, peace, and tolerance has spread out all across the globe.

Allow me at the beginning to condemn the horrible terrorist attack that occurred in Manchester city -- the British city of Manchester -- leaving tens of casualties and innocent people. I do offer my warm condolences to the Prime Minister of Britain, families of victims, and the British people.

Your Excellency, meeting you in the White House early this month has given us and our Palestinian people, as well as also giving all the nations across the region so much hope and optimism of the possibility to make true a dream, a long-awaited dream and ambition, and that is lasting and justice-based peace.

Our Palestinian people's attainment of their freedom and independence is the key to peace and stability in the world so that the children of Palestine and Israel enjoy a safe, stable, and prosperous future.

I would like to reiterate, Your Excellency, Mr. President, our commitment to cooperate with you in order to make peace and forge a historic peace deal with the Israelis. And we would like to reassert our willingness to continue to work with you as partners in fighting terrorism in our region and in the world. In this respect, I commend the importance of the holding of the Arab Islamic American Summit and its findings and outcomes and conclusions.

Your Excellency, Mr. President, once again we reassert to you our positions of accepting the two-state solution along the borders of 1967 -- the state of Palestine with its capital as East

Jerusalem, living alongside the state of Israel in peace and security and good neighborhood, as well as resolving the entire final status issues based on international law and international long-term resolutions, and respecting side agreements which sets the tone for the implementation of the Arab Peace Initiative in accordance with what has been reaffirmed in the most recent Arab Summit in Jordan.

Your Excellency, as you have witnessed during your -- as you saw yesterday during your historic visit of holy sites in occupied East Jerusalem, and today in Bethlehem, the conflict is not between religions, for respecting religions and prophets is an integral part of our religion and faith. And we are keen to keep the door open to dialogue with our Israeli neighbors from all walks of life in order to boost confidence and create a genuine peace opportunity.

Our fundamental problem is with the occupation and settlements, and failure of Israel to recognize the state of Palestine in the same way we recognize it, which undermines the realization of the two-state solution. The problem is not between us and Judaism. It's between us and occupation.

I would like to draw the attention to the issue of our Palestinian prisoners, who have been on hunger strike for more than one month, meters away from here in the vicinity of the Church of the Nativity. And everywhere, all across Palestine, families, mothers of prisoners, suffer from being denied visits to their children. And their demands are humane and just. I demand the Israeli government to meet these humane, legitimate demands.

Achievement of peace, Your Excellency, the President, will give us broad horizons and prospects to recover our economy and continue building our national institutions based on rule of law and in the spirit of tolerance and coexistence, and a culture of peace, nonviolence, no incitement, and building bridges instead of walls inside our lands.

Once again, I greet you with the warmest regards, Your Excellency, the President, and your accompanying delegation. I welcome you in Palestine, the Holy Land, wishing you success in your important tour, which will lead you to meeting His Holiness, the Pope, Francis, and whose efforts -- whose dedicated, devoted efforts for peace we appreciate. Wishing you and the friendly American people a lifetime of health and happiness.

(In English.) Mr. President, Donald Trump, (inaudible) to achieve peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis. Mr. President, I extend my hand to you in welcome on this noble and (inaudible) mission. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

As President of the United States, on behalf of the people of the United States, I would like to begin by offering my prayers to the people of Manchester in the United Kingdom. I extend my deepest condolences to those so terribly injured in this terrorist attack, and to the many killed, and the families

-- so many families -- of the victims.

We stand in absolute solidarity with the people of the United Kingdom. So many young, beautiful, innocent people living and enjoying their lives murdered by evil losers in life. I won't call them monsters because they would like that term. They would think that's a great name. I will call them from now on losers because that's what's they are. They're losers. And we'll have more of them. But they're losers -- just remember that.

This is what I've spent these last few days talking about during my trip overseas. Our society can have no tolerance for this continuation of bloodshed, we cannot stand a moment longer for the slaughter of innocent people. And in today's attack, it was mostly innocent children.

The terrorists and extremists, and those who give them aid and comfort, must be driven out from our society forever. This wicked ideology must be obliterated -- and I mean completely obliterated -- and innocent life must be protected. All innocent lives. Life must be protected. All civilized nations must join together to protect human life and the sacred right of our citizens to live in safety and in peace.

I want to offer my deep appreciation to the Palestinians and President Abbas for hosting me today. It's an honor to join you in Bethlehem -- the city that is precious to people from all over the world. It's a precious city.

As I discussed with President Abbas in Washington earlier this month, I am committed to trying to achieve a peace agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians and I intend to do everything I can to help them achieve that goal. President Abbas assures me he is ready to work toward that goal in good faith. And Prime Minister Netanyahu has promised the same. I look forward to working with these leaders toward a lasting peace.

I also look forward to working with President Abbas on other important matters, such as unlocking the potential of the Palestinian economy -- which is having a very rough time -- and building on our very positive counterterrorism efforts.

Several days ago in Saudi Arabia, I met with the leaders of the Muslim world and Arab nations from all across the region. It was an epic gathering. It was a historic event. King Salman of Saudi Arabia could not have been kinder, and I will tell you, he's a very wise, wise man. I called on these leaders and asked them to join in a partnership to drive terrorism from their midst once and for all.

It was a deeply productive meeting. People have said there has really never been anything even close in history. I believe that. Being there and seeing who was there and hearing the spirit and a lot of love -- there has never been anything like that in history. And it was an honor to be involved. But great things can come from that meeting.

I was gratified that President Abbas joined the summit and committed to taking firm but necessary steps to fight terrorism and confront its hateful ideology. And it's so interesting that our meeting took place on this very horrible morning of death to innocent young people.

Peace can never take root in an environment where violence is tolerated, funded and even rewarded. We must be resolute in condemning such acts in a single, unified voice. Peace is a choice we must make each day -- and the United States is here to help make that dream possible for young Jewish, Christian and Muslim children all across the region. In so doing, we will all enjoy a safer and brighter future, and a safer and brighter world.

In this spirit of hope, we come to Bethlehem, asking God for a more peaceful, safe, and far more tolerant world for all of us. I am truly hopeful that America can help Israel and the Palestinians forge peace, and bring new hope to the region and its people. I also firmly believe that if Israel and the Palestinians can make peace, it will begin a process of peace all throughout the Middle East. And that would be an amazing accomplishment.

Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:19 A.M. IDT

Remarks by President Trump at Yad Vashem

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at Yad Vashem

Jerusalem

1:27 P.M. IDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you, Prime Minister Netanyahu, Sara Netanyahu, Chairman Avner Shalev, and Rabbi Israel Meir Lau for hosting us for this moving wreath-laying ceremony.

We are here at Yad Vashem to honor the memory of six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Two-thirds of the Jews in Europe were sent to their deaths. Words can never describe the bottomless depths of that evil, or the scope of the anguish and destruction.

It was history's darkest hour. Millions of innocent, wonderful and beautiful lives -- men, women and children -- were extinguished as part of a systematic attempt to eliminate the Jewish people. It was the most savage crime against God and his children. And it is our solemn duty to remember, to mourn, to grieve and to honor every single life that was so cruelly and viciously taken.

As Elie Wiesel said: "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness." These words should be carved into the conscience of humanity forever. Only when we remember the families who were torn apart from everyone they loved, who suffered that terrible darkness and evil, who endured the unbearable horror of the Holocaust -- only then can we prevent this agony from ever repeating.

This place, and this entire nation, are a testament to the unbreakable spirit of the Jewish people -- and the hope that light can shine the path beyond the darkness. Through persecution, oppression, death, and destruction, the Jewish people have persevered. They have thrived. They've become so successful in so many places. And they have enlightened the world. The State of Israel is a strong and soaring monument to the solemn pledge we repeat and affirm: Never again.

From the depths of the suffering, the Jewish people have built a mighty nation -- and the Star of David waves proudly above this cherished land.

As long as we refuse to be silent in the face of evil, as long as we refuse to dim the light of truth in the midst of darkness, as long as we refuse to become bystanders to barbarity, then we know that goodness, peace and justice will ultimately prevail.

With sadness for the lives and dreams that were stolen from this Earth, with determination to always keep the memories of the victims alive, and with resolve to confront evil wherever it threatens, we ask God to give us the strength, wisdom and courage to chart the righteous path.

Thank you. God bless the memory of the perished. God bless the survivors. God bless the Jewish people. And God bless the State of Israel. Thank you for having me. Thank you.

END

1:34 P.M. IDT

Remarks by President Trump at the Israel Museum

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at the Israel Museum

Jerusalem

2:28 P.M. IDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's very nice. And thank you to Prime Minister Netanyahu. And I also want to thank Sara for hosting us last night in really a very unforgettable dinner. We had a great time. We talked about a lot of very, very important things. And thank you to Ambassador David Friedman and Mrs. Friedman for joining us, along with a number of very good friends who have come from our country to yours, as we reaffirm the unshakable bond between the United States of America and Israel. Thank you. (Applause.)

I'd like to begin my remarks today by sending the thoughts and prayers of the entire American people to the victims of the terrorist attack in Manchester. You know -- you've all been watching. You've seen just a horrible thing going on. I want to send our condolences to the many families who lost their loved ones. Horrific, horrific injuries. Terrible. Dozens of innocent people,

beautiful young children savagely murdered in this heinous attack upon humanity. I repeat again that we must drive out the terrorists and the extremists from our midst, obliterate this evil ideology, and protect and defend our citizens and people of the world. (Applause.)

All civilized nations much be united in this effort. This trip is focused on that goal: bringing nations together around the goal of defeating the terrorism that threatens the world, and crushing the hateful ideology that drives it so hard and seems to be driving it so fast.

It is a privilege to stand here in this national museum, in the ancient city of Jerusalem, to address the Israeli people and all people in the Middle East who yearn for security, prosperity and peace.

Jerusalem is a sacred city. Its beauty, splendor, and heritage are like no other place on Earth. (Applause.) What a heritage. What a heritage. The ties of the Jewish people to this Holy Land are ancient and eternal. (Applause.) They date back thousands of years, including the reign of King David whose star now flies proudly on Israel's white and blue flag.

Yesterday, I visited the Western Wall, and marveled at the monument to God's presence and man's perseverance. I was humbled to place my hand upon the wall and to pray in that holy space for wisdom from God. I also visited and prayed at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a site revered by Christians throughout the world. I laid a wreath at Yad Vashem, honoring, remembering, and mourning the six million Jews who were murdered in the Holocaust. I pledged right then and there what I pledge again today: the words "never again." (Applause.)

Israel is a testament to the unbreakable spirit of the Jewish people. From all parts of this great country, one message resounds, and that is the message of hope. Down through the ages, the Jewish people have suffered persecution, oppression, and even those who have sought their destruction. But, through it all, they have endured and, in fact, they have thrived. I stand in awe of the accomplishments of the Jewish people, and I make this promise to you: My administration will always stand with Israel. (Applause.) Thank you very much.

Through your hardships, you have created one of the most abundant lands anywhere in the world -- a land that is rich not only in history, culture, and opportunity, but especially in spirit. This museum where we are gathered today tells the story of that spirit. From the two Holy Temples, to the glorious heights of Masada, we see an incredible story of faith and perseverance. That faith is what inspired Jews to believe in their destiny, to overcome their despair, and to build here -- right here -- a future that others dared not even to dream.

In Israel, not only are Jews free to till the soil, teach their children, and pray to God in the ancient land of their fathers -- and they love this land, and they love God -- but Muslims, Christians, and people of all faiths are free to live and worship according to their conscience, and to follow their dreams, right here.

Today, gathered with friends, I call upon all people -- Jews, Christians, Muslims, and every faith, every tribe, every creed -- to draw inspiration from this ancient city, to set aside our sectarian differences, to overcome oppression and hatred, and to give all children the freedom and hope and dignity written into our souls.

Earlier this week, I spoke at a very historic summit in Saudi Arabia. I was hosted by King Salman -- a very wise man. There, I urged our friends in the Muslim world to join us in creating stability, safety and security. And I was deeply encouraged by the desire of many leaders to join us in cooperation toward these shared and vital goals.

Conflict cannot continue forever. The only question is when nations will decide that they have had enough -- enough bloodshed, enough killing. That historic summit represents a new opportunity for people throughout the Middle East to overcome sectarian and religious divisions, to extinguish the fires of extremism, and to find common ground and shared responsibility in making the future of this region so much better than it is right now.

Change must come from within. It can only come from within. No mother or father wants their children to grow up in a world where terrorists roam free, schoolchildren are murdered, and

their loved ones are taken. No child is born with prejudice in their heart. No one should teach young boys and girls to hate and to kill. No civilized nation can tolerate the massacre of innocents with chemical weapons.

My message to that summit was the same message I have for you: We must build a coalition of partners who share the aim of stamping out extremists and violence, and providing our children a peaceful and hopeful future. But a hopeful future for children in the Middle East requires the world to fully recognize the vital role of the State of Israel. (Applause.) And, on behalf of the United States, we pledge to stand by you and defend our shared values so that together we can defeat terrorism and create safety for all of God's children. (Applause.)

Israelis have experienced firsthand the hatred and terror of radical violence. Israelis are murdered by terrorists wielding knives and bombs. Hamas and Hezbollah launch rockets into Israeli communities where schoolchildren have to be trained to hear the sirens and run to the bomb shelters -- with fear, but with speed. ISIS targets Jewish neighborhoods, synagogues, and storefronts. And Iran's leaders routinely call for Israel's destruction. Not with Donald J. Trump, believe me. (Applause.) Thank you. I like you too. (Laughter.)

Despite these challenges, Israel is thriving as a sovereign nation, and no international body should question the contributions Israel makes to the region and, indeed, the world. Today, let us pray for that peace and for a more hopeful future across the Middle East.

There are those who present a false choice. They say that we must choose between supporting Israel and supporting Arab and Muslim nations in the region. That is completely wrong. All decent people want to live in peace, and all humanity is threatened by the evils of terrorism. Diverse nations can unite around the goal of protecting innocent life, upholding human dignity, and promoting peace and stability in the region.

My administration is committed to pursuing such a coalition, and we have already made substantial progress during this trip. We know, for instance, that both Israelis and Palestinians seek lives of hope for their children. And we know that peace is possible if we put aside the pain and disagreements of the past and commit together to finally resolving this crisis, which has dragged on for nearly half a century or more.

As I have repeatedly said, I am personally committed to helping Israelis and Palestinians achieve a peace agreement, and I had a meeting this morning with President Abbas and can tell you that the Palestinians are ready to reach for peace. I know you've heard it before. I am telling you -- that's what I do. They are ready to reach for peace.

In my meeting with my very good friend, Benjamin, I can tell you also that he is reaching for peace. He wants peace. He loves people. He especially loves the Israeli people. Benjamin Netanyahu wants peace.

Making peace, however, will not be easy. We all know that. Both sides will face tough decisions. But with determination, compromise, and the belief that peace is possible, Israelis and Palestinians can make a deal.

But even as we work toward peace, we will build strength to defend our nations. The United States is firmly committed to keep Iran from developing a nuclear weapon and halting their support of terrorists and militias. (Applause.) So we are telling you right now that Iran will not have nuclear weapons. (Applause.)

America's security partnership with Israel is stronger than ever. Under my administration, you see the difference -- big, big beautiful difference -- (laughter and applause) -- including the Iron Dome missile defense program, which has been keeping the Israeli people safe from short-range rockets launched by Hezbollah and Hamas, and David's Sling, which guards against long range missiles. It is my hope that someday, very soon, Israeli children will never need to rush towards shelters again as sirens ring out loud and clear.

Finally, the United States is proud that Israeli Air Force pilots are flying the incredible, new American F-35 planes. (Applause.) There is nothing in the world like them to defend their nation,

and it was wonderful to see these mighty aircraft in the skies over Israel recently as you celebrated the 69th anniversary of Israel's independence.

But even as we strengthen our partnership in practice, let us always remember our highest ideals. Let us never forget that the bond between our two nations is woven together in the hearts of our people, and their love of freedom, hope, and dignity for every man and every woman. Let us dream of a future where Jewish, Muslim, and Christian children can grow up together and live together in trust, harmony, tolerance, and respect.

The values that are practiced in Israel have inspired millions and millions of people all across the world. The conviction of Theodor Herzl rings true today: "Whatever we attempt there for our own benefit will rebound mightily and beneficially to the good of all mankind."

As we stand in Jerusalem, we see pilgrims of all faiths coming to this land to walk on this hallowed ground. Jews place the prayers from their hearts in the stone blocks of the beautiful Western Wall. Christians pray in the pews of an ancient church. Muslims answer the call to prayer at their holy sites. This city, like no other place in the world, reveals the longing of human hearts to know and to worship God.

Jerusalem stands as a reminder that life can flourish against any odds. When we look around this city -- so beautiful -- and we see people of all faiths engaged in reverent worship, and schoolchildren learning side-by-side, and men and women lifting up the needy and forgotten, we see that God's promise of healing has brought goodness to so many lives. We see that the people of this land had the courage to overcome the oppression and injustice of the past and to live in the freedom God intends for every person on this Earth.

Today, in Jerusalem, we pray and we hope that children around the world will be able to live without fear, to dream without limits, and to prosper without violence. I ask this land of promise to join me to fight our common enemies, to pursue our shared values, and to protect the dignity of every child of God.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless the State of Israel. And God bless the United States. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

2:48 P.M. IDT

Remarks by President Trump at NATO Unveiling of the Article 5 and Berlin Wall Memorials - Brussels, Belgium

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 25, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at NATO Unveiling of the Article 5 and Berlin Wall Memorials - Brussels, Belgium

NATO Headquarters
Brussels, Belgium
4:39 P.M. CEST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, Secretary General Stoltenberg. Chancellor Merkel, thank you very much. Other heads of state and government, I am honored to be here with members of an alliance that has promoted safety and peace across the world.

Prime Minister May, all of the nations here today grieve with you and stand with you. I would like to ask that we now observe a moment of silence for the victims and families of the savage attack which took place in Manchester. (A moment of silence is observed.) Thank you. Terrible thing.

This ceremony is a day for both remembrance and resolve. We remember and mourn those nearly 3,000 innocent people who were brutally murdered by terrorists on September 11th, 2001. Our NATO allies responded swiftly and decisively, invoking for the first time in its history the Article 5 collective defense commitments.

The recent attack on Manchester in the United Kingdom demonstrates the depths of the evil we face with terrorism. Innocent little girls and so many others were horribly murdered and badly injured while attending a concert -- beautiful lives with so much great potential torn from their families forever and ever. It was a barbaric and vicious attack upon our civilization.

All people who cherish life must unite in finding, exposing, and removing these killers and extremists -- and, yes, losers. They are losers. Wherever they exist in our societies, we must drive them out and never, ever let them back in.

This call for driving out terrorism is a message I took to a historic gathering of Arab and Muslim leaders across the region, hosted by Saudi Arabia. There, I spent much time with King Salman, a wise man who wants to see things get much better rapidly. The leaders of the Middle East have agreed at this unprecedented meeting to stop funding the radical ideology that leads to this horrible terrorism all over the globe.

My travels and meetings have given me renewed hope that nations of many faiths can unite to defeat terrorism, a common threat to all of humanity. Terrorism must be stopped in its tracks, or the horror you saw in Manchester and so many other places will continue forever. You have thousands and thousands of people pouring into our various countries and spreading throughout, and in many cases, we have no idea who they are. We must be tough. We must be strong. And we must be vigilant.

The NATO of the future must include a great focus on terrorism and immigration, as well as threats from Russia and on NATO's eastern and southern borders. These grave security concerns are the same reason that I have been very, very direct with Secretary Stoltenberg and members of the Alliance in saying that NATO members must finally contribute their fair share and meet their financial obligations, for 23 of the 28 member nations are still not paying what they should be paying and what they're supposed to be paying for their defense.

This is not fair to the people and taxpayers of the United States. And many of these nations owe massive amounts of money from past years and not paying in those past years. Over the last eight years, the United States spent more on defense than all other NATO countries combined. If all NATO members had spent just 2 percent of their GDP on defense last year, we would have had another \$119 billion for our collective defense and for the financing of additional NATO reserves.

We should recognize that with these chronic underpayments and growing threats, even 2 percent of GDP is insufficient to close the gaps in modernizing, readiness, and the size of forces. We have to make up for the many years lost. Two percent is the bare minimum for confronting today's very real and very vicious threats. If NATO countries made their full and complete contributions, then NATO would be even stronger than it is today, especially from the threat of terrorism.

I want to extend my appreciation to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York for contributing this remnant of the North Tower, as well as to Chancellor Merkel and the German people for donating this portion of the Berlin Wall. It is truly fitting that these two artifacts now reside here so close together at the new NATO Headquarters. And I never asked once what the new NATO Headquarters cost. I refuse to do that. But it is beautiful.

Each one marks a pivotal event in the history of this Alliance and in the eternal battle between good and evil. On one side, a testament to the triumph of our ideals over a totalitarian Communist ideology bent on the oppression of millions and millions of people; on the other, a painful reminder of the barbaric evil that still exists in the world and that we must confront and defeat together as a group, as a world.

This twisted mass of metal reminds us not only of what we have lost, but also what forever endures -- the courage of our people, the strength of our resolve, and the commitments that bind us together as one.

We will never forget the lives that were lost. We will never forsake the friends who stood by our side. And we will never waiver in our determination to defeat terrorism and to achieve lasting security, prosperity and peace.

Thank you very much. It's a great honor to be here. Thank you.

END

4:48 P.M. CEST

Remarks by President Trump and President Iohannis of Romania in a Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 09, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Iohannis of Romania in a Joint Press Conference

Rose Garden

2:51 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: President Iohannis, thank you for being here. It's an honor to welcome such a good friend of America to the White House.

As you know, the people of Romania and America share much in common -- a love of freedom, proud cultures, rich traditions, and a vast and storied landscape to call home. The relationship between our two countries stretches back well over a century. But today we especially reaffirm and celebrate our strategic partnership that began 20 years ago next month. That partnership covers many dimensions, including economic, military, and cultural ties. And today we are making those ties even stronger.

Mr. President, your visit comes at an important moment not just in this partnership, but among all of the responsible nations of the world. I have just returned from a historic trip to Europe and the Middle East, where I worked to strengthen our alliances, forge new friendships, and unite all civilized peoples in the fight against terrorism. No civilized nation can tolerate this violence, or allow this wicked ideology to spread on its shores.

I addressed a summit of more than 50 Arab and Muslim leaders -- a unique meeting in the history of nations -- where key players in the region agreed to stop supporting terrorism, whether it be financial, military or even moral support.

The nation of Qatar, unfortunately, has historically been a funder of terrorism at a very high level, and in the wake of that conference, nations came together and spoke to me about confronting Qatar over its behavior. So we had a decision to make: Do we take the easy road, or do we finally take a hard but necessary action? We have to stop the funding of terrorism. I decided, along with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, our great generals and military people, the time had come to call on Qatar to end its funding -- they have to end that funding -- and its extremist ideology in terms of funding.

I want to call on all other nations to stop immediately supporting terrorism. Stop teaching people to kill other people. Stop filling their minds with hate and intolerance. I won't name other countries, but we are not done solving the problem, but we will solve that problem. Have no choice.

This is my great priority because it is my first duty as President to keep our people safe. Defeating ISIS and other terror organizations is something I have emphasized all during my

campaign and right up until the present. To do that, stop funding, stop teaching hate, and stop the killing.

For Qatar, we want you back among the unity of responsible nations. We ask Qatar, and other nations in the region to do more and do it faster.

I want to thank Saudi Arabia, and my friend, King Salman, and all of the countries who participated in that very historic summit. It was truly historic. There has never been anything like it before and perhaps there never will be again. Hopefully, it will be the beginning of the end of funding terrorism. It will, therefore, be the beginning of the end to terrorism. No more funding.

I also want to thank the Romanian people for everything they contribute to our common defense and to the fight against the evil menace of terrorism. They have their own difficulties with it, and they've come a long way and they're doing a lot. Romania has been a valuable member of the coalition to defeat ISIS, and it's the fourth-largest contributor of troops in Afghanistan. There, 23 of your citizens have paid the ultimate price. And America honors their sacrifice.

I want to recognize President Iohannis for his leadership in committing Romania this year to increase its defense spending from 1.4 percent of GDP to over 2 percent. We hope our other NATO allies will follow Romania's lead on meeting their financial obligations and paying their fair share for the cost of defense. But I will say this, that because of our actions, money is starting to pour into NATO. The money is starting to pour in. Other countries are starting to realize that it's time to pay up, and they're doing that. Very proud of that fact.

As you know, I have been an advocate for strengthening our NATO Alliance through greater responsibility and burden-sharing among member nations. And that is what is happening. Because, together, we can confront the common security challenges facing the world.

Mr. President, I want to applaud your courage and your courageous efforts in Romania to fight corruption and defend the rule of law. This work is necessary to create an environment where trade and commerce can flourish and where citizens can prosper. I look forward to working with you to deepen the ties of both commerce and culture between our two countries.

Romanians have made many contributions to the United States, and to the world. Very notable among them was Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, who was born in Romania and, sadly, passed away almost one year ago. And I understand that earlier this week, the American Jewish Committee presented President Iohannis with its very prestigious Light Unto the Nations Award, for his work to further Holocaust remembrance and education in Romania. I join the AJC in saluting your leadership in that vital cause.

The people of Romania have endured many, many hardships, but they have made a truly remarkable, historical journey. The future of Romania and Romania's relationship with the United States is very, very bright.

President Iohannis, I thank you for your leadership, and I thank you again for being here today. I look forward to strengthening our alliance with your country and our bonds with your people. The relationship has been good, but now it's stronger than ever.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: President Trump, thank you so much for the words you found for Romania, for the Romanian people, and for me. Thank you very much for the invitation to be here today with you. And thank you so much for arranging this nice weather in this place.

Mr. President, I'm very glad that we had such a good meeting. And this is due to your strong leadership, and this is also due to our strong partnership. Obviously, the fact that we celebrate 20 years of strategic partnership this year is important for both our nations, and it is important to know -- and this is what I want to underline -- that this partnership with the United States of America shaped Romania as it is today.

Romania, a solid democracy with a solid and sustainable economic growth. Romania which stands together with the U.S. troops in Afghanistan. We stand together in Iraq. Mr. President, this

partnership contributed greatly to what Romania is today. And this partnership was and is very important.

And I think this partnership not only has to continue, this partnership has to become stronger. This partnership has to define our bilateral relation, and this partnership has to contribute to solve so many problems.

President Trump, you mentioned terrorism. I'm very glad that, due to your strong leadership, NATO decided to go against terrorism. Your involvement made so many nations conscious of the fact that we have to share the burden inside NATO. And this is why Romania also decided -- and if I'm right, I think this is the first country during your mandate to step up to 2 percent of GDP for defense spending.

A significant part of this defense spending is going into strategic acquisitions. And I hope, President Trump, that we find good ways together to make good use of this money.

Romania is very conscious of the fact that we stand on the Eastern Flank and we heavily rely on your partnership, President Trump, because we cannot stand there without the U.S. We cannot stand there alone. On the other hand, our partnership has a huge opportunity to step up not only in security matters, but also in commercial and economic matters. And this is very important.

Romania is a member of the European Union. And I think it's the best interest of you, Mr. President, to have a strong European Union as a partner. This is vital for all of us. Our relationship, the transatlantic link is vital. The transatlantic link is not about diplomacy, about policy -- it's at the basis of our Western civilization. And together, we will make it stronger. Together, we will make it better.

NATO and the European Union do not have to compete against each other. They have to work together. They have to work in such a manner as to produce synergetic effects. Make NATO stronger. Make European stronger. Make the United States of America stronger.

And this is what we decided, President Trump and I, to make our partnership stronger, better, more enduring. And this will lead very soon to an enhanced economic exchange -- to better commerce. And this is what we all decide and what we wish, because we are responsible, President Trump and I, not only for the security. We are responsible for the well-being of our citizens. And this is what we are deciding to do.

Thank you so much, President Trump.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

Dave Boyer, Washington Times. Dave. Come on, Dave.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Apologies.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's all right, Dave.

Q Mr. President, this morning, on Twitter, you were referring to the testimony of James Comey vindicating you. But I wondered if you could tell us in person, sir, why you feel that his testimony vindicated you when it really boils down to his word against your word. And if you could also tell us, sir, do tapes exist of your conversations with him?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'll tell you about that maybe sometime in the very near future. But in the meantime, no collusion, no obstruction. He's a leaker. But we want to get back to running our great country -- jobs. Trade deficits, we want them to disappear fast. North Korea, a big problem. Middle East, a big problem. So that's what I am focused on. That's what I have been focused on.

But yesterday showed no collusion, no obstruction. We are doing really well. That was an excuse by the Democrats who lost an election that some people think they shouldn't have lost, because it's almost impossible for the Democrats to lose the Electoral College, as you know. We have to run up the whole East Coast and you have to win everything as a Republican. And that's just what we did.

So it was just an excuse. But we were very, very happy. And frankly, James Comey confirmed a lot of what I said. And some of the things that he said just weren't true.

Thank you very much.

Do you have a question?

Q Thank you. Mr. President, if you could tell us -- a couple weeks ago, President Trump was in Brussels at the NATO meeting, and not only was he encouraging NATO members to pay up the 2 percent required of GDP for national defense, but he also was saying that countries, including yours, who had not paid 2 percent in the past should make up for that difference. Do you think that's fair?

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: I was in Brussels, and I met President Trump and I listened to his speech and I liked it. Because, you see, NATO is based on values, but it is ultimately a military alliance. And you know, military spendings are complicated and you need a lot of money, because NATO is the strongest alliance the Earth ever saw and we want to keep it that way.

So we have to spend money for defense purposes. And spending money means if you're in an alliance, everybody has to spend money. This is called burden-sharing. And I fully agree, Mr. President, to that.

So, of course, some people liked this better, and some didn't like it so much. But it's a simple fact that we have to do this. Not as a purpose in itself; we have to do this to stay strong, to be strong, and to defend our nations.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: One hundred percent correct. And you know, one of the things I was referring to during that speech was the fact that, yes, they haven't paid what they should be paying now, but for many years, they haven't been paying. So I said, do we ever go back and say, how about paying the money from many, many years passed?

Now, I know no President has ever asked that question. But I do. And we're going to make NATO very strong. We need the money to make it strong. You can't just do what we've been doing in the past. So I did say, yes, you haven't paid this year, but what about the past years, the many past years where you haven't paid? Perhaps you should pay some or all of that money back.

You have a question?

Q Thank you. I have a question for President Trump. On the matter of security, sir, many of the countries on the Eastern Flank of NATO, including Romania, see Russia as a threat to the security and the peace in the region. Do you share this vision? And do you think that the United States should act under Article 5, if any of these countries would be under military aggression?

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'm committing the United States, and have committed, but I'm committing the United States to Article 5. And certainly we are there to protect. And that's one of the reasons that I want people to make sure we have a very, very strong force by paying the kind of money necessary to have that force. But, yes, absolutely, I'd be committed to Article 5.

Q Thank you. Mr. President, were there any discussion about the Visa Waiver Program for Romania? Is there a time frame for including our country in this program? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We didn't discuss it --

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: Yes --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We didn't discuss it. But there would be certainly -- it would be something we will discuss.

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: I mentioned this issue, and I also mentioned it during other meetings I had, because this is important for us, it's important for Romanians who want to come to the United States. And you see more and more people come, President Trump, from Romania to the United States. Some come as tourists. Some come for business. And those who come for business should be encouraged.

So the matter of visa waiver would be probably important to discuss. And we all hope that we will advance on this.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good.

Look at those hands up there, President. Do you have this in Romania, too? I don't know. (Laughter.) I've got the microphone. If I could only sell that. If I could only sell it.

Who would like to ask -- should I take one of the killer networks that treat me so badly as fake news? Should I do that?

Go ahead, Jon. Be fair, Jon.

Q Oh, absolutely.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Remember how nice you used to be before I ran? Such a nice man.

Q Always fair. Mr. President, can we get back to James Comey's testimony. You suggested he didn't tell the truth in everything he said. He did say, under oath, that you told him to let the Flynn -- you said you hoped the Flynn investigation he could let --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I didn't say that.

Q So he lied about that?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I didn't say that. I mean, I will tell you I didn't say that.

Q And did he ask you to pledge --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And there would be nothing wrong if I did say it, according to everybody that I've read today. But I did not say that.

Q And did he ask for a pledge of loyalty from you? That's another thing he said.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, he did not.

Q So he said those things under oath. Would you be willing to speak under oath to give your version of those events?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: One hundred percent. I didn't say under oath -- I hardly know the man. I'm not going to say, I want you to pledge allegiance. Who would do that? Who would ask a man to pledge allegiance under oath? I mean, think of it. I hardly know the man. It doesn't make sense. No, I didn't say that, and I didn't say the other.

Q So if Robert Mueller wanted to speak with you about that you would be willing to talk to him?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I would be glad to tell him exactly what I just told you, Jon.

Q And you seem to be hinting that there are recordings of those conversations.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'm not hinting anything. I'll tell you about it over a very short period of time.

Q When is that?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay. Do you have a question here?

Q When will you tell us about the recordings?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Over a fairly short period of time.

Q Why not now?

Q Are there tapes --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, you're going to be very disappointed when you hear the answer. Don't worry.

Jon, do you have a question for the President?

Q Yes. Thank you. And, President Iohannis, you are no stranger to Russian aggression. Vladimir Putin recently suggested that Romania could be in Russia's crosshairs. How concerned should the world be about Russian aggression in your region? And how concerned should we be here in the United States about what Russia tried to do in our election, sir?

PRESIDENT IOHANNIS: Everybody is concerned. But, you see, being concerned should lead you to being prepared. So in my opinion, we have to be very clear, very simple and very straightforward if we talk about Russia and with Russia. In my opinion, we need dialogue. But, on the other hand, we need what we all together decided in NATO, a strong deterrence. So this combination -- strong deterrence and dialogue -- should lead towards a solution which is feasible for every part.

Q Hello, Mr. President Trump. You mentioned earlier the anticorruption fight in Romania. It is a matter of high importance in our country. But we see now that the anticorruption fight and the efforts to consolidate the rule of law are sometimes undermined by some politicians -- part of what we can call the "Bucharest swamp." Is your administration going to support the anticorruption fight in Romania? And how can you do it? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we support very strongly Romania. And therefore, obviously we do support that fight on anticorruption. We will always support that. And we support your President. We think he's done an outstanding job. Very popular, very solid, working very hard. We know everything that's going on. And, yeah, and he's going to win that fight. He's going to win that battle. But he has our support.

Q Do you think corruption in Romania is a problem for the U.S.-Romania partnership and for the American investor -- because we still have corruption in Romania, despite this anticorruption fight.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, you do. But I can tell you that there are many American investors right now going to Romania and investing. In fact, I was given a chart just before our meeting, and we have people going over to Romania and investing, and they weren't doing that a number of years ago. So that shows very, very big progress. And there really are a lot of congratulations in store. But a lot of people are investing from our country to yours.

And people love -- from Romania -- the United States. And they come here a lot, and we're very proud of them.

Thank you all very much.

END

3:18 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President at the Northern Triangle Conference

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 15, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at the Northern Triangle Conference

Florida International University

Miami, Florida

1:18 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. And thank you all, I'm truly honored to be with you at this important gathering.

But before I begin, allow me to address the attack that took place yesterday in our Nation's Capital.

President Trump and I were deeply saddened when we were informed yesterday morning that a gunman had opened fire on the Republican congressional baseball team, injuring five people as they practiced for tonight's annual charity baseball game.

I served with many of these congressmen. They're my friends, including Representative Steve Scalise, who was seriously wounded. But I can say with confidence that he continues to receive the best possible medical care at Medstar Hospital in Washington, D.C.

Congressman Scalise is a good man. He's a principled leader and a patriot. And like all those who come to serve in our Nation's Capital, Steve loves this country, and his service does credit to the people of his state and the people of this nation.

Karen and I join millions across America in praying for Steve, for all the injured, and their families in this difficult time. But we're especially grateful to the brave police officers who ran into danger without regard to their personal safety.

As I told her and her family this morning at the hospital, the courageous actions of Officer Crystal Griner and that of Officer David Bailey saved lives and prevented an even greater tragedy. And the American people are grateful for these courageous police officers. (Applause.)

While there will always be those who seek to divide, who profit from insult over insight -- tonight, on a baseball field in our Nation's Capital, the world will see America is better than that. As President Trump said yesterday, we are strongest when we are unified, when we work together for the common good.

And when a neighbor is hurting or under attack, the American people always come together with generosity, compassion, and prayer. And we always will.

It's in that spirit, that I'm honored to stand here with all of you today -- our neighbors, as well, from across North, Central, and South America -- at this historic gathering.

So President Hernandez, President Morales, Vice President Ortiz, Secretary Videgaray, Secretary Osorio, members of the Cabinet, honored guests, it is my privilege as Vice President of the United States to welcome you to this Conference on the Prosperity and Security in Central America. (Applause.)

I bring greetings today from my friend, and a champion of the strong partnership between the United States and Central America, the 45th President of the United States, President Donald Trump.

Allow me also to thank Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary John Kelly, and their Departments of State and Homeland Security for their extraordinary efforts in bringing together this historic gathering.

Allow me to also thank the government of Mexico for their full partnership in making this event possible. Let's give these departments and let's give the government of Mexico a vigorous round of applause. (Applause.)

I am also grateful for the presence of our Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin. And I want to express my appreciation to the Inter-American Development Bank and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for organizing yesterday's economic event.

And also let me personally thank all the public- and private-sector leaders who traveled to be here from across the Western Hemisphere and Europe.

Before such a distinguished group of leaders, today it is my privilege, on President Trump's behalf, to thank President Hernandez, to thank President Morales, and to thank [Vice] President Ortiz for the progress that you have made in the Northern Triangle. We congratulate you and we commend you. (Applause.)

Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your courage. And thank you for your strong stand and your personal sacrifice to ensure a more secure and prosperous Central America. We couldn't be more grateful.

Since the founding of the Alliance for Prosperity in 2014, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have devoted significant resources toward a brighter future for your people.

You've courageously pursued the fight against corruption, crime, and drug trafficking. You've undertaken structural reforms to establish a stronger foundation for economic growth; and you are working in close cooperation with regional partners, your business communities, and multinational institutions to implement long-term solutions to the problems facing Central America.

Your resolve is impressive and know today that you have the great respect of the President of the United States and the American people. (Applause.)

And on behalf of the President, allow me to assure you the United States of America stands with the nations and people of the Northern Triangle. We stand with you in your commitment to root out crime and corruption. We stand with you in your commitment to stop the scourge of drug trafficking once and for all.

And the United States of America stands with you as you build a more secure and prosperous future for the benefit of your people and the benefit of the Western Hemisphere. (Applause.)

In a word, we're in this together. As the President has said often, his highest duty as President of the United States is to keep America safe. But this President knows that your security and your prosperity are directly connected to ours.

This very gathering is a testament to President Trump's commitment to a stronger, safer, and more prosperous Central America. I'm pleased to announce, at the President's direction, that I'll be traveling to Central and South America later this year to continue to build on the good work being done at this conference. (Applause.)

The people of the United States have a special place in our hearts for the nations and the people of Central America, especially in the Northern Triangle of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

Your nations experienced your birth of independence when the United States was still in the youth of our own. We are bound together by history and geography. We are bound together by commerce and the nearly \$25 billion in goods and services that flow between us every year.

But most of all, we are bound together by friendship, by the rich traditions and contributions that the sons and daughters of the Northern Triangle have made to the fabric of American life and make to this day.

Be assured, the United States is proud of our strong partnership with nations in the Northern Triangle. We are committed to strengthening that partnership so that we can continue to address the significant problems facing our neighborhood.

You sit at the heart of the Western Hemisphere, where North meets South; and every day, countless people and products pass over your streets, through your airports, your seaports, and across your borders. By and large, this flow of commerce and crowds benefits us both in the exchange of culture and goods and services.

But as we all know, Central America has been plagued, as well, by vicious gangs and vast criminal organizations that drive illegal immigration and carry illegal drugs on northward their journey to the United States. These criminal syndicates wreak havoc everywhere their tentacles spread, as your people know all too well.

At this very moment, there is an estimated 85,000 active gang members in the Northern Triangle alone, and they bring untold misery, corruption, and violence to your communities. One out of every five citizens in this region is a victim of crime every year -- from theft, to extortion, to kidnapping, to human trafficking, or worse.

But the consequences of this rampant crime are not restricted to the Northern Triangle. They radiate outward, and swiftly reach us here in the United States. Central America is merely the beginning of a journey for too many migrants fleeing poverty and violence. It's merely a stop on the highway as people confront the merchants of death in the region.

Driven by the high demand for narcotics here in the United States, fully 80 percent of documented drug traffic travels through Central America -- 80 percent. The American people are reminded of the terrible cost of drug trafficking, gang violence, and illegal immigration every day.

We see it in the gangs and violence that plague our streets and cities. We see it in the news with the names of the victims and their families. And we see it on the faces of our families and friends who have fallen prey to the scourge of drug addiction.

President Trump has made it clear that this must end, and under his leadership and yours, this will end. (Applause.)

President Trump has already taken decisive action to protect the American people from the harshest consequences of illegal immigration and the transnational drug trade.

This President has ordered the creation of, in his words, an "aggressive strategy to dismantle the criminal cartels that have spread all across our nation," and our administration has wasted no time under the leadership of Secretary Kelly in removing gang members, drug dealers, and criminals off the streets of America.

The President's leadership is already making a difference. Criminal organizations such as MS-13 are being decimated and going directly into prison.

And thanks to President Donald Trump, illegal crossings at America's southern border are down nearly 70 percent since the start of this year. And we are grateful for our partners in Mexico and across the Northern Triangle who have contributed to our progress in this area.

But to further stem the flow of illegal immigration and illegal drugs into the United States, President Trump knows, as do all of you, that we must confront these problems at their source. We must meet them -- and we must solve them -- in Central and South America.

The United States' partnership with the Northern Triangle is built to accomplish this vital mission. It's what brings us here today. In terms of security, the United States of America is helping train your police forces. We're supporting your attorneys general as they target drug traffickers, gang leaders, and corruption. We're sharing information to better disrupt the flow of weapons and cash into criminal hands.

The United States is proud to support programs in the Northern Triangle that strengthen civil society, improve education and literacy, and spur economic growth in impoverished areas.

American assistance in business development and agriculture in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras in recent years has created more than 40,000 jobs and lifted tens of thousands of families out of poverty.

Rest assured, under the leadership of President Trump, the United States will continue to work with our partners to support the programs that prove effective.

Even in this time of fiscal challenges, I'm pleased to report that President Trump has made clear our commitment to this region by requesting an additional \$460 million for security and prosperity in Central America. (Applause.)

But as you all know, the most important work throughout the region is to be by the nations and the people who call it home. A secure and prosperous Central America requires nothing short of national transformation on an ongoing basis from within -- in the economy, in civil society, in the halls of government. In the Northern Triangle, we ask you with great respect that you maintain and seek to expand your commitment to tackle these problems head on.

Through the Alliance for Prosperity, you have already made sustained annual commitments in recent years exceeding \$2.8 billion to stimulate growth, improve safety, root out corruption, end the environment of impunity, and enact other important reforms. These are vital investments in your future.

Yet continued action is more necessary now than ever before. On behalf of the President, we urge you to cement the gains that you have made and make renewed progress toward our shared goal of security and prosperity in Central America.

Working together, we will continue to build professional and accountable civilian police forces throughout the region. We'll continue to support your campaign against public corruption and to strengthen the rule of law.

And together, we'll continue to provide more people with a path out of poverty -- to give the citizens of Central America a better path and a brighter future. But to accomplish these goals, the nations of Central America must continue to work with new partners -- in the business community, in government, and in the faith community -- to foster stronger and more robust civil societies and economies, to stanch the flow of illegal drugs and illegal immigration, and to combat gang violence and organized crime.

A flourishing economy gives people a reason to put down roots in the land of their birth and to grow, rather than fleeing to the north. Good-paying jobs give people an alternative to a life of poverty, hopelessness, and crime.

By fostering opportunity in the cities and towns of Central America, we'll keep families together. We'll create stronger and more stable communities where your sons and daughters can

climb the ladder of success and build a brighter future for themselves, their loved ones, and your nations as a whole.

The surest way to make progress toward opportunity and prosperity is for the nations of the Northern Triangle to continue to break down barriers to job creation and growth, to reform their tax and regulatory systems, and to root out corruption at every level of government.

This room is proof that businesses also see tremendous opportunity in the Northern Triangle and beyond. Businesses from North and Central America are so well represented here, as are the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund.

These institutions and industry leaders I can assure you want to partner with your nations to improve the investment climate, to create jobs, to spur the kind of growth that will build a foundation for a brighter future for your nation and for ours.

And on behalf of the President and all the American businesses represented here, I can promise you we want you to grow. We want to export more goods and services to your countries because your success is our success.

These are the new and stronger partnerships that'll be necessary for a more prosperous Central America. And a more prosperous Central America, built on a foundation of democracy and the rule of law, will be an inspiration to other nations in this hemisphere and beyond.

We need only look to the nation of Venezuela to see what happens when democracy is undermined. That once-rich nation's collapse into authoritarianism has pushed it into poverty and caused untold suffering for the Venezuelan people.

We must, all of us, raise our voices to condemn the Venezuelan government for its abuse of power and its abuse of its own people, and we must do it now. (Applause.)

And across the wider region we must show Venezuela and its people that there is a better path -- the path of democracy, of justice, and above all else, we must show Venezuela that freedom is the only path to true prosperity and to a brighter future for their people.

But we must always remember that security is the foundation of prosperity. In the Northern Triangle, we must pursue new and stronger partnerships in a word to drive out the criminals, the cartels, the gangs, and all who would undermine a future of peace and safety for your people.

It's vital that the Northern Triangle expand its security cooperation and integration not just with the United States, but also with the other nations of Central America -- Belize, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Panama.

So too must we continue to work closely with Mexico to cripple drug traffickers and disrupt criminal organizations as they seek to travel north. And we cannot overestimate the importance of strong borders. Under President Donald Trump the United States' borders will be strong. But the borders of the United States will always be open to legal immigrants and the lawful flow of commerce. But we will make sure our borders are closed to those who would do us harm -- and it will be impassable to the drugs that are besetting our families and communities.

Today, we pledge to strengthen the bonds that join the United States, the Northern Triangle, and all the nations of Central America together in this New World.

Let today mark the beginning of a new era here in the New World -- of partnership and progress throughout our neighborhood for the benefit of all our people.

As the Old Book says, let us "encourage one another and build each other up," just as, in fact, we are doing.

Together, I know we will build on the foundation of friendship between our lands and between our people. Together, we will reach new heights of safety and security and peace and prosperity. And together, with the help of all the leaders gathered here, with your determination and renewed commitment to the principles that make security and prosperity possible, with President Donald Trump in the White House, and with God's help, I know we will finish the task before us. We will step forward together in the Western Hemisphere and meet the glorious future that awaits us.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless Central America and God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

1:39 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump on the Policy of the United States Towards Cuba

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 16, 2017

Remarks by President Trump on the Policy of the United States Towards Cuba

Manuel Artime Theater

Miami, Florida

1:31 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, everybody. Thank you very much. Great honor. And thank you to my truly great friend, Vice President Mike Pence -- he's terrific. (Applause.) And thank you to Miami. We love Miami.

Let me start by saying that I'm glad Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and I, along with a very talented team, were able to get Otto Warmbier back with his parents. (Applause.) What's happened to him is a truly terrible thing, but at least the ones who love him so much can now take care of him and be with him.

Also, my dear friend, Steve Scalise, took a bullet for all of us. And because of him, and the tremendous pain and suffering he's now enduring -- he's having a hard time, far worse than anybody thought -- our country will perhaps become closer, more unified. So important.

So we all owe Steve a big, big thank you. And let's keep the Warmbier family, and the Scalise family, and all of the victims of the congressional shooting, in our hearts and prayers. And it was quite a day and our police officers were incredible, weren't they? They did a great job. (Applause.)

And let us all pray for a future of peace, unity and safety for all of our people. (Applause.) Thank you. And for Cuba.

I am so thrilled to be back here with all of my friends in Little Havana. (Applause.) I love it. I love this city.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you?

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you.

This is an amazing community, the Cuban-American community -- so much love. I saw that immediately.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We love you!

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, darling. Oh do I love you, too. (Applause.)

What you have built here -- a vibrant culture, a thriving neighborhood, the spirit of adventure -- is a testament to what a free Cuba could be. And with God's help, a free Cuba is what we will soon achieve. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA!

THE PRESIDENT: And I don't even mind that it is 110 degrees up here. (Laughter.) This room is packed. You know, it wasn't designed for this. I would like to thank the fire department. (Laughter.)

We are delighted to be joined by so many friends and leaders of our great community. I want to express our deep gratitude to a man who has really become a friend of mine -- and I want to tell you, he is one tough competitor -- Senator Marco Rubio. (Applause.) Great guy. (Applause.) He is tough, man. He is tough and he's good, and he loves you. He loves you.

And I listened to another friend of mine, Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart -- (applause) -- and I'll tell you, I loved what he said, and I appreciate it. Mario, I appreciated what you said so much. In fact I was looking for Mario. I wanted to find him -- they said he was onstage. I almost dragged him off the stage to thank him, but now I'm thanking you anyway. Thank you, Mario. That was great. Really appreciate it.

And I also want to thank my good friend, and just a man who was of tremendous support in the state of Florida, for being with us -- Governor Rick Scott. (Applause.) Great job. He's doing a great job. I hope he runs for the Senate. I know I'm not supposed to say that. I hope he runs for the Senate. Rick, are you running? (Applause.) I don't know. Marco, let's go, come on. We got to get him to -- I hope he runs for the Senate.

We are deeply honored to be joined by amazing Veterans of the Bay of Pigs. (Applause.) These are great people, amazing people. (Applause.)

I have wonderful memories from our visit during the campaign. That was some visit. That was right before the election. I guess it worked, right? Boy, Florida, as a whole, and this community supported us by tremendous margins. We appreciate it.

But including one of the big honors, and that was the honor of getting the Bay of Pigs award just before the election, and it's great to be gathered in a place named for a true hero of the Cuban people. And you know what that means. (Applause.)

I was also looking forward to welcoming today two people who are not present -- José Daniel Ferrer and Berta Soler -- (applause) -- were both prevented from leaving Cuba for this event. So we acknowledge them. They're great friends -- great help. And although they could not be with us, we are with them 100 percent. (Applause.) We are with them. Right?

Finally, I want to recognize everyone in the audience who has their own painful but important story to tell about the true and brutal nature of the Castro regime. Brutal. We thank the dissidents, the exiles, and the children of Operation Peter Pan -- you know what that means -- (applause) -- and all who gather in the cafes, churches, and the streets in this incredible area and city to speak the truth and to stand for justice. (Applause.)

And we want to thank you all for being a voice for the voiceless. There are people -- it's voiceless, but you are making up the difference, and we all want to thank you. This group is amazing. Just an incredible -- you are an incredible group of talented, passionate people. Thank you. Incredible group of people.

Many of you witnessed terrible crimes committed in service of a depraved ideology. You saw the dreams of generations held by captive, and just, literally, you look at what happened and what communism has done. You knew faces that disappeared, innocents locked in prisons, and believers persecuted for preaching the word of God. You watched the Women in White bruised, bloodied, and captured on their way from Mass. You have heard the chilling cries of loved ones, or the cracks of firing squads piercing through the ocean breeze. Not a good sound.

Among the courageous Cuban dissidents with us onstage here today are Cary Roque, who was imprisoned by the Castro regime 15 years ago. (Applause.) She looks awfully good.

MS. ROQUE: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Thank you, Marco Rubio, Mario Diaz-Balart. Thank you to all the men and the Cubans who fight no matter what -- for the Cuban liberty. Mr. President, on behalf of the Cuban people, the people inside my eyes, my homeland, thank you. Thank you, and we appreciate your love. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Wow. That's pretty good. She didn't know she was going to do that either, I will tell you. Thank you very much.

Antunez, imprisoned for 17 years. Where is he? (Applause.) I love that name. Antunez -- I love that name -- and Angel De Fana, imprisoned for over 20 years. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you. Very brave people.

The exiles and dissidents here today have witnessed communism destroy a nation, just as communism has destroyed every single nation where it has ever been tried. (Applause.) But we

will not be silent in the face of communist oppression any longer. You have seen the truth, you have spoken the truth, and the truth has now called us -- this group -- called us to action. Thank you.

Last year, I promised to be a voice against repression in our region -- remember, tremendous oppression -- and a voice for the freedom of the Cuban people. You heard that pledge. You exercised the right you have to vote. You went out and you voted. And here I am like I promised -- like I promised. (Applause.)

I promised you -- I keep my promises. Sometimes in politics, they take a little bit longer, but we get there. We get there. Don't we get there? You better believe it, Mike. We get there. (Laughter.) Thank you. Thank you. No, we keep our promise.

And now that I am your President, America will expose the crimes of the Castro regime and stand with the Cuban people in their struggle for freedom. Because we know it is best for America to have freedom in our hemisphere, whether in Cuba or Venezuela, and to have a future where the people of each country can live out their own dreams. (Applause.)

For nearly six decades, the Cuban people have suffered under communist domination. To this day, Cuba is ruled by the same people who killed tens of thousands of their own citizens, who sought to spread their repressive and failed ideology throughout our hemisphere, and who once tried to host enemy nuclear weapons 90 miles from our shores.

The Castro regime has shipped arms to North Korea and fueled chaos in Venezuela. While imprisoning innocents, it has harbored cop killers, hijackers, and terrorists. It has supported human trafficking, forced labor, and exploitation all around the globe. This is the simple truth of the Castro regime. (Applause.)

My administration will not hide from it, excuse it, or glamorize it. And we will never, ever be blind to it. We know what's going on and we remember what happened. (Applause.)

On my recent trip overseas, I said the United States is adopting a principled realism, rooted in our values, shared interests, and common sense. I also said countries should take greater responsibility for creating stability in their own regions. It's hard to think of a policy that makes less sense than the prior administration's terrible and misguided deal with the Castro regime. (Applause.) Well, you have to say, the Iran deal was pretty bad also. Let's not forget that beauty.

They made a deal with a government that spreads violence and instability in the region and nothing they got -- think of it -- nothing they got -- they fought for everything and we just didn't fight hard enough. But now those days are over. Now we hold the cards. We now hold the cards. (Applause.)

The previous administration's easing of restrictions on travel and trade does not help the Cuban people -- they only enrich the Cuban regime. (Applause.) The profits from investment and tourism flow directly to the military. The regime takes the money and owns the industry. The outcome of the last administration's executive action has been only more repression and a move to crush the peaceful, democratic movement.

Therefore, effective immediately, I am canceling the last administration's completely one-sided deal with Cuba. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Trump! Trump! Trump!

THE PRESIDENT: I am announcing today a new policy, just as I promised during the campaign, and I will be signing that contract right at that table in just a moment. (Applause.)

Our policy will seek a much better deal for the Cuban people and for the United States of America. We do not want U.S. dollars to prop up a military monopoly that exploits and abuses the citizens of Cuba.

Our new policy begins with strictly enforcing U.S. law. (Applause.) We will not lift sanctions on the Cuban regime until all political prisoners are freed, freedoms of assembly and expression are respected, all political parties are legalized, and free and internationally supervised elections are scheduled. Elections. (Applause.)

We will very strongly restrict American dollars flowing to the military, security and intelligence services that are the core of Castro regime. They will be restricted. We will enforce the ban on tourism. We will enforce the embargo. We will take concrete steps to ensure that investments flow directly to the people, so they can open private businesses and begin to build their country's great, great future -- a country of great potential. (Applause.)

My action today bypasses the military and the government, to help the Cuban people themselves form businesses and pursue much better lives. We will keep in place the safeguards to prevent Cubans from risking their lives to unlawful travel to the United States. They are in such danger the way they have to come to this country, and we are going to be safeguarding those people. We have to. We have no choice. We have to. (Applause.)

And we will work for the day when a new generation of leaders brings this long reign of suffering to an end. And I do believe that end is in the very near future. (Applause.)

We challenge Cuba to come to the table with a new agreement that is in the best interests of both their people and our people and also of Cuban Americans.

To the Cuban government, I say: Put an end to the abuse of dissidents. Release the political prisoners. Stop jailing innocent people. Open yourselves to political and economic freedoms. Return the fugitives from American justice -- including the return of the cop-killer Joanne Chesimard. (Applause.)

And finally, hand over the Cuban military criminals who shot down and killed four brave members of Brothers to the Rescue who were in unarmed, small, slow civilian planes. (Applause.)

Those victims included Mario de la Pena, Jr., and Carlos Costa. We are honored to be joined by Mario's parents, Miriam and Mario, and Carlos's sister, Mirta. Where are you? (Applause.) Those are great, great parents who love their children so much. What they've done is just an incredible, incredible thing -- what they represent -- they did not die in vain -- what they represent to everybody, and especially to the Cuban people. So your children did not die in vain, believe me. (Applause.)

So to the Castro regime, I repeat: The harboring of criminals and fugitives will end. You have no choice. It will end. (Applause.)

Any changes to the relationship between the United States and Cuba will depend on real progress toward these and the other goals, many of which I've described. When Cuba is ready to take concrete steps to these ends, we will be ready, willing, and able to come to the table to negotiate that much better deal for Cubans, for Americans. Much better deal and a deal that's fair. A deal that's fair and a deal that makes sense.

Our embassy remains open in the hope that our countries can forge a much stronger and better path. America believes that free, independent, and sovereign nations are the best vehicle for human happiness, for health, for education, for safety, for everything. We all accept that all nations have the right to chart their own paths -- and I'm certainly a very big believer in that -- so we will respect Cuban sovereignty. But we will never turn our backs on the Cuban people. That will not happen. (Applause.)

Over the years, a special sympathy has grown between this land of the free, and the beautiful people of that island, so close to our shores and so deeply woven into the history of our region. America has rejected the Cuban people's oppressors. They are rejected. Officially today, they are rejected. (Applause.) And to those people, America has become a source of strength, and our flag a symbol of hope.

I know that is exactly what America is to you and what it represents to you. It represents the same to me. It represents the same to all of us. And that is what it was to a little boy, Luis Haza. You ever hear of Luis? He became very famous, great talent -- just eight years old when Fidel Castro seized power. At the time, Luis's father was the police chief in Santiago de Cuba. You know Santiago? Yeah? Oh, they know Santiago. Just days after Fidel took control, his father was one of 71 Cubans executed by firing squad near San Juan Hill at the hands of the Castro regime.

Luis buried his grief in his great love of music. He began playing the violin so brilliantly and so beautifully. Soon the regime saw his incredible gift and wanted to use him for propaganda purposes. When he was 12, they organized a national television special and demanded he play a solo for Raul Castro -- who by the way is leaving now. I wonder why.

They sent an official to fetch Luis from his home. But Luis refused to go. And a few days later, Castro's soldiers barged into his orchestra practice area, guns blazing. They told him to play for them. Terrified, Luis began to play. And the entire room was stunned by what they heard. Ringing out from the trembling boy's violin was a tune they all recognized. This young Cuban boy was playing "The Star Spangled Banner." (Applause.) Luis played the American National Anthem all the way through, and when he finished, the room was dead silent.

When we say that America stands as a symbol to the world -- a symbol of freedom, and a symbol of hope -- that is what Luis meant, and that is what Luis displayed that day. It was a big day. It was a great day. And that is what we will all remain. That was a very important moment, just like this is now, for Cuba. A very important moment. (Applause.) America will always stand for liberty, and America will always pray and cheer for the freedom of the Cuban people.

Now, that little boy, whose story I just told you, the one who played that violin so beautifully so many years ago, is here with us today in our very, very packed and extremely warm auditorium. (Laughter.) Of course, he is no longer a little boy, but a world-renowned violinist and conductor -- one of the greats. And today he will once again play his violin and fill the hearts of all who love and cherish Cuba, the United States, and freedom. (Applause.)

I would like to now invite Luis to the stage.

Luis. (Applause.)

(Luis Haza plays The Star-Spangled Banner on the violin.)

AUDIENCE: USA! USA! USA! (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Luis. I just said, so where were you more nervous? Today or then? He said, honestly, I think today. That's pretty -- (laughter.) Thank you, Luis, that was beautiful.

So I want to thank Miami. I want to thank Little Havana. Havana, we love. Do we love it? Would you move anywhere else? You wouldn't move to Palm Beach, would you? No. No way. Little Havana.

And I want to thank all of our great friends here today. You've been amazing, loyal, beautiful people. And thank you. Don't remind me. Actually, I was telling Mike, so it was two days -- on my birthday -- until a big day, which turned out to be tomorrow -- the 16th. That was the day I came down with Melania on the escalator at Trump Tower. That's tomorrow. (Applause.) So it's exactly tomorrow -- two years since we announced. And it worked out okay. Worked out okay. (Applause.) It's a great honor. Believe me, it's a great honor. Right?

AUDIENCE: (Sings Happy Birthday.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Thank you very much.

I just want to end by saying may God bless everyone searching for freedom. May God bless Cuba. May God bless the United States of America. And God bless you all. Thank you. Now I'm going to sign. Thank you.

(The President participates in a signing.)

So this says, "strengthening the policy of the United States toward Cuba." And I can add, "strengthening a lot." (Laughter.) So this is very important, and you watch what's going to happen. Going to be a great day for Cuba.

Thank you. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

2:09 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama During Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 19, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama During Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office
11:39 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's our great honor to have President and Mrs. Varela from Panama. And we have many things to discuss. We're going to spend quite a bit of time today -- the Panama Canal is doing quite well. I think we did a good job building it, right?

PRESIDENT VARELA: One hundred years ago.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We did a very good job. But things are going well in Panama. The relationship has been very strong. We are developing new things to do and only getting stronger. And our -- also friendship with the President is very, very good.

So I just want to thank you very much. And it's an honor to have you at the White House. Thank you.

PRESIDENT VARELA: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT VARELA: I would like to thank President Trump for -- I would like to thank President Trump and his wife for receiving us today at the White House. It's an honor for me to be here. There's a long friendship between Panama and the United States, and we face the same challenges in the region. So the idea of this visit is to work closely together to face the same challenges that we have in the region of Central America and Latin America and in our continent.

So I'm really happy to be here today and for four days in Washington, and looking forward to this meeting and the meeting with the other directors of the agencies to establish -- to work together very closely with the -- President Trump administration for the future of the region.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

PRESIDENT VARELA: Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Again, thank you. Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

END

11:41 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Poroshenko of Ukraine

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 20, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Poroshenko of Ukraine

Oval Office
11:09 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great honor to be with President Poroshenko of the Ukraine -- a place that we've all been very much involved in. And you've been seeing it and everybody has been reading about it.

And we've had some very, very good discussions. It's going to continue throughout the day. And I think a lot of progress has been made. And it's a great honor to have you, Mr. President. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Would you like to say something?

PRESIDENT POROSHENKO: That's a great honor and a great pleasure to be together with you, Mr. President -- one of the most reliable supporters and partners -- strategic partners for Ukraine.

We're really fighting to bring freedom and democracy with your very strong support in security and defense -- support of our defense, support of my 45 million nation, of the country who is the biggest in the European continent. And I'm absolutely confident that Ukraine is a story of success. I'm proud to have you, Mr. President, and United States as a co-sponsor to this story of success.

And we very much admire of your leadership, of your very effective steps, because today includes two historic days -- five months of your presidency and -- when we launched the first peace plan -- peace plan of Ukraine. And I'm absolutely confident that our effective coordination will bring the peace to our nation, to our land, and can support our territorial integrity and sovereignty.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you. It's a great honor. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Q How will you respond to the death of Otto Warmbier?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think Otto -- it's a disgrace what happened to Otto. It's a total disgrace what happened to Otto. That should never, ever be allowed to happen. And frankly, if he were brought home sooner, I think the result would have been a lot different. He should have been brought home that same day. The result would have been a lot different.

But what happened to Otto is a disgrace. And I spoke with his family. His family is incredible, what they've gone through. But he should have been brought home a long time ago.

Thank you all very much. I appreciate it.

END

11:11 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi of India in Joint Press Statement

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 26, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi of India in Joint Press Statement

Rose Garden

5:31 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Prime Minister Modi, thank you for being here with us today. It's a great honor to welcome the leader of the world's largest democracy to the White House.

I have always had a deep admiration for your country and for its people, and a profound appreciation for your rich culture, heritage and traditions. This summer, India will celebrate the 70th anniversary of its independence, and on behalf of the United States, I want to congratulate the Indian people on this magnificent milestone in the life of your very, very incredible nation.

During my campaign, I pledged that if elected, India would have a true friend in the White House. And that is now exactly what you have -- a true friend. The friendship between the United States and India is built on shared values, including our shared commitment to democracy. Not many people know it, but both American and the Indian constitutions begin with the same three very beautiful words: We the people.

The Prime Minister and I both understand the crucial importance of those words, which helps to form the foundation of cooperation between our two countries. Relations between countries are

strongest when they are devoted to the interests of the people we serve. And after our meetings today, I will say that the relationship between India and the United States has never been stronger, has never been better.

I'm proud to announce to the media, to the American people, and to the Indian people, that Prime Minister Modi and I are world leaders in social media -- (laughter) -- we're believers -- giving the citizens of our countries the opportunity to hear directly from their elected officials, and for us to hear directly from them. I guess it's worked very well in both cases.

I am thrilled to salute you, Prime Minister Modi, and the Indian people for all that you are accomplishing together. Your accomplishments have been vast. India has the fastest growing economy in the world. We hope we're going to be catching you very soon in terms of percentage increase, I have to tell you that. We're working on it.

In just two weeks, you will begin to implement the largest tax overhaul in your country's history -- we're doing that also, by the way -- creating great new opportunities for your citizens. You have a big vision for improving infrastructure, and you are fighting government corruption, which is always a grave threat to democracy.

Together, our countries can help chart an optimistic path into the future, one that unleashes the power of new technology, new infrastructure, and the enthusiasm and excitement of very hardworking and very dynamic people.

I look forward to working with you, Mr. Prime Minister, to create jobs in our countries, to grow our economies, and to create a trading relationship that is fair and reciprocal. It is important that barriers be removed to the export of U.S. goods into your markets, and that we reduce our trade deficit with your country.

I was pleased to learn about an Indian Airlines recent order of 100 new American planes, one of the largest orders of its kind, which will support thousands and thousands of American jobs. We're also looking forward to exporting more American energy to India as your economy grows, including major long-term contracts to purchase American natural gas, which are right now being negotiated, and we will sign them. Trying to get the price up a little bit.

To further our economic partnership, I'm excited to report that the Prime Minister has invited my daughter, Ivanka, to lead the U.S. delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in India this fall. And I believe she has accepted.

Finally, the security partnership between the United States and India is incredibly important. Both our nations have been struck by the evils of terrorism, and we are both determined to destroy terrorist organizations and the radical ideology that drives them. We will destroy radical Islamic terrorism. Our militaries are working every day to enhance cooperation between our military forces. And next month, they will join together with the Japanese navy to take place in the largest maritime exercise ever conducted in the vast Indian Ocean.

I also thank the Indian people for their contributions to the effort in Afghanistan, and for joining us in applying new sanctions against the North Korean regime. The North Korean regime is causing tremendous problems and is something that has to be dealt with, and probably dealt with rapidly.

Working together, I truly believe our two countries can set an example for many other nations, make great strides in defeating common threats, and make great progress in unleashing amazing prosperity and growth.

Prime Minister Modi, thank you again for joining me today, and for visiting our country and our wonderful White House and Oval Office. I enjoyed our very productive conversation this afternoon, and look forward to its continuation tonight at dinner. The future of our partnership has never looked brighter. India and the United States will always be tied together in friendship and respect.

Prime Minister Modi, thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

PRIME MINISTER MODI: (As interpreted.) President Donald Trump and First Lady, Vice President, ladies and gentlemen, ladies and gentlemen of the media: Right from the opening tweet to the end of our talks, President Trump's welcome, which was filled with friendliness, his warm welcome to the White House by himself and the First Lady, I would like to thank both of you from the bottom of my heart for this warm welcome.

I would also like to give a special thanks to you, President Trump, for having spent so much time with me, for having spoken such kind words about me and my country. And I would like to tell you that I'm eager to welcome your daughter to India for the Entrepreneurship Summit.

President Trump, I'd once again like to thank you for the time that you have spent with me. I'd like to give you special thanks for that.

My visit and our talks today will mark a very important page in the history of the collaboration and cooperation between our two nations. The talks between his Excellency, President Trump, and myself today have been extremely important from all points of view, for several reasons: Because they were based on mutual trust; because of the convergence and similarities they revealed in our values, and our priorities, and in our concerns and interests; because they focused on the highest levels of achievement in our cooperation, and mutual support, and partnership; because our two countries are global engines of growth; because the all-around or comprehensive economic growth and joint progress of both countries and both societies is the main objective for both the President and myself, and will remain so; because the top priority for both President Trump and myself is to protect our society from global challenges like terrorism; and because our aim is the strengthening of India and the USA -- two great democracies in the world -- friends.

Our robust strategic partnership is such that it touches upon almost all areas of human endeavor. In our conversation today, President Trump and I have discussed all dimensions of India-U.S. relations at length. Both nations are committed to a bilateral architecture that will take our strategic partnership to new heights.

In this relationship, in both countries, increased productivity, growth, job creation, and breakthrough technologies -- an engagement towards all these are, and will remain, strong drivers of our cooperation, and will give further momentum to our relationship.

We consider the USA as our primary partner for India's social and economic transformation in all our flagship programs and schemes. I am sure that the convergence between my vision for a "new India and President Trump's vision for "making America great again" will add new dimensions to our cooperation.

I am very clear about the fact that India's interests lie in a strong, and prosperous, and successful America. In the same way, India's development and its growing role at the international level are in the USA's interest.

One of our common priorities will be the development of trade, commerce, and investment links. And in this regard, in the technology, innovation, and knowledge-economy sectors, the expansion and deepening of cooperation is also among our priorities. Towards this end, we shall take steps to further strengthen our successful digital partnership.

Friends, we are not just partners by chance. We are also partners in dealing with current and future challenges that we may be faced with. Today, during our meeting, we discussed the serious challenges of terrorism, extremism, and radicalization, which are the major challenges facing the world today. And we have agreed to enhance our cooperation in fighting against these scourges. Fighting terrorism and doing away with the safe shelters, sanctuaries, and safe havens will be an important part of our cooperation.

With respect to our common concerns on terrorism, we will also enhance our sharing of intelligence, and exchange information to deepen and expand our policy coordination as far as possible.

We also spoke at length on regional issues. The increasing instability, due to terrorism, in Afghanistan is one of our common concerns. Both India and America have played an important role in rebuilding Afghanistan and ensuring its security. In order to attain our objectives for peace and stability in Afghanistan, we will maintain close consultation and communication with the U.S. to enhance coordination between our two nations.

In the Indo-Pacific region, in order to maintain peace, stability, and prosperity in the region, this is also another objective of our strategic cooperation in this area. The increasing possibilities for enhancing cooperation in order to protect our strategic interests will continue to determine the dimensions of our partnership. We will continue to work with the USA in this region.

With regard to security-related challenges, our enhanced and growing defense and security cooperation is extremely important. We have spoken at length on this subject as well.

The strengthening of India's defense capabilities, with the help of USA, is something that we truly appreciate. We have also decided to enhance maritime security cooperation between the two nations. President Trump and I have also spoken about strengthening bilateral defense technology and our trade and manufacturing partnership, which we believe will be mutually beneficial to us.

We also discussed international issues and our common strategic interests. In this context, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of the United States for India's membership of international institutions and regimes. We truly appreciate the support, because this is also in the interest of both our nations.

President Trump, I thank you for your feelings of friendship towards India and myself. I deeply appreciate your strong commitment to the enhancement of our bilateral relations. I am sure that under your leadership, our mutually beneficial strategic partnership will gain new strength, new positivity, and will reach new heights, and that your vast and successful experience in the business world will lend an aggressive and forward-looking agenda to our relations.

In this journey of India-America relations, I think I would like to thank you for providing great leadership. Be assured that in this joint journey of our two nations towards development, growth and prosperity, I will remain a driven, determined, and decisive partner.

Excellency, my visit today and the extensive talks I have held with you have been very successful, very fruitful. And before leaving this mic, I would like to invite you to India, along with your family. And I hope that you will give me the opportunity to welcome you and host you in India.

And at the end, once again, I'd like to thank you for the warm welcome extended by you and the First Lady to myself and my delegation, from the bottom of my heart. Thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. I appreciate it. Thank you.

END

5:51 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi of India Before a Dinner Reception

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 26, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi of India Before a Dinner Reception

Blue Room

6:29 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Mr. Prime Minister, we'll do the toasts as soon as the media leaves. (Laughter.) We're going to have a very special toast, a very intimate toast. (Laughter.)

But again, I want to thank you and all of your representatives. It is such an honor to have you at the White House and in Washington. And we have had tremendous meetings today, tremendous success, and we enjoy a wonderful relationship, but it's never been better than it is today.

And again, any time you'd like, we want to have you back as soon as possible. Thank you very much for being here.

PRIME MINISTER MODI: (As interpreted.) Well, Mr. President, let me express my gratitude for this invitation that was extended to me. It is true that I have spent a very short time over here, but really, I have felt so much at home during this stay in the United States.

And I am indeed also very grateful to the First Lady. She has organized this reception in my honor, and this honors not just me, but 1.25 billion people of India. So, once again, let me thank you and express my gratitude.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you. You know, the Prime Minister was going to come here at a different time, but we worked out this time because they had elections in a section of India. And it's just a small section, but we said, it's the seventh largest country in the world, that small section of India. (Laughter.) So I said, you know what, this is a better day. (Laughter.) But it is great to have you.

Thank you very much. Thank you all for being here. Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER MODI: (As interpreted.) And to add icing to the cake is that in those elections, our party won.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good.

PRIME MINISTER MODI: And after many years, we've got three-fourth majority in the state assembly.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's fantastic. That's a good win indeed. You won by a lot.

Thank you all. Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very much.

END

6:32 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump at the Unleashing American Energy Event

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 29, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at the Unleashing American Energy Event

U.S. Department of Energy

Washington, D.C.

3:31 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, everybody. Thank you very much. (Applause.) How are you?

Well I want to thank everybody on stage. They are really a terrific team. We have some of the real winners in the audience, too, that I can tell you -- some great, great people.

I want to thank Vice President Pence. As always, he's right there and he has really been a help to this administration. We have some big things happening today, and we have some very big things happening over the next month, and I guess probably I can say over the next eight years. I suspect I can say that. (Applause.)

It's wonderful to be here with so many pioneers and visionaries from America's energy industry -- great industry. I want to thank the leaders of our great energy companies for joining us today and for supporting our efforts to bring true wealth and prosperity to our people. That's true. Come on, give yourself a hand. (Applause.)

You deserve it. You deserve it. You've gone through eight years of hell, and actually I could say even a little bit more than that. You deserve it.

I also want to express our sincere gratitude to the labor union leaders and members who have joined us today. Thank you, fellas. Thank you, thank you. (Applause.) Your workers embody the skill, grit and courage that has always been the true source of American strength. They are great people. They break through rock walls, mine the depths of the earth, and reach through the ocean floor, to bring every ounce of energy into our homes and commerce and into our lives. Our nation salutes you. You're brave and you are great workers. Thank you very much. Thank you, fellas. (Applause.)

Before turning to the topic at hand, I want to provide a brief update on two crucial votes taking place this afternoon on the House Floor -- very important. These bills are vital to public safety and national security, and I want to thank Chairman Bob Goodlatte for his efforts. Bob has been working very hard and really for a long time, but we got it going.

First, the House will be voting on Kate's Law -- legislation named for Kate Steinle, who was killed by an illegal immigrant with five prior deportations and lots of bad things on his record.

The second is the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act, which blocks federal grants to cities that release dangerous criminal aliens back into the streets, including the vicious and disgusting and horrible MS-13 gang members. And we're getting them out. We are getting them out. They're going -- fast. (Applause.)

General Kelly and his whole group -- they've gotten rid of 6,000 so far. We're about 50 percent there, and we're actually liberating towns. Like on Long Island, where I grew up -- we're liberating towns. Those people are so happy to see our guys, and our guys are a lot tougher than the MS-13 characters. That I can tell you. Liberation. (Applause.)

I'm calling on all lawmakers to put the safety of American families first. And let's pass these bills through the House, through the Senate, and send them to my desk. I will give you the fastest approval, the fastest signature that you have ever seen. Right, Mike? We will get that signed so fast. (Applause.) So when we get back, the first thing I'm going to do is how did we do on the vote? I expect good things; otherwise I probably wouldn't be talking about it to be honest with you. I'd just sort of low-key it a little bit. (Laughter.) I don't like losing. I don't like losing. (Laughter.) Neither do you folks. Every member of Congress should vote to save American lives. Many great members of Congress are here with us this afternoon -- some great people, some great, great people. Thank you very much. Not only are they working with us on border security, but they share our desire to unleash American energy.

I especially want to thank Secretary Perry for his tremendous leadership in this department. He has really done a terrific job, and he's also a cheerleader -- he's really a cheerleader. I watched that in Texas. The thing that I loved about him -- he was always saying how great Texas was. And if you don't say it, I don't know. You got to say it, right? And you're doing it right now with energy.

SECRETARY PERRY: Ain't bragging if you can do it.

THE PRESIDENT: That's true.

Along with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. And we've been through our battles, Scott. Not with each other, with the world. And now the world is starting to say I think they're right. (Laughter.) They'll find out. We have no doubt. But all three of them strongly believe in putting America first, which is what I believe in, which is why I got elected. It's called Make America Great Again -- that's what we're doing -- Make America Great Again.

We're here today to usher in a new American energy policy -- one that unlocks million and millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in wealth. For over 40 years, America was vulnerable to foreign regimes that used energy as an economic weapon. Americans' quality of life was diminished by the idea that energy resources were too scarce to support our people. We always

thought that, and actually at the time it was right to think. We didn't think we had this tremendous wealth under our feet. Many of us remember the long gas lines and the constant claims that the world was running out of oil and natural gas.

Americans were told that our nation could only solve this energy crisis by imposing draconian restrictions on energy production. But we now know that was all a big, beautiful myth. It was fake. Don't we love that term, "fake"? What we've learned about fake over the last little while -- fake news, CNN. Fake. (Laughter and Applause.) Whoops, their camera just went off. (Laughter.) Okay, you can come back. I won't say -- I promise I won't say anything more about you. I see that red light go off, I say, whoa. The truth is that we have near-limitless supplies of energy in our country. Powered by new innovation and technology, we are now on the cusp of a true energy revolution.

Our country is blessed with extraordinary energy abundance, which we didn't know of, even five years ago and certainly ten years ago. We have nearly 100 years' worth of natural gas and more than 250 years' worth of clean, beautiful coal. We are a top producer of petroleum and the number-one producer of natural gas. We have so much more than we ever thought possible. We are really in the driving seat. And you know what? We don't want to let other countries take away our sovereignty and tell us what to do and how to do it. That's not going to happen. (Applause.) With these incredible resources, my administration will seek not only American energy independence that we've been looking for so long, but American energy dominance.

And we're going to be an exporter -- exporter. (Applause.) We will be dominant. We will export American energy all over the world, all around the globe. These energy exports will create countless jobs for our people, and provide true energy security to our friends, partners, and allies all across the globe.

But this full potential can only be realized when government promotes energy development -- that's this guy right here, and he'll do it better than anybody -- instead of obstructing it like the Democrats. They obstruct it. But we get through it. We cannot have obstruction. We have to get out and do our job better and faster than anybody in the world, certainly when it comes to one of our great assets -- energy. This vast energy wealth does not belong to the government. It belongs to the people of the United States of America. (Applause.) Yet, for the past eight years, the federal government imposed massive job-killing barriers to American energy development.

Since my very first day in office, I have been moving at record pace to cancel these regulations and to eliminate the barriers to domestic energy production, like never before. Job-killing regulations are being removed and vital infrastructure projects are being approved at a level that they've never seen before. As you all know, I approved the Keystone XL Pipeline and the Dakota Access Pipeline in my first week. Thousands of jobs -- tremendous things are happening. And, by the way, I thought I'd take a lot of heat. I didn't take any heat. I approved them and that was it. I figured we'd have all sorts of protests. We didn't have anything.

But I have to do -- whether it's protesting or not, I have to do what's right. But people celebrate those two transactions, as opposed to protesting. But sometimes you have to go out and just do it, and you find out. Whatever happens, happens. But you have to be right for the American people. (Applause.) Thank you.

I'm dramatically reducing restrictions on the development of natural gas. I cancelled the moratorium on a new coal leasing -- and you know what was happening -- the new coal leasing on federal lands, it was being so terribly restricted. And now with Ryan and with a group, it's going to be open, and the land will be left in better shape than it is right now. Is that right? Better shape. (Applause.)

We have finally ended the war on coal. And I am proud to report that Corsa Coal, here with us today, just opened a brand-new coal mine in the state of Pennsylvania, the first one in many, many, many years. Corsa, stand up. Come on. (Applause.) Congratulations. Congratulations. Employing a lot of people, and we are putting the coal miners back to work just like I promised --

just like I promised when I went through Ohio and West Virginia, Wyoming and all of the different places. And I see Bob back there. Congratulations, Bob. He's in great shape, right? You in good shape, Bob? Right from the beginning. Good. You just take care of yourself, all right?

We're ending intrusive EPA regulations that kill jobs, hurt family farmers and ranchers, and raise the price of energy so quickly and so substantially.

In order to protect American jobs, companies and workers, we've withdrawn the United States from the one-sided Paris Climate Accord. (Applause.)

And I won't get into it, but believe me, that really put this country at a disadvantage. Number one, we weren't playing on the same field. It kicked in for us, and it doesn't kick in for others. The money that we had to pay was enormous. It was not even close. And maybe we'll be back into it someday, but it will be on better terms. It will be on fair terms -- not on terms where we're the people that don't know what we're doing.

So we'll see what happens. But I will tell you we're proud of it. And when I go around, there are so many people that say thank you. You saved the sovereignty of our country. You saved our wealth because we would have a hard time getting to this newfound wealth. And that's not going to happen with our country. (Applause.)

Today, I am proudly announcing six brand-new initiatives to propel this new era of American energy dominance. First, we will begin to revive and expand our nuclear energy sector -- which I'm so happy about -- which produces clean, renewable and emissions-free energy. A complete review of U.S. nuclear energy policy will help us find new ways to revitalize this crucial energy resource. And I know you're very excited about that, Rick.

Second, the Department of the Treasury will address barriers to the financing of highly efficient, overseas coal energy plants. Ukraine already tells us they need millions and millions of metric tons right now. There are many other places that need it, too. And we want to sell it to them, and to everyone else all over the globe who need it.

Third, my administration has just approved the construction of a new petroleum pipeline to Mexico, which will further boost American energy exports, and that will go right under the wall, right? It's going under, right? (Laughter and applause.) Have it go down a little deeper in that one section. You know, a little like this. Right under the wall.

Fourth, just today, a major U.S. company, Sempra Energy, signed an agreement to begin negotiations for the sale of more American natural gas to South Korea. And, as you know, the leaders of South Korea are coming to the White House today, and we've got a lot of discussion to do. But we will also be talking about them buying energy from the United States of America, and I'm sure they'll like to do it. They need it. Thank you. (Applause.)

Fifth, the United States Department of Energy is announcing today that it will approve two long-term applications to export additional natural gas from the Lake Charles LNG terminal in Louisiana. It's going to be a big deal. It's a great announcement.

Finally, in order to unlock more energy from the 94 percent of offshore land closed to development, under the previous administration, so much of our land was closed to development. We're opening it up, the right areas, but we're opening it up -- we're creating a new offshore oil and gas leasing program. America will be allowed to access the vast energy wealth located right off our shores. And this is all just the beginning -- believe me.

The golden era of American energy is now underway. And I'll go a step further: The golden era of America is now underway. Believe me. (Applause.)

And you're all going to be a part of it in creating this exciting new future. We will bring new opportunity to the heartland, new prosperity to our inner cities, and new infrastructure all across our nation. When it comes to the future of America's energy needs, we will find it, we will dream it, and we will build it.

American energy will power our ships, our planes and our cities. American hands will bend the steel and pour the concrete that brings this energy into our homes and that exports this

incredible, newfound energy all around the world. And American grit will ensure that what we dream, and what we build, will truly be second to none. We will be number one again all the way. We're going to make America great again.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

3:49 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the President at a Dinner with South Korean President Moon Jae-in

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 29, 2017

Remarks by the President at a Dinner with South Korean President Moon Jae-in

State Dining Room

6:22 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: President Moon, thank you very much. It's a great honor to have you at the White House and your very beautiful and lovely wife. We appreciate it.

And we're going to have tremendous discussions tonight. I know you've been discussing with our people some of the complexities of North Korea and trade and other things, and we'll be discussing them all as we progress -- and it could be very well late into the evening.

We very much respect you and we very much respect the people of South Korea.

I'd like to also congratulate you upon your election victory. It was a great victory, and you did a fantastic job. A lot of people didn't expect that, and I did expect it. I thought that was going to happen. So I want to congratulate you very much.

And thank you also, thank you for coming.

END

6:23 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

10:21 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I want to thank the President of South Korea, President Moon, for being here. We had a great afternoon yesterday. We had fantastic dinner at the White House -- accomplished a lot, having to do with our thoughts on North Korea and, very much, our thoughts on trade.

We are renegotiating a trade deal right now as we speak with South Korea, and hopefully it will be an equitable deal -- it will be a fair deal to both parties. It's been a rough deal for the United States, but I think that it will be much different and it will be good for both parties. So we're in the process of doing that.

We're also in the process of discussing our, frankly, many options -- and we have many options -- with respect to North Korea.

Thank you very much. President.

The President will speak.

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) I would like to thank President Trump once again for inviting me to the White House and for his warm welcome. When I won the election last month, President Trump was the first among all foreign leaders to call me to congratulate me. I believe that was to reconfirm the strength of the Korea-U.S. alliance and also President Trump's warm message to the Korean people who had been suffering through political turmoil.

Last night, at the dinner with President Trump, we discussed various issues through a diverse scope and very honest discussions on issues to include the North Korean nuclear issue and other issues of mutual interest. It was a great opportunity for us to further the trust and friendship between me and President Trump. It was also an opportunity for us to reconfirm the fact that the United States and Korea are walking together on the same path towards a great alliance.

So I hope that through this summit meeting today, I hope that our relationship can further develop into a more meaningful and fruitful relationship.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: What many people don't know is that South Korea is a major trading partner with the United States and we want something that's going to be good for the American worker. And I think we'll be able to do that today, and I think we'll be able to do many other things. So the relationship is very, very strong, and our personal relationship with President Moon - - our personal relationship is very, very good.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

END

10:26 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump, President Moon, Commerce Secretary Ross, and NEC Director Cohn in Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2017

Remarks by President Trump, President Moon, Commerce Secretary Ross, and NEC Director Cohn in Bilateral Meeting

Cabinet Room

10:50 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay, thank you very much. We have many of our great members, our Vice President, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense. We have several of our really wonderful leaders here. And you have your leaders with you and your representatives.

And we're going to be discussing two things mostly, and number one would be North Korea, and we pretty much discussed that last night at length. I think we have a very, very strong, solid plan. And number two is going to be, of course, trade -- because the trade deal is up, and we want to make a deal that's fair for the United States and fair for South Korea. So we'll start doing that.

Gary Cohn is here. Wilbur Ross is here. And I think that's a very important thing. And, Wilbur, perhaps you'd like to say a few things about trade right now, and we can probably leave the media -- because trade is very important -- for a little while. But perhaps you'd say a few words about trade and what we're looking to do.

SECRETARY ROSS: Yes, sir. The trade imbalance with South Korea has doubled since the KORUS treaty was put into effect, and the largest single component of that is automotive trade.

That's an absolute majority of it. So there are a lot of non-tariff trade barriers to U.S. exports. Only 25,000 cars per Big Three manufacturer are allowed in based on U.S. standards. Anything above that needs to be on Korean standards.

So that kind of rulemaking affects quite a few industries and really restricts the access that U.S. companies have to the Korean market.

We have a separate problem with oilfield tubular goods and other steel products. There is no domestic market for oilfield tubular goods in Korea. So everything they make is for export, and we had recent trade cases demonstrating that a lot of that is dumped Chinese steel coming as hot-rolled coil and then coming back to the U.S. as oilfield tubular goods.

So there are a lot of very specific problems, and I think the way to address it is to deal product by product with what we can do to change the export side and what we can do to reduce the bad import side.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: All right, thank you very much. You can stay for this also. Perhaps Gary Cohn could say a few words also about trade.

MR. COHN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President. As you know, much of our biggest problem on trade has to do with our economic relationship with China, and we have maintained a very large trade deficit with China, and it continues to grow.

As Wilbur said, China has many predatory practices in the way they deal with us, with intellectual property and trade barriers for us. We're forced to transfer technology into China, forced to have joint ventures in China. We have tariffs and nontariff barriers; unable to own companies in China, as well. And we're dealing with all of their policies.

At some point we'd be interested to hear how you're dealing with the Chinese policies and how you can help us in dealing with Chinese policies.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. The fact is that the United States has trade deficits with many, many countries, and we cannot allow that to continue. And we'll start with South Korea right now. But we cannot allow that to continue. This is really a statement that I make about all trade. For many, many years, the United States has suffered through massive trade deficits. That's why we have \$20 trillion in debt. So we'll be changing that.

The good news is we're making great products. And I appreciate very much they're giving -- South Korea is giving very, very big orders to the United States for -- as you know, for military. They're buying many F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed, and they're buying other military equipment at a level that they've never reached before. So that's good.

Also, I understand you're dealing with Alaska -- great state -- on natural gas, and other parts of the United States. We have a lot of natural gas, so we love that you're going to do that.

And things like that will bring down the trade deficit substantially. That's what we like, and we appreciate it very much.

Mr. President, would you like to say something before the media leaves?

PRESIDENT MOON: (Speaks Korean. No translation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay, we can do that. And I'm sure that everybody understood that answer. (Laughter.) I hope. But it was a very good answer.

Thank you all very much.

END

10:56 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump at the Three Seas Initiative Summit

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at the Three Seas Initiative Summit | July 6, 2017

Royal Castle

Warsaw, Poland

11:17 A.M. CEST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. I greatly appreciate it. This is a beautiful room, I must say. I love beautiful rooms and this is one of them. I want to thank you, President and President. Thank you very much -- good to see you again -- for hosting this historic summit. I'm honored to be here in a city where, as it's been said many times before, the impossible has become the possible. And thanks to the 11 leaders in this room, I think that the expression will become the story of this incredible initiative. I want to congratulate you on the great job you've done.

This region has special significance to me because, as you know, my wife, is from Slovenia. Right? We spoke about it. Very good. And she loves Slovenia.

Every one of your nations has an inspiring story. You've overcome years of oppression, and you all are united by the hope that your citizens will flourish, your commerce will prosper, and your countries will absolutely thrive. That's what's going to happen, because I know the people. This is the spirit of hope that brings us all together.

We're here at this historic gathering to launch a new future for open, fair, and affordable energy markets that bring greater security and prosperity to all of our citizens. We are sitting on massive energy and we are now exporters of energy. So, if one of you need energy, just give us a call.

On behalf of the American people, let me say that we stand with the Three Seas nations. Beautiful nations, by the way. Beautiful country. We support your drive for greater prosperity and security. We applaud your initiative to expand infrastructure. We welcome this historic opportunity to deepen our economic partnership with your region.

It's been 28 years since your brave citizens lifted the Iron Curtain and defeated communism, yet much of the infrastructure within Central and Eastern Europe has remained a relic of the old Soviet era. It's pretty incredible. Your people have been held back by the old roads, railways, and pipelines that still operate on restrictive systems.

The Three Seas Initiative will transform and rebuild the entire region and ensure that your infrastructure, like your commitment to freedom and rule of law, binds you to all of Europe and, indeed, to the West.

The United States also strongly supports the creation of the Three Seas Business Forum so that your countries can build cutting-edge projects with the best talent in the energy industry, and do so under budget and ahead of schedule. I love that sound -- under budget and ahead of schedule. Nothing like it.

New energy infrastructure is essential to this rebuilding effort. We hope that the Three Seas nations will advance the same goals we are working on to achieve for our people in America. We're doing tremendously well. Our stock market just hit an all-time high. We have, I think, 16 years -- in 16 years it's the lowest unemployment rate. Our military is getting stronger and stronger. We're rebuilding it, adding billions and billions of dollars of new equipment. The best equipment in the world. We make the best equipment in the world by far. We're adding many billions of dollars of brand-new equipment.

And the United States is doing very well -- very strong. We've taken off restrictions and people are really moving hard. So when I say that the stock market is at an all-time high, we've picked up in market value almost \$4 trillion since November 8th, which was the election. \$4 trillion -- it's a lot of money. Personally, I picked up nothing, but that's all right. Everyone else is getting rich. That's okay. I'm very happy.

Greater access to energy markets, fewer barriers to energy trade and development, and strengthening energy security is what we're looking to do. The Three Seas initiative has the

potential to accomplish all of these essential objectives -- and very quickly -- because you have incredible people, and they will get it done quickly.

I congratulate your nations for already beginning the critical projects that open us up to greater access, and you'll be totally open and have access to energy markets and remove barriers to energy trade, such as floating LNG terminal on the Croatian island of Krk. Did you ever hear of that? Right? Huh? You know all about that. I bet you know all about it. And the Greece-Bulgaria Interconnector.

These projects and many others are crucial to ensuring that your nations continue to diversify your energy sources, suppliers, and routes. I also applaud Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, and Austria for pursuing a pipeline from the Black Sea. We just approved a big pipeline also -- the Keystone Pipeline. It was under consideration for many, many years, and it was dead and I approved it in my first day of office. And it's now under construction. And another pipeline besides that -- big ones -- Dakota Access.

The United States is proud to see that our abundant energy resources are already helping the Three Seas Nations achieve much-needed energy diversification. In fact, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the government and people of Poland for receiving their first shipment of U.S. liquefied natural gas last month. And you made a very good deal, I understand.

Let me be very clear about one crucial point: The United States will never use energy to coerce your nations, and we cannot allow others to do so. You don't want to have a monopoly or a monopolistic situation. The United States is firmly committed to open, fair, and competitive markets for global energy trade.

America will be a faithful and dependable partner in the export and sale of our high-quality and low-cost energy resources and technologies. We make the best technology and we make the best, best technology for fighter jets and ships and equipment, military weapons. There's nobody even close, and that's acknowledged. All over the world they talk about the greatness of our military equipment. Nobody comes close. So when you buy and as you buy military equipment, hopefully you'll be thinking only of the United States.

With the expanded trade and new infrastructure, we will unleash incredible energy innovation that is safe, responsible, and environmentally friendly. The United States supports a commonsense approach to protecting natural resources -- one that responsibly balances economic growth, job creation, and energy security. We invite all countries to work with us to achieve this objective and to develop innovative technologies that empower nations around the world to be faithful stewards of their natural resources, while lifting millions out of poverty and into great and beautiful futures.

The Three Seas Initiative will not only empower your people to prosper, but it will ensure that your nations remain sovereign, secure, and free from foreign coercion. The Three Seas nations will stand stronger than they have stood before. When your nations are strong, all the free nations of Europe are stronger, and the West becomes stronger as well. Together, our nation and yours can bring greater peace, prosperity, and safety to all of our people.

This summit ushers in the next great energy frontier. This is largely about energy because we are that great exporter. We've just become -- what's going on in our country is incredible, and I hope you take advantage of it by using these resources.

I'm thrilled to join you today and I want everyone to know that the United States supports your bold efforts. These projects will improve countless lives across the region and throughout the world. America will be your strongest ally and steadfast partner in this truly historic initiative.

So, congratulations to everybody. And we stand ready, willing, and able to help with your energy needs and other needs as they come along.

Thank you very much.

END

11:26 A.M. CEST

Remarks by President Trump to the People of Poland

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

July 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump to the People of Poland | July 6, 2017

Krasiński Square

Warsaw, Poland

1:16 P.M. CEST

MRS. TRUMP: Hello, Poland! Thank you very much. My husband and I have enjoyed visiting your beautiful country. I want to thank President and Mrs. Duda for the warm welcome and their generous hospitality. I had the opportunity to visit the Copernicus Science Centre today, and found it not only informative but thoughtful, its mission, which is to inspire people to observe, experiment, ask questions, and seek answers.

I can think of no better purpose for such a wonderful science center. Thank you to all who were involved in giving us the tour, especially the children who made it such a wonderful experience.

As many of you know, a main focus of my husband's presidency is safety and security of the American people. I think all of us can agree people should be able to live their lives without fear, no matter what country they live in. That is my wish for all of us around the world. (Applause.)

Thank you again for this wonderful welcome to your very special country. Your kindness and gracious hospitality will not be forgotten. (Applause.)

And now it is my honor to introduce to you my husband, the President of the United States, Donald J. Trump. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. That's so nice. The United States has many great diplomats, but there is truly no better ambassador for our country than our beautiful First Lady, Melania. Thank you, Melania. That was very nice. (Applause.)

We've come to your nation to deliver a very important message: America loves Poland, and America loves the Polish people. (Applause.) Thank you.

The Poles have not only greatly enriched this region, but Polish-Americans have also greatly enriched the United States, and I was truly proud to have their support in the 2016 election. (Applause.)

It is a profound honor to stand in this city, by this monument to the Warsaw Uprising, and to address the Polish nation that so many generations have dreamed of: a Poland that is safe, strong, and free. (Applause.)

President Duda and your wonderful First Lady, Agata, have welcomed us with the tremendous warmth and kindness for which Poland is known around the world. Thank you. (Applause.) My sincere -- and I mean sincerely thank both of them. And to Prime Minister Syzdo, a very special thanks also. (Applause.)

We are also pleased that former President Lech Walesa, so famous for leading the Solidarity Movement, has joined us today, also. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

On behalf of all Americans, let me also thank the entire Polish people for the generosity you have shown in welcoming our soldiers to your country. These soldiers are not only brave defenders of freedom, but also symbols of America's commitment to your security and your place in a strong and democratic Europe.

We are proudly joined on stage by American, Polish, British, and Romanian soldiers. Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you. Great job.

President Duda and I have just come from an incredibly successful meeting with the leaders participating in the Three Seas Initiative. To the citizens of this great region, America is eager to expand our partnership with you. We welcome stronger ties of trade and commerce as you grow

your economies. And we are committed to securing your access to alternate sources of energy, so Poland and its neighbors are never again held hostage to a single supplier of energy. (Applause.)

Mr. President, I congratulate you, along with the President of Croatia, on your leadership of this historic Three Seas Initiative. Thank you. (Applause.)

This is my first visit to Central Europe as President, and I am thrilled that it could be right here at this magnificent, beautiful piece of land. It is beautiful. (Applause.) Poland is the geographic heart of Europe, but more importantly, in the Polish people, we see the soul of Europe. Your nation is great because your spirit is great and your spirit is strong. (Applause.)

For two centuries, Poland suffered constant and brutal attacks. But while Poland could be invaded and occupied, and its borders even erased from the map, it could never be erased from history or from your hearts. In those dark days, you have lost your land but you never lost your pride. (Applause.)

So it is with true admiration that I can say today, that from the farms and villages of your countryside to the cathedrals and squares of your great cities, Poland lives, Poland prospers, and Poland prevails. (Applause.)

Despite every effort to transform you, oppress you, or destroy you, you endured and overcame. You are the proud nation of Copernicus -- think of that -- (applause) -- Chopin, Saint John Paul II. Poland is a land of great heroes. (Applause.) And you are a people who know the true value of what you defend.

The triumph of the Polish spirit over centuries of hardship gives us all hope for a future in which good conquers evil, and peace achieves victory over war.

For Americans, Poland has been a symbol of hope since the beginning of our nation. Polish heroes and American patriots fought side by side in our War of Independence and in many wars that followed. Our soldiers still serve together today in Afghanistan and Iraq, combatting the enemies of all civilization.

For America's part, we have never given up on freedom and independence as the right and destiny of the Polish people, and we never, ever will. (Applause.)

Our two countries share a special bond forged by unique histories and national characters. It's a fellowship that exists only among people who have fought and bled and died for freedom. (Applause.)

The signs of this friendship stand in our nation's capital. Just steps from the White House, we've raised statues of men with names like Pułaski and Kościuszko. (Applause.) The same is true in Warsaw, where street signs carry the name of George Washington, and a monument stands to one of the world's greatest heroes, Ronald Reagan. (Applause.)

And so I am here today not just to visit an old ally, but to hold it up as an example for others who seek freedom and who wish to summon the courage and the will to defend our civilization. (Applause.) The story of Poland is the story of a people who have never lost hope, who have never been broken, and who have never, ever forgotten who they are. (Applause)

AUDIENCE: Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you so much. Such a great honor. This is a nation more than one thousand years old. Your borders were erased for more than a century and only restored just one century ago.

In 1920, in the Miracle of Vistula, Poland stopped the Soviet army bent on European conquest. (Applause.) Then, 19 years later in 1939, you were invaded yet again, this time by Nazi Germany from the west and the Soviet Union from the east. That's trouble. That's tough.

Under a double occupation the Polish people endured evils beyond description: the Katyn forest massacre, the occupations, the Holocaust, the Warsaw Ghetto and the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the destruction of this beautiful capital city, and the deaths of nearly one in five Polish people. A vibrant Jewish population -- the largest in Europe -- was reduced to almost nothing after

the Nazis systematically murdered millions of Poland's Jewish citizens, along with countless others, during that brutal occupation.

In the summer of 1944, the Nazi and Soviet armies were preparing for a terrible and bloody battle right here in Warsaw. Amid that hell on earth, the citizens of Poland rose up to defend their homeland. I am deeply honored to be joined on stage today by veterans and heroes of the Warsaw Uprising. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: (Chanting.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: What great spirit. We salute your noble sacrifice and we pledge to always remember your fight for Poland and for freedom. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

This monument reminds us that more than 150,000 Poles died during that desperate struggle to overthrow oppression.

From the other side of the river, the Soviet armed forces stopped and waited. They watched as the Nazis ruthlessly destroyed the city, viciously murdering men, women, and children. They tried to destroy this nation forever by shattering its will to survive.

But there is a courage and a strength deep in the Polish character that no one could destroy. The Polish martyr, Bishop Michael Kozal, said it well: "More horrifying than a defeat of arms is a collapse of the human spirit."

Through four decades of communist rule, Poland and the other captive nations of Europe endured a brutal campaign to demolish freedom, your faith, your laws, your history, your identity -- indeed the very essence of your culture and your humanity. Yet, through it all, you never lost that spirit. (Applause.) Your oppressors tried to break you, but Poland could not be broken. (Applause.)

And when the day came on June 2nd, 1979, and one million Poles gathered around Victory Square for their very first mass with their Polish Pope, that day, every communist in Warsaw must have known that their oppressive system would soon come crashing down. (Applause.) They must have known it at the exact moment during Pope John Paul II's sermon when a million Polish men, women, and children suddenly raised their voices in a single prayer. A million Polish people did not ask for wealth. They did not ask for privilege. Instead, one million Poles sang three simple words: "We Want God." (Applause.)

In those words, the Polish people recalled the promise of a better future. They found new courage to face down their oppressors, and they found the words to declare that Poland would be Poland once again.

As I stand here today before this incredible crowd, this faithful nation, we can still hear those voices that echo through history. Their message is as true today as ever. The people of Poland, the people of America, and the people of Europe still cry out "We want God." (Applause.)

Together, with Pope John Paul II, the Poles reasserted their identity as a nation devoted to God. And with that powerful declaration of who you are, you came to understand what to do and how to live. You stood in solidarity against oppression, against a lawless secret police, against a cruel and wicked system that impoverished your cities and your souls. And you won. Poland prevailed. Poland will always prevail. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. You were supported in that victory over communism by a strong alliance of free nations in the West that defied tyranny. Now, among the most committed members of the NATO Alliance, Poland has resumed its place as a leading nation of a Europe that is strong, whole, and free.

A strong Poland is a blessing to the nations of Europe, and they know that. A strong Europe is a blessing to the West and to the world. (Applause.) One hundred years after the entry of American forces into World War I, the transatlantic bond between the United States and Europe is as strong as ever and maybe, in many ways, even stronger.

This continent no longer confronts the specter of communism. But today we're in the West, and we have to say there are dire threats to our security and to our way of life. You see what's happening out there. They are threats. We will confront them. We will win. But they are threats. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We are confronted by another oppressive ideology -- one that seeks to export terrorism and extremism all around the globe. America and Europe have suffered one terror attack after another. We're going to get it to stop. (Applause.)

During a historic gathering in Saudi Arabia, I called on the leaders of more than 50 Muslim nations to join together to drive out this menace which threatens all of humanity. We must stand united against these shared enemies to strip them of their territory and their funding, and their networks, and any form of ideological support that they may have. While we will always welcome new citizens who share our values and love our people, our borders will always be closed to terrorism and extremism of any kind. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We are fighting hard against radical Islamic terrorism, and we will prevail. We cannot accept those who reject our values and who use hatred to justify violence against the innocent.

Today, the West is also confronted by the powers that seek to test our will, undermine our confidence, and challenge our interests. To meet new forms of aggression, including propaganda, financial crimes, and cyberwarfare, we must adapt our alliance to compete effectively in new ways and on all new battlefields.

We urge Russia to cease its destabilizing activities in Ukraine and elsewhere, and its support for hostile regimes -- including Syria and Iran -- and to instead join the community of responsible nations in our fight against common enemies and in defense of civilization itself. (Applause.)

Finally, on both sides of the Atlantic, our citizens are confronted by yet another danger -- one firmly within our control. This danger is invisible to some but familiar to the Poles: the steady creep of government bureaucracy that drains the vitality and wealth of the people. The West became great not because of paperwork and regulations but because people were allowed to chase their dreams and pursue their destinies.

Americans, Poles, and the nations of Europe value individual freedom and sovereignty. We must work together to confront forces, whether they come from inside or out, from the South or the East, that threaten over time to undermine these values and to erase the bonds of culture, faith and tradition that make us who we are. (Applause.) If left unchecked, these forces will undermine our courage, sap our spirit, and weaken our will to defend ourselves and our societies.

But just as our adversaries and enemies of the past learned here in Poland, we know that these forces, too, are doomed to fail if we want them to fail. And we do, indeed, want them to fail. (Applause.) They are doomed not only because our alliance is strong, our countries are resilient, and our power is unmatched. Through all of that, you have to say everything is true. Our adversaries, however, are doomed because we will never forget who we are. And if we don't forget who are, we just can't be beaten. Americans will never forget. The nations of Europe will never forget. We are the fastest and the greatest community. There is nothing like our community of nations. The world has never known anything like our community of nations.

We write symphonies. We pursue innovation. We celebrate our ancient heroes, embrace our timeless traditions and customs, and always seek to explore and discover brand-new frontiers.

We reward brilliance. We strive for excellence, and cherish inspiring works of art that honor God. We treasure the rule of law and protect the right to free speech and free expression. (Applause.)

We empower women as pillars of our society and of our success. We put faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, at the center of our lives. And we debate everything. We

challenge everything. We seek to know everything so that we can better know ourselves. (Applause.)

And above all, we value the dignity of every human life, protect the rights of every person, and share the hope of every soul to live in freedom. That is who we are. Those are the priceless ties that bind us together as nations, as allies, and as a civilization.

What we have, what we inherited from our -- and you know this better than anybody, and you see it today with this incredible group of people -- what we've inherited from our ancestors has never existed to this extent before. And if we fail to preserve it, it will never, ever exist again. So we cannot fail.

This great community of nations has something else in common: In every one of them, it is the people, not the powerful, who have always formed the foundation of freedom and the cornerstone of our defense. The people have been that foundation here in Poland -- as they were right here in Warsaw -- and they were the foundation from the very, very beginning in America.

Our citizens did not win freedom together, did not survive horrors together, did not face down evil together, only to lose our freedom to a lack of pride and confidence in our values. We did not and we will not. We will never back down. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!

PRESIDENT TRUMP: As long as we know our history, we will know how to build our future. Americans know that a strong alliance of free, sovereign and independent nations is the best defense for our freedoms and for our interests. That is why my administration has demanded that all members of NATO finally meet their full and fair financial obligation.

As a result of this insistence, billions of dollars more have begun to pour into NATO. In fact, people are shocked. But billions and billions of dollars more are coming in from countries that, in my opinion, would not have been paying so quickly.

To those who would criticize our tough stance, I would point out that the United States has demonstrated not merely with words but with its actions that we stand firmly behind Article 5, the mutual defense commitment. (Applause.)

Words are easy, but actions are what matters. And for its own protection -- and you know this, everybody knows this, everybody has to know this -- Europe must do more. Europe must demonstrate that it believes in its future by investing its money to secure that future.

That is why we applaud Poland for its decision to move forward this week on acquiring from the United States the battle-tested Patriot air and missile defense system -- the best anywhere in the world. (Applause.) That is also why we salute the Polish people for being one of the NATO countries that has actually achieved the benchmark for investment in our common defense. Thank you. Thank you, Poland. I must tell you, the example you set is truly magnificent, and we applaud Poland. Thank you. (Applause.)

We have to remember that our defense is not just a commitment of money, it is a commitment of will. Because as the Polish experience reminds us, the defense of the West ultimately rests not only on means but also on the will of its people to prevail and be successful and get what you have to have. The fundamental question of our time is whether the West has the will to survive. Do we have the confidence in our values to defend them at any cost? Do we have enough respect for our citizens to protect our borders? Do we have the desire and the courage to preserve our civilization in the face of those who would subvert and destroy it? (Applause.)

We can have the largest economies and the most lethal weapons anywhere on Earth, but if we do not have strong families and strong values, then we will be weak and we will not survive. (Applause.) If anyone forgets the critical importance of these things, let them come to one country that never has. Let them come to Poland. (Applause.) And let them come here, to Warsaw, and learn the story of the Warsaw Uprising.

When they do, they should learn about Jerusalem Avenue. In August of 1944, Jerusalem Avenue was one of the main roads running east and west through this city, just as it is today.

Control of that road was crucially important to both sides in the battle for Warsaw. The German military wanted it as their most direct route to move troops and to form a very strong front. And for the Polish Home Army, the ability to pass north and south across that street was critical to keep the center of the city, and the Uprising itself, from being split apart and destroyed.

Every night, the Poles put up sandbags amid machine gun fire -- and it was horrendous fire -- to protect a narrow passage across Jerusalem Avenue. Every day, the enemy forces knocked them down again and again and again. Then the Poles dug a trench. Finally, they built a barricade. And the brave Polish fighters began to flow across Jerusalem Avenue. That narrow passageway, just a few feet wide, was the fragile link that kept the Uprising alive.

Between its walls, a constant stream of citizens and freedom fighters made their perilous, just perilous, sprints. They ran across that street, they ran through that street, they ran under that street -- all to defend this city. "The far side was several yards away," recalled one young Polish woman named Greta. That mortality and that life was so important to her. In fact, she said, "The mortally dangerous sector of the street was soaked in the blood. It was the blood of messengers, liaison girls, and couriers."

Nazi snipers shot at anybody who crossed. Anybody who crossed, they were being shot at. Their soldiers burned every building on the street, and they used the Poles as human shields for their tanks in their effort to capture Jerusalem Avenue. The enemy never ceased its relentless assault on that small outpost of civilization. And the Poles never ceased its defense.

The Jerusalem Avenue passage required constant protection, repair, and reinforcement, but the will of its defenders did not waver, even in the face of death. And to the last days of the Uprising, the fragile crossing never, ever failed. It was never, ever forgotten. It was kept open by the Polish people.

The memories of those who perished in the Warsaw Uprising cry out across the decades, and few are clearer than the memories of those who died to build and defend the Jerusalem Avenue crossing. Those heroes remind us that the West was saved with the blood of patriots; that each generation must rise up and play their part in its defense -- (applause) -- and that every foot of ground, and every last inch of civilization, is worth defending with your life.

Our own fight for the West does not begin on the battlefield -- it begins with our minds, our wills, and our souls. Today, the ties that unite our civilization are no less vital, and demand no less defense, than that bare shred of land on which the hope of Poland once totally rested. Our freedom, our civilization, and our survival depend on these bonds of history, culture, and memory.

And today as ever, Poland is in our heart, and its people are in that fight. (Applause.) Just as Poland could not be broken, I declare today for the world to hear that the West will never, ever be broken. Our values will prevail. Our people will thrive. And our civilization will triumph. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Donald Trump! Donald Trump! Donald Trump!

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. So, together, let us all fight like the Poles -- for family, for freedom, for country, and for God.

Thank you. God Bless You. God bless the Polish people. God bless our allies. And God bless the United States of America.

Thank you. God bless you. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

1:55 P.M. CEST

Remarks by President Trump and President Peña Nieto of Mexico Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

July 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Peña Nieto of Mexico Before Bilateral Meeting

Hamburg Messe

Hamburg, Germany

2:50 P.M. CET

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's great to be with my friend, the President of Mexico. And we're negotiating NAFTA and some other things with Mexico, and we'll see how it all turns out. But I think we've made very good progress.

So, it's great to be with you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PEÑA NIETO: (As interpreted.) Thank you very much. I want to thank you for opening this space that I have with President Donald Trump. I have truly (inaudible) help us continue a very flowing dialogue that will allow us, of course, for the negotiation of NAFTA; to continue working in terms of cooperation, especially for security, for the security of both nations, especially in our borders; and, of course, also working on migration issues, which is a task that both of our nations are occupied, and our administrations are occupied with this issue as well. And, of course, something that both of our administrations have taken upon ourselves to really admit, that is in a co-responsible manner to (inaudible) organized crime issues.

Thank you so much for this space of opportunity.

END

2:52 P.M. CET

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 08, 2017

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom

Hamburg Messe

Hamburg, Germany

9:02 A.M. CET

PRIME MINISTER MAY: (In progress.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we had a great group of people together, and really done a fantastic job together.

I'd like to thank Prime Minister May for being with us. We've had tremendous talks. There is no country that could possibly be closer than our countries. And I just want to say thank you very much. We are working on a trade deal -- a very, very big deal, a very powerful deal. Great for both countries. And I think we'll have that done very, very quickly. We have all of our trade people. We have Wilbur Ross with us. We have all of the trade people.

Rex and I had a tremendous meeting yesterday with President Putin, and we've had really great meetings with a lot of people. We're having a lot today. But Prime Minister May and I have developed a very special relationship, and I think trade will be a very big factor between our two countries. I want to thank you very much.

Q Will you be going to London?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I will be going to London, yes.

Q When will you be going, sir?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll work that out. We will be going to London. We'll be going to London

END 9:05 A.M. CET

Remarks by President Trump and President Widodo of Indonesia Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 08, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Widodo of Indonesia Before Bilateral Meeting

Hamburg Messe

Hamburg, Germany

11:04 A.M. CET

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's my great honor to have the President of Indonesia, a country that is doing extremely well -- and I would imagine a big part of that is leadership. Do you agree with that? (Laughter.)

We've become friends, and we're going to be doing a lot of deals together -- trade deals. We have our whole trade delegation here, and we will start doing a lot of trading with Indonesia. We do very little business, relatively, now. But we are going to do a lot of business.

So, Mr. President, it's a great honor to have you.

PRESIDENT WIDODO: Thank you for this meeting, President Trump. First and most importantly, I need to deliver to you warm greetings from your millions of fans in Indonesia. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

PRESIDENT WIDODO: They are only interested in one thing: When can they personally welcome you to Indonesia?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll get there. We'll get there. It's a place I'd like to go.

PRESIDENT WIDODO: I can get into serious trouble if I don't bring back some good news for your millions of fans in Indonesia. (Laughter.)

Second, I wanted to convey our sincere appreciation for Vice President Michael Pence visit to Jakarta --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's right. He did.

PRESIDENT WIDODO: -- three months ago. We really, really appreciate that your administration choose Indonesia as one of the four stops on your Vice President's tour around Asia.

Vice President Pence underlined the commitment of the USA to strengthen the strategic partnership with Indonesia. From our perspective, his visit was very, very successful. So once again, thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

END 11:07 A.M. CET

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 08, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore Before Bilateral Meeting

Hamburg Messe

Hamburg, Germany

12:48 P.M. CET

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. The Prime Minister of Singapore -- we're very close, the relationship is very close, and we expect to do some excellent things together in many ways. And we have a very big relationship now. It will probably get much bigger. And I thank you very much. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: Well, thank you, Mr. President. We have many things going on with the U.S. and we hope to do more under your administration.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very good. I'm sure we will.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

Q Mr. President, what was going on with Macron and May? Sounded interesting. Looked interesting.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Great friends. Great friends.

END 12:48 P.M. CET

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 08, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting

Hamburg Messe

Hamburg, Germany

2:52 P.M. CET

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great honor to have with us the Prime Minister of Japan. And we have many things that we've been discussing and that we will continue to discuss right now and later on this afternoon.

We made a lot of progress on trade and other elements. We're also talking, obviously, about North Korea, and the problem and menace of North Korea. And the Prime Minister is -- I will say this -- very, very focused on what's going on with respect to North Korea. So we will continue those discussions, and we appreciate you being here.

Mr. Prime Minister

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) So, at the very beginning of the G20 Summit this year, we actually made a great start to attend the trilateral summits among Japan, the U.S., and the Republic of Korea, which was kindly arranged by Donald. And I was very appreciative of your initiative to hold this trilateral summit. And also, as we are about to wrap up our discussions at the G20 Summit, it is a great pleasure for me to have our bilateral meeting with you.

As I look at the current situation, particularly the security environment in the Asia Pacific region, including North Korea, we believe that it has become increasingly severe. And against such backdrop, together with you, Donald, we would like to demonstrate the robust partnership as well as the bond between Japan and the United States on this occasion.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you.

END 2:56 P.M. CET

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with President Xi of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 08, 2017

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with President Xi of China
Hamburg Messe
Hamburg, Germany
3:51 P.M. CET

PRESIDENT XI: (No English translation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you, Mr. President. And on behalf of the United States, I would like to just say that it's an honor to have gotten to know you. We are developing, and have developed, a wonderful relationship. I appreciate the things that you have done relevant to the very substantial problem that we all face in North Korea -- a problem that something has to be done about. And I'm sure that whether it's on trade or whether it's on North Korea, or any of the many things that we will be discussing, we will come to a successful conclusion.

Trade is, as you know, as very, very big issue for the United States now, because for years, and certainly over a long period of time, many things have happened that have led to trade imbalances. And we're going to turn that around. And I know that China in particular, which is a great trading partner, we will be able to do something that will be equitable and reciprocal.

As far as North Korea is concerned, we will have, eventually, success. It may take longer than I'd like. It may take longer than you'd like. But there will be success in the end one way or the other.

I want to thank you very much for inviting us. And again, it's an honor to get to know you and your wife, a really wonderful woman. And it's an honor to have you as a friend.

Thank you very much.
END 3:55 P.M. CET

Remarks by President Trump and President Macron of France in Joint Press Conference | July 13, 2017

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 13, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Macron of France in Joint Press Conference | July 13, 2017

Élysée Palace
Paris, France
6:44 P.M. CET

PRESIDENT MACRON: (As interpreted.) Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. First and foremost, I want to thank President Trump for his visit to Paris this afternoon and tomorrow, tomorrow morning, as well as to thank his delegation. I was very pleased to be able to welcome President Trump and his spouse today. He accepted the invitation I extended a couple of weeks ago in order to invite him to join the ceremonies of the 14th of July, tomorrow.

I think it is both a symbol and very important that the President of the United States could be with us tomorrow on the occasion of our National Day, and attend a military parade, which will --

to which the American troops will take part. We will be also commemorating the 100th anniversary of the American troops joining World War I with the allies in France.

I think it is important because, beyond daily news, we live in countries with roots which are deeper and go further and beyond who we are. So the presence of President Trump was, in my eyes, not only natural, and I think it is also an excellent thing for the history of both our countries.

Earlier today, we started by sharing part of our joint history at the Invalides Museum, the Army Museum. Then we had a working session. And I shall say that I'm extremely pleased about it. We've been able to talk about a number of topics of joint interest, and we underlined a number of shared convictions and, most importantly, a joint roadmap in order to work together in the coming month.

We agreed to implement free and fair trade, and in the field -- and this is the G20, in Hamburg, also expressed in terms of sensitivity. We want to work together in order to implement some efficient measures to tackle dumping anywhere it is taking place in all the fields, by sharing the information that we have and making sure that both the European Union and the United States can take the necessary measures in order to protect within the context of free trade, but of fair, free trade that we can protect all over sectors of activities where we are active.

We then had a long discussion which enabled us to cover all of the topics of international policies and the challenges -- the security challenges for the people as well. When it comes to fighting terrorism, from day one I can say that we've seen eye to eye, and we are strongly determined to take any necessary measures in order to root out terrorism and to eradicate it no matter where, in particular the narrative on the Internet. We agreed to strengthen our action and our cooperation in fighting against propaganda.

We want to get all the major operators to limit the propaganda, and also tackle cyber criminality. These topics, I believe, are fundamental. And I do hope that we can strengthen the cooperation between both our countries. And it is with a lot of satisfaction that I heard from President Trump the very same approach. And our services will then, therefore, be working together in the coming weeks and months to have a solid action map for that.

Regarding the situation in Iraq and in Syria, here again we agreed to continue to work together, in particular in order to be able to launch together some diplomatic initiatives in order to put in place a roadmap for what will come after the war.

We talked about our role, our post-conflict role, but initially we want to put in place a contact group in order to be more efficient, in order to be able to support what is being done by the United Nations, in order to support a political roadmap, in particular for Syria after the war. It is important to put in place some inclusive political solutions for that period of time. We know where destabilization comes from. The roadmap will take care of that. We'll cover it. And we'll also ask our diplomats and our staff to work along those lines so that, in the coming weeks, some concrete initiatives can be taken. And they're supported by the P5.

We also share the same intentions regarding Libya. And like I told President Trump, I very much want to take a number of diplomatic initiatives, strong ones, given the situation that we know, and which requires more stability and better control over the region.

On Libya or the Sahel, I think I can say that we have the same vision, a very coherent understanding of the situation in the region, and the same willingness to act very clearly against any form of terrorism and destabilization.

Next, climate. Well, here we know what our disagreements are. We have expressed them on a number of occasions. But I think it is important that we can continue to talk about it. I very much respect the decision taken by President Trump. He will work upon implementing his campaign promises. And as far as I'm concerned, I remain attached to the Paris Accord, and we'll make sure that, step by step, we can do everything which is in the accord.

Ladies and gentlemen, this is in summary what we've been talking about. We will continue with a friendly tone and informal one this evening. Regarding trade and security for both our

countries, the fight against terrorism, stability in the Near and Middle East, in Libya or in the Sahel, I can say that we have a shared determination. The United States is extremely involved in the Iraq War, and I would like to thank President Trump for everything that's been done by the American troops against this background. But I would like him to know that I am fully determined to act together with him in this respect -- fully determined.

I very much want both our countries in these matters to increase their cooperation in the coming month, because the threat we are facing is a global one. The enemies -- our enemies are trying to destabilize us by any way. And I believe that this is very much at the heart of the historic alliance between our two countries, and which fully justifies the presence of President Trump today and tomorrow in Paris.

Thank you. Thank you, dear Donald. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well thank you very much, President Macron. And Melania and I are thrilled to join you and Mrs. Macron. This is a wonderful national celebration, and we look very much forward to it. It will be spectacular. Tomorrow -- Bastille Day.

We're honored to be here in your beautiful country -- and it certainly is a beautiful country -- with its proud history and its magnificent people. And thank you for the tour of some of the most incredible buildings anywhere in the world. That was very, very -- a very beautiful thing to see. Thank you.

When the French people rose up and stormed the Bastille, it changed the course of human history. Our two nations are forever joined together by the spirit of revolution and the fight for freedom. France is America's first and oldest ally. A lot of people don't know that. Ever since General Lafayette joined the American fight for independence, our fates and fortunes have been tied unequivocally together. It was a longtime ago but we are together, and I think together, perhaps, more so than ever. The relationship is very good.

This visit also commemorates another milestone. One century ago, the United States entered World War I. And when the President called me, he had mentioned that fact -- 100 years ago, that was -- I said, Mr. President, I will be there. That's a big, important date -- 100 years.

We remember the tens of thousands of Americans who gave their lives in that valiant and very difficult struggle. We also pay tribute to the heroic deeds of the French Troops whose courage at the Battle of Marne, and countless other battles, will never be forgotten by us. More than one million French soldiers laid down their lives in defense of liberty. Their sacrifice is an eternal tribute to France and to freedom. French and American patriots have fought together, bled together, and died together in the fight for our countries and our civilizations.

Today, we face new threats from rogue regimes like North Korea, Iran, and Syria, and the governments that finance and support them. We also face grave threats from terrorist organizations that wage war on innocent lives. Tomorrow will mark one year since a joyous Bastille Day celebration in Nice turned into a massacre. We all remember that, how horrible that was. We mourn the 86 lives that were stolen, and we pray for their loved ones. We also renew our resolve to stand united against these enemies of humanity and to strip them of their territory, their funding, their networks, and ideological support.

Today, President Macron and myself discussed how we can strengthen our vital security partnerships. We just had a meeting with our generals and our representatives, and it went very well. France has excellent counterterrorism capabilities. The French troops are serving bravely in places like Mali to defeat these forces of murder and destruction. The United States and our allies strengthen our commitments to defeat terrorism.

We're also making tremendous progress. Earlier this week, with the strong support of the United States and the Global Coalition, Iraqi forces liberated the city of Mosul from ISIS control. Now we must work with the government of Iraq and our partners and allies in the region to consolidate the gains and ensure that the victory stays a victory, unlike the last time.

Last week, the G20 leaders also reaffirmed the right to sovereign nations to control their borders. We must be strong from within to defend ourselves from threats from the outside. The nations of the West also face domestic challenges of our own creation, including vast government bureaucracy that saps the strength from our economies and from our societies.

For this reason, I applaud President Macron on his courageous call for that "less bureaucracy" -- it's a good chant -- "less bureaucracy," -- we can use it, too -- and a Europe that protects its citizens. We did not become great through regulation. And in the United States, Mr. President, we also have cut regulations at a level we've never seen before. So we're very proud of that -- over the last six months -- but by allowing our people to follow their dreams. That's what it's all about. To achieve these dreams, however, we must also confront unfair trade practices that hurt our workers, and pursue trade deals that are reciprocal and fair.

Both President Macron and I understand our responsibility to prioritize the interests of our countries and, at the same time, to be respectful of the world in which we live. We live in a very complex world. We have to respect it. The United States remains committed to being a leader in environmental protection, while we advance energy security and economic growth.

The friendship between our two nations -- and ourselves, I might add -- is unbreakable. Our occasional disagreements are nothing compared to the immortal bonds of culture, destiny, and liberty that unite us. So strongly unite us, also. As long as we have pride in who we are, where we've come from, how we got here, and what we've achieved as free and democratic nations, then there is nothing we cannot accomplish together.

France helped us secure our independence. A lot of people forget. In the American Revolution, thousands of French soldiers fought alongside American troops so that, as Lafayette said, liberty would have a country. Ever since then, courageous heroes from both nations have fought for the same noble values and the same righteous cause.

Tomorrow, the French Tricolor will once again wave proudly alongside the American Stars and Stripes. Our brave soldiers will march side-by-side, and we will all be inspired to protect and cherish the birthright of freedom that our ancestors won for us with their sweat and with their blood.

President Macron, thank you for inviting Melania and myself to this historic celebration. And to you and your spectacular country: May God bless France and may God bless America.

Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MACRON: (As interpreted.) Very well. I think we will be taking four questions.

Neither President Trump nor myself have a microphone. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: He's getting first question, President?

Q (As interpreted.) A question for President Macron regarding what you said on the occasion of the press conference together with Chancellor Merkel. Do you still hope that President Trump -- or did you still hope that President Trump could turn his mind regarding the Paris Accord?

And now, President Trump, is it possible for you to come back to the Paris Accord and change your mind?

Next, regarding your relation, how would you describe it today? What about the dinner tonight? Is it going to be a dinner between friends?

PRESIDENT MACRON: (As interpreted.) Well, regarding climate -- well, we have a number of disagreements, which are in particular due to the commitments taken by President Trump vis-à-vis his -- during the presidential campaign. So did I. I'm aware of the high importance that that is, but we therefore talked about our disagreement. And we actually discussed the matter even before President Trump reached the decision.

Next, should that have an impact on the discussions we are having on all other topics? No, absolutely not. This is the reason why we share the same views and some major common goals on many other topics or all other topics, which we've been discussing today, and we shall move forward together.

Next -- well, of course, President Trump will tell you about it, but he's made a number of commitments, and we're going to be working together, and my willingness to continue to work with the United States and the President on these very major topics. I understand that it's important to save jobs. That being said, we shall leave the United States of America work on what is its roadmap, and continue to talk about it.

So today there is nothing new, unprecedented, otherwise we would have told you about it. But I believe there is a joint willingness to continue to talk about this and try and find the best possible agreement. As far as I'm concerned, I remain extremely attached to the framework of the Paris Accord, which has been a major international breakthrough, and it is within that framework that I'm working on priorities, including for the European Union.

Lastly, as you know, I never very much want to comment who we are and what we are doing, personally. But I can tell you that this evening, at the Eiffel Tower, it will be a dinner between friends, because we are the representatives of two countries which have been allies forever and because we've been able to build a strong relation which is dear to me, because it matters a great deal for both countries. It will, therefore, give me great pleasure to have dinner together with you tonight.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think that I can reiterate. We have a very good relationship, a good friendship. And we look forward to dinner tonight at the Eiffel Tower. That will be something special. And, yeah, I mean, something could happen with respect to the Paris Accord. We'll see what happens. But we will talk about that over the coming period of time. And if it happens, that will be wonderful. And if it doesn't, that will be okay, too. But we'll see what happens.

But we did discuss many things today, including the ceasefire in Syria. We discussed the Ukraine. We discussed a lot of different topics. We briefly hit on the Paris Accord. And we'll see what happens.

Yes, ma'am. Go ahead.

Q Thank you. Merci, Mr. President. Mr. President, your FBI nominee said if someone in a campaign got an email about Russia, like the one that your son Don Jr. received, that they should alert the FBI rather than accept that meeting. Is he wrong? Also, were you misled by your team in not knowing about this meeting?

And, Mr. President, thank you very much. You have heard President Trump say that it may have been Russia, it may have been others who interfered with the U.S. election. Is President Trump taking a hard-enough line on Russia, as you see it? Merci.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'll start off by saying, first of all, I believe that we will have a great FBI director. I think he's doing really well, and we're very proud of that choice. I think I've done a great service to the country by choosing him. He will make us all proud, and I think someday we'll see that -- and hopefully someday soon. So, we're very proud of him.

As far as my son is concerned, my son is a wonderful young man. He took a meeting with a Russian lawyer, not a government lawyer, but a Russian lawyer. It was a short meeting. It was a meeting that went very, very quickly, very fast. Two of the people in the room, they -- I guess one of them left almost immediately and the other one was not really focused on the meeting.

I do think this: I think from a practical standpoint, most people would have taken that meeting. It's called opposition research, or even research into your opponent. I've had many people -- I have only been in politics for two years, but I've had many people call up -- "Oh, gee, we have information on this factor or this person, or, frankly, Hillary." That's very standard in politics. Politics is not the nicest business in the world, but it's very standard where they have information and you take the information.

In the case of Don, he listened. I guess they talked about -- as I see it, they talked about adoption and some things. Adoption wasn't even a part of the campaign. But nothing happened from the meeting. Zero happened from the meeting. And, honestly, I think the press made a very big deal over something that, really, a lot of people would do.

Now, the lawyer that went to the meeting, I see that she was in the halls of Congress, also. Somebody said that her visa or her passport to come into the country was approved by Attorney General Lynch. Now, maybe that's wrong. I just heard that a little while ago. But a little surprised to hear that. So she was here because of Lynch.

So, again, I have a son who's a great young man. He's a fine person. He took a meeting with a lawyer from Russia. It lasted for a very short period, and nothing came of the meeting. And I think it's a meeting that most people in politics probably would have taken.

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MACRON: (In English.) Yes, to answer your question, I will not interfere in U.S. domestic policy. And I think it's always good between partners and allies not to interfere in others' domestic life.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: What a good answer that was. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT MACRON: (In English.) And I do believe that both of us have a direct relationship with Russia. President Trump had more than two hours meeting with President Putin during this past G20. So that's -- I had two very long meetings with President Putin, the very first one in Versailles and the second one during the G20. And this relationship is very important. We have a lot of disagreements. We have a lot of discrepancies, obviously, with Russia. But in the current environment, especially in the Middle East, it's a necessity to work together, to work together, to exchange information, to share disagreements, and to try to build solutions.

So that's my relationship with Russia. And we don't have, obviously, the same relationship as the one with the U.S. But that's a longstanding relationship with Russia as well, and I think it's important that both of us have direct discussion and contact with President Putin.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: One of the great things that came out of that meeting, by the way -- even though it's not part of the question -- was the fact that we got a ceasefire that now has lasted for, I guess, Mr. President, almost five days. And while five days doesn't sound like a long period of time, in terms of a ceasefire in Syria, that's a very long period of time. And that was a result of having communication with a country. So, during that five-day period, a lot of lives have been saved. A lot of people were not killed. No shots have been fired in a very, very dangerous part of the world, and this is one of the most dangerous parts of Syria itself.

So by having some communication and dialogue, we were able to have this ceasefire, and it's going to go on for a while. And, frankly, we're working on a second ceasefire in a very rough part of Syria. And if we get that and a few more, all of a sudden you're going to have no bullets being fired in Syria. And that would be a wonderful thing.

Mr. President, you have a question.

PRESIDENT MACRON: (As interpreted.) Third question from BFN TV.

Q (As interpreted.) A question to President Macron. You went to Lausanne in order to support Paris's bid for the Olympic Games, and on this occasion you somehow criticized President Trump's policy without naming him. You said that France made a very clear choice to leave its border open and not to build walls to protect its people. Do you condemn the Muslim ban and the building of the wall between the United States and Mexico?

Regarding Syria, as it was just mentioned by President Trump, is France ready to talk directly with Bashar al-Assad in the negotiation that you mentioned?

(In English.) You've mentioned a friend, Jim, who told you that Paris is no longer Paris. You were implying at the time that Paris was not safe anymore. You've also said that France and Germany are infected by terrorism and "it's their fault because they let people enter their territory." Those are very strong words. Would you repeat them today? And do you still believe that France is not able to fight terrorism on its own territory? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You better let me answer that one first. That's a beauty. (Laughter.) He's the one that asked the question. That wasn't even one of my picks.

You know what, it's going to be just fine because you have a great President. You have somebody that's going to run this country right. And I would be willing to bet -- because I think this is one of the great cities, one of the most beautiful cities in the world -- and you have a great leader now, you have a great President, you have a tough President. He's not going to be easy on people that are breaking the laws and people that show this tremendous violence.

So I really have a feeling that you're going to have a very, very peaceful and beautiful Paris, and I'm coming back. You better do a good job, please. (Laughter.) Otherwise you're going to make me look very bad.

PRESIDENT MACRON: (In English.) And you're always welcome.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MACRON: (As interpreted.) Regarding the first question, like I said, I believe that the discussions that we've had today is the proper answer to terrorism. The right answer is strengthen cooperation between our services and a never-ending fight against terrorists no matter where they are. This is what I was referring to, this is what we're working on actively together.

So, in this respect, there is no difference and no gap between the French and the American positions. When I have something to say, I say it clearly, and I do say who I'm aiming at. And when I refer to those who have been my opponents in the French political battle, I also mention the names. So let us not mix up everything.

And regarding the fight against terrorism, I think the right approach is to have strengthened cooperation in the field of intelligence, is also to be working together on all the theaters of operation where we are. And I think that the decisions we've reached today will enable us to do more.

Next, your question regarding Bashar al-Assad, which is an important one. Let me put it simply: Indeed, we now have a new approach of Syria because we want some results and we want to be closely working together with our partners, including the United States of America. We have one main goal, which is to eradicate terrorism. No matter who they are, we want to build an inclusive and sustainable political solution. Against that background, I do not require Assad's departure. This is no longer a prerequisite for France to work on that, because I can only tell you that, for seven years, we did not have an embassy in Damascus, and still we have no solution.

Next, we also have a common red line, together with President Trump. He intervened before I was elected, and I said it to President Putin after my election: No use whatsoever of chemical weapons. Any use will lead to reaction -- an attack against a reaction regarding the storage places.

Next, we also want humanitarian corridors. Also, we want to build a sustainable political stability for Syria. This is our roadmap. In order to stick to it, we need diplomatic initiative beyond our military actions. This is what we've been agreeing upon, because we want to take an initiative with the members of the Security Council and a number of countries involved in the process. Of course, there will be representatives of Assad that will enable us to put in place the roadmap for after the war, but there will also be representatives of the opposition and people with different backgrounds, and we will talk to all of them against that background.

One last question for an American journalist.

Q Thank you. (Inaudible) TV of China. (As interpreted.) For both Presidents: Mr. Macron, you had your first meeting with the Chinese President during the G20 Summit. What will France do? How will France cooperate with all of these areas with China? And what do you think personally of Mr. Xi Jinping?

(In English.) Mr. President, you have just met the Chinese President during the G20 Summit. How do you want to continue to work with China? And what do you personally think about Mr. Xi Jinping? Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, he's a friend of mine. I have great respect for him. We've gotten to know each other very well. A great leader. He's a very talented man. I think he's a very good man. He loves China, I can tell you. He loves China. He wants to do what's right for China.

We've asked him for some assistance with respect to North Korea. Probably, he could do a little bit more, but we'll find out. We're now working on some trade deals. He's been very nice. He's let, as you know, beef go back in, certain financing go back in, credit card financing, and various other things go back in at my request, which is a great thing for our farmers. A lot of good things are happening, but we're going to be working on some very major trade components.

But President Xi is a terrific guy. I like being with him a lot, and he's a very special person.

Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT MACRON: (As interpreted.) I first talked to President Xi over the telephone, and then I got to meet him in the margin of the G20 Summit in Hamburg. Early next year I will be traveling to China. We've agreed to it. So I cannot say that he's a friend of mine or that I know him very well because I very much want to say things as they are. But we had some initial contacts which were extremely fruitful and positive.

I have a lot of respect for President Xi, and I would like to say that over the past few months he did express his willingness to have a vision for multilateralism and wanted to commit himself on a number of topics. I think that many of us remember his words in Davos, and he there very strongly expressed his vision of the role of China. We have a number of joint commitments, including on climate. He's very committed to that, and he told me that he wanted to do more in the field, and I can only be happy about it. He wants strong cooperation.

And like President Trump said, the trade issues and regarding the number of activities -- there are issues, there are differences, but a joint willingness to sort them out. And as permanent members of the Security Council, we want to work together on all of the topics we've been discussing today.

And China, in this respect, is a key partner in order to build peace all around the world, and I share what President Trump just said, that China is to play a very specific role regarding the rising tension, the growing tension with North Korea. It's important that China can play fully its role in the region.

In summary, I think he is today one of the great leaders of our world, implementing a major and ambitious reform of China society and the economy in China. And therefore my willingness, in this respect as well, is to have strategic dialogue, the purpose of which is to continue to talk about the industry of -- civil nuclear industry, economic matters, and talk about any difficulties we may have together.

Very well. Allow me to thank you, ladies and gentlemen, and once again thank President Trump for his visit. And I will be seeing him in a few moments in a friendly atmosphere.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Great honor. Thank you.

END

7:20 P.M. CET

Remarks by President Trump at Commissioning Ceremony for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 22, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at Commissioning Ceremony for the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)

Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78)
Newport News, Virginia
11:09 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Secretary Mattis, for that wonderful introduction and for your devoted service to our nation. Nobody has done it like you. I'm thrilled to be back on this magnificent ship for this historic moment with the amazing men and women of the United States Navy. (Applause.)

I was with you four months ago, and I knew that I had to be here today, and I told you I'd be back to congratulate you and the crew and everybody involved on commissioning the newest, largest, and most advanced aircraft carrier in the history of this world. That's a big achievement.

After today, wherever this ship sails, you will all carry a proud title: plankowner of the USS Gerald R. Ford. (Applause.) For the rest of your lives, you'll be able to tell your friends and family that you served on the greatest ship in the United States Navy and, in my opinion, on the greatest ship anywhere in the world. Everyone should take a moment to celebrate this incredible achievement.

I want to thank the many public servants who have joined us here today: Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Governor Snyder, Governor McAuliffe, Senator Wicker, and members of Congress, Secretary Stackley, Admiral Richardson, senior military leaders, and, of course, the great Captain McCormack. (Applause.)

Captain, I know you will exemplify integrity at the helm. And have a good time doing it, Captain. Proud of you.

Thanks to the entire Ford family -- Susan, Jack, Steve, and Mike -- for all that you've done to support this ship on its voyage. Thank you, Susan. (Applause.) Thank you.

I also want to recognize two other people who were very special to President Ford. Thank you, Vice President Cheney and former Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld. Thank you. (Applause.) They look great. They look great.

As we put this stunning ship into the service of our nation, we must also pay tribute to the thousands of citizens, military and civilian, who helped design and build her. Their love of country has been poured into every rivet and bulkhead on this vessel. You hammered, chiseled, and sculpted this mighty hull.

You were there when the first steel was cut, when the turbines first roared to life, and when those beautiful bronze propellers first began to spin -- and spin they did. And now you are here to witness the moment when your incredible work of art becomes the pride of the United States Navy and a symbol of American power and prestige, no matter where in the world you go.

American steel and American hands have constructed a 100,000-ton message to the world: American might is second to none, and we're getting bigger, and better, and stronger every day of my administration. That I can tell you. (Applause.)

Wherever this vessel cuts through the horizon, our allies will rest easy and our enemies will shake with fear because everyone will know that America is coming and America is coming strong. (Applause.)

To every worker from Newport News Shipbuilding and every craftsman and engineer who helped build this incredible fortress on the sea, today we salute you. Thank you. (Applause.)

Your skill and your grit build the instruments of war that preserve peace. This ship is the deterrent that keeps us from having to fight in the first place. But this ship also ensures that if a fight does come, it will always end the same way; we will win, win, win. We will never lose. We will win. (Applause.)

When it comes to battle, we don't want a fair fight. We want just the opposite. We demand victory, and we will have total victory, believe me. (Applause.)

Having the best technology and equipment is only one part of the American military dominance. Our true strength is our people. Our greatest weapon is all of you. Our nation endures because we have citizens who love America and who are willing to fight for America. (Applause.) We are so very blessed with warriors who are willing to serve America in the greatest fighting force in the history -- the United States military.

Today this ship officially begins its role in the noble military history of our great nation. In a few moments, I will commission this wonderful, beautiful, but very, very powerful warship. Captain McCormack will assume command. He will set the first watch, and then the crew of the Gerald R. Ford will man the ship and bring her to life. (Applause.)

A ship is only as good as the people who serve on it, and the American sailor is the best anywhere in the world. Among you are great welders, radar technicians, machine operators, and pilots. You take pride in your work and America takes pride in you. We love you. We are proud of you. Thank you. (Applause.)

But that is why it is so fitting that this ship is named after a sailor of tremendous character, integrity, and wisdom. You know that, Susan. Gerald Ford was raised in American heartland. He grew up in Grand Rapids and became an Eagle Scout. He played football at the University of Michigan on a team that won two national championships. And listen to this: On that great team, he was named MVP. Not bad.

He then went to Yale Law School, and after Pearl Harbor, he volunteered to serve. President Ford joined the Navy and asked to be sent to sea. He wanted to do that very badly. He never really knew why; he felt it was a calling. He was assigned to a new carrier -- the Monterey -- becoming a plankowner himself on its commissioning in 1943.

From there, he sailed to the Pacific and saw action -- and a lot of action -- in the Pacific War. Like so many others of his generation, Gerald Ford returned home and started a family. He ran for Congress, where he served the people of Michigan with honor for many years. From there, he became Vice President and then President of the United States of America.

With this ship, we honor him for his lifetime of selfless and distinguished service. We also remember his wife, Betty -- I remember her well -- and we honor the bravery she showed in living her life so that her experiences could help others. Susan, she was a great woman -- a great woman. (Applause.)

Gerald Ford said that his time in the Navy convinced him that our lack of military preparation before World War II has only encouraged our enemies to fight harder and harder and harder. He learned a lot. In the future, Ford said, I felt the United States had to be strong. Never again could we allow our military to be anything but the absolute best. If he could see this ship today, President Gerald Ford would see his vision brought to life, and he would see his legacy of service being carried on by each and every one of you. (Applause.)

Gerald Ford embodied American values like few others: love of family, love of freedom, and, most of all, love of country. He knew that patriotism is the heartbeat of a nation. He knew that we must love our country in order to protect it. And he knew that we must have pride in our history if we are going to have confidence in our future.

The men and women of America's Armed Services are part of a living history. You uphold timeless customs and traditions, and you protect our nation and our freedom for the next generation to come. You are fulfilling your duty to this nation, and now it is the job of our government to fulfill its duty to you. (Applause.)

For years, our government has subjected the military to unpredictable funding and a devastating defense sequester. You remember that? Sequester -- not good. This has led to deferred maintenance, a lack of investment in new equipment and technology, and a shortfall in military readiness. In other words, it's been a very, very bad period of time for our military. That is why we reached a deal to secure an additional \$20 billion for defense this year -- and it's going up -- and why I asked Congress for another \$54 billion for next year.

Now we need Congress to do its job and pass the budget that provides for higher, stable, and predictable funding levels for our military needs that our fighting men and women deserve -- and you will get, believe me. President Trump, I will tell you -- you will get it. Don't worry about it. But I don't mind getting a little hand, so call that congressman and call that senator and make sure you get it. (Applause.)

And by the way, you can also call those senators to make sure you get healthcare. (Applause.)

We must end the defense sequester once and for all. We must also reform defense acquisitions to ensure that we are getting the best equipment at the best prices so that our dollars are used only for the best interests of our country and those who serve. We do not want cost overruns. We want the best equipment, but we want it built ahead of schedule and we want it build under budget. (Applause.)

This is the very least we can do for the patriots who have volunteered to give their sweat, their blood, and, if they must, their very lives for our great nation. The commissioning of this new American carrier marks the renewal of our commitment to a future of American greatness. Greater than ever before, remember that -- greater than ever before.

Just moments from now, the Captain will set the first watch on the USS Gerald R. Ford and, with God's grace, a watch will stand until the day she is decommissioned 50 years or more from now.

Most of you who will man this ship today are just about 20 years old. Together, you are embarking on a truly great adventure. The journey will require all of your talents, all of your efforts, and all of your heart. As you know, the sea holds many challenges and threats. But starting today, you will face, together as a team aboard this ship, which is your responsibility and your home.

Three generations of Americans will eventually man these decks. Perhaps even some of your own children and grandchildren someday. You will inspire many more American patriots to follow your lead and to serve. And one day, when you are old and have lived a long and hopefully happy and successful life, you may find yourselves back aboard this ship surrounded by your family to mark its decommissioning. And on that day, our entire nation will honor not just this carrier, it will honor you and the role you will have played in keeping America safe, strong, and free.

To every patriot who will serve on this ship today and throughout history, I say this: Keep the watch, protect her, defend her, and love her. Good luck and Godspeed. Thank you to the Ford family, and thank you to every sailor in the greatest navy on Earth. God bless you, God bless the Gerald R. Ford, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. God bless you all. (Applause.)

CAPTAIN MCCORMACK: Thank you, Mr. President. And I would be honored if you would place Gerald R. Ford in commission.

Will the guests please rise. Ship's company, attention.

THE PRESIDENT: I hereby place United States Ship Gerald R. Ford in commission. May God bless and guide this warship and all who shall sail in her. God bless you. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:27 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 25, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

2:07 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, it's great to have Prime Minister Hariri with us. We have watched the tremendous progress made in Lebanon; it's not easy. It's not easy. But he's fighting many fronts, and they've really developed great relationships with our representatives and with me. And Mr. Prime Minister, it's an honor to have you in the Oval Office.

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: It's an honor to be here with you, Mr. President. And also, we're happy to make sure that this partnership that you have with fighting ISIS and all terrorism is ongoing. And we'll keep on the partnership, hopefully, for the best of the region. And I hope that in our talk we will have much more -- you know, much more talk about this issue.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We will. We will. Thank you all very much.

END

2:09 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 25, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon in Joint Press Conference

Rose Garden

3:24 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Please. I'm very happy to announce that, with zero of the Democrats' votes, the motion to proceed on healthcare has just passed, and now we move forward towards truly great healthcare for the American people. We look forward to that. This was a big step.

I want to thank Senator John McCain -- very brave man. He made a tough trip to get here and vote. So we want to thank Senator McCain and all of the Republicans. We passed it without one Democrat vote. And that's a shame but that's the way it is, and it's very unfortunate.

But I want to congratulate American people because we're going to give you great healthcare. And we're going to get rid of Obamacare which should have been, frankly, terminated long ago. It's been a disaster for the American people.

Thank you very much.

Good afternoon and thank you all for being here. It is my honor to welcome Prime Minister Saad Hariri of Lebanon to the White House.

The Prime Minister and I have just concluded an extensive conversation about the challenges and opportunities facing Lebanon and its neighbors. Lebanon is on the front lines in the fight against ISIS, Al Qaeda, and Hizballah. The Lebanese people, of all faiths, are working together to keep -- and you know this, and we've been discussing this at great length -- their country safe and prosperous. They love their country, and they're going to keep it safe and prosperous.

Mr. Prime Minister, I want to commend you and your people for standing up for humanity in a very troubled part of the world. The ties between our two countries stretch back more than a century. Long, long relationships.

In 1866, American missionaries founded the American University of Beirut. Now, more than 150 years later -- and with ongoing American support -- this university continues to educate generations of leaders in the region.

Today, our two countries seek to strengthen our relationship in many ways, including the pursuit of stability, mutual prosperity, and peace. What the Lebanese Armed Forces have accomplished in recent years is very impressive. In 2014, when ISIS tried to invade northern Lebanon, the Lebanese army beat them back. Since that time, the Lebanese army has been fighting

continually to guard Lebanon's border and prevent ISIS and other terrorists -- of which there are many -- from gaining a foothold inside their country.

The United States military has been proud to help in that fight and will continue to do so. America's assistance can help ensure that the Lebanese army is the only defender Lebanon needs. It's a very effective fighting force.

Threats to the Lebanese people come from inside, as well. Hizballah is a menace to the Lebanese state, the Lebanese people, and the entire region. The group continues to increase its military arsenal, which threatens to start yet another conflict with Israel, constantly fighting them back.

With the support of Iran, the organization is also fueling the humanitarian catastrophe in Syria. Hizballah likes to portray itself as a defender of Lebanese interests, but it's very clear that its true interests are those of itself and its sponsor -- Iran.

I have repeatedly emphasized that Syria's neighbors in the Middle East must take responsibility for helping Syrian refugees until they can return home and rebuild their country. The Lebanese people have led the way, accepting more Syrian refugees per capita than any other nation. It's not even close.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and the Lebanese people for giving shelter to those victimized by ISIS, the Assad regime, and their supporters and sponsors, and pledge our continued support to Lebanon.

Since the start of the Syrian crisis, the United States has helped Lebanon support Syrian refugees with clean water, food, shelter, and health care. Our approach, supporting the humanitarian needs of displaced Syrian citizens as close to their home country as possible, is the best way to help most people. America is proud to stand with those who have the courage to stand up to terrorism and take responsibility for affairs in their own region.

The reliance and resilience of the Lebanese people in the face of war and terror is extraordinary. We honor the citizens of Lebanon who are working to secure a future of peace, stability, and prosperity for their children.

Mr. Prime Minister, I'm grateful that you're here today. It's a big day in our country because of the vote that you just heard about. We stood and watched the results on television before coming out, and you found it very interesting, I hope --

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: Yes, I did.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: -- and very important. I look forward to working with you to strengthen our partnership and the enduring friendship between the American and Lebanese peoples.

Thank you very much. Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: Thank you. Good afternoon. I had the honor and pleasure -- and the pleasure to hold a very good meeting with President Trump. I appreciate his leadership and the United States' leadership in the world today. We discussed the situation in our region and the efforts we, in Lebanon, are making to safeguard our political and economic stability, while combatting terrorism.

I thank President Trump for his support to our army and security agencies, as well as his support to maintaining peace and stability along our southern border, where our government is committed to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, as well as all resolutions.

We also discussed the pressures Lebanon is facing as a result of 1.5 million Syrians displaced in our country. I outlined to President Trump my government's vision for dealing with this crisis with the support of the international community. We also discussed economic prospects in Lebanon and our government's effort to jumpstart inclusive economic growth with a particular emphasis on job creation.

I thank President Trump and the United States of America for their support to the Lebanese people, striving to keep their country a model of moderation, dialogue, coexistence, and democratic governance in our region.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

Margaret Talev, please.

Q Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Hello, Margaret.

Q Hi. Hi, Mr. President. Mr. Prime Minister, I'll have a question for you also in just a second, if you'll bear with me.

You spoke earlier today with The Wall Street Journal -- we've all seen those comments -- but I think everybody here probably is hoping that you could talk a little bit more about this. You have called your Attorney General "beleaguered." You have criticized his decision to recuse himself on the Russia matters. And your, kind of, catch-phrase or motto before the White House was, "You're fired." So I'm wondering if you would talk to us a little bit about whether you've lost confidence in Jeff Sessions, whether you want him to resign on his own, whether you're prepared to fire him if he doesn't, and why you're sort of letting him twist in the wind rather than just making the call for him. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I don't think I am doing that, but I am disappointed in the Attorney General. He should not have recused himself almost immediately after he took office. And if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me prior to taking office, and I would have, quite simply, picked somebody else. So I think that's a bad thing not for the President, but for the presidency. I think it's unfair to the presidency. And that's the way I feel. Thank you.

Q Thank you. Mr. Prime Minister, could you tell us what you think about the Saudi-led blockade of Qatar? This is something that has been of great concern to the U.S. also in terms of resolving. Do you think that Qatar is doing enough on terror? And if so, would you like to see President Trump increase the pressure on the Saudi coalition to ease its blockade?

And, Mr. President, if you would give us any more of your thinking on, going forward, the path with Attorney General Sessions, and maybe your timeline for making a decision, that would be great. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You don't give up. That's okay.

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: Thank you. I think there is an effort by the Kuwaitis. They're leading this effort. And I think they made some progress. We believe that dialogue is the best way in improving this relationship between Saudi Arabia and Qatar. I believe that maybe the United States also could help in solving this issue in the Gulf.

Denise (ph).

Q I have one question for the President and also for the Prime Minister. Congress introduced additional sanctions against Hizballah last week. What is your position towards these sanctions and on the role Hizballah is playing in the region and Syria?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'll be making my position very clear over the next 24 hours. We're going to see what is exactly taking place. I have meetings with some of my very expert military representatives and others, so I'll be making that decision very shortly. Okay? Thank you.

Q And about its role in Syria and the region?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Whose role?

Q Hizballah's role.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'll be talking about that tomorrow.

Q (No translation provided.)

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: (No translation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Blake Burman. Thank you. Hello, Blake.

Q President Trump, hello. Thank you. Indulge us here for a second. Just to pick up where Margaret left off, the American people I think would like to know: Do you feel that the Attorney General should indeed stay? Do you intend on firing him? Why should he remain as the Attorney General?

And, secondly, on a separate topic, with the healthcare vote that just came about, there is a still long ways to go. At what point do you feel that Republicans, if they can't get something done, should just say, you know what, we gave it a go, let's move on to tax reform instead? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I want the Attorney General to be much tougher on the leaks from intelligence agencies, which are leaking like rarely have they ever leaked before, at a very important level. These are intelligence agencies. We cannot have that happen. You know many of my views in addition to that, but I think that's one of the very important things that they have to get on with.

I told you before, I'm very disappointed with the Attorney General, but we will see what happens. Time will tell. Time will tell.

On healthcare, I'm extremely happy that we got this vote. They say, if you look historically, this is the tough vote to get. Now we're all going to sit together and we're going to try and come up with something that's really spectacular. We have a lot of options, and a lot of great options. And the Republican senators really went out there. It's not easy when you have 52 senators and you have a bloc of 48 voting against you. No matter what it is, no matter how good it sounds, it's very hard to get the kind of numbers that we got. We ended up with 51 votes -- 51 to whatever. I don't know what it is. Yeah, 51-50.

So we had two Republicans that went against us, which is very sad, I think. It's very, very sad -- for them. But I'm very, very happy with the result. I believe now we will, over the next week or two, come up with a plan that's going to be really, really wonderful for the American people.

Obamacare is a disaster. It's failing on every front. It's too expensive. It gives horrible coverage. It was gotten by a lie, 28 times. It was a lie. "You can keep your doctor, you can keep your plan" -- all lies. And the people are sick of it. And we're going to come up with a great healthcare that satisfies the needs of the people that we serve, which is the people of the United States.

I will say -- and I said it right at the beginning -- healthcare is always difficult because you have to weed a very, very narrow path, like a quarter of an inch wide, right down the middle. And if you go a little bit too far right, you lose three people on the left. And if you go a little bit too far left, you lose five people on the right. It is a very, very complex and difficult task, but it's something I actually know quite a bit about. I want to just thank some of the Republican senators, who were really fantastic in getting us here, in particular John McCain for making the trip.

But I think you're going to have a great healthcare. This is the beginning of the end for the disaster known as Obamacare.

Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President, how can the United States help Lebanon cope with the massive number of refugees -- of Syrian refugees? And is there a way you can help facilitate the refugees' return to their home country?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we are helping. And one of the things that we have made tremendous strides at is getting rid of ISIS. We have generals that don't like to talk; they like to do. And we were with General Mattis last night, and the success they've had against ISIS is extraordinary. We've made more progress in the last four or five months than previous -- really, I could say, the previous administration made in eight years.

And then we have to see what we have to see. But I will tell you, ISIS in Syria, ISIS in Iraq, ISIS in other locations -- we have made tremendous strides. Our military is an incredible fighting force. And as you know, I let the commanders on the ground do what they had to do. Before, they used to have to call in this beautiful house and speak to people that didn't know what was happening -- where they were, what locations -- practically, probably never heard of the countries

they were talking about, or the towns. I let the generals do what they had to do. And we have made tremendous plans. We were discussing it just before. We have made tremendous gains with respect to ISIS in Syria, Iraq, and other places.

Thank you.

Q What about Bashar al-Assad in Syria?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Assad?

Q Assad.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'm not a fan of Assad, okay? He will tell you that, because we hit 58 out of 58, or, you could even say, 59 out of 59, when we launched the Tomahawk missiles.

No, I am not a fan of Assad. I certainly think that what he's done to that country and to humanity is horrible. So, I have been saying that for a long time. I am not somebody that will stand by and let him get away with what he tried to do. And he did it a number of times -- when President Obama drew the red line in the sand. And then he should have crossed that red line, because some horrible acts against humanity took place, including gas and the killing through gases. That was a bad day for this country. And I'd go a step further that, had President Obama gone across that line and done what he should have done, I don't believe you'd have Russia and I don't believe you'd have Iran to anywhere near the extent, and maybe not at all, in Syria today.

Thank you very much.

Q (No translation provided.)

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: (No translation provided.)

Q (No translation provided.)

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: (No translation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. Appreciate it. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER HARIRI: Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Mr. Prime Minister, thank you.

END

3:45 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump on the Strategy in Afghanistan and South Asia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump on the Strategy in Afghanistan and South Asia

Fort Myer

Arlington, Virginia

9:02 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Please be seated.

Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Tillerson, members of the Cabinet, General Dunford, Deputy Secretary Shanahan, and Colonel Duggan. Most especially, thank you to the men and women of Fort Myer and every member of the United States military at home and abroad.

We send our thoughts and prayers to the families of our brave sailors who were injured and lost after a tragic collision at sea, as well as to those conducting the search and recovery efforts.

I am here tonight to lay out our path forward in Afghanistan and South Asia. But before I provide the details of our new strategy, I want to say a few words to the servicemembers here with us tonight, to those watching from their posts, and to all Americans listening at home.

Since the founding of our republic, our country has produced a special class of heroes whose selflessness, courage, and resolve is unmatched in human history.

American patriots from every generation have given their last breath on the battlefield for our nation and for our freedom. Through their lives -- and though their lives were cut short, in their deeds they achieved total immortality.

By following the heroic example of those who fought to preserve our republic, we can find the inspiration our country needs to unify, to heal, and to remain one nation under God. The men and women of our military operate as one team, with one shared mission, and one shared sense of purpose.

They transcend every line of race, ethnicity, creed, and color to serve together -- and sacrifice together -- in absolutely perfect cohesion. That is because all servicemembers are brothers and sisters. They're all part of the same family; it's called the American family. They take the same oath, fight for the same flag, and live according to the same law. They are bound together by common purpose, mutual trust, and selfless devotion to our nation and to each other.

The soldier understands what we, as a nation, too often forget that a wound inflicted upon a single member of our community is a wound inflicted upon us all. When one part of America hurts, we all hurt. And when one citizen suffers an injustice, we all suffer together.

Loyalty to our nation demands loyalty to one another. Love for America requires love for all of its people. When we open our hearts to patriotism, there is no room for prejudice, no place for bigotry, and no tolerance for hate.

The young men and women we send to fight our wars abroad deserve to return to a country that is not at war with itself at home. We cannot remain a force for peace in the world if we are not at peace with each other.

As we send our bravest to defeat our enemies overseas -- and we will always win -- let us find the courage to heal our divisions within. Let us make a simple promise to the men and women we ask to fight in our name that, when they return home from battle, they will find a country that has renewed the sacred bonds of love and loyalty that unite us together as one.

Thanks to the vigilance and skill of the American military and of our many allies throughout the world, horrors on the scale of September 11th -- and nobody can ever forget that -- have not been repeated on our shores.

But we must also acknowledge the reality I am here to talk about tonight: that nearly 16 years after September 11th attacks, after the extraordinary sacrifice of blood and treasure, the American people are weary of war without victory. Nowhere is this more evident than with the war in Afghanistan, the longest war in American history -- 17 years.

I share the American people's frustration. I also share their frustration over a foreign policy that has spent too much time, energy, money, and most importantly lives, trying to rebuild countries in our own image, instead of pursuing our security interests above all other considerations.

That is why, shortly after my inauguration, I directed Secretary of Defense Mattis and my national security team to undertake a comprehensive review of all strategic options in Afghanistan and South Asia.

My original instinct was to pull out -- and, historically, I like following my instincts. But all my life I've heard that decisions are much different when you sit behind the desk in the Oval Office; in other words, when you're President of the United States. So I studied Afghanistan in great detail and from every conceivable angle. After many meetings, over many months, we held our final meeting last Friday at Camp David, with my Cabinet and generals, to complete our strategy. I arrived at three fundamental conclusions about America's core interests in Afghanistan.

First, our nation must seek an honorable and enduring outcome worthy of the tremendous sacrifices that have been made, especially the sacrifices of lives. The men and women who serve our nation in combat deserve a plan for victory. They deserve the tools they need, and the trust they have earned, to fight and to win.

Second, the consequences of a rapid exit are both predictable and unacceptable. 9/11, the worst terrorist attack in our history, was planned and directed from Afghanistan because that

country was ruled by a government that gave comfort and shelter to terrorists. A hasty withdrawal would create a vacuum that terrorists, including ISIS and al Qaeda, would instantly fill, just as happened before September 11th.

And, as we know, in 2011, America hastily and mistakenly withdrew from Iraq. As a result, our hard-won gains slipped back into the hands of terrorist enemies. Our soldiers watched as cities they had fought for, and bled to liberate, and won, were occupied by a terrorist group called ISIS. The vacuum we created by leaving too soon gave safe haven for ISIS to spread, to grow, recruit, and launch attacks. We cannot repeat in Afghanistan the mistake our leaders made in Iraq.

Third and finally, I concluded that the security threats we face in Afghanistan and the broader region are immense. Today, 20 U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations are active in Afghanistan and Pakistan -- the highest concentration in any region anywhere in the world.

For its part, Pakistan often gives safe haven to agents of chaos, violence, and terror. The threat is worse because Pakistan and India are two nuclear-armed states whose tense relations threaten to spiral into conflict. And that could happen.

No one denies that we have inherited a challenging and troubling situation in Afghanistan and South Asia, but we do not have the luxury of going back in time and making different or better decisions. When I became President, I was given a bad and very complex hand, but I fully knew what I was getting into: big and intricate problems. But, one way or another, these problems will be solved -- I'm a problem solver -- and, in the end, we will win.

We must address the reality of the world as it exists right now -- the threats we face, and the confronting of all of the problems of today, and extremely predictable consequences of a hasty withdrawal.

We need look no further than last week's vile, vicious attack in Barcelona to understand that terror groups will stop at nothing to commit the mass murder of innocent men, women and children. You saw it for yourself. Horrible.

As I outlined in my speech in Saudi Arabia three months ago, America and our partners are committed to stripping terrorists of their territory, cutting off their funding, and exposing the false allure of their evil ideology.

Terrorists who slaughter innocent people will find no glory in this life or the next. They are nothing but thugs, and criminals, and predators, and -- that's right -- losers. Working alongside our allies, we will break their will, dry up their recruitment, keep them from crossing our borders, and yes, we will defeat them, and we will defeat them handily.

In Afghanistan and Pakistan, America's interests are clear: We must stop the resurgence of safe havens that enable terrorists to threaten America, and we must prevent nuclear weapons and materials from coming into the hands of terrorists and being used against us, or anywhere in the world for that matter.

But to prosecute this war, we will learn from history. As a result of our comprehensive review, American strategy in Afghanistan and South Asia will change dramatically in the following ways:

A core pillar of our new strategy is a shift from a time-based approach to one based on conditions. I've said it many times how counterproductive it is for the United States to announce in advance the dates we intend to begin, or end, military options. We will not talk about numbers of troops or our plans for further military activities.

Conditions on the ground -- not arbitrary timetables -- will guide our strategy from now on. America's enemies must never know our plans or believe they can wait us out. I will not say when we are going to attack, but attack we will.

Another fundamental pillar of our new strategy is the integration of all instruments of American power -- diplomatic, economic, and military -- toward a successful outcome.

Someday, after an effective military effort, perhaps it will be possible to have a political settlement that includes elements of the Taliban in Afghanistan, but nobody knows if or when that

will ever happen. America will continue its support for the Afghan government and the Afghan military as they confront the Taliban in the field.

Ultimately, it is up to the people of Afghanistan to take ownership of their future, to govern their society, and to achieve an everlasting peace. We are a partner and a friend, but we will not dictate to the Afghan people how to live, or how to govern their own complex society. We are not nation-building again. We are killing terrorists.

The next pillar of our new strategy is to change the approach and how to deal with Pakistan. We can no longer be silent about Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organizations, the Taliban, and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond. Pakistan has much to gain from partnering with our effort in Afghanistan. It has much to lose by continuing to harbor criminals and terrorists.

In the past, Pakistan has been a valued partner. Our militaries have worked together against common enemies. The Pakistani people have suffered greatly from terrorism and extremism. We recognize those contributions and those sacrifices.

But Pakistan has also sheltered the same organizations that try every single day to kill our people. We have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting. But that will have to change, and that will change immediately. No partnership can survive a country's harboring of militants and terrorists who target U.S. servicemembers and officials. It is time for Pakistan to demonstrate its commitment to civilization, order, and to peace.

Another critical part of the South Asia strategy for America is to further develop its strategic partnership with India -- the world's largest democracy and a key security and economic partner of the United States. We appreciate India's important contributions to stability in Afghanistan, but India makes billions of dollars in trade with the United States, and we want them to help us more with Afghanistan, especially in the area of economic assistance and development. We are committed to pursuing our shared objectives for peace and security in South Asia and the broader Indo-Pacific region.

Finally, my administration will ensure that you, the brave defenders of the American people, will have the necessary tools and rules of engagement to make this strategy work, and work effectively and work quickly.

I have already lifted restrictions the previous administration placed on our warfighters that prevented the Secretary of Defense and our commanders in the field from fully and swiftly waging battle against the enemy. Micromanagement from Washington, D.C. does not win battles. They are won in the field drawing upon the judgment and expertise of wartime commanders and frontline soldiers acting in real time, with real authority, and with a clear mission to defeat the enemy.

That's why we will also expand authority for American armed forces to target the terrorist and criminal networks that sow violence and chaos throughout Afghanistan. These killers need to know they have nowhere to hide; that no place is beyond the reach of American might and Americans arms. Retribution will be fast and powerful.

As we lift restrictions and expand authorities in the field, we are already seeing dramatic results in the campaign to defeat ISIS, including the liberation of Mosul in Iraq.

Since my inauguration, we have achieved record-breaking success in that regard. We will also maximize sanctions and other financial and law enforcement actions against these networks to eliminate their ability to export terror. When America commits its warriors to battle, we must ensure they have every weapon to apply swift, decisive, and overwhelming force.

Our troops will fight to win. We will fight to win. From now on, victory will have a clear definition: attacking our enemies, obliterating ISIS, crushing al Qaeda, preventing the Taliban from taking over Afghanistan, and stopping mass terror attacks against America before they emerge.

We will ask our NATO allies and global partners to support our new strategy with additional troop and funding increases in line with our own. We are confident they will. Since taking office, I

have made clear that our allies and partners must contribute much more money to our collective defense, and they have done so.

In this struggle, the heaviest burden will continue to be borne by the good people of Afghanistan and their courageous armed forces. As the prime minister of Afghanistan has promised, we are going to participate in economic development to help defray the cost of this war to us.

Afghanistan is fighting to defend and secure their country against the same enemies who threaten us. The stronger the Afghan security forces become, the less we will have to do. Afghans will secure and build their own nation and define their own future. We want them to succeed.

But we will no longer use American military might to construct democracies in faraway lands, or try to rebuild other countries in our own image. Those days are now over. Instead, we will work with allies and partners to protect our shared interests. We are not asking others to change their way of life, but to pursue common goals that allow our children to live better and safer lives. This principled realism will guide our decisions moving forward.

Military power alone will not bring peace to Afghanistan or stop the terrorist threat arising in that country. But strategically applied force aims to create the conditions for a political process to achieve a lasting peace.

America will work with the Afghan government as long as we see determination and progress. However, our commitment is not unlimited, and our support is not a blank check. The government of Afghanistan must carry their share of the military, political, and economic burden. The American people expect to see real reforms, real progress, and real results. Our patience is not unlimited. We will keep our eyes wide open.

In abiding by the oath I took on January 20th, I will remain steadfast in protecting American lives and American interests. In this effort, we will make common cause with any nation that chooses to stand and fight alongside us against this global threat. Terrorists take heed: America will never let up until you are dealt a lasting defeat.

Under my administration, many billions of dollars more is being spent on our military. And this includes vast amounts being spent on our nuclear arsenal and missile defense.

In every generation, we have faced down evil, and we have always prevailed. We prevailed because we know who we are and what we are fighting for.

Not far from where we are gathered tonight, hundreds of thousands of America's greatest patriots lay in eternal rest at Arlington National Cemetery. There is more courage, sacrifice, and love in those hallowed grounds than in any other spot on the face of the Earth.

Many of those who have fought and died in Afghanistan enlisted in the months after September 11th, 2001. They volunteered for a simple reason: They loved America, and they were determined to protect her.

Now we must secure the cause for which they gave their lives. We must unite to defend America from its enemies abroad. We must restore the bonds of loyalty among our citizens at home, and we must achieve an honorable and enduring outcome worthy of the enormous price that so many have paid.

Our actions, and in the months to come, all of them will honor the sacrifice of every fallen hero, every family who lost a loved one, and every wounded warrior who shed their blood in defense of our great nation. With our resolve, we will ensure that your service and that your families will bring about the defeat of our enemies and the arrival of peace.

We will push onward to victory with power in our hearts, courage in our souls, and everlasting pride in each and every one of you.

Thank you. May God bless our military. And may God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

9:27 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Niinistö of Finland Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 28, 2017
Remarks by President Trump and President Niinistö of Finland Before Bilateral Meeting
Oval Office
3:32 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It's my honor to have President Niinistö of Finland, a country that we have had a wonderful relationship. We're working with them very strongly right now. We have trading relationships. Sadly, they have a trade surplus against the United States, but maybe we can do something to change that.

But it's a great honor to have you. Your country has done very well. It's doing extremely well under your leadership. And an honor to have you at the Oval Office.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Thank you so very much. It's an honor to be in the Oval Office. Just a reminder, even though the balance is pro for us, the balance of the investments is different. (Inaudible.)

Mr. President, I would like to say that what we are seeing in Texas -- our thoughts are with those people.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: And I am sure that they and you, Mr. President, have the strength and courage to overcome the disaster.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, that's very nice. And we appreciate it. And coming from yourself and the people of Finland, I very much appreciate it. Thank you.

Thank you, everybody. Thank you very much.

Q (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'll be going to Texas tomorrow. I look very much forward to it. Things are being handled really well. The spirit is incredible of the people. The coordination between all of the different services, as you know, has been going very well. Great respect for the governor. He's done an incredible job.

And I look forward to the trip. So I'll be going there tomorrow. We're leaving at about 8:30 in the morning. We don't know exactly which sections; we'll be notifying you soon. But we'll be traveling throughout certain parts, and we may actually go back on Saturday. Depending on where the storm goes, we may also go to Louisiana on Saturday.

Q Are you surprised at the magnitude?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's the biggest ever. They're saying it's the biggest. It's historic. It's like -- really, like Texas, if you think about it. But it is a historic amount of water in particular. There's never been anything like it.

So the people are handling it amazingly well. And the people of Texas, as you know, have really persevered. And when you watch the spirit and the enthusiasm, and helping each other, the teamwork, it's really been something for people to say -- I think even in Finland they would say it's been pretty incredible what they've been able to do.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: We have noticed that, yes. Wonderful.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's been really something.

So we'll be leaving tomorrow at about 8:30 in the morning.

Q Will you be doing anything special, sir, with the Cabinet or Congress?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we've done quite a few Cabinet meetings to make sure everything is coordinated. We're dealing with Congress. As you know, it's going to be a very expensive situation. We want to take care of the people of Texas and Louisiana, when that happens. Let's see what happens with the flow. The flow seems to be heading toward Louisiana right now, as we speak. But we'll be there for the people of Louisiana also, very much so.

So we'll see you tomorrow. And I guess you'll see both of us in a couple of minutes in the East Room.

Thank you all very much. Thank you.

END

3:36 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Niinistö of Finland in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Niinistö of Finland in Joint Press Conference

East Room

4:20 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Thank you very much. It is my great honor to welcome President Niinistö to the White House. We've just concluded a very positive meeting.

And I want to begin today by extending my thoughts and prayers for those affected by Hurricane Harvey and the catastrophe of flooding and all of the other difficulties that they're currently going through in Houston, in southeast Texas, and now it's looking more and more like the state of Louisiana will be also affected.

My administration is coordinating closely with state and local authorities in Texas and Louisiana to save lives, and we thank our first responders and all of those involved in their efforts.

We're working directly with Texas Governor Greg Abbott -- who, by the way, is doing a fantastic job -- and his entire staff, likewise, as well as with Governor John Bel Edwards, who's very much involved in starting the process of Louisiana. We've pledged our full support as Texas and Louisiana battle and recover from this very devastating and historic storm. There's probably never been anything like this.

Under the supervision of FEMA Administrator Brock Long, there has been a tremendous amount of work done. He has been so outstanding in so many ways. More than 8,500 federal workers are involved in the Texas effort alone. I've also today declared emergencies in Louisiana at the request of Governor Edwards.

Recovery will be a long and difficult road, and the federal government stands ready, willing, and able to support that effort. Right now, the single most important thing is the safety and security of those still in harm's way, including the first responders who have been so terrific and brave. Protecting the lives of our people is my highest priority. Every asset at my command is at the disposal of local officials.

Tragic times such as these bring out the best in America's character. Strength, charity and resilience are those characters. We see neighbor helping neighbor, friend helping friend, and stranger helping stranger. And you see that all over. If you watch on television, you just see such incredible work and love, and teamwork.

We are one American family. We hurt together, we struggle together, and, believe me, we endure together. We are one family.

To the people of Texas and Louisiana: We are 100 percent with you. We're praying for you, we're working closely with your leaders and officials, and I will be visiting the impact zone tomorrow to ensure that you're receiving full support and cooperation from the federal government. And on Saturday, we think we're going back to Texas, and also we will be going to Louisiana.

Nothing can defeat the unbreakable spirit of the people of Texas and Louisiana. Right now, every American heart sends its love and support to those whose lives have been upended -- totally upended -- totally -- by this very horrible storm.

We ask God for his wisdom and strength. We will get through this. We will come out stronger. And, believe me, we will be bigger, better, stronger than ever before. The rebuilding will begin, and in the end it will be something very special. And I just want to thank everybody in the affected area, because it has been absolutely incredible to watch -- the spirit, the cooperation, and the love.

I would also like to share a message to the people of Finland who have recently suffered a terrorist attack in Turku: We stand in solidarity with you against the terrorist threat. We must all work together to deny terrorists safe havens, cut off their finances, and defeat their very wicked ideology.

Mr. President, Americans are grateful for your steadfast support as an ally in the fight against terrorism -- appreciate it -- including your membership in the coalition to defeat ISIS. Finland makes important contributions to the coalition and its effort in Afghanistan, and has troops on the ground in Iraq training Iraqi soldiers.

In Afghanistan, Finland provides troops and financial contributions to support the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces on a modern-day frontier between barbarism and civilization. That's what you have -- it's barbarism versus civilization. We are particularly grateful to the Finnish citizens who have sacrificed for our mutual security.

Finland is a leading expert in cybersecurity. In fact, we should be calling you pretty soon. You do do a fantastic job with cybersecurity, and I congratulate you. And I think in a very short period of time, we're going to be right there with you, believe me. The United States is a very proud partner of Finland's European Center of Excellence to counter modern threats, including cyberattacks.

In addition, we look forward to your leadership as chair of the Arctic Council. The Arctic region has strategic and economic importance for both of our nations -- very much so.

The foundation of our friendship is our shared love of freedom. On behalf of all Americans, I congratulate you and the Finnish people on the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence -- 100 years. Fantastic.

In honor of Finland's centennial, the United States is contributing an additional half-million dollars to the Fulbright Finland Foundation. Through the Fulbright program, we are sending more of our best and brightest to Finland, forging lasting connections between Americans and Finns.

On the economic front, we seek fair and reciprocal trade to benefit both of our countries. I applaud Finnish companies for their commitment to increase investment in the United States, adding new technologies and adding good jobs for hardworking Americans. Thank you.

The U.S.-Finnish partnership is rooted in our shared interests and common values. As President -- and I must say, and I want to thank you, President -- we've discussed and we look forward to further strengthening these bonds of culture, commerce, and cooperation between our two countries so that our citizens and our nations can thrive and prosper together.

Mr. President, I'd like to thank you very much for being at the White House and a great meeting in the Oval Office. It's my honor to have you here. Thank you. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Mr. President, I want to thank you for your very kind words. And I just want to tell you that it is a great pleasure and honor to be here today. I thank you also for the discussions we have had. They have been of most interest.

We have been closely following Hurricane Harvey. Our thoughts are with the people of Texas and Louisiana. They and you, Mr. President, have shown strength and courage to overcome this catastrophe. It has been touching to watch the TV and see how people help each other. That is what we basically are built of -- helping each other.

Finland highly appreciates our close relationship with the United States. Today, they are broader than ever, ranging from security to defense cooperation, to trade and innovation. We are indeed celebrating our 100 years of independence. I want to thank you for the generous gift presented to the Fulbright Finland Foundation.

I want to also take this opportunity to greet the almost 700,000 Americans who have Finnish origin. Mr. President and I exchanged views on several international issues. Our broad headline was security. We discussed the importance of the transatlantic bond between the European Union and the United States. History has taught us Europeans the value of unity.

The U.S. and NATO presence in Europe are -- and in Baltic Sea -- are most important, and they are increasing rapidly. Finland is doing its part. We promote dialogue. To reduce risks, Finland has proposed steps to improve flight safety in the Baltic Sea area. They are small, but positive steps in reopening dialogue between NATO and Russia. We remain committed to supporting Afghanistan, and we are a dedicated member of the global coalition against ISIS.

Finland took the chairmanship of the Arctic Council from the United States in May. We can't afford losing the pristine Arctic nature. Finland firmly believes that business and environment can both be winners in the Arctic. A good example is reducing black carbon.

Mr. President, I'm looking forward to even closer cooperation with you and your great nation.

I want to thank you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: So we'll take a couple of questions. How about we go to Texas. Todd Gillman. Todd.

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes.

Q I'm wondering what you can tell the people of Texas to expect in terms of long-term recovery efforts. And, in particular, you have been feuding with some key congressional leaders. You've also threatened a government shutdown, potentially next month, over border wall funding. Are these going to hamper long-term -- the funding that will be needed long term for recovery?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, Todd. I think that you're going to very rapid action from Congress, certainly from the President. And you're going to get your funding. It's a terrible tragedy. Your governor has been absolutely outstanding in the job he's done, and his entire staff.

And I will say that -- I just spoke with Greg, and he is working like 24/7. We expect to have requests on our desk fairly soon, and we think that Congress will feel very much the way I feel. In a very bipartisan way -- that will be nice. But we think you're going to have what you need and it's going to go fast.

Texas is a unique place. It's a great, great state, great people, and I think you you'll be up and running very, very quickly. Really, very quickly. So, yeah, I think you're going to be in fantastic shape. I have already spoken to Congress and everybody feels for you and feels for what you're going through. But at the same time, they have great respect -- even additional respect for the state, because you've handled it so well, so brilliantly.

But it's a long road. Still pouring, still a lot of rain. Nobody has ever seen anything like it. I've heard the words "epic," I've heard "historic" -- and that's what it is. But you will have what you want, I think, very, very quickly.

And, Todd, you can ask a question the President.

Q Sure, thank you. Does this situation make you reconsider the possibility of a government shutdown?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think it has nothing to do with it, really. I think this is separate. This is going to go really very, very quickly. Again, I have spoken to many of the people we're talking about, and everybody feels the same way I do.

Q Thank you. And, Mr. President, I wanted to ask you: Your neighbor Russia has meddled in U.S. politics. They have a military exercise coming up in the next few weeks. In the Baltic, there are tensions over there. What kind of advice have you offered, and can you offer, to the United States in dealing with this adversary?

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Sir, we are not feeling ourselves as advisors, but we are feeling ourselves as doing all what is possible to maintain peace. And that is what we are doing in Baltic Sea area too.

With the -- actually, you refer to a different kind military training, which is going to happen there. I have to tell you that a couple of weeks ago, I met President Putin, and there were media interested in why Chinese navy is having training together with Russians in Baltic Sea area. Putin answered that it is not a bloc, it is not against anybody. My answer was that we are also training in Baltic Sea with United States and Sweden, and it's not bloc, it's not against anybody.

So we have to be very careful that this huge training, huge military trafficking over politics doesn't cause any accidental problems. Because we know that from accidents might grow whatever. And that is why I think it's important that we continue to work with NATO to enhance, like I said, dialogue between Russia and NATO. And it is going forward.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You have a question?

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Finnish Broadcasting Company. Where you are? Okay.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I have a question to President Trump, if I may. As President Niinistö told, he's been raising the issue about the security situation in the Baltic region and the Baltic Sea, specifically, and has been concerned about the Russian planes flying there without transponders on. So my question to you, Mr. President, would be: Mr. Trump, would you consider Russia as a security threat? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I consider many countries as a security threat, unfortunately, when you look at what's going on in the world today. As you know, a few weeks ago our great Vice President, Mike Pence, who's right here, was in the region and spent quite a bit of time there. We consider that a very, very important part of the world. We have great relationships there. We have a great relationship with Finland.

And so I would consider many countries threats, but these are all threats that we'll be able to handle if we have to. Hopefully, we won't have to handle them, but if we do, we will handle them.

Q Can I have a follow-up, as he had also? So if the situation in the Baltic were to escalate, what would the U.S. be ready to do in that unfortunate circumstances? Thanks.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we are very protective of that region. That's all I can say. We are very, very protective. We have great friends there, great relationships there. We are extremely protective. Okay? Thank you.

Q Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: A question for the President? Yes.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: No. Sometimes he --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Do you have a question for the President? Do you have a question for the President?

Q What if --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's all right. Somebody else could.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: You don't have to. (Laughter.)

Q Mr. President, (inaudible) from Finland.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Okay.

Q Did you speak about climate change at all? And what about your, Mr. President Niinistö, initiative about cleaning up the Arctic and doing it together with the United States? What kind of response did your idea receive here in Washington, D.C.?

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: We discussed a lot about black carbon. And to explain to everybody: What happens is that, from atmosphere, black carbon covers the Arctic, and we know what happens when sunshine meets black. It melts the ice. And the problem is not only Arctic; if we lose the Arctic, we lose the globe. That is reality.

So we must fight against those emissions spreading black carbon. I understood that the United States is going to put it in half, and we know that black carbon sources are a lot of them in Russia. They are old-fashioned energy plants producing heating. The other problem is flaring. You know that in oil fields, they flare up the extra gas, and the amount is huge. Yearly, they flare 40 times more than Finland spent gas.

So if we can -- and here comes also a business picture -- it would be a good business to renew those old-fashioned plants, to make more with less energy. It would be the business to stop flaring, to take use of that gas which is now burned (inaudible).

And I think that these elements are shots that we can continue discussing in Arctic Council. We have inherited the chairmanship from the United States, and we continue the work.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We had a very good discussion, in particular on the Arctic and black carbon. And I think we have much in agreement.

One of the things we also agree on: We want crystal-clean water, and we want clean air -- the cleanest ever. Very important. So we have a lot of agreement.

John Roberts, yes.

Q Mr. President, thank you so much. President Niinistö, I have a question for you as well, but if I could start with President Trump. In the middle of Hurricane Harvey hitting on Friday night, you chose to pardon former Sheriff Joe Arpaio. I wonder if you could tell us what was behind your thinking for issuing the pardon for the Sheriff. And, as well, what do you say to your critics, even some in your own party, who say it was the wrong thing to do?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, a lot of people think it was the right thing to do, John. And actually, in the middle of a hurricane, even though it was a Friday evening, I assumed the ratings would be far higher than they would be normally. You know the hurricane was just starting, and I put it out that I had pardoned, as we say, Sheriff Joe.

He's done a great job for the people of Arizona. He's very strong on borders, very strong on illegal immigration. He is loved in Arizona. I thought he was treated unbelievably unfairly when they came down with their big decision to go get him right before the election voting started, as you know. And he lost in a fairly close election. He would have won the election, but they just hammered him just before the election. I thought that was a very, very unfair thing to do.

When I mentioned him the other night -- you saw the massive crowd we had. The people went crazy when I said, "What do you think of Sheriff Joe?" or something to that effect. The place went absolutely crazy when I was in Arizona last week.

And as far as pardons are concerned, I actually did this just before the meeting because I assumed that somebody would ask me the question. I didn't know it would be you, as you can attest. You didn't even know you were going to be called. But I thought I would. And, you know, Sheriff Joe is a great veteran of the military, great law enforcement person, somebody that's won many, many elections in the state of Arizona. But I wanted to look at some of the other people that were pardoned over the years.

And if you look at, as an example, President Clinton pardoned Marc Rich, who was charged with crimes going back decades, including illegally buying oil from Iran while it held 53 American hostages -- wasn't allowed to do that, selling to the enemies of the United States. He was pardoned after his wife donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Clintons.

Then you have dangerous criminals. President Clinton pardoned Susan Rosenberg, a member of the Weather Underground, charged as part of a bank robbery that led to a guard and two police officers being killed.

Drug dealers. President Clinton commuted the sentence of Carlos Vignali, a central player in a cocaine ring that stretched from California to Minnesota.

Criminal leaker. You've heard the word "leaker." President Obama commuted the sentence of Chelsea Manning, who leaked countless sensitive and classified documents to WikiLeaks, perhaps and others. But a horrible, horrible thing that he did. Commuted the sentence and perhaps pardoned.

President Obama commuted the sentence of Oscar Lopez Rivera, who was charged as part of a violent independence group from Puerto Rico, responsible for 28 Chicago-area bombings and many deaths in the 1970s and 1980s.

Sheriff Joe is a patriot. Sheriff Joe loves our country. Sheriff Joe protected our borders. And Sheriff Joe was very unfairly treated by the Obama administration, especially right before an election -- an election that he would have won. And he was elected many times.

So I stand by my pardon of Sheriff Joe, and I think the people of Arizona, who really know him best, would agree with me.

Thank you very much.

Q Mr. President, I'd like to claim prescience that you did all the research, but I'm afraid I have to confess the question was fairly obvious.

And President Niinistö, I'm sure that President Trump either briefed you today, or you're aware of his new plan for Afghanistan that really relies, at its core, in bringing the Taliban to the table for negotiations. Given the history and the ideology of the Taliban, do you ever believe that they would honor any kind of an agreement that was ever made? Or would they, when the United States and Finland and other countries leave Afghanistan, renege on that deal?

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Yes, first of all, I want to underline that Finland has been involved from the very beginning to all the attempts to solve the situation in Afghanistan. We have troops there. We have also financial aid going on all the time.

We have to try. We have to try in all possible ways to solve the situation in Afghanistan. It has been ongoing quite a long time, for decades. But to solve it by negotiations, surely you have to have full respect to the one you negotiate, and to also full believe that what is negotiated is also fulfilled.

These elements have to be all the time present when you discuss with whichever party in Afghanistan.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I know there might be a couple of more questions, but do you want to take one more? Would you want to take one more? Go ahead, pick. (Laughter.) Go ahead.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Please.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Again? You're going to give her the same one?

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: No, she's not the same lady. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Go ahead.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: They are sitting side-by-side.

Q We have a lot of blonde women in Finland.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Go ahead.

Q Mr. President Trump, what kind of role do you see as Finland having in the U.S.-Russia relations? Do you think Finland could be of assistance, helping U.S. get better relations with Russia?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I hope that we do have good relations with Russia. I say it loud and clear, I've been saying it for years: I think it's a good thing if we have great relationships, or at least good relationships with Russia. That's very important, and I believe someday that will happen.

It's a big country, it's a nuclear country, it's a country that we should get along with, and I think we will eventually get along with Russia.

Finland is respected by Russia. Finland has been free of Russia, really -- just about one of the few countries in the region that has been -- for 100 years. And Russia has a lot of respect for Finland, so that's always good. But I think Finland is doing fine with Russia, and I hope that the United States will someday be able to have a very good relationship with Russia also. I think that's very good for world peace and for other things.

Thank you.

Q As a follow-up, if Finland's relationship with Russia were to deteriorate, would the U.S. -- what kind of assistance would the U.S. be willing to give to Finland bilaterally, if we needed it?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, as I said before, that, you know, our relationship with Finland is a very close one and we're always ready to help Finland. One of the things that is happening is you're purchasing large amounts of our great F-18 aircraft from Boeing, and it's one of the great planes, one of the great fighter jets, and you're purchasing lots of other military equipment, and, I think, purchasing very wisely. I know all of the military equipment and I actually agree with everything you purchased. We talked about it before.

I think Finland is really a respected country militarily. It's got large armed forces for its size as a country. Really, proportionally, probably one of the biggest in the world if you think of it.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: I guess so.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: But they're very respected militarily, and they're respected beyond militarily. So hopefully it will never come to that. Thank you.

Q And President Niinistö? President Niinistö, did you discuss Russia? And did you offer any assistance to the U.S. with their relationship with Russia?

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Well, like I said earlier on, we did discuss about Russia. But actually, I don't feel myself or Finland being any advisor to anybody, but we try to do our best, and hopefully we get also results from that.

I want to remind you that, in NATO meeting, a year ago approximately, it was stated by all NATO countries that with Russia you have to be deterrence, but you have to exercise dialogue too. These two-way elements have to be there.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yeah, go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Trey Yingst with One America News. In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, do you believe that cutting FEMA's budget is the right thing to do?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, I think what's going to happen is the FEMA money is relatively small compared to the rebuilding money. So FEMA -- right now, we have the money necessary for Texas and Louisiana, if we need, but the real number, which will be many billions of dollars, will go through Congress. I think it'll happen very quickly, it'll go very fast, and I want to congratulate you on the network. It's a great network.

Q Thank you. If I may follow up on one other question from earlier -- the southern border wall. Is your plan still to have Mexico pay for the wall?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, they will. One way or the other, Mexico is going to pay for the wall. That's right. It may be through reimbursement, but one way or the other, Mexico will pay for the wall.

We're right now negotiating NAFTA. In my opinion, Mexico has been very difficult, as they should be. Why wouldn't they be? They had a sweetheart deal for so many years. It's one of the great deals of all time for them. One of the worst trade deals ever signed. I guarantee you, Mr. President, Finland would never have signed NAFTA with Russia or whoever you wanted. This is not a deal that you would want to sign. This is not a deal that Finland would know about.

NAFTA is one of the worst trade deals ever signed at any time, anywhere in the world. And I can understand why Mexico is being difficult because why wouldn't they be? They've had it their way.

But, no, Mexico will pay for the wall. It may be through a reimbursement. We need the wall very badly. As you know, Mexico has a tremendous crime problem -- tremendous -- one of the number two or three in the world. And that's another reason we need it. And the -- just to add on, tremendous drugs are pouring into the United States at levels that nobody has ever seen before. This happened over the last three to four years in particular. The wall will stop much of the drugs from pouring into this country and poisoning our youth.

So we need the wall. It's imperative. We may fund it through the United States. But ultimately, Mexico will pay for the wall.

Q Sir, if I may follow up. On Tuesday, you said, if we have to close down our government, we are building that wall.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I hope that's not necessary --

Q If Mexico is paying for wall, why would you close down our government?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Let me just tell you -- yeah, I hope that's not necessary. If it's necessary, we'll have to see. But I hope it's not necessary. The wall is needed from the standpoint of security. The wall is needed from the standpoint of drug -- tremendous, the drug scourge, what's coming through the areas that we're talking about. As you know, I have General Kelly here. We stopped traffic coming through -- 78 percent. It's going to be, I think, 81 percent this quarter, which is a record. In other administrations, if they stopped it just a little bit, like one, or two, or three percent, they considered that a great thing. We're up to almost 80 percent. We'll soon be over 80 percent.

But you need the wall to do the rest, and you need the wall for the drugs. The drugs are a tremendous problem. The wall will greatly help with the drug problem, and ultimately that's a good thing for Mexico also. We have a very good relationship with Mexico, but I will say that dealing with them -- I've always said -- I've talked about NAFTA, you've heard me many times -- and I've said that we will either terminate it or renegotiate it.

We're in the process of renegotiating -- right now renegotiating the deal. I believe that you will probably have to at least start the termination process before a fair deal could be arrived at because it's been a one-sided deal. And this includes Canada, by the way. Great respect for Canada, great love for Canada, but it's been a one-sided deal for Canada and for Mexico.

And the United States workers, all of these incredible people who have lost their jobs because of NAFTA, they're not going to be suffering any longer. It's been unfair for too long.

So we will build the wall, and we will stop a lot of things, including the drug -- the drugs are pouring in at levels like nobody has ever seen. We'll be able to stop them once the wall is up.

Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you, everybody.

PRESIDENT NIINISTÖ: Thank you.

END

4:54 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Emir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait in Joint Press Conference

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Emir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait in Joint Press Conference

East Room
2:21 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good afternoon, and thank you for all being here. It's my great honor to welcome His Highness the Emir of Kuwait to the White House.

The United States and Kuwait share a strong and enduring partnership. We recently commenced [commemorated] the 27th day of remembrance of Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, which we all remember so well. The United States is proud to have contributed to the liberation of Kuwait and for the friendship we have built together in the years since.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to our shared security interests and recognize Kuwait's critical contributions to regional stability. We also thank Kuwait for its humanitarian leadership and for its partnership in the fight to destroy ISIS.

During my trip to Saudi Arabia, I spoke to the leaders of more than 50 Arab and Muslim nations about the need to confront our shared enemies -- murderous terror groups that threaten all civilized people. Every responsible nation must work together to strip these groups of their territory, their financing, and the false allure of their evil ideology.

I applaud Kuwait for its role in this effort and encourage all nations in the region to do their fair share in defeating those who wage war on the innocent. Each nation in the region must decide what kind of future they want for their own children: one of violence or one of peace. That also means confronting those, such as the Iranian regime, who support terror groups and radical militias.

Cooperation between America and Kuwait has never been stronger -- never, ever. The FBI and the Kuwaiti government are expanding our counterterrorism and intelligence-sharing efforts. We are making progress on promoting Kuwaiti investments in the United States. They're making tremendous investments in our country. They have great confidence in our country. We're also entering a bilateral agreement with Kuwait regarding customs enforcement.

During the same period, and the same trip to Saudi Arabia -- which was my great honor representing our incredible country -- His Highness personally asked me to expedite a \$5 billion agreement for the sale of American F/A-18 Super Hornet fighting jets for Kuwait. I am pleased to report that the State Department has now authorized this transferred purchase, which will not only strengthen our mutual security, but will greatly benefit American workers.

Kuwaiti's investments in America through its sovereign wealth fund are profitable for Kuwaiti people and they create many, many jobs in the American workforce. I am pleased to report this year that Kuwait has taken delivery of 10 American-made Boeing 777 airliners. They're beauties. American workers build the best planes in the world, by far, and we want them to be made available for those countries that want them. And Kuwait has been a big buyer of commercial airliners made by Boeing and others.

Our partnership extends beyond shared economic and security interests. We're signing a memorandum to deepen the close educational ties between our two countries, enhancing English language, and that's what we're going to be doing -- we're enhancing the whole relationship through the use of the English language. And that is something that's very exciting, I think, for both of us.

I want to thank His Highness for his leadership role and the role he's playing to help the nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council follow through on their pledges from all over -- because we went to Saudi Arabia, and the pledges of ending terrorist financing came from every country in that magnificent room, on that magnificent day. And we are addressing the ongoing GCC dispute, and the Emir is leading those discussions and hopefully it will be resolved very soon.

We call on our GCC and Egyptian allies to focus on our commitments at that Saudi Arabia summit to continue our joint efforts to drive out and defeat terrorists. Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Egypt are all essential U.S. partners in this effort. We have great relationships with all of them right now; maybe better than we've ever had. We will be most successful with a united GCC.

Tomorrow, Secretary of State Tillerson and Foreign Minister Al-Sabah will chair the second U.S.-Kuwaiti Strategic Dialogue. By strengthening communications with allies like Kuwait, we

send a strong message to both terrorist organizations and regional aggressors that they cannot win -- they will not win; they cannot win against us; and our military is getting stronger and stronger and stronger -- and that those who cherish and value human life will always prevail.

I want to thank His Highness for joining us here today. The United States values its close friendship with Kuwait and its people, and we look forward to strengthening these bonds even further. Together, we will show the world that the forces of destruction and extremism are no match for the blessings of prosperity and peace.

Thank you very much. I appreciate that. Thank you.

EMIR AL-SABAH: (As interpreted.) My dear President, Mr. President Donald Trump, Your Excellencies and Highnesses, ladies and gentlemen, I'm delighted, and my delegation, to be here today in Washington, this great city, in response to the invitation that His Excellency, my friend President Trump, has extended to me.

I would like at the outset to reaffirm and resend once again our condolences to the President and the American people about the victims of Harvey Hurricane that hit Texas. And we are deeply affected by the human losses and the huge destruction in public facilities and property.

I pray to God almighty that he would make this, the coming hurricane that is about to hit Florida -- for it to be a harbinger of goodness, not evil. I wish and hope that the losses would not be harmful to the American people and would not cause further sadness and grief for those who will fall victim to this hurricane.

Once again, we reaffirm that we stand by our friends in the U.S. in fighting and confronting this issue. We have had deep and comprehensive discussions that reflect the depth of our bilateral and historic relationship, and advanced relationships in all levels -- at the political, economic, and military, and security levels -- in order to serve the mutual interests of our two countries and people.

I here would like to commend the commitment that we have sensed here on the part of the U.S. about the security of the State of Kuwait. And within the framework of these relations, we remember with great gratitude the great role that the U.S. played when it assumed the leadership of the international coalition that liberated my country from the throes of the invading Iraqi forces and restored its freedom. And this memory will remain forever in the minds of the Kuwaiti people.

We also highly value the strategic relations between our two countries. We have discussed the situation in the country, foremost among which is the unfortunate dispute between our brothers in the Gulf region and our efforts to contain it, and the international support that we have received for these efforts.

We have also discussed our common efforts, in cooperation with the international community, in fighting terrorism and ending the sources of funding for it. And in this regard, I would like to commend the prominent role that the United States plays in combatting terrorism, especially the recent victories against terrorism. And we have also discussed the situation in Iraq, and the catastrophic situation in Syria, and Yemen, and Syria, and Libya. And we affirm the need to end their fighting there through dialogue between the various disputing parties.

And we have affirmed the necessity of the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility in maintaining international peace and stability, because the continuation of those struggles continues to be a threat.

With respect to the Palestinian question, we have praised the recent U.S. efforts to move the peace process, and we affirmed the need to join efforts in order to reach a comprehensive and lasting solution to this problem on the basis of a two-state solution and in accordance with the international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Once again, I thank His Excellency, the President, for his kind invitation to us and for his kind hospitality. And we look forward to meeting with His Excellency, the President, in the State of Kuwait within the framework of our efforts to further enhance our relations and build on our strategic relationship in the service of the interests of both countries and people.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: All right, we'll take a couple of questions. Go ahead. Yes.

Actually, we'll go to somebody else this time, John. (Laughter.) You've been doing enough, John. Go ahead, CBS.

Q Thanks. Mr. President, on the question of North Korea, the country feels that a crisis is coming. Some lawmakers, Lindsey Graham among them, have almost described the situation as inevitably leading to war. I don't want to ask you if you think it's inevitable. What I do want to ask you is, as President of the United States, would you tolerate a nuclearized North Korea that is contained and deterred but still nuclear? Or would it have to abandon nuclear weapons? And would military action on the part of the United States be one of the options necessary to achieve that goal?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Military action would certainly be an option. Is it inevitable? Nothing is inevitable. It would be great if something else could be worked out. We would have to look at all of the details, all of the facts. But we've had Presidents for 25 years now -- they've been talking, talking, talking -- and the day after an agreement is reached, new work begins in North Korea, continuation on nuclear.

So I would prefer not going the route of the military, but it's something certainly that could happen. Our military has never been stronger. We are in a position now -- and you know the new orders. You see the new numbers just like I see the new numbers. It's been tens of billions of dollars more in investment. And each day new equipment is delivered -- new and beautiful equipment, the best in the world, the best anywhere in the world, by far.

Hopefully we're not going to have to use it on North Korea. If we do use it on North Korea, it will be a very sad day for North Korea.

Do you have a question for the Emir?

Q Follow-up: Is it acceptable for you, as President, for North Korea to be nuclearized but contained and deterred? Is that a strategy you would like --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We're going to see what it is. I don't negotiate with you --

Q -- to prefer?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, I'm not negotiating with you. Maybe we'll have a chance to negotiate with somebody else, but I don't put my negotiations on the table. Unlike past administrations, I don't talk about them. But I can tell you that North Korea is behaving badly, and it's got to stop.

Okay, a question for the Emir?

Q Your Excellency, you mentioned in a general sense the situation with Qatar. How optimistic are you about it being resolved, and what role would you like the President of the United States to play in achieving a resolution?

EMIR AL-SABAH: (As interpreted.) We hope -- we still have hope that the dispute will be resolved between Qatar and its neighborly countries in the GCC. Especially that our friends in the U.S. and our other friends are assisting us in resolving this issue, I am optimistic that the solution will come in the very near future, God willing.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Question for the -- yes, for the Emir first, yes.

Q My question is for you, Mr. President, first. Kuwait News Agency.

(As interpreted.) Do you support the Kuwaiti mediation role between Qatar and the four countries? And do you support the holding of a conference that will include all parties in Kuwait? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: While I do appreciate and respect the mediation, I would be willing to be the mediator. I was telling the Emir before that if I can help between UAE and Saudi Arabia, where I have a very great relationship -- I spoke with the King yesterday, King Salman, who is a friend of mine, and we spoke on unrelated subjects, but we had a long conversation. If I can help mediate between Qatar and, in particular, the UAE and Saudi Arabia, I would be willing to do so. And I think you'd have a deal worked out very quickly.

I think it's something that's going to get solved fairly easily. Kuwait has been really the leader of getting it solved, and we appreciate that very much. But I do believe that we'll solve it. If we don't solve it, I will be a mediator right here in the White House. We'll come together. Very quickly, I think, we'll have something solved.

Q (As interpreted.) Emir, in light of the regional conditions in the region, has there been an assertion on the role of the U.S.'s commitment to the security of the State of Kuwait? Thank you.

EMIR AL-SABAH: (As interpreted.) Thank you. And you have heard now what His Excellency, the President, has said about the relations between Kuwait and the U.S., and its assertion of its commitment to the security of Kuwait. And this is not something new.

And don't forget that the United States has managed with its other allies when Kuwait was occupied; it liberated Kuwait from Iraq within a few months. And this is something that the Kuwaiti people remember very well and everybody also. And we here thank the United States and the American people for that.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Nadia Bilbassy with Al Arabiya Television. You dispatched a team to Israel and Palestine, and you're about to meet the leaders of both countries in the U.N. soon. Do we expect a new American initiative to move the process forward?

And if I may, sir, the U.N. has just published a report about Syria's Assad regime using chemical weapons. They said they basically used it more than two dozen times. Does that mean that President Assad is immune now from any prosecution? And what can you do to stop the further use of chemical weapons? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, first of all, the Palestinians and the Israelis -- we are discussing, we are working. They say it is the world's most complex and difficult deal. You know that. But it is something that could happen. I believe that the relationships that we have with both can help. It's an event that's just never taken place. Sometimes people think they're close and it never happens, or it never happens successfully.

I think we have a chance of doing it. I think the Palestinians would like to see it happen. I think the Israelis would like to see it happen. And usually when you have two groups that would like to see something happen, good things can happen.

So I think there is a chance that there could be peace. But again, I say that a little bit reluctantly. We're going to give it our best. We have tremendous talent working on that particular transaction. As you know, David Friedman, the ambassador, is very much involved. We have a great group of people. We'll see what happens.

As far as the chemical weapons, I find it hard to believe that after what we did the last time, that Assad would do that again. I haven't heard what you just said, but I find that a little bit difficult to believe. But nothing would change. We would be extremely upset if he was using chemical weapons.

As far as Syria is concerned, we have very little to do with Syria other than killing ISIS. What we do is we kill ISIS. And we have succeeded in that respect. We have done better in eight months of my presidency than the previous eight years against ISIS. So ISIS is rapidly disappearing, as you know, and that's because of our great military. The military has been absolutely incredible in terms of what they've done with ISIS in Iraq and in Syria.

Do you have a question for the Emir?

Q (As interpreted.) Yes. To the Emir, all the parties are holding onto their own positions with respect to Qatar. Where do you see a breakthrough in this dispute? Do you see any indications to make us believe that this crisis will come to an end?

EMIR AL-SABAH: (As interpreted.) The hope has not ended yet. I would like to affirm that Qatar is ready to meet all the demands that were put -- the 13 demands that were presented, and is ready to sit at the table to negotiate and to discuss with us all everything related to the dispute between the parties -- the Gulf parties.

As you know, we have 13 demands that were presented, and we know that not all of these 13 demands are acceptable. But if we were to sit down together and discuss these 13 demands -- and we have indeed accepted them, and Qatar has accepted them -- we would be able to resolve all 13 demands -- all the issues and points that harm and relate to the dispute between the countries of the region and anything that harms the interests of our other friends.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: This all began because of the fact that there has been massive funding of terrorism by certain countries. And what I want is I want to stop the funding of terrorism, and we're going to stop the funding of terrorism. And if they don't stop the funding of terrorism, I don't want them to come together. But I think they will.

You have a question?

Q (As interpreted.) Your Highness, Said Saeed (ph) from Al Jazeera, Mr. President. We talk about Kuwaiti mediation and supporting Kuwaiti mediation. Are the talks and the meeting that happened in Kuwait, which received U.S. and international support -- is there, in reality, something clear and a breakthrough that has been accomplished in this crisis? Are we about to see at the beginning of a breakthrough? Or, Your Highness, are the things -- issues so complicated? We talked about a deep discussion about all the issues. What is the real issue and complicated issue at the heart of this dispute? We would like to find some information -- where is the problem here -- so that we can solve it. Thank you.

EMIR AL-SABAH: (As interpreted.) First of all, I would like to say, there is no problem that cannot be resolved. True, it's complicated, but when we meet around one table -- and now we have an affirmation from the country to which some demands were presented by its brotherly nations in the Gulf region when we hear that it's ready to discuss all these demands. We are not among those countries, but we are guarantors, and we can guarantee that we will pressure Qatar because it's not in the interest of Qatar to remain outside the flock. Rather, it should join its brothers in the GCC.

As you know, thank God, the wisdom of our brothers in the Gulf region -- they should appreciate the situation we are in today -- the situation in Syria and Iraq, and in Syria and in Libya. Now is the time that we have to forget all these differences. It's true we have descended into some not very healthy issues, especially in the media, but in spite of all of that, we were one of the most people to be affected by this situation by what our brothers in Qatar have done.

But when that happened, and before this dispute came into existence, we met with our brothers in Qatar and put an end to this issue. And this is now a normal issue. We met in Riyadh, in the presence of President Trump, and there was no one to say that there was a dispute between us. But suddenly, this dispute came into existence. Thank God, now, what is important is that we have stopped any military action.

And these disputes, as I said, they are complicated. And we have seen the media campaign that is totally unacceptable to the people because the media coming out of this country is against the people, not the rulers. And for that reasons, we have received from Qatar a letter in response to the letter I sent them, and they are willing to sit down at the table and discuss all these demands, which the other parties have put down.

And we're talking about 13 demands, and I'm certain that all these certain demands, some of them -- a great part of them will be resolved and the other part -- and perhaps, we might not accept them because anything that effects sovereignty we would not accept.

But we are very hopeful. We have great hope in our friends in the U.S. that they will assist them to restore things to where they used to be.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, that is a problem that we will get resolved, and I'm very, very honored and happy to know that you have problems with the media also. (Laughter.)

Thank you everybody. Thank you very much.

END

2:51 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Emir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait in Joint Press Conference

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 08, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Emir Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah of Kuwait in Joint Press Conference

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

As Hurricane Irma approaches, my Administration is working closely with our state and local partners to help save lives, protect families, and assist those in need. This is a storm of absolutely historic destructive potential. I ask everyone in the storm's path to be vigilant, and to heed all recommendations from government officials and law enforcement. Nothing is more important than the safety and security of our people. We are doing everything we can to help with disaster preparations and, when the time comes, we will restore, recover, and rebuild – together, as Americans. In times such as these, we see the strength and the resolve of the American Spirit – and we see the kindness and courage of our people. With gratitude for our first responders, and prayers for those in the storm's path, America stands united – and I mean totally united. From Texas to Louisiana, from Florida to Puerto Rico, and always the US Virgin Islands, and everywhere in between that has been affected by these terrible storms: we will endure and come back stronger than ever before.

Earlier this week, I visited the hardworking citizens of North Dakota to promote our vision for tax cuts and tax reform that will create opportunity and prosperity for millions and millions of Americans. As President, I am committed to pursuing an economic policy that lifts up all of our citizens, provides hope for all of our communities, and generates wealth for everyday hardworking people and it's about time.

Since January, we've already created 1.2 million jobs. Unemployment is near a 16-year low. Wages are rising. But for our economy to truly take off like it should, we must cut taxes and reform our badly-broken tax system.

Our current burdensome tax code is a massive lead weight against the American economy. It costs us millions of jobs, trillions of dollars, and billions and billions of hours wasted on paperwork and compliance.

My Administration is working closely with Congress to develop a plan that will deliver more jobs, higher pay, and lower taxes for businesses of all sizes and most importantly for Middle Class families all across America.

First, we are going to make filing taxes as simple as possible. If you're like most Americans, under our plan you will file your taxes on a single page. What a difference that will make – and you won't need to keep endless receipts and paperwork. We are freeing you from the horrible tax maze.

Secondly, we will cut taxes for Middle Class families. We want you to keep more of your hard earned money. This way, you could spend it, you could save it, you could do whatever you want.

Third, we will restore our competitive edge so we can create more jobs and higher wages for the American worker.

Today we have the highest business tax rate anywhere in the developed world – 60 percent higher on average than our major foreign competitors. It is a crushing tax on every product Made in America, and it encourages American businesses to ship jobs and factories overseas – something that I have been fighting long and hard and we are making tremendous head way. Believe me, they are starting to move back to our country and the jobs are coming with them.

We are going to cut taxes on American Industry so we can create more business in our country. We want our companies to hire and grow in America, to raise wages for American workers, and to help rebuild our American cities and towns.

Finally, we will make it easier for companies to bring back trillions of dollars that they are now keeping overseas. And the reason is the tax is too high and the bureaucracy is too great. It is so complicated for them to bring back their money that they say “let’s just leave it over here, we won’t bring it back to the United States.” Terrible situation. We are going to take care of it. But this money should be brought back to American soil, where it can be invested in new factories and brand new beautiful jobs.

Our plan is pro-jobs, pro-worker, pro-family and pro-American.

This is our chance to give American workers a level playing field, to end the rigged system that lets special interests win at the expense of the middle class, and to reestablish our economic dominance for generations to come.

That is how we all succeed and grow together - as one team, one people, and one American family. Frankly, that is how we Make America Great Again.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless America.

Remarks by the Vice President at the Flight 93 Memorial Remembrance Ceremony

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

September 11, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at the Flight 93 Memorial Remembrance Ceremony

Flight 93 National Memorial

Shanksville, Pennsylvania

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Governor Wolf, Secretary Zinke, Congressman Shuster, Congressman Rothfus, Superintendent Clark, distinguished guests, but most of all, to the family members of the heroes who perished in this very field, Reverend Britton, Gordy Felt, and all of those who join us and look on today, we are deeply humbled to join you on this most solemn of days, at this Flight 93 Memorial Annual Remembrance Ceremony at this “common field one day” that became “a field of honor forever.”

President Donald Trump asked me to be here -- to pay a debt of honor to the 40 heroes of Flight 93, to all the fallen, and their families, and to the generation of heroes they inspired, and to tell you that his heart is here in Pennsylvania, especially with all of you who lost loved ones 16 years ago.

Our President observed this day of remembrance at the Pentagon Memorial, where moments ago he paid tribute to the 184 men and women who lost their lives there.

All of our hearts, as well, are with the families of 2,753 men and women, their families who lost their lives at the World Trade Center in New York City.

As the President said just a few moments ago, we grieve “with every family of the innocent souls who were murdered by terrorists” that day, and we will never forget what happened on September 11th, 2001.

Today, we pause as a nation not so much to remember tragedy, as to celebrate heroism and patriotism.

But permit me to say that on this day, as Gordy said before, our hearts and our prayers are also with our fellow Americans in Florida and throughout the region who've suffered loss in the winds and waters of Hurricane Irma.

At this very hour, first responders and new citizen heroes are being forged among the people of Florida. And as the President has said, I say again, to those affected by Hurricane Irma: We are with you, we will stay with you, and we will be with you every day after this tempest passes -- to restore, recover, and rebuild. (Applause.)

Everyone remembers where they were on this day 16 years ago -- a mom rousing her children to get ready for school; a farmer wrapping up the morning chores; a coal miner finishing the third shift and heading home. As a new member of Congress, I was going through my normal workday routine at the United States Capitol when I learned of the attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon.

I will always remember the scenes of that day, watching the Capitol complex being evacuated. It was as though the building was literally hemorrhaging with people running in every direction.

I found myself just across the street from the U.S. Capitol eventually, on the top floor of the headquarters of the Capitol Police Chief. I was there with leaders of the House and Senate.

Shortly I arrived, the chief of police set the phone back down and informed the leaders gathered there that there was a plane inbound to the Capitol, and he said it was "12 minutes out."

In that moment, the room became silent. And as people began to make plans, I found myself looking out the window, where just across the street was the Capitol Dome with that majestic Statue of Freedom standing atop it; the dome that's a symbol of the ideals of this nation -- of freedom and democracy for all the world.

So we waited. It was the longest 12 minutes of my life. But it turned to 13 minutes, then 14, and then we were informed that the plane had gone down in a field in Pennsylvania.

In the days ahead like every American, we would learn the story of the 40 heroes of Flight 93 -- men and women who looked evil squarely in the eye and without regard to their personal safety, they rushed forward to save lives.

They were mothers and fathers. Your brothers and sisters, sons and daughters -- from every walk of life, of every background. Mark Bingham was on his way to be an usher in his college friend's wedding. CeeCee Lyles was living her childhood dream to be a flight attendant, in the wake of a career in law enforcement. Lauren Grandcolas carried the spark of life within her, an unborn child three months along. And Bill Cashman, himself a former Army paratrooper with the 101st Airborne, had actually helped build the World Trade Center with his own two hands. And there so many others whose names we just heard echo into the wind this morning.

They were ordinary people, but on that day, they became extraordinary. We all know the story. Flight 93 took off at 8:42 a.m., departing Newark to San Francisco, when 46 minutes later, terrorists seized control.

At 9:35 a.m., the plane diverted toward Washington, D.C.; the passengers called their loved ones only to find out what was happening across the country. They learned what the rest of America knew: The World Trade Center had been struck, the Pentagon had been hit only a few moments after they were hijacked. They figured out that the terrorists intended to use their plane for the same purpose.

But as Tom Burnett told his wife, on the phone, "We're going to do something." And they did.

The men and women of Flight 93 began to join together. They devised a plan in those short moments. They knew their objective. And they not only planned, but history records that they prayed. Together with Lisa Jefferson, a phone operator on the ground below, we're told they prayed

the Lord's Prayer, and recited those ancient words -- "though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me."

At 9:57 a.m., after only 29 minutes, Todd Beamer spoke those words that America and the world will never forget: "Let's roll."

They charged the cockpit. They took hold of their fate, and six minutes later, at 10:03 a.m., Flight 93 plummeted here to the Earth. The brave men and women aboard sacrificed their lives for the country we call home.

We gather here today because the men and women of Flight 93 are heroes, and this beautiful memorial stands as a testament to the American people's undying reverence for their service and sacrifice.

Each of their 40 names are etched into this marble. They're carved into the memory of the American people, as well, even as they're seared into the hearts of you that were left behind.

The Bible tells us that "The Lord is close to the broken-hearted," and to the families of the fallen here, that will be our prayer for you today.

You honor us by your presence. And as the President said this morning, "You honor our heroes, you renew our courage, and you strengthen us all."

Today as a nation, we mourn with you. We remember with you. And we look forward to the day when we will hear the chimes in this place, in the Tower of Voices, that will turn the whisper of the wind into a heroic call-to-action. It will remember them and echo across this field and across America for generations to come.

At 93 feet, that Tower of Voices that will be completed by this time next year will honor the heroes of Flight 93, and that soaring structure will hold 40 chimes, each with a different musical note, to symbolize the voices of the 40 men and women we remember today.

The notes when played together, I'm told, will form a perfect harmony -- just as, in their final moments, the men and women of Flight 93 worked together to defend freedom.

The American people will forever be inspired by their courage and resolve. We honor them by remembering them. And we honor them by ensuring that we do all in our power as a nation to prevent such evil from ever reaching our shores again.

As President Trump has reminded us -- (applause) -- as the President has reminded us, we are in the midst of a war between good and evil. And the first battle in that war took place in the skies above us and ended in this grassy meadow.

We cannot hallow this place beyond what the heroes of Flight 93 have already done. When the plane went down, the heroes aboard it were the first of a new generation of Americans to rise up, as citizen soldiers, in what would come to be known as the Global War on Terror.

It is remarkable to think that, in the wake of their service and sacrifice, America itself experienced a rebirth -- a rebirth of unity, of purpose, and a rededication to our most sacred ideal of freedom.

And every day, for 16 years, their actions have inspired many more of our fellow citizens to stand up, to step forward, and follow in their heroic service.

The President said today, "America cannot be intimidated." And in the aftermath of September 11th, we've seen tens of thousands of Americans step forward to serve their communities and protect our families and defend our freedom.

They've donned the uniform of first responders, firefighters, police officers -- and more than 5 million Americans have stepped forward to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States of America since September 11th. (Applause.)

These men and women turned what was a day of tragedy into a triumph of freedom, as our nation rallied together and charged forward to meet the enemy on our terms, on their soil.

And we will always cherish the memory of the nearly 7,000 Americans who have given their lives on the field of battle since that day 16 years ago, today. Like the heroes of Flight 93, we will never forget their service, their sacrifice, or the families they left behind.

But we must remind ourselves on this solemn day of remembrance that the threat remains. And even now, the menace of global terrorism brings violence across the wider world to places like London and Paris and Barcelona.

In Iraq and Syria, the barbarians known as ISIS continue to plot attacks against America, against our allies, and all who cherish freedom.

But under the leadership of President Donald Trump, as our Commander-in-Chief, our armed forces have ISIS on the run in Iraq and Syria, and we will not rest or relent until we hunt down and destroy them at their source. (Applause.)

And we also do well to remember that the perpetrators of 9/11 organized and orchestrated their attacks from a safe haven of Afghanistan. And just a few short weeks ago, President Trump renewed our commitment to see the fight in Afghanistan through to an honorable and enduring outcome that will be worthy of the tremendous sacrifices that have been made. (Applause.)

Some four weeks ago, President Trump expressed the full commitment of the United States to, in his words, “destroy terrorist organizations and the radical ideology that drives them.” And so we will.

America will remain engaged in Afghanistan until we eliminate the terrorist threat to our homeland and our people once and for all. We have made great gains, our resolve is stronger than ever, and I promise you, together, as one nation and one people, we will drive the cancer of terrorism from the face of the Earth. (Applause.)

We fight because our families deserve to live in safety and security. We fight because our fallen heroes demand justice. And so long as we have strength, we will honor their memories and do right by the people and the nation they died to defend.

So I'm here on behalf of our President and all the American people to pay a debt of honor -- a debt of honor to the heroes of Flight 93, a debt of honor to a generation of heroes that have followed their inspiring example, in and out of uniform, at home and abroad.

But I'm also here to pay a debt of gratitude to the heroes of Flight 93 on a much more personal basis; for their actions, on that day, in these skies, saved American lives. And as my wife, Karen, who joins me here today knows, it's a debt I don't think I'll ever be able to repay. Because among the many lives that were saved by their selfless courage, they might well have saved my own life that day, 16 years ago.

You know, this isn't our first time standing in this field, here in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Not more than a year after that fateful day, Karen and I brought our three small children here -- to this hallowed ground -- on a drive back from Washington to Indiana.

That day, we did not find this extraordinary memorial. We found only a makeshift memorial; no more than a plywood wall, painted with the names of the fallen, a timeline, and a wooden cross out in the field.

It was that day, with the help of a park ranger that I learned personally of the sequence of events of that day. I asked her: If the U.S. Capitol was, in fact, the target, at what time would the plane have reached the Capitol building?

And what she told me I'll never forget -- for at the time she said, standing with hundreds of others, I was standing near the East Front of the House of Representatives. I will always believe that I, and many others in our nation's capital, were able to go home that day to hug our families because of the courage and selflessness of the heroes of Flight 93.

So for me, it's personal. And I speak on behalf of a grateful nation. But thank you for giving me the privilege of speaking on behalf of my little family as well.

When heroes fall, the nation mourns, for “no greater love has a man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends.”

To the families of the fallen, as President Trump promised this morning I say now, the memory of your loved ones will never die. They will always be with us. Their heroic story in our minds, our hearts, enshrined in the memory of this country.

As long as America endures, we will tell their story and generations of Americans will ever be inspired by the faithful and courageous words and deeds of the heroes of Flight 93.

May God bless our beloved fallen. May God bless and comfort the families gathered here, and all those who suffered loss on this day 16 years ago. And may God continue to bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

Remarks by President Trump at the 9/11 Memorial Observance

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 11, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at the 9/11 Memorial Observance

The Pentagon

Arlington, Virginia

9:49 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, General. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen.

I want to thank you, Secretary Mattis, General Dunford, members of the Cabinet, members of the Armed Forces, first responders, and most importantly, to the families and to the survivors: It's an honor to join you on this very, very solemn occasion. This is an occasion that is extraordinary, and it will always be extraordinary.

Before we begin, I'd like to send our nation's prayers to everyone in the path of Hurricane Irma and to everyone suffering through the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. These are storms of catastrophic severity, and we're marshaling the full resources of the federal government to help our fellow Americans in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, and all of those wonderful places and states in harm's way.

When Americans are in need, Americans pull together -- and we are one country. And when we face hardship, we emerge closer, stronger, and more determined than ever.

We're gathered here today to remember a morning that started very much like this one. Parents dropped off their children at school. Travelers stood in line at airports and getting ready to board flights. Here at the Pentagon and at offices all across the country, people began their early meetings.

Then, our whole world changed. America was under attack. First at the World Trade Center, then here at the Pentagon, and then in Pennsylvania. The horror and anguish of that dark day were seared into our national memory forever. It was the worst attack on our country since Pearl Harbor and even worse because this was an attack on civilians -- innocent men, women, and children whose lives were taken so needlessly.

For the families with us on this anniversary, we know that not a single day goes by when you don't think about the loved ones stolen from your life. Today, our entire nation grieves with you and with every family of those 2,977 innocent souls who were murdered by terrorists 16 years ago.

Each family here today represents a son or daughter, a sister or brother, a mother or father, who was taken from you on that terrible, terrible day. But no force on Earth can ever take away your memories, diminish your love, or break your will to endure and carry on and go forward. Though we can never erase your pain, or bring back those you lost, we can honor their sacrifice by pledging our resolve to do whatever we must to keep our people safe. (Applause.)

On that day, not only did the world change, but we all changed. Our eyes were opened to the depths of the evil we face. But in that hour of darkness, we also came together with renewed purpose. Our differences never looked so small, our common bonds never felt so strong.

The sacrificed [sanctified] grounds on which we stand today are a monument to our national unity and to our strength. For more than seven decades, the Pentagon has stood as a global symbol

of American might. Not only because of the great power contained within these halls, but because of the incredible character of the people who fill them. They secure our freedom, they defend our flag, and they support our courageous troops all around the world.

Among the 184 brave Americans who perished on these grounds were young enlisted servicemembers, dedicated civil servants who had worked here for decades, and veterans who served our nation in Korea, in Vietnam, and in the Middle East. All of them loved this country and pledged their very lives to protect it.

That September morning, each of those brave Americans died as they had lived: as heroes doing their duty and protecting us and our country. We mourn them, we honor them, and we pledge to never, ever forget them. (Applause.)

We also remember and cherish the lives of the beloved Americans who boarded Flight 77 at Dulles Airport that morning. Every one of them had a family, a story, and beautiful dreams. Each of them had people they loved and who loved them back. And they all left behind a deep emptiness that their warmth and grace once filled so fully and so beautifully.

The living, breathing soul of America wept with grief for every life taken on that day. We shed our tears in their memory, pledged our devotion in their honor, and turned our sorrow into an unstoppable resolve to achieve justice in their name.

The terrorists who attacked us thought they could incite fear and weaken our spirit. But America cannot be intimidated, and those who try will soon join the long list of vanquished enemies who dared to test our mettle. (Applause.)

In the years after September 11th, more than 5 million young men and women have joined the ranks of our great military to defend our country against barbaric forces of evil and destruction. American forces are relentlessly pursuing and destroying the enemies of all civilized people, ensuring -- and these are horrible, horrible enemies -- enemies like we've never seen before. But we're ensuring they never again have a safe haven to launch attacks against our country. We are making plain to these savage killers that there is no dark corner beyond our reach, no sanctuary beyond our grasp, and nowhere to hide anywhere on this very large Earth.

Since 9/11, nearly 7,000 servicemembers have given their lives fighting terrorists around the globe. Some of them rest just beyond this fence, in the shrine to our nation's heroes, on the grounds of Arlington National Cemetery. They came from all backgrounds, all races, all faiths, but they were all there to dedicate their lives, and they defend our one great American flag. (Applause.)

They -- and every person who puts on the uniform -- has the love and gratitude of our entire nation.

Today, as we stand on this hallowed ground, we are reminded of the timeless truth that when America is united, no force on Earth can break us apart -- no force.

On the morning of 9/11, Pentagon Police Officer Isaac Ho'opi'i and -- a special person -- was one of many heroes whose love for his fellow Americans knew no bounds. He was a mile away when he got the call over his radio that a plane had crashed into the Pentagon. He sped to the scene and raced into smoke and fire. Few people would have done it. He ducked under live electrical wires and trudged through puddles of jet fuel only steps away from sparks and from vicious flame.

In the pitch black, he began calling out people in need of help. Isaac heard faint voices and he wanted to answer those faint voices. One by one, he carried people out of the burning rubble. He kept going back into the smoldering darkness, calling out to anyone who could hear, anyone who was alive. He saved as many as 20 people who had followed his voice; he carried eight himself.

For nearly 36 hours, Isaac kept on saving lives, serving our nation, and protecting our safety in our hour of need. And today, Isaac continues to do exactly that. Isaac still works at the Pentagon, now as a sergeant. He's on duty right now, and he's joined us here today for the ceremony. And this morning, all of us -- and all of America -- thank Isaac for his service. Where is Isaac? (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you, Isaac. Thank you.

To Isaac and to every first responder and survivor of the attack, you carry on the legacy of the friends you lost. You keep alive the memory of those who perished. And you make America proud -- very, very proud.

To the family members with us today, I know that it's with a pained and heavy heart that you come back to this place. But by doing so, by choosing to persevere through the grief, the sorrow, you honor your heroes, you renew our courage, and you strengthen all of us. You really do. You strengthen all of us.

Here on the west side of the Pentagon, terrorists tried to break our resolve. It's not going to happen. But where they left a mark with fire and rubble, Americans defiantly raised the stars and stripes -- our beautiful flag that for more than two centuries has graced our ships, flown in our skies, and led our brave heroes to victory after victory in battle. The flag that binds us all together as Americans who cherish our values and protect our way of life. The flag that reminds us today of who we are, what we stand for, and why we fight.

Woven into that beautiful flag is the story of our resolve. We have overcome every challenge -- every single challenge, every one of them -- we've triumphed over every evil, and remained united as one nation under God. America does not bend. We do not waver. And we will never, ever yield.

So here at this memorial, with hearts both sad and determined, we honor every hero who keeps us safe and free, and we pledge to work together, to fight together, and to overcome together every enemy and obstacle that's ever in our path.

Our values will endure. Our people will thrive. Our nation will prevail. And the memory of our loved ones will never, ever die.

Thank you. May God bless you. May God forever bless the great United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

10:04 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of Malaysia Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 12, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of Malaysia Before Bilateral Meeting

Cabinet Room
12:11 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's great to have the Prime Minister of Malaysia and his very distinguished delegation with us today. We're talking about trade -- very large trade deals. We're working on one deal where between 10 and 20 billion dollars' worth of Boeing jets are going to be purchased, General Electric engines will be purchased, and many other things.

Also, Malaysia is a massive investor in the United States in the form of stocks and bonds, and the stock exchange. And they have to be very happy because we're hitting new highs on almost a weekly basis. And so we're very proud of our stock market and what's happened since I became President. So I congratulate you on those investments.

But I just want to say, it's an honor to have you here. It's an honor to have your delegation with us. I believe you'll be at the United Nations next week, and a lot of folks are going to be at the United Nations next week. It should be an exciting week, and we look very much forward to that.

But I want to thank you very much for all of the investment you've made in the United States. Also, the Prime Minister has a major role in not allowing ISIS -- or, as you say, Daesh -- and others to exist. And he's been very, very strong on terrorism in Malaysia, and a great supporter from that standpoint. So that's a very important thing to the United States.

He does not do business with North Korea any longer, and we find that to be very important. We had a vote yesterday on sanctions. We think it's just another very small step -- not a big deal. Rex and I were just discussing -- not big. I don't know if it has any impact, but certainly it was nice to get a 15-to-nothing vote. But those sanctions are nothing compared to what ultimately will have to happen.

So thank you everyone for being here, and we appreciate it. Mr. Prime Minister, it's a great honor to have you in the United States and in the White House. And thank you everyone for being here. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Would you like to say something?

PRIME MINISTER RAZAK: Thank you very much, Mr. President, for your invitation for me and members of my delegation to meet with you at the White House. I want to say that we come here with a strong value proposition to put on the table.

Number one, we want to help you in terms of strengthening the U.S. economy. I come with three specific proposals. Number one, we intend to increase the number of Boeing planes to be purchased by MAS. We are committed to 25 planes of the 737 MAX 10, plus eight 787 Dreamliners. And there is a strong probability -- not possibility -- probability that we will add 25 more 737 MAX 10 in the near future. So within five years, the deal will be worth beyond \$10 billion. That's one. We will also try to persuade AirAsia to purchase GE engines.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Great.

PRIME MINISTER RAZAK: Secondly, we have Employees Provident Fund, which is a major pension fund in Malaysia. They've got quite a big sum of capital to be exported. They have invested close to \$7 billion, in terms of equity, in the United States. And they intend to invest three to four additional billion dollars to support your infrastructure redevelopment in the United States.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Great.

PRIME MINISTER RAZAK: And thirdly, our sovereign fund, Khazanah, they have an office in Silicon Valley. They have invested about \$400 million, in terms of high-tech companies, and they intend to increase that investment as well.

Secondly, the other goal of your administration, Mr. President, which is to make the United States safe -- and with that, the world safe -- we are committed to fight Daesh, IS, Al-Qaeda, Abu Sayyaf -- you name it. They are the enemy of the United States, they are also the enemy of Malaysia, and we will do our part to make sure that our part of the world is safe.

We will also contribute in terms of the ideological warfare because you need to win the hearts and minds. And the key to it is to support moderate and progressive Muslim regimes and governments around the world, because that is the true face of Islam; that is the authentic face of Islam. The more you align with progressive and moderate regimes, the better it would be in terms of winning the hearts and minds of the Muslim world.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Right.

PRIME MINISTER RAZAK: So, Mr. President, thank you once again. The United States has always been our partner for a long, long time. And this year is our 60th anniversary of our relationship, and I hope that today's meeting will make it even stronger in the years to come.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

END

12:18 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the President on the London Terror Bombing

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2017

Remarks by the President on the London Terror Bombing

Rose Garden

Q Mr. President, any reaction to London, the terror attacks?

MR. PRESIDENT: No, it's a terrible thing -- just keeps going and going. And we have to be very smart, and we have to be very, very tough, which perhaps we're not nearly tough enough.

But that is just an absolutely terrible thing. In fact, I'm going to call the Prime Minister right now.

Q Have you been briefed on the London bomb attack?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, I have -- on numerous things happening, including North Korea. So I've been briefed, and I'm going to get right now for the briefing. And I'm going to see Frank inside here.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: We have to be tougher. We have to be smarter. Thank you.

END

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

2:02 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It's great to have Prime Minister Netanyahu with us today, a friend of mine for many years. And it's a real honor, I have to say.

We're going to be discussing many things; among them, peace between the Palestinians and Israel -- it will be a fantastic achievement. We are giving it an absolute go. I think there's a good chance that it could happen. Most people would say there's no chance whatsoever.

I actually think with the capability of Bibi and, frankly, the other side, I really think we have a chance. I think Israel would like to see it, and I think the Palestinians would like to see it. And I can tell you that the Trump administration would like to see it.

So we're working very hard on it. We'll see what happens. Historically, people say it can't happen. I say it can happen.

But I just want to say, Mr. Prime Minister, it's an honor to have you. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Great to see you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: Mr. President, it's great to see you again. I want to say that under your leadership, the alliance between America and Israel has never been stronger, never been deeper. I can say this in ways that people see and in ways that they don't see. So I want to thank you for that.

Equally, I look forward to discussing with you how we can address together what you rightly call is the terrible nuclear deal with Iran and how to roll back Iran's growing aggression in the region, especially in Syria.

As you said, we will discuss the way we can seize the opportunity for peace between Israel and the Palestinians and between Israel and the Arab World. I think these things go together, and we look forward to talking about how we can advance both.

Finally, we're going to be speaking tomorrow at the U.N., and I want to say that under President Trump, America's position towards Israel at the U.N. has been unequivocal, it's been strong, it's got both clarity and conviction. And I want to thank you on behalf of the people of Israel and Israel's many friends around the world. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU: And also, as you well know, this is the Jewish New Year, this week. So I want to wish you, the Jewish community of America, Jews everywhere, people everywhere, Shanah Tovah -- happy, healthy new year.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Appreciate it.

Q Mr. President, do you plan to stay in the Iranian nuclear deal?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You'll see very soon. You'll be seeing very soon.

Q (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We're talking about it constantly. Constantly. We're talking about plans constantly.

Q Two-state solution?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll see.

END

2:05 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Macron of France Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Macron of France Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

3:16 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. It's a great honor to be with President Macron of France, who's had one of the great election victories of all time, I will tell you. That was an exciting evening. (Laughter.) And I must say that I watched every moment of it. It was a very, very exciting time.

He's doing a terrific job in France. He's doing what has to be done. He's respected by the French people, and I can tell you he's respected by the people of the United States.

So we have a lot of things to talk about. We'll be discussing many different elements. I'm not sure we should discuss all of it with the media -- (laughter) -- but they'll probably know before we know.

So I just want to thank you all for being here. I want to thank your representatives for being here, many of whom I know already. And we will have very productive meetings. France is a great country, it's a beautiful country. I won't soon forget our dinner on top of the Eiffel Tower where we really got to know each other and our families. And thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MACRON: Thank you, Donald. Thank you, everybody. I will say a few words. I totally concur with Donald on what did you state, so I will just say a few words in French for the French people here.

(President Macron speaks French.) (No English interpretation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much, Emmanuel. And I do want to say that I was your guest at Bastille Day, and it was one of the greatest parades I've ever seen. It was two hours on the button, and it was military might, and I think a tremendous thing for France and for the spirit of France.

And people don't know what great warriors they are in France, but when you see that and you see all the victories, it was a tremendous thing. And to a large extent, because of what I witnessed, we may do something like that on July 4th in Washington, down Pennsylvania Avenue. (Laughter.) I don't know. We're going to have to try and top it. But we had a lot of planes going over and we had a lot of military might, and it was really a beautiful thing to see. They had representatives from different wars and different uniforms. It was really so well done.

But I came back, and one of my early calls were, I think we're going to have to start looking at that ourselves. So we're actually thinking about 4th of July, Pennsylvania Avenue, having a really great parade to show our military strength.

You know, we're spending this year \$700 billion -- more than we've ever spent on the military -- which is a good thing for you because we're friends. Okay? And I think we're looking forward to doing that. I'm speaking with General Kelly and with all of the people involved, and we'll see if we can do it this year. But we certainly will be beginning to do that.

So I appreciate it. And again, most importantly, I appreciate you being here. Thank you, Emmanuel.

PRESIDENT MACRON: Thank you. And I have to say just for the American people, that our people in France were very proud to have you and your wife, Melania, in Paris the 14th of July, for Bastille Day. And people were very proud to have you in front of them and participating to this ceremony and this parade.

Thanks very much for your presence.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I was proud to be there. And also, when Emmanuel called me, he said, it's the 100th year in terms of timing of the first world war. One hundred years. And I said, well, that's a very important period. So we went and really -- I was very proud to say that we're very, very, very good friends with France. That was a beautiful day. And thank you very much. Thank you.

Thank you, everybody.

END

3:21 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Tillerson, and U.N. Ambassador Haley at Working Dinner in Honor of Latin American Leaders

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 18, 2017

Remarks by President Trump, Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Tillerson, and U.N. Ambassador Haley at Working Dinner in Honor of Latin American Leaders

Lotte New York Palace Hotel
New York, New York
6:48 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you very much, everyone. It's a great honor.

I had a long conversation with President Xi of China this morning. We discussed some of the obvious things, and we discussed trade, and we also discussed a place called North Korea. It was a long call. It was a very good call. We have a very, very fine relationship, and let's see what happens. I think we're making great progress.

And we are going to be going to China during the month of November. You probably have it in your schedules, and I look very much forward to that.

And I'm thrilled to host this important dinner with leaders of some of the greatest allies in the Western Hemisphere, and that is so true.

We're here to discuss the growing crisis in Venezuela. The socialist dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro has inflicted terrible misery and suffering on the good people of that country. His corrupt regime destroyed a thriving nation by imposing a failed ideology that has produced poverty and despair everywhere it has been tried.

To make matters worse, Maduro has defied his own people, stealing power from their elected representatives to preserve his disastrous rule. The Venezuelan people are starving, and their country is collapsing. It was one of the wealthiest countries in the world for a long period of time. And now the people are starving and the country is collapsing. Who would think that's possible?

Their democratic institutions are being destroyed. The situation is completely unacceptable. As responsible neighbors and friends of the Venezuelan people, our goal must be to help them regain their freedom, recover their country, and restore their democracy.

I'd like to thank the leaders in this room. We have some great leaders in this room, and I want to thank them for condemning the regime and providing the vital support to the Venezuelan people. Most of the media, the press, a lot of other leaders have no idea the tremendous job that the people, without exception, in this room are doing as leaders of their country in helping the people of Venezuela.

And I can tell you, we really appreciate it. And the world really appreciates it. So thank you all very much. We appreciate that so much.

The United States has taken important steps to hold the regime accountable. We are prepared to take further action if the government of Venezuela persists on the path to imposing authoritarian rule on the Venezuelan people.

We're fortunate to have incredibly strong and healthy trade relationships with all of the countries gathered here today. They're doing very well with the United States. We want to try and change that a little bit so we can turn the tables just a little bit. You're doing very well, and I congratulate you all.

Nikki knows exactly what I'm saying, and Rex knows exactly what I'm saying. But we have great relationships, and we do great trade. Our economic bonds form a critical foundation for advancing peace and prosperity for all of our people and all of our neighbors.

I ask every country represented here to be prepared to do more to address this unbelievably serious crisis. We call for the full restoration of democracy and political freedoms in Venezuela, and we want it to happen very, very soon.

So again, I'd like to thank everybody. We look forward to having dinner with you, and we will talk individually about what ideas you may have concerning Venezuela and other situations that we're also dealing on, including trade.

Mr. Vice President, thank you very much for being here. Would you like to say a word, Mike?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. President. It was my great honor to represent you and the United States in a trip through Latin America, and it is good to see many of the leaders that extended their hospitality to the United States.

And I echo your strong affirmation of the partnerships that are represented at this table -- partnerships for prosperity, partnerships for security, and we look forward to continuing to work

with all the leaders at this table to promote the mutual prosperity of all of our nations throughout this hemisphere. And it's an honor to be here, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Mike. And Rex, would you like to say something? Secretary of State.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Mr. President, let me just add, first, my welcome to all of you to the dinner as well with the President. And these are all very important countries to the United States' relationship in the Western Hemisphere economically, but also from a security standpoint. We have many, many shared issues to fight against crime, fight against corruption, narcotics trade, and all of you are very important in the cooperation that we receive in working together toward these shared goals.

So, very pleased to be with all of you tonight.

THE PRESIDENT: And Nikki Haley, thank you so much for the job you've done over the last long time to just put it together. We had incredible meetings today with France and with Israel. The two leaders -- and they're great leaders, and we covered a lot of territory. And we have a lot of agreement, I can tell you that.

So we've done a lot, and we're going to be doing a lot more, I understand, for the next four days. So, Nikki, would you say a few words?

AMBASSADOR HALEY: We just want to welcome everyone to New York. I can tell you that in the United Nations, really, your ambassadors are great friends. And we have started to work really closely together because your region matters, and the partnerships and the friendships need to be solid so we don't wait until crisis hits, but that we are already partnering in every way that we can.

So thank you for taking the time to be here, and enjoy New York.

THE PRESIDENT: Well thank you, Nikki, and thank you, Rex, and thank you, Mike. And we appreciate your being here. Thank you all very much. Appreciate it. Thank you.

END

6:54 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2017

Remarks by President Trump to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

United Nations

New York, New York

10:04 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President, world leaders, and distinguished delegates: Welcome to New York. It is a profound honor to stand here in my home city, as a representative of the American people, to address the people of the world.

As millions of our citizens continue to suffer the effects of the devastating hurricanes that have struck our country, I want to begin by expressing my appreciation to every leader in this room who has offered assistance and aid. The American people are strong and resilient, and they will emerge from these hardships more determined than ever before.

Fortunately, the United States has done very well since Election Day last November 8th. The stock market is at an all-time high -- a record. Unemployment is at its lowest level in 16 years, and because of our regulatory and other reforms, we have more people working in the United States today than ever before. Companies are moving back, creating job growth the likes of which our

country has not seen in a very long time. And it has just been announced that we will be spending almost \$700 billion on our military and defense.

Our military will soon be the strongest it has ever been. For more than 70 years, in times of war and peace, the leaders of nations, movements, and religions have stood before this assembly. Like them, I intend to address some of the very serious threats before us today but also the enormous potential waiting to be unleashed.

We live in a time of extraordinary opportunity. Breakthroughs in science, technology, and medicine are curing illnesses and solving problems that prior generations thought impossible to solve.

But each day also brings news of growing dangers that threaten everything we cherish and value. Terrorists and extremists have gathered strength and spread to every region of the planet. Rogue regimes represented in this body not only support terrorists but threaten other nations and their own people with the most destructive weapons known to humanity.

Authority and authoritarian powers seek to collapse the values, the systems, and alliances that prevented conflict and tilted the world toward freedom since World War II.

International criminal networks traffic drugs, weapons, people; force dislocation and mass migration; threaten our borders; and new forms of aggression exploit technology to menace our citizens.

To put it simply, we meet at a time of both of immense promise and great peril. It is entirely up to us whether we lift the world to new heights, or let it fall into a valley of disrepair.

We have it in our power, should we so choose, to lift millions from poverty, to help our citizens realize their dreams, and to ensure that new generations of children are raised free from violence, hatred, and fear.

This institution was founded in the aftermath of two world wars to help shape this better future. It was based on the vision that diverse nations could cooperate to protect their sovereignty, preserve their security, and promote their prosperity.

It was in the same period, exactly 70 years ago, that the United States developed the Marshall Plan to help restore Europe. Those three beautiful pillars -- they're pillars of peace, sovereignty, security, and prosperity.

The Marshall Plan was built on the noble idea that the whole world is safer when nations are strong, independent, and free. As President Truman said in his message to Congress at that time, "Our support of European recovery is in full accord with our support of the United Nations. The success of the United Nations depends upon the independent strength of its members."

To overcome the perils of the present and to achieve the promise of the future, we must begin with the wisdom of the past. Our success depends on a coalition of strong and independent nations that embrace their sovereignty to promote security, prosperity, and peace for themselves and for the world.

We do not expect diverse countries to share the same cultures, traditions, or even systems of government. But we do expect all nations to uphold these two core sovereign duties: to respect the interests of their own people and the rights of every other sovereign nation. This is the beautiful vision of this institution, and this is foundation for cooperation and success.

Strong, sovereign nations let diverse countries with different values, different cultures, and different dreams not just coexist, but work side by side on the basis of mutual respect.

Strong, sovereign nations let their people take ownership of the future and control their own destiny. And strong, sovereign nations allow individuals to flourish in the fullness of the life intended by God.

In America, we do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to watch. This week gives our country a special reason to take pride in that example. We are celebrating the 230th anniversary of our beloved Constitution -- the oldest constitution still in use in the world today.

This timeless document has been the foundation of peace, prosperity, and freedom for the Americans and for countless millions around the globe whose own countries have found inspiration in its respect for human nature, human dignity, and the rule of law.

The greatest in the United States Constitution is its first three beautiful words. They are: "We the people."

Generations of Americans have sacrificed to maintain the promise of those words, the promise of our country, and of our great history. In America, the people govern, the people rule, and the people are sovereign. I was elected not to take power, but to give power to the American people, where it belongs.

In foreign affairs, we are renewing this founding principle of sovereignty. Our government's first duty is to its people, to our citizens -- to serve their needs, to ensure their safety, to preserve their rights, and to defend their values.

As President of the United States, I will always put America first, just like you, as the leaders of your countries will always, and should always, put your countries first. (Applause.)

All responsible leaders have an obligation to serve their own citizens, and the nation-state remains the best vehicle for elevating the human condition.

But making a better life for our people also requires us to work together in close harmony and unity to create a more safe and peaceful future for all people.

The United States will forever be a great friend to the world, and especially to its allies. But we can no longer be taken advantage of, or enter into a one-sided deal where the United States gets nothing in return. As long as I hold this office, I will defend America's interests above all else.

But in fulfilling our obligations to our own nations, we also realize that it's in everyone's interest to seek a future where all nations can be sovereign, prosperous, and secure.

America does more than speak for the values expressed in the United Nations Charter. Our citizens have paid the ultimate price to defend our freedom and the freedom of many nations represented in this great hall. America's devotion is measured on the battlefields where our young men and women have fought and sacrificed alongside of our allies, from the beaches of Europe to the deserts of the Middle East to the jungles of Asia.

It is an eternal credit to the American character that even after we and our allies emerged victorious from the bloodiest war in history, we did not seek territorial expansion, or attempt to oppose and impose our way of life on others. Instead, we helped build institutions such as this one to defend the sovereignty, security, and prosperity for all.

For the diverse nations of the world, this is our hope. We want harmony and friendship, not conflict and strife. We are guided by outcomes, not ideology. We have a policy of principled realism, rooted in shared goals, interests, and values.

That realism forces us to confront a question facing every leader and nation in this room. It is a question we cannot escape or avoid. We will slide down the path of complacency, numb to the challenges, threats, and even wars that we face. Or do we have enough strength and pride to confront those dangers today, so that our citizens can enjoy peace and prosperity tomorrow?

If we desire to lift up our citizens, if we aspire to the approval of history, then we must fulfill our sovereign duties to the people we faithfully represent. We must protect our nations, their interests, and their futures. We must reject threats to sovereignty, from the Ukraine to the South China Sea. We must uphold respect for law, respect for borders, and respect for culture, and the peaceful engagement these allow. And just as the founders of this body intended, we must work together and confront together those who threaten us with chaos, turmoil, and terror.

The scourge of our planet today is a small group of rogue regimes that violate every principle on which the United Nations is based. They respect neither their own citizens nor the sovereign rights of their countries.

If the righteous many do not confront the wicked few, then evil will triumph. When decent people and nations become bystanders to history, the forces of destruction only gather power and strength.

No one has shown more contempt for other nations and for the wellbeing of their own people than the depraved regime in North Korea. It is responsible for the starvation deaths of millions of North Koreans, and for the imprisonment, torture, killing, and oppression of countless more.

We were all witness to the regime's deadly abuse when an innocent American college student, Otto Warmbier, was returned to America only to die a few days later. We saw it in the assassination of the dictator's brother using banned nerve agents in an international airport. We know it kidnapped a sweet 13-year-old Japanese girl from a beach in her own country to enslave her as a language tutor for North Korea's spies.

If this is not twisted enough, now North Korea's reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles threatens the entire world with unthinkable loss of human life.

It is an outrage that some nations would not only trade with such a regime, but would arm, supply, and financially support a country that imperils the world with nuclear conflict. No nation on earth has an interest in seeing this band of criminals arm itself with nuclear weapons and missiles.

The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea. Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime. The United States is ready, willing and able, but hopefully this will not be necessary. That's what the United Nations is all about; that's what the United Nations is for. Let's see how they do.

It is time for North Korea to realize that the denuclearization is its only acceptable future. The United Nations Security Council recently held two unanimous 15-0 votes adopting hard-hitting resolutions against North Korea, and I want to thank China and Russia for joining the vote to impose sanctions, along with all of the other members of the Security Council. Thank you to all involved.

But we must do much more. It is time for all nations to work together to isolate the Kim regime until it ceases its hostile behavior.

We face this decision not only in North Korea. It is far past time for the nations of the world to confront another reckless regime -- one that speaks openly of mass murder, vowing death to America, destruction to Israel, and ruin for many leaders and nations in this room.

The Iranian government masks a corrupt dictatorship behind the false guise of a democracy. It has turned a wealthy country with a rich history and culture into an economically depleted rogue state whose chief exports are violence, bloodshed, and chaos. The longest-suffering victims of Iran's leaders are, in fact, its own people.

Rather than use its resources to improve Iranian lives, its oil profits go to fund Hezbollah and other terrorists that kill innocent Muslims and attack their peaceful Arab and Israeli neighbors. This wealth, which rightly belongs to Iran's people, also goes to shore up Bashar al-Assad's dictatorship, fuel Yemen's civil war, and undermine peace throughout the entire Middle East.

We cannot let a murderous regime continue these destabilizing activities while building dangerous missiles, and we cannot abide by an agreement if it provides cover for the eventual construction of a nuclear program. (Applause.) The Iran Deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into. Frankly, that deal is an embarrassment to the United States, and I don't think you've heard the last of it -- believe me.

It is time for the entire world to join us in demanding that Iran's government end its pursuit of death and destruction. It is time for the regime to free all Americans and citizens of other nations that they have unjustly detained. And above all, Iran's government must stop supporting terrorists, begin serving its own people, and respect the sovereign rights of its neighbors.

The entire world understands that the good people of Iran want change, and, other than the vast military power of the United States, that Iran's people are what their leaders fear the most. This is what causes the regime to restrict Internet access, tear down satellite dishes, shoot unarmed student protestors, and imprison political reformers.

Oppressive regimes cannot endure forever, and the day will come when the Iranian people will face a choice. Will they continue down the path of poverty, bloodshed, and terror? Or will the Iranian people return to the nation's proud roots as a center of civilization, culture, and wealth where their people can be happy and prosperous once again?

The Iranian regime's support for terror is in stark contrast to the recent commitments of many of its neighbors to fight terrorism and halt its financing.

In Saudi Arabia early last year, I was greatly honored to address the leaders of more than 50 Arab and Muslim nations. We agreed that all responsible nations must work together to confront terrorists and the Islamist extremism that inspires them.

We will stop radical Islamic terrorism because we cannot allow it to tear up our nation, and indeed to tear up the entire world.

We must deny the terrorists safe haven, transit, funding, and any form of support for their vile and sinister ideology. We must drive them out of our nations. It is time to expose and hold responsible those countries who support and finance terror groups like al Qaeda, Hezbollah, the Taliban and others that slaughter innocent people.

The United States and our allies are working together throughout the Middle East to crush the loser terrorists and stop the reemergence of safe havens they use to launch attacks on all of our people.

Last month, I announced a new strategy for victory in the fight against this evil in Afghanistan. From now on, our security interests will dictate the length and scope of military operations, not arbitrary benchmarks and timetables set up by politicians.

I have also totally changed the rules of engagement in our fight against the Taliban and other terrorist groups. In Syria and Iraq, we have made big gains toward lasting defeat of ISIS. In fact, our country has achieved more against ISIS in the last eight months than it has in many, many years combined.

We seek the de-escalation of the Syrian conflict, and a political solution that honors the will of the Syrian people. The actions of the criminal regime of Bashar al-Assad, including the use of chemical weapons against his own citizens -- even innocent children -- shock the conscience of every decent person. No society can be safe if banned chemical weapons are allowed to spread. That is why the United States carried out a missile strike on the airbase that launched the attack.

We appreciate the efforts of United Nations agencies that are providing vital humanitarian assistance in areas liberated from ISIS, and we especially thank Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon for their role in hosting refugees from the Syrian conflict.

The United States is a compassionate nation and has spent billions and billions of dollars in helping to support this effort. We seek an approach to refugee resettlement that is designed to help these horribly treated people, and which enables their eventual return to their home countries, to be part of the rebuilding process.

For the cost of resettling one refugee in the United States, we can assist more than 10 in their home region. Out of the goodness of our hearts, we offer financial assistance to hosting countries in the region, and we support recent agreements of the G20 nations that will seek to host refugees as close to their home countries as possible. This is the safe, responsible, and humanitarian approach.

For decades, the United States has dealt with migration challenges here in the Western Hemisphere. We have learned that, over the long term, uncontrolled migration is deeply unfair to both the sending and the receiving countries.

For the sending countries, it reduces domestic pressure to pursue needed political and economic reform, and drains them of the human capital necessary to motivate and implement those reforms.

For the receiving countries, the substantial costs of uncontrolled migration are borne overwhelmingly by low-income citizens whose concerns are often ignored by both media and government.

I want to salute the work of the United Nations in seeking to address the problems that cause people to flee from their homes. The United Nations and African Union led peacekeeping missions to have invaluable contributions in stabilizing conflicts in Africa. The United States continues to lead the world in humanitarian assistance, including famine prevention and relief in South Sudan, Somalia, and northern Nigeria and Yemen.

We have invested in better health and opportunity all over the world through programs like PEPFAR, which funds AIDS relief; the President's Malaria Initiative; the Global Health Security Agenda; the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery; and the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, part of our commitment to empowering women all across the globe.

We also thank -- (applause) -- we also thank the Secretary General for recognizing that the United Nations must reform if it is to be an effective partner in confronting threats to sovereignty, security, and prosperity. Too often the focus of this organization has not been on results, but on bureaucracy and process.

In some cases, states that seek to subvert this institution's noble aims have hijacked the very systems that are supposed to advance them. For example, it is a massive source of embarrassment to the United Nations that some governments with egregious human rights records sit on the U.N. Human Rights Council.

The United States is one out of 193 countries in the United Nations, and yet we pay 22 percent of the entire budget and more. In fact, we pay far more than anybody realizes. The United States bears an unfair cost burden, but, to be fair, if it could actually accomplish all of its stated goals, especially the goal of peace, this investment would easily be well worth it.

Major portions of the world are in conflict and some, in fact, are going to hell. But the powerful people in this room, under the guidance and auspices of the United Nations, can solve many of these vicious and complex problems.

The American people hope that one day soon the United Nations can be a much more accountable and effective advocate for human dignity and freedom around the world. In the meantime, we believe that no nation should have to bear a disproportionate share of the burden, militarily or financially. Nations of the world must take a greater role in promoting secure and prosperous societies in their own regions.

That is why in the Western Hemisphere, the United States has stood against the corrupt and destabilizing regime in Cuba and embraced the enduring dream of the Cuban people to live in freedom. My administration recently announced that we will not lift sanctions on the Cuban government until it makes fundamental reforms.

We have also imposed tough, calibrated sanctions on the socialist Maduro regime in Venezuela, which has brought a once thriving nation to the brink of total collapse.

The socialist dictatorship of Nicolas Maduro has inflicted terrible pain and suffering on the good people of that country. This corrupt regime destroyed a prosperous nation by imposing a failed ideology that has produced poverty and misery everywhere it has been tried. To make matters worse, Maduro has defied his own people, stealing power from their elected representatives to preserve his disastrous rule.

The Venezuelan people are starving and their country is collapsing. Their democratic institutions are being destroyed. This situation is completely unacceptable and we cannot stand by and watch.

As a responsible neighbor and friend, we and all others have a goal. That goal is to help them regain their freedom, recover their country, and restore their democracy. I would like to thank leaders in this room for condemning the regime and providing vital support to the Venezuelan people.

The United States has taken important steps to hold the regime accountable. We are prepared to take further action if the government of Venezuela persists on its path to impose authoritarian rule on the Venezuelan people.

We are fortunate to have incredibly strong and healthy trade relationships with many of the Latin American countries gathered here today. Our economic bond forms a critical foundation for advancing peace and prosperity for all of our people and all of our neighbors.

I ask every country represented here today to be prepared to do more to address this very real crisis. We call for the full restoration of democracy and political freedoms in Venezuela. (Applause.)

The problem in Venezuela is not that socialism has been poorly implemented, but that socialism has been faithfully implemented. (Applause.) From the Soviet Union to Cuba to Venezuela, wherever true socialism or communism has been adopted, it has delivered anguish and devastation and failure. Those who preach the tenets of these discredited ideologies only contribute to the continued suffering of the people who live under these cruel systems.

America stands with every person living under a brutal regime. Our respect for sovereignty is also a call for action. All people deserve a government that cares for their safety, their interests, and their wellbeing, including their prosperity.

In America, we seek stronger ties of business and trade with all nations of good will, but this trade must be fair and it must be reciprocal.

For too long, the American people were told that mammoth multinational trade deals, unaccountable international tribunals, and powerful global bureaucracies were the best way to promote their success. But as those promises flowed, millions of jobs vanished and thousands of factories disappeared. Others gamed the system and broke the rules. And our great middle class, once the bedrock of American prosperity, was forgotten and left behind, but they are forgotten no more and they will never be forgotten again.

While America will pursue cooperation and commerce with other nations, we are renewing our commitment to the first duty of every government: the duty of our citizens. This bond is the source of America's strength and that of every responsible nation represented here today.

If this organization is to have any hope of successfully confronting the challenges before us, it will depend, as President Truman said some 70 years ago, on the "independent strength of its members." If we are to embrace the opportunities of the future and overcome the present dangers together, there can be no substitute for strong, sovereign, and independent nations -- nations that are rooted in their histories and invested in their destinies; nations that seek allies to befriend, not enemies to conquer; and most important of all, nations that are home to patriots, to men and women who are willing to sacrifice for their countries, their fellow citizens, and for all that is best in the human spirit.

In remembering the great victory that led to this body's founding, we must never forget that those heroes who fought against evil also fought for the nations that they loved.

Patriotism led the Poles to die to save Poland, the French to fight for a free France, and the Brits to stand strong for Britain.

Today, if we do not invest ourselves, our hearts, and our minds in our nations, if we will not build strong families, safe communities, and healthy societies for ourselves, no one can do it for us.

We cannot wait for someone else, for faraway countries or far-off bureaucrats -- we can't do it. We must solve our problems, to build our prosperity, to secure our futures, or we will be vulnerable to decay, domination, and defeat.

The true question for the United Nations today, for people all over the world who hope for better lives for themselves and their children, is a basic one: Are we still patriots? Do we love our nations enough to protect their sovereignty and to take ownership of their futures? Do we revere them enough to defend their interests, preserve their cultures, and ensure a peaceful world for their citizens?

One of the greatest American patriots, John Adams, wrote that the American Revolution was "effected before the war commenced. The Revolution was in the minds and hearts of the people."

That was the moment when America awoke, when we looked around and understood that we were a nation. We realized who we were, what we valued, and what we would give our lives to defend. From its very first moments, the American story is the story of what is possible when people take ownership of their future.

The United States of America has been among the greatest forces for good in the history of the world, and the greatest defenders of sovereignty, security, and prosperity for all.

Now we are calling for a great reawakening of nations, for the revival of their spirits, their pride, their people, and their patriotism.

History is asking us whether we are up to the task. Our answer will be a renewal of will, a rediscovery of resolve, and a rebirth of devotion. We need to defeat the enemies of humanity and unlock the potential of life itself.

Our hope is a word and -- world of proud, independent nations that embrace their duties, seek friendship, respect others, and make common cause in the greatest shared interest of all: a future of dignity and peace for the people of this wonderful Earth.

This is the true vision of the United Nations, the ancient wish of every people, and the deepest yearning that lives inside every sacred soul.

So let this be our mission, and let this be our message to the world: We will fight together, sacrifice together, and stand together for peace, for freedom, for justice, for family, for humanity, and for the almighty God who made us all.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless the nations of the world. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

10:46 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump at Luncheon Hosted by the Secretary General of the United Nations

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at Luncheon Hosted by the Secretary General of the United Nations

United Nations

New York, New York

1:33 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Secretary General. I have to say that, as someone born in New York and raised in New York, it is a great honor to have the United Nations in New York, and always has been.

For years I've been a critic, but I've also been somebody that said that the United Nations has tremendous potential. And under your leadership -- and I've seen what you've done and working with Nikki Haley and all of her friends. She's made so many friends here, and Rex Tillerson, likewise, has become, really a fixture here. We're working very hard to solve world problems.

But there is no better forum; there can be no better forum. And certainly there can be no better location where everybody comes together. So, I want to congratulate you -- the word is "potential." The potential of the United States, in terms of what it has done has been wonderful. But we can do better, and we're going to.

The potential of the United Nations is unlimited, and I really believe -- I've met your representatives, and I know you well. You are going to do things that will be epic, and I certainly hope you will. But I feel very, very confident.

So I just want to toast everybody in the room. And let's give this, as a toast, to the potential -- the great, great potential of the United Nations. Thank you all for being here. Thank you very much.

(A toast is offered.)

END

1:34 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 19, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

4:06 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It's my great honor to be with the Emir of Qatar. And we've been friends a long time; people don't realize that. We know each other for a long time.

And we are right now in a situation where we're trying to solve a problem in the Middle East, and I think we'll get it solved. I have a very strong feeling that it will be solved pretty quickly.

But we're talking, also, trade and many other things. And we've had a tremendous relationship for the last short period of time, especially since our meeting in Saudi Arabia, which I think was an epic and very important -- really a very historic meeting. And now we want to make the most of it by getting things settled. But we also want to continue trade and many other things.

So we look forward to our meetings and our individual meetings, and -- for many years to come.

EMIR AL THANI: Thank you very much. Well, Mr. President, thank you very much for seeing me. I'm very happy to be with you here.

And as you mentioned, the relationship between the United States of America and Qatar is a very strong relationship, a historic relationship. And since we met in Riyadh, which was, as you said, a very, very important meeting, and we signed those agreements -- we were the first country to respond to this agreement, and we signed this MOU of counterterrorism.

So we really appreciate this relationship, Mr. President. We have a lot to talk about -- trade, military cooperation, security cooperation.

So thank you very much. And as you said, Mr. President, we have a problem with our neighbors, and your interference will help a lot. And I'm sure that, with your interference, hopefully we can find a solution for this problem. We've always said that we're very open for dialogue, and we'll always be open for dialogue.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We will get it solved. Thank you very much everybody. Thank you. Thank you.

END
4:08 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel
New York, New York
9:38 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It's a great honor to be with the King of Jordan, who has been our partner and ally for a long time. And I think never has the relationship been better than it is right now.

And we're working together on many problems, and some things that aren't problems that are very, very good. But we're going to make some of the bad ones turn out good.

I just want to thank you for everything you've done, in terms of the refugees and taking care of people that -- who knows what would have happened without you. So I want to thank you and I want to thank everybody involved with you, and you have done an amazing job.

Thank you.

KING ABDULLAH: Mr. President, thank you very much for having us here. And again, we've met several times this year, and I think that just shows the special relationship between our two countries and how closely we work together.

And I'm very grateful for your support to our country in these difficult times and the special bond between our two nations.

But I'd also like to extend our condolences on the victims of the hurricanes, but also how you, the government, the people, the first responders reacted to this crisis. I mean, for us sitting on the outside, looking at how the Americans came together at a difficult time, is really an example to everybody else. And we're very, very grateful for that.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much.

KING ABDULLAH: And everything that we're doing to try and solve our problems.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We have a big one going right now -- I've never seen winds like this -- in Puerto Rico. You take a look at what's happening there, and it's just one after another. But I think we are doing a good job.

I have to say this about the King: He is a very fine gentleman, a very nice man. He's also a great, great fighter. Some people have to understand that, right?

KING ABDULLAH: Well, sir, we're all fighting together. We have --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We're all fighting together.

KING ABDULLAH: Terrorism is a scourge around the world, but I think Jordan will always stand beside you and your country. And we will overcome.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good. Thank you so much. Thank you, everybody. Thank you.

END 9:40 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority Before
Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel
New York, New York
10:32 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great honor to have President Abbas from the Palestinian Authority with us and his representatives, who have been working very hard with everybody involved toward peace. I mean, we're looking seriously at peace, and maybe, ultimately, peace in the whole of the Middle East. And I think we have a pretty good shot -- maybe the best shot ever -- and that's what we're looking to do.

And I just want to thank you for all of the time, all of the meetings, all of the work. It's a complex subject; always been considered the toughest deal of all. Peace between Israel and the Palestinians -- the toughest of all.

But I think we have a very, very good chance, and I certainly will devote everything within my heart and within my soul to get that deal made. Our team is expert; your team is expert. Israel is working very hard toward the same goal, and I must tell you, Saudi Arabia and many of the different nations are working also hard.

So we'll see if we can put it together. Who knows? Stranger things have happened. But I think we have a good chance, and it's a great honor to have you with us.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ABBAS: (As interpreted.) I'm very delighted to be here with President Trump, and I thank you very heartfully for allowing us this opportunity to meet with you for the first time this year.

And if this is any proof to anything, it means -- it attests to the seriousness of Your Excellency, Mr. President, to achieve the deal of the century in the Middle East during this year or in the coming months, God willing.

And we are very certain that you, Mr. President, are determined to reach real peace in the Middle East. And this gives us the assurance and the confidence that we are on the verge of real peace between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

And I would not be giving away any secrets if I say we have met with your brave and active delegation more than 20 times since your ascension to power in the White House. And if this is any indication to anything, it indicates how serious you are about peace in the Middle East.

And I'm very thankful for these efforts, and you will find utmost seriousness on our part to achieve peace, because peace serves our interests and the interests of the Israeli people.

And allow me, Mr. President, to use this opportunity to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Jewish people on the occasion of Rosh Hashanah today, and to the Muslim people on the occasion of the new Islamic year tomorrow. And this is a very sweet coincidence that we can celebrate the new year together within a 24-hour period, and if this is an indication to anything it means that we can coexist peacefully together.

Once again, Mr. President, we count on you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. That's very nice of you. A very great sentiment, frankly. And I have to say, from the time I'm a little boy, I've been hearing about peace in the Middle East. And for so many years I've been hearing about peace between Israel and the

Palestinians. And we're at a very important juncture -- there's a small period of time -- and we're going to see what we can do. There can be no promises, obviously. So many people have talked about it, and it's never happened.

But we're fighting very hard. We are trying very hard. We're all getting along together well. We'll see if we can do it. And if we do do it, it would be a great, great legacy for everybody -- for everybody.

So let's see what happens. Good luck, everybody. Good luck. And you have millions of people rooting for you, that I can say.

Thank you. Thank you very much, everybody.

Q Mr. President, have you decided what to do about the Iran Deal? Have you already made up your mind?

Q Is there any decision on Iran?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I have decided.

Q You have?

Q You have decided?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I have decided.

Q Will you remain in the deal, Mr. President?

Q Have you decided to stay or to leave?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I have decided.

Q When will we know?

Q When's your decision?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'll let you know. I'll let you know.

END 10:38 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump at Working Lunch with African Leaders

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at Working Lunch with African Leaders

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

1:31 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, General. I appreciate it. And I'm greatly honored to host this lunch, to be joined by the leaders of Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda, and South Africa. In particular, I want to thank President Condé, who is representing the African Union. Thank you. Thank you.

In this room, I see partners for promoting prosperity and peace on a range of economic, humanitarian, and security issues. We hope to extend our economic partnerships with countries who are committed to self-reliance and to fostering opportunities for job creation in both Africa and the United States.

Africa has tremendous business potential. I have so many friends going to your countries, trying to get rich. I congratulate you. They're spending a lot of money. But it does -- it has a tremendous business potential and representing huge amounts of different markets. And for American firms it's really become a place that they have to go -- that they want to go.

of the world's ten fastest-growing economies are in Africa. Increasing American trade and investment across diverse industries -- including agriculture, energy, transportation, healthcare, travel, and tourism -- will further transform lives throughout the continent. Secretary Tillerson and the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation are already considering an investment worth hundreds

of millions of dollars in Côte d'Ivoire, which has made impressive economic reforms. Really, you've done a tremendous job.

We also hope that African firms -- like the company Sasol -- consider making investments in the United States. Sasol, as an example, is building a \$9 billion petrochemical plant in Louisiana, which will bring new jobs to the state and, really, hardworking Americans will be manning those jobs.

We cannot have prosperity if we're not healthy. We will continue our partnership on critical health initiatives. Uganda has made incredible strides in the battle against HIV/AIDS. In Guinea and Nigeria, you fought a horrifying Ebola outbreak. Namibia's health system is increasingly self-sufficient. My Secretary of Health and Human Services will be traveling to Africa to promote our Global Health Security Agenda.

Yet, we know that our prosperity depends, above all, on peace. The United States will partner with the countries and organizations, like the African Union, that lead successful efforts to end violence, to prevent the spread of terrorism, and to respond to humanitarian crises. I commend your troops currently serving in the field. Very brave. Very, very brave what they're going through.

You well know, too many people are suffering from conflict in Africa. In the Central African Republic, the Congo, Libya, Mali, Somalia, and South Sudan, among others, they're going through some very, very tough and very dangerous times. Terrorist groups, such as ISIS, al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, and al Qaeda also threaten African peace. The United States is proud to work with you to eradicate terrorist safe havens, to cut off their finances, and to discredit their depraved ideology. And a number of you have told me -- actually, last night -- that we've been doing a very good job over the last six or seven months in particular.

We're closely monitoring and deeply disturbed by the ongoing violence in South Sudan and in the Congo. Millions of lives are at risk, and we continue to provide humanitarian assistance. But real results in halting this catastrophe will require an African-led peace process and a sincere -- really sincere commitment of all parties involved. And I know you're working on that, and you're working on that very hard. To assist in these efforts, I'm sending Ambassador Nikki Haley to Africa to discuss avenues of conflict and resolution and, most importantly, prevention.

I want to discuss our partnership against a global challenge. Today, the world faces an enormous security threat from North Korean regime. We must all stand together and be accountable in implementing United Nations sanctions and resolutions in response to North Korea's hostile and menacing actions.

We believe that a free, independent, and democratic nation, in all cases, is the best vehicle for human happiness and success. Thank you for joining me for this critical discussion of the challenges and the opportunities facing our nations.

Africa, I have to say, is a continent of tremendous, tremendous potential. The outlook is bright. I look forward to hearing from you and your advice during the meal. I thought rather than just eating, we'll have long discussions -- and I look forward to that very much. But I also look forward to getting to know so many of you, and so many of you I do know. And it's an honor. It's an honor.

And I really want to congratulate you -- growing very fast economically and in every other way. You've done a terrific job, you've had some tremendous obstacles placed in your path, but you have done, really, an absolutely incredible job.

So I want to thank you, and I look forward to our discussion. Thank you.

Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END 1:36 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom Before
Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel
New York, New York
3:30 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's great to have Prime Minister May from the United Kingdom and her representatives, who are people we know very well through recent trade negotiations.

I have to say, we'll be doing a lot of trading with the United Kingdom, and we look forward to it. And we have gotten to know each other over the last period of a year, and it's a real honor to have you here.

Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER MAY: Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. It's good to be here. And as you say, we've had many discussions between our representatives and ourselves on a whole variety of issues, including trade, which will be important for us, but some other issues -- foreign policy issues, our security and defense relationship, which of course is the closest -- the U.K. and the U.S. is the closest we have. And it's great that that continues.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much for being here.

PRIME MINISTER MAY: Thank you.

END 3:31 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Al-Sisi of Egypt Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Al-Sisi of Egypt Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel
New York, New York
4:35 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It is a great honor to have with us today President Al Sisi of Egypt. We have worked long and hard, and we are making a lot of progress on a lot of different fronts, and we appreciate everything that you've done.

PRESIDENT AL SISI: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And I know you appreciate everything that we've done. (Laughter.) But the relationship is very good, and thank you very much for your representatives. The relationship really has been very, very good, and we look forward to continuing today and tomorrow.

PRESIDENT AL SISI: Thank you very much. (As interpreted.) I thank you, Your Excellency, as well, for making the time to meet. This is a very good chance that we are meeting once more, and I'd like to thank you and extend my appreciation for all the support you're giving to Egypt.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you very much, everybody.

Q Mr. President, will you restart aid to Egypt? Will you restart military aid to Egypt?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We're going to certainly consider it.

Q Mr. President, is Graham-Cassidy going to pass?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think it has a very good chance. Obamacare is a disaster. It's failing badly. You look at the rates. You look at what's happening with premiums for people. They can't afford Obamacare. It's been a catastrophic situation.

I believe that Graham-Cassidy really will do it the right way, and it is doing it the right way. It has tremendous support from Republicans. Certainly we're at 47 or 48 already -- senators -- and a lot of others are looking at it very positively.

Mike Pence has been working on it -- our Vice President -- who has done such a great job on healthcare and knows healthcare so well -- loves it. I think he might want to even say a few words about it.

Mike.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: President Trump made a commitment to the American people that we would repeal and replace Obamacare, and we're grateful to Senator Graham, Senator Cassidy, and others that are coming together to keep the promise to the American people.

As the President has said many times, Obamacare is collapsing. American families and American businesses are bearing the burden, and this President and our entire administration are absolutely committed to support Graham-Cassidy, move forward legislation that will give the American people a fresh start on healthcare reform, not with government mandates, but by repealing the mandates on businesses and individuals, and giving the resources to the states to create healthcare solutions that will work for each individual state.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: For seven years, I've been hearing "repeal and replace Obamacare." For seven years, I've been hearing how bad Obamacare is, but really more in the last two to three years than anything.

But for seven years, I've been hearing "repeal and replace." We've been hearing how bad it is. We've been looking at the premiums go up. We've been looking at deductibles that have been through the roof. You have states like Arizona where the premiums are going to be worse this year than last year, and last year they were at 100 percent increase, 116 percent.

I think there's tremendous support for it. I think it's actually much better than the previous shot, which was very sadly let down. But again, we've been hearing about repeal and replace for seven years. They have a chance.

I thought that when I won, I would go to the Oval Office, sit down at my desk, and there would be a healthcare bill on my desk, to be honest. And it hasn't worked out that way. And I think a lot of Republicans are embarrassed by it, but I have to tell you, I think they're going to do a great job. If this happens, it will be a great thing for the country. Obamacare is a disaster. It's a wreck. It's a train wreck, and it's only getting worse.

And I must be honest with you, whether it happens or not, something is going to happen, and it's going to be positive because, frankly, Obamacare cannot make it. It cannot make it. We think this has a very good chance, but Obamacare is only getting worse. It's dysfunctional now. It's totally dysfunctional. And at some point, the Senate is going to be forced to make a deal. They're just about at that point right now because Obamacare is so bad.

So I do think it has a very good chance of passage, and I certainly hope it passes, and they'll be voting in the not-too-distant future. Thank you very much. Thank you.

END 4:40 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Ghani of Afghanistan Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Ghani of Afghanistan Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

9:35 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good morning. It's a pleasure to have President Ghani of Afghanistan with us. We're working very well together. We're working very hard.

Our military is, as you know, over there right now and doing, really, an incredible job -- more of leadership than fighting. We're leading a lot of wonderful Afghan troops who are fighting very hard. We were just discussing that, and great progress is being made.

So it's an honor to have you and all of your representatives with us. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT GHANI: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, first of all, I'd like to pay tribute to American soldiers, officers, and civilians, particularly those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. That sacrifice can now result in a stable Afghanistan.

I want to thank you on behalf of the people of Afghanistan, the government of Afghanistan for making a decision that is historic. You asked very fundamental questions. You made this decision on the basis of courage and determination. We salute your courage.

Since the decision, there's been an immense change on the ground. I've been to six of our seven army corps, and they all greet you, and the people of the United States, and the American soldiers and officers who fought shoulder-to-shoulder with them. It's a difference of day and night.

The cloud of uncertainty has been lifted, but equally important is your commitment to a political solution at the end of this process. What we want to assure the American people is that there's not going to be a combat role. You've made that crystal clear, and we are committed to make sure it's the Afghan people, the Afghan soldiers, the Afghan officers who will take the burden of responsibility.

The modest additional troops that have been sent are to enhance the assist, support, advice mission, and that is playing a very crucial role. Victory -- political and military-wise -- is within our sight.

And I'd like to thank you for the thoroughness of the review and especially for ordering that all instruments of American power -- military, diplomatic, and economic -- are brought together in a coherent plan of action to lift Afghanistan out of 40 years of crisis, and to make it a platform for stability and prosperity.

And because of this, we equally, Mr. President, understand and fully endorse the concept that you use. We do not ask for a blank check. We are determined to do what is ours -- fight corruption; ensure that there's no waste of resources; full accountability for the results; and significant momentum so that the American people can know that, under your wise leadership, the results that were not within grasp will now be achieved.

Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you, Mr. President, also. And I think it's important to understand that the Afghan soldiers are doing the fighting. We're training and we're working with them very closely, but it's the Afghans that are doing the fighting.

I've also heard, not only this morning but over the last few weeks, that the spirit is tremendous over there of your Afghan forces and of the American forces. Rules of engagement are

now different than they were, and we're able to do the job. And I will say that the spirit -- and I'm hearing it from everybody -- everybody that goes over comes back and said, really, it's like a different place. But the spirit is tremendous.

People don't realize you had 20 terrorist groups in Afghanistan. This is where the World Trade Center people -- I'll call them "people" -- were trained. This is what happened. But you had 20 groups -- more than anyplace else. It's really a hornet's nest from that standpoint. We are hitting them very, very hard and very, very effectively, and we really have no choice but to do it.

So I'm honored to have you, and I'm very, very happy with what I've heard and the reports that I've heard from our generals and our people. And I think we're going to be very successful. We're there for a number of reasons, but one of the reasons is to stop these terrorist organizations which, for whatever reason, seem to accumulate in Afghanistan more than anyplace else.

So we're doing our job. I think we're doing it very effectively. Tremendous esprit de corps. And we'll see what happens, but I think it's going to be good. Thank you all very much. Thank you.

Q Are you going to place more sanctions on North Korea?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes. We will be putting more sanctions on North Korea. Yes.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

END 9:40 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Poroshenko of Ukraine Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Poroshenko of Ukraine Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

10:22 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's wonderful to have President Poroshenko with us. We spent some time recently in the White House, and I know you've made good progress since then -- a lot of progress, actually. And I wouldn't say it's the easiest place right now to live, but you're making it better and better on a daily basis. And I do hear very, very good things.

So Ukraine is coming along pretty well -- pretty well. And at the borders, maybe you'll tell them how you're doing.

Thank you. Thank you for being here.

PRESIDENT POROSHENKO: Thank you very much indeed, Mr. President. That's a real great honor for me to be here in the city which is so close to you. And I'm really happy to hear the words about the progress we both demonstrate after our last meeting.

But first of all, I want to respect the great sympathy and solidarity with the American people because of the consequences of the hurricanes, and my admire with your very strong leadership in this hard time.

And I really think that our cooperation, both in the security and defense sector, which is bringing already the first important results under your leadership, and the second, we seriously improved our economic cooperation.

I just mention one single figure: The turnover between the United States and Ukraine during the last seven months increased 2.5 times because of the implementation of our agreement. And this is, again, the symbol that we welcome in American companies in the Ukrainian market, and creating hundreds of thousands of jobs both in Ukraine and the U.S. And this is really a delivery from effective cooperation between our nations.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, that's right. That's a story that is pretty untold, but I think you'll see it more and more. But companies are going very strongly right now into the Ukraine. They see a tremendous potential there, so take good care of them. Okay? Take good care of them.

I do want to report that, with the hurricanes, we spoke with Greg Abbott, Governor of Texas, and I will tell you, Texas is doing really, really well. Those people are working hard and effectively, and you have a great governor. And Texas is really coming out of that horrible Hurricane Harvey really, really well.

Florida, very similar. Great governor, Rick Scott -- spoke with him. Florida was -- I mean, they were hit hard, they were hit hard. But they're doing very, very well. Ahead of schedule. The power is back on -- almost, for the most part, outside of the Keys where you have a devastation problem, but even there we're working very hard. But Florida is doing really well. So Texas, Florida, we give it an A-plus.

Puerto Rico was absolutely obliterated. Puerto Rico got hit with winds -- they say they've never seen winds like this anywhere. It got hit as a five -- Category 5 storm -- which just literally never happens.

So Puerto Rico is in very, very, very tough shape. Their electrical grid is destroyed. It wasn't in good shape to start off with, but their electrical grid is totally destroyed and so many other things. So we're starting the process now and we'll work with the governor and the people of Puerto Rico. But Puerto Rico is a whole different category in many ways -- in many ways.

But it is -- in fact, you just -- all you have to do is read or turn on the television and you'll see a place that was practically leveled. It's incredible, the power of that wind. That was a very unique -- not for many decades has a storm hit a piece of land like that.

So Puerto Rico will start the process. With -- we have actually Tom Bossert is with us in the other room. We're just talking about it. We're going to start it with great gusto, but it's in very, very, very perilous shape. Very sad what happened to Puerto Rico.

So that's just an update on the three primary areas. Virgin Islands are -- I don't even have to say; all you have to do is take a look at a picture. They are flattened. Areas around there have been flattened. So these were storms that they haven't seen in many years. It's very sad actually, to see it. But we will start the process. As we've proven, we have incredible teams.

has been beyond -- who would've thought after Texas, they go to Florida, then they go to Puerto Rico, and they go to other places too. Louisiana took a little bit of a hit and they recovered really well. They've done a fantastic job in Louisiana. Alabama took a hit but they recovered. Alabama has been fantastic. So many people went to Alabama during the storm -- during the Florida storm, and likewise Georgia.

So many places were so incredible in the way they've handled it. So we are going to start the process now with Puerto Rico. We'll have further updates on it, but it was one of the most serious storms anyone has ever seen.

Thank you all very much.

Q Mr. President will you visit Puerto Rico?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, I will.

Q President Poroshenko, do you need more military aid from the United States? Do you need more military help from the United States?

PRESIDENT POROSHENKO: We have a brilliant operation with the United States and security and defense sector. Definitely, and we very much satisfied with that.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody.

END 10:28 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel
New York, New York
11:32 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great privilege to be with President Moon of South Korea. As you probably know, we've had a few discussions over the last number of months, and I actually think we're making a lot of headway in a lot of different ways.

We are on a very friendly basis working on trade and working on trade agreements, and we'll see how that all comes out. But much more importantly, frankly, than trade is the other aspect of our relationship that we're working with -- and that has to do with North Korea.

So we are meeting on a constant basis. We'll be meeting in a little while, also, with Prime Minister Abe of Japan, and that will be a tri-meeting. So we will see. But I think we're making a lot of progress in a lot of different ways. Stay tuned. Stay tuned.

Would you like to say something?

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) Mr. President, I have met you several times, and I've also had many telephone conversations with you. And because of this, I am becoming more and more familiar with you.

Over the years, North Korea has continued to make provocations, and this is extremely deplorable and this has angered both me and our people. But the United States has responded firmly and in a very good way, and because of this I also believe that we have very close coordination between Korea and the United States. And because of this, I'm very satisfied.

Mr. President, in the U.N. General Assembly, you made a very strong speech, and I believe that the strength of your speech will also help to change North Korea.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. And I'm very happy that you used to the word "deplorable." I was very interested in that word. (Laughter.) I didn't tell them -- I promise I did not tell them to use that word. That's been a very lucky word for me and many millions of people. (Laughter.)

So because of the fact that our trade deal is so bad for the United States and so good for South Korea, I said we'll focus on the military. But actually, we're going to try and straighten out the trade deal and make it fair for everybody.

But our real focus will be on the military and our relationship with South Korea, which is excellent -- which is really excellent.

So we're going to start that process right now. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody.

END 11:38 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump, President Moon of the Republic of Korea, and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Trilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

September 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump, President Moon of the Republic of Korea, and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Trilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

12:15 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Today I'm announcing a new executive order I just signed that significantly expands our authorities to target individuals, companies, financial institutions that finance and facilitate trade with North Korea.

As I outlined at my address to the United Nations General Assembly, North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile development is a grave threat to peace and security in our world. And it is unacceptable that others financially support this criminal, rogue regime.

The brutal North Korean regime does not respect its own citizens or the sovereignty of other nations. Our new executive order will cut off sources of revenue that fund North Korea's efforts to develop the deadliest weapons known to humankind.

The order enhances the Treasury Department's authorities to target any individual or entity that conducts significant trade in goods, services, or technology with North Korea. And I'm very proud to tell you that, as you may have just heard moments ago, China, their central bank has told their other banks -- that's a massive banking system -- to immediately stop doing business with North Korea. This just happened. It was just reported.

In addition to everything else, what we will do is identify new industries, including textiles, fishing, information technology, and manufacturing that the Treasury Department can target with strong sanctions. And Secretary Mnuchin is representing the Treasury Department; he's here today.

To prevent sanctions evasion, the order also includes measures designed to disrupt critical North Korean shipping and trade networks. For much too long, North Korea has been allowed to abuse the international financial system to facilitate funding for its nuclear weapons and missile programs.

The United States has had representatives working on this problem for over 25 years; they have done nothing. That's why we're in the problem that we're in today, in addition to, frankly, other countries not doing what they should have done.

Tolerance for this disgraceful practice must end now. Our new order will give the Treasury Department the discretion to sanction any foreign bank that knowingly conducts or facilitates significant transactions tied to trade with North Korea. And again, I want to just say, and thank President Xi of China for the very bold move he made today. That was a somewhat unexpected move and we appreciate it.

New authority in this area applies to any activity that occurs following my signature on the executive order -- which I have actually just signed. Foreign banks will face a clear choice: Do business with the United States or facilitate trade with the lawless regime in North Korea -- and they won't have so much trade.

This new order provides us with powerful new tools, but I want to be clear the order targets only one country -- and that country is North Korea. The regime can no longer count on others to facilitate its trade and banking activities.

Many countries are working with us to increase economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea. But I continue to call on all those responsible nations to enforce and implement U.N. sanctions and impose their own measures like the ones I am announcing today.

I must tell you that this is a complete denuclearization of North Korea that we seek. Cannot have this as a world body any longer. In just a few minutes, Prime Minister Abe, President Moon and I are going to discuss what more we can do working together. We're had a very, very close relationship. I think our nations have become closer because of this.

I know it's going to be a great meeting. Our alliance with South Korea and Japan has never been stronger than it is today. We share a commitment to creating a world where strong and

independent nations honor their people, respect their sovereignty, respect the sovereignty also of other nations, and promote peace.

Thank you very much. And I'd like to ask, to start off, President Moon to say a few words, please.

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) Quite recently we have seen the provocation coming from North Korea. And the Japanese people must have gone through the huge -- a big shock, and I really understand the big concerns -- the huge concerns that Japanese people may have because of these provocations. So I would like to express that I really feel compassion for the Japanese people in this regard.

The three leaders have met at the G20 Summit meeting in July in Germany, and we issued a joint statement. And through this joint statement, we also set a firm foundation for close coordination amongst the three countries based on which we are cooperating closely with the international community to impose the sanctions and the pressure on North Korea.

And that through the U.N. General Assembly, the three leaders have come together. We all have made speeches at the General Assembly, and also we met with leaders of the major countries at the bilateral, and we were able to enhance understanding about that the sanctions, and we were also able to urge to the international community about this situation. And I think this is a meaningful outcome that the three countries have made.

President Trump just talked about the executive order, through which the U.S. is going to be implementing sanctions against the DPRK. That was a very major announcement made by China to take actions on the DPRK. I am very confident that such moves will contribute to complete denuclearization of DPRK. In this, I'd like to extend my appreciation to President Trump, and I'd like to say that Korea will closely coordinate with the United States on this matter.

Through today's meeting, I sincerely hope that there will be a display of strong trilateral leadership in coordinating our responses for the North Korean issue. And I also look forward to engaging in in-depth discussions for the solution to North Korean nuclear and missile problem.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

Prime Minister Abe.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) In the last three weeks, two times North Korea launched ballistic missiles -- two times -- going over Japan. And they conducted six nuclear tests, and the scale of the test was beyond the scale of Hiroshima bombs, more than 10 times the scale of the nuclear tests; it was ten times more. This is an intolerable, outrageous act.

Thanks to Donald's leadership, we now have this summit meeting Japan, the U.S., and Korea. So our unity and solidarity -- the strength thereof that could be presented to North Korea -- this meeting is indeed quite significant. I'd like to thank Donald's leadership.

Recently, U.N. sanctions was adopted unanimously, including a very strict sanctions. And I'd like to thank the efforts of the U.N. ambassadors from the United States. And further efforts are needed. And in this context, Donald just referred to signing of the executive order -- new executive order.

So we are going into the new stage of pressure from the viewpoint of exercising the stronger pressure, new pressures. I welcome the new sanction measures of the United States, and I'd like to offer my heartfelt support for that.

Bearing in mind those measures between the three countries, we will have the collaboration so that we will move toward the abandoning of nuclear weapons and nuclear program by North Korea, and we'd like to lead into the next action.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. We're also going to be discussing trade transactions and trade deals with Japan and with South Korea, and that will be very important. But this is something that obviously will take precedence.

So thank you all very much for being here. We appreciate it. We'll see you later. Thank you.

Q Mr. President, is dialogue still possible with North Korea?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Why not?

END 12:27 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

1:34 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's wonderful to have Prime Minister Shinzo Abe -- doing a wonderful job, doing a great job for the people of Japan.

We have had numerous discussions already today, and this is a formalization of the discussions. We've made a lot of progress, both on trade and obviously, very importantly, we've discussed in great detail North Korea -- with also South Korea as you just saw.

So we will continue the dialogue. The relationship has never been closer, I believe, with Japan and the United States, and it will continue onward that way. I look forward to discussing some things that the group is here specifically to discuss. And we'll be reporting back to you later.

So thank you all very much. You heard about China; you heard what China was doing today, in terms of the banking system. That was a tremendous move, and we have great respect. And we also would like to thank President Xi of China. So that was a great thing he did today.

Thank you very much. Thank you very much for being here.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) At the outset of today's summit meeting, I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Donald.

First of all, in your remarks to the U.N. General Assembly, you touched on Ms. Megumi Yokota, one of the Japanese abductees. For the parents of her, as well as the family members of those who have been abducted by North Korea, your message was very, very encouraging, and I do appreciate your message.

So for us, the key is to change the course of action, as well as policy of North Korea. And in that context, dialogue for the sake of dialogue would not produce anything.

The key at this moment is to exercise and apply pressure against North Korea in a robust manner. And together with Donald, we've been successfully demonstrating our strong will to exercise pressure against North Korea. And that actually led to the unification of the international community to address this challenge.

So I certainly look forward to making every effort with you, and also with other members of the international community, to achieve the denuclearization of North Korea.

So today, I very much look forward to deepening our discussion with a focus on the issue of North Korea and, also, other issues. And by doing that, I certainly hope to further solidify our alliance and partnership.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you.

END 1:38 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Erdoğan of Turkey Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 21, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Erdoğan of Turkey Before Bilateral Meeting

Lotte New York Palace Hotel

New York, New York

3:13 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great honor and privilege -- because he's become a friend of mine -- to introduce President Erdoğan of Turkey. He's running a very difficult part of the world. He's involved very, very strongly and, frankly, he's getting very high marks. And he's also been working with the United States.

We have a great friendship as countries. I think we're, right now, as close as we have ever been. And a lot of that has to do with the personal relationship.

So, President, thank you very much. It's a great honor to have you in the United States. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ERDOĞAN: (As interpreted.) Thank you so much, Mr. President. We are here in New York, in the United States, to attend the General Assembly of the United Nations. And my dear friend, Donald, we are getting together with you as the delegations, and we're going to conduct a bilateral meeting as well, whereby we will be assessing the current relations between the United States and Turkey, as well as we will have the opportunity to discuss the recent regional developments as well.

And I would like to once again thank you for this opportunity, and it's great to get together with you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. We appreciate it. Thank you all very much.

Q Mr. President, what will your message be (inaudible) the violence against peaceful protestors?

Q Mr. President, are you going to reconcile with the Kurdish issue, do you think?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll be discussing many issues -- many issues.

END 3:15 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Rajoy of Spain Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Rajoy of Spain Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

12:20 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It's a great honor to have President Rajoy of Spain. He's somebody highly respected -- highly respected -- in this country.

We have a very, very close relationship with Spain. And, Mr. President, it's an honor to have you in the Oval Office. It's an honor to have you at the White House.

And we're going to be discussing trade and other things, and we look forward to doing it. And, Mr. President, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT RAJOY: (As interpreted.) Good morning. Thank you very much. I would like to thank President Donald Trump for the very warm welcome he has extended.

You know that bilateral relations between Spain and the United States are excellent. We have excellent economic relations. Trade is growing, and we are the second-highest investors in the United States, and the United States is a top investor in Spain.

We belong to NATO and we have very good cooperation in defense and in the fight against terrorism, and I hope that we will achieve the goal of our meeting, which is to continue to see economic growth, job creation, and to continue to have very good relations between our peoples, and to continue promoting democracy and human rights, and especially the fight against terrorism.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: President Rajoy and myself will be speaking outside, and we'll take some questions. I assume you're going to be asking me only about Spain. We love Spain but they have a lot of other things on their mind, I have to tell you. And again, we have a terrific relationship and that will continue and be stronger than ever before.

So I'll see you outside in a little while. Thank you all very much.

END

12:24 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Rajoy of Spain at Working Luncheon

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Rajoy of Spain at Working Luncheon

Cabinet Room

12:36 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It's a pleasure to have President Rajoy with us. We will be discussing with our various representatives lots of different issues; among them is trade. And the United States is changing many of its trade deals, it's renegotiating many of its trade deals.

We've had a really great first nine months, I would say, with Spain. It's a special place. It's a special country with incredible people.

So, Mr. President, it is an honor to have you with us, and we look forward to spending the day. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RAJOY: (Speaks Spanish.) (No interpretation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We are very much involved in the fight against terrorism together. We're comparing notes and we're comparing intelligence. And we are very, very unified in that fight. As you know, Spain is also very involved.

And it's an unfortunate situation, but these are -- the times are changing. And we're being very, very strong on terrorism, as you see. We have had tremendous success in the Middle East, in Iraq and in Syria, in terms of ISIS and in terms of what we've done to get rid of this threat. But we work very closely with Spain, and we'll be very successful.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

END

12:40 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and President Rajoy of the Government of Spain in Joint Press Conference

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 26, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Rajoy of the Government of Spain in Joint Press Conference

Rose Garden
1:56 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good afternoon. I'm greatly honored to welcome President Mariano Rajoy of Spain, and it's a great honor to have you at the White House. Thank you very much.

We've just concluded a very productive conversation on a crucial range of economic and security issues.

Before we begin, I'd like to take a moment to send America's hearts and prayers to the people of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Both have been devastated -- and I mean absolutely devastated -- by Hurricane Maria, and we're doing everything in our power to help the hard-hit people of both places, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. And a massive effort is underway, and we have been really treated very, very nicely by the governor and by everybody else. They know how hard we're working and what a good job we're doing.

As we speak, FEMA, our great first responders, and all available federal resources, including the military, are being marshaled to save lives, protect families, and begin a long and very, very difficult restoration process. I have directed all relevant departments and agencies to assist in the response and recovery effort.

As Governor Rosselló just told me this morning, the entire federal workforce is doing great work in Puerto Rico, and I appreciated his saying it. And he's saying it to anybody that will listen. Our team has been incredible after having gone through Texas and then Florida, with other stops along the way. And he further went on and he said, "And through the Trump administration's leadership, the relationship between FEMA and my team is very, very strong." I will be going to Puerto Rico on Tuesday. I'll also be going to the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Over the last several weeks our nation has been tested by the destructive force of Mother Nature, but we will respond to it with an even mightier force: the resolve of the American spirit. Texas, Louisiana, and Florida are in really good shape and moving along well. We thank all of the first responders and volunteers who have risked their lives. And that's what they did -- they risked their lives.

To all of those impacted by the trouble and these horrible hurricanes and storms that have affected and impacted our country, I thank you. The recovery process will be a very, very difficult one. We will get through this, and we will get through it together. We will be stronger. We will be bigger. We will be better. Thank you very much.

The United States and Spain are great friends and close allies. Our bonds, culture, and commerce go back many centuries. Our schools teach American children about Spain's history of exploration. Our museums treasure beautiful Spanish works of art. And your country's contributions to architecture, music, and film are admired all over the world. It's a greatly admired country. The deep relationship between our two people is a strong foundation for lasting cooperation.

On behalf of the American people, I want to express our support and extend our prayers to all of those affected by the vile terror attack in Spain last month. I want to assure the people of Spain that America stands with you in confronting this evil that threatens all of humanity. We will

continue to deny the terrorists their funding, their territory, and any form of support for their wicked ideology.

In this common fight, America greatly appreciates Spain's contribution to the coalition to defeat ISIS. Spanish troops and police have trained more than 30,000 members of the Iraqi security forces. We also thank the Spanish people for being such gracious hosts to the American servicemembers stationed at Spanish bases.

The United States and Spain together face many critical dangers and challenges, from North Korea, to Iran, to Venezuela. We thank Spain for its recent decision to expel its North Korean ambassador and for standing with us in our efforts to isolate the brutal North Korean regime.

It is time for all responsible nations to join forces to isolate the North Korean menace. North Korean nuclear weapons and missile development threaten the entire world with unthinkable loss of life. All nations must act now to ensure the regime's complete denuclearization.

I appreciate the United Nations Security Council voting twice, unanimously -- 15 to nothing, twice -- to adopt hard-hitting resolutions against North Korea. I have recently issued tough new sanctions against those who do business with this outlaw regime, and I applaud China's latest action to restrict its trade with North Korea. And, in particular, I applaud China for breaking off all banking relationships with North Korea -- something that people would have thought unthinkable even two months ago. I want to thank President Xi.

Here, in the Western Hemisphere, we have seen the heartbreaking tragedy of Maduro's socialist rule in Venezuela. Spain has been especially helpful in promoting the interests and wellbeing of the Venezuelan people, and we thank you for your efforts.

We hope our friends in the EU will soon follow the United States, Canada, and many Latin American nations in sanctioning the Maduro regime. We need everybody involved. The citizens of Venezuela have endured immense suffering, poverty, starvation, and dangerous political unrest under Maduro's oppressive socialist regime.

Together, Spain and the United States hope for peace, for the restoration of democracy, and for the release of all political prisoners. Wherever socialism spreads, misery follows. The people of Venezuela deserve a future of freedom. These are great people.

In the economic arena, we support trade that benefits both Spain and the United States, which means it must be fair and it must be reciprocal -- such an important word. It hasn't been used very much in the United States -- "reciprocal." Spain is the 10th largest investor in the United States, and I commend Spanish business leaders for their confidence in America and the American worker. And considering the fact that our stock market has just hit all-time highs, I think they probably like the United States very much right now.

This is a time for both tremendous opportunity for our world, but also serious dangers. As I said at the United Nations, which future really is up to us. If we empower our citizens, serve their needs, and appeal to all that is best in the human spirit, then I have no doubt we will succeed like never, ever before.

Mr. President, I look forward to working with you to build this future of prosperity and peace for both Spain and for the United States of America. Thank you very much. Thank you

PRESIDENT RAJOY: (As interpreted.) Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon. I would like to start by expressing my solidarity -- that of my government and that of the Spanish people -- with the people in the U.S. government after the terrible events President Trump just referred to and that took place in Texas, Florida, and other U.S. regions, and in Puerto Rico.

We hope and we wish that even if what happened can't be changed, we hope that in the future we can do as best as possible for everyone.

President Trump and I had a working meeting today, which was very productive. And we went through our bilateral relations. Spain and the United States are two great partners. We share values, democracy, freedom, respect for human rights, the rule of law. And we have institutional and cultural -- corporate ties which are very important.

Relations between the two countries have been excellent, and we must continue to work to strengthen those relations even more, especially in the economic arena. That's why our priorities of strengthening the economy and job creation are key. Trade between the two countries is growing sustainably. The United States is our second top trading partner outside of Europe. The United States is our top destination of exports outside the European Union.

And regarding investments, it's the second top destination of Spanish investments and the top investor in Spain. For many years, Spanish companies have invested in the U.S. They're creating many stable and high-quality jobs in different sectors, such as the financial industry and energy. And this has been possible thanks to the establishment of subsidiaries in the United States by 600 Spanish companies, and they will continue to create jobs. That's why they follow closely investment opportunities in the United States, and they can contribute their technology and their experience to the United States.

I've also given details to President Trump on Spain's role in different crises, which are important to us all. For instance, he referred to our participation in the coalition against Daesh and the crisis due to nuclear proliferation in North Korea.

Combatting terrorism was something we talked about at length. Spain has a longstanding experience in this area. And just like the United States, we've been hit by jihadi terrorist attacks on our soil. Both countries agree on anti-terrorist policy, and we cooperate very closely on police, military, and intelligence areas. I've also said that I'm sure that we still have to do a lot in the area of intelligence. We need to improve the coordination mechanisms in the area of cybersecurity or preventing recruitment and financing of terrorists.

I've also underscored Spain's role as a member of the global coalition against terrorism, and our deployment in Iraq, which is very large. We're the fourth-largest contributor and we've trained over 32,000 officers. In addition to that, I've told President Trump that we would increase our commitment with the new phase after the fall of Mosul by contributing a new financial package to rebuild Iraq.

We also have long relations in the area of defense, both in NATO and bilaterally with the Spanish bases, which are used by both our countries in Rota and Moron, which are increasingly important strategically. Our defense agreement goes back to 1988. At the time, Spain was in the backseat of the alliance; right now we're at the forefront -- Daesh, Sahel, Libya. So the defense and security relation is excellent, but we would like that to spill over into other areas of the bilateral relation. President Trump and I have gone through the political and economic situation in our countries.

Regarding the international situation, we've agreed that the challenge by North Korea to the non-proliferation regime is an intolerable violation of the international legality. And I've expressed the full support of the Spanish government to the stepping up of sanctions, as approved by the United Nations the other day. As we know, the European Union is working on new additional measures, and in that context, Spain will continue to press for a firm, common stance supportive of the U.S. and its regional allies.

I've also reminded President Trump that the Spanish government has taken measures that have reduced the diplomatic presence of North Korea in our country. President Trump has thanked me for the firm position my government has taken and the measures we've adopted.

Regarding Venezuela, we've exchanged views on the worrying totalitarian direction the country is moving in and its impoverishment with the implications that has in the humanitarian area. We've noted that there's a need to sustain international pressure on the Venezuelan government so that it commits to negotiations which will enable us to find a democratic negotiated and peaceful solution to the current crisis. I've also reminded President Trump that Spain and the EU have spearheaded the adoption of sanctions, which were first individual and targeted.

So we've gone through the political and economic situation of both our countries. Spain and the United States are two democracies, friends and allies with many common values and interests.

And we've agreed to work together in the area of defense of those values with a comprehensive and cooperative vision.

I would like to thank the warm welcome that was extended to us by President Trump and his team at the White House. And I would also like to underscore the friendship that exists between the United States and Spain. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

Steve Holland, please. Reuters. Don't get nervous, Steve. (Laughter.)

Q There's some concern that you were preoccupied with the NFL instead of dealing with Puerto Rico. Why isn't that a fair assessment?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I wasn't preoccupied with the NFL. I was ashamed of what was taking place, because to me that was a very important moment. I don't think you can disrespect our country, our flag, our national anthem. To me, the NFL situation is a very important situation. I've heard that before about was I preoccupied. Not at all. Not at all. I have plenty of time on my hands. All I do is work.

And to be honest with you, that's an important function of working. It's called respect for our country. Many people have died -- many, many people. Many people are so horribly injured. I was at Walter Reed Hospital recently, and I saw so many great young people, and they're missing legs and they're missing arms. And they've been so badly injured. And they were fighting for our country. They were fighting for our flag. They were fighting for our national anthem. And for people to disrespect that by kneeling during the playing of our national anthem I think is disgraceful.

So I will also say that -- again, I read you part of his quote -- but the Governor of Puerto Rico is so thankful for the great job that we're doing. We did a great job in Texas, a great job in Florida, a great job in Louisiana. We hit little pieces of Georgia and Alabama. And frankly, we're doing -- and it's the most difficult job because it's on the island. It's on an island in the middle of the ocean. It's out in the ocean. You can't just drive your trucks there from other states.

And the Governor said we are doing a great job. In fact, he thanked me specifically for FEMA and all of the first responders in Puerto Rico. And we're also mentioning with that the U.S. Virgin Islands. It was devastated. So we are totally focused on that.

But at the same time, it doesn't take me long to put out a wrong, and maybe we'll get it right. I think it's a very important thing for the NFL to not allow people to kneel during the playing of our national anthem, to respect our country and to respect our flag.

Okay? Thank you.

Q If I could ask the Prime Minister -- if I could ask a Prime Minister a question. It's going to take a war to rein in North Korea. And what is your advice to the President on dealing with this?

PRESIDENT RAJOY: (As interpreted.) No one wishes for there to be a war anywhere in the world, but it's true that the recent events in North Korea with implications in the neighboring countries -- very important countries -- means that we all have to be forceful. And those of us who defend the values of democracy, freedom, and human rights have to let North Korea know that it isn't going anywhere in that direction.

For the time being, sanctions have been adopted. Spain will support any political decision which will contribute to putting an end to this situation, which has nothing to do with the principles and values most Western and global democracies defend.

Q (As interpreted.) Thank you. Jose Emil Blanco (ph) from SA. We don't know whether during your conversation you discussed the Catalan situation. And this is a question for President Trump. Do you support what the Spanish government is doing regarding Catalonia? And I'd like to ask the President of the Spanish Government whether he fears there might be a unilateral declaration of independence in Catalonia, and what would the government do then.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I think that Spain is a great country and it should remain united. We're dealing with a great, great country, and it should remain united.

I've been watching that unfold, but it's actually been unfolding for centuries. And I think that nobody knows if they're going to have a vote. I think the President would say they're not going to have a vote. But I think that the people would be very much opposed to that.

I can say only speaking for myself, I would like to see Spain continue to be united.

PRESIDENT RAJOY: (As interpreted.) The decision to unilaterally declare independence is not something -- it's not a decision I would make. It's a decision which will have to be made, or not, by the Catalan government. I think it would be very wrong. And I think that right now, when everyone knows that the referendum can't take place because there isn't an electoral committee, there isn't a team at the Catalan government organizing the referendum. There aren't ballots, there aren't people at the voting stations. So it's just crazy. All this will lead to is noise. But certainly there can't be a valid democratic referendum with guarantees -- with minimum guarantees.

I think that what would make sense in a situation such as this is to go back to common sense and put an end to this whole story. The only thing it's doing is generating division, tensions, and it's not contributing in any way to the citizen situation. So I want this to be resolved as soon as possible. And I want us to go into a new stage where the rule of law, dialogue, and common sense will prevail. Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Major Garrett. Yes, CBS.

Q Good afternoon.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, hi.

Q The day began in Puerto Rico with government officials saying (inaudible) and talking about the threat of debt a mere hours away. Are you truly satisfied with what the government has done so far in Puerto Rico? And can you tell the people there that things are actually going great, and government officials there are (inaudible) people there? And you have an official meeting this afternoon. Are you contemplating the deployment of special naval assets or air assets to Puerto Rico to address the problems there?

And on North Korea, very quickly, the Foreign Minister said you have declared, effectively, war on North Korea. And the North Korean government has threatened to shoot down or aim at American planes flying in international airspace. I would like your reaction to that.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Okay, well, I'll answer the second one first. We're totally prepared for the second option; not a preferred option. But if we take that option, it will be devastating -- I can tell you that -- devastating for North Korea. That's called the military option. If we have to take it, we will.

He's acting very badly. He's saying things that should never, ever be said. And we're replying to those things, but it's a reply. It's not an original statement; it's a reply. But the things that he said over the last year -- and if you look back, the things that he said to past administrations -- North Korea is a situation that should have been handled 25 years ago, 20 years ago, 15 years ago, 10 years ago, and five years ago, and it could have been handled much more easily.

You had various administrations -- many administrations which left me a mess. But I'll fix the mess. So we'll see what happens with North Korea.

As far as Puerto Rico is concerned, I think just the opposite. We have had tremendous reviews from government officials, as we have in Texas and Louisiana, and as we have in Florida, as you know, from Governor Scott and Greg Abbott. Great governors. And this morning, the governor made incredible statements about how well we're doing.

We understand it's a disaster; it's a disaster that just happened. The grid was in bad shape before the storm. And Puerto Rico didn't get hit by one hurricane, it got hit by two hurricanes, and they were among the biggest we've ever seen -- with the second one being even worse. I mean, the second one hit Puerto Rico as a Category 5. I don't believe anybody has ever seen that happen before -- hit land with that kind of velocity.

The governor has been extremely generous and I appreciated it. We right now have our top people from FEMA, and they have been there. We're are unloading, on an hourly basis, massive loads of water and food and supplies for Puerto Rico.

And this isn't like Florida where we can go right up the spine, or like Texas where we go right down the middle and we distribute. This is a thing called the Atlantic Ocean. This is tough stuff.

The governor has been so incredible in his statements about the job we're doing. We're doing a great job. Don't forget, their police force has been decimated because many of the police in Puerto Rico have lost their homes. So, sure, they want to be police but they also want to be able to watch their families and find their families, and they have to live. So we're also very much involved in security in Puerto Rico.

So everybody has said it's amazing the job that we've done in Puerto Rico. We're very proud of it. And I'm going there on Tuesday. Now, with all of that being said, record -- if you look at the amount of water dropped on that island, between the two hurricanes -- and the first they just barely got by with, but they were devastated. And the second was a complete wipeout. I mean, this was a place that was destroyed.

So I think we've done a really good job. We're continuing to -- we are literally unloading, on an hourly basis, water, food, supplies. We have our top people from FEMA and our first responders and everybody else. We're going to be deploying Navy ships -- they've already been deployed. And we are going to do far more than anybody else would ever be able to do. And it's being recognized as such, but it is a tough situation.

Would you have a question or the President?

Q Mr. Prime Minister, if I may sir, do you share President Trump's hostility toward the Venezuelan regime? And what is your opinion, generally, of his -- that is to say, President Trump's suggestion that U.S. military intervention might be required if the Venezuelan government doesn't change course? Do you support that? And would you be an advocate within the EU for tougher sanctions against the Venezuelan government?

PRESIDENT RAJOY: (As interpreted.) Well, we're spearheading in the European Union a proposal to impose sanctions on Venezuela. What is happening in Venezuela is unacceptable. Venezuela, traditionally, was a democratic country, and at this time it's no longer a democratic country. There are political prisoners in Venezuela. There are people who are in jail only because they think differently than Mr. Maduro.

And I was the first Prime Minister to receive Lilian Tintori, who is the wife of Leopoldo López, who was jailed because Mr. Maduro didn't like him. But there were many others who were sent to jail.

In Venezuela, there was a parliament, and the government has made up this other parliament which has its meeting next to the other parliament, and it enacts legislation. They've created a commission for the truth, which is an anti-democratic tool which only serves to judge people without respecting minimum human rights standards.

Venezuela is on the road to dictatorship unless that can be stopped. So all of us who share values such as democracy, freedom, and human rights have to do something. At this time, sanctions are important. It's important that there be an international coalition putting pressure on Maduro so that political prisoners are freed and democracy is restored, because this lack of democracy and the attack against human rights and freedoms come in conjunction with a terrible economic situation with a 300 percent inflation rate, with problems supplying foods and medicines to people.

So it's a really tragic situation, and I think that we have -- we, the United States and Spain, have a responsibility towards Venezuela. There are a lot of Spaniards living in Venezuela, and I'm worried about them -- about them and the rest. But they certainly worry me. So I think that the international community should be forceful with regards to Venezuela.

Q Thank you. Pilar Santos from El Periódico de Catalunya. I have a question for each of you.

For President Trump: With the serious political crisis in Spain because of the referendum on Sunday, what solution do you think there is? Have you given advice to President Rajoy on this matter? Do you think there should be a dialogue between the Generalitat and the government to find a solution?

And now a question for Prime Minister Rajoy. It seems that what you're doing in Catalonia -- the way you're managing things in Catalonia -- is having an impact on the budget. And I would also like to know whether you think that situation with the PNV Party can be resolved, or do you think that you will have to call early elections. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I think the people of Catalonia have been talking about this for a long time. But I bet you if you had accurate numbers and accurate polling, you'd find that they love their country, they love Spain, and they wouldn't leave. So I'm just for united Spain.

I speak as the President of the United States, as somebody that has great respect for your President, and also has really great respect for your country. I really think the people of Catalonia would stay with Spain. I think it would be foolish not to. Because you're talking about staying with a truly great, beautiful, and very historic country.

PRESIDENT RAJOY: (As interpreted.) We will be delaying the budgets in parliament because we think that when we submit the budgets we will need the needed support to approve them. We're talking with different political parties, as you know, and I don't think we'll have any problems if we continue to work down this line. I don't think we'll have any problems in approving them within a reasonable timeframe, but we are looking for a majority, just like we did last time around when we voted the budget.

At any rate, I'm not thinking at all about calling early elections as a result of what we were saying.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Mr. President, thank you very much. Thank you.

END

2:27 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha of Thailand Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 02, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-Cha of Thailand Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

12:33 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great honor to have Prime Minister Prayut of Thailand and Mrs. Prayut. This is a very great honor for us.

We've had a long and very storied history with Thailand. In fact, we were just mentioning that Andrew Jackson, who is on the wall, was the president when we first developed the big relationship.

So we have a very strong relationship right now, as of this moment, and it's getting stronger in the last nine months. We've done a lot of things together, and it is a tremendous -- it's really very good to have you with us.

This has been a rough day for us because of what took place in Las Vegas, but this was a long-scheduled meeting and it is a great honor. Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER CHAN-O-CHA: (As interpreted.) As the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand and on behalf of the people of Thailand, I am very delighted and it is a great honor for me to be here to meet Mr. President and, of course, the First Lady.

Mr. President has mentioned about the relationship between our two countries. We are longstanding allies. Of course, Thailand would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to those victims and family of the shooting incident in Las Vegas last night. And I wish to express our solidarity with the American people.

Moreover, I would also like to express my condolences to those victims and their family in the U.S. and in Puerto Rico who are affected by hurricane. The government of Thailand and our private sector have also pledged for financial assistance.

We wish all the best for all success to Mr. President to tackle all these problems.

Coming to meet Mr. President today is a good opportunity for me and for the Thai government and the people of Thailand to work closely to further strengthen the cooperation between our two countries.

We work, of course, in hand on our security defense cooperation to help ensure that our citizens are safeguarded from terrorism and other threats. Of course, we will work closely in order we solve the regional issue of concern, of course.

I am confident that, with President's leadership, we will be able to tackle all the problems and work together in order to further strengthen the cooperation between our two countries, which we already mentioned that we have a long history of relationship -- 200 years.

I also would like to commend the First Lady on playing such a vital role in looking after those who have less opportunity. Of course, your daughter also worked very closely in order to tackle the problem. I know that she developed the interest to solve the issues of women and children. So therefore, Thailand stands ready to work closely with the First Lady and with Mr. President of course.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I do want to say that our relationship on trade -- and we've been negotiating very long and hard, and we're meeting with our representatives in a little while to go further. But our relationship on trade is becoming more and more important. And it's a great country to trade with; they make product and different things that are really very important to us, and we likewise sell to you.

I think we're going to try and sell a little bit more to you now, make that a little bit better if that's possible. But we have a big, full period of time scheduled with our two staffs.

Tomorrow morning, early, I'll be leaving for Puerto Rico with the First Lady. We are going to be seeing all of the first responders, the military, FEMA, and, frankly, most importantly, we're going to be seeing the people of Puerto Rico.

We've been very -- I mean, I think we've been -- it's been amazing what's been done in a very short period of time on Puerto Rico. There's never been a piece of land that we've known that was so devastated. The bridges are down, the telecommunications was nonexistent, and it's in very, very bad shape. The electrical grid, as you know, was totally destroyed.

But we've gotten tremendous amounts of food and water, and lots of other things -- supplies -- generally speaking, on the island. So we're going to be going tomorrow morning, first thing, very early.

We're also going to be meeting with Governor Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands. He's going to probably -- because of the difficulty in getting in to the Virgin Islands, he's probably going to meet us in Puerto Rico.

And then, very importantly also, on Wednesday morning, very early, we're going to be leaving for Las Vegas, where we're going to be seeing the governor, who I just spoke to; the mayor -- governor of the state -- the mayor of Las Vegas, who I just spoke to; the sheriff, who has done such a great job; the police department has done such a fantastic job, in terms of the speed, and we all very much appreciate it.

So we'll be going to Puerto Rico tomorrow. And on Wednesday, we will be going to, as you know, as I just said, we'll be going to Las Vegas on a very, very sad -- it's a very sad moment for me, for everybody. For everybody, no matter where you are, no matter what your thought process, this is a very, very sad day.

So we're going to be doing that on Wednesday. And we'll be spending the full day there, and maybe longer than that.

So thank you very much everybody. Appreciate it. Thank you.

END

12:40 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with Dr. Henry Kissinger

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 10, 2017

Remarks by President Trump in Meeting with Dr. Henry Kissinger

Oval Office

11:48 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Henry Kissinger has been a friend of mine. I've liked him, I've respected him. But we've been friends for a long time, long before my emergence in the world of politics, which has not been too long.

But we have been really in, I guess you'd say, the New York scene a little bit -- but we got to know each other very well. He's a man I have great, great respect for. He's also somebody -- usually I say, "Have you ever been in the Oval Office?" And with Henry Kissinger, I didn't bother asking that question because he has been in this office many, many times.

But it's an honor to have Dr. Kissinger with us, a man of immense talent, and experience, and knowledge. And I'm going to talk to him for a while, and we're going to learn a lot. But I can say from a world standpoint and with many of the countries that Henry and I would talk about before the election -- because I would talk with Henry before the election -- we've made a lot of progress with many of them. We have some outstanding, and we'll handle that as we have to handle it.

But we've made a lot of progress in the Middle East with ISIS and so many other things. It's a much calmer place. But, Henry, I say often, I inherited a mess, but we're fixing it.

So you may want to say something. And thank you for being here, Henry. Thank you very much.

DR. KISSINGER: Mr. President, I didn't expect this opportunity. It's always a great honor to be in this office, and I'm here at a moment when the opportunity to build a constructive, peaceful world order is very great.

And the President is leaving on a trip to Asia, which I think will make a big contribution to progress and peace and prosperity.

Thank you for inviting me.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Henry. I appreciate it.

Q Mr. President, is Senator Corker right that you're putting the U.S. on the path to World War III?

THE PRESIDENT: We were on the wrong path before. All you have to do is take a look. If you look over the last 25 years through numerous administrations, we were on a path to a very big problem -- a problem like this world has never seen.

We're on the right path right now, believe me.

Q Are you concerned that the Bob Corker dispute will affect tax reform at all, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think so, no. I don't think so at all. I think we're well on our way. It's very -- the people of this country want tax cuts. They want lower taxes.

We're the highest-taxed nation in the world. Our companies are not leaving so much now because we have them coming back. You see what happened. You see the announcements from companies building car plants now in Michigan; they're going to various different states. They're actually picking some additional locations. But just last week, five plants announced that they're going to build in this country.

But I will say that we're the highest-taxed nation in the world. People want to see massive tax cuts. I'm giving the largest tax cuts in the history of this country. In addition to that, there will be reform.

So I think that it's politically -- it's very positive. The people of the country want it. We're also bringing back \$3 trillion from offshore. That's money that's been there for years that wants to come back into the country, but the tax situation didn't allow it to happen and the bureaucracy. And that's going to come back as part of the deal -- \$3 trillion. It could even be more than that.

People want to see tax cuts, they want to see major reductions in their taxes, and they want to see tax reform -- and that's what we're doing. And we'll be adjusting a little bit over the next few weeks to make it even stronger. But I will tell you that it's become very, very popular.

And I'll also be signing something probably this week, which is going to go a long way, to take care of many of the people that have been so badly hurt on healthcare. And they'll be able to buy, they'll be able to cross state lines, and they will get great, competitive healthcare, and it will cost the United States nothing. Take care of a big percentage of the people we're talking about, too.

So with Congress the way it is, I decided to take it upon myself. So we'll be announcing that soon as far as the signing is concerned. But it's largely worked out. It's very simple in one way but very intricate in another. But it will be great, great healthcare for many, many people -- a big percentage of the number of people that we were talking about for failed Obamacare.

Now, we're going to have to do something with Obamacare because it's failing. Henry Kissinger does not want to pay 116 percent increase in his premiums, but that's what's happening. And it's actually getting worse; it's getting worse by the minute. So we're going to have to do something with Obamacare and that will work out.

But very importantly, a big percentage of people will be able to get healthcare. And they'll be able to go across state lines, they'll be able to buy from many, many competitors -- meaning the insurance companies -- and it will not cost our country anything, but they'll have great, great health insurance again.

Q Did you undercut the Secretary of State today with the IQ comment?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I didn't undercut anybody. I don't believe in undercutting people.

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

Q Do you still have confidence in Secretary Tillerson, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

END

11:54 A.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 11, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

1:57 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you all very much. I very much appreciate it. We are here with a man who has become a friend of mine, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Mrs. Trudeau. Thank you so much. Appreciate it.

And we are discussing many things, including NAFTA. But we have discussions scheduled for quite a few subjects, and I think we both look very much forward. And I want to just tell you, Justin, great honor to have you both with us. Thank you. Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Thank you. It's great to be back here in the Oval Office. As the President said, a lot of things to discuss. We have an incredibly close relationship -- two countries that are interwoven in our economies, cultures, and in our peoples.

But we have a good partnership, and there's always ways to improve it -- always issues we need to talk through. And that's why having an ongoing, constructive relationship between the President and the Prime Minister is really important. And I'm glad to be able to meet with you here again today.

Merci beaucoup.

Q (Speaks in French.) (No translation provided.)

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: (Speaks in French.) (No translation provided.)

Q Mr. President, is NAFTA dead?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll see what happens. We have a tough negotiation, and it's something that you will know in the not-too-distant future. But we are going to be discussing NAFTA, and we'll be discussing defense because we have a great -- I mean, these are truly great and original allies, and their mutual defense is very important.

And I guess we'll also be discussing mutual offense, which people don't mention too often. But offense is part of defense.

So we have many things to talk about, but NAFTA will certainly be a big factor today. Okay?

Q Do you want to increase the nuclear arsenal?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, I never discussed increasing it. I want it in perfect shape. That was just fake news by NBC, which gives a lot of fake news, lately.

No, I never discuss -- I think somebody said I want ten times the nuclear weapons that we have right now. Right now, we have so many nuclear weapons. I want them in perfect condition, perfect shape. That's the only thing I've ever discussed.

General Mattis put out a statement, or is putting out a statement, saying that that was fake news -- that it was just mentioned that way. And it's, frankly, disgusting the way the press is able to write whatever they want to write. And people should look into it.

No, I want to have absolutely perfectly maintained -- which we are in the process of doing -- nuclear force. But when they said I want ten times what we have right now, it's totally unnecessary. Believe me. Because I know what we have right now.

Q You want no increase whatsoever? You're happy --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We won't need an increase, but I want modernization and I want total rehabilitation. It's got to be in tip-top shape.

Q Mr. President, you said that NAFTA just needed some little tweaks. What changed?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I don't think anything changed. We're negotiating a NAFTA deal. It's time, after all of these years, and we'll see what happens. It's possible we won't be able to make a deal, and it's possible that we will. We have a great personal relationship, and we have a relationship now as two countries, I think, that's as close as ever.

But we'll see if we can do the kind of changes that we need. We have to protect our workers, and, in all fairness, the Prime Minister wants to protect Canada and his people also. So we'll see what happens with NAFTA, but I've been opposed to NAFTA for a long time. In terms of the fairness of NAFTA, I said we'll renegotiate. And I think Justin understands this: If we can't make a

deal, it'll be terminated and that will be fine. They're going to do well; we're going to do well, but maybe that won't be necessary. But it has to be fair to both countries.

Q Mr. President, do you think there should be limits on what the press should write?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: No, the press should speak more honestly. I mean, I've seen tremendously dishonest press. It's not even a question of distortion, like the question that was just asked before about ten times the nuclear capability. I know the capability that we have, believe me, and it is awesome. It is massive.

And so when they make up stories like that, that's just made up. And the generals will tell you that. And then they have their sources that don't exist. In my opinion, they don't exist. They make up the sources. There are no sources.

Any other question?

Q When are you going to decide what happens to NAFTA?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll decide over the next fairly short period of time, but I think it's going to work out very well for both countries and Mexico.

Q What's your thinking on the Iran Deal right now?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: You're going to see very soon. We're going to be announcing that very shortly.

Q If you can't make a deal with Mexico, would you still want free trade with Canada?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: What?

Q If you can't reach a deal with Mexico, can you envision still having free trade with Canada?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, sure. Absolutely. It's possible we won't be able to reach a deal with one or the other. But in the meantime, we'll make a deal with one. But I think we have a chance to do something very creative that's good for Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Q How was your lunch with Secretary Tillerson?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very good. You mean last week? John, you're so far behind the times. Do you mean today or last week? Because today I didn't have lunch with him.

No, I had a lunch last week, and we had a very good lunch. We have a very good relationship. The press really doesn't understand that, but that's okay. We actually have a very good relationship.

What else?

Q Are you on the same page on North Korea?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think I have a little bit different attitude on North Korea than other people might have.

Q And your Secretary?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And I listen to everybody, but ultimately my attitude is the one that matters, isn't it? That's the way it works. That's the way the system is.

But I think I might have a somewhat different attitude and a different way than other people. I think perhaps I feel stronger and tougher on that subject than other people, but I listen to everybody. And ultimately, I will do what's right for the United States and, really, what's right for the world. Because that's really a world problem; that's beyond just the United States. That's a world problem, and it's a problem that has to be solved.

Thank you very much everybody. Thank you.

Q If NAFTA doesn't work out, would you seek a deal with each individual country?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I would. Yes. I would see that. Yes.

Thank you, everybody.

END

2:04 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump on Iran Strategy

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 13, 2017
Remarks by President Trump on Iran Strategy
Diplomatic Reception Room
12:53 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. My fellow Americans: As President of the United States, my highest obligation is to ensure the safety and security of the American people.

History has shown that the longer we ignore a threat, the more dangerous that threat becomes. For this reason, upon taking office, I've ordered a complete strategic review of our policy toward the rogue regime in Iran. That review is now complete.

Today, I am announcing our strategy, along with several major steps we are taking to confront the Iranian regime's hostile actions and to ensure that Iran never, and I mean never, acquires a nuclear weapon.

Our policy is based on a clear-eyed assessment of the Iranian dictatorship, its sponsorship of terrorism, and its continuing aggression in the Middle East and all around the world.

Iran is under the control of a fanatical regime that seized power in 1979 and forced a proud people to submit to its extremist rule. This radical regime has raided the wealth of one of the world's oldest and most vibrant nations, and spread death, destruction, and chaos all around the globe.

Beginning in 1979, agents of the Iranian regime illegally seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran and held more than 60 Americans hostage during the 444 days of the crisis. The Iranian-backed terrorist group Hezbollah twice bombed our embassy in Lebanon -- once in 1983 and again in 1984. Another Iranian-supported bombing killed 241 Americans -- service members they were, in their barracks in Beirut in 1983.

In 1996, the regime directed another bombing of American military housing in Saudi Arabia, murdering 19 Americans in cold blood.

Iranian proxies provided training to operatives who were later involved in al Qaeda's bombing of the American embassies in Kenya, Tanzania, and two years later, killing 224 people, and wounding more than 4,000 others.

The regime harbored high-level terrorists in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, including Osama bin Laden's son. In Iraq and Afghanistan, groups supported by Iran have killed hundreds of American military personnel.

The Iranian dictatorship's aggression continues to this day. The regime remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, and provides assistance to al Qaeda, the Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terrorist networks. It develops, deploys, and proliferates missiles that threaten American troops and our allies. It harasses American ships and threatens freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf and in the Red Sea. It imprisons Americans on false charges. And it launches cyberattacks against our critical infrastructure, financial system, and military.

The United States is far from the only target of the Iranian dictatorship's long campaign of bloodshed. The regime violently suppresses its own citizens; it shot unarmed student protestors in the street during the Green Revolution.

This regime has fueled sectarian violence in Iraq, and vicious civil wars in Yemen and Syria. In Syria, the Iranian regime has supported the atrocities of Bashar al-Assad's regime and condoned Assad's use of chemical weapons against helpless civilians, including many, many children.

Given the regime's murderous past and present, we should not take lightly its sinister vision for the future. The regime's two favorite chants are "Death to America" and "Death to Israel."

Realizing the gravity of the situation, the United States and the United Nations Security Council sought, over many years, to stop Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons with a wide array of strong economic sanctions.

But the previous administration lifted these sanctions, just before what would have been the total collapse of the Iranian regime, through the deeply controversial 2015 nuclear deal with Iran. This deal is known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA.

As I have said many times, the Iran Deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into. The same mindset that produced this deal is responsible for years of terrible trade deals that have sacrificed so many millions of jobs in our country to the benefit of other countries. We need negotiators who will much more strongly represent America's interest.

The nuclear deal threw Iran's dictatorship a political and economic lifeline, providing urgently needed relief from the intense domestic pressure the sanctions had created. It also gave the regime an immediate financial boost and over \$100 billion dollars its government could use to fund terrorism.

The regime also received a massive cash settlement of \$1.7 billion from the United States, a large portion of which was physically loaded onto an airplane and flown into Iran. Just imagine the sight of those huge piles of money being hauled off by the Iranians waiting at the airport for the cash. I wonder where all that money went.

Worst of all, the deal allows Iran to continue developing certain elements of its nuclear program. And importantly, in just a few years, as key restrictions disappear, Iran can sprint towards a rapid nuclear weapons breakout. In other words, we got weak inspections in exchange for no more than a purely short-term and temporary delay in Iran's path to nuclear weapons.

What is the purpose of a deal that, at best, only delays Iran's nuclear capability for a short period of time? This, as President of the United States, is unacceptable. In other countries, they think in terms of 100-year intervals, not just a few years at a time.

The saddest part of the deal for the United States is that all of the money was paid up front, which is unheard of, rather than at the end of the deal when they have shown they've played by the rules. But what's done is done, and that's why we are where we are.

Iranian regime has committed multiple violations of the agreement. For example, on two separate occasions, they have exceeded the limit of 130 metric tons of heavy water. Until recently, the Iranian regime has also failed to meet our expectations in its operation of advanced centrifuges.

The Iranian regime has also intimidated international inspectors into not using the full inspection authorities that the agreement calls for.

Iranian officials and military leaders have repeatedly claimed they will not allow inspectors onto military sites, even though the international community suspects some of those sites were part of Iran's clandestine nuclear weapons program.

There are also many people who believe that Iran is dealing with North Korea. I am going to instruct our intelligence agencies to do a thorough analysis and report back their findings beyond what they have already reviewed.

By its own terms, the Iran Deal was supposed to contribute to "regional and international peace and security." And yet, while the United States adheres to our commitment under the deal, the Iranian regime continues to fuel conflict, terror, and turmoil throughout the Middle East and beyond. Importantly, Iran is not living up to the spirit of the deal.

So today, in recognition of the increasing menace posed by Iran, and after extensive consultations with our allies, I am announcing a new strategy to address the full range of Iran's destructive actions.

First, we will work with our allies to counter the regime's destabilizing activity and support for terrorist proxies in the region.

Second, we will place additional sanctions on the regime to block their financing of terror.

Third, we will address the regime's proliferation of missiles and weapons that threaten its neighbors, global trade, and freedom of navigation.

And finally, we will deny the regime all paths to a nuclear weapon.

Today, I am also announcing several major steps my administration is taking in pursuit of this strategy.

The execution of our strategy begins with the long-overdue step of imposing tough sanctions on Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. The Revolutionary Guard is the Iranian Supreme Leader's corrupt personal terror force and militia. It has hijacked large portions of Iran's economy and seized massive religious endowments to fund war and terror abroad. This includes arming the Syrian dictator, supplying proxies and partners with missiles and weapons to attack civilians in the region, and even plotting to bomb a popular restaurant right here in Washington, D.C.

I am authorizing the Treasury Department to further sanction the entire Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for its support for terrorism and to apply sanctions to its officials, agents, and affiliates. I urge our allies to join us in taking strong actions to curb Iran's continued dangerous and destabilizing behavior, including thorough sanctions outside the Iran Deal that target the regime's ballistic missile program, in support for terrorism, and all of its destructive activities, of which there are many.

Finally, on the grave matter of Iran's nuclear program: Since the signing of the nuclear agreement, the regime's dangerous aggression has only escalated. At the same time, it has received massive sanctions relief while continuing to develop its missiles program. Iran has also entered into lucrative business contracts with other parties to the agreement.

When the agreement was finalized in 2015, Congress passed the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act to ensure that Congress's voice would be heard on the deal. Among other conditions, this law requires the President, or his designee, to certify that the suspension of sanctions under the deal is "appropriate and proportionate" to measure -- and other measures taken by Iran to terminate its illicit nuclear program. Based on the factual record I have put forward, I am announcing today that we cannot and will not make this certification.

We will not continue down a path whose predictable conclusion is more violence, more terror, and the very real threat of Iran's nuclear breakout.

That is why I am directing my administration to work closely with Congress and our allies to address the deal's many serious flaws so that the Iranian regime can never threaten the world with nuclear weapons. These include the deal's sunset clauses that, in just a few years, will eliminate key restrictions on Iran's nuclear program.

The flaws in the deal also include insufficient enforcement and near total silence on Iran's missile programs. Congress has already begun the work to address these problems. Key House and Senate leaders are drafting legislation that would amend the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act to strengthen enforcement, prevent Iran from developing an inter- -- this is so totally important -- an intercontinental ballistic missile, and make all restrictions on Iran's nuclear activity permanent under U.S. law. So important. I support these initiatives.

However, in the event we are not able to reach a solution working with Congress and our allies, then the agreement will be terminated. It is under continuous review, and our participation can be cancelled by me, as President, at any time.

As we have seen in North Korea, the longer we ignore a threat, the worse that threat becomes. It is why we are determined that the world's leading sponsor of terrorism will never obtain nuclear weapons.

In this effort, we stand in total solidarity with the Iranian regime's longest-suffering victims: its own people. The citizens of Iran have paid a heavy price for the violence and extremism of their leaders. The Iranian people long to -- and they just are longing, to reclaim their country's proud history, its culture, its civilization, its cooperation with its neighbors.

We hope that these new measures directed at the Iranian dictatorship will compel the government to reevaluate its pursuit of terror at the expense of its people.

We hope that our actions today will help bring about a future of peace, stability, and prosperity in the Middle East -- a future where sovereign nations respect each other and their own citizens.

We pray for a future where young children -- American and Iranian, Muslim, Christian, and Jewish -- can grow up in a world free from violence, hatred, and terror.

And, until that blessed day comes, we will do what we must to keep America safe.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you.

END

1:11 P.M. ED

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

12:07 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. It's an honor to have Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece with us.

As you know, Greece has gone through a lot over the last number of years, but they are doing a terrific job of coming back. And they will be back. We're working with them on many different things. They're upgrading their fleets of airplanes -- the F-16 plane, which is a terrific plane. They're doing big upgrades. And we're doing trade with Greece, and we're going to have some meetings right after this.

We're having meetings with the staff. We're having a luncheon with the staff also. And we'll be talking about additional ways where Greece will help us and we will help Greece.

But we've had a long-time relationship with Greece. They have been great friends and loyal friends and allies. And we look forward to our discussion today. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for the invitation and the hospitality. I am sure that we'll have a very fruitful discussion today.

I think that this is as a very important moment for our positive cooperation, and I'm sure that we'll do whatever it takes to enhance this cooperation.

Greece is a terrific partner in a very sensitive region -- but every time was a reliable partner for the United States.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's true. That's true.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: And we share common values. Don't forget that when Greece was born, freedom -- the values of freedom and democracy that we all share all together.

So I'm very happy to be here. It's an honor for me.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's my honor. Thank you.

Q Mr. President, if Obamacare is dead, aren't you trying to keep it alive in some ways?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Obamacare is virtually dead. At best, you could say it's in its final legs. The premiums are going through the roof. The deductibles are so high that people don't get to use it. Obamacare is a disgrace to our nation, and we are solving the problem of Obamacare. Okay?

Thank you all very much. Thank you. Thank you.

END

12:09 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece at Working Luncheon

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece at Working Luncheon

Cabinet Room

12:32 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Mr. Prime Minister, it's great to have you in the United States. This is the Cabinet Room, a very well-known place. A lot of things happen here.

And we will continue our discussions with respect to Greece and the relationship that we have. It's been an outstanding one, a long-term relationship. You've gone through a lot.

I commend you on what you've been able to do in a short period of time. I know your tourism is coming back very strongly. You had a record number of tourists, which we have to give you a lot of credit for that. But it's a beautiful place. Many, many friends from Greece. And we are with you. We are with you.

And thank you. It's an honor to have you.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: Thank you, Mr. President. It's an honor for us to be here at the discussion with you. I am looking forward -- this discussion and cooperation. I think that it's a unique moment to enhance our strategic partnership and cooperation.

Greece is a pillar of stability in the region. It's not only maybe the most beautiful country in the region, but also the most stable country in the region.

So we're looking forward to enhance our cooperation because we have common views and common interests in the area.

I want to thank you very much for -- first of all, for your hospitality. And I think that sometime you have (inaudible) to visit Greece. You are always welcome to visit Greece.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: Because I think that you have a lot of Greeks that love -- the majority of the Greek people, all the Greek people like the U.S. and love your country. But you have a lot of Greeks here in the United States --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's true.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: -- that plays a crucial role in economy, in politics, and you have a lot of supporters here in the United States.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I know that. That's true. One-hundred percent. Great supporters.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: So, thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you, everybody. Thank you very much. Thank you.

END

12:35 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece in Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 17, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece in Joint Press Conference
Rose Garden

1:46 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. I just want to make an initial comment that the stock market just hit an all-time record high. It broke, for the first time ever, 23,000. So we're very happy about that. I hope that Greece is going to be doing the same thing very soon. (Laughter.) I think they will.

But I'm honored to welcome Prime Minister Tsipras of Greece, and he's a special man who's done a very special job. We're grateful to the Prime Minister and to his entire delegation for visiting us today at the White House.

Greece is a cradle of Western civilization -- so true -- of democracy, literature, philosophy, science, and so much else. America looks on that glorious heritage with wonder and with awe. You do indeed have a tremendous heritage, Mr. Prime Minister.

Perhaps for this reason, America's friendship with the Greek people has been long and enduring. Thomas Jefferson wrote at the dawn of the modern Greek state that "no people sympathize more" with Greek patriots and "none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success" than the American people.

Jefferson's words are true to this day.

Mr. Prime Minister, I'm proud to report that this past March, we celebrated Greek Independence Day right here at the White House. And that was great.

America and Greece draw on this common history and heritage and on our peoples' abiding commitment to freedom and sovereignty in working together on great challenges and opportunities now before us. There are tremendous opportunities before us in so many different ways.

The Prime Minister and I have just concluded a very productive discussion on the cooperation between our two countries, including on matters of defense, energy, commerce, and trade.

I want to thank the Prime Minister and the Greek people for serving as gracious hosts to our U.S. naval forces at Souda Bay. I also commend Greece for being one of the few NATO countries currently spending at least 2 percent of GDP on defense.

My administration has also informed Congress of a potential sale to Greece to upgrade its F-16 aircraft. This agreement to strengthen the Hellenic Air Force is worth up to \$2.4 billion and would generate thousands of American jobs.

We also are making great strides in our economic cooperation. The American people stand with the Greek people as they recover from the economic crisis that recently afflicted their nation. I have encouraged the Prime Minister in his continued implementation of reform and reform programs, and I have totally reaffirmed our support for a responsible debt-relief plan.

A strong and flourishing Greece provides immense opportunity for American trade, investment, and job creation. I thank the Prime Minister, his predecessors, and the Greek people for their efforts to return stability and prosperity to Greece.

On energy, we appreciate Greek contributions to European energy security through its support of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline, the Greece-Bulgaria Interconnector, and liquefied natural gas facilities that are capable of transporting diverse sources of energy to Europe, including potential liquefied natural gas exports from the United States, of which that particular route -- and business is getting bigger and bigger and bigger, as you know. These initiatives make both our people safer and create good jobs for our hardworking citizens.

Finally, I am also very proud that the United States will be the "Honored Country" at next year's International Fair in Greece. This historic business and trade exhibition will showcase American technology, enterprise, and innovation on the world stage. We look very much forward to sending a high-level delegation to attend this wonderful event.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you again for being here today and for your partnership in addressing critical issues facing our countries. I look forward to having many productive

discussions with you, and to having a very close and warm cooperation on a wide range of shared objectives. We will build upon our foundation of shared history and shared values to pursue a future of security, prosperity, and peace for both your nation and ours.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: (As interpreted.) I would like to warmly thank the President of the United States for his hospitality and for these very productive discussions we had today.

The friendship between our two countries is very strong, and it's based on our common democratic principles, on the values that we jointly share as peoples.

It is correct that the founders of the United States were inspired by Ancient Greece, and the Greek revolution was inspired by the American revolution for independence. At the same time, our relationship is based -- is also based on a very dynamic diaspora of Greek people here in the U.S., which offers many -- has many to offer for both countries.

As we underlined earlier, the Greek-U.S. relationships may be at their best compared to the past since the Second World War when our peoples worked together and fought together shoulder-to-shoulder against fascism. And I do believe that there are many reasons for this.

Today, our strategy is based on mutual respect, and it is fed by the significant support provided by the U.S. to Greece and to the Greek people during the hard times of the economic crisis, support for the exit of Greece from the crisis. And at this point, I would like to just focus a bit.

Greece today fulfills three basic objectives which do not only relate to Greece, but I would say that are of special significance at an international level.

First, it's dynamic coming out of a crisis, noting wonderful growth rates, and it's beginning to attract investments and increase its exports, as we see as well from the Greek-U.S. balance of trade. And it's leaving behind not only a crisis, but it's leaving behind the economic model that led to the crisis.

Second, Greece today is the most significant pillar of security cooperation in one of the most important but, at the same time, unstable, sensitive areas of the planet: a country with a dynamic, multi-dimensional foreign policy; a country which is a reliable partner and ally of the United States, which fulfills its NATO obligations. And it is in close cooperation in the defense sector with the United States. It's a country which maintains the dialogue with Turkey despite the difficulties that we face and the challenges, but knowing the very important European course of Turkey.

It's a country, also, that promotes cooperation with the Middle East and the Balkans, which contribute to the security and the growth of the area.

And third, Greece, being already pretty strong in maritime and tourism, is gradually becoming a significant crossroads for transportation and energy. I would like to mention the completion of the TAP pipeline and the EastMed pipeline; the agreement for a floating -- for an LNG station in Alexandroupolis, which is northeast Greece, and the prospect that Alexandroupolis will be an area where we can receive exports -- imports from the United States of fracking.

And I would like to mention our ports from Athens and Thessaloniki, and the promotion of strong and fast rail connections with the rest of the Balkans. And in this context, it's very clear that our strategic cooperation with the United States is becoming more important than ever.

First of all, we look forward -- because we look forward -- and this is a significant message of my visit here and my meeting with economic representatives -- we look forward to attracting U.S. investments and the more substantial support of the U.S. in our effort to exit this horrible crisis.

The fact that the United States will be the honored country in 2018 in the International Fair of Thessaloniki will play a significant role in this effort.

Second, because Greece can develop dynamically in creating a pillar of stability and security only if it is freed from the fundamental national concerns in the areas of security and defense.

The United States have a significant role to play in this matter, not only in the diplomatic but also in the defense sector. And we look forward, in this context, in the fair and viable solution in

this separate issue based on the decisions of the U.N. Security Council, a solution for the benefit of all Cypriots without guarantors or occupying military forces that will give a new perspective to the area. But at the same time, we are underlining that the dangerous intervention-type presence of Turkey in the Aegean must end. It undermines on a daily basis the relationship between two NATO allies in a broader unstable and sensitive area.

Greece is a country that's always open to dialogue, but I want to be very clear: It will always protect decisively its sovereignty rights against illicit claims and disputes.

And with these thoughts, I would like to warmly thank President Trump for his -- for the wonderful discussions we held, which I believe will give a very substantial push to the existing dynamic cooperation. And I believed and I said we created a work group between the ministers of economy, the secretaries for the economy so we can monitor the ability to have a substantial cooperation in investment, in economy, and in all sectors.

Thank you very much, sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll take a few questions. John, go ahead, please.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Good to see you out in the Rose Garden again. We seem to be

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

Q You seem to do this on occasion.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's a nice place.

Q I have a question for the Prime Minister in a moment, if I could. But first, sir, you said just a short time ago that Obamacare is virtually dead. Your plans for Graham-Cassidy have not been able to get off the ground in the Senate. There is no idea whether or not it will in early 2018. You've been picking around the edges, to some degree, with the executive orders, some of which critics say are helping to destroy Obamacare. So I'm wondering at this point, what is your healthcare plan, sir?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, if you look at insurance companies and you take a good, strong look at the numbers, you'll see, since the formation of Obamacare, they're up 400 percent, 450 percent, 250 percent, 300 percent. They've made a fortune, the insurance companies.

So when I knocked out the hundreds of millions of dollars a month being paid back to the insurance companies by politicians, I must tell you, that wanted me to continue to pay this, I said I'm not going to do it. This is money that goes to the insurance companies to line their pockets, to raise up their stock prices. And they've had a record run. They've had an incredible run, and it's not appropriate.

Obamacare is a disaster. It's virtually dead. As far as I'm concerned, it really is dead and I predicted that a long time ago. It's a concept that doesn't work. And we are very close.

We feel we have the votes, and as soon as we're finished with taxes, John -- we really feel we have the votes to get block grants into the states, where the states can much better manage this money and much better take care of the people, rather than the federal government. The state block grants -- we'll do massive block grants into the various states so that the states can run the program.

So we feel we have the votes. We're going to be doing that after the taxes. In the meantime, we're involved with a budget and then after the budget -- hopefully that gets approved -- and after the budget, assuming we have the support of all the Republicans -- because we'll have no support from the Democrats or almost no support, because they've really become just obstructionists. They have no good policies, and frankly, they're not good politicians but they're very good obstructionists. And that's what they do well -- obstruct.

The number of nominees that I have approved by the Democrats are about half of what President Obama had. And when you look at that -- and you can look at judicial appointments, look how slow that's going. I'll have 145 ultimately, which is a tremendous number. We'll have 17 court of appeals appointments. But they're not getting approved. They're being slow-walked by Schumer and the group of Democrats that really -- it's really disgraceful. Even people that they know they're going to approve, they take it right out to the end. They use every single minute, and I think it's a very disgraceful situation.

But Obamacare is everything but dead. The people aren't going to take it. They're not going to take it. Alaska, they had over 200 percent increase. In Arizona, they were 116 percent -- and I hear going up even higher. And the people aren't going to take that any longer.

So I think we're in great shape. I think we have the votes. And we'll be doing that right after the largest tax cuts in the history of our country are approved, hopefully sometime in the very near future.

Q So is Graham-Cassidy still the plan, sir?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yeah, essentially that would be the plan. Yes, block grants.

Q And, Mr. Prime Minister, with respect to the President, in March of 2016 you said, at the potential for a Donald Trump presidency, "I hope we will not face this evil." And I'm wondering if, after spending time with the President, you have changed your mind or if you're of the same mind.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I wish I knew that before my speech. (Laughter.)

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: (As interpreted.) The meeting I had with the President -- his approach and the way he addresses most publics -- the U.S. is a very strong power and their ability to intervene for good are very, very important.

I want to confirm that the meeting that we had was very productive. Not a moment did I feel threatened at any time. I saw that there is a very fertile outlook here. In order to set aside any differences that we may have to find the common ground, the common ground which is really important for the relationship between our two peoples that are traditional and historical, and for our common objectives.

We need common values -- we have common values, excuse me. Don't forget that the value of democracy and freedom was born in Greece, and it's one of the basic values that traverses the American culture and American tradition.

President today, of the U.S., continues this tradition. And I think our collaboration will be very substantial, and I'm very optimistic after our meeting that we had today.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. I might just add that a number of countries were a little bit nervous at the beginning. And I have very good relationships with the leaders of virtually every country I've dealt with. But the reason they were concerned was because I will not allow our country, the United States of America, to be taken advantage of by so many other countries all over the world.

If you look at our trade deficits -- massive trade deficits with virtually every country. If you look at our jobs moving out to certain countries, and the companies are leaving and they're firing the people, and the product is made elsewhere, and then it's sold back into the United States. I'm not going to be allowing that.

So I can understand how certain countries and the leaders of certain countries may feel. But we're just not going to allow the United States to be taken advantage of by other countries anymore. And there's nothing we can do about that.

Thank you.

you have a question.

Q (Inaudible) with the Greek Public TV. Mr. Prime Minister, how do you plan to attract long-term foreign direct investments in Greece? And if you can elaborate, please, on the steps that Greece is making to tackle bureaucracy and over-taxation in order to ensure investors around that world the Greece is ready for business.

And, Mr. President, if I may: Why would you encourage the U.S. companies to invest in Greece? And how can the U.S. support the Greek efforts to fully turn the page, attract investments, and manage its debt? Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: (As interpreted.) First of all, one thing is to intervene legislatively to attract investment. And it's different to work on a daily basis to implement these intentions in a stable environment.

We opted to conflict with the basic illnesses of Greek public administration and to create a friendly environment for foreign investment, because this is our priority today. Investment means jobs. Jobs means less unemployment. And it means return of young people that have left Greece -- educated Greeks that have left Greece to go to other countries -- to come back to Greece.

So what did we do? We passed a law in parliament that provides a stable tax environment -- a fixed tax rate for 12 years for investments of high value. We simplified the procedures to provide licenses to investments. We introduced the fast-track process for strategic investments. And we also made significant changes to hit and combat bureaucracy through digitization of administrative procedures in public administration. And our vision is to have a digital public administration, but that we really want to make it practice.

I, personally, have created a taskforce in the Prime Minister's office for investments so we can see whether laws are being implemented, whether there is effectiveness. And we are sending out a strong signal of political will to promote these projects.

The President asked me earlier what is happening with the Ellinikon, with the old airport, where years ago, he, himself as a businessman in the past was interested in it. And he saw, himself, the weaknesses and the illnesses of Greek public administration. I informed him it's moving along, and very soon we will see this area being formed to a very, very large real estate project in Greece, which we're hoping it will be an attraction for other investments from abroad.

I'd like to also say that Greece, for the first time, from the last country, is the first country in absorbing European funds investment capital from European structural funds. So we find ourselves at a turning point -- a point where investments can provide the ability to exit, finally, the crisis.

And the message I want to pass on to U.S. investments is that Greece is not just a tourist attraction, the best maybe in the world, but it's also an investment attraction -- and investment destination as well.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I can say that we have a great confidence in Greece. I think it's a land of tremendous potential. I know many people are looking to invest in Greece. A lot of the problems are behind it. They've had some very good leadership. They've really made done a lot of -- they've made a lot of difficult decisions.

We are helping, as you know, with a massive renovation of their air force and also of airplanes, generally, going to Greece. They're looking at buying additional planes from Boeing. And we are helping -- we're very much involved with Greece and with helping Greece get back on its feet. We have a tremendous Greek population in this country, people whose heritage is Greece. And we love that country, special country, one of the most beautiful countries in the world. So I think it's got great potential, and we are helping it along.

Okay. Jennifer, you want to go?

Q Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Sure.

Q I have a question for both of you, but let me start with you, Mr. President. Let me give you a quick question about the Federal Reserve. Do you have any other candidates that you're looking at other than Powell, Yellen, the five that have already been named? Are you looking at anyone besides those folks?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I would say within those five you'll probably get the answer. And I'll be making this decision over the next fairly short period of time.

Q Can you say who your favorite is at this point?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Honestly, I like them all.

Q (Laughter.) Okay.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I do. I have a great respect for all of them. But I'll make a decision over the next very short period of time.

Q Can I ask you a quick Obamacare question as well, even though John Roberts asked as well?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Sure.

Q Apparently, Lamar Alexander has said he's made a deal with Senator Patty Murray to stabilize Obamacare. Has the White House been involved in those negotiations? And will you support that deal?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yes, we have been involved. And this is a short-term deal because we think, ultimately, block grants going to the states is going to be the answer. That's a very good solution. We think it's going to not only save money but give people much better healthcare with a very, very much smaller premium spike -- and you look at what has gone on with that -- also, much lower deductibles so they can use it.

Lamar has been working very, very hard with the Democratic -- his colleagues on the other side, and Patty Murray is one of them, in particular. And they're coming up and they're fairly close to a short-term solution. The solution will be for about a year or two years, and it will get us over this intermediate hump because we have -- as you probably know, we have -- we either have the votes or we are very close to having the votes. And we will get the votes for having, really, the potential of having great healthcare in our country.

So they are indeed working, but it is a short-term solution so that we don't have this very dangerous little period -- including dangerous periods for insurance companies, by the way. For a period of one year, two years, we will have a very good solution. But we're going to have a great solution, ultimately, for healthcare. And they are working together and I know very much what they're doing.

Q Mr. Prime Minister, on Turkey, do you still regard Turkey as a democracy? And should Turkey remain a member of NATO?

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: (As interpreted.) I have to say that despite our concerns regarding Turkey, despite the concerns that are also based on the daily Turkish intervention in the region, nevertheless we continue to support the Turkish course towards Europe. We respect it as a regional power and we believe that it must stay oriented toward the European perspective, oriented to its collaboration with the West, and stably oriented towards NATO. We do believe that the European outlook -- perspective of Turkey can also be a lever of pressure so that we can have those reforms towards the democratization of the domestics of the country.

So my answer to your question is relatively easy. Yes, we do believe that Turkey must remain within NATO and its European course. But on the other side, we have to ensure -- and we must make it clear to this ally of ours and to its government that the road to Europe, and this day and the collaboration with the West, carries with it certain conditions and certain responsibilities.

One of the most necessary conditions is to respect international law, to collaborate, and not promote tension with allied countries such as Greece. This is our basic direction. And I do believe -- I had the opportunity to go in detail on this matter with President Trump to explain the need for the fulfillment of these conditions so that there are clear messages. Also, toward the Turkish administration.

Q Mr. Prime Minister, how do you, as Greeks, like to hear about the -- strategic importance of Greece and the region? What is your government planning to do to enhance this role for the benefit of the bilateral relationship? And for specifically in Souda Bay, are there any plans you have for it?

Mr. President, you praised Greece's role in NATO with the contribution and in Souda Bay amid the volatile region of the Eastern Mediterranean. What do you see as the potential of Greece being as a pillar of stability in the region? And what would the U.S. like to see happening in order for Greece to achieve its potential? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I'd just start by saying that I think it has a great role in stability in the area. We have a feeling that it will get stronger and stronger. Very stable people. It's got the potential to be -- once it gets over this tremendous financial hurdle that it's in the process of working out, we think that there will be great stability in Greece, and militarily and in every way we look at it as very important, and very important to the United States.

We have great confidence in Greece as a nation. We have great confidence in what they're doing relative to their military, because I know they have plans to do some terrific things. And we know they will be an ally for many, many years to come. You know, they've always been a very reliable ally, and we've always been very reliable to them. So we look forward to that for many years. We're going to be friends for many, many years, and stability is very important. And we look upon that, with respect to Greece, as being a key.

Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: (As interpreted.) As regards the initiatives that we're going to be taking, but also regarding the initiatives that we have taken to broaden the strategic role of Greece as a reliable partner, both in the EU and NATO, I'd like to say that from the first moment we took over the administration, we moved -- we proceeded to a new dogma through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but as a basic aim to enhance the role of Greece as a country that is a pillar of security and stability in a very sensitive and unstable area -- region.

We enhanced our collaboration with two significant partners in the area -- Egypt and Israel, and Greece Cyprus with Israel and Greece Cyprus with Egypt, and with other countries in the area such as Jordan, Lebanon. Our goal is that, through these multilateral collaborations, to ensure the collaboration, stability, peace, and joint development, joint growth in this area.

Of course, Greece for a number of years has been playing, as underlined earlier -- it plays the role of a reliable ally of the U.S., but it also has a unique different feature. Greece may be talking with the Arab world, with other countries in the East. So it's not just a NATO member. It's a useful ally for the United States of America.

Now, as regards Crete and Souda Bay, we all know it is of special strategic importance, and we evaluated it -- jointly evaluated it, and I think that we're doing good work there. And it can, and it must, be upgraded and enhanced.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I want to thank everybody. And the Prime Minister came out here and he said, this is so beautiful. I said, this is the Rose Garden. And I think even the media likes the Rose Garden. (Laughter.) That's hard to believe, but even the media likes it.

Mr. Prime Minister, it's been a great honor having you, and we look forward to many, many years of friendship, working together. And keep up the good work.

Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER TSIPRAS: Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

2:19 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 23, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore Before
Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

12:15 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. We have Prime Minister Lee, a highly respected man. Singapore, doing well; continues to do well. You never even see a downturn in Singapore, so -- I guess you don't agree with that. (Laughter.) But I would say looking from the outside, you never see a downturn.

I just want to congratulate you on having done a fantastic job. The relationship that we've had over the years has been very good, but it's never been closer than now. And we'll be spending a lot of time.

One of the things we'll be doing in a short period time is signing, together, a very large contract where Singapore is buying billions of dollars' worth of airplanes from Boeing that will be made in our country. So that's jobs. And you're also buying the best plane, by the way. So that's very good.

So I just want to thank Prime Minister Lee. Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: Well, thank you very much. Very happy to be here with you and to be here at a time when our relations are prospering. And we look forward to taking them forward, deepening them, and strengthening them for many years to come, and starting with this administration.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's very good. I think it will never be stronger.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And I'll be going over to that part of the world in two weeks, and stopping in numerous countries, including, as you know, Japan, South Korea, China. We're going to be stopping in Vietnam and probably the Philippines also. So it will be a very busy 10 or 11 days.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: A very important trip. We look forward to meeting you and to hearing your message.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very good. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody.

Q Any closer on Fed Chair?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very close, thanks.

Q Okay, let me know.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Very, very close.

END

12:17 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore Before Working Luncheon

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 23, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore Before Working Luncheon

Cabinet Room

12:51 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's a great honor to have Prime Minister Lee of Singapore with us and his representatives at the highest level.

We've just signed an order with Boeing for almost \$14 billion worth of airplanes. We do a lot of business with Singapore. The relationship now is at its highest point and it will continue. It will continue.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you very much. It's an honor to have you in the White House.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: Well, thank you very much for inviting me and my delegation. We have a very good relationship with the United States, and we hope to take it forward further.

PRESIDENT TRUMP : Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: And I'm very happy at the deal between SIA and Boeing. SIA is not a bad airline -- (laughter) -- and they try their best to buy the best airplanes, and I'm quite sure they've made a good decision.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's because they buy Boeing, right? (Laughter.)

That's great. Thank you very much.

Thank you, everybody. Thank you very much.

END

12:53 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee of Singapore in Joint Statements

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 23, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Lee of Singapore in Joint Statements

Rose Garden

1:51 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Please sit. I'm honored to welcome Prime Minister Lee of Singapore to the White House today. Thank you, Mr. Prime Minister.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I want to thank you for visiting us, and your entire group of very, very talented people that we're dealing with. Our friendship has never been stronger than it is right now.

Singapore is one of our closest strategic partners in Asia. The United States is proud of the deep and enduring partnership we have built since Singapore gained its independence more than half-a-century ago.

Singapore's rapid development from a poor island nation to an economic powerhouse, under the leadership of the Prime Minister's great father -- he was a great man; he really was a great man -- has been one of the incredible economic and political achievements of the past 50 years.

Singapore's strong commitment to the rule of law, to international [intellectual] property protections, and to the principles of fair and reciprocal -- one of my favorite words when it comes to trade -- has made the country a magnet for business. Today, over 4,000 American companies are operating in Singapore, and we have a very large trading relationship with Singapore.

Earlier today, the Prime Minister and I witnessed a contract signing between Singapore Airlines -- a great airline -- and Boeing worth more than \$13.8 billion. I want to thank the Singaporean people for their faith in the American engineering and American workers. And our American workers deliver the best product, by far. Our robust partnership extends far beyond economic cooperation and trade.

Mr. Prime Minister, as your father rightly noted, "The development of the economy is very important, but equally important is the development of the nature of our society." So true.

The United States and Singapore share a profound belief in a society built on a foundation of law. A nation ruled by law provides the greatest security for the rights of citizens and the best path to shared and lasting prosperity. Both the United States and Singapore understand the unmatched power of private enterprise to uplift the human condition. These values have made our societies stronger, sustained our partnership through the Cold War, and laid a critical foundation for our lasting relationship today.

Our common values and interests have led to a vital security relationship. Throughout Southeast Asia, the United States and Singapore are currently working to enhance the capacity of

law enforcement, fight terrorism, and bolster cyber defenses. Our two nations also share an unwavering commitment to countering the North Korean threat and promoting freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Singapore was the first Southeast Asian nation to join the coalition to defeat ISIS. That was very far thinking. You were there before most. More than 1,000 of its military personnel train here in the United States every single year.

When Hurricane Harvey struck our Gulf Coast in late August, Singapore deployed its own helicopters to help transport personnel and critical resources to areas in need. And the Prime Minister told me that and called me, and made that request himself. It was a great help, and we want to thank you very much -- the use of your helicopters.

When the American Navy destroyer, the USS John McCain, suffered a collision at the sea, Singapore came to our immediate assistance. On behalf of all Americans, I want to thank the Prime Minister and the people of Singapore for their support, which has been tremendous, and for their friendship.

In a few weeks, I will attend the U.S.-ASEAN Summit in the Philippines, where we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations. I look forward to continuing our discussions at this year's summit and to seeing the great things Singapore will accomplish as ASEAN chair in 2018. In other words, this great gathering will take place in Singapore in 2018.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for your continuing partnership and leadership. The U.S.-Singapore relationship has made both of our people far more prosperous and secure, and our values have made us longstanding friends. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful and loyal partner. Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER LEE: Thank you, Mr. President. (Applause.)

Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to thank President Trump for his very warm hospitality. I'm very happy to visit him in Washington following our first meeting, which was at the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July.

We had a wide-ranging exchange in the Oval Office and then over lunch. We reaffirmed the robust and enduring partnership between Singapore and the United States over the last 51 years. It's a deep and wide relationship with substantial cooperation in economic, defense, and security spheres. And we also discussed what more we could do to take it forward.

On the economic front, the U.S. is an important partner for many countries in Asia, just as Asia is an important economic partner for the United States.

Singapore is a small country -- we're just 5.5 million -- but we have sizable investments and trade with the U.S., and these continue to grow. For example, we are the second largest Asian investor in the U.S., with more than 70 billion U.S. dollars in stock investments, and our total trade in goods and services amounted to more than \$68 billion last year.

The U.S. has consistently run a substantial trade surplus with Singapore. Last year, it stood at \$18 billion. In other words, America exported \$43 billion of goods and services to Singapore.

And on a per capita basis, we must be one of the highest-buying American customers in the world -- \$7,500 worth of American goods and services yearly: iPhones, pharmaceutical products, tires, golf clubs, financial and consultancy services. I mean the sticks, not the associations. (Laughter.) And I discovered recently, looking at my sports shoes, at my New Balance shoes, which are very good -- are made in the U.S., probably in New England.

And of course, we buy Boeing jets. President Trump and I just witnessed a signing between Singapore Airlines and Boeing for SIA to purchase 39 Boeing aircraft worth 13.8 billion U.S. dollars. It's a win-win for both sides. It will further modernize SIA's fleet and will also support many American jobs.

Our defense ties are very strong. Singapore supports a military presence in Asia. Since 1990, we have hosted USAF and Navy aircraft and ships on rotational deployments. We thank the U.S.

for hosting more than 1,000 Singapore military personnel each year in training detachments in the United States.

We have forces at Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix and in Marana, also in Arizona; at Mountain Home Air Base in Idaho; at Grand Prairie in Texas; and in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where I spent three months many years ago.

In fact, our Chinooks and military personnel in Grand Prairie were deployed to assist in the Hurricane Harvey disaster relief operations, and we are glad to have been of some help to our very gracious hosts.

We have a close partnership, too, on security cooperation, including transnational security, terrorism, and cybersecurity. Singapore has lent early and consistent support to the defeat- ISIS coalition. We were one of the first countries to participate and are still the only Asian country to have contributed both military assets and personnel. And as I told President Trump when we met, Singapore will extend our existing deployment to the operation into 2018 for an additional year.

President Trump and I naturally discussed the situation on the Korean Peninsula. We strongly oppose the nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, as it affects the peace and stability of the region.

And like the U.S., we condemn the DPRK's dangerous provocations. These pose a serious threat to regional and international peace and stability.

I shared with President Trump what Singapore has done to pressure and to isolate the DPRK, going beyond U.N. Security Council resolutions. But there is no quick and easy solution. Pressure is necessary but so is dialogue. The U.S. will need to work with others, including China, South Korea, and Japan, and Russia to resolve the issue.

President Trump will be visiting China in a few weeks' time as part of his first visit to Asia. Singapore, like many other countries, watched your relations with China very closely. It's the most important bilateral relationship in the world.

China is the U.S.'s third largest export market for both goods and services; for agricultural exports, it's the second largest. They buy soybeans, grains, and cotton, as well as farming machinery. And I am quite sure that as their incomes go up, they will buy more and more good American beef.

I express my hope that the U.S. will be able to maintain a stable and constructive relationship with China, engaging each other at the highest levels, building trust, establishing institutional mechanisms.

Good U.S.-China relations will benefit the region and the world. They will enable countries in the Asia Pacific, including America and China themselves, to enjoy regional stability, peace, and prosperity.

Finally, I look forward to seeing President Trump again in Vietnam and the Philippines next month to attend the APEC and ASEAN and East Asia Summit meetings.

His presence in Asia will mean a lot to America's many friends and allies in the region, and it will open doors and develop markets for U.S. exporters and investors.

Although the President is not visiting Singapore this time around, I have invited him to visit Singapore at the earliest opportunity, and I'm very glad that he has accepted.

Singapore will be the ASEAN chair next year, and we hope to strengthen our ties -- ASEAN's ties -- with the United States and further ASEAN-U.S. cooperation.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody.

END

2:03 P.M. EDT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting | Tokyo, Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Bilateral Meeting | Tokyo, Japan

Akasaka Palace
Tokyo, Japan
1:32 P.M. JST

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) So, over lunch, we had an in-depth discussion to cover various challenges of the international community, including the issue of North Korea.

So to build on the discussion that we had over lunch, I very much look forward to continuing our discussion, namely on the global affairs as well as our economic issues, and also our bilateral issues.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It was indeed a good meeting, and mostly pertaining to trade, North Korea, and a couple of other subjects that we lightly touched on.

We're making tremendous progress, I believe, on trade in particular, bringing the deficits down and having a very fair and equal trade. And I look forward to finishing up the discussions.

A lot of great work and great friendships have been built, and they will continue to be built. Thank you very much. Thank you.

END
1:34 P.M. JST

Remarks by President Trump in a Meeting with Families of North Korean Abductees

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump in a Meeting with Families of North Korean Abductees

Akasaka Palace
Tokyo, Japan
2:34 P.M. JST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. We've just heard the very sad stories about family members -- daughters, wives, brothers, uncles, fathers. It's a very, very sad number of stories that we've heard. And they were abducted, in all cases, by North Korea. And we will work with Prime Minister Abe on trying to get them back to their loved ones.

In some cases, many years ago, they were taken. They were used to learn the language. They were used for many different reasons. But it's a tremendous disgrace. And I just met some really wonderful people who have gone through a lot.

So I will work with Prime Minister Abe. We'll work together very closely and see if we can bring them back to Japan, where they want to be. Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) President Trump, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for what you delivered -- this speech at the U.N. General Assembly. The speech by the American President on the occasion of the U.N. General Assembly is something that the entire world would pay attention to.

And in this special speech that you delivered, you specifically touched on the fate of Ms. Megumi Yokota, as well as the abductions issue. And I do appreciate that -- how you specifically refer to this issue.

And also I am grateful for you, that you are taking time out of your schedule to have this discussion with the family members, as well as one of the abductees who could come back from North Korea to Japan.

And my sincere hope is that, through this event, as well as the press conference, I would like to encourage the entire world to know the simple reality when it comes to the abductions issue. As long as 40 years, there are those who have been suffering because of the loss of their loved ones as well as the family members. And this is the suffering that has caused in the abductions issue.

So I renew my determination to do my utmost to realize a day when those of the family members could hold their daughters and sons and their family members with their actual arms. And also, I'd like to reiterate my commitment to working very closely with President Trump and other world leaders toward resolving this abductions issue.

So once again, Mr. President and Madam First Lady, thank you very much.

END

2:39 P.M. JST

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference | Tokyo, Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference | Tokyo, Japan

Akasaka Palace
Tokyo, Japan
2:58 P.M. JST

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) Ladies and gentlemen, at the outset, may I begin by offering my condolence to the victims who lost their lives, as well as my sympathy to the people injured in the recent shooting incidents in Texas. I'd like to express my heartfelt solidarity to the people of the United States in this time of difficulty.

It was only one year ago -- November, last year -- that I met the President for the first time in the Trump Tower New York. Since then, I have had numerous opportunities to converse with the President on the margin of international meetings as well as countless talks on the phone. Indeed, how many hours of dialogue did we have? I believe that there has never been such close bonds intimately connecting the leaders of both nations as we do now in the history of Japan-U.S. alliance of more than half a century.

In particular, he received me with great hospitality last February on my visit to the U.S. at his villa in Florida. It became my unforgettable memory that we were able to discuss a variety of global issues over so many hours, quite frankly including several rounds of golf.

And it is my particular delight that this time I'm able to welcome my dear friend, President Trump, and Madam Melania Trump, to Japan. This first trip of President Trump to Asia is a historic visit in the current regional situation, which is ever more tense. And his first nation to visit on his tour is Japan. This made this historic significance even greater.

In this way, two of us were able to show to the rest of the world the unshakable Japan-U.S. alliance. Thank you, Donald.

For the last two days, I was able to have an in-depth discussion with Donald on a plethora of issues that the international community is faced with. In the discussion, overwhelming importance was occupied by the North Korean issue. We were in complete agreement as to the measures to be taken upon the analysis of the latest situation of North Korea giving a good amount of time.

Japan consistently supports the position of President Trump when he says that all options are on the table. Through the talks over two days, I once again strongly reaffirmed that Japan and U.S. are 100 percent together.

For more than 20-some years, the international community attempted dialogue with North Korea. At the time of framework agreement of 1994 and at the Six-Party Agreement of 2006, North Korea committed in abandoning their nuclear program. But each time, the promise was broken, which resulted in North Korea buying time for their nuclear and missile development while we were making efforts for dialogue.

There is no point in the dialogue for the sake of dialogue with North Korea. Now is the time not for dialogue but for applying maximum level of pressure on North Korea.

We completely agreed that, in order to make North Korea change their policy, Japan and U.S. must take leadership in closely collaborating with the international community so that we can enhance the pressure to the maximum level over North Korea through all possible means.

I agree with President Trump that we welcome China strengthening her pressure over North Korea, and it is incumbent upon China to play even greater roles to let North Korea relinquish their nuclear and missile development.

We reaffirmed once again the importance of further advancing trilateral cooperation among Japan, U.S., and the Republic of Korea -- a country President Trump will visit tomorrow.

Before this press conference, President and Mrs. Trump were good enough to meet with the members of the families of abductees. I would like to render my heartfelt gratitude for their listening so intently to what the family members had to tell them.

Until the day when all the families of the abductees embrace their loved ones in their own arms -- until that day, my mission is not complete. I'm sure that the families -- I have renewed my resolve to work in full force to seek the resolution of this issue. I have decided to take our own additional sanction measures in our effort to seek the solution of the nuclear missile and the most important abduction issues of North Korea.

Tomorrow, there will be a decision of freezing assets of 35 North Korean entities and individuals. Going forward, Japan and U.S. will continue to cooperation closely for the early resolution of the North Korean issue.

I also discussed bilateral economic issues with President Trump. We welcomed that in the second meeting of Japan-U.S. Economic Dialogue held last month between Deputy Prime Minister Aso and Vice President Pence. The importance of strengthening bilateral economic trade and investment relations was confirmed.

And we will go deeper into our dialogue. We agreed that we will continue our discussion in order to invigorate more the bilateral trade and investment, and enhance our cooperation in areas of law enforcement, energy, infrastructure, among others.

Japan and the U.S. are the two global economic leaders, occupying 30 percent of the global economy, sharing common values such as freedom and fairness. The significance of Japan-U.S. alliance is not limited on security front alone. In the economic field, it greatly contributes to the prosperity of the region and the world.

I, together with President Trump, shall work not only in the field of bilateral trade, but also lead in the high-standard rulemaking in trade and investment broadly in the Asia Pacific region. I am determined to see to it so that both Japan and U.S. strongly lead the regional and, eventually, the global economic growth by our cumulative efforts in creating fair and effective economic order in this region.

With the President, I discussed APEC and East Asia Summit meetings that we will going after this. Indo-Pacific region, covering the vast area of Asia Pacific through the Indian Ocean to the Middle East and Africa, is the growth center of the world, with more than half of the world population. The maintenance and enhancement of the maritime order that is free and open is critically important for the peace and prosperity of this region, and we concurred to strengthen our cooperation toward realizing free and open Indo-Pacific.

Under the unwavering Japan-U.S. alliance, I shall play a leadership role for the peace and prosperity of this region, hand -in-hand with President Trump. For the last two days, I had indeed very serious discussions with President Trump. I also had an opportunity to play golf with our top pro, Hideki Matsuyama, yesterday. Indeed the match was a neck-and-neck competition, in my opinion. What was the reality? I hope that Mr. Trump will give his evaluation.

The dinner where Mrs. Trump joined was in such a truly relaxed atmosphere that we almost forgot how time flew. I am greatly very much satisfied. I hope that they enjoyed the banquet later on, by all means.

Thank you very much. Thank you very much, President Trump. The floor is yours.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you. Thank you very much. Well, thank you very much, Shinzo. And this has been a truly enjoyable trip and one where we're accomplishing a lot.

And I agree with you that our relationship is extraordinary. And I agree with you also that there has never been such a close relationship between the leaders of two countries -- these two countries, Japan and the United States. So it's been great to be with you, and we'll be spending a lot of time with you over the years.

Melania and I are deeply grateful for the warm welcome we've received in your remarkable country. And that's what it is -- it is a remarkable country. This is a land of incredible history, culture, tradition, and spirit.

First, let me congratulate you on your great success in the recent elections. You won very big and very easily, and I'm not at all surprised. We both share in common, really, a deep loyalty to our citizens and a deep faith in the destiny of our people and also our people and our countries working together.

I also want to take a moment to continue sending our thoughts, prayers, and deepest condolences to the victims of the horrific assault on a church in a beautiful area -- so sad -- Sutherland Springs, Texas. Such a beautiful, wonderful area with incredible people. Who would ever think a thing like this could happen?

I want to send my condolences, the condolences of our First Lady. In tragic times, Americans always pull together. We are always strongest when we are unified. To the wounded and the families of the victims, all of America is praying for you, supporting you, and grieving alongside of you.

Prime Minister, I want to thank you and the people of Japan for your friendship. We have so many great things that we can accomplish together, and we are in the process of accomplishing those things.

It was a thrill for my daughter, Ivanka, to be able to participate in the World Assembly for Women and promote women entrepreneurship. Side-by-side, our two nations are advancing policies to empower women and harness the full potential of our great economies.

You were the first foreign leader to visit me shortly after my election, and now it is my pleasure to join you in your homeland to further strengthen the historic ties between our two great nations.

As you know, this is my first visit to the Indo-Pacific region as President -- been here before - - but as President, this has been my first and it is my first. And I am thrilled that my first stop was with you, great friend.

We're going to other countries where I have also developed some great friendships, and we're going to work to straighten a lot of things out, including trade, including military problems. We have a lot of things to work on. But this is a real honor to be with you, Shinzo.

Japan is a very special place. The Japanese people are thriving, your cities are vibrant, and you've built one of the world's most powerful economies. I don't know if it's as good as ours. I think not. Okay? And we're going to try and keep it that way, but you'll be second.

And yet, for all of its modern splendor, the people of Japan maintain a profound respect for their rich culture, heritage, and traditions. Honoring the past, even as you blaze new trails into the future -- very, very strongly looking into the future -- is Japan.

You demonstrate every day that the respect for history and heritage is the true foundation for progress. Our nations share an enduring bond. America and Japan face many challenges, many opportunities. There are many things we face, but we will be facing them together, in friendship and as allies.

Most importantly, we're working to counter the dangerous aggressions of the regime in North Korea. The regime-continued development of its unlawful weapons programs, including its illegal nuclear test and outrageous launches of ballistic missiles directly over Japanese territory, are a threat to the civilized world and international peace and stability.

We will not stand for that. The era of strategic patience is over. Some people said that my rhetoric is very strong, but look what's happened with very weak rhetoric over the last 25 years. Look where we are right now.

Prime Minister Abe has also shared with me the tragic stories of Japanese young people who North Korea has abducted over the years. Together, we met with the parents of Megumi Yokota who was abducted as a young girl in 1977. No child should ever be subjected to such cruelty. No parent should ever have to endure 40 years of heartbreak.

We also had a young wonderful man in our country, Otto Warmbier. We all know the story of Otto; it's a horrible story, a sad story. And we can't let that happen. Cannot let that happen.

The United States of America stands in solidarity with the people of Japan against the North Korean menace. History has proven over and over that strong and free nations will always prevail over tyrants who oppress their people.

Our powerful and enduring U.S.-Japan alliance includes more than 50,000 members of the United States military stationed right here in Japan. In addition to that, we have 33,000 stationed in South Korea. American and Japanese military personnel train together, work together, and will stand together to defend the security and sovereignty of both of our countries.

I want to thank the entire Japanese people for acting as such gracious hosts and strong partners for our men and women in the armed forces.

America is also committed to improving our economic relationship with Japan. As President of the United States, I am committed to achieving a fair, free, and reciprocal trading relationship. We seek equal and reliable access for American exports to Japan's markets in order to eliminate our chronic trade imbalances and deficits with Japan. We're working on that -- something we've all been working on very hard from the very beginning of our meetings.

As we continue to pursue closer economic ties, I believe it will create new and exciting opportunities to achieve greater prosperity in both of our nations and to advance new frontiers in science, medicine, and technology. The United States respects and honors Japan's heritage and admires your deep well of perseverance.

I appreciate very much your acknowledging and stating the fact that the United States economy has done so well since our election on November 8th. Close to 200 million jobs. The highest stock market in our history. So many different things are happening for the better, including the cutting of massive amounts of regulation, which is one of the reasons that the market is reacting the way it's reacting.

This mutual respect for culture and sovereignty will continue to bring our nations closer and closer together, and open up new avenues of cooperation and success.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you again for inviting me today and for opening the arms of your majestic country to our American delegation, all of whom are right now in this room. I look forward to working side by side with you in friendship. We will have success like rarely seen between two countries -- Japan and the United States of America, two very, very special places.

Thank you for having us. Thank you very much.

Q (As interpreted.) (Inaudible) from NHK. This is a question to Mr. Abe. Prime Minister and President Trump have agreed on maximizing the pressure toward the relinquishing of nuclear development by North Korea. Mr. Trump is going to Korea and China, and then there is going to be an APEC Leaders meeting. So, Mr. Abe, what is your idea about the significance of this bilateral summit meeting?

On the other hand, North Korea is still fixing its attitude, not responding to the relinquishing of nuclear development. What is necessary in order to avoid any accidental military confrontation?

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) While Japan-U.S. alliance being the foundation of the regional peace and prosperity, precisely when Japan-U.S. partners strongly, the peace of this region becomes unshakeable. From that perspective, I consider that this time we were able to reaffirm strong bonds and ties between Japan and the United States on this opportunity of the visit of President Trump. This was quite significant for the regional peace.

On the North Korean situation, between President Trump and myself, we confirmed that we are together 100 percent. We will enhance the pressure that the entire international community exercises over North Korea to the maximum extent by both Japan and the United States collaborating and working toward China and Russia.

No one likes conflicts. I don't like it; Mr. Trump neither. But North Korea continues its provocation against the international community, so we need to collaborate in the international community so that they change their policy. We must exercise our pressure.

And from the North Korea, we will change our policy, so please come to talk to us. I think this is what is most important that we expect. And we have a complete agreement with President Trump. And together with many countries, I'm sure that we share in the same thinking.

Also, the free and open maritime order based upon the rule of law is a foundation of the stability and prosperity of the international community. This time around, as the first leg of his tour in Asia, President and I were able to reaffirm that both countries will make efforts looking toward the Indo-Pacific, which is free and open -- very significant. There will be APEC Leaders Meeting and EAS Summit Meeting. In these meetings, I'd like to take leadership in driving this kind of discussion.

So, free and open Indo-Pacific strategy -- if any country would agree with this strategy, with whatever country we can collaborate for the implementation of this strategy. So we will continue to have partnership between Japan and the United States so that we can contribute jointly to the peace and stability of the region.

MS. SANDERS: For the United States' first question, we'll go to Steve Holland, from Reuters.

Q Thank you, sir. In response to the Texas shooting, what policies would you support to reduce these violent actions? Is gun control the answer?

And secondly, you spoke yesterday about the warmth of the North Korean people. What's your message to their leader, Kim Jong-un, as you prepare to head to South Korea tomorrow?

And if I could ask the Prime Minister a question as well: Could you respond to what the President said this morning -- that trade is not free and reciprocal with the United States? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, as far as the North Korean people are concerned, Steve, I think that these are great people. They're under a very repressive regime, and I really think that,

ultimately -- I can tell you this -- that I hope it all works out. It would be better for everybody. Certainly would be better for North Korea, but it would be better for everybody. So we hope that's going to take place.

As far as your second question, which is really the first part of your question, I think that mental health is your problem here. This was a very -- based on preliminary reports -- very deranged individual. A lot of problems over a long period of time. We have a lot of mental health problems in our country, as do other countries.

But this isn't a guns situation. I mean, we could go into it, but it's a little bit soon to go into it. But, fortunately, somebody else had a gun that was shooting in the opposite direction, otherwise it would have been -- as bad it was, it would have been much worse.

But this is a mental health problem at the highest level. It's a very, very sad event. These are great people, and a very, very sad event. But that's the way I view it. Thank you.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) With President Trump, trade and economic matters -- bilateral issues -- we did discuss, on the economic matter, how U.S. and Japanese economies should be. There is dialogue going on between Mr. Aso and Mr. Pence. There were two meetings already.

So on the question of economy, together with President Trump, not only regarding bilateral trade, we would like to see the entire region of Asia Pacific -- high-standard rulemaking is something that we want to pursue. So with both countries in this region, we will make efforts to create an economic order which is fair and effective so that, regarding the both economies mutually, we would like to see the mutual development of both economies.

So in the United States, already since the start of Trump administration, partly thanks to the Japanese investment, 17,000 jobs have been created in the United States. So all countries in the world, vis-à-vis the United States, they make investment. But Japanese investment ranks, in terms of job creation. So the economic relations between the two countries may develop further, thereby creating jobs, thereby growing the economy.

So in creating both countries' economies -- Aso-Pence Economic Dialogue Framework would be quite relevant, and we'd like to see good outcome from that dialogue.

We will go back to the Japanese press for questions. Yes, please.

Q I have a question to President Trump. You met with the family members of abductees and you met with Hitomi Soga, actual abductee. How can you comment on your meeting with them? To North Korea, is there a possibility of U.S. military action? Suppose that the U.S. decides to go on it, the abductees' rescue -- how do you think about it once the military action is to be imminent?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I think it's very sad. I look at what's happened, and it's a very, very sad thing. Who has ever heard of anything like this? Abducted by a hostile country for purposes of language, for purposes of -- could be any number of another reasons. We'll see what happens in terms of the ultimate conclusion.

But I did put it in my speech at the United Nations, and many people in Japan were really thrilled that I did because a lot of people thought that the folks we're talking about were forgotten about. Like I say, the "forgotten people" -- where they were, maybe they're forgotten people. But I can tell you, your great Prime Minister did not forget. He didn't forget at all.

So we'll work together and see if we can do something. Now the spotlight is on and perhaps we can have some very good luck, and perhaps the regime itself would send them back. I think it would be a tremendous signal if Kim Jong-un would send them back. If he would send them back, that would be the start of something -- I think, would be just something very special if they would do that.

But I spoke with people who were devastated, and they've been devastated for many years. They think they're alive, but they don't know. Probably makes it even tougher that way. But we'll see what happens. Thank you.

MS. SANDERS: Thank you. The second question from the United States -- Mark Landler, New York Times.

Q Thank you very much. My first question is to President Trump. Mr. President, you've spent the last two days reaffirming the U.S.-Japan alliance, and you've begun sketching out this vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific. But in two days, you're going to travel to China, a country that is neither free nor open. So my question is, how can the U.S. be a force for freedom and openness in this region without inevitably coming into conflict with China?

And then, to the Prime Minister. Mr. Prime Minister, the President has spoken on many occasions in the past about hoping to see the Japanese take a strong role in their own defense. He'd like to sell Japan military equipment, and there have been press reports that the President was disappointed that the Japanese didn't shoot the North Korean missile out of the sky -- the one that was shot over Hokkaido. I'm wondering, did this subject come up? And what message did you have for the President about the role you'd like to see Japan take in its defense?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you, Mark. I will say, if I could just take a piece of the Prime Minister's answer -- he will shoot them out of the sky when he completes the purchase of lots of additional military equipment from the United States. He will easily shoot them out of the sky, just like we shot something out of the sky the other day in Saudi Arabia, as you saw. And that was a very rapidly moving missile shot out of the sky. That was a needle in the sky, and it was hit immediately and exploded without damage.

So one of the things, I think, that's very important is that the Prime Minister of Japan is going to be purchasing massive amounts of military equipment, as he should. And we make the best military equipment, by far. He'll be purchasing it from the United States. Whether it's the F-35 fighter, which is the greatest in the world -- total stealth -- or whether it's missiles of many different kinds, it's a lot of jobs for us and a lot of safety for Japan and other countries that are likewise purchasing a lot of military equipment from us that, frankly, a year ago and two years ago were not.

As far as China is concerned, my relationship, as you know, with President Xi is also excellent. I like him a lot. I consider him a friend. He considers me a friend. With that being said, he represents China; I represent the United States. His views are different on things, but they're pretty similar on trade.

The problem we have with China is that for decades they've been -- you know, it's been a very unfair -- let me be very kind to previous administrations -- it's been a very unfair trade situation. Our trade deficit is massive. It's hundreds of billions of dollars a year, anywhere from \$350 billion to \$504 billion, and that doesn't include intellectual property. And we've already started discussions with China because it has to come down. It has to come down. And that has to do with, really, free trade, fair trade, or reciprocal trade.

And frankly, I like reciprocal the best of the group. Because when you explain to somebody that you're going to charge tariffs in order to equalize, or you're going to do other things -- some people that don't get it, they don't like to hear that. But when you say it's going to be reciprocal -- that we're going to charge the same as they're charging us -- the people that don't want a 5 percent or a 10 percent tariff say, oh, reciprocal is fair -- and that could be 100 percent. So it's much more, Mark, understandable when you talk about reciprocal.

And reciprocal trade is very important to me. We have many countries, not just China or Japan, or so many others that we see. I mean, we have one country that charges us 100 percent tax if we sell things into that country, and yet when they sell the same product into our country, we charge them nothing. Now, I've been against that for a long time, and you will be seeing, we do things about it

Now, it also takes a period of time to do that, because, as you know, you have statutory limitations in time. You have to put out notices. You have to wait 90 days before you can put out the next, and then you have to wait another 120 days, and then a 30-day. Now, much of this has already been caught and caught up. Some of it was unnecessary, statutorily.

But you will be seeing things of countries that have been treating the United States and the United States worker and companies -- because I view the companies not as a company, I view it as an extension of the worker -- but that have been treating our companies, our country, and our workers very unfairly.

You will be seeing that the United States will take very, very strong action. It's already started, but most of the legal foundation has now been done. And you're going to see a very big difference, and it's going to happen very soon. Because the United States, by many countries, has been treated very, very unfairly when it comes to trade.

Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) Regarding Japan defense equipment, a lot of them we purchase from the United States. The North Korean situation becoming very tough; the Asia Pacific security situation becoming very tough. We qualitatively and quantitatively, we have to enhance our defense capability. As the President mentioned, F-35A is a case in point. SM-3 Block IIA is another plan for purchase from the United States. Aegis vessels -- the quality and the quantity must be enhanced. In that process, we will be buying more from the United States. That is what I'm thinking.

Now, North Korea: North Korea launched missiles. Immediately after that, we traced them; we were able to grasp and trace where they were going. Missile defense is something which is based upon the cooperation between Japan and the United States. Missile defense system is a cooperation between the two countries for the intercepting and shooting down. If it is necessary, of course, we will do that -- if it is necessary. But in doing so, U.S. and Japan will closely coordinate our actions. Thank you.

Thank you very much. With this, we will end the joint press conference by the two leaders of Japan and the United States. Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen of the press.

END

3:35 P.M. JST

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan at State Dinner | Tokyo, Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan at State Dinner | Tokyo, Japan
Akasaka Palace

Tokyo, Japan

7:31 P.M. JST

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) Good evening, everyone. My name is Shinzo Abe. I'm extremely delighted to host tonight's banquet here at the State Guest House in honor of the very first visit to Japan by my dear friend, President Trump, and Madam First Lady, Ms. Melania Trump.

Yesterday's golf diplomacy between Donald and me attracted so much attention, and we actually made everything public, except for the score. And, through golf, we could demonstrate to the world how strong the bond is between Japan and the United States.

But Donald and I are not the first to promote this unique golf diplomacy. Just 60 years ago, my grandfather, Prime Minister Kishi, and President Eisenhower are the ones who initiated this tradition. And after the golf match, President Eisenhower shared two lessons with my grandfather. One, once you become a President of the United States, you need to be at a table with a group of

people whom you don't like to hang out. Second, when it comes to playing golf, you can play golf only with those who you really, really like to hang out.

But speaking of my relationship with President Trump, that is not enough. If I may add another lesson to the legacy of Prime Minister Kishi and President Eisenhower, I would say it like this: When you play golf with someone not just once, but for two times, the person must be your favorite guy.

So, yesterday, we had the pleasure of playing golf together with Mr. Hideki Matsuyama. And, tonight, we are so honored to have the participation of Mr. Isao Aoki, who is a pioneer in Japanese golf. (Applause.)

Even during the time that played golf with President Trump, the President and I were talking about Mr. Aoki. It is all about how his putting that was something that the entire world were mesmerized. And Donald told me as follows: Mr. Aoki's putting was just like super, super artistic. But you should never try to do the same, because that is the only thing that Mr. Aoki can only do, and you will not be able to do that. So next time we play golf together, I would love to have Mr. Aoki to join us and enjoy the time that I will spend with Mr. Trump.

Speaking of the First Ladies, I understand that my wife Akie and Madam First Lady had a chance to try Japanese calligraphy. Each wrote one Chinese character, or kanji: "hei" by Madam First Lady, which means being smooth and calm; and "wa" by my wife Akie, which stands for harmony. And when combined, these two letters literally mean "peace." And I think their wonderful joint work represents our alliance very nicely.

Under our alliance, Japan and the United States work hand-in-hand to contribute to regional and global peace.

For two days, President Trump and I spent many, many hours together, and had an in-depth discussion on various global challenges. And I'm particularly grateful for President Trump and Madam First Lady, who kindly spent their time with a former abductee and the family members of those who had been abducted by North Korea.

And it's been only one year since I first saw President Trump in New York City. And looking back the over the half-century history of Japan-U.S. alliance, we have never seen two leaders of Japan and the United States forging as close relationship as ours and as strong bond in ours in just one year.

Of course, I'm very proud of my relationship with President Trump, but we are not the only ones who have supported this invaluable friendship between Japan and the United States. And on this occasion, I would like to acknowledge tremendous efforts by leaders from various fields, including political, business, and cultural leaders who are here today.

In honor of such contribution to our invaluable friendship, I invited many distinguished guests who have been making every effort to deepen our friendship. And I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation and also ask for further support for the development of our bilateral relationship.

Last but not least, let me share with you my honest impression about President Trump's visit to Japan this time. As I said, this was the very first visit by President Trump and it was indeed a historic visit. And I do hope that you will enjoy your last night in Tokyo as you wish. And also, I sincerely hope that you will have a really successful trip to Asia this time, which started here in Japan.

So with that, I now would like to propose a toast wishing all the best to President Trump and Madam First Lady, and also wishing for the further development of the friendship between Japan and the United States.

(A toast is offered.) (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe, this has been a really wonderful two days. We have to spend more time together because I have enjoyed every minute of it, even though he's a very, very tough negotiator. And, Melania, a real friend of yours now is Mrs. Abe. And I

know you enjoyed it with me. You enjoyed it in Florida and you enjoyed it here, and maybe even more so. But I want to thank you for the royal welcome.

And it was really a -- very much a working holiday, even on the golf course. So we can call it a couple of days off, but it wasn't. It was full work. Even as we played golf, all we did was talk about different things. (Laughter.) We better not go into it. But I have to tell you, we did, and we made a lot of progress on a lot of fronts.

I do want to congratulate Mr. Aoki. He was one of the great putters -- probably still is. They say you never lose your putting. When you're a great putter, you never lose your putting.

But I remember a specific tournament, believe it or not, because it was one of the best I ever saw. It was the greatest putting display that I ever saw. It was you and Jack Nicklaus. Was that the U.S. Open? The U.S. Open. And you would get up and sink a 30-footer. He'd get up and sink a 25-footer. And this went on for the whole back nine. And then, ultimately, Jack won by one stroke. I thought it was one of the greatest putting displays anybody has ever seen and there ever was. And I even know your putting stroke -- very flat.

And I spoke yesterday with the great Matsuyama, who is doing great, right? He's going to be a big star, and he's going to be great. I don't even know if he's with us tonight. I don't think he's with us tonight. But he does want to get together in New York, and we're going to get together. And even though I want to have a great interpreter, but he's rapidly learning the language.

But I will tell you that it's an honor to be with you because everyone in the world of golf talks about that one great afternoon. Just putt after putt, and it was really great. So congratulations. Great gentleman, great gentleman. (Applause.)

So my relationship with Shinzo got off to quite a rocky start because I never ran for office, and here I am. But I never ran, so I wasn't very experienced. And after I had won, everybody was calling me from all over the world. I never knew we had so many countries. (Laughter.)

So I was now President-elect. But I didn't know you were supposed to not see world leaders until after you were in office, which was January 20th. So you were just not supposed to because it was considered bad form. It was not a nice thing to do, and I understand that from the standpoint of the President whose place you were taking.

So you can only take so many calls from world leaders -- because, you know, everybody was calling. But Japan, you take. And some others -- we took Germany, we took Russia, we took China, we took -- we took your Prime Minister.

So it's November, and he said to me, "Congratulations on your victory, it was a great victory, I would like to see you. I would like to see you as soon as possible." And I said, "Anytime you want, just come on in, don't worry about it." But I was referring to after January 20th. (Laughter.) So I said, don't worry about it. Anytime you want, I look forward to seeing you. Just give us a call, no problem, anytime you want. And all of the sudden, I get a call from, actually, Japan press. And they said that our Prime Minister is going to New York to meet with the President-elect.

So the press is going crazy because the Prime Minister of Japan is coming to see me. I think it's absolutely fine, but I didn't really mean now. I meant some time in February, March, or April. Meaning, you have a very aggressive -- very, very aggressive, strong, tough Prime Minister. That's a good thing, by the way -- not a bad thing. (Laughter.)

So then the New York media started calling me, and I was getting all sorts of signals from Hope and Sarah, in a different position, and everybody. And they're going crazy. They're saying, "You cannot see him. It's so inappropriate. It looks bad." I say, "What's wrong?" They said, "It's a bad thing to see him. You have to wait until after, in all fairness, Barack Obama leaves office." And I said, "What do I do?" And they said, "Let's call."

So I called him, and he wasn't there. He was on the airplane flying to New York. (Laughter.) And I said, "You know what? There's no way he's going to land and I'm not seeing him."

So I saw him, and it worked out just fine. Do you agree with that? (Laughter.) And he actually brought me the most beautiful golf club I've ever seen. It was a driver that's totally gold. Right? It's

gold. (Laughter.) And I looked at it -- I said, "If I ever use this driver -- me -- to use that driver at a golf club, I will be laughed off every course I ever go onto." But it is the most beautiful weapon I've ever seen, so I thank you for that.

But we had a great meeting. It lasted forever. It was a very long meeting in Trump Tower. And for some reason, from that moment on, we had a really -- and developed a really great relationship. And here we are today and better than ever, and we're going to work together. And it's going to get more and more special, and we're going to work out problems of Japan and problems of the United States. And it's going to be something very, very special for both countries.

I just want to finish by saying that Melania and I today visited the palace. This is a beautiful, beautiful place. And we met two very beautiful people, the Imperial Majesties, the Emperor and the Empress, and spent a long time talking to them today. And there was a lot of love in that room for all of you people -- I can tell you -- from everyone from Japan. They love the people of Japan, they love this country dearly, and they have great, great respect for your Prime Minister. And they truly think that your Prime Minister did very, very well when he decided to marry -- or she decided to marry him, Mrs. Abe. But they have great, great respect -- I can tell you that.

And I just want to conclude by saying that our two great countries will have incredible friendship and incredible success for many centuries to come -- not years, not decades, but for many centuries to come.

And again, it's an honor to have you as my good friend, and I just want to thank you and Mrs. Abe. This is a very, very special two days. We will not forget, and we will be back soon. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

(A toast is offered.) (Applause.)

END

7:55 P.M. JST

Remarks by President Trump to U.S. and Japanese Business Leaders | Tokyo, Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump to U.S. and Japanese Business Leaders | Tokyo, Japan

U.S. Ambassador's Residence

Tokyo, Japan

9:18 A.M. JST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, Bill. Please, sit down. Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador, for that wonderful introduction, I guess. Right? (Laughter.) That was good with me. And thank you for representing, Bill, so well the interests of the American people in Japan and the incredible relationship that you have with Japan. We really appreciate it. You're doing a fantastic job. We very much appreciate it. Thank you.

Let me begin today by addressing the horrific shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families of today's horrible and murderous attack. This act of evil occurred as the victims and their families were in their place of sacred worship. We cannot put into words the pain and grief we all feel, and we cannot begin to imagine the suffering of those who lost the ones they so dearly loved.

Our hearts are broken, but in dark times -- and these are dark times -- such as these, Americans do what they do best: We pull together. We join hands, we lock arms, and through the tears and through the sadness, we stand strong -- oh, so strong.

My administration will provide its full support to the great state of Texas and all local authorities investigating this horrible crime. I've spoken just a few minutes ago with Governor Abbott, and we offer our thanks to the first responders, the FBI, all of the many people involved, both federal and otherwise. Ultimately, they stopped the suspect and rendered immediate lifesaving aid to certain victims of the shooting.

I will continue to follow the developments closely. All of America is praying to God to help the wounded and the families of the victims. We will never, ever leave their side -- ever.

With that being said, we are here today in Japan with one of our closest and most cherished allies, through bad times and good times, through rain and through shine. I want to thank Secretary Tillerson -- Rex -- who has done a tremendous job of leading the dedicated men and women of the Department of State here in Japan and around the world.

The splendor and beauty of Japan has left a lasting impression on me and my family. And I want to thank the First Lady for being with us, Melania. Please stand. (Applause.) She's become a very, very popular First Lady, I can tell you that. Whenever I speak, they have hundreds of signs out in the audience. We love our First Lady, which is so true. Thank you.

And our warmest admiration for this ancient culture. It's an ancient culture and its customs are ancient, and it's terrific. Over the weekend, Ivanka attended the World Assembly for Women with Prime Minister Abe, who I was with all day yesterday. I applaud the Prime Minister -- and he's a terrific person, by the way -- for his dedication to advancing women in the workforce. And I share his commitment to empowering women in business and in all professions.

This morning, I am pleased to have an opportunity to discuss how we can strengthen and improve the economic ties between the United States and Japan. And I have to say, for the last many decades, Japan has been winning. You do know that.

For the, actually, last 70 years, cooperation between our two countries has helped us to pioneer incredible advances in commerce, in science, medicine, and technology. Our students study together, our scholars exchange ideas, and business leaders like you work together to invest in a better, more prosperous future for both of our nations.

I know many of the leaders in this room have helped build Japan into the center for commerce and innovation that it is today. And I want to commend you for your incredible achievements in so many areas. And I looked at a list of the people in the room -- they are truly the leaders of industry. I congratulate you all. Names that, in many cases, I haven't met, but I know you well, from reading about you on the covers of every business magazine and sometimes well beyond the business magazines. So, congratulations. Fantastic job you've done in building some of the greatest companies in the world. And it's an honor to be working with you.

We want to thank and make the United States for the people in this room, and well beyond this room, the most attractive place for you to hire, invest, and to grow. That's why we are very, very substantially lowering our taxes. The United States is one of the highest-taxed nations in the world. But it's also a market like no other; by far, the biggest market in the world.

Its numbers are phenomenal over the last -- since November 8th, Election Day. Our unemployment is at a 17-year low. We've gotten almost 2 million more people in the workforce in just that short period of time. I've reduced regulations terrifically, frankly, if I do say so myself -- but at a level that nobody else has ever done. I've done more in nine months in terms of the reduction of regulations than any President has done in a full term, and it's not even close. And if it were close, they will let you know about it tomorrow morning, believe me. They will tell you about it, but it's not even close.

The stock market reached an all-time high on Friday, and that's the 61st, I believe -- something around that number -- 61st time that's happened. So we have a lot of happy people in this room because your stocks are right in there. And look at you, you're smiling. Very happy. (Laughter.) What company? What company?

PARTICIPANT: ANA.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, that's another big one. That's a great company. Are you happy? You happy with the job?

PARTICIPANT: (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Good. Come around, give me your hand. (Applause.) That is some company, too. Congratulations, you've done a great job.

But it's reached an all-time high. I believe it's maybe in the neighborhood of 61 times during the course of -- from November 8. And so we're honored by that. GDP growth, very importantly, we hit 3.2 last quarter -- 3.2 And this time we hit 3, and we figure a good point -- I would say a good solid point for hurricanes. We had four horrific hurricanes, as everybody knows, and did tremendous damage to Texas and Florida and Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands and Louisiana, and even Alabama was affected, and other places -- Georgia.

And we figured at least a point. So I was going to close my eyes a little bit when the numbers came out. And the number came out at 3. That would mean that it would have been 4. And GDP at 4 was unthinkable, actually unthinkable, when I was running. And I said we could do it. They were saying maybe you could hit 2, 2.5. My first quarter was 1. We were in the ones. And so we're at 3, and now 3.2. And again, without the hurricanes, I think we would have been 4 or very close to 4. So that's GDP of 4. That was not something that people thought of in the first three or four years, and we've already hit it. And we will continue to.

On regulations, while I've reduced regulations terrifically. It would take, as an example, to build a highway -- it would take 17 to 20 years to get approvals. And at the end of 20th year, in many cases, they voted it down. Do you approve? No. So they wasted tens of millions of dollars. There's a highway in Maryland where it took exactly 17 years. And the original numbers were very little, and it ended up costing hundreds of millions of dollars for a very small, short highway. And we can't have that.

So we're trying to bring that number down from -- anywhere from 13 to 20 years. We're trying to bring it down to one year. You want to build a road? You want to build a highway? You want to build a school? You want to build a factory -- most importantly, to the folks in this room -- or a plant? You're going to have your approvals very, very quickly.

Now, you may be rejected quickly, too. But that's okay. If you're rejected quickly -- you don't want to be rejected at the end of the 17th year. I approved a power plant, which has been under consideration for 11 years, and they gave up, and I approved it. And it's a \$7 billion plant. And the state wanted it and the local community wanted it, but they had environmental restrictions. And now it's being built.

The Dakota Access Pipeline and, as you know, the Keystone Pipeline, that was rejected by the previous administration. The Keystone Pipeline was dead. And the Dakota Access Pipeline was in even in worse shape because they built it but they weren't allowed to hook it up. So I consider not starting even better than that. And in my first week, I approved both. It's 42,000 jobs. The Dakota is already open and Keystone is starting; it's actually already started. And that was done in the first week -- got it approved.

And we have many other things like that. I could stand here all day and tell you additional events that we've done that create jobs and are good for our country, not bad for our country. When you want to build your auto plants, you will have your approvals almost immediately. When you want to expand your plants, you will have your approvals almost immediately. And in the room, we have a couple of the great folks from two of the biggest auto companies in the world that are building new plants and doing expansions of other plants. And you know who you are, and I want to just thank you very much. I want to thank you.

I also want to recognize the business leaders in the room whose confidence in the United States -- they've been creating jobs -- you have such confidence in the United States, and you've been creating jobs for our country for a long, long time. Several Japanese automobile industry firms have been really doing a job. And we love it when you build cars -- if you're a Japanese firm, we

love it -- try building your cars in the United States instead of shipping them over. Is that possible to ask? That's not rude. Is that rude? I don't think so. (Laughter.) If you could build them. But I must say, Toyota and Mazda -- where are you? Are you here, anybody? Toyota? Mazda? I thought so. Oh, I thought that was you. That's big stuff. Congratulations. Come on, let me shake your hand. (Applause.) They're going to invest \$1.6 billion in building a new manufacturing plant, which will create as many as 4,000 new jobs in the United States. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. (Applause.)

And we're very pleased that just last month, Denso announced that it will invest \$1 billion to expand its activities in Tennessee, a great state -- great state --

AMBASSADOR HAGERTY: (Inaudible) right here, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I know, I'm going to introduce him now. And create over 1,000 new jobs. And I do believe that's you -- another famous man. Come here. (Applause.) Great state. You're going to love being there.

And again, it's really terrific. You watch, it's going to be -- it's going to go so smoothly. And the process is a much easier process now. So, thank you. Thank you both very much.

I want to thank these companies, but I want to thank all of the companies that are coming in. Many companies have announced now that they're coming into the United States to do plants, to do factories, to move. You saw Broadcom is coming in -- top 100 company -- they announced on Thursday from the Oval Office. Anytime you'd like to expand a second -- see, I don't have to do that now because you've already announced, so I don't have to bother. But if you do a little more expansion, we'll do it from the Oval Office, you two, all right? (Laughter.)

But we just did that announcement from the Oval Office. And Foxconn is coming in with a massive plant that is going to be in Wisconsin. And that was very exciting. They do the Apple iPhones, and it's going to be a tremendous success.

But we have to do more. The United States has suffered massive trade deficits with Japan for many, many years. Almost \$70 billion annually. Seventy billion. Many millions of cars are sold by Japan into the United States, whereas virtually no cars go from the United States into Japan, and our car industry is doing very well and our product is fantastic. So we'll have to negotiate that out, and we'll do it in a very friendly way, and I know it's going to be a successful negotiation.

And one thing I can say -- that we make the greatest military equipment in the world. There's nothing close. And the Prime Minister is ordering a lot of military equipment, as he should be -- as he should be with what's happening with one of your neighbors. So that is happening.

We had a case yesterday, as you know, where a missile was shot into Saudi Arabia, and their missile system defense -- took the missile right out of the air, blew it up. Incredible talent, incredible technology that we have. Incredible. The accuracy that you can stop something like that, it's like a needle in the air going very, very fast. And, just, we make incredible equipment, whether it's the planes, the missiles -- anything you can think about. There's nobody even close. So we're going to be doing a lot of business with many countries on defense.

We want fair and open trade. But right now, our trade with Japan is not fair and it's not open, but I know it will be, soon. We want free and reciprocal trade, but right now our trade with Japan is not free and it's not reciprocal. And I know it will be. And we've started the process, and it's gone on for a long time, but I know that we will be able to come up with trade deals and trade concepts that are going to be fair to both countries, and, actually, I think will actually be better for both countries. And I have no doubt that it will be done in a quick and very friendly manner.

I'm very optimistic about the future of our economic partnership. We are proud, for instance, that, after the United States, Japan is the largest owner of Boeing aircraft. Greatest commercial aircraft in the world. (Applause.) Is Boeing here? Boeing?

PARTICIPANT: Right there, for Boeing --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, look at my guy. Stand up. Boy, have I made him -- (applause) -- come, come.

(Inaudible.) You know, Melania had some of your stock. You know what happened? When I won, she was forced to sell it. (Laughter.) Fantastic. Great job you're doing. And I do love the F-18 also. I love the F-18.

we're joined this morning also by Ray Washburne. Where's Ray? Stand up. What are you doing in the back of the room like that, Ray? Since when have you become shy? (Applause.) Ray was with us from the beginning. Right from the day I announced, Ray felt very strongly about it. And Ray is now the CEO of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, or OPIC, and Ray is working with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation to invest in bold, new infrastructure projects. This is a major development that will advance our shared interests in the region.

I want to thank you for doing such a great job. From day one, the day I met you -- perfect job. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

And in partnership with the United States, the sovereign nations of the Indo-Pacific will work together to achieve a future of security, prosperity, and peace. We will have more trade than anybody ever thought of under TPP, that I can tell you. TPP was not the right idea. Probably some of you in this room disagree, but ultimately I'll be proven to be right. We will have much bigger trade with the way we're doing it right now, and it will be a much less complex situation.

We cherish the friendship between the United States and Japan. And I cherish my friendship with Prime Minister Abe. We welcome more Japanese investments into the United States. We believe that a balanced economic partnership will unlock new frontiers for discovery, unleash new prosperity for our citizens, and improve the lives of millions and millions of people all around the world.

We're grateful for everything you do to promote opportunity in both Japan and the United States. We look forward to many years of cooperation, innovation, collaboration, and unbelievable trade -- unbelievable trade. It's happening and it's going to happen.

So I want to thank everybody for being here today. Again, you are the rock stars of business. Amazing people. I hope your family recognize how important you are. Oftentimes, they don't. Right? (Laughter.) But you really are. You're the rock stars of business, and it's an honor to be with you. And I think as soon as the media leaves, we'll do some question and answers. Okay?

Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you very much everybody. (Applause.)

END

9:39 A.M. JST

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Working Lunch | Tokyo, Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Working Lunch |
Tokyo, Japan

Akasaka Palace
Tokyo, Japan
12:12 P.M. JST

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) I'd like to express my heartfelt condolences and sympathy for your loss and also for those who lost their lives and those who were hurt in the shooting incident in Texas this morning. I understand that you are facing a very difficult time at this moment, and I'd like to express our heartfelt solidarity with the United States.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you.

RIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) And, once again, I wholeheartedly welcome your visit to Japan, Donald, and also Madam First Lady.

And also prior to your visit to Japan, we had an honor and pleasure of welcoming your daughter, Ms. Ivanka Trump, and there was actually a fever among the Japanese people. (Laughter.)

Yesterday, we did enjoy playing golf together, and also had a great time over dinner with you and the Madam First Lady. So, over lunch, I very much look forward to having an in-depth and candid discussion to cover the issue of North Korea and other challenges that we face.

The Japan-U.S. alliance is the foundation for peace and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region, as well as in the international community. And through your visit to Japan this time, I am ready to further solidify our unwavering bond and relationship under the alliance.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Shinzo, thank you very much. This has been an absolutely great two days. You've become a very close friend, as everybody knows. And to be with you and Madam was just really something very special. To have the privilege of playing golf with you and Matsuyama was great. He's a great champion and a great celebrity, even in our country -- a great celebrity.

But the time that we spent together has been very fruitful. We will be now discussing trade. We'll be discussing North Korea. We'll be discussing military. I appreciate all of the purchases you're making toward military equipment and other things in the United States. And, you know, we make the best, and you will get the best service.

But this has been a very, very special two days. So, on behalf of the United States of America and all of my representatives, I'd like thank you and all of your representatives. And we will continue to have a relationship that's even better than we have ever had with Japan.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

END

12:15 P.M. JST

Remarks by President Trump Before Operational Briefing at Camp Humphreys

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump Before Operational Briefing at Camp Humphreys

Camp Humphreys

Republic of Korea

1:53 P.M. KST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. I just want to thank General Brooks and everybody that is working with us so hard on the situation in South Korea. Terrific people.

I had a choice of having a beautiful, very fancy lunch, and I said, no, I want to eat with the troops. And we ate with the troops. And it was good eating. It was good eating. And I tell you, they've done a terrific job. Very impressive.

And we have a very strong schedule today and, actually, for the next nine days. As you know, we just got back from Japan where we had a very successful two days. Today will be pretty busy and tomorrow also. And then we head to China. And I look forward to that.

There's great cooperation. We have a terrific meeting scheduled on trade in a little while with President Moon and his representatives. And we will -- hopefully, that will start working out, and working out so that we create lots of jobs in the United States, which is one the reasons -- one of the very important reasons I'm here.

In addition to that, we'll be meeting with the various generals -- General Brooks and the various generals -- about the situation in North Korea. And I think we're going to have lots of good

answers for you over a period of time, and ultimately it will all work out. Because it always works out -- has to work out.

So I want to thank you all for being here. We appreciate it. Thank you very much. We're going to see you in a little while. And I think about 4:30, we're going to be separately meeting with you.

But we appreciate it. I hope you had a good flight here. Many of you were on the flight with me, so I know it was pretty good. And I think you're probably just as impressed as I am. This is a very impressive group of people, beyond facilities -- people. These are very impressive people.

So, General, thank you very much. Appreciate it. Thank you.

END

1:55 P.M. KST

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of Korea Before Expanded Bilateral Meeting

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of Korea Before Expanded Bilateral Meeting

Blue House
Seoul, Republic of Korea
4:06 P.M. KST

PRESIDENT MOON: (No translation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much, Mr. President. And it's an honor to be here with my representatives. And we're going to have a very busy full day ahead.

It is interesting that it is one year, as of tomorrow, that we had our election victory. And it was great victory, and a victory that made a lot of people very happy. And our country is doing very well from the standpoint of the economy. It's doing record numbers, record stock market, 17-year low. We have the lowest unemployment that we've had in 17 years. And we've created trillions and trillions of dollars of value for our country. So we're very happy.

We're now working on massive tax cuts for our people, especially our companies which produce jobs in our middle class. And I think that's going along very well. We hope we're going to be victorious and get that big tax cut which the American people want.

I had a great time at Camp Humphreys today visiting with the U.S. and the South Korean troops. They are very impressive. Thank you. And as we very easily remember, because it was so good -- we had lunch together with the troops. And we had the option of having a magnificent restaurant, a beautiful room, and I said, let's have it with the troops. And we were very happy about it. It's a great facility -- Camp Humphreys -- and it really is a very special place. Tremendous cost -- a lot of it spent by your government to make your country safe. And any time you spend wisely for the military, that's always a good thing to do.

And your military is becoming very strong. Our military is now going to be, very soon, at the strongest level. We're committed to spending \$700 billion, and that number may even go up. For our military, we're ordering new jet fighters, new equipment of virtually every kind. We make the finest equipment in the world, and you're buying a lot of it, and we appreciate that. And you'll be buying a lot of our military equipment. There's nobody that comes close, whether it's the planes, the missiles, the ships -- anything you want to talk about -- there's nothing like what we do in that sense. And we appreciate your big purchase orders for military equipment.

The North Korea situation will be a discussion that we will have front and center. And hopefully something is going to be very successfully worked out on that. And trade is something that we always talk; it's one of my favorite subjects. I guess it's one of the reasons that I had that great, successful victory last year, at this time. So we'll be discussing trade also.

We'd like to do much more business with South Korea, where South Korea is going to order a lot more. But the good news is, you will be ordering. I mean, we've already worked on that. And through our representatives, the amount of equipment and things that you'll be ordering from the United States will be very substantially increased and therefore we'll be bringing the trade deficit way down, which is very important to our people. We have trade deficits with numerous countries, and we don't want to have trade deficits. So we appreciate that very much. And what you're getting is the finest equipment anywhere in the world.

So we'll discuss North Korea, we'll discuss trade, we'll discuss other things, and I really was honored by that ceremony today. That was a beautiful, beautiful ceremony at the highest level. No matter where you'd go, you could never see that. That is just as beautiful as it can be, and it represented your country so well. And I just want to thank you for that. That was a real honor.

And it's an honor to be with you, and I look forward to spending the rest of today and a good part of tomorrow on negotiating. We'll negotiate some of those good deals, both ways. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

4:16 P.M. KST

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea Before One-on-One Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea Before One-on-One Bilateral Meeting

Blue House

Seoul, Republic of Korea

3:39 P.M. KST

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) As President of the United States, this is the first state visit to Korea in 25 years. And since the launch of my new administration, this is the first state visit that I'm receiving from overseas. I would like to warmly welcome you and Mrs. Trump both to Korea and to Cheong Wa Dae.

So I hope that I will have an opportunity to repay the warm hospitality that I received from you when I visited Washington, D.C. in June.

And I heard this past Sunday there was some tragic news from Texas. I believe that you would have the even more heavier heart because you were traveling overseas when this happened. On behalf of the Korean government and the Korean people, I would like to convey my heartfelt condolences to you, Mr. President, and the American people.

And also, I would like to congratulate you in advance. Tomorrow is your one-year anniversary of your election victory. And I believe it has not been one year yet, your time in office, but you have already -- you are already making great progress on making America great again, as you have promised on the campaign trail.

And I would like to congratulate you on the progress that you've been making on the economy and also the fact that the stock market has continued to break new records every day. And thanks to

that, the stock market in Korea is also performing very well. It is good to know that both of us are doing very well.

And I would also like to commend you on your efforts in leading the international collaboration and unity when it comes to countering North Korea nuclear issue. I know that you have put this issue at the top of your security agenda.

So I hope that your visit to Korea and to the Asia Pacific region will serve as an opportunity to relieve some of the anxiety that the Korean people have due to North Korea's provocations, and also serve as a turning point in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue.

The Korean people welcome you as one, and we have great expectations.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. President Moon, I want to thank you so much for that beautiful ceremony. It doesn't get more beautiful than that, and I know the work that was put into it. And I watched all of those tens of thousands of people along the route in proudly waving your flag, your great flag, and also waving the American flag, in many cases. I was very happy to see such spirit. You have tremendous spirit in this country, and it's a great country.

I just have to say that it's an honor to be with you and your beautiful wife. And we look forward to having a very successful, really, day of talks. We'll start right now and we'll conclude sometime tomorrow. And then I go off to China, where we look forward to a tremendous success, also. We just left Japan, and there's a great spirit. It's a great part of the world, and it's a very tremendous honor to be here and to be with you.

And again, I very much appreciate the reception. Thank you very much.

END

3:45 P.M. KST

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea in Joint Press Conference | Seoul, Republic of Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea in Joint Press Conference | Seoul, Republic of Korea

Blue House

Seoul, Republic of Korea

5:20 P.M. EDT

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) I extend my heartfelt welcome to the visit by Your Excellency, President Donald Trump, and Madam First Lady to the Republic of Korea. His visit marks the first state visit by the U.S. President to Korea in 25 years. And President Trump is also the first state guest for myself and my government. This special bond forged between President Trump and myself, I find it very meaningful and I am gratified to be part of it.

President Trump and I met and communicated with each other numerous times, building deep trust and consolidating our friendship. Today we had candid discussions about steadfastness of ROK-U.S. alliance. Moreover, we agreed to work towards resolving North Korean nuclear issue in a peaceful manner and bringing permanent peace to the Korean Peninsula.

Against escalating nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, we reaffirmed our principle that we must maintain a strong stance toward North Korean threats based on overwhelming superiority of power. President Trump has reaffirmed his ironclad commitment to defend Korea, and President Trump and I agreed to further strengthen the robust combined defense posture of our two countries. In this regard, President Trump and I agreed to expend rotational deployment of U.S. strategic assets in and around Korean Peninsula.

We will step up our collaboration to enhance Korea's self-defense capability to unprecedented levels. To this end, we reached a conclusion today to lift the payload limit on Korean missiles completely, with a final agreement. We also agreed to begin consultation for Korea's acquisitions and development of Korea's state-of-art military reconnaissance assets.

Once again, we strongly urge North Korea to halt its nuclear and missile provocation, and to come to a dialogue table for denuclearization as soon as possible. President Trump and I reaffirmed our current strategy, which is to maximize pressure and sanctions on North Korea until it gives up nuclear weapons and to come to the table for dialogue on its own.

At the same time, should North Korea choose to make the right choice, we also reaffirmed our view that we are willing to offer North Korea a bright future. Based on such common approach between our two countries, we will continue to lead efforts to bring peaceful and fundamental solutions to North Korean nuclear issues.

We will maintain close collaboration with the international community, including the neighboring countries. I sincerely hope that President Trump's visit at this time will be a turning point for the situation on the Korean Peninsula in a stable manner.

Today, President Trump and I visited Pyeongtaek base, which is a symbolic venue for showing the future of ROK-U.S. alliance and also Korea's contribution to the alliance.

As we gave our words of encouragement to Korean and American servicemembers while striving to realize our common goal, we could feel the strong friendship of Korea and U.S. alliance on the site. President Trump and I also agreed to continue strengthening of the combined defense postures and capabilities of the bilateral alliance by pursuing defense cost-sharing at an adequate and reasonable level.

Last, but not least, we reaffirmed that economic cooperation is an important pillar of ROK-U.S. alliance. We share the view that economic cooperation is a critical element in our efforts to pursue sustainable and future-orientated ROK-U.S. alliance.

In order to enjoy the benefit of free, equitable, and balanced trade together, we agreed to have the relevant authorities expedite the process of KORUS FTA consultation. By sharing the universal value and the fruits of economic prosperity with the humankind, President Trump and I agreed to make a joint contribution to the peace and prosperity of the world.

We also agreed to continue strengthening cooperation for global challenges, including issues of terrorism, women, human rights, and public health.

President Trump requested that I need to talk with him continuously, and we agreed that we will continuously have frequent and close communications. And by doing that, we'll further strengthen the trust and ties between us, and also solidify the bilateral alliance.

Once again, I extend a warm welcome to President and Madam First Lady's visit to Korea. Please enjoy the beautiful autumn weather and find deepening of friendship in our two countries, as well as our two leaders. Thank you. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, President Moon. Thank you for honoring us with the invitation to be here today and for the incredibly warm welcome and magnificent ceremony you have given us during our first trip to the very beautiful city of Seoul. Thank you very much.

Melania and I had a wonderful time having tea with you and First Lady Kim -- thank you -- at the beautiful Blue House, which I've heard so much about, and I'll get to visit and see firsthand. We're looking forward to joining you for dinner this evening, and we have much to discuss.

Today, the President and I had an opportunity to talk about a range of vital economic and security matters, including our trade relationship and our joint efforts to solve North Korea's grave nuclear threat to South Korea and, indeed, the entire world. This is a worldwide problem.

The Republic of Korea is more than a longstanding ally of the United States. We are partners and friends who have fought side-by-side in a war, and, really, worked very hard and prospered toward a great and lasting peace.

I feel confident that we'll be able to reach a free, fair, and reciprocal trade deal as we renegotiate our current five-year-old trade document. We cannot allow North Korea to threaten all that we have built -- and we have built it very much together, and we're very, very proud of it, also, together -- but all that we've built in the decade since our soldiers sacrificed side-by-side in the struggle for freedom. Our alliance is more important than ever to peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and across the Indo-Pacific region.

That is why Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Tillerson, who is with us today, and Secretary of Defense Mattis, who was here just a short time ago, have all traveled to Seoul in the first year of my administration. It was very important to me that they did.

North Korea's sixth test of a nuclear device and its missile launches are a threat not only to the people of South Korea but to the people all across our globe. We will together confront North Korea's actions and prevent the North Korean dictator from threatening millions of innocent lives. He is indeed threatening millions and millions of lives so needlessly.

North Korea is a worldwide threat that requires worldwide action. We call on every responsible nation, including China and Russia, to demand that the North Korean regime end its nuclear weapons and its missile programs, and live in peace. As the South Korean people know so well, it's time to act with urgency and with great determination.

All nations must implement U.N. Security Council regulations and cease trade and business entirely with North Korea. It is unacceptable that nations would help to arm and finance this increasingly dangerous regime.

As we work together to resolve this problem using all available tools short of military action, the United States stands prepared to defend itself and its allies using the full range of our unmatched military capabilities if need be.

The crucial U.S. security partnership with South Korea is just one aspect of our enduring alliance. We also share deep partnerships on a range of issues, from cultural exchange to cutting-edge advances in science and medicine, and the very important issue of trade.

Currently, we are looking at ways of improving our economic relationship. I would like to thank President Moon for instructing his trade negotiators to work closely with us to quickly pursue a much better deal -- a deal that, frankly, has been quite unsuccessful and not very good for the United States.

In the more than six decades since we signed our mutual defense treaty, our alliance has grown stronger and deeper. Our two nations symbolize what independent countries can accomplish when they serve the interests of their people, respect the sovereignty of their neighbors, and uphold the rule of law.

Imagine the amazing possibilities for a Korean Peninsula liberated from the threat of nuclear weapons, where all Koreans could enjoy the blessings of liberty and the prosperity that you have achieved right here in South Korea.

I also want to congratulate President Moon and the South Korean people on hosting the Winter Olympics this upcoming February. It will be a truly spectacular event.

Mr. President, I want to thank you and First Lady Kim. And, I mean, it was just so special today. The ceremony was so beautiful. We very much thank you for it.

Together, our two nations will handle threats to peace and security, stand up to those who would threaten our freedom, and boldly seize the incredible opportunities for a better, brighter, and more prosperous tomorrow.

In good times and bad, in moments of great hardship and great success, our two nations can always count on the close bonds and deep friendship we share as free, proud, and independent people.

Mr. President, I look forward to the rest of our visit together, and I send the wonderful citizens of South Korea the best wishes from the people of the United States of America. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

MODERATOR: Thank you very much. We have just heard from President Trump, and now would like to invite the questions from the members of the media corps.

So we would like to now ask the White House correspondents from the U.S. side to ask questions, and President Trump will respond. And then from the Blue House, there will be Q and A.

MS. SANDERS: The first question from the United States will go to Margaret Brennan from CBS.

Q Thank you, sir. Mr. President --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Which one? (Laughter.)

Q President Trump -- I will have questions from both of you gentlemen. But, President Trump, you spoke here in South Korea saying that you do believe that the crisis with North Korea will be worked out. So, specifically, have you seen any success in your diplomatic strategy so far? And do you still believe that direct talks are a waste of time?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I think you know me well enough to know that I don't like talking about whether I see success or not in a case such as this. We like to play our cards a little bit close to the vest.

I will say this -- that I believe it makes sense for North Korea to do the right thing, not only for North Korea, but for humanity all over the world. So there is a lot of reason, a lot of good reason behind it.

With that, yes, I think we're making a lot of progress. I think we're showing great strength. I think they understand we have unparalleled strength. There has never been strength like it.

You know we sent three of the largest aircraft carriers in the world, and they're right now positioned. We have a nuclear submarine also positioned. We have many things happening that we hope, we hope -- in fact, I'll go a step further, we hope to God we never have to use.

With that being said, I really believe that it makes sense for North Korea to come to the table and to make a deal that's good for the people of North Korea and the people of the world. I do see certain movement, yes. But let's see what happens.

Q And on direct talks, sir?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I don't want to say that.

Q Okay.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I just don't want to say that. You can understand that.

Q I do, sir.

Q And, President Moon, you, in your meeting earlier with President Trump, were spoken about by President Trump when he gestured to the military purchases that your country will be making. And I'm wondering, as you look towards that military build-up, if that signals something -- perhaps a change in your view -- where you believe a more aggressive stance towards North Korea is more appropriate.

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) If I could have the question repeated again. Are you referring to the acquisition of the military assets, or are you referring to the military tensions that could be incurred?

Q President Trump said you would be making military purchases of military equipment. What does that signal (inaudible)?

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) I'm not entirely sure which direction your question was, but I can say one thing: When it comes to the state of our reconnaissance assets and the strategy assets -- on acquisition of this U.S. strategy assets, we have agreed to begin the consultations for Korea's acquisition of such assets. And that is to enhance Korea's defense capabilities and also the combined defense posture of Korea and the United States. I think it is essential.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Margaret, if I may add to that, that the President and I have agreed they'll be buying a tremendous -- which they want, and which they need, and everybody thinks it makes a lot of sense.

We make the greatest military equipment in the world, whether it's planes, whether it's missiles. No matter what it is, we have the greatest military equipment in the world. And South Korea will be ordering billions of dollars of that equipment, which, frankly, for them makes a lot of sense. And for us, it means jobs; it means reducing our trade deficit with South Korea.

But they'll be ordering billions of dollars' worth of equipment, and we've already approved some of those orders. Okay? Thank you.

Q I have a question for President Moon: Between Korea and the United States, I think one of the most important diplomacy challenges will be to work on -- resolve the nuclear problem of the DPRK. And you gave a foreign press interview -- you talked about bringing balance and diplomacy, and you talked about resolving nuclear problem and the close cooperation between Korea and the United States, and you talked about China's role.

Are you referring to the balance between the U.S. -- balance of Korea between U.S. and China, or are you referring to something else? And you have had a third summit meeting at the summit meeting you just had. You said that you have agreed to bring permanent peace to (inaudible) on the Korean Peninsula. And what kind of role are you expecting the United States and President Trump to play with regards to settling peace on the Korean Peninsula?

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) So on bringing balance in our diplomatic approaches, this is not about our stance vis-à-vis the United States and China. We are trying to bring a solution to the DPRK nuclear problem and to bring permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

And, moreover, we would like to promote peace, stability and prosperity of the Northeast Asian region. So we would like to expand our diplomatic efforts in this regard. And that should include our efforts for China as well as (inaudible) and Russia and the EU.

I believe that we should diversify efforts -- diplomatic efforts -- so that we can pursue a more balanced approach. So that was the intention of making such comment.

And to establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and to resolve the nuclear problem, I think there's role to be played by the United States and China. And when it comes to the United States, a very strong sanctions and pressure is being put by the United States. The U.S. is leading efforts, and I am very sure that substantive results will be realized through such efforts.

And China has also faithfully implemented the U.N. resolution to impose sanctions on DPRK. So we have heightened the pressure and sanctions on DPRK, and I think this will also contribute to resolving the nuclear problem.

And if our international society's efforts bear fruits and if we can really make a turnaround, then I'm sure that we will be able to bring North Korea to the table of dialogue. And through such dialogue, I am very confident that we can freeze a nuclear program and ultimately dismantle the weapons of the DPRK entirely. And in this, I believe that cooperation from the U.S. and China is essential.

And on establishing a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, I don't think it's the right timing that we talk about this issue. Now we should focus on bringing an end to the DPRK provocations, and bringing DPRK to the table for dialogue. This is a pending challenge we must address now. So we must focus on sanctions and pressure. And there is a time -- the time finally comes that we should certainly make efforts to further consult each other -- Korea and the U.S. -- for settling peace on the Korean Peninsula.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I want to just say that President Xi -- where we will be tomorrow, China -- has been very helpful. We'll find out how helpful soon. But he really has been very, very helpful. So China is out trying very hard to solve the problem with North Korea. We hope that Russia, likewise, will be helpful. We also hope that other countries -- and we know for a fact that other countries have already started. And we've had great dialogue with many other countries, as you know, and they're really helping a lot.

So if we get China, if we get Russia -- and we have some other countries, but we want to get most of them -- we think that things will happen, and they could happen very quickly.

This is a problem, by the way, that should have been done over the last 25 years, not now. This is not the right time to be doing it, but that's what I got. That's what I got. This is a problem that should have been taken care of a long time ago.

Thank you.

MS. SANDERS: Thank you. The United States' second and final question will go to Ali Vitali from NBC.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. You've talked about wanting to put extreme vetting on people trying to come into the United States, but I wonder if you would consider extreme vetting for people trying to buy a gun.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Trying to what?

Q Buy a gun.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, you're bringing up a situation that probably shouldn't be discussed too much right now. We could let a little time go by, but it's okay. If you feel that that's an appropriate question, even though we're in the heart of South Korea, I will certainly answer your question.

If you did what you're suggesting, there would have been no difference three days ago, and you might not have had that very brave person who happened to have a gun or a rifle in his truck go out and shoot him, and hit him and neutralize him. And I can only say this: If he didn't have a gone, instead of having 26 dead, you would have had hundreds more dead. So that's the way I feel about it. Not going to help.

Q And are you considering any kind of gun control policy going forward because --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I mean, you look at the city with the strongest gun laws in our nation, is Chicago, and Chicago is a disaster. It's a total disaster. Just remember, if this man didn't have a gun or rifle, you'd be talking about a much worse situation in the great state of Texas. Thank you.

Q (As interpreted.) For President Trump: Today you visited Pyeongtaek military base as you first stop, and we have allocated 9 trillion won for the building of the military base. And there's been bits of conflict, confrontations with the residents of Pyeongtaek over the construction of the Pyeongtaek base. So, to Koreans, a lot of taxpayers' money has been put into build the Pyeongtaek base and a lot of sacrifices have been made to build that base. So you visited the Pyeongtaek base today and many people talked about freeriding of Korea against security of the United States. So what are your feelings about such talks as you visited the Pyeongtaek base?

And another question I have is that people have concerns about Korea passing, although a lot of that has gone away. People are still concerned that Korea may be neglected in diplomacy. So what are your views on the Korea passing? Can you just say for sure, for certain, that Korea passing no longer exists for the Korean people?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I'll start off with your second. South Korea -- Republic of Korea, Korea -- is very important to me. And there will be no skipping South Korea, I can tell you that right now. Plus, I've developed great friendships, not only with the President but with others, and we're not going to let them down and they're not going to let us down. Because we're doing a lot for them, to be honest. We're doing a lot for them.

As far as the base is concerned, I thought that Humphreys was an incredible military installation. I know what it costs, and it's a lot of money. We actually spent some of that money, and, as you know, that money was spent, for the most part, to protect South Korea, not to protect the United States. But some of that money was spent by us.

That being said, that was long before my time, and I'm sure I could have built it for a lot less. (Laughter.) That's what I do. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) If you don't mind, I'd like to make some supplementary remarks.

Today, President Trump visited Pyeongtaek military base, and his visit shows -- through his visit, we were able to show that Korea is making significant contribution -- huge contributions to

the KORUS alliance. I hope that that has been felt by President Trump. And at the expanded summit talks, he has expressed his appreciation for the construction of the splendid base. And at the Pyeongtaek base, with the 8th Army Commander, as well as the USFK Commander, we had a briefing by the commanders and there was a strong emphasis on their part as well.

END

5:48 P.M. KST

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea at State Dinner | Seoul, Republic of Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Moon of the Republic of Korea at State Dinner |
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Blue House

Seoul, Republic of Korea

8:19 P.M. KST

PRESIDENT MOON: (As interpreted.) Tomorrow marks the one-year anniversary of President Trump's election victory. In Korea, we have a custom of holding a special celebration on one's first birthday. So after pondering about how to best celebrate the first anniversary of President Trump's victory, I decided to invite the President to Korea as a state guest and hold a banquet. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, another big round of applause to congratulate President Trump. (Applause.)

I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to President and Mrs. Trump, both of whom I highly respect, on their first visit to Korea. This is the first state visit by an American President in 25 years and the first state visit for me and my administration. I am very pleased to get this opportunity to repay so quickly the hospitality I received in Washington, D.C. last June.

Over the months, I have maintained close contact with President Trump. But now, after spending a day with the President and the First Lady within Cheong Wa Dae, I feel a sense of intimacy, as if we were old friends.

Distinguished guests, last September, in his keynote speech to the U.N. General Assembly, President Trump recollected President Truman's great initiatives for rebuilding the free world in the aftermath of World War II. Thanks to President Truman's resolute decision, the U.S.-led U.N. forces participated in the war that broke out on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK-U.S. alliance was born out of the same red blood of patriots spilt by Korean and American soldiers on the battlefield.

t June, I paid my respects at the Chosin Reservoir Battle memorial in Quantico. I convey my gratitude to the Korean War veterans for their honorable sacrifices, and reflect upon the noble values of the ROK-U.S. alliance that has defended freedom and peace.

Even at this very moment, the peace of my country, which was won with blood, is being threatened once again. But the ROK-U.S. alliance gives us the strength to stop this threat.

Camp Humphreys, where President Trump visited today, is the largest and most advanced U.S. military installation outside of the United States, and it is a symbol of the enduring strength of the ROK-U.S. alliance.

Ladies and gentlemen, war must not break out again on the Korean Peninsula. And in this respect, the United States has provided enormous support. The close coordination between Korea and the United States, and the overwhelming superiority of power that stems from the ROK-U.S.

alliance, will eventually make North Korea cease its reckless provocations and make North Korea come out to dialogue for denuclearization.

The ROK-U.S. alliance of tomorrow will grow into a trustworthy pillar that guarantees the lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula and also builds peace and prosperity in all of Northeast Asia.

Ladies and gentlemen, President Trump's election victory one year ago is already making America great again. Korea faces the task of making this world a better place through cooperation with a great America.

Korea has worked with the United States for peace and reconstruction in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are also working hand-in-hand with the United States to realize the common values of humanity, such as human rights and the eradication of poverty. I believe that making such joint efforts will make the ROK-U.S. alliance an even greater alliance as President Trump and I have agreed to do last June, and, at the same time, make America even greater.

Thank you. (Applause.)

Now I would like to propose a toast. Please fill your glasses, and may I ask you to raise your glasses.

If you are ready: I give you my word that I will always stand by you on our journey to make the ROK-U.S. alliance an even greater alliance. I congratulate President Trump on the one-year anniversary of his election victory. And I would like to propose a toast to the good health of President and Mrs. Trump.

(A toast is offered.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. And this is an exciting time, and we're going to have an exciting day tomorrow, for many reasons that people will find out, in addition to the fact I look forward to making a -- hopefully -- very comprehensive speech before you and the leaders of Korea. And that will be really something that I'm representing the American people. The relationship that we have is a fantastic one.

And I have to say, President Moon and First Lady Kim, thank you very much. I greatly appreciate your hosting Melania and myself on our first trip to the very beautiful Republic of Korea.

We were honored to welcome you to the White House this past summer, and now it's a tremendous honor to visit your magnificent home -- and magnificent it is, to see this beautiful land, and to meet the remarkable people of South Korea.

The partnership between our two nations and our two people is deep and enduring. We have been proud to stand by your side for many decades as an unwavering friend and a loyal ally. And you have never had a time where this ally has been more loyal or stood by your side more than right now.

Here in South Korea, the people built a free, sovereign, and democratic republic. Through their resilience and sacrifice and determination, they became the chief architects of the future. Today, the course of this great nation is charted solely by the free people of South Korea.

Mr. President, your remarkable success truly demonstrates what is possible when people are free to follow their dreams, pursue their passions, and hope for a better future for their children.

Tonight, we celebrate South Korea's success and affirm our close and abiding bonds of friendship.

Together, our nations remind the world of the boundless potential of societies that choose freedom over tyranny, and who set the free. And we will free, and we will sacrifice, and we will hope, and we will make things beautiful, especially the aspiration of your people.

As true partners, we have remained faithful friends through periods of challenge and opportunity. And that's what we have now, is great opportunity. We will continue to support each other in the years ahead.

In that spirit, I would like to offer a toast to President Moon and First Lady Kim, and to the people of South Korea: May freedom and peace flourish on this peninsula. In our time, and for generations to come, this will be a special evening and a special time. May our bonds of friendship

continue to deepen, and may the cherished hopes of our people and the people across the region soon be realized.

Mr. President, may your dreams come true. It's an honor to be with you. Thank you very much.

(A toast is offered.)

END

8:35 P.M. KST

Remarks by President Trump to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea | Seoul, Republic of Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 07, 2017

Remarks by President Trump to the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea | Seoul, Republic of Korea

National Assembly Building

Seoul, Republic of Korea

11:24 A.M. KST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Assembly Speaker Chung, distinguished members of this Assembly, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the extraordinary privilege to speak in this great chamber and to address your people on behalf of the people of the United States of America.

In our short time in your country, Melania and I have been awed by its ancient and modern wonders, and we are deeply moved by the warmth of your welcome.

Last night, President and Mrs. Moon showed us incredible hospitality in a beautiful reception at the Blue House. We had productive discussions on increasing military cooperation and improving the trade relationship between our nations on the principle of fairness and reciprocity.

Through this entire visit, it has been both our pleasure and our honor to create and celebrate a long friendship between the United States and the Republic of Korea.

This alliance between our nations was forged in the crucible of war, and strengthened by the trials of history. From the Inchon landings to Pork Chop Hill, American and South Korean soldiers have fought together, sacrificed together, and triumphed together.

Almost 67 years ago, in the spring of 1951, they recaptured what remained of this city where we are gathered so proudly today. It was the second time in a year that our combined forces took on steep casualties to retake this capital from the communists.

Over the next weeks and months, the men soldiered through steep mountains and bloody, bloody battles. Driven back at times, they willed their way north to form the line that today divides the oppressed and the free. And there, American and South Korean troops have remained together holding that line for nearly seven decades. (Applause.)

By the time the armistice was signed in 1953, more than 36,000 Americans had died in the Korean War, with more than 100,000 others very badly wounded. They are heroes, and we honor them. We also honor and remember the terrible price the people of your country paid for their freedom. You lost hundreds of thousands of brave soldiers and countless innocent civilians in that gruesome war.

Much of this great city of Seoul was reduced to rubble. Large portions of the country were scarred -- severely, severely hurt -- by this horrible war. The economy of this nation was demolished.

But as the entire world knows, over the next two generations something miraculous happened on the southern half of this peninsula. Family by family, city by city, the people of South Korea

built this country into what is today one of the great nations of the world. And I congratulate you. (Applause.) In less than one lifetime, South Korea climbed from total devastation to among the wealthiest nations on Earth.

Today, your economy is more than 350 times larger than what it was in 1960. Trade has increased 1,900 times. Life expectancy has risen from just 53 years to more than 82 years today.

Like Korea, and since my election exactly one year ago today, I celebrate with you. (Applause.) The United States is going through something of a miracle itself. Our stock market is at an all-time high. Unemployment is at a 17-year low. We are defeating ISIS. We are strengthening our judiciary, including a brilliant Supreme Court justice, and on, and on, and on.

Currently stationed in the vicinity of this peninsula are the three largest aircraft carriers in the world loaded to the maximum with magnificent F-35 and F-18 fighter jets. In addition, we have nuclear submarines appropriately positioned. The United States, under my administration, is completely rebuilding its military and is spending hundreds of billions of dollars to the newest and finest military equipment anywhere in the world being built, right now. I want peace through strength. (Applause.)

We are helping the Republic of Korea far beyond what any other country has ever done. And, in the end, we will work things out far better than anybody understands or can even appreciate. I know that the Republic of Korea, which has become a tremendously successful nation, will be a faithful ally of the United States very long into the future. (Applause.)

What you have built is truly an inspiration. Your economic transformation was linked to a political one. The proud, sovereign, and independent people of your nation demanded the right to govern themselves. You secured free parliamentary elections in 1988, the same year you hosted your first Olympics.

after, you elected your first civilian president in more than three decades. And when the Republic you won faced financial crisis, you lined up by the millions to give your most prized possessions -- your wedding rings, heirlooms, and gold "luck keys" -- to restore the promise of a better future for your children. (Applause.)

Your wealth is measured in more than money -- it is measured in achievements of the mind and achievements of spirit. Over the last several decades, your scientists of engineers -- have engineered so many magnificent things. You've pushed the boundaries of technology, pioneered miraculous medical treatments, and emerged as leaders in unlocking the mysteries of our universe.

Korean authors penned roughly 40,000 books this year. Korean musicians fill concert halls all around the world. Young Korean students graduate from college at the highest rates of any country. And Korean golfers are some of the best on Earth. (Applause.)

fact -- and you know what I'm going to say -- the Women's U.S. Open was held this year at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, New Jersey, and it just happened to be won by a great Korean golfer, Sung-hyun Park. An eighth of the top 10 players were from Korea. And the top four golfers -- one, two, three, four -- the top four were from Korea. Congratulations. (Applause.) Congratulations. And that's something. That is really something.

Here in Seoul, architectural wonders like the Sixty-Three Building and the Lotte World Tower -- very beautiful -- grace the sky and house the workers of many growing industries.

citizens now help to feed the hungry, fight terrorism, and solve problems all over the world. And in a few months, you will host the world and you will do a magnificent job at the 23rd Olympic Winter Games. Good luck. (Applause.)

The Korean miracle extends exactly as far as the armies of free nations advanced in 1953 -- 24 miles to the north. There, it stops; it all comes to an end. Dead stop. The flourishing ends, and the prison state of North Korea sadly begins.

Workers in North Korea labor grueling hours in unbearable conditions for almost no pay. Recently, the entire working population was ordered to work for 70 days straight, or else pay for a day of rest.

Families live in homes without plumbing, and fewer than half have electricity. Parents bribe teachers in hopes of saving their sons and daughters from forced labor. More than a million North Koreans died of famine in the 1990s, and more continue to die of hunger today.

Among children under the age of five, nearly 30 percent of afflicted -- and are afflicted by stunted growth due to malnutrition. And yet, in 2012 and 2013, the regime spent an estimated \$200 million -- or almost half the money that it allocated to improve living standards for its people -- to instead build even more monuments, towers, and statues to glorify its dictators.

What remains of the meager harvest of the North Korean economy is distributed according to perceived loyalty to a twisted regime. Far from valuing its people as equal citizens, this cruel dictatorship measures them, scores them, and ranks them based on the most arbitrary indications of their allegiance to the state. Those who score the highest in loyalty may live in the capital city. Those who score the lowest starve. A small infraction by one citizen, such as accidentally staining a picture of the tyrant printed in a discarded newspaper, can wreck the social credit rank of his entire family for many decades.

An estimated 100,000 North Koreans suffer in gulags, toiling in forced labor, and enduring torture, starvation, rape, and murder on a constant basis.

In one known instance, a 9-year-old boy was imprisoned for 10 years because his grandfather was accused of treason. In another, a student was beaten in school for forgetting a single detail about the life of Kim Jong-un.

Soldiers have kidnapped foreigners and forced them to work as language tutors for North Korean spies.

In the part of Korea that was a stronghold for Christianity before the war, Christians and other people of faith who are found praying or holding a religious book of any kind are now detained, tortured, and in many cases, even executed.

North Korean women are forced to abort babies that are considered ethnically inferior. And if these babies are born, the newborns are murdered.

One woman's baby born to a Chinese father was taken away in a bucket. The guards said it did not "deserve to live because it was impure."

So why would China feel an obligation to help North Korea?

The horror of life in North Korea is so complete that citizens pay bribes to government officials to have themselves exported abroad as slaves. They would rather be slaves than live in North Korea.

To attempt to flee is a crime punishable by death. One person who escaped remarked, "When I think about it now, I was not a human being. I was more like an animal. Only after leaving North Korea did I realize what life was supposed to be."

And so, on this peninsula, we have watched the results of a tragic experiment in a laboratory of history. It is a tale of one people, but two Koreas. One Korea in which the people took control of their lives and their country, and chose a future of freedom and justice, of civilization, and incredible achievement. And another Korea in which leaders imprison their people under the banner of tyranny, fascism, and oppression. The result of this experiment are in, and they are totally conclusive.

When the Korean War began in 1950, the two Koreas were approximately equal in GDP per capita. But by the 1990s, South Korea's wealth had surpassed North Korea's by more than 10 times. And today, the South's economy is over 40 times larger. You started the same a short while ago, and now you're 40 times larger. You're doing something right.

Considering the misery wrought by the North Korean dictatorship, it is no surprise that it has been forced to take increasingly desperate measures to prevent its people from understanding this brutal contrast.

Because the regime fears the truth above all else, it forbids virtually all contact with the outside world. Not just my speech today, but even the most commonplace facts of South Korean life

are forbidden knowledge to the North Korean people. Western and South Korean music is banned. Possession of foreign media is a crime punishable by death. Citizens spy on fellow citizens, their homes are subject to search at any time, and their every action is subject to surveillance. In place of a vibrant society, the people of North Korea are bombarded by state propaganda practically every waking hour of the day.

North Korea is a country ruled as a cult. At the center of this military cult is a deranged belief in the leader's destiny to rule as parent protector over a conquered Korean Peninsula and an enslaved Korean people.

The more successful South Korea becomes, the more decisively you discredit the dark fantasy at the heart of the Kim regime.

In this way, the very existence of a thriving South Korean republic threatens the very survival of the North Korean dictatorship.

This city and this assembly are living proof that a free and independent Korea not only can, but does stand strong, sovereign, and proud among the nations of the world. (Applause.)

Here, the strength of the nation does not come from the false glory of a tyrant. It comes from the true and powerful glory of a strong and great people -- the people of the Republic of Korea -- a Korean people who are free to live, to flourish, to worship, to love, to build, and to grow their own destiny.

In this Republic, the people have done what no dictator ever could -- you took, with the help of the United States, responsibility for yourselves and ownership of your future. You had a dream -- a Korean dream -- and you built that dream into a great reality.

In so doing, you performed the miracle on the Hahn that we see all around us, from the stunning skyline of Seoul to the plains and peaks of this beautiful landscape. You have done it freely, you have done it happily, and you have done it in your own very beautiful way.

This reality -- this wonderful place -- your success is the greatest cause of anxiety, alarm, and even panic to the North Korean regime. That is why the Kim regime seeks conflict abroad -- to distract from total failure that they suffer at home.

Since the so-called armistice, there have been hundreds of North Korean attacks on Americans and South Koreans. These attacks have included the capture and torture of the brave American soldiers of the USS Pueblo, repeated assaults on American helicopters, and the 1969 drowning [downing] of a U.S. surveillance plane that killed 31 American servicemen. The regime has made numerous lethal incursions in South Korea, attempted to assassinate senior leaders, attacked South Korean ships, and tortured Otto Warmbier, ultimately leading to that fine young man's death.

All the while, the regime has pursued nuclear weapons with the deluded hope that it could blackmail its way to the ultimate objective. And that objective we are not going to let it have. We are not going to let it have. All of Korea is under that spell, divided in half. South Korea will never allow what's going on in North Korea to continue to happen.

The North Korean regime has pursued its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in defiance of every assurance, agreement, and commitment it has made to the United States and its allies. It's broken all of those commitments. After promising to freeze its plutonium program in 1994, it repeated [reaped] the benefits of the deal and then -- and then immediately continued its illicit nuclear activities.

In 2005, after years of diplomacy, the dictatorship agreed to ultimately abandon its nuclear programs and return to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation. But it never did. And worse, it tested the very weapons it said it was going to give up. In 2009, the United States gave negotiations yet another chance, and offered North Korea the open hand of engagement. The regime responded by sinking a South Korean Navy ship, killing 46 Korean sailors. To this day, it continues to launch missiles over the sovereign territory of Japan and all other neighbors, test nuclear devices, and develop ICBMs to threaten the United States itself. The regime has interpreted America's past

restraint as weakness. This would be a fatal miscalculation. This is a very different administration than the United States has had in the past.

Today, I hope I speak not only for our countries, but for all civilized nations, when I say to the North: Do not underestimate us, and do not try us. We will defend our common security, our shared prosperity, and our sacred liberty.

We did not choose to draw here, on this peninsula -- (applause) -- this magnificent peninsula -- the thin line of civilization that runs around the world and down through time. But here it was drawn, and here it remains to this day. It is the line between peace and war, between decency and depravity, between law and tyranny, between hope and total despair. It is a line that has been drawn many times, in many places, throughout history. To hold that line is a choice free nations have always had to make. We have learned together the high cost of weakness and the high stakes of its defense.

America's men and women in uniform have given their lives in the fight against Nazism, imperialism, Communism and terrorism.

America does not seek conflict or confrontation, but we will never run from it. History is filled with discarded regimes that have foolishly tested America's resolve.

Anyone who doubts the strength or determination of the United States should look to our past, and you will doubt it no longer. We will not permit America or our allies to be blackmailed or attacked. We will not allow American cities to be threatened with destruction. We will not be intimidated. And we will not let the worst atrocities in history be repeated here, on this ground, we fought and died so hard to secure. (Applause.)

That is why I have come here, to the heart of a free and flourishing Korea, with a message for the peace-loving nations of the world: The time for excuses is over. Now is the time for strength. If you want peace, you must stand strong at all times. (Applause.) The world cannot tolerate the menace of a rogue regime that threatens with nuclear devastation.

All responsible nations must join forces to isolate the brutal regime of North Korea -- to deny it and any form -- any form of it. You cannot support, you cannot supply, you cannot accept. We call on every nation, including China and Russia, to fully implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, downgrade diplomatic relations with the regime, and sever all ties of trade and technology.

It is our responsibility and our duty to confront this danger together -- because the longer we wait, the greater the danger grows, and the fewer the options become. (Applause.) And to those nations that choose to ignore this threat, or, worse still, to enable it, the weight of this crisis is on your conscience.

I also have come here to this peninsula to deliver a message directly to the leader of the North Korean dictatorship: The weapons you are acquiring are not making you safer. They are putting your regime in grave danger. Every step you take down this dark path increases the peril you face.

North Korea is not the paradise your grandfather envisioned. It is a hell that no person deserves. Yet, despite every crime you have committed against God and man, you are ready to offer, and we will do that -- we will offer a path to a much better future. It begins with an end to the aggression of your regime, a stop to your development of ballistic missiles, and complete, verifiable, and total denuclearization. (Applause.)

A sky-top view of this peninsula shows a nation of dazzling light in the South and a mass of impenetrable darkness in the North. We seek a future of light, prosperity, and peace. But we are only prepared to discuss this brighter path for North Korea if its leaders cease their threats and dismantle their nuclear program.

The sinister regime of North Korea is right about only one thing: The Korean people do have a glorious destiny, but they could not be more wrong about what that destiny looks like. The destiny of the Korean people is not to suffer in the bondage of oppression, but to thrive in the glory of freedom. (Applause.)

What South Koreans have achieved on this peninsula is more than a victory for your nation. It is a victory for every nation that believes in the human spirit. And it is our hope that, someday soon, all of your brothers and sisters of the North will be able to enjoy the fullest of life intended by God.

Your republic shows us all of what is possible. In just a few decades, with only the hard work, courage, and talents of your people, you turned this war-torn land into a nation blessed with wealth, rich in culture, and deep in spirit. You built a home where all families can flourish and where all children can shine and be happy.

This Korea stands strong and tall among the great community of independent, confident, and peace-loving nations. We are nations that respect our citizens, cherish our liberty, treasure our sovereignty, and control our own destiny. We affirm the dignity of every person and embrace the full potential of every soul. And we are always prepared to defend the vital interests of our people against the cruel ambition of tyrants.

Together, we dream of a Korea that is free, a peninsula that is safe, and families that are reunited once again. We dream of highways connecting North and South, of cousins embracing cousins, and this nuclear nightmare replaced with the beautiful promise of peace.

Until that day comes, we stand strong and alert. Our eyes are fixed to the North, and our hearts praying for the day when all Koreans can live in freedom. (Applause.)

Thank you. (Applause.) God Bless You. God Bless the Korean people. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

11:59 A.M. KST

Remarks by President Trump at Business Event with President Xi of China | Beijing, China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 09, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at Business Event with President Xi of China | Beijing, China

Great Hall of the People

Beijing, China

11:21 A.M. CST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you. And thank you, Minister Zhong Shan, for that introduction. And especially thank you to President Xi and Madam Peng for serving as such warm and gracious hosts to Melania and me during our time here in your very, very beautiful country.

To both the American delegation and to the Chinese business representatives here, your discussions greatly strengthen our partnership and provides a critical bridge between our business community and yours. And thank you for that.

During my time in Beijing, President Xi and I have had several conversations about our common goals and interests. Beyond that, we talk often. There's a very good chemistry between the two of, believe me.

My administration is committed to improving our trade and business relationships with China. And this relationship is something which we are working very hard to make a fair and reciprocal one. Trade between China and the United States has not been, over the last many, many years, a very fair one for us.

As we all know, America has a huge annual trade deficit with China -- a number beyond anything what anybody would understand. This number is, shockingly, hundreds of billions of dollars each year. Estimates are as high as \$500 billion a year. We must immediately address the

unfair trade practices that drive this deficit, along with barriers to market success. We really have to look at access, forced technology transfer, and the theft of intellectual property, which just, by and of itself, is costing the United States and its companies at least \$300 billion a year.

Both the United States and China will have a more prosperous future if we can achieve a level economic playing field. Right now, unfortunately, it is a very one-sided and unfair one. But -- but I don't blame China. (Applause.) After all, who can blame a country for being able to take advantage of another country for the benefit of its citizens? I give China great credit. (Applause.)

But, in actuality, I do blame past administrations for allowing this out-of-control trade deficit to take place and to grow. We have to fix this because it just doesn't work for our great American companies, and it doesn't work for our great American workers. It is just not sustainable. I look forward to working toward that goal and to pursuing fair and lasting engagement.

At home, my administration is supporting American workers and American businesses by eliminating burdensome regulations and lifting restrictions on American energy and all other businesses. Restrictions are being seriously lifted.

Our work is already taking hold. The stock market in the United States is at an all-time high, adding already \$5.5 trillion in new wealth since the very, very well-known and now very important November 8th election.

Unemployment is at a 17-year low, and so many other great things are happening to the United States, economically and otherwise. Frankly, too many to mention.

Abroad, we're committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific based [on] respect for the rule of law, private enterprise, and trade reciprocity.

In order to achieve prosperity, we must also have security. Security cooperation is critical to addressing a range of emerging threats throughout the Indo-Pacific region and around the world, and I have been very encouraged by my conversations, both over the last number of weeks and, in particular, last night and this morning with President Xi. We're very, very much on the same plane when it comes to security. We both want it for our countries, and we both want it for the world.

Chief among these threats is the North Korean nuclear menace. As I stated in my address to the National Assembly in Seoul yesterday, the United States is committed to the complete and permanent denuclearization of North Korea. So important. China can fix this problem easily and quickly, and I am calling on China and your great President to hopefully work on it very hard. I know one thing about your President: If he works on it hard, it will happen. There's no doubt about it.

We call on all nations to implement U.N. Security Council sanctions and resolutions and to cease doing business with the North Korean regime. All nations must come together to ensure that this rogue regime cannot threaten the world with its nuclear weapons.

I thank President Xi for his recent efforts to restrict trade with North Korea and to cut off all banking ties. Mr. President, thank you, and thank you to all of the Chinese business leaders here today for standing with the United States and our coalition of responsible nations. But time is quickly running out. We must act fast, and hopefully China will act faster and more effectively on this problem than anyone. I'm also calling on Russia to help rein in this potentially very tragic situation.

The contributions of the business community represented here today are vital to our efforts to ensure peace and prosperity for our two nations. Together, we can unlock a future of opportunity, wealth, and dignity far beyond anybody's wildest dreams.

In your discussions today, I hope you will learn from each other and identify new ways to advance our economic cooperation. I am depending on all of you to work together to find opportunities of mutual agreement and shared prosperity. The hardworking people of America and the hardworking people of China deserve the very best solutions to achieve prosperity, happiness, and peace.

Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

12:28 P.M. CST

Remarks by President Trump and President Xi of China Before Expanded Bilateral Meeting | Beijing, China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 09, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Xi of China Before Expanded Bilateral Meeting |
Beijing, China

Great Hall of the People
Beijing, China
11:12 A.M. CST

PRESIDENT XI: (As interpreted.) (In progress) -- this government and Chinese people extending warm welcome to President Trump on your state visit to China.

From yesterday afternoon to the present, we have had in-depth exchange of ideas on China-U.S. relations and important issues of shared interest. We reached many common understandings. We both believe that China-U.S. relations are important to the wellbeing of our two peoples, and bear on peace, stability, and prosperity of the world.

For China and the United States, cooperation is the only viable choice, and win-win cooperation can take us to a better future. We agree that China-U.S. relations have made important progress this year. We have agreed to further promote strategic guidance of summit diplomacy for bilateral relations; strengthen interactions at high and all levels; make the most of the four high-level dialogue mechanisms; expand interactions and cooperation on economy and trade, mil-to-mil relations, law enforcement, people-to-people exchange, and in other areas; enhance communication and cooperation on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, Afghanistan, and other major international and regional issues; and work together to take China-U.S. relations to even greater development.

The China-U.S. relationship now stands at a new starting point. China is ready to work with the United States to enhance cooperation and properly manage differences in a spirit of mutual respect and mutual benefit. This way, it will enable our two peoples, the region, and people across the world to benefit more from China-U.S. relations. Thank you.

TRUMP: Mr. President, thank you very much. It's an honor to be with you. There can be no more important subject than China-U.S. relation. We have, between us -- and we have to include some other countries which would quickly come in -- we have a capacity to dissolve world problems for many, many years to come.

Our meeting last night was absolutely terrific. Our dinner was beyond that. We had a dinner that was going to last quickly -- 20, 25 minutes -- because I was traveling and you were so nice, and you said, we'll just do a quick dinner. And I think it had to last at least two hours, and we enjoyed every minute of it with your beautiful wife and Melania together. Their relationship is a great one, and our relationship has already proven to be a great one.

Our meeting this morning, in front of your representatives and my representatives, was excellent, discussing North Korea -- and I do believe there's a solution to that, as you do; discussing trade with the United States, knowing that the United States really has to change its policies because they've gotten so far behind on trade with China and, frankly, with many other countries.

And I have great respect for you for that, because you're representing China. But it's too bad that past administrations allowed it go get so far out of kilter. But we'll make it fair, and it will be tremendous for both of us.

My feeling toward you is an incredibly warm one. As we said, there's great chemistry, and I think we're going to do tremendous things for both China and for the United States. And it is a very, very great honor to be with you. Thank you very much.

The hosting of the military parade this morning was magnificent, and the world was watching. I've already had people calling from all parts of the world. They were all watching. Nothing you can see is so beautiful.

So I just want to thank you for the very warm welcome, and I look forward to many years of success and friendship, working together to solve not only our problems but world problems, and problems of great danger and security. I believe we can solve almost all of them and probably all of them.

Thank you very much for having us. Very much appreciate it.

END

11:18 A.M. CST

Remarks by President Trump and President Xi of China in Joint Press Statement | Beijing, China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 09, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Xi of China in Joint Press Statement | Beijing, China

Great Hall of the People
Beijing, China
12:57 P.M. CST

PRESIDENT XI: (As interpreted.) Your Honorable, President Donald Trump, friends from the press: Good afternoon. It is my great pleasure to meet all of you, together with President Trump. Let me begin by extending once again warm welcome to the President for his state visit to China.

Yesterday and earlier today, the President and I have had in-depth discussions on China-U.S. relations and major international and regional issues of mutual interest. We reviewed the important progress made in the relationship since we met at Mar-a-Lago. And we discussed how to further move forward the relationship in the months ahead in great depth. And we reached a series of new and important consensus. Our meeting is constructive and productive.

I shared with the President the policies adopted at the 19th Party Congress. I conveyed China's firm commitment to deeper reform, greater opening up, and a path of peaceful development, and China's desire to expand converging interests with other countries and promoting coordination and cooperation among major countries.

President Trump shared with me his domestic reform agenda and foreign policy priorities. The development of China and the United States is mutually reinforcing. Without contradicting each other, our respective success serves the common interests of both countries. We believe that facing the complex and changing international landscape, in maintaining world peace and stability, in promoting global development and prosperity, China and the United States, being two large countries, share more common interests, shoulder greater responsibility, and enjoy broader room for cooperation.

A healthy, stable and growing China-U.S. relationship is not only in the fundamental interest of the Chinese and American people, it also meets the expectations of the international community. For China and the United States, win-win cooperation is the only right choice and the pathway toward a better future.

We agreed to keeping close touch through mutual visits, meetings, phone calls, and correspondence with a view to having timely communications on major issues of shared interest.

We agreed to make the most of the diplomatic and security dialogue, comprehensive economic dialogue, social and people-to-people dialogue, and law enforcement and cyber security dialogue, four high-level dialogue mechanisms, and work together for greater results out of these dialogues.

We believe that China and the United States are the two largest economies and important engines of global economic growth. We need to further expand trade and investment cooperation, strengthen macroeconomic policy coordination, pursue healthy, stable, and dynamically balanced economic and trade relations.

It is necessary to formulate and launch economic cooperation plan for the next phase to have continued in-depth discussion on trade imbalance, export, investment environment, market openness, and other issues, and work to support practical cooperation in energy, infrastructure, Belt and Road Initiative, and other areas.

Just now, the President and I witnessed the signing of some major cooperation agreements by our businesses. During this visit, the two sides signed over \$250 billion U.S. dollars of commercial deals and two-way investment agreements.

According to China's timetable and roadmap for opening up, China has announced a number of steps to promote market access. This speaks volume of the broad space for further economic and trade cooperation between the two countries, which would deliver great benefits to the two peoples.

We agreed to expand, exchange, and co-opt a dialogue between our two militaries at various levels realized at an earlier date the visit by U.S. Secretary of Defense to China a senior, high-level Chinese military delegation to the U.S. and work to ensure the success of the first joint staff dialogue mechanism, and the disaster management joint exercise and academic exchanges.

We agreed to strengthen law enforcement and cybersecurity cooperation.

The two sides reaffirmed that neither wants to become a safe haven for each other's fugitives, and will instruct competent authorities of the two countries to actively explore a long-term cooperation mechanism regarding fugitive assets recovery and repatriation of illegal immigrants.

The two sides will continue the implementation of the five-point consensus reached in 2015 to enhance cybersecurity cooperation, including the use of the internet for terrorist purposes and tackling cybercrimes. We will deepen counter-narcotics cooperation and better protect each other's nationals and institutions in their respective countries.

As two distinctive countries, our two sides may have different views or differences on some issues. This is only natural. The key is to properly handle and manage them. There is far more common interests between our two countries than differences. It is important to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, respect each other's choice of development path and our difference. As long as the two sides commit to a constructive approach, we can put aside undiffused differences, while at the same time build common ground and advanced cooperation.

We also discussed the international responsibilities our two countries shoulder. We agreed to enhance communication and cooperation on major international, regional, and global issues, and jointly seek proper resolution of relevant (inaudible) issues to make greater contribution to peace, stability, and prosperity of relevant regions and the world at large.

On the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, we reiterated the firm commitment to achieving denuclearization of the Peninsula and upholding international nonproliferation regime. The two sides will continue to fully and strictly implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. At the same time, the two sides commit to working toward a solution through dialogue and negotiation. And we are ready to discuss with relevant parties the pathway leading to enduring peace and stability in the Peninsula and the Northeast Asia. The two sides will maintain communication and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula issue.

We believe that China and the United States are countries with important influence in the Asia Pacific. As I said to the President, the Pacific Ocean is big enough to accommodate both China and the United States. The two sides need to step up communication and cooperation on Asia Pacific affairs, foster common friends, build constructive interactions, and jointly maintain and promote peace and stability and prosperity in the region.

We also discussed the Middle East, Afghanistan, and other issues, and agreed to deepen cooperation on counterterrorism, nonproliferation, nuclear security, and stronger support to U.N. peacekeeping operations.

We both believe that friendship between our peoples is the foundation for the sustained growth of China-U.S. relations, and we agreed to further promote people-to-people exchange. We will expand student exchange program, hold China-U.S. Young Maker Competition every year, and open additional Young Maker exchange centers in both countries.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, President Trump's state visit is a successful and historic visit. Together, the two of us have set out the direction and drew up the blueprint for China-U.S. relations in the common period. We will work with the United States and act on the consensus we reached, seek further progress in China-U.S. relations to bring greater benefits to our peoples and people across the world.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: President Xi, I want to thank you for an incredible welcoming ceremony earlier this morning. It was a truly memorable and impressive, and something I will never forget.

Melania and I are honored to visit your country, with its ancient history, dynamic people, and thriving culture. I also want to thank you and Madam Peng for a tour that was given to us yesterday of the very majestic Forbidden City. Your people are proud of who they are and what they have built together, and your people are also very proud of you.

I want to congratulate you on the recent and very successful 19th Party Congress. Perhaps now more than ever, we have an opportunity to strengthen the relationship between our two countries and improve the lives of our citizens, as long as we stand together -- with others, if necessary -- against those who threaten our civilization. That threat will never happen. It doesn't even have a chance.

As I said in my address yesterday in Seoul, the entire civilized world must unite to confront the North Korean menace. And the entire world is watching us right now.

Today, President Xi -- we discussed our mutual commitment to the complete denuclearization of North Korea. We agreed not to replicate failed approaches of the past -- and there were many. We agreed on the need to fully implement all U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea and to increase economic pressure until North Korea abandons its reckless and dangerous path.

All responsible nations must join together to stop arming and financing -- and even trading with -- the murderous North Korean regime. Together, we have in our power to finally liberate this region and the world from this very serious nuclear menace. But it will require collective action, collective strength, and collective devotion to winning the peace.

In order to create a more secure future for all and to protect our citizens from extremism and terrorism, President Xi and I also committed to working toward a peaceful future for Afghanistan. Terrorists are a threat to all of humanity, and we will stop radical Islamic terrorism.

The United States and China also face many challenges within our borders. Every year, drug trafficking destroys millions and millions of lives. Today, President Xi and I discussed ways we can enhance coordination to better counter the deadly drug trade and to stop the lethal flow of poisonous drugs into our countries and into our communities. A special emphasis will be placed on the new phenomena: fentanyl -- destroying lives by the millions. We're going to be focusing on it very strongly, the President and myself.

In addition to improving the safety and security of our citizens, President Xi and I discussed improving our economic relationship. We want a vibrant trade relationship with China. We also want a fair and reciprocal one. Today, I discussed with President Xi the chronic imbalance in our relationship as it pertains to trade, and the concrete steps that we'll jointly take to solve the problem of the massive trade distortion.

This includes addressing China's market access restrictions and technology transfer requirements, which prevent American companies from being able to fairly compete within China. The United States is committed to protecting the intellectual property of our companies and providing a level playing field for our workers. At the same time, our relationship with you and China is a very important one to me and to all of the people of our country. And just by looking at the tremendous, incredible, job-producing agreements just signed by those major companies, we're off to a very, very good start.

As part of our commitment to regional stability and peace, the United States also continues to advocate for reforms that advance economic freedom, individual rights, and the rule of law.

The United States, working with China and other regional partners, has an incredible opportunity to advance the cause of peace, security, and prosperity all across the world. It's a very special time, and we do indeed have that very, very special opportunity. A great responsibility has been placed on our shoulders, President -- it's truly a great responsibility -- and I hope we can rise to the occasion and help our countries and our citizens reach their highest destinies and their fullest potentials.

I want to thank you again -- you're a very special man -- for your gracious hospitality. I send my warmest regards to your citizens. I honor their heritage and celebrate their great, great possibilities and potential for the future.

In the coming months and years, I look forward to building an even stronger relationship between our two countries -- China and the United States of America -- and even closer friendships and relationships between the people of our countries.

Mr. President, thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

1:12 P.M. CST

Remarks by President Trump and President Xi of China at State Dinner | Beijing, China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 09, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Xi of China at State Dinner | Beijing, China

Great Hall of the People

Beijing, China

6:36 P.M. CST

PRESIDENT XI: (As interpreted.) The Honorable President Trump and Mrs. Trump, ladies and gentleman, dear friends: Good evening. As we often say in China, what a joy it is to have friends come from afar. On behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people, I once again extend a warm welcome to you, President Trump, on your state visit to China.

Although there is a vast ocean between China and the United States, distance has never prevented our two great nations from coming together. And we have never stopped our efforts to pursue friendship and win-win cooperation.

Forty-five years ago, President Nixon visited China, a visit that reopened the door of exchanges between China and the United States. As he rightly pointed before leaving China, it was

a week that changed the world. Since then, thanks to the joint efforts of several generations of leaders and the people of our two countries, historic progress has been made in China-U.S. relations. It has benefitted our two peoples. Indeed, it has changed the world.

How time flies. Over the past 45 years, historic changes have taken place in the world, in China, and in China-U.S. relations. The Cold War is a thing of the past. The world today is experiencing tremendous progress, profound transformation, and major adjustments. China has embarked on path of reform and opening up, and socialism with Chinese characteristics has entered a new era.

China and the United States once walked with animosity, have grown into a community with our interests closely converging. Today, our two countries share far more and broader common interests, as well as greater and stronger responsibilities in upholding global peace and promoting common development. The strategic dimension and global influence of China-U.S. relationship have continued to grow.

President Trump, the state visit to China is another event of historic importance. Over the past two days, we have had in-depth exchange of views on how China and the United States should seize the opportunity, rise up to the challenges, and open up new grounds in our relations.

Together, we have mapped out a blueprint for advancing China-U.S. relations. We both agree that China and the United States should remain partners, not rivals. We both agree that when we work together, we can accomplish many great things to the benefit of our two countries and the whole world.

I have also briefed President Trump on the 19th International Congress of the Communist Party of China, and this is my message: The 19th Party Congress will bring even more opportunities for China's cooperation with the United States and other countries. Indeed, the Chinese dream is closely connected with the dreams of people of all other countries in the world.

The Honorable President Trump and Mrs. Trump, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends: One has to make (inaudible) efforts to fulfill one's dream. As an old Chinese adage goes, "No distance, not even remote mountains and vast oceans can ever prevent people with perseverance from reaching their destination." Benjamin Franklin, one of America's Founding Fathers, also said, "He who can have patience, can have what he will."

It is my firm conviction that China-U.S. relations face limited challenges, but boundless potential for growth. With perseverance, we can surely write a new chapter in the history of China-U.S. relations. With perseverance, our two great nations will definitely make new contribution to creating a better future for mankind.

Now please join me in a toast to the prosperity of China and the United States and the wellbeing of our people. To the friendship between China and the United States, and between our people and to the health of you, President Trump, Mrs. Trump, and all our sides present, cheers. (Applause.)

(A toast is offered.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you so much. That was so nice. And this has been an extraordinary few days. President Xi, your generous words. I must say, Melania -- we both want to express our gratitude to you and Madam Peng for the extraordinary hospitality that you've shown us from the moment we arrived in your magnificent country, China.

Yesterday, we visited the Forbidden City, which stands as a proud symbol of China's rich culture and majestic spirit. Your nation is a testament to thousands of years of vibrant, living history.

And today, it was a tremendous honor to be greeted by the Chinese delegation right here at the Great Hall of the People. This moment in history presents both our nations with an incredible opportunity to advance peace and prosperity alongside other nations all around the world. In the words of a Chinese proverb, "We must carry forward the cause and forge ahead into the future." I

am confident that we can realize this wonderful vision, a vision that will be so good and, in fact, so great for both China and the United States.

Though we come from different places and faraway lands, there is much that binds the East and West. Both of our countries were built by people of great courage, strong culture, and a desire to trek across the unknown into great danger. But they overcame.

The people of the United States have a very deep respect for the heritage of your country and the noble traditions of its people. Your ancient values bring past and future together into the present. So beautiful.

It is my hope that the proud spirits of the American and Chinese people will inspire our efforts to achieve a more just, secure, and peaceful world, a future worthy of the sacrifices of our ancestors, and the dreams of our children.

In a moment, we will view a video of my granddaughter, Arabella, reciting traditional Chinese songs and poetry about your country's serene beauty and treasured customs. Our children so often remind us of our shared humanity and true dignity.

President Xi, on behalf of the American people, I offer this to toast to you, to the people of your country, and to a friendship that will only grow stronger and stronger over many years to come.

Thank you. This has been a great honor to be with you both. We very much appreciate it. (Applause.)

(A toast is offered.)

END

6:53 P.M. CST

Remarks by President Trump at APEC CEO Summit | Da Nang, Vietnam

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 10, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at APEC CEO Summit | Da Nang, Vietnam

Ariyana Da Nang Exhibition Center

Da Nang, Vietnam

1:19 P.M. ICT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: What an honor it is to be here in Vietnam -- in the very heart of the Indo-Pacific -- to address the people and business leaders of this region.

This has already been a remarkable week for the United States in this wonderful part of the world. Starting from Hawaii, Melania and I traveled to Japan, South Korea, and China, and now to Vietnam, to be here with all of you today.

Before we begin, I want to address all those affected by Typhoon Damrey. Americans are praying for you and for your recovery in the months ahead. Our hearts are united with the Vietnamese people suffering in the aftermath of this terrible storm.

This trip comes at an exciting time for America. A new optimism has swept all across our country. Economic growth has reached 3.2 percent, and going higher. Unemployment is at its lowest level in 17 years. The stock market is at an all-time high. And the whole world is lifted by America's renewal.

Everywhere I've traveled on this journey, I've had the pleasure of sharing the good news from America. But even more, I've had the honor of sharing our vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific -- a place where sovereign and independent nations, with diverse cultures and many different dreams, can all prosper side-by-side, and thrive in freedom and in peace.

I am so thrilled to be here today at APEC, because this organization was founded to help achieve that very purpose. America stands as a proud member of the community of nations who make a home on the Pacific. We have been an active partner in this region since we first won independence ourselves.

In 1784, the first American ship sailed to China from the newly independent United States. It went loaded with goods to sell in Asia, and it came back full of porcelain and tea. Our first president, George Washington himself, owned a set of tableware from that ship.

In 1804, Thomas Jefferson sent the explorers, Lewis and Clark, on an expedition to our Pacific Coast. They were the first of the millions of Americans who ventured west to live out America's manifest destiny across our vast continent.

In 1817, our Congress approved the first full-time Pacific development [deployment] of an American warship. That initial naval presence soon grew into a squadron, and then a fleet, to guarantee freedom of navigation for the growing number of ships, braving the high seas to reach markets in the Philippines, Singapore, and in India.

In 1818, we began our relationship with the Kingdom of Thailand, and 15 years later our two countries signed a treaty of friendship and commerce -- our first with an Asian nation.

In the next century, when imperialist powers threatened this region, the United States pushed back at great cost to ourselves. We understood that security and prosperity depended on it.

We have been friends, partners, and allies in the Indo-Pacific for a long, long time, and we will be friends, partners, and allies for a long time to come.

As old friends in the region, no one has been more delighted than America to witness, to help, and to share in the extraordinary progress you have made over the last half-century.

What the countries and economies represented here today have built in this part of the world is nothing short of miraculous. The story of this region in recent decades is the story of what is possible when people take ownership of their future.

Few would have imagined just a generation ago that leaders of these nations would come together here in Da Nang to deepen our friendships, expand our partnerships, and celebrate the amazing achievements of our people.

This city was once home to an American military base, in a country where many Americans and Vietnamese lost their lives in a very bloody war.

Today, we are no longer enemies; we are friends. And this port city is bustling with ships from around the world. Engineering marvels, like the Dragon Bridge, welcome the millions who come to visit Da Nang's stunning beaches, shining lights, and ancient charms.

In the early 1990s, nearly half of Vietnam survived on just a few dollars a day, and one in four did not have any electricity. Today, an opening Vietnamese economy is one of the fastest-growing economies on Earth. It has already increased more than 30 times over, and the Vietnamese students rank among the best students in the world. (Applause.) And that is very impressive.

This is the same story of incredible transformation that we have seen across the region. Indonesians for decades have been building domestic and democratic institutions to govern their vast chain of more than 13,000 islands. Since the 1990s, Indonesia's people have lifted themselves from poverty to become one of the fastest-growing nations of the G20. Today, it is the third-largest democracy on Earth.

The Philippines has emerged as a proud nation of strong and devout families. For 11 consecutive years, the World Economic Forum has ranked the Philippines first among Asian countries in closing the gender gap and embracing women leaders in business and in politics. (Applause.)

Kingdom of Thailand has become an upper middle-income country in less than a generation. Its majestic capital of Bangkok is now the most visited city on Earth. And that is very impressive. Not too many people here are from Thailand. (Applause.)

Malaysia has rapidly developed through recent decades, and it is now ranked as one of the best places in the world to do business.

In Singapore, citizens born to parents who survived on \$500 dollars a day [year] are now among the highest earners in the world -- a transformation made possible by the vision of Lee Kwan Yew's vision of honest governance and the rule of law. (Applause.) And his great son is now doing an amazing job.

As I recently observed in South Korea, the people of that Republic took a poor country ravaged by war, and in just a few decades turned it into one of the wealthiest democracies on Earth. Today, South Koreans enjoy higher incomes than the citizens of many European Union countries. It was great spending time with President Moon.

Everyone knows of China's impressive achievements over the past several decades. During this period -- and it was a period of great market reforms -- large parts of China experienced rapid economic growth, jobs boomed, and more than 800 million citizens rose out of poverty. I just left China this morning and had a really productive meeting and a wonderful time with our gracious host, President Xi.

And, as I saw on my first stop of this trip, in Japan we see a dynamic democracy in a land of industrial, technological, and cultural wonders. In fewer than 60 years, that island nation has produced 24 Nobel Prize winners for achievements in physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, and the promotion of peace. (Applause.) President Abe and I agree on so much.

In the broader region, countries outside of APEC are also making great strides in this new chapter for the Indo-Pacific.

India is celebrating the 70th anniversary of its independence. It is a sovereign democracy, as well as -- think of this -- over 1 billion people. It's the largest democracy in the world. (Applause.) Since India opened its economy, it has achieved astounding growth and a new world of opportunity for its expanding middle class. And Prime Minister Modi has been working to bring that vast country, and all of its people, together as one. And he is working at it very, very successfully, indeed.

As we can see, in more and more places throughout this region, citizens of sovereign and independent nations have taken greater control of their destinies and unlocked the potential of their people.

They've pursued visions of justice and accountability, promoted private property and the rule of law, and embraced systems that value hard work and individual enterprise.

They built businesses, they built cities, they built entire countries from the ground up. Many of you in this room have taken part in these great, uplifting national projects of building. They have been your projects from inception to completion, from dreams to reality.

With your help, this entire region has emerged -- and it is still emerging -- as a beautiful constellation of nations, each its own bright star, satellites to none -- and each one, a people, a culture, a way of life, and a home.

Those of you who have lived through these transformations understand better than anyone the value of what you have achieved. You also understand that your home is your legacy, and you must always protect it.

In the process of your economic development, you've sought commerce and trade with other nations, and forged partnerships based on mutual respect and directed toward mutual gain.

Today, I am here to offer a renewed partnership with America to work together to strengthen the bonds of friendship and commerce between all of the nations of the Indo-Pacific, and together, to promote our prosperity and security.

At the core of this partnership, we seek robust trade relationships rooted in the principles of fairness and reciprocity. When the United States enters into a trading relationship with other countries or other peoples, we will, from now on, expect that our partners will faithfully follow the

rules just like we do. We expect that markets will be open to an equal degree on both sides, and that private industry, not government planners, will direct investment.

Unfortunately, for too long and in too many places, the opposite has happened. For many years, the United States systematically opened our economy with few conditions. We lowered or ended tariffs, reduced trade barriers, and allowed foreign goods to flow freely into our country.

But while we lowered market barriers, other countries didn't open their markets to us.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Funny. They must have been one of the beneficiaries. (Applause.) What country do you come from, sir?

Countries were embraced by the World Trade Organization, even if they did not abide by its stated principles. Simply put, we have not been treated fairly by the World Trade Organization. Organizations like the WTO can only function properly when all members follow the rules and respect the sovereign rights of every member. We cannot achieve open markets if we do not ensure fair market access. In the end, unfair trade undermines us all.

The United States promoted private enterprise, innovation, and industry. Other countries used government-run industrial planning and state-owned enterprises.

We adhered to WTO principles on protecting intellectual property and ensuring fair and equal market access. They engaged in product dumping, subsidized goods, currency manipulation, and predatory industrial policies.

They ignored the rules to gain advantage over those who followed the rules, causing enormous distortions in commerce and threatening the foundations of international trade itself.

Such practices, along with our collective failure to respond to them, hurt many people in our country and also in other countries. Jobs, factories, and industries were stripped out of the United States and out of many countries in addition. And many opportunities for mutually beneficial investments were lost because people could not trust the system.

We can no longer tolerate these chronic trade abuses, and we will not tolerate them. Despite years of broken promises, we were told that someday soon everyone would behave fairly and responsibly. People in America and throughout the Indo-Pacific region have waited for that day to come. But it never has, and that is why I am here today -- to speak frankly about our challenges and work toward a brighter future for all of us.

I recently had an excellent trip to China, where I spoke openly and directly with President Xi about China's unfair trade practices and the enormous trade deficits they have produced with the United States. I expressed our strong desire to work with China to achieve a trading relationship that is conducted on a truly fair and equal basis.

The current trade imbalance is not acceptable. I do not blame China or any other country, of which there are many, for taking advantage of the United States on trade. If their representatives are able to get away with it, they are just doing their jobs. I wish previous administrations in my country saw what was happening and did something about it. They did not, but I will.

From this day forward, we will compete on a fair and equal basis. We are not going to let the United States be taken advantage of anymore. I am always going to put America first the same way that I expect all of you in this room to put your countries first. (Applause.)

The United States is prepared to work with each of the leaders in this room today to achieve mutually beneficial commerce that is in the interest of both your countries and mine. That is the message I am here to deliver.

I will make bilateral trade agreements with any Indo-Pacific nation that wants to be our partner and that will abide by the principles of fair and reciprocal trade. What we will no longer do is enter into large agreements that tie our hands, surrender our sovereignty, and make meaningful enforcement practically impossible.

Instead, we will deal on a basis of mutual respect and mutual benefit. We will respect your independence and your sovereignty. We want you to be strong, prosperous, and self-reliant, rooted

in your history, and branching out toward the future. That is how we will thrive and grow together, in partnerships of real and lasting value.

But for this -- and I call it the Indo-Pacific dream -- if it's going to be realized, we must ensure that all play by the rules, which they do not right now. Those who do will be our closest economic partners. Those who do not can be certain that the United States will no longer turn a blind eye to violations, cheating, or economic aggression. Those days are over.

We will no longer tolerate the audacious theft of intellectual property. We will confront the destructive practices of forcing businesses to surrender their technology to the state, and forcing them into joint ventures in exchange for market access.

We will address the massive subsidizing of industries through colossal state-owned enterprises that put private competitors out of business -- happening all the time.

We will not remain silent as American companies are targeted by state-affiliated actors for economic gain, whether through cyberattacks, corporate espionage, or other anti-competitive practices. We will encourage all nations to speak out loudly when the principles of fairness and reciprocity are violated.

We know it is in America's interests to have partners throughout this region that are thriving, prosperous, and dependent on no one. We will not make decisions for the purpose of power or patronage. We will never ask our partners to surrender their sovereignty, privacy, and intellectual property, or to limit contracts to state-owned suppliers.

We will find opportunities for our private sector to work with yours and to create jobs and wealth for us all. We seek strong partners, not weak partners. We seek strong neighbors, not weak neighbors. Above all, we seek friendship, and we don't dream of domination.

For this reason, we are also refocusing our existing development efforts. We are calling on the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to direct their efforts toward high-quality infrastructure investment that promotes economic growth.

The United States will also do its part. We are also committed to reforming our development finance institutions so that they better incentivize private sector investment in your economies, and provide strong alternatives to state-directed initiatives that come with many strings attached.

The United States has been reminded time and time again in recent years that economic security is not merely related to national security. Economic security is national security. It is vital -- (applause) -- to our national strength.

We also know that we will not have lasting prosperity if we do not confront grave threats to security, sovereignty, and stability facing our world today.

Earlier this week, I addressed the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea and urged every responsible nation to stand united in declaring that every single step the North Korean regime takes toward more weapons is a step it takes into greater and greater danger. The future of this region and its beautiful people must not be held hostage to a dictator's twisted fantasies of violent conquest and nuclear blackmail.

In addition, we must uphold principles that have benefitted all of us, like respect for the rule of law -- (applause) -- individual rights, and freedom of navigation and overflight, including open shipping lanes. Three principles and these principles -- (applause) -- create stability and build trust, security, and prosperity among like-minded nations.

We must also deal decisively with other threats to our security and the future of our children, such as criminal cartels, human smuggling, drugs, corruption, cybercrime, and territorial expansion. As I have said many times before: All civilized people must come together to drive out terrorists and extremists from our societies, stripping them of funding, territory, and ideological support. We must stop radical Islamic terrorism.

So let us work together for a peaceful, prosperous, and free Indo-Pacific. I am confident that, together, every problem we have spoken about today can be solved and every challenge we face can be overcome.

If we succeed in this effort, if we seize the opportunities before us and ground our partnerships firmly in the interests of our own people, then together we will achieve everything we dream for our nations and for our children.

We will be blessed with a world of strong, sovereign, and independent nations, thriving in peace and commerce with others. They will be places where we can build our homes and where families, businesses, and people can flourish and grow.

If we do this, will we look at the globe half a century from now, and we will marvel at the beautiful constellation of nations -- each different, each unique, and each shining brightly and proudly throughout this region of the world. And just as when we look at the stars in the night sky, the distance of time will make most of the challenges we have and that we spoke of today seem very, very small.

What will not seem small -- what is not small -- will be the big choices that all of our nations will have to make to keep their stars glowing very, very brightly.

In America, like every nation that has won and defended its sovereignty, we understand that we have nothing so precious as our birthright, our treasured independence, and our freedom.

That knowledge has guided us throughout American history. It has inspired us to sacrifice and innovate. And it is why today, hundreds of years after our victory in the American Revolution, we still remember the words of an American founder and our second President of the United States, John Adams. As an old man, just before his death, this great patriot was asked to offer his thoughts on the 50th anniversary of glorious American freedom. He replied with the words: independence forever.

It's a sentiment that burns in the heart of every patriot and every nation. Our hosts here in Vietnam have known this sentiment not just for 200 years, but for nearly 2,000 years. (Applause.) It was around 40 AD when two Vietnamese sisters, the Trung Sisters, first awakened the spirit of the people of this land. It was then that, for the first time, the people of Vietnam stood for your independence and your pride.

Today, the patriots and heroes -- (applause) -- of our histories hold the answers to the great questions of our future and our time. They remind us of who we are and what we are called to do.

Together, we have it in our power to lift our people and our world to new heights -- heights that have never been attained,

So let us choose a future of patriotism, prosperity, and pride. Let us choose wealth and freedom over poverty and servitude. Let us choose a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Finally, let us never forget the world has many places -- (applause) -- many dreams, and many roads. But in all of the world, there is no place like home.

so, for family, for country, for freedom, for history, and for the glory of God, protect your home, defend your home, and love your home today and for all time. (Applause.)

Thank you. God Bless You. God Bless the Pacific region. And God Bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

1:51 P.M. ICT

Remarks by President Trump in Press Gaggle Aboard Air Force One en route Hanoi, Vietnam | 11/11/2017

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 11, 2017

Remarks by President Trump in Press Gaggle Aboard Air Force One en route Hanoi, Vietnam
| 11/11/2017

Aboard Air Force One
En Route Hanoi, Vietnam
3:35 P.M. ICT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Everybody okay? Everybody happy? Everybody healthy? Two more days -- no problem.

It's been a -- I think it's been a great trip. In certain ways, it's been very epic. I think things have happened that have been really amazing. Prime Minister Abe came up to me just at the end, and he said that since you left South Korea and Japan, that those two countries are now getting along much, much better. That's from Prime Minister Abe -- that there's been a real bonding between South Korea and Japan. So that was great.

And we had a time in China. You were there. Were most of you there? Jennifer?

Q We all were, sir.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: They say in the history of people coming to China, there's been nothing like that. And I believe it.

Did you see the show? Did most of you see the show or part of the show afterwards? It was incredible.

Q We saw the opera but not the --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: The opera was great too, but the following night -- that was the first time that theater has been used at the Forbidden City in over a hundred years. You know that. They prepared the theater for that -- the first time in over a hundred years.

No, it was an amazing -- we have an amazing feeling toward each other. And he's for China; I'm for USA. You know, it's one of those things. But we have a great feeling.

So it's been really very incredible. And then today was excellent. Today was a different kind of a thing. It's a conference.

And then tonight they're having a state dinner in Hanoi. And we then go to the Philippines, which was a rough trip the last time. That was a rough presidential trip, but this won't be. And we're staying the extra day because they have the two conferences; they have first day and they have the second day. And the second day, a lot of people say is very important. And I said, you know what, if I'm there, I should do it.

But it's gone really well. I've really enjoyed it. Developed some new friendships -- some really good friendships. But the three countries we've stopped in, the original three are -- they're really in our camp, and we're in their camp.

Q How were your discussions with Vladimir Putin? Did you discuss Syria? And apparently they've issued a joint statement that --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We issued a joint statement. We're going to be -- have you seen the statement yet?

MS. SANDERS: It's going out -- it's on the way.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: So I think it'll go out. You'll see it in a little while.

MS. SANDERS: It may be out, now that you guys -- now that we're in the air.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's going to save tremendous numbers of lives. And we did that very quickly. We agreed very quickly.

As you know, we saw each other last night just for a picture, and that was the first time. And then today we had a roundtable with numerous countries. You have a list of the countries, obviously. Right? You have a list.

And we spoke intermittently during that roundtable. We seem to have a very good feeling for each other and a good relationship considering we don't know each other well. I think it's a very good relationship.

We had two or three very short conversations because of the meeting, the fact that we're at a meeting. But during those conversations, we talked about Syria and de-conflicting, et cetera. You

know, we have areas where troops are facing -- our troops -- I mean, their troops are facing our troops and there's nothing in between.

And we issued a statement -- a joint statement. It was just approved, and I think people are going to be extremely happy with it and also very impressed with it.

Q Did Russia's attempts to meddle in U.S. elections come up in the conversation?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: He said he didn't meddle. He said he didn't meddle. I asked him again. You can only ask so many times. But I just asked him again, and he said he absolutely did not meddle in our election. He did not do what they're saying he did. And he said --

Q Do you believe him?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, look, I can't stand there and argue with him. I'd rather have him get out of Syria, to be honest with you. I'd rather have him -- you know, work with him on the Ukraine than standing and arguing about whether or not -- because that whole thing was set up by the Democrats.

I mean, they ought to look at Podesta. They ought to look at all of the things that they've done with the phony dossier. Those are the big events. Those are the big events.

But Putin said he did not do what they said he did. And, you know, there are those that say, if he did do it, he wouldn't have gotten caught, all right? Which is a very interesting statement. But we have a -- you know, we have a good feeling toward getting things done.

If we had a relationship with Russia, that would be a good thing. In fact, it would be a great thing, not a bad thing. Because he could really help us in North Korea. We have a big problem with North Korea. And China is helping us. And because of the lack of a relationship that we have with Russia because of this artificial thing that's happening with this Democratic-inspired thing, we could really be helped a lot, tremendously, with Russia having to do with North Korea.

And, you know, you're talking about millions and millions of lives. This isn't baby stuff. This is the real deal. And if Russia helped us, in addition to China, that problem would go away a lot faster.

Q How did you bring up the issue of election meddling? Did you ask him a question?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: He just -- every time he sees me, he says, "I didn't do that." And I believe -- I really believe that when he tells me that, he means it. But he says, "I didn't do that." I think he's very insulted by it, if you want to know the truth.

Don't forget, all he said is he never did that, he didn't do that. I think he's very insulted by it, which is not a good thing for our country. Because again, if we had a relationship with Russia, North Korea -- which is our single biggest problem right now -- North Korea, it would be helped a lot. I think I'm doing very well with respect to China. They've cut off financing; they've cut off bank lines; they've cut off lots of oil and lots of other things, lots of trade. And it's having a big impact. But Russia, on the other hand, may be making up the difference. And if they are, that's not a good thing.

So having a relationship with Russia would be a great thing -- not a good thing -- it would be a great thing, especially as it relates to North Korea.

And I'll say this, Hillary had her stupid reset button that she spelled the word wrong, but she doesn't have what it takes to have that kind of a relationship where you could call or you could do something and they would pull back from North Korea, or they'd pull back from Syria, or maybe pull back from Ukraine. I mean, if we could solve the Ukraine problem --

But this is really an artificial barrier that's put in front of us for solving problems with Russia, and he says that very strongly. He really seems to be insulted by it, and he says he didn't do it. So --

Q (Inaudible) do you believe him --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Excuse me?

Q Even if he (inaudible) one-on-one, do you believe him?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I think that he is very, very strong in the fact that he didn't do it. And then you look, and you look at what's going on with Podesta, and you look at what's going on with

the server from the DNC and why didn't the FBI take it, why did they leave it; why did a third party look at the server and not the FBI -- if you look at all of this stuff, and you say, what's going on here?

And then you hear it's 17 agencies. Well, it's three. And one is Brennan and one is whatever. I mean, give me a break. They're political hacks.

So you look at it -- I mean, you have Brennan, you have Clapper, and you have Comey. Comey is proven now to be a liar and he's proven to be a leaker.

So you look at that, and you have President Putin very strongly, vehemently says he had nothing to do with that. Now, you're not going to get into an argument. You're going to start talking about Syria and the Ukraine.

Q You seem to have a fairly warm relationship with a number of --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I do.

Q -- totalitarian or authoritarian leaders --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And others.

Q And others. So, Putin, Xi, leader of the Philippines. Do you think you -- what do you think -- do you think you understand them in a certain way or relate to them in a way that other Presidents haven't?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I don't know. They had a story today in one of the papers about China. China likes me. China likes me. And I get along with them; I get along with others too.

I get along very well with Angela. You people don't write that. I actually get along really well with Angela. You know, they had that handshaking event. I was with her for a long time before that. And somebody shouts out, "shake her hand, shake her hand." And I didn't hear them. So by not shaking her hand, they said -- I have a great relationship with her. I have a great relationship with Theresa May. I have a great relationship with Justin Trudeau, who I just left.

I think I -- I'll be honest with you, I think I have a great relationship with every single one of them. Every person in that room today -- you had what, 15, or so, or 18? Asia Pacific --

Q Well, 21 including you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Everyone in that room, I have a good relationship. They're very different people, but everyone. And I do have a very good relationship with Xi, obviously. It's the biggest state -- it's the biggest state entrance and the biggest state dinner they've ever had, by far, in China. He called it a state-plus. Like he said it -- he actually said, state-plus-plus, which is very interesting.

But he's -- you know, look, again, he's a strong person. He's a very smart person. I like him a lot; he likes me. But, you know, we represent two very different countries. But we get along very well. And that's a good thing that we along; that's not a bad thing.

And on trade, you know, it was -- most of the news covered it fairly. Some didn't. When I said it's not your fault -- because I was saying how China has been hurting us on trade for many decades, for many years -- and it really is. It's not his fault. We should have been doing that. But we didn't do it. It's the fault of the administrations that preceded me. And we're not going to do that anymore; we're going to be very tough on trade. And he understands that.

Q In the past, American presidents have felt the obligation to raise issues about human rights abuses. Do you feel like that's an obligation and that's something that you feel is important to do?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I do. But I also raise issues on many other things. I mean, I have an obligation -- we lost, last year, with China, depending on the way you do your numbers, because you can do them a numbers of way -- anywhere from \$350 [billion] to \$504 billion. That's with one country. I'm going to fix that. And I've got to fix what we have with Mexico, who was there today too, who I also have a very good relationship with. And I have a great relationship with France. Some of you were in France with me, with the Eiffel Tower dinner. We have a great relationship with Emmanuel.

So I think that's the thing. I've actually been getting -- I always said it, I think -- I said, I think one of my strong suits is going to be foreign affairs. And we're actually getting very good marks having to do with foreign affairs. There's nobody that I can think of that I don't have a very good relationship with.

But when we can -- I mean, you'll be seeing the release that's put out. But we can save many, many, many lives by making a deal with Russia having to do with Syria, and then ultimately getting Syria solved and getting Ukraine solved and doing other things, having a good relationship with Russia is a great, great thing.

And this artificial Democratic hit job gets in the way. It gets in the way. And that's a shame because people will die because of it. And it's a pure hit job. And it's artificially induced. And it's a shame. But anyway.

Q If we could ask you about Roy Moore. Is it time to pitch him overboard?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, again, I've been with you folks, so I haven't gotten to see too much. And believe it or not, even when I'm in Washington and New York, I do not watch much television. I know they like to say -- people that don't know me, they like to say I watch television. People with fake sources -- you know, fake reporters, fake sources. But I don't get to watch much television, primarily because of documents. I'm reading documents a lot, and different things.

I actually read much more -- I read you people much more than I watch television. But anyway -- but so I have not seen very much about him, about it. And, you know, I put out a statement yesterday that he'll do the right thing, that -- he was interviewed.

Q But four women have come forward and accused him of inappropriately touching them, basically making advances when they were underage, including a 14-year-old. I mean, at what point -- and you said, "if he did it." But at what point do you decide if he did it? It's right now their word against his.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Honestly, I'd have to look at it and I'd have to see. Because again, I'm dealing with the President of China, the President of Russia, I'm dealing with the folks over here. So I haven't devoted -- I haven't been able to devote very much time to it.

And I've been at -- I mean, you people are just as strong as me. You're following me all over the place. I mean, we are going to lots of meetings, right? And, by the way, anybody that took the bet, pick up your money, okay? And the hard stuff was that. Really hard.

Q What was the bet again?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, a lot of people said it's almost physically impossible for someone to go through 12 days.

What I didn't want to do was come back because I would have had to come back. And we would have been on this plane again in five weeks from now exactly to do four days. We were going to do four days and four days. And this way we did twelve, and we hit the big conferences, which is a big asset. So anyway.

Q So you're not yet prepared to say that Roy Moore should --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I will see it when -- I mean, I basically put out a statement which was obvious. So I'll stick with statement for now, but I'll have further comment as we go down the road. I have to get back into the country to see what's happening.

Q Is there one thing that you were pressing President Xi on that you can say you're going to take away, where he changed his mind or agreed to something that you're looking to do specifically on North Korea?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: President Xi made a statement. If you read his statement yesterday -- were you all there when he was speaking and made the statement in the big room -- the Great Room?

He made a statement that he's committed to stopping the nuclearization of North Korea. That's a big statement. He made that statement, and a lot of people didn't -- they didn't pick that up. I don't think it was -- because it was part of the speech. And somehow a lot people -- to me, that was a very

big statement. I even looked up -- because I'm sitting waiting to speak -- and I said, wow, that's a big statement. He made that statement in his speech yesterday or the day before, when he made -- you know, when we were speaking together. He put a statement out, Sarah, that said he's committed to making that happen. That's a big statement.

You know, he was, through this process -- he's the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong. Some people say more powerful than Mao. With that being said, I really believe he's a good person, he's a good man, he wants to do right, he's representing his people. He's strong, he's very strong. But you know, you look at some of what you saw was very impressive. It was very impressive.

Q What's the next thing you'd like to see him do on Korea?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, I'd like to have him ratchet it up, and I think he's doing that. We had a long talk about it.

Q But ratchet it up with what?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: And I was with him for hours. You know, I was with him -- like I sat with him. You were there at the beginning of that evening, right? Of the --

Q No.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Oh, really?

Q I wasn't pool.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, I was sitting with him. We were together for hours. And the day before, we were together for hours. And we get along very well. You know, it's easy to be with him for hours. Whereas, if you don't have chemistry, you people know, you can't be with somebody for two minutes. And we talked a lot about North Korea. We talked about a lot of things. We talked a lot about North Korea.

No, I think he's going to ratchet it up. I did not speak to President Putin about it because we just had these little segments that we were talking about Syria. But President Putin would be tremendously helpful -- tremendously helpful -- if I had Russia and China helping us with North Korea, I think that would solve it. But this artificial barrier gets in the way. I call it the "artificial Democrat barrier." It gets in the way, which is a shame.

Q So you didn't have time to ask Putin specific things on North Korea?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I wasn't able to -- because I really didn't, Jennifer. I really just -- we did, like, little snippets in between. We didn't have a planned meeting. We spoke, but we didn't have a planned meeting.

Q Where did you leave it with President Putin? Are you looking for another meeting? Him coming to the U.S.? Or are you --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: We'll have a meeting. I think we have the potential to have a very good relationship. I don't know him like I know President Xi because I've spent a lot of time with President Xi, but I think we have the potential to have a very, very good relationship. I have it with Abe. I have it with Abe. Very good.

Q Did you see Abe fall at the sand trap?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: I didn't. I say this: If that was him, he is one of the greatest gymnasts because the way he -- (laughter) -- it was like a perfect -- I never saw anything like that.

No, wasn't it amazing? And he was standing up. I told him -- I said, I'm not going to ask -- because it was shot from a helicopter. I said, I will not ask if that's you, but if it was, I'm very impressed because you're better than any gymnast I've ever seen.

Q What do you mean by "artificial Democratic barrier"? I mean, you and Putin can't warm up because of this investigation? Or what --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: There's an artificial barrier that puts in the way by the Democrats. It's a fake barrier. There was no collusion. Everybody knows there was no collusion. I mean, you speak to these people -- I saw Dianne Feinstein the other day and I respect her. She was on television the other day saying there's no collusion. The Democrats -- the Republicans come out screaming it, but

the Democrats come out, and they say, "No, there's no collusion." There is no collusion. There's nothing.

And I think it's a shame that something like that can destroy a very important potential relationship between two countries that are very important countries. Russia could really help us. And the Democrats wanted to have a good relationship with Russia, but they couldn't do it because they didn't have the talent to do it. They didn't have the chemistry to do it. They didn't have what it takes to do it. You know, there is a talent to that.

But I think Putin and I -- President Putin and I would have a great relationship, and that would be great for both countries. And it would take a lot of the danger out because we're really -- you know, this is a dangerous time. This isn't small stuff. This is a very dangerous time. And having a great relationship, or even a good relationship, with the President of Russia -- Hillary tried it, and she failed. Nobody mentions that. They act like, you know -- it's so terrible. She did that reset button; it was a joke. But she tried and she failed.

Obama tried and he failed. Couldn't have it, because he didn't have chemistry. They didn't have the right chemistry. And you know what? I understand that, because there are some people I don't have chemistry with. Let's see, some of you are right here. (Laughter.) There are some people I don't -- you know, sometimes if you don't have chemistry with somebody, you don't.

But Obama did not have the right chemistry with Putin. And Hillary was way over her head.

MS. SANDERS: Let's take one more and then let them have lunch.

Q Were you able to get any commitments -- when it comes to the trade balance, some of the issues you talk about like intellectual property theft -- did he make any commitments there to make changes?

THE PRESIDENT: You know, the intellectual property -- you're talking about \$300 billion a year. It's tremendous. We talked about it. But I said, we're friends, but this is a different administration than you've had for the last 30 years. For the last 30 years, China -- and, in all fairness, and other countries. Look, we have a \$71 billion trade deficit with Mexico. We have a \$70 billion trade deficit with Japan. We have a \$30 billion trade deficit with South Korea. I could go through a whole list. There are few countries we have a surplus with, and those countries it's like a two-dollar surplus. It's disgraceful.

And I don't blame any of those countries. I blame the people that we had representing us who didn't know what they were doing. Because they should have never let it happen.

Q I'd like to ask a question on AT&T and CNN. Do you want AT&T to sell CNN for the --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I didn't make the decision. That was made by a man who's actually a very respected person -- a very, very respected person.

I did make a comment in the past as to what I think. I do feel that you should have as many news outlets as you can, especially since so many of them are fake. This way, at least you can get your word out. But I do believe you should have as many news outlets as you can.

Now, with that being said, I didn't make a statement on it, but I made that statement long before at the very early part. So we'll see how that -- it will probably end up being maybe litigation, maybe not. We'll see how it all plays out.

Q Did you talk to Xi about opening China to Twitter and other social media?

THE PRESIDENT: About what?

Q Opening China to Twitter.

THE PRESIDENT: I mentioned it very briefly. Honestly, it wasn't number one on my list. Number one on my list with him was North Korea and trade. Those are the two I really spoke. I mentioned it, you know, briefly, but we'll talk. I'm going to have plenty of time to talk. He'll come here next time.

This all started in Florida, and it's a great feeling to have that kind of a relationship where you can really help your country. Because we can really help our country, and he can really help his country.

But we're going to be very tough on trade. This is not going to be like it was in the past. I did tell him that. This is not going to be the old days. This is a whole different thing going on.

And, you know, it's not acceptable what's been happening with trade, generally. China, yes -- but generally. And I can think of almost no examples where it's good. It's all bad. We had the worst negotiators, whether it's the Iran deal or any other thing. We had the worst -- our trade deals are so bad. Last year, we lost \$800 billion, right? Yeah. \$800 [billion], approximately. Check it. But approximately \$800 billion on trade. Why?

Q You put your own guys in there now. So what did you get from him?

THE PRESIDENT: I have a great team. Bob Lighthizer. Bob Lighthizer is -- he's going to town. And he works with me. He works with me. But Bob is going to town.

So I hope you're all enjoying yourselves. Tonight we're going to Hanoi.

Q Any highlights from APEC? Do you have any asks for the other countries?

THE PRESIDENT: I think the APEC was just -- good, very collegial.

Q Did anyone ask you for specific things?

THE PRESIDENT: No, but I told them we're going to have much tougher trade policies now, because, you know, they have barriers. We don't. I'm not only talking about tariffs. They have non-tariff barriers, and we don't. I said, you got to remove them.

Good to be with you. Good to be with you.

We'll talk to you --

Q Thank you for coming back.

THE PRESIDENT: I'll see you in Hanoi. Are you all going up?

Q Yes, sir.

Q We are.

END

4:01 P.M. ICT

Remarks by President Trump and President Quang of Vietnam at State Banquet

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 11, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Quang of Vietnam at State Banquet

International Convention Center

Hanoi, Vietnam

8:18 P.M. ICT

PRESIDENT QUANG: (As interpreted.) Mr. Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, distinguished American guests, ladies and gentlemen: On behalf of the leaders and people of Vietnam, I warmly welcome Mr. President and the high-level American delegation to Hanoi, Vietnam on a state visit at the most vibrant time of bilateral relations.

Leaders of the two countries attach great importance to the bilateral comprehensive cooperation. The presence of Mr. President and the distinguished American guests in Hanoi at the invitation of Vietnamese leaders is a testimony to that, as well as to the strong vitality of our relationship.

My congratulations to Mr. President on your productive, successful days within the APEC Economics Leaders Week in Da Nang City, with significant contributions to the overall success of the summit. I particularly appreciate Mr. President's impressive speech at the APEC CEO Summit with a message reaffirming the strong and long-term commitment of the United States to the Asia Pacific, Indian Ocean, and the nearby region.

As an Asia Pacific power, the United States has been and will be playing a very important role to the regional countries, and we want the United States to promote that role in a more active manner.

Mr. President has stayed in Da Nang and is now in Hanoi. I believe you and other members of the delegation will better receive the hospitality and friendliness of the Vietnamese people accorded to you and the American people, as well as enjoying the beauty of Hanoi in fall.

Mr. President and distinguished American friends, the relationship between Vietnam and the United States has had a longstanding history. In the early years of the previous century, President Ho Chi Minh, a hero of national liberation and a great man of culture, as honored by UNESCO, was on his voyage in search of national salvation. He made a stop in Boston, Massachusetts, a cradle of the American Revolution.

The time he stayed and worked in the U.S. made him believe in the United States and American people as a partner and friends. Right before the establishment of the Vietnam Democratic Republic in August, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh had expressed the desire to meet American friends.

Rising above the ups and downs of history, Vietnam and the United States are now friends and comprehensive partners with mutual respect -- respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and respective political system -- making joint efforts for the Asia Pacific of peace, stability, cooperation, and development.

Since the normalization of relations two decades ago, leaders and people of the two countries have shelved the past, overcome differences, built on similarities, looked to the future, and unceasingly forged bilateral friendship and cooperation.

With the efforts of the leaders and people of both countries, the momentum of bilateral comprehensive partnership has been well maintained and promoted since the taking office of President Donald Trump. Cooperation has continued to grow, becoming more productive and substantive in a range of areas, such as politics, foreign affairs, economic, trade, healthcare, humanitarian issues, science and technology, exchange of people -- which benefit both sides.

We are happy to note the completion of main components of the Da Nang Airport remediation project.

President Donald Trump's visit to Vietnam represents an important milestone and the best moment in the history of bilateral relations, opening up a vast future for new pages in the bonds between our nations. I wish to share Mr. President's words: No dream is too big, no challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach.

In the regional and international landscape of tremendous changes, I believe the comprehensive, stable, and mutually beneficial relations between Vietnam and the United States will be a positive factor, significantly contributing to the maintenance of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the world.

In this warm and friendly atmosphere, may I invite, Mr. President, American and Vietnamese friends to raise our glasses: To the ever-expanding relations between Vietnam and the United States, to the health of Mr. President, the two countries' leaders, and to you all present here tonight.

Thank you.

(A toast is offered.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: President Quang, I would like to thank you very much. This is a very, very special time to be with you and the great people of Vietnam. We have come a long way, the United States and Vietnam. We've seen it from both sides of the picture, and this is the pleasant side.

You are doing a spectacular job, your people are doing a spectacular job, and in the United States likewise we are doing very, very well. We've had the highest stock market we've ever had, we had the lowest unemployment in 17 years, and people are pouring back into our country in the form of manufacturers, car builders, and others.

I toured Vietnam today. I was through the streets of Hanoi, and it's incredible to see, incredible to watch, and it's truly one of the great marvels. It really is something to behold. I would like to congratulate the people of Vietnam; I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on an outstanding job.

I would also like to send my condolences on Typhoon Damrey, which was devastating and a great loss of life in Vietnam. And please give my regards and our sympathies to everyone. I know you will rebuild, and the families will slowly rebuild. Very tough to recover from that kind of a loss. But please, on behalf of the United States, our condolences.

And at the same time, our congratulations on a job well done. Vietnam has truly become one of the great miracles of the world, and it's very impressive. No matter where you come from, no matter who you are, when you look at what's happened in Vietnam, there is nothing more impressive.

Thank you very much for this honor, and I look forward to seeing you, Mr. President, many, many times over the future. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

8:32 P.M. ICT

Remarks by President Trump and President Quang of Vietnam in Joint Press Conference | Hanoi, Vietnam

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 11, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Quang of Vietnam in Joint Press Conference |
Hanoi, Vietnam

Presidential Palace
Hanoi, Vietnam
10:27 A.M. ICT

PRESIDENT QUANG: (As interpreted.) Your Excellency Donald Trump, President of the United States of America, ladies and gentlemen, members of the media: President Trump and I have had fruitful talks about the bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual interest.

We both share the views that the bilateral relations have scored substantial results over the years, delivering enormous benefits to the people of both countries.

During President Trump's state visit to Vietnam, Vietnam and the United States issued a joint statement pledging to further deepen the Vietnam-United States Comprehensive Partnership on the basis of mutual respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political systems.

Within the visit's framework, the two sides reached important agreements on economy and trade. Addressing war legacy issues will receive higher priority, and we are committed to collaborate actively on this matter. Vietnam highly values the United States decision to cooperate with Vietnam on dioxin cleanup at Bien Hoa Air Base after the two countries successfully concluded the dioxin cleanup project at Da Nang Airport.

The President and I discussed regional and international issues of mutual interest. We agreed to strengthen our close coordination at regional and international forums to contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region and the world at large.

We also agreed on the importance of the ASEAN-United States strategic partnership. We believe that the development of Vietnam-U.S. relations would not only benefit each country, but

also contribute to strengthening ASEAN-U.S. relations for peace, stability, cooperation and development in the Asia Pacific and the world.

The President's state visit to Vietnam marks a milestone in Vietnam-U.S. relations, creating strong momentum for the substantive, effective and stable development of the bilateral comprehensive partnership.

I wish President Trump and members of the U.S. delegation a successful visit, and I hope that you will have good impressions of our country and our people.

I sincerely thank Mr. President, personally, and the American people for the warm friendship towards our country and people, and I appreciate the great efforts to develop Vietnam-U.S. bilateral relations. I would also like to thank all American and Vietnamese reporters who are here today. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, President Quang. And thank you for your tremendous hospitality during my first visit to Vietnam. It is a pleasure to be with you right here in Hanoi.

On behalf of the entire American delegation, I want to thank the Vietnamese people for their warm welcome, and to reaffirm the strong friendship and growing partnership between our two nations.

Travelers from all around the world, including many Americans, come to Vietnam each year to admire your magnificent limestone mountains, cycle through your many winding hillsides, or swim in the majestic Ha Long Bay.

Your nation's magnificence brings different people together from around the world in shared appreciation of the great beauty and splendor of your wonderful country. Over the past two decades, our two nations have come together to find common purpose based on common interests. And that's what's happening. It is those crucial bonds we are here to reaffirm today.

In May, the United States transferred the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Morgenthau* to the people and country of Vietnam. Named for U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr., this vessel once patrolled the coasts of Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Today, the same American vessel, a gift between partners, is sailing the waters of the Pacific on its way to patrol these coasts for the people of Vietnam.

This month we mark Veterans Day in the United States. And out of war and conflict, we have achieved a deep friendship, partnership, and we have achieved peace. Bound by mutual respect and common experience, our veterans laid the foundation for that achievement between our nations.

Our decades-long joint humanitarian efforts with the Vietnamese people and government to account for and recover personnel still missing -- so important to us -- from the war honors these horrors of this horrendous war. We want our servicemembers support -- and we give total support to the families, and we strengthen the foundation of our comprehensive partnership. That is so important to us.

In the spirit of our friendship, I want to congratulate President Quang for hosting a very successful APEC Leaders Meeting this week in Da Nang. Congratulations. You did a fantastic job. Thank you.

As I stated in my address to the APEC CEO Summit on Friday, the United States is committed to a free and open Indo-Pacific, where strong, independent nations respect each other's sovereignty, uphold the rule of law, and advance responsible commerce. We want our partners in the Indo-Pacific to be proud and self-reliant, not proxies or satellites.

We look forward to achieving a bilateral trade agreement with partners who abide by the principles of fair and reciprocal trade -- two very important words: fair and reciprocal. It hasn't been that way for the United States almost at all. And we're changing that, and we're changing it rapidly. For trade to work, all countries must play by the rules.

I am encouraged that Vietnam has recently become the fastest growing export market to the United States.

Mr. President, I applaud your efforts to implement economic reforms and increase Vietnam's trade and investment in all directions. The United States is enthusiastic about reforms that promote economic prosperity for all Vietnamese citizens, as we look to your growing middle class as a key market for American goods and services. We just had a great discussion about American goods and services coming in to Vietnam. Two-way street.

I am confident that American energy, agriculture, financial services, aviation, digital commerce, and defense products are able to meet all of your many commercial needs -- and, in fact, not only meet them, but what we do is better than anybody else.

Moving forward, I welcome Vietnam's commitment to eliminating trade barriers for U.S. agricultural products. It's very important. We must ensure that American farmers and all American companies, especially those in digital services and e-commerce, can compete on a level playing field. And we look forward to working with you to combat predatory and unfair trade practices in the region.

On security issues, we continue to work with our Vietnamese partners and with partners across the region on a range of challenges, including maritime security, counterterrorism, human and drug trafficking, cybercrime, and disease prevention.

Later today, I will travel to the Philippines, where I will discuss many of these issues at the U.S.-ASEAN Summit and the East Asia Summit. The ASEAN Summit is going to be something, I think, very, very special. I look forward to attending.

We will also discuss the growing threat from North Korea. As I said in my speech to the Republic of Korea's National Assembly: All responsible nations must act now to ensure that North Korea's rogue regime stops threatening the world with unthinkable loss of life.

Safety and security are goals that should unite all civilized nations. We want progress, not provocation. I mean, we have been provoked; the world has been provoked. We don't want that. We want stability, not chaos. And we want peace, not war.

Mr. President, thank you for being such a gracious host during my time right here in Vietnam. I toured areas of Vietnam, and it is magnificent what's happening.

Over the past two decades, our nations have continued to grow closer in advancing our shared interests. The history of our two nations reveals the possibilities for peace and progress in our world. Moving forward as partners, we will achieve great prosperity and success for the American people and for the Vietnamese people.

I thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

Q (As interpreted.) President Trần Đại Quang, I'm from Vietnamese Agency. Can you elaborate of progress in the Vietnam-U.S. relations over the past few years?

PRESIDENT QUANG: (As interpreted.) Over the past years, the Vietnam-U.S. relations have made very strong progress in all areas -- politics, diplomacy, economy, trade, science and technology, health, humanitarian areas, and people-to-people exchange.

And, in particular, high-level contacts, meetings, and exchange of delegations on the basis of the comprehensive partnership have produced substantive and meaningful results. And, among them, the visit to the United States by Prime Minister Nguyễn Xuân Phúc in May this year, and the state visit to Vietnam of Honorable President Donald Trump in the very first year of his term of office are the highlights.

Meetings between leaders of Vietnam and the President during his visit are very useful, and the meetings give us the opportunity to understand each other better and to work together on areas of mutual interest.

The substantive and effective growth of the comprehensive partnership between the two countries have been, and will be, delivering benefits to our two peoples and contributing to the maintenance of peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity in the region and the world.

Thank you.

Q I'm from VTV and have another question for President Trần Đại Quang. Can you please provide your assessment of the future outlook of the Vietnam-U.S. relationship?

PRESIDENT QUANG: (As interpreted.) Thank you for your question. Well, during the talks that I had with the President, we acknowledged that there is still much room for further expansion of the bilateral relations, and we discussed ways and means to further strengthen the cooperation in a more substantive and effective manner in the time to come.

And the two sides also pledged to increase contacts and dialogues, especially the high-level meetings through bilateral visits and meetings at the sidelines of the regional and international forums.

The two sides will also promote the momentum for development of the economic and trade investment relations on the basis of mutual interest, minimize the trade investment disputes, and will continue to effectively implement the economic and trade agreements that we have signed.

We'll also strengthen cooperation in science and technology, environment, climate change, humanitarian issues, human resources development, and expanding people-to-people exchange -- for the enhanced comprehensive partnership, the interest of the two peoples and for the benefit of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the world. Thank you.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. And if I could throw a little bit of a change up here, I'll ask both leaders a question as opposed to just one.

Mr. President, to you, if we could first. On the way here to Hanoi, from Da Nang, you talked about your meetings with Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday in which you said you received further assurances from him that he did not meddle in the U.S. election.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: That's true.

Q There was some uncertainty that brewed back in the United States over your statement that you said, "When he tells me that, I believe that he means it." That was taken in some circles, including Senator John McCain, to think that you believe that he is saying he did not interfere in the election. Could you, once and for all, definitively, sir -- yes or no -- say whether or not you believe that President Putin and/or Russia interfered in the election?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: What I said there, I'm surprised that there's any conflict on this. What I said there is that I believe he believes that, and that's very important for somebody to believe. I believe that he feels that he and Russia did not meddle in the election.

As to whether I believe it or not, I'm with our agencies, especially as currently constituted with their leadership. I believe in our intel agencies, our intelligence agencies. I've worked with them very strongly. There weren't seventeen as was previously reported; there were actually four. But they were saying there was seventeen; there were actually four. But as currently led by fine people, I believe very much in our intelligence agencies.

Now, at the same time, I want to be able -- because I think it's very important -- to get along with Russia, to get along with China, to get along with Vietnam, to get along with lots of countries, because we have a lot of things we have to solve. And, frankly, Russia and China in particular can help us with the North Korea problem, which is one of our truly great problems.

So I'm not looking to stand and start arguing with somebody when there's reporters all around and cameras recording and seeing our conversation. I think it was very obvious to everybody. I believe that President Putin really feels -- and he feels strongly -- that he did not meddle in our election. What he believes is what he believes.

What I believe is that we have to get to work. And I think everybody understood this that heard the answer. We have to get to work to solve Syria, to solve North Korea, to solve Ukraine, to solve terrorism.

And, you know, people don't realize Russia has been very, very heavily sanctioned. They were sanctioned at a very high level, and that took place very recently. It's now time to get back to healing a world that is shattered and broken. Those are very important things. And I feel that

having Russia in a friendly posture, as opposed to always fighting with them, is an asset to the world and an asset to our country, not a liability.

And, by the way, Hillary Clinton had the reset button. She wanted to get back together with Russia. She even spelled "reset" wrong. That's how it started, and then it got worse.

President Obama wanted to get along with Russia, but the chemistry wasn't there. Getting along with other nations is a good thing, not a bad thing -- believe me. It's a good thing, not a bad thing.

Okay, second.

Q President Quang, if I could ask a question of you. There are some people who believe that Vietnam could make an effective facilitator in bringing the United States and North Korea together to at least lay the groundwork, potentially, for negotiations. What do you believe Vietnam could bring to the table in that regard?

PRESIDENT QUANG: (As interpreted.) On North Korea issue, Vietnam is committed to seriously observing all the relevant resolution at the UNSC, and we support the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. And we'll do our utmost and do whatever we can to contribute to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Thank you.

Q You tweeted this morning about trying very hard to be friends with Kim Jong-un. Is that really a possibility? What would it take for that to happen at this point?

And for President Quang, could you comment on the President's offer to mediate the South China Sea dispute? Thank you.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Steve, I think anything is a possibility. Strange things happen in life. That might be a strange thing to happen, but it's certainly a possibility. If that did happen, it would be a good thing for -- I can tell you -- for North Korea. But it would also be good for lots of other places, and it would be good for the world.

So, certainly, it is something that could happen. I don't know that it will, but it would be very, very nice if it did.

PRESIDENT QUANG: (As interpreted.) With regard to the South China Sea issue, I have shared my thoughts with President Donald Trump on the recent developments in this area. And it is our policy to settle disputes in the South China Sea through peaceful negotiations, and with respect for diplomatic and legal process, in accordance with international law, including the 1982 U.N. Convention on Law of the Sea.

Thank you very much.

END

10:48 A.M. ICT

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with President Quang of Vietnam | Hanoi, Vietnam

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 12, 2017

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with President Quang of Vietnam | Hanoi, Vietnam

Presidential Palace
Hanoi, Vietnam
9:14 A.M. ICT

PRESIDENT QUANG: (No translation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. And I appreciate it. And I appreciate the incredible rollout that they've given to the United States -- not just the President of the United States, but the United States as a whole.

We've had an incredible day in Vietnam. The APEC meeting started it out, and that was a tremendous success. And thank you very much for hosting it.

I want to just wish my best in condolences for the situation that you have with Damrey. That was tough. That was very, very tough. And I know you're handling it well. And our best wishes and condolences.

We also want to thank you for helping us with the U.S. embassy site where we have a new embassy. And it will be something that, I think, will be very good for the future and the future of our two countries.

The North Korean situation continues to be a problem. I think that China -- as you know, we saw -- we were in China yesterday and the day before. And President Xi, I think, is going to be a tremendous help. I hope Russia, likewise, will be a tremendous help. I think they can make a big difference.

I know that South Korea and Japan are very much unified in the sense that they want to be able to take care of a problem that's right next to them. Really, they're neighbors. And I appreciate all of the good work you're doing with regard to the North Korean problem.

South China Sea -- as you know, we're looking at -- we're looking at it together. If I could help mediate or arbitrate, please let me know. I know we've had a dispute for quite a while with China. If I can help in any way, I'm a very good mediator and a very good arbitrator. I have done plenty of it from both sides. So if I can help you, let me know.

Our defense ties are terrific. We're doing a lot of business with you in terms of your purchasing of materials and also purchasing of very substantial military equipment. And we appreciate that. It's jobs for America, and you get the best equipment in the world. Nobody makes it like we make it.

And I think that more than anything else, this will be a meeting of trade. We will be a great trade partner, and whether we'll be treated fairly -- past administrations didn't understand trade and didn't know too much about what was going on with trade. But we do. But we also know how to do a lot of trade. So I think it's going to be very, very good for Vietnam.

And, Mr. President, I just again want to thank you for being so respectful and nice to my entire delegation and to its President. And on behalf of the United States of America, we wish you very well and a great respect for what Vietnam has been able to accomplish and do in a very, very short period of time.

So I want to give you a personal congratulations. Thank you very much.

END

9:19 A.M. ICT

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Phuc of Vietnam | Hanoi, Vietnam

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release November 12, 2017

Remarks by President Trump Before Bilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Phuc of Vietnam |
Hanoi, Vietnam

Office of Government

Hanoi, Vietnam

11:33 A.M. ICT

PRIME MINISTER PHÚC: (No translation provided.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much, Mr. Prime Minister. I want to start by saying that the job done by Vietnam and your representatives, including yourself, the President, and everybody that I met -- so many -- is outstanding with respect to APEC. This was hosted so beautifully, so professionally.

I got to tour parts of Vietnam, and it's really looking well. It's looking beautiful. And the people are happy, and the people are waving, and they like the United States; perhaps they like me. But they were really lined up in the streets by the tens of thousands, and we very much appreciate that.

You are right -- I believe this is the longest tour ever made by an American President of Asia. I'm now going for a day and a half to the Philippines, and then it will be back home to Washington and the United States. But we have really enjoyed ourselves in Vietnam, and we very much appreciate it.

Important to me is trade, because right now we have a very substantial trade imbalance with Vietnam -- approximately \$32 billion, which is a tremendous amount of money. And we have to take care of our American companies and we have to take care of American workers. And perhaps the administrations previous to me didn't like the subject, understand the subject -- something was wrong -- because there are so many problems having to do with trade imbalance. So we want to get that straightened out very quickly.

We would like you to buy your equipment from the United States. We make the best equipment, we make the best military gear and planes and anything you can name. The missiles are in a category that nobody even comes close.

I told before, as you know, a missile was shot into Saudi Arabia recently, from Yemen. And one of our missile systems knocked it down. Nobody even knew what happened. And the missile exploded in air; knocked it down like nothing. We make the greatest missiles in the world, greatest planes in the world, greatest commercial aircraft in the world.

So we would like Vietnam to buy from us, and we have to get rid of the trade imbalance. We can't have the trade imbalance.

Other than that, I think we're going to have a fantastic relationship, and I look forward to it for many years to come.

Thank you.

END

11:39 A.M. ICT

Remarks by President Trump Before Expanded Bilateral Meeting with Secretary General Trong of the Communist Party of Vietnam | Hanoi, Vietnam

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 12, 2017

Remarks by President Trump Before Expanded Bilateral Meeting with Secretary General Trong of the Communist Party of Vietnam | Hanoi, Vietnam

Communist Party of Vietnam Headquarters

Hanoi, Vietnam

11:09 A.M. ICT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. You are a man of great honor and respect, and it's an honor to be with you. And thank you for having us. And we want to thank Vietnam and the Vietnamese people. They have been so terrific. They greeted us with such respect

and, really, such affection. The relationship is so healed. And to think where we were and where we've come is a tribute to both countries.

We have so many things in common. We have been discussing at great length, today and yesterday, trade -- and trade, in particular, with Vietnam. And we're opening up and you're opening up, and it's going to even out. And we're both going to do very well for our people. Trade has become a very important element of our relationship and it will continue onward.

And again, I want to thank you very much for this. It is a true honor to be with you. Thank you.

END

11:11 A.M. ICT

Remarks by President Trump, Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia, and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Trilateral Meeting | Manila, Philippines

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 13, 2017

Remarks by President Trump, Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia, and Prime Minister Abe of Japan Before Trilateral Meeting | Manila, Philippines

Sofitel Philippine Plaza

Manila, Philippines

11:10 A.M. PHT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. It's great to be with Prime Minister Turnbull and Prime Minister Abe of Australia and of Japan. You know them well; I know them well.

We've had many meetings. We're having another one right now, primarily focused on trade, North Korea, other subjects. But we're very far along. The dialogue has been very good, I think, for all countries. And we look forward to the continuation of that dialogue.

Mr. Prime Minister, would you like to say something?

PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL: Thank you, Mr. President. It is great to be with you and Prime Minister Abe. We're working very closely together. We've got the same values and the same focus on ensuring that the North Korean regime comes to its senses and stops its reckless provocation and threats of conflict in our region.

Peace and stability have underpinned the prosperity of billions of people over many decades, and we're going to work together to ensure we maintain it.

PRIME MINISTER ABE: (As interpreted.) So for three of us, the immediate challenge is the issue of North Korea. And also, three very close partners with each other -- Japan, the United States, and Australia -- share fundamental values, as well as strategic interest.

So I do hope that we are going to have a meaningful discussion, particularly on the issue of North Korea so as to ensure regional peace and stability.

And also, I think the key for us is to ensure very close trilateral cooperation so as to bring peace and stability on the ground. So I do look forward to having a very productive discussion with the two leaders.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: In addition, a lot of things are happening on trade. And I'll be announcing pretty much what happened here, and also with other meetings, including China and South Korea and lots of other places. We'll be announcing that, for the most part, in a statement. I'll make it from the White House, as opposed to from here. We'll probably do that on Wednesday. We'll give you a chance to sleep. Because the press, I have to tell you, I'm very impressed -- you've stayed with us. You were able to hang in there. I'm very proud of you. (Laughter.) But it's not finished. Steve, it's not finished. You have one day left.

Q (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: But see, we care for you. So we'll be making --

Q Mr. President --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Excuse me, we'll be making a statement when we get back from the White House sometime during Wednesday. And it will be a very complete statement as to trade, as to North Korea, as to a lot of other things.

We've made some very big steps with respect to trade, far bigger than anything you know, in addition to about \$300 billion in sales to various companies, including China -- that was \$250 billion and going up very substantially from that.

But we've made a lot of big progress on trade. We have deficits with almost everybody. Those deficits are going to be cut very quickly and very substantially.

PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL: Except us. (Laughter.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Except with you. You're the only one. (Laughter.) And if I check it, I'll probably find out that was --

PRIME MINISTER TURNBULL: Oh, no. It's real.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: So we'll be making a major statement on Wednesday. And this has been a very fruitful trip for us and, also, in all fairness, for a lot of other nations. The way they've treated us, the respect that Japan and China and South Korea, in particular -- because we went there -- have treated us has been really a great respect for the people of our country, the people of the United States.

And we very much appreciate it, I will say that. It was red carpet like nobody, I think, has probably ever received. And that really is a sign of respect, perhaps, for me a little bit, but really for our country. And I'm very proud that.

So we'll be making a statement on Wednesday. Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you very much.

END

11:15 A.M. PHT

Remarks by President Trump and President Duterte of the Philippines Before Bilateral Meeting | Manila, Philippines

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 13, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and President Duterte of the Philippines Before Bilateral Meeting | Manila, Philippines

Philippine International Convention Center

Manila, Philippines

1:04 P.M. PHT

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: (In progress.) But on the whole, I think I have so many things to say about (inaudible). I will just summarize (inaudible).

We are your ally. We are an important ally. (Inaudible.)

And I will request everybody to -- after you've taken the shots, with the best angles that you would like -- kindly go out.

I cannot discuss the things that they want to say. You may want to make an -- just a statement so that the media is going to have something to go back home.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Yeah, I would. And I will say this: The media was a little bit late, and you actually missed the best part of the President's statement. (Laughter.) I think he should make it again, but it was good.

But we've had a great relationship. This has been very successful. We have many meetings today with many other leaders. And the ASEAN conference has been handled beautifully by the President in the Philippines and your representatives. And I've really enjoyed being here. The weather is always good. Today it's pretty good. But one thing about the Philippines -- eventually it gets good, no matter what.

But we very much appreciate the great treatment you've given us. I thought last night's event was fantastic. Tremendous talent -- most of it, I guess, from the Philippines. But tremendous talent - - musical talent, dance talent. And we really had a tremendous time, all of the leaders.

So I think on behalf of everybody, I want to thank you and I want to thank the Philippines.

Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: You're welcome, Mr. President.

Q Mr. President -- (inaudible) --

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: We're not answering any -- this is not the press statement. We are in a bilateral meeting. Maybe the press conference will follow.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT DUTERTE: We will be talking on matters of interest to both the Philippines and -- with you around, guys, you're the spies. Yes, you are. (Laughter.)

END

1:07 P.M. PHT

Remarks by President Trump at 5th U.S.-ASEAN Summit

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 13, 2017

Remarks by President Trump at 5th U.S.-ASEAN Summit

Philippine International Convention Center

Manila, Philippines

2:57 P.M. PHT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: President Duterte, distinguished leaders, friends and partners: I'm honored to represent the United States of America at this U.S.-ASEAN Commemorative Summit. We gather today at a time of great promise and great challenge.

I speak to you on behalf of 350 million Americans with a message of friendship and partnership. I'm here to advance peace, to promote security, and to work with you to achieve a truly free and open Indo-Pacific, where we are proud and we have sovereign nations, and we thrive, and everybody wants to prosper.

This year we mark 40 years of friendship and cooperation between the United States and this organization. It's a long time. I also want to congratulate ASEAN on 50 years of promoting peace and prosperity and stability in Southeast Asia and in the broader Indo-Pacific region.

Rodrigo, I would like to commend you on your success as ASEAN chair at this very critical moment in time and in the association's history -- such an important event. And I want to thank you for your incredible hospitality.

And the show last night, the talent at that show -- I assume mostly from the Philippines -- was fantastic. Thank you. And you were fantastic, also, very much, from the Philippines. (Applause.) We couldn't tell the difference. (Laughter.)

I send the people of the Philippines warm greetings from the people of the United States.

I also want to thank Prime Minister Najib of Malaysia for the excellent job you've done as coordinator, and I appreciate it very much. I really appreciate it. You have coordinated so well with us.

For five decades, this organization has brought together a vital assembly of nations to build consensus on critical issues facing the region and the world. You have created a forum for all nations with a stake in the Indo-Pacific to listen, learn, and develop solutions to common challenges through strategic dialogue.

The United States remains committed to ASEAN's central role as a regional forum for total cooperation. This diplomatic partnership advances the security and prosperity of the American people and the people of all Indo-Pacific nations.

In recent decades, nations across the region have built strong societies, robust economies, and vibrant communities of citizens. Really proud -- totally proud, always -- of their heritage, and confident in who they are.

Today, we celebrate your incredible success, and we also seek economic partnerships on the basis of fairness and reciprocity. As the world knows, the United States, since our election on November 8th, has been moving ahead really brilliantly on an economic basis. We have the highest stock market we've ever had. We have the lowest unemployment in 17 years. The value of stocks has risen \$5.5 trillion.

And companies are moving into the United States. A lot of companies are moving. They're moving back. They want to be there. The enthusiasm levels are the highest ever recorded on the charts. So we're very happy about that, and we think that bodes very well for your region because of the relationship that we have.

So we want our partners in the region to be strong, independent, and prosperous, in control of their own destinies, and satellites to no one. These are the principles behind our vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

So again, I wish you all the best of luck. It's an honor to be here. And, Rodrigo, thank you very much for the way you treated all of us. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

3:02 P.M. PHT

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi of India Before Bilateral Meeting | Manila, Philippines

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 13, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and Prime Minister Modi of India Before Bilateral Meeting |
Manila, Philippines

Sofitel Philippine Plaza
Manila, Philippines
4:36 P.M. PHT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's great to have Prime Minister Modi here. We've had him at the White House, and he's become a friend of ours and a great gentleman doing a fantastic job in bringing around lots of factions in India -- bringing them all together. That's what I hear, and that's good news. And it really is. It's a lot of good reports coming out of India. So I want to congratulate you.

But it's an honor to be with you. We're rounding the turn for our last couple of stops. I have a couple of more today. And then tomorrow we have the conference, and then we leave at about three o'clock.

And it's been a great 12 days. We've had 12 days -- I don't know how many days have you had there. How long --

PRIME MINISTER MODI: (Inaudible.)

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, we've been doing this for 12 days, and we've really enjoyed it. And a lot of great things have happened for our country and, I think, for the world. A lot of elements were solved or in the process of being solved.

But it's a great honor to be with you, Mr. Prime Minister. Thank you. Thank you very much.

PRIME MINISTER MODI: (As interpreted.) Well, Mr. President, I'm indeed very happy to have this opportunity once again to meet you. The relations between India and the United States are growing very rapidly with a great deal of speed. And they're getting deeper and very comprehensive.

And I also feel that and that these relations between India and the U.S., they are not just for our mutual interests, but they go much beyond that. And we are working together for the interest of the future of Asia and for humanity as a whole in the world. And there are many areas where we are working together and we can work together in the future, too.

And in the past few days, wherever President Trump has traveled and whenever an opportunity arose to talk about India, he has expressed very high opinion about India and also things which are full of hope whenever he has spoken about India.

And I would like to assure you that whatever the expectations are of the world, of the United States, from India, India has always worked and made efforts to do our bit and to fulfill those expectations. And we will continue to do so in the future, too.

Once again, let me express my gratitude to President Trump for this meeting.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much. Thank you.

END

4:40 P.M. PHT

Remarks by President Trump in Press Gaggle After 12th East Asia Summit | Manila, Philippines

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 14, 2017

Remarks by President Trump in Press Gaggle After 12th East Asia Summit | Manila, Philippines

Philippine International Convention Center

Manila, Philippines

2:43 P.M. PHT

PRESIDENT TRUMP: (In progress) -- to the plane now. We'll be going back to Washington.

We'll make some comments probably tomorrow afternoon, only because we have to let the media recover. (Laughter.) They want to recover. When I said we'll do it on Wednesday morning, they all said, will we do it later than that? So I'm going to do that for the media. So maybe Wednesday afternoon or maybe Thursday morning, whichever is most convenient.

But we've had a tremendously successful trip. Tremendous amounts of work was done on trade, not only on the deals -- and we have at least \$300 billion worth of deals, but that will be, I think, way triple that number in a fairly short period of time.

But I think much more importantly, we've explained that the United States is open for trade, but we want reciprocal trade. We want fair trade for the United States, because with past administrations -- as I said in China and I said very loud and very clear -- the United States has been taken advantage of. They're very giving, and they don't get in return.

So we want fair trade. We want reciprocal trade. And we'll see a lot of great things happen. We're also very open -- we're open for trade. But we have to be treated fairly. We have to be treated in a reciprocal fashion.

So it's been an incredible 12 days. I've enjoyed it immensely. I've made a lot of friends at the highest level, whether it's China and the incredible opening they gave us -- that unbelievable evening. People really have never seen anything like it -- going to the Forbidden City and a theater that hadn't been open in over 100 years, and the level of talent that we watched. It was really something special.

And then we had great meetings in China. And Japan, likewise -- it was a tremendous rollout. And from the moment we walked off the plane and back on to the plane -- in South Korea, as you know, we made the speech. I believe seldom has there been the opportunity to speak for somebody from the outside world in that hall. So South Korea was terrific to us, and we obviously talked about North Korea. We talked about trade. We talked about lots of different things. But, certainly, in South Korea and Japan, a primary emphasis was on North Korea.

And coming to the Philippines was terrific, and coming to Vietnam was terrific. Vietnam is ordering at least \$12 billion worth of Boeings, and I think they were going a different route. But now they're going the route of ordering from us. And the reason I like the Boeing is because it's jobs for the United States. It's not jobs for somebody else. It's jobs for the United States.

Vietnam treated us incredibly, as did -- I mean, the Philippines, we just could not have been treated nicer. And as you know, we were having a lot of problems with the Philippines. The relationship with the past administration was horrible, to use a nice word. I would say "horrible" is putting it mildly. You know what happened. Many of you were there, and you never got to land. The plane came close but it didn't land.

And now we have a very, very strong relationship with the Philippines, which is really important -- less so for trade, in this case, than for military purposes. It is a strategic location -- the most strategic location. And, if you look at it, it's called the most prime piece of real estate from a military standpoint.

So it's very important that we get along with the Philippines, and we really do. We have a very good relationship. I would actually say probably better than ever before.

So we've accomplished a lot. I've enjoyed it very much. My press -- I feel so sorry for them. They're exhausted. Would you like to stop in another couple of countries? Because we can do that if you want. (Laugh.) Otherwise, we'll go to the plane and we'll take off. But we'll be landing in Washington in about 22 hours.

So I appreciate everybody. And I very much appreciate your time. I know how hard you worked also. We all worked hard. But I think the fruits of our labor are going to be incredible, whether it's security of our nations, whether it's security of the world, or whether it's trade. And it's going to really amount to a lot.

Thank you all very much. I appreciate it. Thank you.

END

2:48 P.M. PH

Remarks by President Trump on His Trip to Asia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 15, 2017

Remarks by President Trump on His Trip to Asia

Diplomatic Reception Room

3:35 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

Last night, I returned from a historic 12-day trip to Asia. This journey took us to five nations to meet with dozens of foreign leaders, participate in three formal state visits, and attend three key regional summits. It was the longest visit to the region by an American President in more than a quarter of a century.

Everywhere we went, our foreign hosts greeted the American delegation, myself included, with incredible warmth, hospitality, and most importantly respect. And this great respect showed very well our country is -- further evidence that America's renewed confidence and standing in the world has never been stronger than it is right now.

When we are confident in ourselves, our strength, our flag, our history, our values -- other nations are confident in us. And when we treat our citizens with the respect they deserve, other countries treat America with the respect that our country so richly deserves.

During our travels, this is exactly what the world saw: a strong, proud, and confident America.

Today, I want to update the American people on the tremendous success of this trip and the progress we've made to advance American security and prosperity throughout the year.

When I came into office, our country was faced with a series of growing dangers. These threats included rogue regimes pursuing deadly weapons, foreign powers challenging America's influence, the spread of the murderous terror group ISIS, and years of unfair trade practices that had dangerously depleted our manufacturing base and wiped out millions and millions of middle-class jobs.

The challenges were inherited, and these products really showed what previous mistakes were made over many years -- and even decades -- by other administrations. Some of these mistakes were born of indifference and neglect. Others from naïve thinking and misguided judgement. In some cases, the negative influence of partisan politics and special interests was to blame. But the one common thread behind all of these problems was a failure to protect and promote the interests of the American people and American workers.

Upon my inauguration, I pledged that we would rebuild America, restore its economic strength, and defend its national security. With this goal in mind, I vowed that we would reaffirm old alliances and form new friendships in pursuit of shared goals. Above all, I swore that in every decision, with every action, I would put the best interests of the American people first.

Over the past 10 months, traveling across the globe and meeting with world leaders, that is exactly what I have done.

Earlier this year, in Saudi Arabia, I spoke to the leaders of more than 50 Arab and Muslim nations about our strategy to defeat terrorists by stripping them of financing, territory, and ideological support. And I urged the leaders to drive out the terrorists and extremists from their societies. Since that time, we have dealt ISIS one crushing defeat after another.

In Israel, I reaffirmed the unbreakable bond between America and the Jewish State, and I met with leaders of the Palestinian Authority and initiated an effort to facilitate lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

In Brussels, I urged our NATO allies to do more to strengthen our crucial alliance and set the stage for significant increases in member contributions. Billions and billions of dollars are pouring in because of that initiative. NATO, believe me, is very happy with Donald Trump and what I did.

In Warsaw, I declared to the world America's resolve to preserve and protect Western civilization and the values we hold so dear.

In Rome, Sicily, Hamburg, and Paris, I strengthened our friendships with key allies to promote our shared interests of security and prosperity.

In September, at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, I urged that the nations of the world join in confronting rogue regimes that threaten humanity and laid out a model for

international cooperation grounded in respect for sovereignty and the responsibilities that come with it.

On each trip, I have worked to advance American interests and leadership in the world.

And to each of these places, I have carried our vision for a better -- a vision for something stronger and sovereign -- so important -- sovereign and independent nations, rooted in their histories, confident in their destinies, and cooperating together to advance their security, prosperity, and the noble cause of peace.

It was this same vision that I carried to Asia two weeks ago. And it was this same commitment to you, the American people, that was always at the forefront of my mind and my thinking.

Our trip was defined by three core goals. First: to unite the world against the nuclear menace posed by the North Korean regime, a threat that has increased steadily through many administrations and now requires urgent action.

Second: to strengthen America's alliances and economic partnerships in a free and open Indo-Pacific, made up of thriving, independent nations, respectful of other countries and their own citizens, and safe from foreign domination and economic servitude.

And third: to finally -- after many years -- insist on fair and reciprocal trade. Fair and reciprocal trade -- so important. These two words -- fairness and reciprocity -- are an open invitation to every country that seeks to do business with the United States, and they are a firm warning to every country that cheats, breaks the rules, and engages in economic aggression -- like they've been doing in the past, especially in the recent past.

That is why we have almost an \$800-billion-a-year trade deficit with other nations. Unacceptable. We are going to start whittling that down, and as fast as possible.

With these goals, it was my profound honor to travel on this journey as your representative. I explained to all of the world leaders, and across Asia, how well the United States is doing. Economic growth has been over 3 percent the last two quarters and is going higher. Unemployment is at its lowest level in 17 years. The stock market has gained trillions of dollars in value since my election and has reached record highs. We are massively increasing our military budget to historic levels. The House has just passed a nearly \$700 billion defense package, and it could not come at a better time for our nation.

Once again our country is optimistic about the future, confident in our values, and proud of our history and a role in the world.

I want to thank every citizen of this country for the part you have played in making this great American comeback possible. In Asia, our message was clear and well received: America is here to compete, to do business, and to defend our values and our security.

We began our trip in Hawaii to pay our respects to brave American servicemembers at Pearl Harbor and the United States Pacific Command, the guardian of our security and freedom across the Indo-Pacific region.

our country prepared to observe Veterans Day, we remembered the incredible sacrifices and courage of all of the veterans whose service has preserved our liberty and a way of life that is very special. We also thanked military families for their support for our brave servicemen and women.

From Hawaii, we traveled to Japan, a crucial U.S. ally and partner in the region. Upon landing in Japan, my first act was to thank the American servicemembers and Japanese Self-Defense Forces who personify the strength of our enduring alliance.

Prime Minister Abe and I agreed on our absolute determination to remain united to achieve the goal of denuclearized North Korea. Shortly following our visit, Japan announced additional sanctions on 35 North Korean entities and individuals. Japan also committed to shouldering more of the burden of our common defense by reimbursing costs borne by American taxpayers, as well as by making deep investments in Japan's own military. This will include purchases of U.S. advanced

capabilities -- from jet fighters to missile defense systems worth many, many billions of dollars -- and jobs for the American worker.

The Prime Minister and I also discussed ways we can deepen our trade relationship based on the core principles of fairness and reciprocity. I am pleased that since January of this year, Japanese companies have announced investments in the United States worth more than \$8 billion -- 17,000 jobs. Thank you.

Oh, they don't have water? That's okay. What? That's okay.

(Drinks water.)

THE PRESIDENT: Japanese manufacturers, Toyota and Mazda, announced that they will be opening a new plant in the United States that will create 4,000 jobs.

We also signed agreements between our nations to enhance infrastructure development, increase access to affordable energy, and advance our foreign policy goals through economic investment.

From Japan, we traveled to another key American ally in Asia -- the Republic of Korea. My official state visit to South Korea was the first by an American President in 25 years.

Speaking before the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, I spoke the truth about the evil crimes of the North Korean regime, and I made clear that we will not allow this twisted dictatorship to hold the world hostage to nuclear blackmail.

I called on every nation, including China and Russia, to unite in isolating the North Korean regime -- cutting off all ties of trade and commerce -- until it stops its dangerous provocation on -- and this is the whole key to what we're doing -- on denuclearization. We have to denuclearize North Korea.

We have ended the failed strategy of strategic patience, and, as a result, we have already seen important progress -- including tough new sanctions from the U.N. council -- we have a Security Council that has been with us and just about with us from the beginning.

South Korea agreed to harmonize sanctions and joined the United States in sanctioning additional rogue actors whose fund and funds have helped North Korea and North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. It's unacceptable to us.

The United States welcomed the decision of President Moon to remove the payload restrictions on missiles to combat the North Korean threat. And together we reaffirmed our commitment to a campaign of maximum pressure.

Like Japan, South Korea is increasing its defense contributions. During our meetings, President Moon acknowledged his desire for equitable cost-sharing for the United States military forces stationed in South Korea. And I visited soldiers at Camp Humphreys, a brand-new, joint American-South Korean base, paid for almost entirely by the South Korean government. At that base, I discussed with the United States and South Korean military leaders both military options and readiness to respond to North Korean provocation or offensive actions.

During our visit, President Moon and I also discussed America's commitment to reducing our trade deficit with South Korea. At my discretion and direction, we are currently renegotiating the disastrous U.S.-Korea trade agreement signed under the previous administration. It has been a disaster for the United States.

Last week, 42 South Korean companies announced their intent to invest in projects worth more than \$17 billion dollars in the United States, and 24 companies announced plans to purchase \$58 billion dollars in American goods and services.

From South Korea, Melania and I traveled to China, where, as in Japan and South Korea, we were greatly honored by the splendor of our reception. Our trip included the first official dinner held for a foreign leader in the Forbidden City since the founding of the modern China, where we enjoyed a very productive evening hosted by President Xi and his wonderful wife, Madam Peng.

During our visit, President Xi pledged to faithfully implement United Nations Security Council resolutions on North Korea and to use his great economic influence over the regime to achieve our common goal of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

President Xi recognizes that a nuclear North Korea is a grave threat to China, and we agreed that we would not accept a so-called “freeze for freeze” agreement like those that have consistently failed in the past. We made that time is running out and we made it clear, and all options remain on the table.

I also had very candid conversations with President Xi about the need to reduce our staggering trade deficit with China and for our trading relationship to be conducted on a truly fair and equitable basis. We can no longer tolerate unfair trading practices that steal American jobs, wealth, and intellectual property. The days of the United States being taken advantage of are over.

In China, we also announced \$250 billion worth in trade-investment deals that will create jobs in the United States.

From China, I flew to the city of Da Nang in Vietnam, to attend the Leaders Meeting for APEC -- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation. There, I spoke to a major gathering of business leaders, where I reminded the world of America’s historic role in the Pacific as a force for freedom and for peace.

Standing on this proud history, I offered our vision for robust trading relationships in which Indo-Pacific nations can all prosper and grow together. I announced that the United States is ready to make bilateral trade deals with any nation in the region that wants to be our partner in fair and reciprocal trade.

We will never again turn a blind eye to trading abuses, to cheating, economic aggression, or anything else from countries that profess a belief in open trade, but do not follow the rules or live by its principles themselves.

No international trading organization can function if members are allowed to exploit the openness of others for unfair economic gain. Trade abuses harm the United States and its workers -- but no more. No more.

We will take every trade action necessary to achieve the fair and reciprocal treatment that the United States has offered to the rest of the world for decades.

My message has resonated. The 21 APEC leaders -- for the first time ever -- recognized the importance of fair and reciprocal trade, recognized the need to address unfair trade practices, and acknowledged that the WTO is in strong need of reform. These leaders also noted that countries must do a better job following the rules to which they agreed.

I also made very clear that the United States will promote a free and open Indo-Pacific in which nations enjoy the independence and respect they deserve.

In Vietnam, during a state visit in Hanoi, I also met with President Quang and Prime Minister Fook to discuss the growing friendship between our countries. Our Vietnamese partners are taking new actions to enforce sanctions on North Korea. In addition, we committed to expand trade and investment between our countries, and we pledged to address the imbalances. I am particularly pleased that the United States and Vietnam recently announced \$12 billion in commercial agreements, which will include \$10 billion in U.S. content.

Finally, I visited the Philippines, where I met with numerous world leaders at the U.S.-ASEAN and East Asia Summits. At ASEAN -- the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- we made it clear that no one owns the ocean. Freedom of navigation and overflight are critical to the security and prosperity of all nations.

I also met with the Prime Ministers of India, Australia, and Japan to discuss our shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific.

During our visit, President Duterte of the Philippines thanked the American people and our armed forces for supporting the recent liberation of Marawi from ISIS. We pledged to strengthen and deepen our long-standing alliance.

At the East Asia Summit, the United States negotiated and signed four important leaders' statements on the use of chemical weapons, money laundering, poverty alleviation, and countering terrorist propaganda and financing.

And crucially, at both summits and throughout the trip, we asked all nations to support our campaign of maximum pressure for North Korean denuclearization. And they are responding by cutting trade with North Korea, restricting financial ties to the regime, and expelling North Korean diplomats and workers.

Over the last two weeks, we have made historic strides in reasserting American leadership, restoring American security, and reawakening American confidence.

Everywhere we went, I reaffirmed our vision for cooperation between proud, independent and sovereign countries -- and I made clear that the United States will be a reliable friend, a strong partner, and a powerful advocate for its own citizens.

The momentum from our trip will launch us on our continued effort to accomplish the three core objectives I outlined: to unite the world against North Korean nuclear threat, to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and to advance fair and reciprocal economic relations with our trading partners and allies in the region.

We have established a new framework for trade that will ensure reciprocity through enforcement actions, reform of international organizations, and new fair trade deals that benefit the United States and our partners.

And we have laid out a pathway toward peace and security in our world where sovereign nations can thrive, flourish, and prosper side-by-side.

This is our beautiful vision for the future. This is a where this vision -- this dream -- is only possible if America is strong, proud, and free.

long as we are true to ourselves, faithful to our founding, and loyal to our citizens, then there is no task too great, no dream too large, no goal beyond our reach.

My fellow citizens: America is back. And the future has never looked brighter.

Thank you. God Bless you and God Bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you all.

END

3:56 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump and His Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain Before Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 30, 2017

Remarks by President Trump and His Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa, Crown Prince of Bahrain Before Bilateral Meeting

Oval Office

11:12 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Well, thank you very much. It's my great honor to have the Crown Prince of Bahrain in the Oval Office. We're doing a lot of business. They're buying a lot of things. I heard \$9 billion is thrown about. That's a very nice trip and we appreciate it.

We've had a long relationship and a great relationship, and it will only get better. I can tell you they've been, and you have been, a great friend. And we appreciate it very much, and we appreciate you being at the White House.

HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE SALMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. It's a great honor to be here. This is a very important trip for us. And indeed, we are building on a hundred years relationship

between the Kingdom of Bahrain and the United States of America. And the peoples of both countries have benefitted from this relationship, and we continue to seek ways to strengthen that.

And thank you, Mr. President, for honoring me with this meeting.

PRESIDENT TRUMP: It's a great honor, believe me. Thank you very much. Thank you, everybody.

Q Do you want Rex Tillerson on the job, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT TRUMP: He's here. Rex is here.

Q He's here. Do you want him to stay --

PRESIDENT TRUMP: Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you.

END

11:13 A.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump to Members of the Military

Remarks by President Trump to Members of the Military

Issued on: December 24, 2017

Via Video Teleconference

Mar-a-Lago Club and Resort

Palm Beach, Florida

8:59 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: I just wanted to wish everybody a very, very Merry Christmas. We say, "Christmas" again very proudly. Very, very merry Christmas. We're going to have a great year. It's going to be an incredible year.

I'm thrilled to bring season's greetings on behalf of the First Lady and our entire family, and most importantly, on behalf of the American people. Today and everyday we're incredibly thankful for you and for your families. Your families have been tremendous. Always underappreciated, the military families — the greatest people on Earth.

We have five deployed units joining us today, one from each branch of our armed forces.

I want to welcome Colonel Chuck Lombardo and all of the soldiers of Iron Brigade. Deployed in Kuwait to support the Operation Spartan Shield and Inherent Resolve, the Iron Brigade is currently serving as an active partner in the Iraqi, Kuwaiti, Saudi, and Jordanian armies, and doing an incredible job. You also provide force protection and security cooperation in Syria and in Iraq. It is a vital mission, and we want to thank you very much. Great job.

Colonel Chris Gideons and the Special Purpose Marine Air Force and Air-Ground Task Force joins us from Kuwait as well. The Task Force is Central Command's crisis response force, and a powerful force it is. Colonel, I understand that among your many other missions, the Task Force has provided more than 4,000 flight hours of close-air support to the campaign against ISIS. Everybody's talking about it. You've done an incredible job. So, Colonel Gideons, we want to thank you very much. Where's the Colonel out here? Where is he?

COLONEL GIDEONS: Right here, sir, and we're happy to.

THE PRESIDENT: Great job. Thank you very much.

Merry Christmas to all of the sailors aboard the USS Sampson. Commander Tim LaBenz, I want to thank you and the entire crew for your outstanding work in defending high-value assets in the Straits of Hormuz. You also provide air defense coverage in the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea. I know the USS Sampson recently set a new standard in readiness. And it really has always been ready, but we're all ready. And that is a tremendous credit to all of those aboard. So congratulations on the new standard. We're all talking about it. It's a high standard you've set. Thank you very much.

The 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron joins us from Qatar. Colonel Goossen, welcome to you, again, and all of the Knighthawks. The 69th has engaged more than 700 ISIS and Taliban

targets in five separate countries, and was recently awarded both the Linebacker and LeMay trophies — an amazing achievement and a very unusual one to get both. Thank you very much.

From the United States Coast Guard, who have done such an incredible job in Texas and Florida and Puerto Rico — they've had plenty of work right here — we want to welcome Captain Matthew Wadleigh and Port Security Unit 309 stationed down in Guantanamo Bay. This unit does outstanding work in providing expeditionary anti-terrorism and force protection around the globe.

In fact, we saw your tireless efforts in action at the 200 — as you know, at our great Republican National Convention. And many Republicans are very happy, but I have to tell you, the people of Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and lots of other states are even more happy. What a job you've done. The Coast Guard saved thousands and thousands of lives. Almost — it's unbelievable when I looked at the charts and I saw the number of lives you've saved. So I want to congratulate the Coast Guard for having done an incredible job.

As we celebrate this most precious holiday, we're grateful for each of you who spend this Christmas away from your families and defend all of our families, our freedoms, and our flag. Every American heart is thankful to you, and we're asking God to watch over you and to watch over your families.

As we open up the discussion, I know that some of the men and women under your command are able to join us and, perhaps, ask some of the questions.

So we're going to be speaking with these wonderful people of the media and asking them to leave. Enjoy yourselves, folks. We appreciate it. Have a great Christmas. And we're going to do some very personal questions between these great people and myself. And we want to thank you very much for being here. And if I don't see you during the day, have a great holiday and a great Christmas. Thank you very much. Thank you. Thank you

END

9:05 A.M. EST

5.

ЕЖЕНЕДЕЛЬНЫЕ ОБРАЩЕНИЯ

President Trump's First Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 28, 2017

President Trump's First Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address aired Saturday, January 28, 2017 on Facebook Live at 12:45 PM EST. Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/POTUS>

TRANSCRIPT:

My fellow Americans,

One week ago, our administration assumed the enormous responsibilities that you, the American People, have placed in us.

There is much work to do in the days ahead, but I wanted to give you an update on what we have accomplished already.

In my first few days as your President, I've met with the leaders of some of our nation's top manufacturing companies and labor unions.

My message was clear: we want to make things in America, and we want to use American workers.

Since my election, many companies have announced they are no longer moving jobs out of our country but are instead keeping and creating jobs right here in America.

Every day, we are fulfilling the promise we made to the American People. Here are just a few of the executive actions that I have taken in the last few days –

--An order to prepare for repealing and replacing Obamacare, it's about time.

--The withdrawal from the Trans-Pacific Partnership so that we can negotiate one-on-one deals that protect American workers. That would have been a disastrous deal for our workers.

--An order to begin construction of the Keystone and Dakota Access pipelines, following a renegotiation of terms, with a requirement that pipelines installed in America be built with American steel and manufactured here.

--A directive to expedite permits for new infrastructure and new manufacturing plants.

--An order to immediately begin the border wall and to crack down on sanctuary cities. They are not safe, we have to take care of that horrible situation.

This administration has hit the ground running at a record pace, everybody is talking about it. We are doing it with speed and we are doing it with intelligence and we will never, ever stop fighting on behalf of the American People.

God bless you, and God Bless America.

The President's Weekly Address debuted today on Facebook Live and is now available to watch on YouTube

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 03, 2017

President Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address debuted today on Facebook Live and is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This week I nominated Neil Gorsuch for the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Gorsuch is one of the most qualified people ever to be nominated for this post. He is a graduate of Columbia, Harvard and Oxford. He is a man of principle. He has an impeccable resume. He is widely respected by everyone. And, Judge Gorsuch's proven track record upholding the Constitution makes him the ideal person to fill the vacancy left by the late, great Antonin Scalia, a truly fabulous justice.

Ten years ago, the Senate unanimously approved Judge Gorsuch's nomination to serve on the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. I urge members of both parties to support Judge Gorsuch and, in so doing, to protect our laws and our freedoms.

This week we also took significant action to roll back the massive regulation that is devastating our economy and crippling American companies and jobs.

That's why I have issued a new executive order to create a permanent structure of regulatory reduction. This order requires that for every 1 new regulation, 2 old regulations must—and I mean must—be eliminated. It's out of control.

The January employment report shows that the private sector added 237,000 jobs last month. A lot of that has to do with the spirit our country now has. Job growth far surpassed expectations in January, and the labor force participation also grew, so you can be encouraged about the progress of our economy. It's going to be a whole new ball game.

But there is still much work to do. That I can tell you.

Also this week, on the first day of Black History Month, I was pleased to host African American leaders at the White House. We are determined to deliver more opportunity, jobs and safety for the African-American citizens of our country. America can really never, ever rest until children of every color are fully included in the American Dream—so important. I think, probably, one of my most and maybe my most important goal. It is our mutual duty and obligation to make sure this happens.

At Dover Air Force Base on Wednesday I joined the family of Chief Special Warfare Operator William "Ryan" Owens as our fallen hero was returned home. A great man. Chief Owens gave his life for his country and for our people. Our debt to him and his family, a beautiful family, is eternal.

God has truly blessed this nation to have given us such a brave and selfless patriot as Ryan. We will never forget him. We will never ever forget those who serve. Believe me.

And I will never forget that my responsibility is to keep you—the American people—safe and free.

That's why last week I signed an executive order to help keep terrorists out of our country. The executive order establishes a process to develop new vetting and mechanisms to ensure those coming into America love and support our people. That they have good intentions.

On every single front, we are working to deliver for American workers and American families. You, the law-abiding citizens of this country, are my total priority. Your safety, your jobs and your wages guide our decisions.

We are here to serve you, the great and loyal citizens of the United States of America.

The forgotten men and women will be never be forgotten again. Because from now on, it's going to be America First. That's how I got elected, that's why you voted for me, and I will never forget it.

God Bless You, and God Bless America.

President Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 10, 2017

President Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address aired today on Facebook Live and is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This week our hearts are with the people of Louisiana and Mississippi. Families have lost their homes, businesses, and livelihoods after devastating tornadoes swept through many, many communities.

My administration will make sure they have the support that they need and really desperately want. We're going to take care of them. It's remarkable to see Americans across the country come together to help families rebuild their lives. That is the beauty of the American spirit – there's nothing like it.

There is a great spirit all over the country – and that spirit is what we will need to rebuild America to, as I have said so often, Make America Great Again.

On Tuesday, I was pleased to host at the White House the CEO of Intel, who announced that Intel will invest \$7 billion dollars in a new manufacturing facility in Arizona – creating thousands of new American jobs. That's what we want, new American jobs, and good jobs.

Intel decided to move forward with this project because they know we are totally committed to lifting the regulatory and tax burdens that are hurting American innovation and companies.

In fact, we are in the process right now of working on a major tax reform that will massively reduce taxes on our workers and businesses. We want to make it much easier to do business in America – and that's what we are going to do. We are going to make it also much harder for companies to leave. They're not just going to say bye-bye and fire everybody. There will be consequences.

I want America to be the great jobs magnet of the world – but we can't do that if we don't stop the wasteful rules and excessive taxes that make it impossible for companies to compete. Every hour of every day, my Administration is focused on creating jobs for our people and I mean good jobs. More jobs, better jobs, higher-paying jobs – that's our mission.

This week, I also met with Sheriffs and Police Chiefs from across the country. I pledged to them that we would stand with the incredible men and women of law enforcement – and so too will our great new Attorney General, Jeff Sessions.

My administration is committed to your security, which is why we will continue to fight to take all necessary and legal action to keep terrorists, radical and dangerous extremists from ever entering our country. We will not allow our generous system of immigration to be turned against us as a tool for terrorism and truly bad people. We must take firm steps today to ensure that we are safe tomorrow.

We will defend our country, protect our Constitution, and deliver real prosperity for our people.

God bless you, God bless America. Have a great week.

President Trump's Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 17, 2017
President Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address aired today on Facebook Live and is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

We have taken major steps during the first few weeks of my Administration to remove wasteful regulations and get our people back to work. I have been saying I was going to do that for a long time.

This week I signed two pieces of legislation to remove burdens on our economy, continue to keep my promises to the American People and so much more.

I signed House Joint Resolution 38, which eliminates an anti-coal regulation put forward by unelected bureaucrats. Our coal miners have been treated horribly, and we are going to turn that around - and we are going to turn it around quickly. We are going to fight for lower energy prices for all Americans as part of the deal.

That's why I also signed a resolution to eliminate a costly regulation Dodd-Frank imposed on American energy companies. By stopping this regulation, we are able to save American companies and workers millions and millions of dollars in job-killing compliance costs.

But to truly succeed as a country, we must realize the full potential of women in our economy.

That is why I was thrilled to host the White House's women's business leaders roundtable—very exciting, great women.

As President, I am committed to ensuring that women entrepreneurs have equal access to the capital, markets, and networks of support that they need, and I mean really need. And it's going to happen. This is a priority for my Administration. I campaigned on helping women in the workforce, and we are going to deliver on that promise, believe me.

In fact, as part of my first official meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau this week, we announced the creation of the joint United States-Canada Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders. Actually, very exciting.

The United States also reaffirmed our unbreakable bond this week with our cherished ally, Israel. It was an honor to welcome my friend, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House.

I affirmed to the Prime Minister America's commitment to working with Israel and our allies and partners toward greater security and stability. The threat of terrorism—and believe me it is a threat—must be confronted and defeated and we will defeat it.

We share with Israel a deep conviction that we must protect all innocent human life.

So as you head into the President's Day weekend, the American people should know that we are working tirelessly on your behalf. We are not here for the benefit of bureaucrats, consultants, or pundits—we are here to work for you, and only for you, the American people.

Thank you, God Bless you and God Bless America.

President Trump's Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 25, 2017

President Trump's Weekly Address

My fellow Americans,

As Black History Month 2017 comes to a close, I am very grateful for the many wonderful opportunities to honor African American heroes, faith leaders, entrepreneurs and the many others who changed the course of our Nation. We are blessed by the lives and examples of those who have made this Nation a beacon of freedom, talent, and unbreakable American spirit.

This week, I had the privilege of visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture right here in Washington, D.C. It's a new, beautiful Smithsonian museum that serves as a shining example of African Americans' incredible contributions to our culture, our society, and our history. It also tells of the great struggle for freedom and equality that prevailed against the sins of slavery and the injustice of discrimination.

The work and love of the people who helped create such a masterpiece is a testament to the legacy of so many leaders it honors. I left that museum confident that together, America can overcome any challenge.

There's a great quote by Muhammad Ali in the museum – "I shook up the world," he said. And that is what he did. So did leaders like Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King, and so many others. They shook up the world for the better because they inspired our Nation to march toward justice and freedom for all. Today, and every day, I pledge to continue that march so that every American – no matter his background, no matter her background – has the chance to climb that great ladder of success.

It was very special to accompany Dr. Ben Carson and his family for the first time seeing the Carson exhibit. I am proud that soon he will serve in my cabinet as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. HUD has a very, very powerful meaning far beyond housing. It is about transforming our communities. About bringing back hope. And Ben will do a fantastic job.

That's what I am committed to doing also. I want every African-American child, family, and worker to have access to great schools, safe communities, and good-paying jobs. I want every disadvantaged child in America to have a choice about where they go to school – so important. I also want to honor and promote the achievements of Historically Black Colleges and Universities throughout our Nation. They do a fantastic job. They are not given the credit that they deserve, and they are going to start getting that credit.

In order to help African Americans thrive, we are working very hard to make sure every child can grow up in a safe community – and have access to high-paying jobs.

We've lost a lot of our best jobs to other countries – and this has hurt the African American community very badly. This week I met with manufacturing CEOs – we're going to be working to bring back those jobs, and I mean really good-paying jobs.

I will be talking more about these issues in my Joint Session Address to Congress and to all Americans next Tuesday evening. I hope you will be watching.

Thank you, God bless you and God bless America.

President Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 03, 2017

President Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address aired today on Facebook Live and is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

I'm joining you today from the deck of what will be our Nation's newest aircraft carrier, the soon-to-be commissioned Gerald R. Ford, and as you can see, I'm wearing a jacket and a hat that they just gave me. Not really used to it, but it feels awfully good – I'm very proud of it actually.

Our carriers are the centerpiece of American military might, projecting power and our totally unparalleled strength at sea.

This beautiful new warship represents the future of naval aviation, and she will serve as a cornerstone of our national defense for decades and decades to come.

A famous aviator once wrote that, to build a truly great ship, we shouldn't begin by gathering wood, cutting boards, or distributing work, but instead by awakening within the people a "desire for the vast and endless sea." So true.

In the same way, we must continue to renew the American spirit in order to rebuild our country, and rebuild it we will.

On Tuesday, before a Joint Session [of] Congress, I laid out a vision – I hope you all watched – for how to accomplish that national rebuilding.

My vision includes the elimination of the defense sequester, which has imposed steep cuts on our military.

We must give our sailors, soldiers, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen the tools, equipment, resources and training they need to get the job done, and get it done right - especially in these very dangerous times.

The active duty Army has been reduced by more than 85,000 men since 2009, and we have over 18,000 fewer active duty marines.

The Air Force, it's the smallest it has been since 1947, and their planes are, on average, nearly thirty years old, if you can believe that.

Our Navy's fleet is the smallest it has been since World War I, and that's a long time ago.

Frontline Navy and Marine strike fighter aircraft are more likely to be down for maintenance than to be in the sky.

We cannot afford to continue down this path. My budget will give America's armed forces the resources they need to achieve full and total military preparedness to meet any and all global challenges – and meet them, we will.

Investing in the military means investing in peace - because the best way to prevent war, as George Washington said, is to be prepared for it.

Most importantly, an investment in the military is an investment in the incredible men and women who serve our country in uniform. They are the best of us. They are the greatest force for peace and justice the world has ever known - and we will support them every single step of the way.

These are truly exciting times. Amazing opportunities are unfolding before us - to strengthen our military, to reboot our economy, and to bring back our jobs. If we all work together, and put our country first, then anything is possible. Let us seize this moment and make the most of this incredible opportunity for national renewal.

May God bless the men and women of our military, and may God bless the United States of America, the country we love.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 10, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address aired today on Facebook Live and is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

In March, we celebrate Women's History Month, honoring the countless contributions that women leaders, scientists, and entrepreneurs have made throughout American history.

We are a greater, stronger, and more just Nation today because of women like Clara Barton, Susan B. Anthony, Harriet Tubman, and so many others.

We honor them and we recommit ourselves to a better future for every woman in America today.

On my 50th day in office, I want to talk about an issue of paramount importance to families across our nation – healthcare.

Seven years ago this month, Obamacare was signed into law over the profound objections of American people. Our citizens were told they would have to pass Obamacare to find out what it was and how bad it was.

Now we know that the hundreds of pages were full of broken promises.

Americans were promised that Obamacare would bring premiums down \$2,500 for a typical family. Instead, they've gone up by more than \$4,000.

Americans were promised that Obamacare would increase competition and provide them with more choices. Instead, the number of plans to choose from has plummeted – and I mean plummeted.

This year, Americans in nearly one-third of all counties have only one insurer to choose from on the exchanges – or, in effect, no real choice at all.

Americans were promised that if they liked their health insurance and their doctors, they could keep them. Instead, millions of Americans lost the insurance and lost the doctor that they liked and were thrust into a cold new reality of higher costs and less coverage.

Through seven long years of botched rollouts, soaring costs, cancelled plans, and bureaucratic mandates, Americans have called out for relief. And relief is what we are determined to give them.

I want every American to know that action on Obamacare is an urgent necessity.

The law is collapsing around us, and if we do not act to save Americans from this wreckage, it will take our healthcare system all the way down with it. If we do nothing, millions more innocent Americans will be hurt – and badly hurt.

That's why we must repeal and replace Obamacare.

House Republicans have put forward a plan that gets rid of this terrible law and replaces it with reforms that empower states and consumers.

You will have the choice and the freedom to make the decisions that are right for your family.

The House plan follows the guidelines I laid out in my recent address to Congress – expanding choice, lowering costs, and providing healthcare access for all.

This plan is part of a three-pronged reform process. In concert with the plan in front of Congress, I have directed Dr. Tom Price, our Secretary of Health and Human Services, to use his authority to reduce regulations that are driving up costs of care.

We are also working on reforms that lower the costs of care, like allowing Americans to purchase health insurance across state lines. You've heard me say that many, many times during the debates.

I encourage Democrats to work with us to improve the healthcare system for the American people. Also, we will be driving down the costs.

We will deliver relief to American workers, families, and small businesses, who right now are being crushed by Obamacare, by increasing freedom, choice, and opportunity for the American people.

Thank you very much.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 18, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This week, I traveled to Nashville, Tennessee to lay a wreath at the grave of Andrew Jackson, on the 250th anniversary of his birth. Jackson was an American hero. First, as the brilliant general whose crushing defeat of the British at New Orleans saved our independence in the War of 1812. And later, as the seventh President of the United States—when he fought to defend the forgotten men and women from the arrogant elite of his day. Does it sound familiar?

The memory of his leadership lives on in our people, and his spirit points us to a better future.

This week, I also traveled to the Willow Run plant in Michigan. At that facility during the Second World War, the Ford Motor Company built not cars, but entire airplanes. At one point, workers there produced a complete B-24 Liberator every single hour – hard to believe.

Today on that site is a new facility, where the cutting edge cars of the future will be tested. And this week, the old plant was filled once again with thousands of workers and engineers. I was there to share the good news for the American auto industry.

We announced we'll be reversing an 11th hour executive action from the previous Administration that was threatening thousands of auto jobs in Michigan and across America. And I mean threatening – it was very, very sad to see.

In fact, we are setting up a task force in every federal agency to identify any unnecessary regulation that is hurting American businesses and American jobs.

The first two job reports of my administration show that we've already added nearly half a million new jobs.

The days of economic surrender for the United States are over. For too long, special interests have made money shipping jobs overseas. We need a new economic model – let's call it the American Model. Under this model, we will lower the burden on American Business but, in exchange, they must hire and grow America and American jobs. This will be a win-win for our companies and for our workers.

Let's buy American and hire American. Let's create jobs in America. Let's imagine new industries. And let's build a beautiful future together.

Among the workers building B-24 bombers at the Willow Run plant during World War II was one tough lady. You might have heard of her: they called her Rosie the Riveter. And when Rosie's country called her, she answered the call.

Rosie was famous for her toughness and her strength—and for the words that were emblazoned above her famous image. It said very simply: "We can do it."

If Americans unite, and find again within our nation the soul of Rosie and the spirit of Jackson—I have no doubt that we can do it, and do it like never before.

Thank you. Enjoy your week.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 25, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This week, in the company of astronauts, I was honored to sign the NASA Transition Authorization Act right into law. With this legislation, we renew our national commitment to NASA's mission of exploration and discovery. And we continue a tradition that is as old as mankind. We look to the heavens with wonder and curiosity.

More than two decades ago, one scientist followed his curiosity and dramatically changed our understanding of the universe. The year was 1995. Taxpayers were spending billions and billions of dollars on NASA's Hubble Space Telescope. The astronomer in charge had a novel idea. He wanted to use the expensive telescope in a totally unconventional way.

Instead of pointing Hubble's eye at nearby stars or distant formations, Robert Williams wanted to peer into the void. He aimed the massive telescope at one of the emptiest regions of the night sky. For ten days during Christmas of 1995, Hubble stared into the abyss—seeking whatever light it could glean from the darkness. And it was total darkness.

Fellow astronomers didn't know if he'd see much of anything. But Williams was rewarded—and the entire world was struck by the awesome images our satellite returned. In that tiny patch of sky, the Hubble Deep Field showed thousands of lights. Each brilliant spot represented not a single star but an entire galaxy.

The discovery was absolutely incredible. But the unforgettable image did not satisfy our deep hunger for knowledge. It increased evermore and even more and reminded us how much we do not know about space; frankly, how much we do not know about life.

With this week's NASA reauthorization, we continue progress on Hubble's successor, the James Webb Space Telescope. It is amazing. The Webb Telescope is set to launch next year. It will gaze back through time and space to the very first stars and the earliest galaxies in the universe. We can only imagine what incredible visions it will bring.

At a time when Washington is consumed with the daily debates of our Nation, I was proud that Congress came together overwhelmingly to reaffirm our Nation's commitment to expanding the frontiers of knowledge.

NASA's greatest discoveries teach us many, many things. One lesson is the need to view old questions with fresh eyes. To have the courage to look for answers in places we have never looked before. To think in new ways because we have new information. Most of all, new discoveries remind us that, in America, anything is possible if we have the courage and wisdom to learn.

In the span of one lifetime, our Nation went from black and white pictures of the first airplanes, to beautiful images of the oldest galaxies, captured by a camera in outer space.

I am confident that if Americans can achieve these things, there is no problem we cannot solve. There is no challenge we cannot meet. There is no aim that is too high.

Whatever it takes and however long it will be, we are a Nation of problem solvers—and the future belongs to us.

We are truly a great place to be. I love America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 31, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

It's an exciting time for our country. Our new Administration has so much change underway – change that is going to strengthen our Union and improve so many people's lives.

In the next few days, the Senate will be taking a very important step – one that will protect the rule of law and democratic way of life that is absolutely a birthright of all Americans.

And it involves one of my most important actions as President. That was nominating Judge Neil Gorsuch to fill the seat of the late, great Justice Antonin Scalia.

Judge Gorsuch is incredibly qualified. He has a sterling record. He was confirmed unanimously to the Court of Appeals.

But Judge Gorsuch's nomination is about more than his incredible qualifications.

It's about preserving our Republic.

In their great wisdom, the Founders placed legislative power in its own separate branch of government. Elected representatives from all across the country come together. They host hearings, they listen to the concerns of the people, and then, they try to write laws that address those concerns and make life better for all Americans. It's a process that is meant to take time and energy to ensure that every new law will better serve our wonderful citizens. That's how our democratic process works.

The duty of judges, therefore, is not to re-write the laws – but to uphold the laws, and to apply the Constitution as written.

That is the solemn duty of every Justice on the Supreme Court – and this is what Judge Gorsuch will do.

In recent years, we've seen more and more judges make decisions not based on the Constitution or the rule of law, but based on their preferences, their personal views, or even their political opinions.

Each time a judge substitutes their own opinions for an unbiased reading of the law, they damage our democracy. They put their own will above the will of the people. And they undermine the legislative process that has always been the heartbeat of our democracy.

The Senate will soon have the chance to help preserve our democratic institutions for our children – by voting to confirm Judge Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.

Judge Gorsuch is going to serve our people by devoting himself to our beloved Constitution. The Senate saw this firsthand in hours of Judge Gorsuch's impressive testimony. In every step of the process, what has been clear to all is that Judge Gorsuch is a man who respects the law. He defends the Constitution. And in doing so, he will protect our freedoms.

With Judge Gorsuch on the Supreme Court, America will be a more free, fair, and just Nation for all of our citizens.

Thank you, and God bless you.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 07, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My Fellow Americans,

We're only 11 weeks in, but already my administration has achieved historic progress for the American people – in fact, 93% of our domestic manufacturers have expressed optimism in the future, a record.

The confidence we are seeing in our Nation is about jobs and opportunity – but it's also about safety and security.

Security begins at the border – as a candidate, I pledged to take swift and decisive action to secure the border, and that is exactly what I have done. We inherited a full-fledged border crisis – it was a disaster. Yet, with quick and bold steps, we have so far exceeded even the most bullish predictions for the progress we could make in so short a period of time. Last month, we saw a 64% reduction in illegal immigration on our southern border.

At the same time, we are conducting enforcement actions across the country to remove dangerous criminal aliens from our society – and they'll be gone. In just the last few days our Nation's ICE officers have arrested 153 criminal aliens in south Texas, 84 criminal aliens in the Pacific Northwest, and 31 criminal aliens in Long Island, New York – these arrests include aliens convicted of robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, sexual assault against a child, smuggling, drug dealing, and many more.

Much work needs to be done to reverse decades of harm caused by open border policies from Washington – but, with time, dedication, and effort, we will get the job done, and save countless lives in the process.

Providing security for the American People also means restoring America's standing in the world.

From the very start of my Presidency, I have worked to strengthen our alliances and improve our relationships all around the globe.

This week, I was honored to welcome the President of Egypt and the King of Jordan to the White House. Now, I am hosting a summit with President Xi of China at the Southern White House to address the many critical issues affecting our two peoples.

In our dealings with other nations, our conversations have been candid, open, and grounded in mutual respect.

I have been clear about advocating for the national interests of the United States, something so important to me, and so important to our people – one of the reasons, certainly, that I got elected. And I want to ensure that the decisions we make truly serve the safety and security of our citizens.

In matters both economic and military, we understand that a strong America is in the best interests of the world – that is why it is so important that as we strengthen international partnerships, we ensure these partnerships deliver real results for Americans and the American people.

Our decisions will be guided by our values and our goals – and we will reject the path of inflexible ideology that too often leads to unintended consequences.

A future of peace, safety, and prosperity – that is our guiding light, and always will be.

Together, we will bring about this future for the land we love, and for the people who call it home.

We love our country, and we love the American people. Thank you.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This is a season of great hope.

This week, Jewish families across our country, and around the world, celebrate Passover and retell the story of God's deliverance of the Jewish people. The story of the Exodus is a story of freedom. It is the story of an incredible people who were liberated from oppression and raised up the face of humankind.

Down through the centuries, the Jewish People have lived through one persecution after another—and yet, they persevered and thrived and uplifted the world beyond measure. And now, the State of Israel stands as a monument to their faith and endurance.

Another day of faith and celebration is also upon us.

This Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ and the promise of eternal salvation. It is a holy day of reverence and worship; it is a sacred time that fills the spirit of our Nation with the faith of our people.

America is a Nation of believers.

As families gather in houses of worship across the Nation, we are grateful for the tremendous blessings of this land, our home. We have a beautiful country, an abundant countryside, and an amazing people with a truly bright and wonderful future.

From the beginning, America has been a place that has cherished the freedom of worship. That is the promise the first settlers saw in our vast continent—and it is the promise that our bravest warriors have protected for all of our citizens in centuries since, a long time ago.

Sadly, many around the globe do not enjoy this freedom—and one of the gravest threats to religious freedom remains the threat of terror.

On Palm Sunday, as Christians around the world celebrate the beginning of Holy Week, ISIS murdered at least 45 people and injured over 100 others at two Christian churches in Egypt.

We condemn this barbaric attack. We mourn for those who lost loved ones. And we pray for the strength and wisdom to achieve a better tomorrow—one where good people of all faiths, Christians and Muslims and Jewish and Hindu, can follow their hearts and worship according to their conscience.

With God's grace, life always triumphs over death, freedom overcomes oppression, and faith extinguishes fear. This is the source of our hope—and our confidence in the future.

I also want to give a special message to those struggling Americans who have felt for too long the bitter taste of hardship. I want you to know: this White House is fighting for you. We are fighting for every American who has been left behind. We are fighting for the right of all citizens to enjoy safety and peace—and to work and live with the dignity that all Children of God are entitled to know.

As long as we have faith in each other, and trust in God, we will succeed.

Thank you. Have a Happy Easter, and a Happy Passover. God bless you. And God bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 21, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My Fellow Americans,

A new optimism is sweeping our country as we return power from Washington and give it back to the American People, where it belongs.

For too long, American workers were forgotten by their government – and I mean totally forgotten. Their interests were pushed aside for global projects, and their wealth was taken from their communities and shipped across the world, all across the seas.

My Administration has offered a new vision. The well-being of the American citizen and worker will be placed second to none – and boy do I mean second to none.

Since Day One I have been fighting for the hardworking people of this country – and this week we took historic action to continue delivering on that promise.

We did so in one of the many proud industrial towns of our nation – Kenosha, Wisconsin – with the men and women of Snap-On, who make American tools for workers around the world. They were there, and they loved what they heard, and they loved what they saw.

In Wisconsin, I signed an Executive Order to Buy American and Hire American. I took historic action to ensure that Federal Projects are made with American Goods – and to keep American workers and companies from being cheated out of contracts by countries that break the rules and break every regulation in the book to take advantage of the United States. That's not going to happen anymore.

I also took action to reform our immigration system so that it puts the needs of American workers first – the duty of government is to represent the citizens of the United States, and that is what we will do.

Whether it's removing job-killing regulations, protecting our borders, or unleashing American energy, we are keeping our promises and delivering for the American Worker.

During my visit, I talked about how America is a nation that honors work. We honor grit. We honor craftsmanship. We honor the skilled tradespeople who turn rock and steel and iron and cement into works of art and grace and beauty. There's tremendous talent there, believe me.

The wrench and ratchet are not only tools, but instruments that help build cities out of deserts and send ships across oceans. And the tools of craftsmen and the masons are just as important as the tools of the doctor and the dentist or the CEO, or even the tools of politicians, believe it or not – and their work is every bit as noble. They take pride in their jobs, and we take pride in them.

No longer will the concerns of these hardworking Americans go unanswered.

By making government answer to our citizens, we are removing the limits on our future and setting free the dreams of our people.

As long as we do this, optimism will continue to soar. Hope will continue to spring. And this country we love will grow stronger and stronger day by day.

Thank you, God Bless you, and God Bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 28, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

I truly believe that the first 100 days of my Administration has been just about the most successful in our country's history.

Most importantly, we're bringing back jobs. You asked the people of Michigan; you asked the people of Ohio; you can ask the people of Pennsylvania. See what's happening. See the car

companies come roaring back in. They don't want to leave. They want to stay here. They want a piece of the action.

Our country is going up and it's going up fast. Our companies are doing better – they just announced fantastic profits – all because of what's happened in this rather short period of time. And that's just the beginning. We're putting in a massive tax cut for the middle class and for business. It's going to have an enormous effect.

The massive Keystone Pipeline, the Dakota Pipeline – tens of thousands of jobs right there. And so many other businesses. We're really proud of what we're doing.

The F-35 fighter jet program – it was way over budget. I've saved 725 million dollars plus, just by getting involved in the negotiation. We're cutting costs, and we're going to have a truly competitive and great country again.

In just fourteen weeks, my administration has brought profound change to Washington.

The most fundamental change can be found in the relationship between the people and their government. For too long, politicians cared more about special interests than they did about a very successful future for all Americans. They took our taxpayers' money, and sent their jobs and wealth to other countries.

Not anymore. From the first day of my administration, I have governed by a simple idea: My only allegiance is to you, our wonderful citizens.

Together we are seeing that great achievements are possible when we put American People first.

That is why I withdrew the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. That day was a turning point for our nation. It put the countries of this world on notice that the sellout of the American worker was over.

In the following weeks, I took unprecedented actions to reverse Federal overreach and unleash job creation. We have slashed burdensome regulations, and imposed a policy that for each new regulation, two regulations must be erased from the books.

We've done it all while moving quickly to restore the most basic protection for all citizens, the rule of law. A truly great judge, Neil Gorsuch, now sits on the United States Supreme Court. Justice Gorsuch is deeply devoted to our Constitution. My Administration is the first in the modern political era to confirm a new Supreme Court Justice in the first 100 days – the last time it happened was 136 years ago in 1881.

Defending the rule of law is a priority, not just in the courts, but also on the streets and on the border. We've told the incredible police of our nation that they have our full support as they work to bring down violent crime rates. We've taken bold action to go after criminal cartels, and made it a top priority to prosecute anyone who targets law enforcement.

This has been the work of my administration – fighting for the American worker, defending the rule of law, and returning the power to the American people.

Since my inauguration, economic confidence has soared—reaching higher than any time in 9 years. Optimism among manufacturers is at a record high. And small business confidence has seen its largest increase in nearly four decades.

Perhaps the greatest change of all is the renewal of the American Spirit. As long as we have faith in each other, and trust in God, then the sun will always shine on our very Glorious Republic.

Thank you, God Bless You, and God Bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 05, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

Since Day One, my administration has been hard at work, tearing down the barriers to job creation and economic growth. We have removed one job-killing regulation after another – they're not pretty and they're going. And believe me, we are just getting started on regulations. They're gone.

On Thursday, the House voted to repeal one of the worst job-killing laws of all. It's called ObamaCare, perhaps you've heard of it. Everywhere we look, ObamaCare is collapsing. The House Bill is a plan that will save Americans from this disaster, and replace it with more choices, and more freedom for American families. Most importantly, it will be great healthcare, and your premiums will come down, and your deductibles will come down. So you'll have better healthcare at a lower cost. And now, I'm calling on the Senate to take action. Repealing and replacing ObamaCare will be a big, big win for the American People.

Last week, my economic team outlined another step in our economic renewal: a massive tax cut to bring jobs and prosperity back to the USA. We pay the highest taxes anywhere in the world. No country is higher, and we're bringing them down –and I mean way down.

I am proposing—actually the single largest tax cut—in American history. Our tax relief will be focused on the Middle Class, including much-needed relief for low and middle-income parents raising children.

As we provide tax relief to working families, we must also stop crippling American Industry. Right now, America's businesses are taxed at the single highest rate in the developed world. This is a self-inflicted economic wound that sends jobs to other countries. And believe me, before I got here, they were fleeing fast, but we've stopped it. We want to turn our country into a jobs machine—a jobs magnet, something that really works again. We want America to be the best place in the world to hire, grow, invest, and start a brand-new, beautiful business.

And that is why under our plan, we are cutting the business tax rate all the way down to 15 percent, bringing thousands of new companies and millions of new jobs to our shores. Today's high taxes on American Business are a gift to the foreign countries taking our jobs, factories, and wealth—and we're not going to allow it any longer.

Along with our historic tax cut we are proposing dramatic tax simplification. American taxpayers spend billions of hours each year complying with our archaic tax laws, reducing economic productivity and job creation.

The complexity of the tax code also disadvantages small businesses and family-owned companies who can't afford to hire an army of lawyers, and that's what it is, it's an army of lawyers, and lobbyists, or accountants. Other people can do it, you can't, and it's not fair to ask you to even think about it.

That is why we are cleaning up the code, streamlining deductions, and eliminating many special interest tax breaks that largely benefit only the wealthy.

Just weeks ago, millions of Americans filed their taxes on Tax Day—they were reminded again how much they give to Washington. We believe every day Americans know better how to spend their own money than the federal bureaucracy, and we want to help them keep as much of that hard-earned money as we can.

Tax reform, along with regulatory relief and fair trade deals—and we're going to make them fair—but even really good again for our country, and for our workers. All of this will usher in a new era of prosperity in America – and bring wealth, hope, and opportunity to those communities that need it the most.

Together, we are going to fight for every last American job. And we are going to fight for great, great trade deals that are so good for our workers, and so good for our families.

Thank you, God Bless You, and God Bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 12, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

Confidence in the American economy has reached levels not seen in many, many years. Unemployment fell to its lowest level in nearly ten years last month, and we created 211,000 new jobs.

Our economic progress is especially good news for the millions of young Americans who, at this time of the year, are putting on a cap and gown and receiving a diploma, certificate, or commission. So important, and we are so proud of them.

This weekend, I am delighted to be participating first hand in the excitement by joining the students and faculty at Liberty University to celebrate the success of their graduates. I was invited to make the commencement address at West Point, but I will be away at the G7 – and I look forward to that – and will be at West Point, Annapolis, and the Air Force Academy.

Come to think about it, a few days later, I will actually travel to New London, Connecticut, to speak to the graduating cadets of the United States Coast Guard Academy about their new roles serving our country. So we'll be with them very shortly.

To young Americans at both schools, I will be bringing a message of hope and optimism about our nation's bright future. That is a message that I want to extend to all young Americans today, especially those who are graduating this year and entering the labor force.

We are also celebrating all of the Americans who learn the skills and trades that generations of workers have used to build, shape, and supply this nation. The people who construct, repair, and create with their own two hands are the people who make this nation run. And lots of those people voted for me. That's also why, in my Administration, I am so deeply committed to technical and vocational education.

I want you to know that my administration is working every single day to create new opportunities and to reverse years of stagnant growth, falling wages, and disappearing jobs. We are ending the sellout of American workers—and lifting the burdens on American industry, manufacturing, and businesses.

We are rolling back the job-killing regulations that make it harder for companies to grow and hire in America. At the same time, we are unleashing American energy development to create thousands of new jobs on our soil and just off our shores.

On trade, we have also taken historic action to protect American industry and bring back the kinds of high-paying jobs that can support a middle class family – and in fact, most families.

As a vote of confidence in these policies, business optimism is soaring and employment is rising. These are great signs for America's future – the future that our new graduates will play with such a critical role in shaping our world and our country.

I want every young citizen – regardless of education or geography – to be able to live out their American Dreams.

So to all of America's graduates, congratulations. And to all of America's youth: we are here to help create the jobs and future you deserve.

The brightest days are ahead of you. And I just look forward to seeing you at the Coast Guard Academy, and at Liberty University.

Thank you. God Bless You. And God Bless America.

The President's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 19, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript

My fellow Americans,

This weekend I begin my first trip overseas as president – a trip with historic significance for the American people.

I will be visiting with the leaders in many different countries to strengthen our old friendships, build new partnerships, and unite the civilized world in a fight against terrorism.

In that spirit of unity, I will travel to lands associated with three of the world's great religions.

My first stop will be Saudi Arabia – the heart of the Muslim World. There, I will address a historic gathering of the leaders of more than 50 Muslim nations. I will represent the views of the American people frankly and clearly.

Many of these leaders have expressed growing concern about terrorism, the spread of radicalization, and Iran's role in funding both. Now it appears Muslim leaders are ready to take more responsibility and a much bigger role in fighting terrorism in their region. It's about time we do it, we'll do it together, but it has to be done.

America cannot solve all of the world's problems, but we can – and we must – help any nation willing to join in the common cause of eradicating terrorism from the face of the earth.

Next, I'll travel to the ancient city of Jerusalem to talk with my good friend, Prime Minister Netanyahu, about bringing peace and prosperity to both our nations. Israel is an important American ally, but in recent years we haven't always treated them that way. It's time to renew our friendship.

While I'm there, I'll also meet with President Abbas of the Palestinian Authority in Bethlehem to discuss ways to advance peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

From there, I'll head to the Vatican, where I will have the great honor of an audience with Pope Francis. I look forward to speaking with the Pope about how Christian teachings can help put the world on a path to justice, freedom, and peace.

I will also meet with friends and allies in Europe at a gathering of NATO in Brussels and at the G-7 Summit in Italy. Finally, I will close my trip by saying thank you to some of the courageous men and women of the United State Military serving their nation overseas.

In my Inaugural Address, I pledged to strengthen America's oldest friendships, to seek new partners in pursuit of peace, and above all – to always put American people first.

I also pledged that our partners must show that they're partners, they must show that they're friends, and they must contribute financially to the tremendous cost – the money that we're spending – is so big; it's so much; and it's not fair for our nation. They have to help and I'm sure they will. The fact is that I'm excited about new possibilities for peace and prosperity – and I hope you are too.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 26, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

Each month families across the country work very, very hard to balance their budgets and to make the tough choices necessary to take care of their loved ones and to give their children opportunities they never had before. This is who we are as Americans – we take pride in leaving each new generation a better country than the one we inherited.

Yet for decades, Washington has refused to make the tough choices. As a result, the American Dream has slipped from the grasp of more and more of our people.

This has to change. We need a government that spends on the right things – the safety, security, and well-being of our people – and stops the waste and abuse of taxpayer funds, whether in America or in global projects overseas – of which, perhaps, there are too many.

My administration is laying a new foundation to build a future of economic prosperity and achieve American Greatness. The budget we are proposing will reverse economic stagnation and open the path to millions of new jobs for American workers.

We will balance the budget without making cuts in Social Security and Medicare. We will achieve our goals by doing exactly what you do in your home: setting priorities, cutting the fat, and growing new opportunities. And the big thing for me is economic growth, which is not possible without safety and security. We will grow our economy; it is growing already. It will grow faster than you've seen it in decades. That is why our budget reverses years of cuts to our military that have made us less safe in a more dangerous world. We are going to make sure the men and women on the front lines of freedom have the tools they need to keep us safe and totally secure.

At home, we are going to give our ICE officers – who have done an incredible job – and our Border Patrol agents – who are amazing people – everything they need to end the lawlessness once and for all.

It is our moral duty to keep our citizens safe and free, and to protect the right of every American to pursue their dreams. We don't want MS-13 roving our streets, we're getting rid of them by the thousands, they're going to be out of here.

But I'm proud to tell you that the first budget we are releasing provides a firm new foundation for the safety, and also for jobs and prosperity for all Americans in the years to come.

Thank you very much. You're going to love the end result.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 02, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

I am thrilled to be back in the United States after our first historic foreign trip.

Over the course of 9 days, Melania and I traveled to some of the holiest sites in the three Abrahamic religions and met with nearly 100 foreign leaders. Everywhere we went, my goal was to advance American interests, to build a coalition of nations to drive out the terrorists, and to unlock a future of peace, prosperity, and hope for all Americans – and people around the world.

In Saudi Arabia, I was honored to participate in a historic summit with the leaders of more than 50 Muslim and Arab nations, where King Salman and many other leaders expressed their desire to take on a greater role in defeating terrorists who murder innocents of all faiths.

At this unprecedented summit, we opened a new center to combat extremist ideology, launched a task force to block funding for terrorists, and agreed to a massive economic development deal that will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs in the United States.

I also discussed the importance of the nations of the region taking more responsibility on migration – so that more young people are part of creating a better future in their home societies.

From Saudi Arabia, I traveled to Jerusalem, where I reaffirmed the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel. There, I prayed at the Western Wall, visited the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, and was awed by the majesty of that sacred land and the perseverance of the Jewish people.

I also traveled to Bethlehem, another ancient city of wonder, where I met with Palestinian leader President Abbas. Both President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu assured me they are ready to reach for peace.

From Israel, I traveled to Italy, where Melania and I were greatly honored to visit the Vatican and meet Pope Francis. He was really wonderful – a great guy.

Then, I traveled to two summits with our key allies – first, the NATO Summit in Brussels, where nations agreed they must do more to meet their financial obligations and pay their fair share – because right now, it is not fair to the United States. But it soon will be.

Next, I attended the G-7 Summit in Italy, where we worked to improve coordination on shared security threats, achieve more fair trade that gives workers a level playing field, and agreed on the goal that refugees should be resettled as close to their home countries as possible so they can be part of the future rebuilding.

Before we returned home, I was delighted to conclude my trip by visiting American military families – unbelievable people, the true source of our strength. We will always protect those who protect us.

Our first foreign trip was full of historic and unprecedented achievements. Joined by many old and new friends, we have paved the way for the new era of cooperation – one that calls upon each nation to take more responsibility to bring peace to their people. One that works together to defeat the scourge of terrorism and deliver hope to all of God's children. And one that protects American interests so we remain a strong and prosperous nation – strong and prosperous, like never before – and a beacon of freedom and opportunity for many years to come.

Thank you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

The President's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 16, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This week, our nation was shocked and horrified when a gunman opened fire on a Member of Congress. Five people were wounded in the assault, including a member of House Leadership – my good friend, Steve Scalise.

Steve is beloved across Washington, he embodies everything public service is about – he’s dedicated to his constituents, devoted to his values, and deeply committed to his country. I visited Steve, his wife, and his family in the hospital as he continues to fight for his recovery. 435 Members of Congress, and 300 million Americans, are pulling for him, praying for him, and pledging to him our full and total support.

We continue to hold all of those wounded and fighting for recovery in our hearts and prayers, including Matt Mika, who was also badly wounded.

In that terrible crime, we also witnessed the incredible heroism of Capitol Police. Special Agent Crystal Griner – who I also had the honor of meeting during my visit to the Hospital – raced into gunfire, along with Special Agent David Bailey. They saved the lives of our Members of Congress and prevented that dark day from becoming a tragedy beyond imagination. They, like so many other courageous police officers, represent the very best of us. We salute them, and we also salute members of Alexandria Police, Fire and Rescue.

Though we have our differences, what unites us is so much stronger: our love of country, our devotion to its people. Now more than ever, these values must guide us – and bring us closer together. Let us always remember that our job is to serve and represent the whole American People – and that we are all children of the same God.

This week, my Administration continues our focus on providing economic opportunity for all.

On Thursday, I signed an Executive Order to launch a groundbreaking new Apprenticeship Initiative that will help young Americans learn the skills they need to find a rewarding career, earn a great living, and support themselves and their families.

We are celebrating the dignity of work and the greatness of the American Worker.

American citizens have worked every job, every occupation, no matter what it might be – no matter how grueling, how challenging, or even how dangerous. They wash the windows on our tallest skyscrapers; they create works of art from burning fire and molten steel; they mine the earth and dive the ocean depths to bring energy into our cities and towns; they care for the sick, the elderly, and the wounded; and they lay the bricks, mortar, rebar, and concrete that give us places to live, to work, and to thrive.

Today, this is the message I want every young American to hear: there is dignity in every honest job, and there is nobility in every honest worker.

Our Apprenticeship Initiative will make it dramatically easier for employers, industry groups and unions to create exciting new apprenticeship programs that place students into high-paying careers.

Instead of being racked with crushing student debt, those who participate will earn while they learn – think of that: earn while they learn.

Under our plan, young Americans will have a pathway to exciting and fulfilling careers. They will become brilliant technicians who revitalize American manufacturing. They will become welders who forge from fire amazing works of iron and steel and art. And they will become entrepreneurs who revolutionize entire industries. And these striving American citizens, including millions of talented young American women with tremendous potential, will become the programmers who change the world with the next great technological advance.

Every American deserves a path to a great job that they truly love. That begins with the right education – one that gives students the foundation for a lifetime of success.

Every day, as your President, I will be committed to this goal.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 23, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

Millions of families across our nation are suffering under the disaster known as Obamacare. Traveling throughout our country over the last two years, I have met so many of these wonderful Americans, and I have never forgotten their stories.

In Wisconsin, I recently met a proud Veteran and his wife – Michael and Tammy Kushman. When they were forced onto Obamacare and the exchange in 2015, they thought they would be able to keep their doctor-but they couldn't. They thought they would be able to keep their plan – but they weren't allowed. They were told their premiums would go down – but instead, they soared by 120 percent upward. It was one Obamacare lie after another. Today, the Kushmans spend \$1,400 dollars a month on health insurance – nearly one-fourth of their entire net monthly income.

On the same visit, I met another family, Robert and Sarah Stoll. Robert is a volunteer captain for his local fire department. After their Obamacare premiums nearly doubled, they needed extra money and Sarah had no choice but to leave retirement to pay their bills. But this new income meant they were no longer eligible for the tax credit they had once received, and the federal government actually forced them to repay thousands and thousands of dollars.

These families and so many others are victims of a catastrophic law that is wreaking havoc on our healthcare system and our families.

Democrats in Congress created this calamity and now, if we don't act, millions more Americans will be hurt by Obamacare's deepening death spiral.

Americans were promised lower premiums, more choices, and better access. Instead, premiums have doubled nationwide – and insurers are still fleeing the market that Obamacare has nearly destroyed. Americans in nearly one-third of all counties have only one insurer to choose from on the exchanges – and many markets may soon have no insurers at all. It really is a disaster.

The American people are calling out for relief, and my administration is determined to provide it – and we are working with Congress to get a bill to my desk so we can rescue Americans from this catastrophe.

As families across the nation continue to suffer under this law, I only hope that Democrats in Congress will have the political courage to help fix what we know to be a catastrophic situation – a total disaster – that they have created. To be part of the solution, instead of obstructing – always obstructing – change, blocking reform, and doubling-down on Obamacare's failure.

But no matter what, my Administration will never stop fighting for you – and for the healthcare system that you deserve. We'll get it done. Even if we don't have any help from the Democrats, we'll get it done.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This week, I was joined at the White House by American families whose loved ones were killed by illegal immigrants.

Many of these illegal immigrants had extensive criminal records and had been repeatedly deported.

Every single one of these deaths was preventable.

These beautiful American lives were stolen because our government refused to do its job. If the government had simply enforced our immigration laws, these Americans would still be alive today.

That is why, since the day I took the oath of office, I have been restoring the enforcement of our immigration laws and the protection and defense of our borders.

These courageous Americans joined me at the White House to call on Congress to pass two bills that I campaigned on during the election. If enacted, these bills will save countless Americans lives. The first bill, Kate's Law, is named for Kate Steinle, who was killed by an illegal immigrant who had been deported five times. This law will enhance criminal penalties for those who repeatedly re-enter our country illegally.

The second bill, the No Sanctuary For Criminals Act, will block federal grants to jurisdictions that shield dangerous criminal aliens from being turned over to federal law enforcement.

On Thursday, I am glad to report, these two bills passed the House of Representatives. This represents a crucial step toward ensuring our public safety and national security.

I want to thank Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte for his dedicated work on these critical bills, as well as other crucial legislation that will soon be considered as well. I also thank Leadership for advancing these life-saving measures.

I now call on the Senate to take up these bills and send them back to my desk for signature – as soon as possible. We need security. We need safety in our country. And I call on members of both parties to stand united with victims to stop these terrible and senseless crimes from ever happening in the first place.

This legislation presents a simple choice: either vote to save and protect American lives, or vote to shield and comfort criminal aliens who threaten innocent lives – and they've been shielded too long.

As we head towards the Fourth of July, we remember now more than ever to cherish our freedom. The foundation of freedom is the rule of law. It forms the bedrock of our Constitution and the cornerstone of our way of life.

So this Independence Day, while we're enjoying treasured time with our friends and loved ones, let us not forget the families who have an empty seat at the table this year.

And let us pledge that from now on, we will protect, defend and save American lives.

Thank you.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 07, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on Youtube.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

Here at the White House, we are dedicating the month of July to three of our favorite words – MADE IN AMERICA. For more than two centuries, those three beautiful words have been the world standard for quality, craftsmanship and excellence – and they still are today.

As President, one of my highest priorities is to restore American Manufacturing. For decades, American jobs have been ripped out of our communities, industries and towns have been stripped bare, and the entire communities have been uprooted and left. Foreign nations got rich at America's expense – and many special interests profited from this great global theft of American wealth.

Since taking the oath of office, our government has adopted a new philosophy: AMERICA FIRST – and believe me, it's about time. The era of economic surrender is over – and a new national pride is sweeping across our land. You see it, I see it, we all see it.

Industry confidence has soared to the highest level ever recorded.

One of my first acts was ordering all federal agencies to enforce two simple rules: Buy American, and Hire American. We want to build with American Workers, and with American Iron, Aluminum and Steel.

We are also tearing down every possible barrier to domestic energy production to unleash the full power of our economy. The American people will finally be allowed to tap into the vast energy wealth sitting right beneath our feet or right below our shores.

We have also sent a clear message to the world that we will not allow other nations to take advantage of us any longer.

That's why I withdrew from the one-sided Paris Climate Accord – and believe me, it was one-sided. Not a good deal for our country. And the job-killing Trans Pacific Partnership, and that's why we are pursuing a total renegotiation of NAFTA and if we don't get it, we will terminate – that is end NAFTA forever.

Every other nation on earth protects its own interests. America is finally going to do the same.

And as we continue to fight for American workers and industry, it won't be long before we see the Made in America label proudly displayed on thousands of new products all across this great land and exported all around the world.

Thank you, God bless you, God bless America. We are all doing a job, we are working very hard. It will be America First. It will be Make America Great Again. It's happening.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

Next week, the Senate is going to vote on legislation to save Americans from the Obamacare disaster.

Obamacare has wreaked havoc on American lives, and if we don't replace it, the calamity will only get worse – and I mean, get worse by a lot.

Here is just one story, representative of so many others.

Carrie Couey and her husband are cattle ranchers.

They have six children and the youngest is autistic.

Her family's rates under Obamacare skyrocketed, eventually costing the Coueys three times more than their previous plan.

They were dropped from health insurance four times under Obamacare.

When I met with Carrie in March, she told us that her family couldn't afford the equipment they needed to do the jobs while paying these crushing health insurance premiums.

Americans like Carrie and her family desperately need relief from this terrible, terrible law.

The Democrat politicians who passed Obamacare made many big promises – but they turned out to be lies – absolute, total lies.

They promised Obamacare would reduce premiums by \$2,500 dollars.

Instead, premiums have skyrocketed by numbers that nobody can even believe – sometimes, many many thousands of dollars.

They promised that if you liked your plan, you could keep your plan – instead, millions of American families saw their plans cancelled.

They promised Obamacare would offer better options for American families, but in the past two years, half the insurance companies have pulled out and left the individual market – and today, Americans in one-third of all counties have only one insurer to choose from on the exchanges, and they probably, will shortly have no insurers at all.

The Senate health care bill stops the Obamacare disaster, expands choice, and drives down costs – and I want to tell you the Republican Senators are working very hard to get something that's going to be really, really good – the opposite of the big lie which was Obamacare.

The bill will reduce premiums by 30 percent or more by 2020.

It allows states the freedom to escape even more of Obamacare's rules and create innovative health care solutions for their citizens. In other words, we'll be taking something away from the federal government and getting it back to the states, who can better provide and who know better what to do.

It provides generous funding for people with expensive health conditions, which will lower premiums in the individual market.

bill doubles the amount that Americans can contribute to tax-free Health Savings Accounts and allows you to use those accounts to pay your premiums.

This plan provides states with the much-needed flexibility to better manage their Medicaid programs. It maintains Medicaid coverage for every single elderly American, disabled American, and American child who is currently on the program.

It also expands the opportunity for people on Medicaid to purchase a private plan with federal financial assistance.

And with these much needed, long-term reforms to strengthen the safety net for our neediest citizens, the Obamacare repeal and replace plan would significantly reduce the federal deficit. So it would be good for the federal government, it'll cost you less money by a lot, and it will be a much better plan. You can't do better than that.

When I ran for President, I made a commitment to the American people to repeal and replace Obamacare.

I am pleased to report that we are very, very close to ending this healthcare nightmare – we are so close.

The legislation working its way through Congress provides the choice and control people want, the affordability they need, and the quality they deserve in healthcare.

It's a common sense approach that restores the sacred doctor-patient relationship. And you are going to finally have great healthcare at a lower price.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 21, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

On Monday, I signed a Presidential Proclamation declaring this to be "Made in America Week."

We believe that our country is stronger, safer, and more prosperous when we make more of our goods and our products right here in the USA. When we purchase products Made in America, the wealth, revenue and jobs all stay in our country – to be enjoyed by our people.

Since we first won our Independence, our Founders and many of our greatest leaders have promoted that we should afford a special level of protection to the products and goods manufactured within our borders. They understood that as a nation, we have common bonds with our fellow citizens and common obligations to each other. Making and buying made in America products brings us closer, and strengthens the ties that link us all together.

For too long, our government's policies have punished production in America while rewarding and encouraging the movement of production overseas, which is totally ridiculous. The result has been the loss of numerous industries, the decimation of entire communities, and years of sluggish growth and flat wages.

Throughout American history, our nation's best leaders have believed in the importance of protecting our domestic industry. This includes every President on Mount Rushmore.

George Washington encouraged Americans to produce their own goods so that our young nation could become truly independent.

Thomas Jefferson wrote that Americans should choose products made in America whenever possible – and by the way, I'm asking you to do that.

Abraham Lincoln warned that abandoning the policies that protect American industry would "produce want and ruin among our people."

Theodore Roosevelt stated in his First message to Congress that "Reciprocity must be treated as the handmaiden of protection."

James Monroe called on our nation to "cherish and sustain our manufacturers."

James Garfield said of our nation's manufacturers: "To them the country owes the splendor of the position it holds before the world."

William McKinley believed that when America protects our workers and industries, we "open up a higher and better destiny for our people."

And Calvin Coolidge stated that protecting American industry "enables our people to live according to a better standard... and receive a better rate of compensation than any people, anytime, anywhere on earth, ever enjoyed."

We are now, under the Trump Administration, reclaiming our heritage as a manufacturing nation. We are fighting to provide a level playing field for American Workers and Industries. Other countries will cease taking advantage of us, believe me.

We are going to build works of beauty and wonder – with American hands, American grit, and American iron, aluminum, and steel.

No longer will we allow other countries to break the rules, steal our jobs, and drain our wealth. Instead, we will follow two simple but very crucial rules: We will buy American and we will hire American.

Already, we have created over a million new jobs this year – and doing even better than anticipated. We are just getting started – believe me, we are just getting started.

For every job that comes back to this country, and every factory that reopens, and every town that is revitalized, we aren't just restoring American wealth, we are restoring American pride. We are restoring America's future – a future where millions will be lifted from welfare to work, where children will grow up in safe and vibrant communities, and where our nation will stand stronger than ever before.

And most importantly, it will be a future in which you – our citizens – always come first.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America – we are truly making it great again.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 28, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

This past week, we have celebrated, saluted, and honored American heroes who have devoted their lives to God, Family, and Country.

Aboard USS Gerald R. Ford, we saluted those who will defend our flag on the newest and most advanced aircraft carrier in the history of our world.

In Ohio, I delivered a very special award to a heroic military survivor from the Pearl Harbor attack – long ago, but he is still in great shape.

At the White House, we have bestowed the Medal of Valor on the brave police officers who saved so many lives after a gunman opened fire on lawmakers during a Congressional baseball practice – they were very, very brave, and they truly did save lives.

And today in New York, we thank the law enforcement officers who are going after violent criminals and MS-13 gang members and restoring safety and peace to our communities.

All American heroes – whether they patrol the oceans, protect our Capitol, safeguard our streets, or serve in many other ways – share a common bond: They believe in America, they love our citizens, and they will stop at nothing to defend our safety and our freedom.

That is why we honor our heroes and work hard every day to build an America that is worthy of their sacrifices.

The source of America's strength is found in the spirit of our people. The heroes among us represent that American spirit: courage, love, and sacrifice. Our hearts are filled with pride and gratitude for all those who, for over two centuries, have secured our nation and protected our citizens.

Throughout our history, heroes have answered the call of duty to defend our country in its hour of need – and they're always there for us. And frankly, one of the great privileges and joys of serving as President of the United States is getting to spend time with these incredible Americans.

Our heroes show us who we are as a nation and a people. They remind us that every citizen is capable of greatness, and they renew the promise that America will grow stronger and greater than ever before – and that's what we're doing right now. Look at all the jobs that are coming in. Look

at what's happening with the stock markets. Look at so many things, where we're just getting bigger, better, and stronger – and never, ever forget our military, where we're adding billions and billions of dollars of new planes, new ships, and new equipment for our great soldiers and military personnel.

After all, heroes are Made in America, and we have to take care of our heroes.

Thank you and God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 04, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My Fellow Americans,

As we celebrate "American Dream Week" at the White House, we continue to see incredible results.

This week, the Dow Jones industrial average reached an ALL-TIME high. Never ever has it been so high. It made the unemployment rate hit a 16-year low and last quarter real GDP growth increased to 2.6%.

Prosperity is coming back to our shores because we are putting American workers and families first.

The American dream has always been about doing what we love – and doing it for the people we love. Whether serving in the Armed Forces, manufacturing goods, or starting a small business, our citizens pursue their aspirations – and improve the lives of millions – in countless, countless ways.

Yet for too long, the dreams of many Americans have been put out of reach by Washington. Washington funded one global project after another while allowing other countries to drain our jobs and drain the wealth of the United States of America. Then Washington taxed and regulated our own workers and industries, taking away their ability to earn a living.

But those days are over. My Administration is working tirelessly on behalf of the American People.

We have removed regulations and targeted unfair trade practices that are hurting Americans all over the world. We are ending the War on Coal and unleashing American energy. We are introducing a tax plan to grow our economy and create more jobs. Factories and plants are coming back into Michigan and Ohio and Pennsylvania, and many other states. They are coming back instead of leaving like they have been for decades. And just this week, we announced a historic immigration bill to create a merit-based Green Card system that ends the abuse of our welfare system, stops chain migration, and protects our workers and our economy. As an example, you cannot get welfare for five years when you come into our country. You cannot just come in like in past weeks, years, and decades, you come in immediately and start picking up welfare. For five years, you have to say you will not be asking or using our welfare systems.

As I said in my address to Congress, the time for dreaming big, bold, and daring things for our country has begun. When Americans are free to pursue their dreams, there is no limit to what we can achieve.

This is truly an exciting time in our country – every day, we are accomplishing great things for our people.

Thank you, God bless you, God bless the United States. Were really moving along, we are bringing back our jobs, we are Making America Great Again.

Thank you.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 25, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My Fellow Americans,

I had the profound honor this week of addressing American troops at Fort Myer and speaking to thousands of veterans at the American Legion National Convention.

Today I want to speak to all Americans about what we can learn from the men and women of our incredible Armed Forces.

Every person who puts on the uniform makes our nation proud. They all come from across our land. They represent every race, ethnicity, and creed. But they all pledge the same oath, fight for the same cause, and operate as one team – with one shared sense of purpose.

They love their families. They cherish their freedom. They salute our flag. And above all, they believe in America.

Now, we must draw inspiration from their love and loyalty to one another – and to our nation – as we seek to heal divisions from within.

We must also remember what our service personnel know better than anyone: that we are one people, with one home, and one glorious American destiny.

We come from all different walks of life – but we all share the same dream – to live in peace and safety, to work with honor and dignity, and to build a better future for those we love.

Together, we can achieve this dream, but we must first remember who we are and the values that bind us together. We must speak out against the voices that try to sow hatred and division. We must treat our fellow citizens with love and affection. And we must honor our heroes – and prove worthy of the sacrifice they have made for all of us.

I ask every American to make a simple promise to the courageous warriors who fight in our name: when they come home from battle, they will find a country that has renewed the sacred bonds of loyalty that unite us together as one.

Only when we work together with a shared purpose will we carry on the proud tradition of those who came before us.

Only when we honor our history will we have confidence in our future.

And only when we strive for peace among one another will we remain a force for peace all around the world.

We can achieve this peace, we can foster this unity, and we can rebuild this loyalty – because together, we are truly One Nation Under God.

Thank you. God bless you.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 01, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

The heartbreaking devastation and suffering caused by Hurricane Harvey has profoundly affected our entire nation. Many homes and communities have been destroyed, many lives have been upended, and tragically, some have lost their lives in this catastrophic storm.

We pray for the victims and their families—and all of those who have been displaced from their homes.

At this very moment, heroic efforts continue to keep safe those threatened by this natural disaster.

I want to say a special word of thanks to our amazing first responders—our police and law enforcement officers, firefighters, Coast Guard, National Guard, EMS, doctors, nurses, hospital workers, and volunteers who have traveled from all across the country. Thousands of people have come together to prevent loss of life and ensure safety, and we are incredibly grateful for their courage, their professionalism, and their sacrifice.

They are an inspiration to all of us.

To the people affected by Hurricane Harvey: we are with you every single step of the way. We will help you recover. We will help you rebuild. We will support you today, tomorrow, and the day after.

We have been working closely with local authorities, and I remain in close communication with Governor Abbott of Texas and Governor Edwards of Louisiana.

At the request of Governor Abbott, I declared a major disaster in the State of Texas to ensure that federal aid is available for state and local recovery efforts. I also approved a disaster declaration for Louisiana.

Organizations like the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and faith-based organizations are actively assisting on the ground and they are doing a fantastic job. I want to recognize the millions of citizens across the country who are contributing in every way they can—with their time, their resources, and their prayers.

When one part of America hurts, we all hurt. When we see neighbors in need, we rush to their aid. We don't ask their names or where they are from—we help our fellow Americans every single time.

This is the spirit of America. It is exactly what I saw while in Texas this week—a spirit of love, determination, and resolve. A spirit, that even when wounded, never gives up—never gives in—never loses hope. We just keep fighting—we just keep pushing on, for the people we love, and for the nation we call home.

All American hearts are with the people of Texas and Louisiana. We mourn and pray and struggle through the hardships—together.

We know that a long and difficult path lies ahead to get our neighbors back in their homes and on their feet. But we also know that we are stronger than the obstacles in our path. Arm-in-arm, we will strive, we will endure, and we will emerge stronger than ever before.

Thank you. God Bless You. And God Bless the United States of America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

I would like to begin by continuing to send our prayers to all of those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. From Texas to Louisiana to Florida, Alabama, South Carolina, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, we are coordinating closely with local authorities to help everyone impacted by these catastrophic storms. When Americans are in need, America pulls together. And we will not rest until everyone is safe, sound, and secure. We will be there tomorrow and the day after, as we work to respond, recover, and rebuild.

When Americans are united, no force on earth can break us apart.

This week, the United States celebrates the 230th Anniversary of the signing of our remarkable Constitution.

The fifty-five Delegates to the Grand Convention in Philadelphia met from May to September of 1787. They gave us an incredible gift: a vision of the sovereign and self-governing people to control their own affairs. And they gave us a Constitutional system that protected our liberties by enshrining the Rule of Law.

Patriots like Washington, Madison, Hamilton, Franklin, and so many others had already achieved immortality through their victory in the Revolution. But soon after, these extraordinary leaders faced another task unlike any other—the task of building a brand new nation. So they designed a system of government, rooted in common laws, history, and traditions that would secure the liberty, equality, and rights they had fought for and fought to defend in the American Revolution.

The Framers of our Constitution triumphantly declared to whom the government of the United States belonged: it was “WE THE PEOPLE.” These three beautiful words are among the most important ideas in our nation’s history: the idea that government’s power is vested in the nation’s citizens – the people to whom we owe our ultimate and sacred allegiance. Our soldiers fight and die to protect our citizens, and our government is forever duty bound to safeguard their sovereignty and their freedom.

For 230 years, we have governed ourselves and planned our own destiny, guarded all the way by the Constitution of the United States.

On this Sunday, Constitution Day, let us recommit ourselves to our Founding Principles, and rededicate ourselves to our glorious heritage. We have inherited a birthright of freedom – we must defend it dearly, protect it jealously, and promote it proudly, as one nation under God. We must rise to the task of self-governance, prove worthy of the sacrifices made to carve out this magnificent nation, and we must give our loyalty to our Republic and its citizens in all that we do.

So let us pledge allegiance to our flag, devote our hearts to our country, and demonstrate our love for one another—as Americans, as Patriots, and as the children of God.

Thank you.

President Donald J. Trump’s Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 22, 2017

President Donald J. Trump’s Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

The American Family has always been the heart of our great nation. In homes across this country, families teach their children to work hard, to love each other, and to make the most of their talents in pursuit of their dreams.

Yet for too long, American families have been hurt by Washington's policies that put the interests of other countries before the interests of our country.

That is why, in my Administration, we are pursuing tax cuts and reform that create jobs in America, for American workers – not foreign workers, but American workers.

Here are my four principles for tax reform:

First, we are going to make the tax code simple and fair so that families can spend more time with their children, and less time wading through pages of paperwork. A staggering ninety-four percent of families use professional help to do their taxes – and that's not fair, that's not right. That's why under our plan, ninety-five percent of Americans will be able to file their tax return on a single page without keeping receipts, tracking paperwork, or filling out extra schedules.

Second, we are going to cut taxes for the middle class so that hardworking Americans can finally save more for their future. We want to help families keep more of what they earn – and to be able to afford the costs of raising a family. Our tax code should recognize that the most important investment we can make is in our children.

Third, we are going to restore America's competitive edge by making our tax system more attractive for investment and job creation. Our business tax rate is the highest in the world – pushing jobs to foreign countries. That's not what we want, that's not what I've been talking about all these years – I've been talking about the exact opposite. We need to bring down our tax rate so we can create jobs, wealth, and opportunity right here, in the United States of America, so we can bring our hobs back and bring our businesses back. We want tax reform that puts America First. We want tax reform that makes America great again.

Finally, we are going to bring back trillions of dollars in wealth parked overseas so that it can be invested in our country, where it belongs.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reform our tax code and pave the way to unprecedented prosperity. By doing what we're doing, we will see results like you've never seen before. It will be the largest tax cut in our country's history. I am asking members in both parties to come together, to put aside partisan differences, and to pass historic tax reform and tax cuts for the great citizens of our nation. That's how we will all succeed and thrive together – as one team, one people, and one American Family.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 29, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov

Transcript:

My Fellow Americans,

All American hearts are united with the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands who have faced terrible devastation in the wake of two catastrophic hurricanes. We are working night and day in cooperation with territorial and local authorities to assist those in need, to help save and sustain lives, and to begin the long recovery and rebuilding effort. Our commitment to those affected is this: We are with you, we will stay with you, and we will come back stronger than ever. We are sending tremendous amounts of supplies, tremendous amounts of food and water, and we are sending great people to help. I know that it's been devastating. I know your police force and everything else has been absolutely hurt, but we're sending people to help, and it's getting better on a daily basis.

This week, I traveled to Indiana to announce historic tax reform for the American people. It is based on four key ideas.

First, we will cut taxes on all Working American Families. People will pay a lot less money. Single individuals will not be taxed on the first \$12,000 of income earned. And a married couple will pay zero taxes on their first \$24,000 of income. After that, taxable income will be subject to just three tax rates—12%, 25% and 35%, it use to be 7%. We will also expand the child tax credit, eliminate the credit's marriage penalty, and provide a new \$500 tax credit for elder-care and other adult dependents. This is the real and lasting tax relief that everyday Americans badly need and truly deserve. This is what working Americans have been after.

Second, our framework will make the tax code simple, fair, and easy to understand. Under our plan, the vast majority of families will be able to file their taxes on a single sheet of paper.

As part of simplification, we are also getting rid of taxes that threaten to put family businesses and American farmers out of business. Julie Ellingson is a 4th generation cattle rancher in Bismarck, North Dakota. Julie and her family's legacy of hard work should not be taken away when she dies—we will eliminate the Death Tax and keep her American Dream alive. Most importantly, her family will long remember, and they'll be working hard for many, many years on their farm.

Third, we are going to restore America's competitive edge so that American businesses and workers can win again. We will cut the corporate rate below the average of our foreign competitors—and we will reduce the top marginal income tax rate on small and mid-sized businesses to the lowest in more than 80 years. It's so important because our companies are leaving our shores and when they leave, they let go of the workers. And then they make their product and they send it back into our country. We don't tax them, we don't do anything. Those days are over. We now have a competitive tax where our companies won't be leaving. Believe me, it won't be happening like it has, it's going to be a big difference.

Finally, our framework encourages corporations to bring back trillions of dollars in wealth parked overseas, and stops punishing companies for keeping their headquarters in the United States. That's actually what's happening. Companies that stay in our country are being punished by our tax code. This will switch our current offshoring model—a tax system that drives jobs to other countries—to a new American Model. Under this plan, we want our companies to hire and grow in America, to raise wages for American workers, and to help rebuild American cities and towns.

This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to pass tax reform and to restore our jobs, our wealth, and our great American Dreams. We will be able to dream again and those dreams will be met.

Now it is time—finally-- for Congress to deliver. The problem we have is the democrats don't want to cut your taxes, they want to actually raise your taxes, and raise them very substantially. We can't afford to do that as a country, that's why our jobs are leaving, that's why you don't have enough left in your pay check. We want to cut taxes and it's going to be the biggest tax cut in the history of our Country.

Thank you. God Bless You. And, God Bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

October 06, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and WH.gov.

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

On Wednesday, I traveled to Las Vegas to visit with the victims of the horrific shooting, speak with their families, and thank the brave citizens, first responders and medical personnel who saved so many lives.

We struggle to grasp the evil that occurred on Sunday evening when a murderer shot into a crowd of more than 20,000 people. Men, women, and children were gathered to enjoy a concert. They never imagined it would become the worst day of their lives.

But in the wake of such shock and horror, it was a matter of seconds before the goodness of the human spirit broke through. When the shooting began, a mother laid on top of her daughter to shield her from gunfire. A husband died to protect his beloved wife. Strangers rescued strangers, police officers and first responders rushed into danger.

When the worst of humanity strikes, the best of humanity responds.

The men and women who risked their lives to save their fellow citizens give proof to the words of this Scripture: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Americans defied death and hatred with love and courage.

This week our nation remembers all the wonderful people we have lost and all of the grace they brought into our lives and our communities. Among the fallen were young students full of limitless potential, law enforcement personnel, a nurse, teachers dedicated to our children's future, and many others. They were mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers. They were husbands and wives, and sons and daughters. They will be dearly missed, and they will never be forgotten.

To all those who lost a loved one, we cannot imagine your pain, or erase your sorrow. Our hearts grieve for you. We stand with you now, and every day after. And we pray that God may carry you through the anguish and sorrow.

We can never fill the void of those who perished, but we pledge to honor them by living as they would have wished – with lives full of purpose, with hearts full of love, and with hope for a better tomorrow.

God comfort the broken-hearted. And may God bless the United States of America. Thank you.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

October 13, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and WH.gov

Transcript:

My fellow Americans,

Every Fourth of July, we celebrate the day America declared its independence. But this month, let us also remember the day our country won its independence. Next Thursday, October 19, marks the 236th anniversary of the day that George Washington's Continental Army defeated the British at the Battle of Yorktown in 1781.

When our young American flag waved that day over the British surrender, it marked more than a victory of American arms. It represented the emergence of Stars and Stripes as a beacon of freedom around the world.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress resolved that our flag shall consist of 13 alternating red and white stripes, and a blue field of 13 white stars representing the American colonies.

Congress ultimately decided that a star would be added to our flag's "constellation" on the Fourth of July upon the admission of each new State to the union, but that the flag would always keep its 13 stripes as a tribute to the original colonies that declared and won their Independence together.

In 1942, Congress passed the United States Flag Code, creating official standards for how we treat our beloved flag. From this code, we teach each new American generation to always show our flag the respect it deserves.

America's men and women in uniform have carried our flag into battle and given their lives to protect it. Our Star Spangled Banner flew above Fort McHenry in the "Dawn's Early Light." Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders carried it to victory at the Battle of San Juan Hill. And our heroic Marines raised it over Iwo Jima.

Every day millions of American citizens raise it, salute it, and honor it on the home front. American workers hang Old Glory above factory floors where they proudly stamp their products "Made in the USA" and more and more products are being so stamped because our economy is starting to boom. We are doing really well. Companies are moving back into the United States and far fewer will be moving out. Believe me. And it's already happened. American schoolchildren put their hands on their hearts as they recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Before watching a football game, you want to see those players be proud of their country. Respect our country. Respect our flag. And respect our national anthem and we think they will. We certainly hope they will.

We honor the flag, we pay tribute to the men and women who have given everything for its defense. We renew the bonds of love and loyalty we owe to our fellow citizens—to every American who looks to the Stars and Stripes and sees woven into its fabric their past, their future, and their place in our great American family.

So this month, as we remember the patriots who fought to win our glorious Independence, let us renew our commitment to love our country, protect our citizens, and ensure that this will ALWAYS BE the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

Issued on: December 9, 2017

Weekly Address: 12/09/2017

The President's Weekly Address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

Transcript:

"Help me, Dad."

Those were the last words spoken by Kate Steinle as she lay dying on a San Francisco pier – a precious young American woman killed in the prime of her life.

Kate's death is a tragedy that was entirely preventable. She was shot by an illegal alien and a 7-time convicted felon who had been deported five times – but he was free to harm an innocent American because our leaders refused to protect our border, and because San Francisco is a Sanctuary City. In Sanctuary States and Cities, innocent Americans are at the mercy of criminal aliens because state and local officials defy federal authorities and obstruct the enforcement of our immigration laws.

Last week, in a final injustice, Kate's killer was acquitted on all of the most serious charges – yet one more reason Americans are so upset by Sanctuary Cities and open border politicians who shield criminal aliens from federal law enforcement and all of the problems involved with the whole concept of a sanctuary city. They're no good. We mourn for all of the American Families, of all backgrounds, who will have any empty seat at Christmas this year because our immigration laws were not enforced. No American should be separated from their loved ones because of preventable crime committed by those illegally in our country. Our cities should be Sanctuaries for Americans – not for criminal aliens.

Unfortunately, Democrats in Congress not only oppose our efforts to stop illegal immigration and crack down on Sanctuary Cities – now they are demanding amnesty as a condition for funding the government, holding troop funding hostage and putting our national security at risk. We cannot allow it.

Every Senator and Congressman will have to make a choice: do they want to protect American citizens or do they want to protect criminal aliens? Reasonable people can disagree on many things, but there can be no disagreement that the first duty of government is to serve, protect, and defend American Citizens.

People can have different views on the technical details of budget policy or transportation, but no one who serves in elected office should disagree that our highest priority must be the safety and well-being of our nation's citizens.

Thank you.

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

President Donald J. Trump's Weekly Address

Issued on: December 16, 2017

The President's weekly address is now available to watch on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter.

Transcript:

My Fellow Americans,

This week I signed the National Defense Authorization Act – a historic step forward to rebuild our military. Now, it is critical for Congress to pass the Clean Government Appropriations Bill that fully funds our Military Needs. We must not play politics with our troops – we should pass a clean funding bill and leave the politics aside. We must protect our nation.

I'd also like to take a moment today to discuss our immigration system, and how we can reform it to make it work for everyday Americans.

Our current immigration system helps special interests, but hurts American workers, taxpayers and national security.

For decades now, U.S. immigration rules have been based on an outdated system known as Chain Migration. Under chain migration, foreign nationals can come to the United States and bring in unlimited numbers of foreign relatives. A single immigrant can begin a chain that could ultimately bring in dozens of increasingly distant relations.

Because these individuals are admitted solely on the basis of family ties – not skill or not merit – most of this immigration is lower-skilled, putting great strain on federal welfare.

And because there is no real selection criteria, the current system is totally incompatible with national security.

This week, a terrorist exploded a pipe bomb on a busy subway passage during rush hour in New York City, injuring innocent Americans. This individual arrived through chain migration.

In October, another terrorist drove a truck into pedestrians and cyclists in New York City, killing 8 people and wounding many others. That individual came through a visa lottery.

It is time to create a merit-based immigration system that makes sense for a modern economy – selecting new arrivals based on their ability to support themselves financially and to make positive contributions to U.S society. Base it on love of our country. We want people that come in, that can love our country.

This process begins with Congress passing a bill to end chain migration and also end the visa lottery.

I have called on Congress to do exactly that. Ending chain migration and also ending the visa lottery will allow us to have commonsense immigration rules that promote assimilation and wage growth. It also promotes, most importantly, safety. It'll help Americans both old and new to thrive, flourish and prosper.

Thank you, and God Bless America.

6. УКАЗЫ

Executive Order: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 25, 2017

Executive Order: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements

EXECUTIVE ORDER

BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENTS

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) (INA), the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109 367) (Secure Fence Act), and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104 208 Div. C) (IIRIRA), and in order to ensure the safety and territorial integrity of the United States as well as to ensure that the Nation's immigration laws are faithfully executed, I hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. Border security is critically important to the national security of the United States. Aliens who illegally enter the United States without inspection or admission present a significant threat to national security and public safety. Such aliens have not been identified or inspected by Federal immigration officers to determine their admissibility to the United States. The recent surge of illegal immigration at the southern border with Mexico has placed a significant strain on Federal resources and overwhelmed agencies charged with border security and immigration enforcement, as well as the local communities into which many of the aliens are placed.

Transnational criminal organizations operate sophisticated drug- and human-trafficking networks and smuggling operations on both sides of the southern border, contributing to a significant increase in violent crime and United States deaths from dangerous drugs. Among those who illegally enter are those who seek to harm Americans through acts of terror or criminal conduct. Continued illegal immigration presents a clear and present danger to the interests of the United States.

Federal immigration law both imposes the responsibility and provides the means for the Federal Government, in cooperation with border States, to secure the Nation's southern border. Although Federal immigration law provides a robust framework for Federal-State partnership in enforcing our immigration laws and the Congress has authorized and provided appropriations to secure our borders the Federal Government has failed to discharge this basic sovereign responsibility. The purpose of this order is to direct executive departments and agencies (agencies) to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation's southern border, to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and to repatriate illegal aliens swiftly, consistently, and humanely.

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the executive branch to:

(a) secure the southern border of the United States through the immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border, monitored and supported by adequate personnel so as to prevent illegal immigration, drug and human trafficking, and acts of terrorism;

(b) detain individuals apprehended on suspicion of violating Federal or State law, including Federal immigration law, pending further proceedings regarding those violations;

(c) expedite determinations of apprehended individuals' claims of eligibility to remain in the United States;

(d) remove promptly those individuals whose legal claims to remain in the United States have been lawfully rejected, after any appropriate civil or criminal sanctions have been imposed; and

(e) cooperate fully with States and local law enforcement in enacting Federal-State partnerships to enforce Federal immigration priorities, as well as State monitoring and detention programs that are consistent with Federal law and do not undermine Federal immigration priorities.

Sec. 3. Definitions. (a) "Asylum officer" has the meaning given the term in section 235(b)(1)(E) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)).

(b) "Southern border" shall mean the contiguous land border between the United States and Mexico, including all points of entry.

(c) "Border States" shall mean the States of the United States immediately adjacent to the contiguous land border between the United States and Mexico.

(d) Except as otherwise noted, "the Secretary" shall refer to the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(e) "Wall" shall mean a contiguous, physical wall or other similarly secure, contiguous, and impassable physical barrier.

(f) "Executive department" shall have the meaning given in section 101 of title 5, United States Code.

(g) "Regulations" shall mean any and all Federal rules, regulations, and directives lawfully promulgated by agencies.

(h) "Operational control" shall mean the prevention of all unlawful entries into the United States, including entries by terrorists, other unlawful aliens, instruments of terrorism, narcotics, and other contraband.

Sec. 4. Physical Security of the Southern Border of the United States. The Secretary shall immediately take the following steps to obtain complete operational control, as determined by the Secretary, of the southern border:

(a) In accordance with existing law, including the Secure Fence Act and IIRIRA, take all appropriate steps to immediately plan, design, and construct a physical wall along the southern border, using appropriate materials and technology to most effectively achieve complete operational control of the southern border;

(b) Identify and, to the extent permitted by law, allocate all sources of Federal funds for the planning, designing, and constructing of a physical wall along the southern border;

(c) Project and develop long-term funding requirements for the wall, including preparing Congressional budget requests for the current and upcoming fiscal years; and

(d) Produce a comprehensive study of the security of the southern border, to be completed within 180 days of this order, that shall include the current state of southern border security, all geophysical and topographical aspects of the southern border, the availability of Federal and State resources necessary to achieve complete operational control of the southern border, and a strategy to obtain and maintain complete operational control of the southern border.

Sec. 5. Detention Facilities. (a) The Secretary shall take all appropriate action and allocate all legally available resources to immediately construct, operate, control, or establish contracts to construct, operate, or control facilities to detain aliens at or near the land border with Mexico.

(b) The Secretary shall take all appropriate action and allocate all legally available resources to immediately assign asylum officers to immigration detention facilities for the purpose of accepting asylum referrals and conducting credible fear determinations pursuant to section 235(b)(1) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)) and applicable regulations and reasonable fear determinations pursuant to applicable regulations.

(c) The Attorney General shall take all appropriate action and allocate all legally available resources to immediately assign immigration judges to immigration detention facilities operated or controlled by the Secretary, or operated or controlled pursuant to contract by the Secretary, for the purpose of conducting proceedings authorized under title 8, chapter 12, subchapter II, United States Code.

Sec. 6. Detention for Illegal Entry. The Secretary shall immediately take all appropriate actions to ensure the detention of aliens apprehended for violations of immigration law pending the outcome of their removal proceedings or their removal from the country to the extent permitted by law. The Secretary shall issue new policy guidance to all Department of Homeland Security personnel regarding the appropriate and consistent use of lawful detention authority under the INA, including the termination of the practice commonly known as "catch and release," whereby aliens are routinely released in the United States shortly after their apprehension for violations of immigration law.

Sec. 7. Return to Territory. The Secretary shall take appropriate action, consistent with the requirements of section 1232 of title 8, United States Code, to ensure that aliens described in section 235(b)(2)(C) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(2)(C)) are returned to the territory from which they came pending a formal removal proceeding.

Sec. 8. Additional Border Patrol Agents. Subject to available appropriations, the Secretary, through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall take all appropriate action to hire 5,000 additional Border Patrol agents, and all appropriate action to ensure that such agents enter on duty and are assigned to duty stations as soon as is practicable.

Sec. 9. Foreign Aid Reporting Requirements. The head of each executive department and agency shall identify and quantify all sources of direct and indirect Federal aid or assistance to the Government of Mexico on an annual basis over the past five years, including all bilateral and multilateral development aid, economic assistance, humanitarian aid, and military aid. Within 30 days of the date of this order, the head of each executive department and agency shall submit this information to the Secretary of State. Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Secretary shall submit to the President a consolidated report reflecting the levels of such aid and assistance that has been provided annually, over each of the past five years.

Sec. 10. Federal-State Agreements. It is the policy of the executive branch to empower State and local law enforcement agencies across the country to perform the functions of an immigration officer in the interior of the United States to the maximum extent permitted by law.

(a) In furtherance of this policy, the Secretary shall immediately take appropriate action to engage with the Governors of the States, as well as local officials, for the purpose of preparing to enter into agreements under section 287(g) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)).

(b) To the extent permitted by law, and with the consent of State or local officials, as appropriate, the Secretary shall take appropriate action, through agreements under section 287(g) of the INA, or otherwise, to authorize State and local law enforcement officials, as the Secretary determines are qualified and appropriate, to perform the functions of immigration officers in relation to the investigation, apprehension, or detention of aliens in the United States under the direction and the supervision of the Secretary. Such authorization shall be in addition to, rather than in place of, Federal performance of these duties.

(c) To the extent permitted by law, the Secretary may structure each agreement under section 287(g) of the INA in the manner that provides the most effective model for enforcing Federal immigration laws and obtaining operational control over the border for that jurisdiction.

Sec. 11. Parole, Asylum, and Removal. It is the policy of the executive branch to end the abuse of parole and asylum provisions currently used to prevent the lawful removal of removable aliens.

(a) The Secretary shall immediately take all appropriate action to ensure that the parole and asylum provisions of Federal immigration law are not illegally exploited to prevent the removal of otherwise removable aliens.

(b) The Secretary shall take all appropriate action, including by promulgating any appropriate regulations, to ensure that asylum referrals and credible fear determinations pursuant to section 235(b)(1) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1125(b)(1)) and 8 CFR 208.30, and reasonable fear determinations pursuant to 8 CFR 208.31, are conducted in a manner consistent with the plain language of those provisions.

(c) Pursuant to section 235(b)(1)(A)(iii)(I) of the INA, the Secretary shall take appropriate action to apply, in his sole and unreviewable discretion, the provisions of section 235(b)(1)(A)(i) and (ii) of the INA to the aliens designated under section 235(b)(1)(A)(iii)(II).

(d) The Secretary shall take appropriate action to ensure that parole authority under section 212(d)(5) of the INA (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is exercised only on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the plain language of the statute, and in all circumstances only when an individual demonstrates urgent humanitarian reasons or a significant public benefit derived from such parole.

(e) The Secretary shall take appropriate action to require that all Department of Homeland Security personnel are properly trained on the proper application of section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) and section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)), to ensure that unaccompanied alien children are properly processed, receive appropriate care and placement while in the custody of the Department of Homeland Security, and, when appropriate, are safely repatriated in accordance with law.

Sec. 12. Authorization to Enter Federal Lands. The Secretary, in conjunction with the Secretary of the Interior and any other heads of agencies as necessary, shall take all appropriate action to:

(a) permit all officers and employees of the United States, as well as all State and local officers as authorized by the Secretary, to have access to all Federal lands as necessary and appropriate to implement this order; and

(b) enable those officers and employees of the United States, as well as all State and local officers as authorized by the Secretary, to perform such actions on Federal lands as the Secretary deems necessary and appropriate to implement this order.

Sec. 13. Priority Enforcement. The Attorney General shall take all appropriate steps to establish prosecution guidelines and allocate appropriate resources to ensure that Federal prosecutors accord a high priority to prosecutions of offenses having a nexus to the southern border.

Sec. 14. Government Transparency. The Secretary shall, on a monthly basis and in a publicly available way, report statistical data on aliens apprehended at or near the southern border using a uniform method of reporting by all Department of Homeland Security components, in a format that is easily understandable by the public.

Sec. 15. Reporting. Except as otherwise provided in this order, the Secretary, within 90 days of the date of this order, and the Attorney General, within 180 days, shall each submit to the President a report on the progress of the directives contained in this order.

Sec. 16. Hiring. The Office of Personnel Management shall take appropriate action as may be necessary to facilitate hiring personnel to implement this order.

Sec. 17. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 25, 2017.

Executive Order: Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 27, 2017

EXECUTIVE ORDER: PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq., and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and to protect the American people from terrorist attacks by foreign nationals admitted to the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. The visa-issuance process plays a crucial role in detecting individuals with terrorist ties and stopping them from entering the United States. Perhaps in no instance was that more apparent than the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, when State Department policy prevented consular officers from properly scrutinizing the visa applications of several of the 19 foreign nationals who went on to murder nearly 3,000 Americans. And while the visa-issuance process was reviewed and amended after the September 11 attacks to better detect would-be terrorists from receiving visas, these measures did not stop attacks by foreign nationals who were admitted to the United States.

Numerous foreign-born individuals have been convicted or implicated in terrorism-related crimes since September 11, 2001, including foreign nationals who entered the United States after receiving visitor, student, or employment visas, or who entered through the United States refugee resettlement program. Deteriorating conditions in certain countries due to war, strife, disaster, and civil unrest increase the likelihood that terrorists will use any means possible to enter the United States. The United States must be vigilant during the visa-issuance process to ensure that those approved for admission do not intend to harm Americans and that they have no ties to terrorism.

In order to protect Americans, the United States must ensure that those admitted to this country do not bear hostile attitudes toward it and its founding principles. The United States cannot, and should not, admit those who do not support the Constitution, or those who would place violent ideologies over American law. In addition, the United States should not admit those who engage in acts of bigotry or hatred (including "honor" killings, other forms of violence against women, or the persecution of those who practice religions different from their own) or those who would oppress Americans of any race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Sec. 2. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to protect its citizens from foreign nationals who intend to commit terrorist attacks in the United States; and to prevent the admission of foreign nationals who intend to exploit United States immigration laws for malevolent purposes.

Sec. 3. Suspension of Issuance of Visas and Other Immigration Benefits to Nationals of Countries of Particular Concern. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall immediately conduct a review to determine the information needed from any country to adjudicate any visa, admission, or other benefit under the INA (adjudications) in order to determine that the individual seeking the benefit is who the individual claims to be and is not a security or public-safety threat.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the President a report on the results of the review described in subsection (a) of this section, including the Secretary of Homeland Security's determination of the information needed for adjudications and a list of countries that do not provide adequate information, within 30 days of the date of this order. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a copy of the report to the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence.

(c) To temporarily reduce investigative burdens on relevant agencies during the review period described in subsection (a) of this section, to ensure the proper review and maximum utilization of available resources for the screening of foreign nationals, and to ensure that adequate standards are established to prevent infiltration by foreign terrorists or criminals, pursuant to section 212(f) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), I hereby proclaim that the immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of aliens from countries referred to in section 217(a)(12) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(12), would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, and I hereby suspend entry into the United States, as immigrants and nonimmigrants, of such persons for 90 days from the date of this order (excluding those foreign nationals traveling on diplomatic visas, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visas, C-2 visas for travel to the United Nations, and G-1, G-2, G-3, and G-4 visas).

(d) Immediately upon receipt of the report described in subsection (b) of this section regarding the information needed for adjudications, the Secretary of State shall request all foreign governments that do not supply such information to start providing such information regarding their nationals within 60 days of notification.

(e) After the 60-day period described in subsection (d) of this section expires, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the President a list of countries recommended for inclusion on a Presidential proclamation that would prohibit the entry of foreign nationals (excluding those foreign nationals traveling on diplomatic visas, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visas, C-2 visas for travel to the United Nations, and G-1, G-2, G-3, and G-4 visas) from countries that do not provide the information requested pursuant to subsection (d) of this section until compliance occurs.

(f) At any point after submitting the list described in subsection (e) of this section, the Secretary of State or the Secretary of Homeland Security may submit to the President the names of any additional countries recommended for similar treatment.

(g) Notwithstanding a suspension pursuant to subsection (c) of this section or pursuant to a Presidential proclamation described in subsection (e) of this section, the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security may, on a case-by-case basis, and when in the national interest, issue visas or other immigration benefits to nationals of countries for which visas and benefits are otherwise blocked.

(h) The Secretaries of State and Homeland Security shall submit to the President a joint report on the progress in implementing this order within 30 days of the date of this order, a second report within 60 days of the date of this order, a third report within 90 days of the date of this order, and a fourth report within 120 days of the date of this order.

Sec. 4. Implementing Uniform Screening Standards for All Immigration Programs. (a) The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall implement a program, as part of the adjudication process for immigration benefits, to identify individuals seeking to enter the United States on a fraudulent basis with the intent to cause harm, or who are at risk of causing harm

subsequent to their admission. This program will include the development of a uniform screening standard and procedure, such as in-person interviews; a database of identity documents proffered by applicants to ensure that duplicate documents are not used by multiple applicants; amended application forms that include questions aimed at identifying fraudulent answers and malicious intent; a mechanism to ensure that the applicant is who the applicant claims to be; a process to evaluate the applicant's likelihood of becoming a positively contributing member of society and the applicant's ability to make contributions to the national interest; and a mechanism to assess whether or not the applicant has the intent to commit criminal or terrorist acts after entering the United States.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of State, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shall submit to the President an initial report on the progress of this directive within 60 days of the date of this order, a second report within 100 days of the date of this order, and a third report within 200 days of the date of this order.

Sec. 5. Realignment of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for Fiscal Year 2017. (a) The Secretary of State shall suspend the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) for 120 days. During the 120-day period, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of Homeland Security and in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall review the USRAP application and adjudication process to determine what additional procedures should be taken to ensure that those approved for refugee admission do not pose a threat to the security and welfare of the United States, and shall implement such additional procedures. Refugee applicants who are already in the USRAP process may be admitted upon the initiation and completion of these revised procedures. Upon the date that is 120 days after the date of this order, the Secretary of State shall resume USRAP admissions only for nationals of countries for which the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence have jointly determined that such additional procedures are adequate to ensure the security and welfare of the United States.

(b) Upon the resumption of USRAP admissions, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, is further directed to make changes, to the extent permitted by law, to prioritize refugee claims made by individuals on the basis of religious-based persecution, provided that the religion of the individual is a minority religion in the individual's country of nationality. Where necessary and appropriate, the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security shall recommend legislation to the President that would assist with such prioritization.

(c) Pursuant to section 212(f) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), I hereby proclaim that the entry of nationals of Syria as refugees is detrimental to the interests of the United States and thus suspend any such entry until such time as I have determined that sufficient changes have been made to the USRAP to ensure that admission of Syrian refugees is consistent with the national interest.

(d) Pursuant to section 212(f) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), I hereby proclaim that the entry of more than 50,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017 would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, and thus suspend any such entry until such time as I determine that additional admissions would be in the national interest.

(e) Notwithstanding the temporary suspension imposed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretaries of State and Homeland Security may jointly determine to admit individuals to the United States as refugees on a case-by-case basis, in their discretion, but only so long as they determine that the admission of such individuals as refugees is in the national interest -- including when the person is a religious minority in his country of nationality facing religious persecution, when admitting the person would enable the United States to conform its conduct to a preexisting international agreement, or when the person is already in transit and denying admission would cause undue hardship -- and it would not pose a risk to the security or welfare of the United States.

(f) The Secretary of State shall submit to the President an initial report on the progress of the directive in subsection (b) of this section regarding prioritization of claims made by individuals on

the basis of religious-based persecution within 100 days of the date of this order and shall submit a second report within 200 days of the date of this order.

(g) It is the policy of the executive branch that, to the extent permitted by law and as practicable, State and local jurisdictions be granted a role in the process of determining the placement or settlement in their jurisdictions of aliens eligible to be admitted to the United States as refugees. To that end, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall examine existing law to determine the extent to which, consistent with applicable law, State and local jurisdictions may have greater involvement in the process of determining the placement or resettlement of refugees in their jurisdictions, and shall devise a proposal to lawfully promote such involvement.

Sec. 6. Rescission of Exercise of Authority Relating to the Terrorism Grounds of Inadmissibility. The Secretaries of State and Homeland Security shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, consider rescinding the exercises of authority in section 212 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182, relating to the terrorism grounds of inadmissibility, as well as any related implementing memoranda.

Sec. 7. Expedited Completion of the Biometric Entry-Exit Tracking System. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall expedite the completion and implementation of a biometric entry-exit tracking system for all travelers to the United States, as recommended by the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the President periodic reports on the progress of the directive contained in subsection (a) of this section. The initial report shall be submitted within 100 days of the date of this order, a second report shall be submitted within 200 days of the date of this order, and a third report shall be submitted within 365 days of the date of this order. Further, the Secretary shall submit a report every 180 days thereafter until the system is fully deployed and operational.

Sec. 8. Visa Interview Security. (a) The Secretary of State shall immediately suspend the Visa Interview Waiver Program and ensure compliance with section 222 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1222, which requires that all individuals seeking a nonimmigrant visa undergo an in-person interview, subject to specific statutory exceptions.

(b) To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of State shall immediately expand the Consular Fellows Program, including by substantially increasing the number of Fellows, lengthening or making permanent the period of service, and making language training at the Foreign Service Institute available to Fellows for assignment to posts outside of their area of core linguistic ability, to ensure that non-immigrant visa-interview wait times are not unduly affected.

Sec. 9. Visa Validity Reciprocity. The Secretary of State shall review all nonimmigrant visa reciprocity agreements to ensure that they are, with respect to each visa classification, truly reciprocal insofar as practicable with respect to validity period and fees, as required by sections 221(c) and 281 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1201(c) and 1351, and other treatment. If a country does not treat United States nationals seeking nonimmigrant visas in a reciprocal manner, the Secretary of State shall adjust the visa validity period, fee schedule, or other treatment to match the treatment of United States nationals by the foreign country, to the extent practicable.

Sec. 10. Transparency and Data Collection. (a) To be more transparent with the American people, and to more effectively implement policies and practices that serve the national interest, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall, consistent with applicable law and national security, collect and make publicly available within 180 days, and every 180 days thereafter:

(i) information regarding the number of foreign nationals in the United States who have been charged with terrorism-related offenses while in the United States; convicted of terrorism-related offenses while in the United States; or removed from the United States based on terrorism-

related activity, affiliation, or material support to a terrorism-related organization, or any other national security reasons since the date of this order or the last reporting period, whichever is later;

(ii) information regarding the number of foreign nationals in the United States who have been radicalized after entry into the United States and engaged in terrorism-related acts, or who have provided material support to terrorism-related organizations in countries that pose a threat to the United States, since the date of this order or the last reporting period, whichever is later; and

(iii) information regarding the number and types of acts of gender-based violence against women, including honor killings, in the United States by foreign nationals, since the date of this order or the last reporting period, whichever is later; and

(iv) any other information relevant to public safety and security as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General, including information on the immigration status of foreign nationals charged with major offenses.

(b) The Secretary of State shall, within one year of the date of this order, provide a report on the estimated long-term costs of the USRAP at the Federal, State, and local levels.

Sec. 11. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
January 27, 2017.

Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 09, 2017

Presidential Executive Order on Enforcing Federal Law with Respect to Transnational Criminal Organizations and Preventing International Trafficking

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ENFORCING FEDERAL LAW WITH RESPECT TO TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PREVENTING INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Purpose. Transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including transnational drug cartels, have spread throughout the Nation, threatening the safety of the United States and its citizens. These organizations derive revenue through widespread illegal conduct, including acts of violence and abuse that exhibit a wanton disregard for human life. They, for example, have been known to commit brutal murders, rapes, and other barbaric acts.

These groups are drivers of crime, corruption, violence, and misery. In particular, the trafficking by cartels of controlled substances has triggered a resurgence in deadly drug abuse and a corresponding rise in violent crime related to drugs. Likewise, the trafficking and smuggling of human beings by transnational criminal groups risks creating a humanitarian crisis. These crimes,

along with many others, are enriching and empowering these organizations to the detriment of the American people.

A comprehensive and decisive approach is required to dismantle these organized crime syndicates and restore safety for the American people.

Sec. 2. Policy. It shall be the policy of the executive branch to:

(a) strengthen enforcement of Federal law in order to thwart transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including criminal gangs, cartels, racketeering organizations, and other groups engaged in illicit activities that present a threat to public safety and national security and that are related to, for example:

(i) the illegal smuggling and trafficking of humans, drugs or other substances, wildlife, and weapons;

(ii) corruption, cybercrime, fraud, financial crimes, and intellectual-property theft; or

(iii) the illegal concealment or transfer of proceeds derived from such illicit activities.

(b) ensure that Federal law enforcement agencies give a high priority and devote sufficient resources to efforts to identify, interdict, disrupt, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including through the investigation, apprehension, and prosecution of members of such organizations, the extradition of members of such organizations to face justice in the United States and, where appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, the swift removal from the United States of foreign nationals who are members of such organizations;

(c) maximize the extent to which all Federal agencies share information and coordinate with Federal law enforcement agencies, as permitted by law, in order to identify, interdict, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations;

(d) enhance cooperation with foreign counterparts against transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including, where appropriate and permitted by law, through sharing of intelligence and law enforcement information and through increased security sector assistance to foreign partners by the Attorney General and the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(e) develop strategies, under the guidance of the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, to maximize coordination among agencies -- such as through the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF), Special Operations Division, the OCDETF Fusion Center, and the International Organized Crime Intelligence and Operations Center -- to counter the crimes described in subsection (a) of this section, consistent with applicable Federal law; and

(f) pursue and support additional efforts to prevent the operational success of transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations within and beyond the United States, to include prosecution of ancillary criminal offenses, such as immigration fraud and visa fraud, and the seizure of the implements of such organizations and forfeiture of the proceeds of their criminal activity.

Sec. 3. Implementation. In furtherance of the policy set forth in section 2 of this order, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, or their designees, shall co chair and direct the existing interagency Threat Mitigation Working Group (TMWG), which shall:

(a) work to support and improve the coordination of Federal agencies' efforts to identify, interdict, investigate, prosecute, and dismantle transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations within and beyond the United States;

(b) work to improve Federal agencies' provision, collection, reporting, and sharing of, and access to, data relevant to Federal efforts against transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations;

(c) work to increase intelligence and law enforcement information sharing with foreign partners battling transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, and to enhance international operational capabilities and cooperation;

(d) assess Federal agencies' allocation of monetary and personnel resources for identifying, interdicting, and dismantling transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, as well as any resources that should be redirected toward these efforts;

(e) identify Federal agencies' practices, any absence of practices, and funding needs that might hinder Federal efforts to effectively combat transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations;

(f) review relevant Federal laws to determine existing ways in which to identify, interdict, and disrupt the activity of transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, and ascertain which statutory authorities, including provisions under the Immigration and Nationality Act, could be better enforced or amended to prevent foreign members of these organizations or their associates from obtaining entry into the United States and from exploiting the United States immigration system;

(g) in the interest of transparency and public safety, and in compliance with all applicable law, including the Privacy Act, issue reports at least once per quarter detailing convictions in the United States relating to transnational criminal organizations and their subsidiaries;

(h) to the extent deemed useful by the Co-Chairs, and in their discretion, identify methods for Federal agencies to coordinate, as permitted by law, with State, tribal, and local governments and law enforcement agencies, foreign law enforcement partners, public-health organizations, and non governmental organizations in order to aid in the identification, interdiction, and dismantling of transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations;

(i) to the extent deemed useful by the Co-Chairs, and in their discretion, consult with the Office of National Drug Control Policy in implementing this order; and

(j) within 120 days of the date of this order, submit to the President a report on transnational criminal organizations and subsidiary organizations, including the extent of penetration of such organizations into the United States, and issue additional reports annually thereafter to describe the progress made in combating these criminal organizations, along with any recommended actions for dismantling them.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
February 9, 2017

Executive Order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 06, 2017

Executive Order Protecting The Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into The United States

EXECUTIVE ORDER

PROTECTING THE NATION FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq., and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, and to protect the Nation from terrorist activities by foreign nationals admitted to the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Policy and Purpose. (a) It is the policy of the United States to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks, including those committed by foreign nationals. The screening and vetting protocols and procedures associated with the visa-issuance process and the United States Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP) play a crucial role in detecting foreign nationals who may commit, aid, or support acts of terrorism and in preventing those individuals from entering the United States. It is therefore the policy of the United States to improve the screening and vetting protocols and procedures associated with the visa-issuance process and the USRAP.

(b) On January 27, 2017, to implement this policy, I issued Executive Order 13769 (Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States).

(i) Among other actions, Executive Order 13769 suspended for 90 days the entry of certain aliens from seven countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. These are countries that had already been identified as presenting heightened concerns about terrorism and travel to the United States. Specifically, the suspension applied to countries referred to in, or designated under, section 217(a)(12) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(12), in which Congress restricted use of the Visa Waiver Program for nationals of, and aliens recently present in, (A) Iraq or Syria, (B) any country designated by the Secretary of State as a state sponsor of terrorism (currently Iran, Syria, and Sudan), and (C) any other country designated as a country of concern by the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence. In 2016, the Secretary of Homeland Security designated Libya, Somalia, and Yemen as additional countries of concern for travel purposes, based on consideration of three statutory factors related to terrorism and national security: "(I) whether the presence of an alien in the country or area increases the likelihood that the alien is a credible threat to the national security of the United States; (II) whether a foreign terrorist organization has a significant presence in the country or area; and (III) whether the country or area is a safe haven for terrorists." 8 U.S.C. 1187(a)(12)(D)(ii). Additionally, Members of Congress have expressed concerns about screening and vetting procedures following recent terrorist attacks in this country and in Europe.

(ii) In ordering the temporary suspension of entry described in subsection (b)(i) of this section, I exercised my authority under Article II of the Constitution and under section 212(f) of the INA, which provides in relevant part: "Whenever the President finds that the entry of any aliens or of any class of aliens into the United States would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, he may by proclamation, and for such period as he shall deem necessary, suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants, or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem to be appropriate." 8 U.S.C. 1182(f). Under these authorities, I determined that, for a brief period of 90 days, while existing screening and vetting procedures were under review, the entry into the United States of certain aliens from the seven identified countries -- each afflicted by terrorism in a manner that compromised the ability of the United States to rely on normal decision-making procedures about travel to the United States -- would be detrimental to the interests of the United States. Nonetheless, I permitted the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to grant case-by-case waivers when they determined that it was in the national interest to do so.

(iii) Executive Order 13769 also suspended the USRAP for 120 days. Terrorist groups have sought to infiltrate several nations through refugee programs. Accordingly, I temporarily suspended the USRAP pending a review of our procedures for screening and vetting refugees. Nonetheless, I

permitted the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security to jointly grant case-by-case waivers when they determined that it was in the national interest to do so.

(iv) Executive Order 13769 did not provide a basis for discriminating for or against members of any particular religion. While that order allowed for prioritization of refugee claims from members of persecuted religious minority groups, that priority applied to refugees from every nation, including those in which Islam is a minority religion, and it applied to minority sects within a religion. That order was not motivated by animus toward any religion, but was instead intended to protect the ability of religious minorities -- whoever they are and wherever they reside -- to avail themselves of the USRAP in light of their particular challenges and circumstances.

(c) The implementation of Executive Order 13769 has been delayed by litigation. Most significantly, enforcement of critical provisions of that order has been temporarily halted by court orders that apply nationwide and extend even to foreign nationals with no prior or substantial connection to the United States. On February 9, 2017, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit declined to stay or narrow one such order pending the outcome of further judicial proceedings, while noting that the "political branches are far better equipped to make appropriate distinctions" about who should be covered by a suspension of entry or of refugee admissions.

(d) Nationals from the countries previously identified under section 217(a)(12) of the INA warrant additional scrutiny in connection with our immigration policies because the conditions in these countries present heightened threats. Each of these countries is a state sponsor of terrorism, has been significantly compromised by terrorist organizations, or contains active conflict zones. Any of these circumstances diminishes the foreign government's willingness or ability to share or validate important information about individuals seeking to travel to the United States. Moreover, the significant presence in each of these countries of terrorist organizations, their members, and others exposed to those organizations increases the chance that conditions will be exploited to enable terrorist operatives or sympathizers to travel to the United States. Finally, once foreign nationals from these countries are admitted to the United States, it is often difficult to remove them, because many of these countries typically delay issuing, or refuse to issue, travel documents.

(e) The following are brief descriptions, taken in part from the Department of State's Country Reports on Terrorism 2015 (June 2016), of some of the conditions in six of the previously designated countries that demonstrate why their nationals continue to present heightened risks to the security of the United States:

(i) Iran. Iran has been designated as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1984 and continues to support various terrorist groups, including Hizballah, Hamas, and terrorist groups in Iraq. Iran has also been linked to support for al-Qa'ida and has permitted al-Qa'ida to transport funds and fighters through Iran to Syria and South Asia. Iran does not cooperate with the United States in counterterrorism efforts.

(ii) Libya. Libya is an active combat zone, with hostilities between the internationally recognized government and its rivals. In many parts of the country, security and law enforcement functions are provided by armed militias rather than state institutions. Violent extremist groups, including the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), have exploited these conditions to expand their presence in the country. The Libyan government provides some cooperation with the United States' counterterrorism efforts, but it is unable to secure thousands of miles of its land and maritime borders, enabling the illicit flow of weapons, migrants, and foreign terrorist fighters. The United States Embassy in Libya suspended its operations in 2014.

(iii) Somalia. Portions of Somalia have been terrorist safe havens. Al-Shabaab, an al-Qa'ida-affiliated terrorist group, has operated in the country for years and continues to plan and mount operations within Somalia and in neighboring countries. Somalia has porous borders, and most countries do not recognize Somali identity documents. The Somali government cooperates with the United States in some counterterrorism operations but does not have the capacity to sustain military pressure on or to investigate suspected terrorists.

(iv) Sudan. Sudan has been designated as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1993 because of its support for international terrorist groups, including Hizballah and Hamas. Historically, Sudan provided safe havens for al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups to meet and train. Although Sudan's support to al-Qa'ida has ceased and it provides some cooperation with the United States' counterterrorism efforts, elements of core al-Qa'ida and ISIS-linked terrorist groups remain active in the country.

(v) Syria. Syria has been designated as a state sponsor of terrorism since 1979. The Syrian government is engaged in an ongoing military conflict against ISIS and others for control of portions of the country. At the same time, Syria continues to support other terrorist groups. It has allowed or encouraged extremists to pass through its territory to enter Iraq. ISIS continues to attract foreign fighters to Syria and to use its base in Syria to plot or encourage attacks around the globe, including in the United States. The United States Embassy in Syria suspended its operations in 2012. Syria does not cooperate with the United States' counterterrorism efforts.

(vi) Yemen. Yemen is the site of an ongoing conflict between the incumbent government and the Houthi-led opposition. Both ISIS and a second group, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), have exploited this conflict to expand their presence in Yemen and to carry out hundreds of attacks. Weapons and other materials smuggled across Yemen's porous borders are used to finance AQAP and other terrorist activities. In 2015, the United States Embassy in Yemen suspended its operations, and embassy staff were relocated out of the country. Yemen has been supportive of, but has not been able to cooperate fully with, the United States in counterterrorism efforts.

(f) In light of the conditions in these six countries, until the assessment of current screening and vetting procedures required by section 2 of this order is completed, the risk of erroneously permitting entry of a national of one of these countries who intends to commit terrorist acts or otherwise harm the national security of the United States is unacceptably high. Accordingly, while that assessment is ongoing, I am imposing a temporary pause on the entry of nationals from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, subject to categorical exceptions and case-by-case waivers, as described in section 3 of this order.

(g) Iraq presents a special case. Portions of Iraq remain active combat zones. Since 2014, ISIS has had dominant influence over significant territory in northern and central Iraq. Although that influence has been significantly reduced due to the efforts and sacrifices of the Iraqi government and armed forces, working along with a United States-led coalition, the ongoing conflict has impacted the Iraqi government's capacity to secure its borders and to identify fraudulent travel documents. Nevertheless, the close cooperative relationship between the United States and the democratically elected Iraqi government, the strong United States diplomatic presence in Iraq, the significant presence of United States forces in Iraq, and Iraq's commitment to combat ISIS justify different treatment for Iraq. In particular, those Iraqi government forces that have fought to regain more than half of the territory previously dominated by ISIS have shown steadfast determination and earned enduring respect as they battle an armed group that is the common enemy of Iraq and the United States. In addition, since Executive Order 13769 was issued, the Iraqi government has expressly undertaken steps to enhance travel documentation, information sharing, and the return of Iraqi nationals subject to final orders of removal. Decisions about issuance of visas or granting admission to Iraqi nationals should be subjected to additional scrutiny to determine if applicants have connections with ISIS or other terrorist organizations, or otherwise pose a risk to either national security or public safety.

(h) Recent history shows that some of those who have entered the United States through our immigration system have proved to be threats to our national security. Since 2001, hundreds of persons born abroad have been convicted of terrorism-related crimes in the United States. They have included not just persons who came here legally on visas but also individuals who first entered the country as refugees. For example, in January 2013, two Iraqi nationals admitted to the United

States as refugees in 2009 were sentenced to 40 years and to life in prison, respectively, for multiple terrorism-related offenses. And in October 2014, a native of Somalia who had been brought to the United States as a child refugee and later became a naturalized United States citizen was sentenced to 30 years in prison for attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction as part of a plot to detonate a bomb at a crowded Christmas-tree-lighting ceremony in Portland, Oregon. The Attorney General has reported to me that more than 300 persons who entered the United States as refugees are currently the subjects of counterterrorism investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(i) Given the foregoing, the entry into the United States of foreign nationals who may commit, aid, or support acts of terrorism remains a matter of grave concern. In light of the Ninth Circuit's observation that the political branches are better suited to determine the appropriate scope of any suspensions than are the courts, and in order to avoid spending additional time pursuing litigation, I am revoking Executive Order 13769 and replacing it with this order, which expressly excludes from the suspensions categories of aliens that have prompted judicial concerns and which clarifies or refines the approach to certain other issues or categories of affected aliens.

Sec. 2. Temporary Suspension of Entry for Nationals of Countries of Particular Concern During Review Period. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall conduct a worldwide review to identify whether, and if so what, additional information will be needed from each foreign country to adjudicate an application by a national of that country for a visa, admission, or other benefit under the INA (adjudications) in order to determine that the individual is not a security or public-safety threat. The Secretary of Homeland Security may conclude that certain information is needed from particular countries even if it is not needed from every country.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the President a report on the results of the worldwide review described in subsection (a) of this section, including the Secretary of Homeland Security's determination of the information needed from each country for adjudications and a list of countries that do not provide adequate information, within 20 days of the effective date of this order. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a copy of the report to the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Director of National Intelligence.

(c) To temporarily reduce investigative burdens on relevant agencies during the review period described in subsection (a) of this section, to ensure the proper review and maximum utilization of available resources for the screening and vetting of foreign nationals, to ensure that adequate standards are established to prevent infiltration by foreign terrorists, and in light of the national security concerns referenced in section 1 of this order, I hereby proclaim, pursuant to sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a), that the unrestricted entry into the United States of nationals of Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen would be detrimental to the interests of the United States. I therefore direct that the entry into the United States of nationals of those six countries be suspended for 90 days from the effective date of this order, subject to the limitations, waivers, and exceptions set forth in sections 3 and 12 of this order.

(d) Upon submission of the report described in subsection (b) of this section regarding the information needed from each country for adjudications, the Secretary of State shall request that all foreign governments that do not supply such information regarding their nationals begin providing it within 50 days of notification.

(e) After the period described in subsection (d) of this section expires, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, shall submit to the President a list of countries recommended for inclusion in a Presidential proclamation that would prohibit the entry of appropriate categories of foreign nationals of countries that have not provided the information requested until they do so or until the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies that the country has an adequate plan to do so, or has adequately shared information through other means. The Secretary of State, the Attorney General, or the Secretary of Homeland

Security may also submit to the President the names of additional countries for which any of them recommends other lawful restrictions or limitations deemed necessary for the security or welfare of the United States.

(f) At any point after the submission of the list described in subsection (e) of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, may submit to the President the names of any additional countries recommended for similar treatment, as well as the names of any countries that they recommend should be removed from the scope of a proclamation described in subsection (e) of this section.

(g) The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the President a joint report on the progress in implementing this order within 60 days of the effective date of this order, a second report within 90 days of the effective date of this order, a third report within 120 days of the effective date of this order, and a fourth report within 150 days of the effective date of this order.

Sec. 3. Scope and Implementation of Suspension.

(a) Scope. Subject to the exceptions set forth in subsection (b) of this section and any waiver under subsection (c) of this section, the suspension of entry pursuant to section 2 of this order shall apply only to foreign nationals of the designated countries who:

- (i) are outside the United States on the effective date of this order;
- (ii) did not have a valid visa at 5:00 p.m., eastern standard time on January 27, 2017; and
- (iii) do not have a valid visa on the effective date of this order.

(b) Exceptions. The suspension of entry pursuant to section 2 of this order shall not apply to:

- (i) any lawful permanent resident of the United States;
- (ii) any foreign national who is admitted to or paroled into the United States on or after the effective date of this order;
- (iii) any foreign national who has a document other than a visa, valid on the effective date of this order or issued on any date thereafter, that permits him or her to travel to the United States and seek entry or admission, such as an advance parole document;
- (iv) any dual national of a country designated under section 2 of this order when the individual is traveling on a passport issued by a non-designated country;
- (v) any foreign national traveling on a diplomatic or diplomatic-type visa, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visa, C-2 visa for travel to the United Nations, or G-1, G-2, G-3, or G-4 visa; or
- (vi) any foreign national who has been granted asylum; any refugee who has already been admitted to the United States; or any individual who has been granted withholding of removal, advance parole, or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

(c) Waivers. Notwithstanding the suspension of entry pursuant to section 2 of this order, a consular officer, or, as appropriate, the Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), or the Commissioner's delegate, may, in the consular officer's or the CBP official's discretion, decide on a case-by-case basis to authorize the issuance of a visa to, or to permit the entry of, a foreign national for whom entry is otherwise suspended if the foreign national has demonstrated to the officer's satisfaction that denying entry during the suspension period would cause undue hardship, and that his or her entry would not pose a threat to national security and would be in the national interest. Unless otherwise specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security, any waiver issued by a consular officer as part of the visa issuance process will be effective both for the issuance of a visa and any subsequent entry on that visa, but will leave all other requirements for admission or entry unchanged. Case-by-case waivers could be appropriate in circumstances such as the following:

- (i) the foreign national has previously been admitted to the United States for a continuous period of work, study, or other long-term activity, is outside the United States on the effective date of this order, seeks to reenter the United States to resume that activity, and the denial of reentry during the suspension period would impair that activity;

(ii) the foreign national has previously established significant contacts with the United States but is outside the United States on the effective date of this order for work, study, or other lawful activity;

(iii) the foreign national seeks to enter the United States for significant business or professional obligations and the denial of entry during the suspension period would impair those obligations;

(iv) the foreign national seeks to enter the United States to visit or reside with a close family member (e.g., a spouse, child, or parent) who is a United States citizen, lawful permanent resident, or alien lawfully admitted on a valid nonimmigrant visa, and the denial of entry during the suspension period would cause undue hardship;

(v) the foreign national is an infant, a young child or adoptee, an individual needing urgent medical care, or someone whose entry is otherwise justified by the special circumstances of the case;

(vi) the foreign national has been employed by, or on behalf of, the United States Government (or is an eligible dependent of such an employee) and the employee can document that he or she has provided faithful and valuable service to the United States Government;

(vii) the foreign national is traveling for purposes related to an international organization designated under the International Organizations Immunities Act (IOIA), 22 U.S.C. 288 et seq., traveling for purposes of conducting meetings or business with the United States Government, or traveling to conduct business on behalf of an international organization not designated under the IOIA;

(viii) the foreign national is a landed Canadian immigrant who applies for a visa at a location within Canada; or

(ix) the foreign national is traveling as a United States Government-sponsored exchange visitor.

Sec. 4. Additional Inquiries Related to Nationals of Iraq. An application by any Iraqi national for a visa, admission, or other immigration benefit should be subjected to thorough review, including, as appropriate, consultation with a designee of the Secretary of Defense and use of the additional information that has been obtained in the context of the close U.S.-Iraqi security partnership, since Executive Order 13769 was issued, concerning individuals suspected of ties to ISIS or other terrorist organizations and individuals coming from territories controlled or formerly controlled by ISIS. Such review shall include consideration of whether the applicant has connections with ISIS or other terrorist organizations or with territory that is or has been under the dominant influence of ISIS, as well as any other information bearing on whether the applicant may be a threat to commit acts of terrorism or otherwise threaten the national security or public safety of the United States.

Sec. 5. Implementing Uniform Screening and Vetting Standards for All Immigration Programs. (a) The Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence shall implement a program, as part of the process for adjudications, to identify individuals who seek to enter the United States on a fraudulent basis, who support terrorism, violent extremism, acts of violence toward any group or class of people within the United States, or who present a risk of causing harm subsequent to their entry. This program shall include the development of a uniform baseline for screening and vetting standards and procedures, such as in-person interviews; a database of identity documents proffered by applicants to ensure that duplicate documents are not used by multiple applicants; amended application forms that include questions aimed at identifying fraudulent answers and malicious intent; a mechanism to ensure that applicants are who they claim to be; a mechanism to assess whether applicants may commit, aid, or support any kind of violent, criminal, or terrorist acts after entering the United States; and any other appropriate means for ensuring the proper collection of all information

necessary for a rigorous evaluation of all grounds of inadmissibility or grounds for the denial of other immigration benefits.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in conjunction with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Director of National Intelligence, shall submit to the President an initial report on the progress of the program described in subsection (a) of this section within 60 days of the effective date of this order, a second report within 100 days of the effective date of this order, and a third report within 200 days of the effective date of this order.

Sec. 6. Realignment of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for Fiscal Year 2017. (a) The Secretary of State shall suspend travel of refugees into the United States under the USRAP, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall suspend decisions on applications for refugee status, for 120 days after the effective date of this order, subject to waivers pursuant to subsection (c) of this section. During the 120-day period, the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of Homeland Security and in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, shall review the USRAP application and adjudication processes to determine what additional procedures should be used to ensure that individuals seeking admission as refugees do not pose a threat to the security and welfare of the United States, and shall implement such additional procedures. The suspension described in this subsection shall not apply to refugee applicants who, before the effective date of this order, have been formally scheduled for transit by the Department of State. The Secretary of State shall resume travel of refugees into the United States under the USRAP 120 days after the effective date of this order, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall resume making decisions on applications for refugee status only for stateless persons and nationals of countries for which the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence have jointly determined that the additional procedures implemented pursuant to this subsection are adequate to ensure the security and welfare of the United States.

(b) Pursuant to section 212(f) of the INA, I hereby proclaim that the entry of more than 50,000 refugees in fiscal year 2017 would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, and thus suspend any entries in excess of that number until such time as I determine that additional entries would be in the national interest.

(c) Notwithstanding the temporary suspension imposed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security may jointly determine to admit individuals to the United States as refugees on a case-by-case basis, in their discretion, but only so long as they determine that the entry of such individuals as refugees is in the national interest and does not pose a threat to the security or welfare of the United States, including in circumstances such as the following: the individual's entry would enable the United States to conform its conduct to a preexisting international agreement or arrangement, or the denial of entry would cause undue hardship.

(d) It is the policy of the executive branch that, to the extent permitted by law and as practicable, State and local jurisdictions be granted a role in the process of determining the placement or settlement in their jurisdictions of aliens eligible to be admitted to the United States as refugees. To that end, the Secretary of State shall examine existing law to determine the extent to which, consistent with applicable law, State and local jurisdictions may have greater involvement in the process of determining the placement or resettlement of refugees in their jurisdictions, and shall devise a proposal to lawfully promote such involvement.

Sec. 7. Rescission of Exercise of Authority Relating to the Terrorism Grounds of Inadmissibility. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in consultation with the Attorney General, consider rescinding the exercises of authority permitted by section 212(d)(3)(B) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(3)(B), relating to the terrorism grounds of inadmissibility, as well as any related implementing directives or guidance.

Sec. 8. Expedited Completion of the Biometric Entry-Exit Tracking System. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall expedite the completion and implementation of a biometric

entry exit tracking system for in-scope travelers to the United States, as recommended by the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the President periodic reports on the progress of the directive set forth in subsection (a) of this section. The initial report shall be submitted within 100 days of the effective date of this order, a second report shall be submitted within 200 days of the effective date of this order, and a third report shall be submitted within 365 days of the effective date of this order. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit further reports every 180 days thereafter until the system is fully deployed and operational.

Sec. 9. Visa Interview Security. (a) The Secretary of State shall immediately suspend the Visa Interview Waiver Program and ensure compliance with section 222 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1202, which requires that all individuals seeking a nonimmigrant visa undergo an in-person interview, subject to specific statutory exceptions. This suspension shall not apply to any foreign national traveling on a diplomatic or diplomatic-type visa, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visa, C-2 visa for travel to the United Nations, or G-1, G-2, G-3, or G-4 visa; traveling for purposes related to an international organization designated under the IOIA; or traveling for purposes of conducting meetings or business with the United States Government.

(b) To the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of State shall immediately expand the Consular Fellows Program, including by substantially increasing the number of Fellows, lengthening or making permanent the period of service, and making language training at the Foreign Service Institute available to Fellows for assignment to posts outside of their area of core linguistic ability, to ensure that nonimmigrant visa-interview wait times are not unduly affected.

Sec. 10. Visa Validity Reciprocity. The Secretary of State shall review all nonimmigrant visa reciprocity agreements and arrangements to ensure that they are, with respect to each visa classification, truly reciprocal insofar as practicable with respect to validity period and fees, as required by sections 221(c) and 281 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1201(c) and 1351, and other treatment. If another country does not treat United States nationals seeking nonimmigrant visas in a truly reciprocal manner, the Secretary of State shall adjust the visa validity period, fee schedule, or other treatment to match the treatment of United States nationals by that foreign country, to the extent practicable.

Sec. 11. Transparency and Data Collection. (a) To be more transparent with the American people and to implement more effectively policies and practices that serve the national interest, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall, consistent with applicable law and national security, collect and make publicly available the following information:

(i) information regarding the number of foreign nationals in the United States who have been charged with terrorism-related offenses while in the United States; convicted of terrorism-related offenses while in the United States; or removed from the United States based on terrorism-related activity, affiliation with or provision of material support to a terrorism-related organization, or any other national-security-related reasons;

(ii) information regarding the number of foreign nationals in the United States who have been radicalized after entry into the United States and who have engaged in terrorism-related acts, or who have provided material support to terrorism-related organizations in countries that pose a threat to the United States;

(iii) information regarding the number and types of acts of gender-based violence against women, including so-called "honor killings," in the United States by foreign nationals; and

(iv) any other information relevant to public safety and security as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General, including information on the immigration status of foreign nationals charged with major offenses.

(b) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall release the initial report under subsection (a) of this section within 180 days of the effective date of this order and shall include information for the

period from September 11, 2001, until the date of the initial report. Subsequent reports shall be issued every 180 days thereafter and reflect the period since the previous report.

Sec. 12. Enforcement. (a) The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with appropriate domestic and international partners, including countries and organizations, to ensure efficient, effective, and appropriate implementation of the actions directed in this order.

(b) In implementing this order, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including, as appropriate, those providing an opportunity for individuals to claim a fear of persecution or torture, such as the credible fear determination for aliens covered by section 235(b)(1)(A) of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(A).

(c) No immigrant or nonimmigrant visa issued before the effective date of this order shall be revoked pursuant to this order.

(d) Any individual whose visa was marked revoked or marked canceled as a result of Executive Order 13769 shall be entitled to a travel document confirming that the individual is permitted to travel to the United States and seek entry. Any prior cancellation or revocation of a visa that was solely pursuant to Executive Order 13769 shall not be the basis of inadmissibility for any future determination about entry or admissibility.

(e) This order shall not apply to an individual who has been granted asylum, to a refugee who has already been admitted to the United States, or to an individual granted withholding of removal or protection under the Convention Against Torture. Nothing in this order shall be construed to limit the ability of an individual to seek asylum, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture, consistent with the laws of the United States.

Sec. 13. Revocation. Executive Order 13769 of January 27, 2017, is revoked as of the effective date of this order.

Sec. 14. Effective Date. This order is effective at 12:01 a.m., eastern daylight time on March 16, 2017.

Sec. 15. Severability. (a) If any provision of this order, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this order and the application of its other provisions to any other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(b) If any provision of this order, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid because of the lack of certain procedural requirements, the relevant executive branch officials shall implement those procedural requirements.

Sec. 16. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
March 6, 2017.

Presidential Executive Order on Allowing Additional Time for Recognizing Positive Actions by the Government of Sudan and Amending Executive Order 13761

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 11, 2017

Presidential Executive Order on Allowing Additional Time for Recognizing Positive Actions by the Government of Sudan and Amending Executive Order 13761

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ALLOWING ADDITIONAL TIME FOR RECOGNIZING POSITIVE ACTIONS

BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 13761

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7201-7211), the Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act of 2004, as amended (Public Law 108-497), the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 (Public Law 109 344), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, in order to take additional steps to address the emergency described in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, and Executive Order 13761 of January 13, 2017, with respect to the policies and actions of the Government of Sudan, including additional fact-finding and a more comprehensive analysis of the Government of Sudan's actions, hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Amendments to Executive Order 13761. (a) Section 1 of Executive Order 13761 is hereby amended by striking "July 12, 2017" and inserting in lieu thereof "October 12, 2017".

(b) Section 10 of Executive Order 13761 is hereby amended by striking "July 12, 2017" and inserting in lieu thereof "October 12, 2017".

(c) Subsection (b) of section 12 of Executive Order 13761 is hereby amended by striking "July 12, 2017" and inserting in lieu thereof "October 12, 2017".

(d) Section 11 of Executive Order 13761 is hereby revoked.

Sec. 2. General Provision. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
July 11, 2017.

Presidential Executive Order on Imposing Sanctions with Respect to the Situation in Venezuela

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 25, 2017

Presidential Executive Order on Imposing Sanctions with Respect to the Situation in Venezuela

EXECUTIVE ORDER

IMPOSING ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code,

I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, in order to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, and particularly in light of recent actions and policies of the Government of Venezuela, including serious abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms; responsibility for the deepening humanitarian crisis in Venezuela; establishment of an illegitimate Constituent Assembly, which has usurped the power of the democratically elected National Assembly and other branches of the Government of Venezuela; rampant public corruption; and ongoing repression and persecution of, and violence toward, the political opposition, hereby order as follows:

Section 1. (a) All transactions related to, provision of financing for, and other dealings in the following by a United States person or within the United States are prohibited:

(i) new debt with a maturity of greater than 90 days of Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PdVSA);

(ii) new debt with a maturity of greater than 30 days, or new equity, of the Government of Venezuela, other than debt of PdVSA covered by subsection (a)(i) of this section;

(iii) bonds issued by the Government of Venezuela prior to the effective date of this order; or

(iv) dividend payments or other distributions of profits to the Government of Venezuela from any entity owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by the Government of Venezuela.

(b) The purchase, directly or indirectly, by a United States person or within the United States, of securities from the Government of Venezuela, other than securities qualifying as new debt with a maturity of less than or equal to 90 or 30 days as covered by subsections (a)(i) or (a)(ii) of this section, respectively, is prohibited.

(c) The prohibitions in subsections (a) and (b) of this section apply except to the extent provided by statutes, or in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted before the effective date of this order.

Sec. 2. (a) Any transaction that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, causes a violation of, or attempts to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

(b) Any conspiracy formed to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

Sec. 3. For the purposes of this order:

(a) the term "person" means an individual or entity;

(b) the term "entity" means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization;

(c) the term "United States person" means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States; and

(d) the term "Government of Venezuela" means the Government of Venezuela, any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality thereof, including the Central Bank of Venezuela and PdVSA, and any person owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of, the Government of Venezuela.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including promulgating rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to implement this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may, consistent with applicable law, redelegate any of these functions to

other officers and executive departments and agencies of the United States Government. All agencies of the United States Government shall take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this order.

Sec. 5. For those persons whose property or interests in property are affected by this order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, I find that because of the ability to transfer funds or other assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render those measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that for these measures to be effective in addressing the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692, there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination made pursuant to this order.

Sec. 6. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

Sec. 7. This order is effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on August 25, 2017.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
August 24, 2017.

Presidential Executive Order on Imposing Additional Sanctions with Respect to North Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2017

Presidential Executive Order on Imposing Additional Sanctions with Respect to North Korea
EXECUTIVE ORDER

IMPOSING ADDITIONAL SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287c) (UNPA), section 1 of title II of Public Law 65-24, ch. 30, June 15, 1917, as amended (50 U.S.C. 191), sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a)), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code; and in view of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2321 of November 30, 2016, UNSCR 2356 of June 2, 2017, UNSCR 2371 of August 5, 2017, and UNSCR 2375 of September 11, 2017, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, find that:

The provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, including its intercontinental ballistic missile launches of July 3 and July 28, 2017, and its nuclear test of September 2, 2017, each of which violated its obligations under numerous UNSCRs and contravened its commitments under the September 19, 2005, Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks; its commission of serious human rights abuses; and its use of funds generated through international trade to support its nuclear and missile programs and weapons proliferation, constitute a continuing threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and a disturbance of the international relations of the United States.

In order to take further steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, as modified in scope by and relied upon for additional steps in subsequent Executive Orders, I hereby find, determine, and order:

Section 1. (a) All property and interests in property that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any

United States person of the following persons are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in:

Any person determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

(i) to operate in the construction, energy, financial services, fishing, information technology, manufacturing, medical, mining, textiles, or transportation industries in North Korea;

(ii) to own, control, or operate any port in North Korea, including any seaport, airport, or land port of entry;

(iii) to have engaged in at least one significant importation from or exportation to North Korea of any goods, services, or technology;

(iv) to be a North Korean person, including a North Korean person that has engaged in commercial activity that generates revenue for the Government of North Korea or the Workers' Party of Korea;

(v) to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order; or

(vi) to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order.

(b) The prohibitions in subsection (a) of this section apply except to the extent provided by statutes, or in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted before the effective date of this order. The prohibitions in subsection (a) of this section are in addition to export control authorities implemented by the Department of Commerce.

(c) I hereby determine that the making of donations of the types of articles specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to subsection (a) of this section would seriously impair my ability to deal with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, and I hereby prohibit such donations as provided by subsection (a) of this section.

(d) The prohibitions in subsection (a) of this section include:

(i) the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to subsection (a) of this section; and

(ii) the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person.

Sec. 2. (a) No aircraft in which a foreign person has an interest that has landed at a place in North Korea may land at a place in the United States within 180 days after departure from North Korea.

(b) No vessel in which a foreign person has an interest that has called at a port in North Korea within the previous 180 days, and no vessel in which a foreign person has an interest that has engaged in a ship-to-ship transfer with such a vessel within the previous 180 days, may call at a port in the United States.

(c) The prohibitions in subsections (a) and (b) of this section apply except to the extent provided by statutes, or in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted before the effective date of this order.

Sec. 3. (a) All funds that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any United States person and that originate from, are destined for, or pass through a foreign bank account that has been determined by the Secretary of the Treasury to be owned or controlled by a North Korean person, or to have been

used to transfer funds in which any North Korean person has an interest, are blocked and may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in.

(b) No United States person, wherever located, may approve, finance, facilitate, or guarantee a transaction by a foreign person where the transaction by that foreign person would be prohibited by subsection (a) of this section if performed by a United States person or within the United States.

(c) The prohibitions in subsections (a) and (b) of this section apply except to the extent provided by statutes, or in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted before the effective date of this order.

Sec. 4. (a) The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to impose on a foreign financial institution the sanctions described in subsection (b) of this section upon determining that the foreign financial institution has, on or after the effective date of this order:

(i) knowingly conducted or facilitated any significant transaction on behalf of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, or this order, or of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to Executive Order 13382 in connection with North Korea-related activities; or

(ii) knowingly conducted or facilitated any significant transaction in connection with trade with North Korea.

(b) With respect to any foreign financial institution determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, in accordance with this section to meet the criteria set forth in subsection (a)(i) or (a)(ii) of this section, the Secretary of the Treasury may:

(i) prohibit the opening and prohibit or impose strict conditions on the maintenance of correspondent accounts or payable-through accounts in the United States; or

(ii) block all property and interests in property that are in the United States, that hereafter come within the United States, or that are or hereafter come within the possession or control of any United States person of such foreign financial institution, and provide that such property and interests in property may not be transferred, paid, exported, withdrawn, or otherwise dealt in.

(c) The prohibitions in subsection (b) of this section apply except to the extent provided by statutes, or in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this order, and notwithstanding any contract entered into or any license or permit granted before the effective date of this order.

(d) I hereby determine that the making of donations of the types of articles specified in section 203(b)(2) of IEEPA (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)(2)) by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to subsection (b)(ii) of this section would seriously impair my ability to deal with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, and I hereby prohibit such donations as provided by subsection (b)(ii) of this section.

(e) The prohibitions in subsection (b)(ii) of this section include:

(i) the making of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services by, to, or for the benefit of any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to subsection (b)(ii) of this section; and

(ii) the receipt of any contribution or provision of funds, goods, or services from any such person.

Sec. 5. The unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of aliens determined to meet one or more of the criteria in section 1(a) of this order would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, and the entry of such persons into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, is therefore hereby suspended. Such persons shall be treated as persons covered by section 1 of Proclamation 8693 of July 24, 2011 (Suspension of Entry of Aliens

Subject to United Nations Security Council Travel Bans and International Emergency Economic Powers Act Sanctions).

Sec. 6. (a) Any transaction that evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or avoiding, causes a violation of, or attempts to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

(b) Any conspiracy formed to violate any of the prohibitions set forth in this order is prohibited.

Sec. 7. Nothing in this order shall prohibit transactions for the conduct of the official business of the Federal Government or the United Nations (including its specialized agencies, programmes, funds, and related organizations) by employees, grantees, or contractors thereof.

Sec. 8. For the purposes of this order:

(a) the term "person" means an individual or entity;

(b) the term "entity" means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization;

(c) the term "United States person" means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States;

(d) the term "North Korean person" means any North Korean citizen, North Korean permanent resident alien, or entity organized under the laws of North Korea or any jurisdiction within North Korea (including foreign branches). For the purposes of section 1 of this order, the term "North Korean person" shall not include any United States citizen, any permanent resident alien of the United States, any alien lawfully admitted to the United States, or any alien holding a valid United States visa;

(e) the term "foreign financial institution" means any foreign entity that is engaged in the business of accepting deposits, making, granting, transferring, holding, or brokering loans or credits, or purchasing or selling foreign exchange, securities, commodity futures or options, or procuring purchasers and sellers thereof, as principal or agent. The term includes, among other entities, depository institutions; banks; savings banks; money service businesses; trust companies; securities brokers and dealers; commodity futures and options brokers and dealers; forward contract and foreign exchange merchants; securities and commodities exchanges; clearing corporations; investment companies; employee benefit plans; dealers in precious metals, stones, or jewels; and holding companies, affiliates, or subsidiaries of any of the foregoing. The term does not include the international financial institutions identified in 22 U.S.C. 262r(c)(2), the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the North American Development Bank, or any other international financial institution so notified by the Secretary of the Treasury; and

(f) the term "knowingly," with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

Sec. 9. For those persons whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to this order who might have a constitutional presence in the United States, I find that because of the ability to transfer funds or other assets instantaneously, prior notice to such persons of measures to be taken pursuant to this order would render those measures ineffectual. I therefore determine that for these measures to be effective in addressing the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, there need be no prior notice of a listing or determination made pursuant to this order.

Sec. 10. The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is hereby authorized to take such actions, including adopting rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to me by IEEPA and UNPA as may be necessary to implement this order. The Secretary of the Treasury may, consistent with applicable law, redelegate any of these functions to other officers and agencies of the United States. All agencies shall take all appropriate measures within their authority to implement this order.

Sec. 11. This order is effective at 12:01 a.m., Eastern Daylight Time, September 21, 2017.

Sec. 12. This order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 20, 2017.

7.

МЕМОРАНДУМЫ

Presidential Memorandum Regarding Withdrawal of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations and Agreement

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 23, 2017

Presidential Memorandum Regarding Withdrawal of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations and Agreement

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

SUBJECT: Withdrawal of the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership Negotiations and Agreement

It is the policy of my Administration to represent the American people and their financial well-being in all negotiations, particularly the American worker, and to create fair and economically beneficial trade deals that serve their interests. Additionally, in order to ensure these outcomes, it is the intention of my Administration to deal directly with individual countries on a one-on-one (or bilateral) basis in negotiating future trade deals. Trade with other nations is, and always will be, of paramount importance to my Administration and to me, as President of the United States.

Based on these principles, and by the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby direct you to withdraw the United States as a signatory to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), to permanently withdraw the United States from TPP negotiations, and to begin pursuing, wherever possible, bilateral trade negotiations to promote American industry, protect American workers, and raise American wages.

You are directed to provide written notification to the Parties and to the Depository of the TPP, as appropriate, that the United States withdraws as a signatory of the TPP and withdraws from the TPP negotiating process.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum Regarding the Mexico City Policy

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 23, 2017

Presidential Memorandum Regarding the Mexico City Policy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: The Mexico City Policy

I hereby revoke the Presidential Memorandum of January 23, 2009, for the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (Mexico City Policy and Assistance for Voluntary Population Planning), and reinstate the Presidential

Memorandum of January 22, 2001, for the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (Restoration of the Mexico City Policy).

I direct the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to the extent allowable by law, to implement a plan to extend the requirements of the reinstated Memorandum to global health assistance furnished by all departments or agencies.

I further direct the Secretary of State to take all necessary actions, to the extent permitted by law, to ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars do not fund organizations or programs that support or participate in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization.

This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum on Rebuilding the U.S. Armed Forces

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 27, 2017

Presidential Memorandum on Rebuilding the U.S. Armed Forces

NATIONAL SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

SUBJECT: Rebuilding the U.S. Armed Forces

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including my authority as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. Policy. To pursue peace through strength, it shall be the policy of the United States to rebuild the U.S. Armed Forces.

Sec. 2. Readiness. (a) The Secretary of Defense (Secretary) shall conduct a 30-day Readiness Review. As part of this review, the Secretary shall:

(i) assess readiness conditions, including training, equipment maintenance, munitions, modernization, and infrastructure; and

(ii) submit to the President a report identifying actions that can be implemented within the current fiscal year and that are necessary to improve readiness conditions.

(b) Concurrently with the Readiness Review, the Secretary, together with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), shall develop a Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget amendment for military readiness, including any proposed reallocations.

(c) The Secretary shall work with the Director of OMB to develop levels for the Department of Defense's FY 2018 budget request that are necessary to improve readiness conditions and address risks to national security.

(d) Within 60 days of the date of this order, the Secretary shall submit to the President a plan of action to achieve the levels of readiness identified in the Secretary's Readiness Review before FY 2019. That plan of action shall address areas for improvement, including insufficient maintenance, delays in acquiring parts, access to training ranges, combatant command operational demands, funding needed for consumables (e.g., fuel, ammunition), manpower shortfalls, depot maintenance capacity, and time needed to plan, coordinate, and execute readiness and training activities.

Sec. 3. Rebuilding the U.S. Armed Forces. (a) Upon transmission of a new National Security Strategy to Congress, the Secretary shall produce a National Defense Strategy (NDS). The goal of the NDS shall be to give the President and the Secretary maximum strategic flexibility and to determine the force structure necessary to meet requirements.

(b) The Secretary shall initiate a new Nuclear Posture Review to ensure that the United States nuclear deterrent is modern, robust, flexible, resilient, ready, and appropriately tailored to deter 21st-century threats and reassure our allies.

(c) The Secretary shall initiate a new Ballistic Missile Defense Review to identify ways of strengthening missile-defense capabilities, rebalancing homeland and theater defense priorities, and highlighting priority funding areas.

Sec. 4. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of OMB relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) All actions taken pursuant to this memorandum shall be consistent with requirements and authorities to protect intelligence and law enforcement sources and methods. Nothing in this order shall be interpreted to supersede measures established under authority of law to protect the security and integrity of specific activities and associations that are in direct support of intelligence and law enforcement operations.

(d) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(e) The Secretary is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum Plan to Defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 28, 2017

Presidential Memorandum Plan to Defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

January 28, 2017

NATIONAL SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM – 3

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR

NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Plan to Defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, is not the only threat from radical Islamic terrorism that the United States faces, but it is among the most vicious and aggressive. It is also attempting to create its own state, which ISIS claims as a "caliphate." But there can be no accommodation or negotiation with it. For those reasons I am directing my Administration to develop a comprehensive plan to defeat ISIS.

ISIS is responsible for the violent murder of American citizens in the Middle East, including the beheadings of James Foley, Steven Sotloff, and Peter Abdul-Rahman Kassig, as well as the death of Kayla Mueller. In addition, ISIS has inspired attacks in the United States, including the December 2015 attack in San Bernardino, California, and the June 2016 attack in Orlando, Florida. ISIS is complicit in a number of terrorist attacks on our allies in which Americans have been wounded or killed, such as the November 2015 attack in Paris, France, the March 2016 attack in Brussels, Belgium, the July 2016 attack in Nice, France, and the December 2016 attack in Berlin, Germany.

ISIS has engaged in a systematic campaign of persecution and extermination in those territories it enters or controls. If ISIS is left in power, the threat that it poses will only grow. We know it has attempted to develop chemical weapons capability. It continues to radicalize our own citizens, and its attacks against our allies and partners continue to mount. The United States must take decisive action to defeat ISIS.

Sec. 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States that ISIS be defeated.

Sec. 2. Policy Coordination. Policy coordination, guidance, dispute resolution, and periodic in-progress reviews for the functions and programs described and assigned in this memorandum shall be provided through the interagency process established in National Security Presidential Memorandum – 2 of January 28, 2017 (Organization of the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council), or any successor.

(i) Development of a new plan to defeat ISIS (the Plan) shall commence immediately.

(ii) Within 30 days, a preliminary draft of the Plan to defeat ISIS shall be submitted to the President by the Secretary of Defense.

(iii) The Plan shall include:

(A) a comprehensive strategy and plans for the defeat of ISIS;

(B) recommended changes to any United States rules of engagement and other United States policy restrictions that exceed the requirements of international law regarding the use of force against ISIS;

(C) public diplomacy, information operations, and cyber strategies to isolate and delegitimize ISIS and its radical Islamist ideology;

(D) identification of new coalition partners in the fight against ISIS and policies to empower coalition partners to fight ISIS and its affiliates;

(E) mechanisms to cut off or seize ISIS's financial support, including financial transfers, money laundering, oil revenue, human trafficking, sales of looted art and historical artifacts, and other revenue sources; and

(F) a detailed strategy to robustly fund the Plan.

(b) Participants. The Secretary of Defense shall develop the Plan in collaboration with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism.

(c) Development of the Plan. Consistent with applicable law, the Participants identified in subsection (b) of this section shall compile all information in the possession of the Federal Government relevant to the defeat of ISIS and its affiliates. All executive departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, promptly comply with any request of the Participants to provide information in their possession or control pertaining to ISIS. The Participants may seek further information relevant to the Plan from any appropriate source.

(d) The Secretary of Defense is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum Organization of the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 28, 2017

Presidential Memorandum Organization of the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council

January 28, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF STRATEGIST

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

THE CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND COUNTERTERRORISM

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC POLICY

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

FOR TRADE AND MANUFACTURING POLICY

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR INTRAGOVERNMENTAL AND TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVES

THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND NATIONAL SECURITY
ADVISOR TO THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
ADMINISTRATION

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

Organization of the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council

As President, my highest priority is to ensure the safety and security of the American people. In order to advise and assist me in executing this solemn responsibility, as well as to protect and advance the national interests of the United States at home and abroad, I hereby direct that my system for national security policy development and decision-making shall be organized as follows:

A. The National Security Council, the Homeland Security Council, and Supporting Staff

The National Security Act of 1947, as amended, established the National Security Council (NSC) to advise the President with respect to the integration of domestic, foreign, and military policies relating to the national security. There is also a Homeland Security Council (HSC) -- established through Executive Order 13228 of October 8, 2001, and subsequently codified in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 -- that has the purpose of advising the President on matters pertaining to homeland security. Each Council is also responsible for the effective coordination of the security-related activities and functions of the executive departments and agencies.

The security threats facing the United States in the 21st century transcend international boundaries. Accordingly, the United States Government's decision-making structures and processes to address these challenges must remain equally adaptive and transformative. Both Councils are statutory bodies that the President will continue to chair. Invitations to participate in specific Council meetings shall be extended to those heads of executive departments and agencies, and other senior officials, who are needed to address the issue or issues under consideration. When the President is absent from a meeting of either Council, the Vice President may preside at the President's direction.

The Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs (National Security Advisor) and the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism (Homeland Security Advisor) shall be responsible, as appropriate and at the President's direction, for determining the agenda for the NSC or HSC, respectively, ensuring that the necessary papers are prepared, and recording Council actions and Presidential decisions in a timely manner. When international economic issues are on the agenda of the NSC, the National Security Advisor and the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy shall perform these tasks in concert.

The NSC and HSC shall have as their regular attendees (both statutory and non-statutory) the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the National Security Advisor, the Homeland Security Advisor, and the Representative of the United States to the United Nations. When international economic issues are on the agenda of the NSC, the NSC's regular attendees will include the Secretary of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy. The Director of National Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as statutory advisers to the NSC, shall

also attend NSC meetings. The Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, the Assistant to the President and Chief Strategist, the Counsel to the President, the Deputy Counsel to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget are invited as attendees to any NSC meeting.

In addition to the NSC and HSC, there is also a single NSC staff within the Executive Office of the President that serves both the NSC and HSC. The staff is composed of regional, issue-focused, and functional directorates and headed by a single civilian Executive Secretary, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 3021, who is also the Chief of Staff. All policy and staff activity decisions will be transmitted to the Executive Secretary for appropriate distribution and awareness. The purpose of the NSC staff is to advise me, the National Security Advisor, the Homeland Security Advisor, the NSC members, the HSC members, and others in the White House; to facilitate the implementation of Administration policy; and to help coordinate the national-security-related activities of the executive departments and agencies.

A. The Principals Committee

The Principals Committee (PC) shall continue to serve as the Cabinet-level senior interagency forum for considering policy issues that affect the national security interests of the United States. The PC shall be convened and chaired by the National Security Advisor or the Homeland Security Advisor, as appropriate, in consultation with the appropriate attendees of the PC. The Chair shall determine the agenda in consultation with the appropriate committee members, and the Executive Secretary shall ensure that necessary papers are prepared and that conclusions and decisions are communicated in a timely manner. Invitations to participate in or attend a specific PC shall be extended at the discretion of the National Security Advisor and the Homeland Security Advisor, and may include those Cabinet-level heads of executive departments and agencies, and other senior officials, who are needed to address the issue under consideration.

The PC shall have as its regular attendees the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff, the Assistant to the President and Chief Strategist, the National Security Advisor, and the Homeland Security Advisor. The Director of National Intelligence and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall attend where issues pertaining to their responsibilities and expertise are to be discussed. The Counsel to the President, the Deputy Counsel to the President for National Security Affairs, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget may attend all PC meetings.

The Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor (Deputy National Security Advisor), the Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor to the Vice President, and the Executive Secretary (who shall serve as the Executive Secretary of the PC) shall attend all of the meetings of the PC, and the Representative of the United States to the United Nations and the Assistant to the President for Intragovernmental and Technology Initiatives may attend as appropriate.

When international economic issues are on the agenda of the PC, the Committee's regular attendees will include the Secretary of Commerce, the United States Trade Representative, and the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy (who shall serve as Chair for agenda items that principally pertain to international economics).\

A. The Deputies Committee

The Deputies Committee (DC) shall continue to serve as the senior sub-Cabinet interagency forum for consideration of, and where appropriate, decision-making on, policy issues that affect the national security interests of the United States. The DC shall be convened and chaired by the Deputy National Security Advisor or the Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Homeland Security Advisor (Deputy Homeland Security Advisor), as appropriate. The Chair shall determine the agenda in consultation with the regular DC members, and the Executive Secretary shall ensure that necessary papers are prepared and that conclusions and decisions are communicated in a timely

manner. Invitations to participate in or attend a specific DC meeting shall be extended by the Chair to those at the Deputy or Under Secretary level of executive departments and agencies, and to other senior officials, who are needed to address the issue under consideration.

The DC shall have as its regular members the Deputy Secretary of State, the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Attorney General, the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, the Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget, the Deputy Director of National Intelligence, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor to the Vice President, the Deputy National Security Advisor, the Deputy Homeland Security Advisor, and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

The Executive Secretary shall attend the DC meetings. The Deputy Counsel to the President for National Security Affairs may attend all DC meetings. The relevant Deputy Assistant to the President for the specific regional and functional issue under consideration shall also be invited to attend. Likewise, when and where appropriate, the Deputy Assistant to the President for Strategic Planning, the Deputy Assistant to the President for Strategic Communication, the Deputy Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs, the Deputy Assistant to the President for Transnational Issues, and the Deputy Representative of the United States to the United Nations, shall also be invited to attend. Other senior officials shall be invited where appropriate.

The DC shall review and monitor the work of the interagency national security process, including the interagency groups established pursuant to section D below. The DC shall help to ensure that issues brought before the NSC, HSC, and PC have been properly analyzed and prepared for decision. The DC shall also focus significant attention on monitoring the implementation of policies and decisions and shall conduct periodic reviews of the Administration's major national security and foreign policy initiatives. The DC is responsible for establishing Policy Coordination Committees (PCCs) and for providing objectives and clear guidance.

A. Policy Coordination Committees

Management of the development and implementation of national security policies by multiple executive departments and agencies typically shall be accomplished by the PCCs, with participation primarily occurring at the Assistant Secretary level. As the main day-to-day fora for interagency coordination of national security policies, the PCCs shall provide policy analysis for consideration by the more senior committees of the national security system and ensure timely responses to the President's decisions.

Regional and issue-related PCCs shall be established at the direction of the DC. Members of the NSC staff (or National Economic Council staff, as appropriate) will chair the PCCs; the DC, at its discretion, may add co-chairs to any PCC. The PCCs shall review and coordinate the implementation of Presidential decisions in their respective policy areas. The Chair of each PCC, in consultation with the Executive Secretary, shall invite representatives of other executive departments and agencies to attend meetings of the PCC where appropriate. The Chair of each PCC, with the agreement of the Executive Secretary, may establish subordinate working groups to assist that PCC in the performance of its duties.

An early meeting of the DC will be devoted to establishing the PCCs, determining their memberships, and providing them with mandates and strict guidance. Until the DC has established otherwise, the existing system of Interagency Policy Committees shall continue.

A. General

The President and the Vice President may attend any and all meetings of any entity established by or under this memorandum.

This document is part of a series of National Security Presidential Memoranda that shall replace both Presidential Policy Directives and Presidential Study Directives as the instrument for communicating relevant Presidential decisions. This memorandum shall supersede all other existing Presidential guidance on the organization or support of the NSC and the HSC. With regard

to its application to economic matters, this document shall be interpreted in concert with any Executive Order governing the National Economic Council and with Presidential Memoranda signed hereafter that implement either this memorandum or that Executive Order.

The Secretary of Defense is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 06, 2017

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBJECT: Implementing Immediate Heightened Screening and Vetting of Applications for Visas and Other Immigration Benefits, Ensuring Enforcement of All Laws for Entry into the United States, and Increasing Transparency among Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government and for the American People

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq., and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby direct the following:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States to keep its citizens safe from terrorist attacks, including those committed by foreign nationals. To avert the entry into the United States of foreign nationals who may aid, support, or commit violent, criminal, or terrorist acts, it is critical that the executive branch enhance the screening and vetting protocols and procedures for granting visas, admission to the United States, or other benefits under the INA. For that reason, in the executive order entitled, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States," and issued today, I directed the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, to conduct a review to "identify whether, and if so what, additional information will be needed from each foreign country to adjudicate an application by a national of that country for a visa, admission, or other benefit under the INA (adjudications) in order to determine that the individual is not a security or public-safety threat."

While that comprehensive review is ongoing, however, this Nation cannot delay the immediate implementation of additional heightened screening and vetting protocols and procedures for issuing visas to ensure that we strengthen the safety and security of our country.

Moreover, because it is my constitutional duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed," the executive branch is committed to ensuring that all laws related to entry into the United States are enforced rigorously and consistently.

Sec. 2. Enhanced Vetting Protocols and Procedures for Visas and Other Immigration Benefits. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Attorney General, shall, as permitted by law, implement protocols and procedures as soon as practicable that in their judgment will enhance the screening and vetting of applications for visas and all other immigration benefits, so as to increase the safety and security of the American people. These additional protocols and procedures should focus on:

(a) preventing the entry into the United States of foreign nationals who may aid, support, or commit violent, criminal, or terrorist acts; and

(b) ensuring the proper collection of all information necessary to rigorously evaluate all grounds of inadmissibility or deportability, or grounds for the denial of other immigration benefits.

Sec. 3. Enforcement of All Laws for Entry into the United States. I direct the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of all other relevant executive departments and agencies (as identified by the Secretary of Homeland Security) to rigorously enforce all existing grounds of inadmissibility and to ensure subsequent compliance with related laws after admission. The heads of all relevant executive departments and agencies shall issue new rules, regulations, or guidance (collectively, rules), as appropriate, to enforce laws relating to such grounds of inadmissibility and subsequent compliance. To the extent that the Secretary of Homeland Security issues such new rules, the heads of all other relevant executive departments and agencies shall, as necessary and appropriate, issue new rules that conform to them. Such new rules shall supersede any previous rules to the extent of any conflict.

Sec. 4. Transparency and Data Collection. (a) To ensure that the American people have more regular access to information, and to ensure that the executive branch shares information among its departments and agencies, the Secretary of State and Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with applicable law and national security, issue regular reports regarding visas and adjustments of immigration status, written in non-technical language for broad public use and understanding. In addition to any other information released by the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, or the Secretary of Homeland Security:

(i) Beginning on April 28, 2017, and by the last day of every month thereafter, the Secretary of State shall publish the following information about actions taken during the preceding calendar month:

(A) the number of visas that have been issued from each consular office within each country during the reporting period, disaggregated by detailed visa category and country of issuance; and

(B) any other information the Secretary of State considers appropriate, including information that the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security may request be published.

(ii) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall issue reports detailing the number of adjustments of immigration status that have been made during the reporting period, disaggregated by type of adjustment, type and detailed class of admission, and country of nationality. The first report shall be issued within 90 days of the date of this memorandum, and subsequent reports shall be issued every 90 days thereafter. The first report shall address data from the date of this memorandum until the report is issued, and each subsequent report shall address new data since the last report was issued.

(b) To further ensure transparency for the American people regarding the efficiency and effectiveness of our immigration programs in serving the national interest, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall, within 180 days of the date of this memorandum, submit to me a report detailing the estimated long-term costs of the United States Refugee Admissions Program at the Federal, State, and local levels, along with recommendations about how to curtail those costs.

(c) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, shall, within 180 days of the date of this memorandum, produce a report estimating how many refugees are being supported in countries of first asylum (near their home countries) for the same long-term cost as supporting refugees in the United States, taking into account the full lifetime cost of Federal, State, and local benefits, and the comparable cost of providing similar benefits elsewhere.

Sec. 5. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or
(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) All actions taken pursuant to this memorandum shall be consistent with requirements and authorities to protect intelligence and law enforcement sources and methods, personally identifiable information, and the confidentiality of visa records. Nothing in this memorandum shall be interpreted to supersede measures established under authority of law to protect the security and integrity of specific activities and associations that are in direct support of intelligence and law enforcement operations.

(d) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(e) The Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum on the Delegation of Authority Under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 20, 2017

Presidential Memorandum on the Delegation of Authority Under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority Under the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby order as follows:

I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 3132 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328) (the "Act").

Any reference in this memorandum to the Act shall be deemed to be a reference to any future Act that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury, and the Secretary of Energy

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 17, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Treasury, and the Secretary of Energy

Presidential Determination

No. 2017-06

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 1245(d)(4)(B) and (C) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, after carefully considering the reports submitted to the Congress by the Energy Information Administration, including the report submitted April 11, 2017, and other relevant factors such as global economic conditions, increased oil production by certain countries, the level of spare petroleum production capacity, and the availability of strategic reserves, I determine, pursuant to section 1245(d)(4)(B) and (C) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, Public Law 112-81, and consistent with prior determinations, that there is a sufficient supply of petroleum and petroleum products from countries other than Iran to permit a significant reduction in the volume of petroleum and petroleum products purchased from Iran by or through foreign financial institutions. As my Administration conducts a review of its Iran policy, and consistent with United States commitments specified in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, however, the United States is not pursuing efforts to reduce Iran's sales of crude oil at this time.

I will continue to monitor this situation closely.

The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 01, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Presidential Determination

No. 2017-07

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Suspension of Limitations under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

Pursuant to the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary, in order to protect the national security interests of the United States, to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, to the Congress and to publish this determination in the Federal Register.

The suspension set forth in this determination shall take effect after you transmit this determination and the required accompanying report to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

Presidential Determination

No. 2017-08

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 4533(a)(5) of the Defense Production Act of 1950

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 4533(a)(5) of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (the "Act") (50 U.S.C. 4533(a)(5)), I hereby determine, pursuant to section 4533(a)(5) of the Act, that critical technology item shortfalls affecting adenovirus vaccine production capability; high strength, inherently fire and ballistic resistant, co-polymer aramid fibers industrial capability; secure hybrid composite shipping container industrial capability; and three-dimensional ultra-high density microelectronics for information protection industrial capability are critical to national defense.

Without Presidential action under this Act, the United States defense industrial base cannot reasonably be expected to adequately provide those capabilities or critical technology items in a timely manner. Further, purchases, purchase commitments, or other action pursuant to section 4533 of the Act are the most cost effective, expedient, and practical alternative method for meeting the need for those capabilities or critical technology items.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 14, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Effective Date in Executive Order 13780

This memorandum provides guidance for the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence in light of two preliminary injunctions that bar enforcement of certain provisions of Executive Order 13780, "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" (Mar. 6, 2017). The preliminary injunction entered by the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, and affirmed in substantial part by the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, bars enforcement of section 2(c) of the Executive Order. The portions of the preliminary injunction entered by the United States District Court for the District of Hawaii that were affirmed by the recent decision of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit bar enforcement of certain provisions of sections 2 and 6 of the Executive Order.

Various provisions of sections 2 and 6 of the Executive Order (as well as sections 3 and 12(c), which delineate the scope of the suspension contained in section 2(c)), refer to the Order's effective date. Section 14 of the Executive Order provides that the Order was effective at 12:01 a.m., eastern

daylight time on March 16, 2017. Sections 2 and 6, however, were enjoined before that effective date, and the courts of appeals have affirmed the injunctions with respect to certain provisions of sections 2 and 6. As a result, under the terms of the Executive Order, the effective date of the enjoined provisions (as well as related provisions of sections 3 and 12(c)) is delayed or tolled until those injunctions are lifted or stayed.

In light of questions in litigation about the effective date of the enjoined provisions and in the interest of clarity, I hereby declare the effective date of each enjoined provision to be the date and time at which the referenced injunctions are lifted or stayed with respect to that provision. To the extent it is necessary, this memorandum should be construed to amend the Executive Order.

Because the injunctions have delayed the effective date of section 12(c), no immigrant or nonimmigrant visa issued before the effective date of section 2(c) shall be revoked pursuant to the Executive Order.

I hereby direct the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence to jointly begin implementation of each relevant provision of sections 2 and 6 of the Executive Order 72 hours after all applicable injunctions are lifted or stayed with respect to that provision, to ensure an orderly and proper implementation of those provisions. Prior to that time, consular officers may issue valid visas to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security may admit, otherwise eligible aliens without regard to sections 2 and 6. If not otherwise revoked, visas and other travel documents issued during this period remain valid for travel as if they were issued prior to the effective date.

DONALD J. TRUMP

National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 16, 2017

National Security Presidential Memorandum on Strengthening the Policy of the United States Toward Cuba

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY
THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND
COUNTERTERRORISM

THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Section 1. Purpose.

The United States recognizes the need for more freedom and democracy, improved respect for human rights, and increased free enterprise in Cuba. The Cuban people have long suffered under a Communist regime that suppresses their legitimate aspirations for freedom and prosperity and fails to respect their essential human dignity.

My Administration's policy will be guided by the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States, as well as solidarity with the Cuban people. I will seek to promote a stable, prosperous, and free country for the Cuban people. To that end, we must channel funds toward the Cuban people and away from a regime that has failed to meet the most basic requirements of a free and just society.

In Cuba, dissidents and peaceful protesters are arbitrarily detained and held in terrible prison conditions. Violence and intimidation against dissidents occurs with impunity. Families of political prisoners are not allowed to assemble or peacefully protest the improper confinement of their loved ones. Worshipers are harassed, and free association by civil society organizations is blocked. The right to speak freely, including through access to the internet, is denied, and there is no free press. The United States condemns these abuses.

The initial actions set forth in this memorandum, including restricting certain financial transactions and travel, encourage the Cuban government to address these abuses. My Administration will continue to evaluate its policies so as to improve human rights, encourage the rule of law, foster free markets and free enterprise, and promote democracy in Cuba.

Sec. 2. Policy.

It shall be the policy of the executive branch to:

(a) End economic practices that disproportionately benefit the Cuban government or its military, intelligence, or security agencies or personnel at the expense of the Cuban people.

(b) Ensure adherence to the statutory ban on tourism to Cuba.

(c) Support the economic embargo of Cuba described in section 4(7) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (the embargo), including by opposing measures that call for an end to the embargo at the United Nations and other international forums and through regular reporting on whether the conditions of a transition government exist in Cuba.

(d) Amplify efforts to support the Cuban people through the expansion of internet services, free press, free enterprise, free association, and lawful travel.

(e) Not reinstate the "Wet Foot, Dry Foot" policy, which encouraged untold thousands of Cuban nationals to risk their lives to travel unlawfully to the United States.

(f) Ensure that engagement between the United States and Cuba advances the interests of the United States and the Cuban people. These interests include: advancing Cuban human rights; encouraging the growth of a Cuban private sector independent of government control; enforcing final orders of removal against Cuban nationals in the United States; protecting the national security and public health and safety of the United States, including through proper engagement on criminal cases and working to ensure the return of fugitives from American justice living in Cuba or being harbored by the Cuban government; supporting United States agriculture and protecting plant and

animal health; advancing the understanding of the United States regarding scientific and environmental challenges; and facilitating safe civil aviation.

Sec. 3. Implementation.

The heads of departments and agencies shall begin to implement the policy set forth in section 2 of this memorandum as follows:

(a) Within 30 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce, as appropriate and in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Transportation, shall initiate a process to adjust current regulations regarding transactions with Cuba.

(i) As part of the regulatory changes described in this subsection, the Secretary of State shall identify the entities or subentities, as appropriate, that are under the control of, or act for or on behalf of, the Cuban military, intelligence, or security services or personnel (such as Grupo de Administracion Empresarial S.A. (GAESA), its affiliates, subsidiaries, and successors), and publish a list of those identified entities and subentities with which direct financial transactions would disproportionately benefit such services or personnel at the expense of the Cuban people or private enterprise in Cuba.

(ii) Except as provided in subsection (a)(iii) of this section, the regulatory changes described in this subsection shall prohibit direct financial transactions with those entities or subentities on the list published pursuant to subsection (a)(i) of this section.

(iii) The regulatory changes shall not prohibit transactions that the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Commerce, in coordination with the Secretary of State, determines are consistent with the policy set forth in section 2 of this memorandum and:

(A) concern Federal Government operations, including Naval Station Guantanamo Bay and the United States mission in Havana;

(B) support programs to build democracy in Cuba;

(C) concern air and sea operations that support permissible travel, cargo, or trade;

(D) support the acquisition of visas for permissible travel;

(E) support the expansion of direct telecommunications and internet access for the Cuban people;

(F) support the sale of agricultural commodities, medicines, and medical devices sold to Cuba consistent with the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.) and the Cuban Democracy Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 6001 et seq.);

(G) relate to sending, processing, or receiving authorized remittances;

(H) otherwise further the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States; or

(I) are required by law.

(b) Within 30 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall initiate a process to adjust current regulations to ensure adherence to the statutory ban on tourism to Cuba.

(i) The amended regulations shall require that educational travel be for legitimate educational purposes. Except for educational travel that was permitted by regulation in effect on January 27, 2011, all educational travel shall be under the auspices of an organization subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and all such travelers must be accompanied by a representative of the sponsoring organization.

(ii) The regulations shall further require that those traveling for the permissible purposes of non academic education or to provide support for the Cuban people:

(A) engage in a full-time schedule of activities that enhance contact with the Cuban people, support civil society in Cuba, or promote the Cuban people's independence from Cuban authorities; and

(B) meaningfully interact with individuals in Cuba.

(iii) The regulations shall continue to provide that every person engaging in travel to Cuba shall keep full and accurate records of all transactions related to authorized travel, regardless of whether they were effected pursuant to license or otherwise, and such records shall be available for examination by the Department of the Treasury for at least 5 years after the date they occur.

(iv) The Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Transportation shall review their agency's enforcement of all categories of permissible travel within 90 days of the date the regulations described in this subsection are finalized to ensure such enforcement accords with the policies outlined in section 2 of this memorandum.

(c) The Secretary of the Treasury shall regularly audit travel to Cuba to ensure that travelers are complying with relevant statutes and regulations. The Secretary of the Treasury shall request that the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury inspect the activities taken by the Department of the Treasury to implement this audit requirement. The Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury shall provide a report to the President, through the Secretary of the Treasury, summarizing the results of that inspection within 180 days of the adjustment of current regulations described in subsection (b) of this section and annually thereafter.

(d) The Secretary of the Treasury shall adjust the Department of the Treasury's current regulation defining the term "prohibited officials of the Government of Cuba" so that, for purposes of title 31, part 515 of the Code of Federal Regulations, it includes Ministers and Vice-Ministers, members of the Council of State and the Council of Ministers; members and employees of the National Assembly of People's Power; members of any provincial assembly; local sector chiefs of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution; Director Generals and sub-Director Generals and higher of all Cuban ministries and state agencies; employees of the Ministry of the Interior (MININT); employees of the Ministry of Defense (MINFAR); secretaries and first secretaries of the Confederation of Labor of Cuba (CTC) and its component unions; chief editors, editors, and deputy editors of Cuban state-run media organizations and programs, including newspapers, television, and radio; and members and employees of the Supreme Court (Tribuno Supremo Nacional).

(e) The Secretary of State and the Representative of the United States to the United Nations shall oppose efforts at the United Nations or (with respect to the Secretary of State) any other international forum to lift the embargo until a transition government in Cuba, as described in section 205 of the LIBERTAD Act, exists.

(f) The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Attorney General, shall provide a report to the President assessing whether and to what degree the Cuban government has satisfied the requirements of a transition government as described in section 205(a) of the LIBERTAD Act, taking into account the additional factors listed in section 205(b) of that Act. This report shall include a review of human rights abuses committed against the Cuban people, such as unlawful detentions, arbitrary arrests, and inhumane treatment.

(g) The Attorney General shall, within 90 days of the date of this memorandum, issue a report to the President on issues related to fugitives from American justice living in Cuba or being harbored by the Cuban government.

(h) The Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development shall review all democracy development programs of the Federal Government in Cuba to ensure that they align with the criteria set forth in section 109(a) of the LIBERTAD Act.

(i) The Secretary of State shall convene a task force, composed of relevant departments and agencies, including the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, and appropriate non-governmental organizations and private-sector entities, to examine the technological challenges and opportunities for expanding internet access in Cuba, including through Federal Government support of programs and activities that encourage freedom of expression through independent media and internet freedom so that the Cuban people can enjoy the free and unregulated flow of information.

(j) The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall continue to discourage dangerous, unlawful migration that puts Cuban and American lives at risk. The Secretary of Defense shall continue to provide support, as necessary, to the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security in carrying out the duties regarding interdiction of migrants.

(k) The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall annually report to the President regarding the engagement of the United States with Cuba to ensure that engagement is advancing the interests of the United States.

(l) All activities conducted pursuant to subsections (a) through (k) of this section shall be carried out in a manner that furthers the interests of the United States, including by appropriately protecting sensitive sources, methods, and operations of the Federal Government.

Sec. 4. Earlier Presidential Actions.

(a) This memorandum supersedes and replaces both National Security Presidential Directive-52 of June 28, 2007, U.S. Policy toward Cuba, and Presidential Policy Directive-43 of October 14, 2016, United States-Cuba Normalization.

(b) This memorandum does not affect either Executive Order 12807 of May 24, 1992, Interdiction of Illegal Aliens, or Executive Order 13276 of November 15, 2002, Delegation of Responsibilities Concerning Undocumented Aliens Interdicted or Intercepted in the Caribbean Region.

Sec. 5. General Provisions.

(a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof;

or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable laws and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) The Secretary of State is hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense -- Delegation of Authority under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 21, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense -- Delegation of Authority under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of Defense the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 10005 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) (the "Act").

The delegation in this memorandum shall apply to any provision of any future public law that is the same or substantially the same as section 10005 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the United States Trade Representative

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby directed as follows:

Section 1. Policy. It is the policy of the United States for our trade relations to enhance our economic growth, contribute favorably to our balance of trade, promote reciprocal treatment of American goods and investment, and strengthen the American manufacturing base.

The United States is a world leader in research-and-development-intensive, high-technology goods. Violations of intellectual property rights and other unfair technology transfers potentially threaten United States firms by undermining their ability to compete fairly in the global market. China has implemented laws, policies, and practices and has taken actions related to intellectual property, innovation, and technology that may encourage or require the transfer of American technology and intellectual property to enterprises in China or that may otherwise negatively affect American economic interests. These laws, policies, practices, and actions may inhibit United States exports, deprive United States citizens of fair remuneration for their innovations, divert American jobs to workers in China, contribute to our trade deficit with China, and otherwise undermine American manufacturing, services, and innovation.

Sec. 2. Determination of Whether to Conduct Investigation. The United States Trade Representative shall determine, consistent with section 302(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2412(b)), whether to investigate any of China's laws, policies, practices, or actions that may be unreasonable or discriminatory and that may be harming American intellectual property rights, innovation, or technology development.

Sec. 3. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this memorandum shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This memorandum shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

(d) You are hereby authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 18, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Elevation of U.S. Cyber Command to a Unified Combatant Command

Pursuant to my authority as the Commander in Chief and under sections 161 and 167b of title 10, United States Code, and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I direct that U.S. Cyber Command be established as a Unified Combatant Command. I also direct the Secretary of Defense to recommend an officer for my nomination and Senate confirmation as commander in order to establish U.S. Cyber Command as a Unified Combatant Command.

I assign to U.S. Cyber Command: (1) all the general responsibilities of a Unified Combatant Command; (2) the cyberspace-related responsibilities previously assigned to the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command; (3) the responsibilities of Joint Force Provider and Joint Force Trainer; and (4) all other responsibilities identified in section 167b of title 10, United States Code. The comprehensive list of authorities and responsibilities for U.S. Cyber Command will be included in the next update to the Unified Command Plan.

I further direct that the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, provide a recommendation and, as appropriate, a plan to me regarding the future command relationship between the U.S. Cyber Command and the National Security Agency.

Consistent with section 161(b)(2) of title 10, United States Code, and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, you are directed to notify the Congress on my behalf.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Presidential Determination

No. 2017-12

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination on Major Drug Transit or Major Illicit Drug Producing Countries for Fiscal Year 2018

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 and/or major illicit drug producing countries: Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, and Venezuela.

A country's presence on the foregoing list is not necessarily a 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), the reason 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, even if a government has carried out the most assiduous narcotics control law enforcement measures.

Pursuant to section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA, I hereby designate Bolivia and Venezuela as countries that have failed demonstrably during the previous 12 months to adhere to their obligations under international counternarcotics agreements, and to take the measures required by section 489(a)(1) of the FAA. Included with this determination are justifications for the designations of Bolivia and Venezuela, as required by section 706(2)(B) of the FRAA.

In addition, the United States Government seriously considered designating Colombia as a country that has failed demonstrably to adhere to its obligations under international counternarcotics agreements due to the extraordinary growth of coca cultivation and cocaine production over the past 3 years, including record cultivation during the last 12 months. Ultimately, Colombia is not designated because the Colombian National Police and Armed Forces are close law enforcement and security partners of the United States in the Western Hemisphere, they are improving interdiction efforts, and have restarted some eradication that they had significantly curtailed beginning in 2013. I will, however, keep this designation under section 706(2)(A) of the FRAA as an option, and expect Colombia to make significant progress in reducing coca cultivation and production of cocaine.

I have also determined, in accordance with provisions of section 706(3)(A) of the FRAA, that support for programs to aid the people of Venezuela are vital to the national interests of the United States.

You are hereby authorized and directed to submit this designation, with its Bolivia and Venezuela memoranda of justification, under section 706 of the FRAA, to the Congress, and publish it in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 15, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Defense

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Thirteenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation

In addition to our support and gratitude, we owe our men and women in uniform the tools, equipment, resources, and training they need to fight and win. Our military compensation system must recognize their sacrifices and adequately and fairly reward them for their efforts and contributions. It also must encourage the next generation of men and women to answer the call to serve their fellow citizens as members of our uniformed services. Although the world and the threats to our Nation have changed over time, the structure of our military compensation system, with the exception of recent changes to military retirement, has remained largely the same.

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 1008(b) of title 37, United States Code, I hereby determine that you shall be my Executive Agent for the Thirteenth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, conducting the review required by section 1008(b). As directed by statute, the review should assess the principles and concepts of the compensation system for members of the uniformed services.

At a minimum, the review should:

assess the adequacy of military compensation and each of its underlying components;

determine whether the structure of the current military compensation system, as a system of basic pay, housing, and subsistence allowances, remains appropriate, or whether an alternate compensation structure, such as a salary system, would enhance readiness and better enable the Department of Defense to recruit and retain tomorrow's military force; and

survey the usage of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, as well as any other supplemental sources of income or support you deem significant, by military members on active service and their families, and consider the results of the review in assessing the adequacy of overall military compensation.

As Executive Agent, you shall ensure representatives of other executive departments and agencies participate in this review, as appropriate.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 25, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

SUBJECT: Delegation of Authority under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 10006 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31) (the "Act").

The delegation in this memorandum shall apply to any provision of any future public law that is the same or substantially the same as section 10006 of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 29, 2017
Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State
Presidential Determination
No. 2017-13

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination on Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2018

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, in accordance with section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the "Act") (8 U.S.C. 1157), after appropriate consultations with the Congress, and consistent with the Report on Proposed Refugee Admissions for Fiscal Year 2018 submitted to the Congress on September 27, 2017, I hereby determine and authorize as follows:

The admission of up to 45,000 refugees to the United States during Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 is justified by humanitarian concerns or is otherwise in the national interest. This number includes persons admitted to the United States during FY 2018 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under the Amerasian immigrant admissions program, as provided below.

The admissions shall be allocated among refugees of special humanitarian concern to the United States in accordance with the following regional allocations:

Africa 19,000
East Asia 5,000
Europe and Central Asia 2,000

Latin America/Caribbean 1,500

Near East/South Asia 17,500

The number of admissions allocated to the East Asia region shall include persons admitted to the United States during FY 2018 with Federal refugee resettlement assistance under section 584 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act of 1988, as contained in section 101(e) of Public Law 100-202 (Amerasian immigrants and their family members).

Additionally, you are authorized, following notification of the appropriate committees of the Congress, to transfer unused admissions allocated to a region to one or more other regions, if greater admissions are needed for such region or regions.

Consistent with section 2(b)(2) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (22 U.S.C. 2601(b)), I hereby determine that assistance to or on behalf of persons applying for admission to the United States as part of the overseas refugee admissions program will contribute to the foreign policy interests of the United States, and I accordingly designate such persons for this purpose.

Consistent with section 101(a)(42) of the Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 (a)(42)), and after appropriate consultation with the Congress, I also specify that, for FY 2018, the following persons may, if otherwise qualified, be considered refugees for the purpose of admission to the United States within their countries of nationality or habitual residence:

- a. persons in Cuba
- b. persons in Eurasia and the Baltics
- c. persons in Iraq
- d. persons in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador
- e. persons identified by a United States Embassy in any location, in exceptional circumstances.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 29, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of National Intelligence

SUBJECT: Delegation of Certain Functions and Authorities under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017, the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014, and the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby order as follows:

Section 1. (a) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-44) (the "Act"):

section 222(c) through (d);

section 224(b)(2);

section 224(c);

section 226, with respect to the national interest determination under section 5 of the Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-272) (UFSA), as amended by the Act;

section 227, with respect to the waiver authority in section 9(d) of the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-95) (SSIDESU), as amended by the Act;

section 228, with respect to the waiver and visa denial authority in section 10(d) and section 11(b)(2) and (c) of the SSIDESU, as amended by the Act;

section 229(g)(1) and (2);

(viii) section 233(b);

section 234(c);

the wavier authority in section 236(b);

section 255;

section 256;

(xiii) section 313, with respect to section 203(b)(1) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-122) (NKSPEA), as amended by the Act; and

section 315(a), with respect to the identifications described in section 16(c)(1)(C) of the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), as amended by the Act.

(b) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the Act:

section 225, with respect to determinations under section 4(b)(1) of the UFSA, as amended by the Act, and including the selection of sanctions under section 4(c) of the UFSA, as amended by the Act, to be exercised in consultation with the heads of other executive departments and agencies (agencies), as appropriate;

section 231(a) through (d) of the Act, including the selection of sanctions from section 235, to be exercised in consultation with the heads of other agencies, as appropriate;

(iii) section 232, including the selection of sanctions from section 235 of the Act, to be exercised in consultation with the heads of other agencies, as appropriate;

section 314, with respect to section 205(a)(1) of the NKSPEA, as amended by the Act, and with guidance from the Director of National Intelligence with respect to section 205(a)(1)(A) through (D) of the NKSPEA, as amended by the Act; and

section 321(b), with respect to section 302B(c) of the NKSPEA, as amended by the Act.

(c) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following sections of the Act:

section 234(a), to be exercised commensurate with authorizations in previous Presidential actions, including Executive Orders 13382 and 13582;

section 216(a), to be exercised commensurate with delegations in this memorandum and previously delegated authorities; and

(iii) section 236(c), to be exercised commensurate with delegations in this memorandum and previously delegated authorities.

(d) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the Act:

section 222(b);

section 224(a), including the selection of sanctions under section 235 of the Act and under section 4(c) of the UFSA, to be exercised in consultation with the heads of other agencies, as appropriate;

section 224(b)(1);

section 227, with respect to determinations relating to conduct triggering sanctions under section 9(a) of the SSIDESU, as amended by the Act;

section 228, with respect to section 10(a) through (c), and (e) and section 11(a), (b)(1), (d), and (e) of the SSIDESU, as amended by the Act;

section 229(b), with respect to section 5(e) of the UFSA, as amended by the Act;

section 230, with respect to section 8(d) and section 9(d) of the SSIDESU, as amended by the Act;

(viii) section 233(a), including the selection of sanctions from section 235, to be exercised in consultation with the heads of other agencies, as appropriate;

section 234(b)(1);

section 311(d); and

section 321(b), with respect to section 302B(a) and (b) of the NKSPEA, as amended by the Act.

(e) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with and with the participation of the Secretary of State, the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 318 of the Act.

(f) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State, with input from the Director of National Intelligence, and in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 317 of the Act.

(g) I hereby delegate to the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury, the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 316 of the Act. Consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall address the questions of knowledge, material support, and facilitation described in sections 316(a)(2) and 316(a)(3) of the Act, respectively, and the determinations described in section 316(a)(4) of the Act.

(h) I hereby delegate the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 333 of the Act to the heads of the appropriate agencies, to be exercised commensurate with the delegations in this memorandum.

(i) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 4(e) and 4(f) and section 5(d) of the UFSA.

(j) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the UFSA, as amended by the Act:

section 4(i); and

(ii) section 5(g), with respect to the certification described therein.

(k) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the UFSA, as amended by the Act:

section 4(h)(1);

section 5(a) and 5(b), with respect to determinations regarding engagement in or facilitation of significant transactions; and

(iii) section 5(f)(1).

(l) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the SSIDESU:

section 8(b)(1)(B);

section 8(c);

(iii) section 9(b)(1)(B); and

section 9(c).

(m) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of SSIDESU, as amended by the Act:

section 8(a);

section 8(b)(1)(A);

(iii) section 8(e);

section 9(b)(1)(A); and

section 9(e).

Sec. 2. The delegations in this memorandum shall apply to any provisions of any future public laws that are the same or substantially the same as those provisions referenced in this memorandum.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Presidential Determination

No. 2017-14

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Presidential Determination with Respect to the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008

Pursuant to section 404 of the Child Soldiers Prevention Act of 2008 (22 U.S.C. 2370c-1) (CSPA), I hereby determine as follows:

It is in the national interest of the United States to waive the application of the prohibition in section 404(a) of the CSPA with respect to Mali and Nigeria; to waive the application of the prohibition in section 404(a) of the CSPA with respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to allow for provision of Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) assistance, to the extent the CSPA would restrict such assistance or support; to waive the application of the prohibition in section 404(a) of the CSPA with respect to Somalia to allow for the provision of International Military Education and Training assistance, PKO assistance, and support provided pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 333, to the extent the CSPA would restrict such assistance or support; and to waive the application of the prohibition in section 404(a) of the CSPA with respect to South Sudan to allow for PKO assistance, to the extent the CSPA would restrict such assistance or support. Accordingly, I hereby waive such applications of section 404(a) of the CSPA.

You are authorized and directed to submit this determination to the Congress, along with the Memorandum of Justification, and to publish the determination in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 30, 2017

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Presidential Determination

No. 2017-14

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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You are authorized and directed to submit this determination to the Congress, along with the Memorandum of Justification, and to publish the determination in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

National Security Presidential Memorandum

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 05, 2017

National Security Presidential Memorandum

October 4, 2017

NATIONAL SECURITY PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM – 7

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF OF STAFF

THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR ADVISOR

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

THE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY AND DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
POLICY

THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND
COUNTERTERRORISM

THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

THE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD
THE ADMINISTRATOR OF DRUG ENFORCEMENT
THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
THE ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED STATES

SUBJECT: Integration, Sharing, and Use of National Security Threat Actor Information to Protect Americans

Section 1. Policy.

The United States Government's ability to effectively analyze, evaluate, integrate, correlate, and share classified national security information and other information concerning threat actors and their networks, and then use that information to support a broad array of national security missions and activities, is an essential component of our national security strategy. Equally important is the United States Government's ability to conduct these activities in a manner that: (a) appropriately protects the security and integrity of that information and its origins; (b) properly considers, approves, and monitors the information's application and use, consistent with applicable law and Presidential guidance; (c) ensures relevant operational deconfliction and security; and (d) maintains and uses the information in a manner that appropriately protects individuals' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, including by providing appropriate redress. Our continuing efforts to achieve these goals requires both systematic collaboration across national security components and integrated practices that fully utilize our collective data holdings to support vital national security missions.

Therefore, to protect against actors who threaten our Nation, it is the policy of the United States to: (a) lawfully identify, integrate, and make available thorough, accurate, and timely national security threat actor information; (b) effectively manage that information within appropriate policy frameworks and technical architectures, including data repositories, integrated systems, and cloud architectures; (c) where appropriate and consistent with applicable law, deliberately use that information to support national security activities; and (d) where appropriate and consistent with applicable law, share relevant and releasable information, products, and outputs with foreign governments, international organizations, and State, local, territorial, tribal, and private-sector partners where required to support activities that benefit national security. National security threat actor information comprises identity attributes and associated information about individuals, organizations, groups, or networks assessed to be a threat to the safety, security, or national interests of the United States that fall into one or more of the categories listed in the annex to this memorandum.

This memorandum shall be implemented in a manner that is consistent with applicable law and Presidential guidance; safeguards intelligence sources, methods, and activities; protects otherwise sensitive information and preserves the integrity of sensitive operations and investigations; and appropriately protects privacy, civil rights, civil liberties, and other constitutional and statutory rights, including through compliance with applicable guidelines governing the collection, retention, and dissemination of personally identifiable information.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

The following definitions shall apply throughout this memorandum:

Associated information: Information that demonstrates the meaningful (i.e., non-incidental) associations, capabilities, intentions, and activities of an individual, organization, group, or network.

Identity attributes: Information (including biometric and biographic data) that can be used independently or in combination with other data to identify a specific individual.

Sec. 3. Implementation.

To strengthen the ability of the United States Government to protect against individuals who threaten our national security interests or the safety of United States citizens, and consistent with applicable law and the policy set forth in section 1 of this memorandum:

The Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence shall lead, in consultation and coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the development and implementation of appropriate technical architectures and corresponding policy frameworks to advance the integration, sharing, and use of identity attributes and associated derogatory information for each individual category of evaluated national security threat actor information described in the annex to this memorandum. The technical architecture and corresponding policy framework for each category shall be developed in a manner that appropriately protects the security and integrity of information; enables the appropriate analysis, sharing, and use of information to the extent permitted by and consistent with applicable law; ensures relevant operational deconfliction and security; and provides for the maintenance and use of such information in a manner that appropriately protects individuals' privacy, civil rights, civil liberties, and other constitutional and statutory rights, including through compliance with applicable guidelines governing the collection, retention, and dissemination of personally identifiable information.

Through the development, implementation, and ongoing execution of each technical architecture's policy framework, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Energy, and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, shall regularly assess both the technical architectures and the current or proposed applications and uses of the evaluated national security threat actor information they manage to determine if the architectures or any of their specific applications or uses should be enhanced, modified, or terminated. These assessments shall consider the potential risks and benefits to national security, legal or policy concerns, and the resource implications of enhancing, modifying, or terminating any aspect of the technical architectures or their applications and uses. Further, these assessments shall define the appropriate access protocols, data standards, security safeguards, and operational deconfliction mechanisms required to meet legal, policy, or mission requirements. These assessments shall be a continuing responsibility for the heads of the executive departments and agencies (agencies) identified in this subsection.

The Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Energy, shall jointly identify, as between themselves, the department or agency (or component thereof) best suited to serve as the executive agent for each individual category of national security threat actor information. The executive agent shall be responsible for developing and maintaining that category's specific technical architecture, its corresponding policy framework, and an appropriate governance mechanism to facilitate the capability reviews described in subsection (B) of this section.

Within the parameters defined by the appropriate policy frameworks developed under subsection (A) of this section, the heads of all agencies shall, to the maximum extent permitted by law and the greatest extent practicable in light of the need to protect sources and methods, sensitive information, and the integrity of ongoing operations and investigations, maintain and make available evaluated national security threat actor information within the relevant technical architectures.

For all applications and uses of national security threat actor information managed within the technical architectures established under subsection (A) of this section that seek or would be reasonably likely to result in the denial of a benefit or protected interest, the heads of the agencies responsible for such applications or uses shall first ensure that appropriate and lawful procedures and safeguards exist to protect individuals' privacy, civil rights, civil liberties, and other constitutional and statutory rights, and provide appropriate protections before the application or use goes into effect.

The Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology and in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, shall, as part of its ongoing coordination of the development, publication, and evolution of national standards, lead a standing interagency effort, which shall include relevant elements of the Intelligence Community, to establish specific models for information exchange and corresponding application profiles for identity attributes relevant to the implementation of this memorandum. These national standards shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with relevant voluntary international standards when such standards advance national security interests.

The heads of the agencies shall, to the extent practicable, implement the standards, formats, and application profiles developed pursuant to subsection (F) of this section within their system acquisition and research and development activities.

The Director of National Intelligence shall work with Intelligence Community elements to explore and implement solutions for standardizing and publishing key identity attributes captured within intelligence information reports in machine readable formats to support automated processing within the technical architectures established under subsection (A) of this section, in accordance with approved standards, formats, and application profiles established under subsection (F) of this section.

The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in coordination with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Director of National Intelligence, and the heads of other appropriate agencies, shall, through the National Science and Technology Council, work with departments and agencies to align and synchronize Federally-funded research and development activities that seek to enhance the integration, management, and use of national security threat actor information.

The Deputies Committee of the National Security Council may supplement, modify, or remove the categories of national security threat actors established pursuant to this memorandum. Upon approval by the Deputies Committee, changes to these categories shall be formally documented by updating the annex to this memorandum.

Within 270 days of the date of this memorandum, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Energy, shall, through the Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, submit to the President a plan to implement this memorandum.

The Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism shall, consistent with National Security Presidential Memorandum-4 of April 4, 2017, or any successor document, coordinate, facilitate, review, and, as appropriate, make recommendations concerning all policy aspects regarding the integration, sharing, and application and use of national security threat actor information and its implementation.

Sec. 4. General Provisions.

This memorandum does not alter existing statutory and regulatory authorities or responsibilities of agency heads to carry out operational activities or provide and receive information.

This memorandum is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Homeland Security

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 12, 2017

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Homeland Security

SUBJECT: Delegation of Certain Functions and Authorities under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby order as follows:

Section 1. (a) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State the functions and authorities vested in the President by section 110 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-44) (the "Act").

(b) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the Act:

(i) section 104(b), with respect to a determination under the standard set forth in section 104(b)(1);

(ii) section 107(a), with respect to a determination under the standards set forth in section 107(a)(1) and (a)(2);

(iii) section 107(d), with respect to making the certification described therein;

(iv) section 108(b)(2);

(v) section 109; and

(vi) section 112.

(c) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of the Treasury the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the Act:

(i) section 104(c)(1); and

(ii) section 107(b)(1).

(d) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following provisions of the Act:

(i) section 104(b), with respect to a determination under the standards set forth under section 104(b)(2) through (b)(6);

(ii) section 104(e);

(iii) section 106(b)(1);

(iv) section 108(a)(1); and

(v) section 108(b)(1).

(e) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following sections of the Act:

(i) section 105(b), to be exercised in consultation with each other and commensurate with their respective areas of responsibility set forth in previous Presidential actions under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), including Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001 (Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism);

(ii) section 108(a)(2), to be exercised in consultation with each other and commensurate with their respective areas of responsibility set forth in Executive Order 13382 of June 28, 2005 (Blocking Property of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferators and Their Supporters) and Executive Order 13224; and

(iii) section 111(b), to be exercised commensurate with their respective areas of responsibility set forth in this memorandum.

(f) I hereby delegate to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Secretary of Homeland Security the functions and authorities vested in the President by the following sections of the Act:

(i) section 104(b), to be exercised commensurate with their respective areas of responsibility or delegated authority under section 104(c), with respect to the imposition of sanctions following a determination under section 104(b); and

(ii) section 107(a), to be exercised commensurate with their respective areas of responsibility or delegated authority under section 107(b), with respect to the imposition of sanctions following a determination under section 107(a).

Sec. 2. The delegations in this memorandum shall apply to any provisions of any future public laws that are the same or substantially the same as those provisions referenced in this memorandum.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of State is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the Federal Register.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Issued on: December 6, 2017

Presidential Determination

No. 2018-02

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Suspension of Limitations under the Jerusalem Embassy Act

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 7(a) of the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) (the "Act"), I hereby determine that it is necessary, in order to protect the national security interests of the United States, to suspend for a period of 6 months the limitations set forth in sections 3(b) and 7(b) of the Act.

You are authorized and directed to transmit this determination, accompanied by a report in accordance with section 7(a) of the Act, to the Congress and to publish this determination in the Federal Register.

The suspension set forth in this determination shall take effect after you transmit this determination and the accompanying report to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

8. ПРОКЛАМАЦИИ

President Donald J. Trump Proclaims March 2017 as Irish-American Heritage Month

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 01, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Proclaims March 2017 as Irish-American Heritage Month
IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, 2017
BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

Irish Americans have made an indelible mark on the United States. From Dublin, California, to Limerick, Maine, from Emerald Isle, North Carolina, to Shamrock, Texas, we are reminded of the more than 35 million Americans of Irish descent who contribute every day to all facets of life in the United States. Over generations, millions of Irish have crossed the ocean in search of the American Dream, and their contributions continue to enrich our country today.

From our four Irish-born Founding Fathers to Thomas Francis Meagher, the Irish revolutionary who became an American hero after leading the Irish Brigade during the Civil War, Irish immigrants have shaped our history in enduring ways. Throughout the centuries, hard-working Irish Americans have contributed to America's innovation and prosperity -- tilling the farms of Appalachia, working the looms of New England textile mills, and building transcontinental railroads -- often overcoming poverty and discrimination and inspiring Americans from all walks of life with their indomitable and entrepreneurial spirit in the process. From these early beginnings rose generations of Irish Americans who continue to lead our cities, drive our economy, and protect and defend the land they embrace as their own.

American culture carries an unmistakably Irish-American imprint. Our literature, cinema, music, dance, sports, and visual arts are filled with the names and influence of great Irish Americans.

Irish Americans should be proud of the deep cultural, historical, and familial ties that have contributed to the strength of our vibrant transatlantic relationship with Ireland. As we honor the past during Irish-American Heritage Month, we also celebrate a bright future of friendship and cooperation for generations to come.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2017 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

DONALD J. TRUMP

President Donald J. Trump Proclaims March 25, 2017, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release March 24, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Proclaims March 25, 2017, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION OF

GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, 2017

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

This year marks the 196th anniversary of Greek independence. Greek and American democracy are forever intertwined. American patriots built our Republic on the ancient Greeks' groundbreaking idea that the people should decide their political fates.

As a young Nation, only recently free from Great Britain and securing its place on the world stage, America served as a source of inspiration for the revolutionary and freedom-loving Greeks who sought their own independence. Indeed, American citizens stood united with the people of Greece in its "glorious cause" of democracy and freedom, as expressed by Philadelphia's Franklin Gazette at the time.

The ideas and ideals of the ancient Greeks altered the course of human history, from our own American Republic to the modern Greek state and many other nations. All those who believe in the refrain "liberty and justice for all," and who are devoted to democracy and rule of law, owe a debt of gratitude to Greece and the foundational principles that took root in the ancient city-state of Athens.

On this Greek Independence Day, we express our deep gratitude for Greece's enduring friendship in a region that has experienced great uncertainty. Greece is an important partner in our engagements throughout the international sphere. We look forward to strengthening our excellent bilateral defense relationship, and recognize the value and importance Greece's role as a strong ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The American people join Greece in celebrating another milestone in its independent history, and we look forward to a future of shared success as partners and allies.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2017, as Greek Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Greek and American Democracy. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this

twenty-fourth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.

DONALD J. TRUMP

President Donald J. Trump Proclaims September 11, 2017, as Patriot Day

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 08, 2017

President Donald J. Trump Proclaims September 11, 2017, as Patriot Day

PATRIOT DAY, 2017

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

On Patriot Day, we honor the nearly 3,000 innocent lives taken from us on September 11, 2001, and all of those who so nobly aided their fellow citizens in America's time of need. We rededicate ourselves to the ideals that define our country and unite us as one, as we commemorate all the heroes who lost their lives saving others.

September 11, 2001, will forever be one of the most tragic days in American history. Through the unimaginable despair, however, ordinary Americans etched into our history remarkable illustrations of bravery, of sacrifice for one another, and of dedication to our shared values. The shock from the indelible images of the smoke rising from the World Trade Center and Pentagon gave way to countless inspiring videos of co-workers helping one another to safety; of heroes running into collapsing buildings to save the innocent people trapped within; and to the unforgettable story of the patriots who charged the cockpit of Flight 93 to save untold numbers of lives. These heroes moved us with their bravery. They make us proud to be Americans.

Throughout history, everyday Americans and first responders have done the extraordinary through selfless acts of patriotism, compassion, and uncommon courage. Not just in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, but across our great Nation, Americans on September 11, 2001, bound themselves together for the common good, saying with one voice that we will be neither scared nor defeated. The enemy attempted to tear at the fabric of our society by destroying our buildings and murdering our innocent, but our strength has not and will not waiver. Americans today remain steadfast in our commitment to liberty, to human dignity, and to one another.

It has been 16 years since the tragedy of September 11, 2001. Children who lost their parents on that day are now parents of their own, while many teenagers currently in high school learn about September 11th only from their history books. Yet all Americans are imbued with the same commitment to cause and love of their fellow citizens as everyone who lived through that dark day. We will never forget. The events of September 11, 2001, did not defeat us. They did not rattle us. They, instead, have rallied us, as leaders of the civilized world, to defeat an evil ideology that preys on innocents and knows nothing but violence and destruction.

On this anniversary, I invite all Americans to thank our Nation's incredible service members and first responders, who are on the front lines of our fight against terrorism. We will always remember the sacrifices made in defense of our people, our country, and our freedom. The spirit of service and self sacrifice that Americans so nobly demonstrated on September 11, 2001, is evident in the incredible response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The same spirit of American patriotism we movingly witnessed on September 11th has filled our hearts as we again see the unflinching courage, compassion, and generosity of Americans for their neighbors and countrymen. The service members and first responders who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and in the years of service since would be proud of what we have all witnessed over these last three weeks and what will undoubtedly unfold in the coming months of recovery. By protecting those in need, by taking part in acts of charity, service, and compassion, and by giving back to our communities and country, we honor those who gave their lives on and after September 11, 2001.

By a joint resolution approved December 18, 2001 (Public Law 107-89), the Congress has designated September 11 of each year as "Patriot Day."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim September 11, 2017, as Patriot Day. I call upon all departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the United States to display the flag of the United States at half-staff on Patriot Day in honor of the individuals who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. I invite the Governors of the United States and its territories and interested organizations and individuals to join in this observance. I call upon the people of the United States to participate in community service in honor of those our Nation lost, to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, including remembrance services, and to observe a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. Eastern Daylight

Time to honor the innocent victims who perished as a result of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Proclamation Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 24, 2017

Presidential Proclamation Enhancing Vetting Capabilities and Processes for Detecting Attempted Entry Into the United States by Terrorists or Other Public-Safety Threats

ENHANCING VETTING CAPABILITIES AND PROCESSES FOR DETECTING ATTEMPTED ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES BY TERRORISTS OR OTHER PUBLIC-SAFETY THREATS

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

In Executive Order 13780 of March 6, 2017 (Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States), on the recommendations of the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Attorney General, I ordered a worldwide review of whether, and if so what, additional information would be needed from each foreign country to assess adequately whether their nationals seeking to enter the United States pose a security or safety threat. This was the first such review of its kind in United States history. As part of the review, the Secretary of Homeland Security established global requirements for information sharing in support of immigration screening and vetting. The Secretary of Homeland Security developed a comprehensive set of criteria and applied it to the information-sharing practices, policies, and capabilities of foreign governments. The Secretary of State thereafter engaged with the countries reviewed in an effort to address deficiencies and achieve improvements. In many instances, those efforts produced positive results. By obtaining additional information and formal commitments from foreign governments, the United States Government has improved its capacity and ability to assess whether foreign nationals attempting to enter the United States pose a security or safety threat. Our Nation is safer as a result of this work.

Despite those efforts, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, has determined that a small number of countries -- out of nearly 200 evaluated -- remain deficient at this time with respect to their identity-management and information-sharing capabilities, protocols, and practices. In some cases, these countries also have a significant terrorist presence within their territory.

As President, I must act to protect the security and interests of the United States and its people. I am committed to our ongoing efforts to engage those countries willing to cooperate, improve information-sharing and identity-management protocols and procedures, and address both terrorism-related and public-safety risks. Some of the countries with remaining inadequacies face significant challenges. Others have made strides to improve their protocols and procedures, and I commend them for these efforts. But until they satisfactorily address the identified inadequacies, I have determined, on the basis of recommendations from the Secretary of Homeland Security and other members of my Cabinet, to impose certain conditional restrictions and limitations, as set forth

more fully below, on entry into the United States of nationals of the countries identified in section 2 of this proclamation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including sections 212(f) and 215(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA), 8 U.S.C. 1182(f) and 1185(a), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that, absent the measures set forth in this proclamation, the immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 2 of this proclamation would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, and that their entry should be subject to certain restrictions, limitations, and exceptions. I therefore hereby proclaim the following:

Section 1. Policy and Purpose. (a) It is the policy of the United States to protect its citizens from terrorist attacks and other public-safety threats. Screening and vetting protocols and procedures associated with visa adjudications and other immigration processes play a critical role in implementing that policy. They enhance our ability to detect foreign nationals who may commit, aid, or support acts of terrorism, or otherwise pose a safety threat, and they aid our efforts to prevent such individuals from entering the United States.

(b) Information-sharing and identity-management protocols and practices of foreign governments are important for the effectiveness of the screening and vetting protocols and procedures of the United States. Governments manage the identity and travel documents of their nationals and residents. They also control the circumstances under which they provide information about their nationals to other governments, including information about known or suspected terrorists and criminal-history information. It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to take all necessary and appropriate steps to encourage foreign governments to improve their information-sharing and identity-management protocols and practices and to regularly share identity and threat information with our immigration screening and vetting systems.

(c) Section 2(a) of Executive Order 13780 directed a "worldwide review to identify whether, and if so what, additional information will be needed from each foreign country to adjudicate an application by a national of that country for a visa, admission, or other benefit under the INA (adjudications) in order to determine that the individual is not a security or public-safety threat." That review culminated in a report submitted to the President by the Secretary of Homeland Security on July 9, 2017. In that review, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Director of National Intelligence, developed a baseline for the kinds of information required from foreign governments to support the United States Government's ability to confirm the identity of individuals seeking entry into the United States as immigrants and nonimmigrants, as well as individuals applying for any other benefit under the immigration laws, and to assess whether they are a security or public-safety threat. That baseline incorporates three categories of criteria:

(i) Identity-management information. The United States expects foreign governments to provide the information needed to determine whether individuals seeking benefits under the immigration laws are who they claim to be. The identity-management information category focuses on the integrity of documents required for travel to the United States. The criteria assessed in this category include whether the country issues electronic passports embedded with data to enable confirmation of identity, reports lost and stolen passports to appropriate entities, and makes available upon request identity-related information not included in its passports.

(ii) National security and public-safety information. The United States expects foreign governments to provide information about whether persons who seek entry to this country pose national security or public-safety risks. The criteria assessed in this category include whether the country makes available, directly or indirectly, known or suspected terrorist and criminal-history information upon request, whether the country provides passport and national-identity document

exemplars, and whether the country impedes the United States Government's receipt of information about passengers and crew traveling to the United States.

(iii) National security and public-safety risk assessment. The national security and public-safety risk assessment category focuses on national security risk indicators. The criteria assessed in this category include whether the country is a known or potential terrorist safe haven, whether it is a participant in the Visa Waiver Program established under section 217 of the INA, 8 U.S.C. 1187, that meets all of its requirements, and whether it regularly fails to receive its nationals subject to final orders of removal from the United States.

(d) The Department of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Department of State, collected data on the performance of all foreign governments and assessed each country against the baseline described in subsection (c) of this section. The assessment focused, in particular, on identity management, security and public-safety threats, and national security risks. Through this assessment, the agencies measured each country's performance with respect to issuing reliable travel documents and implementing adequate identity-management and information-sharing protocols and procedures, and evaluated terrorism-related and public-safety risks associated with foreign nationals seeking entry into the United States from each country.

(e) The Department of Homeland Security evaluated each country against the baseline described in subsection (c) of this section. The Secretary of Homeland Security identified 16 countries as being "inadequate" based on an analysis of their identity-management protocols, information-sharing practices, and risk factors. Thirty-one additional countries were classified "at risk" of becoming "inadequate" based on those criteria.

(f) As required by section 2(d) of Executive Order 13780, the Department of State conducted a 50-day engagement period to encourage all foreign governments, not just the 47 identified as either "inadequate" or "at risk," to improve their performance with respect to the baseline described in subsection (c) of this section. Those engagements yielded significant improvements in many countries. Twenty-nine countries, for example, provided travel document exemplars for use by Department of Homeland Security officials to combat fraud. Eleven countries agreed to share information on known or suspected terrorists.

(g) The Secretary of Homeland Security assesses that the following countries continue to have "inadequate" identity-management protocols, information-sharing practices, and risk factors, with respect to the baseline described in subsection (c) of this section, such that entry restrictions and limitations are recommended: Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. The Secretary of Homeland Security also assesses that Iraq did not meet the baseline, but that entry restrictions and limitations under a Presidential proclamation are not warranted. The Secretary of Homeland Security recommends, however, that nationals of Iraq who seek to enter the United States be subject to additional scrutiny to determine if they pose risks to the national security or public safety of the United States. In reaching these conclusions, the Secretary of Homeland Security considered the close cooperative relationship between the United States and the democratically elected government of Iraq, the strong United States diplomatic presence in Iraq, the significant presence of United States forces in Iraq, and Iraq's commitment to combating the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).

(h) Section 2(e) of Executive Order 13780 directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to "submit to the President a list of countries recommended for inclusion in a Presidential proclamation that would prohibit the entry of appropriate categories of foreign nationals of countries that have not provided the information requested until they do so or until the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies that the country has an adequate plan to do so, or has adequately shared information through other means." On September 15, 2017, the Secretary of Homeland Security submitted a report to me recommending entry restrictions and limitations on certain nationals of 7 countries determined to be "inadequate" in providing such information and in light of other factors discussed in the report. According to the report, the recommended restrictions would help address

the threats that the countries' identity-management protocols, information-sharing inadequacies, and other risk factors pose to the security and welfare of the United States. The restrictions also encourage the countries to work with the United States to address those inadequacies and risks so that the restrictions and limitations imposed by this proclamation may be relaxed or removed as soon as possible.

(i) In evaluating the recommendations of the Secretary of Homeland Security and in determining what restrictions to impose for each country, I consulted with appropriate Assistants to the President and members of the Cabinet, including the Secretaries of State, Defense, and Homeland Security, and the Attorney General. I considered several factors, including each country's capacity, ability, and willingness to cooperate with our identity-management and information-sharing policies and each country's risk factors, such as whether it has a significant terrorist presence within its territory. I also considered foreign policy, national security, and counterterrorism goals. I reviewed these factors and assessed these goals, with a particular focus on crafting those country-specific restrictions that would be most likely to encourage cooperation given each country's distinct circumstances, and that would, at the same time, protect the United States until such time as improvements occur. The restrictions and limitations imposed by this proclamation are, in my judgment, necessary to prevent the entry of those foreign nationals about whom the United States Government lacks sufficient information to assess the risks they pose to the United States. These restrictions and limitations are also needed to elicit improved identity-management and information-sharing protocols and practices from foreign governments; and to advance foreign policy, national security, and counterterrorism objectives.

(ii) After reviewing the Secretary of Homeland Security's report of September 15, 2017, and accounting for the foreign policy, national security, and counterterrorism objectives of the United States, I have determined to restrict and limit the entry of nationals of 7 countries found to be "inadequate" with respect to the baseline described in subsection (c) of this section: Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen. These restrictions distinguish between the entry of immigrants and nonimmigrants. Persons admitted on immigrant visas become lawful permanent residents of the United States. Such persons may present national security or public-safety concerns that may be distinct from those admitted as nonimmigrants. The United States affords lawful permanent residents more enduring rights than it does to nonimmigrants. Lawful permanent residents are more difficult to remove than nonimmigrants even after national security concerns arise, which heightens the costs and dangers of errors associated with admitting such individuals. And although immigrants generally receive more extensive vetting than nonimmigrants, such vetting is less reliable when the country from which someone seeks to emigrate exhibits significant gaps in its identity-management or information-sharing policies, or presents risks to the national security of the United States. For all but one of those 7 countries, therefore, I am restricting the entry of all immigrants.

(iii) I am adopting a more tailored approach with respect to nonimmigrants, in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary of Homeland Security. For some countries found to be "inadequate" with respect to the baseline described in subsection (c) of this section, I am restricting the entry of all nonimmigrants. For countries with certain mitigating factors, such as a willingness to cooperate or play a substantial role in combatting terrorism, I am restricting the entry only of certain categories of nonimmigrants, which will mitigate the security threats presented by their entry into the United States. In those cases in which future cooperation seems reasonably likely, and accounting for foreign policy, national security, and counterterrorism objectives, I have tailored the restrictions to encourage such improvements.

(i) Section 2(e) of Executive Order 13780 also provided that the "Secretary of State, the Attorney General, or the Secretary of Homeland Security may also submit to the President the names of additional countries for which any of them recommends other lawful restrictions or limitations deemed necessary for the security or welfare of the United States." The Secretary of

Homeland Security determined that Somalia generally satisfies the information-sharing requirements of the baseline described in subsection (c) of this section, but its government's inability to effectively and consistently cooperate, combined with the terrorist threat that emanates from its territory, present special circumstances that warrant restrictions and limitations on the entry of its nationals into the United States. Somalia's identity-management deficiencies and the significant terrorist presence within its territory make it a source of particular risks to the national security and public safety of the United States. Based on the considerations mentioned above, and as described further in section 2(h) of this proclamation, I have determined that entry restrictions, limitations, and other measures designed to ensure proper screening and vetting for nationals of Somalia are necessary for the security and welfare of the United States.

(j) Section 2 of this proclamation describes some of the inadequacies that led me to impose restrictions on the specified countries. Describing all of those reasons publicly, however, would cause serious damage to the national security of the United States, and many such descriptions are classified.

Sec. 2. Suspension of Entry for Nationals of Countries of Identified Concern. The entry into the United States of nationals of the following countries is hereby suspended and limited, as follows, subject to categorical exceptions and case by-case waivers, as described in sections 3 and 6 of this proclamation:

(a) Chad.

(i) The government of Chad is an important and valuable counterterrorism partner of the United States, and the United States Government looks forward to expanding that cooperation, including in the areas of immigration and border management. Chad has shown a clear willingness to improve in these areas. Nonetheless, Chad does not adequately share public-safety and terrorism-related information and fails to satisfy at least one key risk criterion. Additionally, several terrorist groups are active within Chad or in the surrounding region, including elements of Boko Haram, ISIS-West Africa, and al-Qa'ida in the Islamic Maghreb. At this time, additional information sharing to identify those foreign nationals applying for visas or seeking entry into the United States who represent national security and public-safety threats is necessary given the significant terrorism-related risk from this country.

(ii) The entry into the United States of nationals of Chad, as immigrants, and as nonimmigrants on business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas, is hereby suspended.

(b) Iran.

(i) Iran regularly fails to cooperate with the United States Government in identifying security risks, fails to satisfy at least one key risk criterion, is the source of significant terrorist threats, and fails to receive its nationals subject to final orders of removal from the United States. The Department of State has also designated Iran as a state sponsor of terrorism.

(ii) The entry into the United States of nationals of Iran as immigrants and as nonimmigrants is hereby suspended, except that entry by such nationals under valid student (F and M) and exchange visitor (J) visas is not suspended, although such individuals should be subject to enhanced screening and vetting requirements.

(c) Libya.

(i) The government of Libya is an important and valuable counterterrorism partner of the United States, and the United States Government looks forward to expanding on that cooperation, including in the areas of immigration and border management. Libya, nonetheless, faces significant challenges in sharing several types of information, including public-safety and terrorism-related information necessary for the protection of the national security and public safety of the United States. Libya also has significant inadequacies in its identity-management protocols. Further, Libya fails to satisfy at least one key risk criterion and has been assessed to be not fully cooperative with respect to receiving its nationals subject to final orders of removal from the United States. The

substantial terrorist presence within Libya's territory amplifies the risks posed by the entry into the United States of its nationals.

(ii) The entry into the United States of nationals of Libya, as immigrants, and as nonimmigrants on business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas, is hereby suspended.

(d) North Korea.

(i) North Korea does not cooperate with the United States Government in any respect and fails to satisfy all information-sharing requirements.

(ii) The entry into the United States of nationals of North Korea as immigrants and nonimmigrants is hereby suspended.

(e) Syria.

(i) Syria regularly fails to cooperate with the United States Government in identifying security risks, is the source of significant terrorist threats, and has been designated by the Department of State as a state sponsor of terrorism. Syria has significant inadequacies in identity-management protocols, fails to share public-safety and terrorism information, and fails to satisfy at least one key risk criterion.

(ii) The entry into the United States of nationals of Syria as immigrants and nonimmigrants is hereby suspended.

(f) Venezuela.

(i) Venezuela has adopted many of the baseline standards identified by the Secretary of Homeland Security and in section 1 of this proclamation, but its government is uncooperative in verifying whether its citizens pose national security or public-safety threats. Venezuela's government fails to share public-safety and terrorism-related information adequately, fails to satisfy at least one key risk criterion, and has been assessed to be not fully cooperative with respect to receiving its nationals subject to final orders of removal from the United States. There are, however, alternative sources for obtaining information to verify the citizenship and identity of nationals from Venezuela. As a result, the restrictions imposed by this proclamation focus on government officials of Venezuela who are responsible for the identified inadequacies.

(ii) Notwithstanding section 3(b)(v) of this proclamation, the entry into the United States of officials of government agencies of Venezuela involved in screening and vetting procedures -- including the Ministry of the Popular Power for Interior, Justice and Peace; the Administrative Service of Identification, Migration and Immigration; the Scientific, Penal and Criminal Investigation Service Corps; the Bolivarian National Intelligence Service; and the Ministry of the Popular Power for Foreign Relations -- and their immediate family members, as nonimmigrants on business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas, is hereby suspended. Further, nationals of Venezuela who are visa holders should be subject to appropriate additional measures to ensure traveler information remains current.

(g) Yemen.

(i) The government of Yemen is an important and valuable counterterrorism partner, and the United States Government looks forward to expanding that cooperation, including in the areas of immigration and border management. Yemen, nonetheless, faces significant identity-management challenges, which are amplified by the notable terrorist presence within its territory. The government of Yemen fails to satisfy critical identity-management requirements, does not share public-safety and terrorism-related information adequately, and fails to satisfy at least one key risk criterion.

(ii) The entry into the United States of nationals of Yemen as immigrants, and as nonimmigrants on business (B-1), tourist (B-2), and business/tourist (B-1/B-2) visas, is hereby suspended.

(h) Somalia.

(i) The Secretary of Homeland Security's report of September 15, 2017, determined that Somalia satisfies the information-sharing requirements of the baseline described in section 1(c) of this proclamation. But several other considerations support imposing entry restrictions and limitations on Somalia. Somalia has significant identity-management deficiencies. For example, while Somalia issues an electronic passport, the United States and many other countries do not recognize it. A persistent terrorist threat also emanates from Somalia's territory. The United States Government has identified Somalia as a terrorist safe haven. Somalia stands apart from other countries in the degree to which its government lacks command and control of its territory, which greatly limits the effectiveness of its national capabilities in a variety of respects. Terrorists use under-governed areas in northern, central, and southern Somalia as safe havens from which to plan, facilitate, and conduct their operations. Somalia also remains a destination for individuals attempting to join terrorist groups that threaten the national security of the United States. The State Department's 2016 Country Reports on Terrorism observed that Somalia has not sufficiently degraded the ability of terrorist groups to plan and mount attacks from its territory. Further, despite having made significant progress toward formally federating its member states, and its willingness to fight terrorism, Somalia continues to struggle to provide the governance needed to limit terrorists' freedom of movement, access to resources, and capacity to operate. The government of Somalia's lack of territorial control also compromises Somalia's ability, already limited because of poor recordkeeping, to share information about its nationals who pose criminal or terrorist risks. As a result of these and other factors, Somalia presents special concerns that distinguish it from other countries.

(ii) The entry into the United States of nationals of Somalia as immigrants is hereby suspended. Additionally, visa adjudications for nationals of Somalia and decisions regarding their entry as nonimmigrants should be subject to additional scrutiny to determine if applicants are connected to terrorist organizations or otherwise pose a threat to the national security or public safety of the United States.

Sec. 3. Scope and Implementation of Suspensions and Limitations. (a) Scope. Subject to the exceptions set forth in subsection (b) of this section and any waiver under subsection (c) of this section, the suspensions of and limitations on entry pursuant to section 2 of this proclamation shall apply only to foreign nationals of the designated countries who:

(i) are outside the United States on the applicable effective date under section 7 of this proclamation;

(ii) do not have a valid visa on the applicable effective date under section 7 of this proclamation; and

(iii) do not qualify for a visa or other valid travel document under section 6(d) of this proclamation.

(b) Exceptions. The suspension of entry pursuant to section 2 of this proclamation shall not apply to:

(i) any lawful permanent resident of the United States;

(ii) any foreign national who is admitted to or paroled into the United States on or after the applicable effective date under section 7 of this proclamation;

(iii) any foreign national who has a document other than a visa -- such as a transportation letter, an appropriate boarding foil, or an advance parole document -- valid on the applicable effective date under section 7 of this proclamation or issued on any date thereafter, that permits him or her to travel to the United States and seek entry or admission;

(iv) any dual national of a country designated under section 2 of this proclamation when the individual is traveling on a passport issued by a non-designated country;

(v) any foreign national traveling on a diplomatic or diplomatic-type visa, North Atlantic Treaty Organization visa, C-2 visa for travel to the United Nations, or G-1, G-2, G-3, or G-4 visa; or

(vi) any foreign national who has been granted asylum by the United States; any refugee who has already been admitted to the United States; or any individual who has been granted withholding of removal, advance parole, or protection under the Convention Against Torture.

(c) Waivers. Notwithstanding the suspensions of and limitations on entry set forth in section 2 of this proclamation, a consular officer, or the Commissioner, United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP), or the Commissioner's designee, as appropriate, may, in their discretion, grant waivers on a case-by-case basis to permit the entry of foreign nationals for whom entry is otherwise suspended or limited if such foreign nationals demonstrate that waivers would be appropriate and consistent with subsections (i) through (iv) of this subsection. The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall coordinate to adopt guidance addressing the circumstances in which waivers may be appropriate for foreign nationals seeking entry as immigrants or nonimmigrants.

(i) A waiver may be granted only if a foreign national demonstrates to the consular officer's or CBP official's satisfaction that:

(A) denying entry would cause the foreign national undue hardship;

(B) entry would not pose a threat to the national security or public safety of the United States; and

(C) entry would be in the national interest.

(ii) The guidance issued by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security under this subsection shall address the standards, policies, and procedures for:

(A) determining whether the entry of a foreign national would not pose a threat to the national security or public safety of the United States;

(B) determining whether the entry of a foreign national would be in the national interest;

(C) addressing and managing the risks of making such a determination in light of the inadequacies in information sharing, identity management, and other potential dangers posed by the nationals of individual countries subject to the restrictions and limitations imposed by this proclamation;

(D) assessing whether the United States has access, at the time of the waiver determination, to sufficient information about the foreign national to determine whether entry would satisfy the requirements of subsection (i) of this subsection; and

(E) determining the special circumstances that would justify granting a waiver under subsection (iv)(E) of this subsection.

Unless otherwise specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security, any waiver issued by a consular officer as part of the visa adjudication process will be effective both for the issuance of a visa and for any subsequent entry on that visa, but will leave unchanged all other requirements for admission or entry.

(iv) Case-by-case waivers may not be granted categorically, but may be appropriate, subject to the limitations, conditions, and requirements set forth under subsection (i) of this subsection and the guidance issued under subsection (ii) of this subsection, in individual circumstances such as the following:

(A) the foreign national has previously been admitted to the United States for a continuous period of work, study, or other long-term activity, is outside the United States on the applicable effective date under section 7 of this proclamation, seeks to reenter the United States to resume that activity, and the denial of reentry would impair that activity;

(B) the foreign national has previously established significant contacts with the United States but is outside the United States on the applicable effective date under section 7 of this proclamation for work, study, or other lawful activity;

(C) the foreign national seeks to enter the United States for significant business or professional obligations and the denial of entry would impair those obligations;

(D) the foreign national seeks to enter the United States to visit or reside with a close family member (e.g., a spouse, child, or parent) who is a United States citizen, lawful permanent resident, or alien lawfully admitted on a valid nonimmigrant visa, and the denial of entry would cause the foreign national undue hardship;

(E) the foreign national is an infant, a young child or adoptee, an individual needing urgent medical care, or someone whose entry is otherwise justified by the special circumstances of the case;

(F) the foreign national has been employed by, or on behalf of, the United States Government (or is an eligible dependent of such an employee), and the foreign national can document that he or she has provided faithful and valuable service to the United States Government;

(G) the foreign national is traveling for purposes related to an international organization designated under the International Organizations Immunities Act (IOIA), 22 U.S.C. 288 et seq., traveling for purposes of conducting meetings or business with the United States Government, or traveling to conduct business on behalf of an international organization not designated under the IOIA;

(H) the foreign national is a Canadian permanent resident who applies for a visa at a location within Canada;

(I) the foreign national is traveling as a United States Government-sponsored exchange visitor; or

(J) the foreign national is traveling to the United States, at the request of a United States Government department or agency, for legitimate law enforcement, foreign policy, or national security purposes.

Sec. 4. Adjustments to and Removal of Suspensions and Limitations. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall, in consultation with the Secretary of State, devise a process to assess whether any suspensions and limitations imposed by section 2 of this proclamation should be continued, terminated, modified, or supplemented. The process shall account for whether countries have improved their identity-management and information-sharing protocols and procedures based on the criteria set forth in section 1 of this proclamation and the Secretary of Homeland Security's report of September 15, 2017. Within 180 days of the date of this proclamation, and every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Director of National Intelligence, and other appropriate heads of agencies, shall submit a report with recommendations to the President, through appropriate Assistants to the President, regarding the following:

(i) the interests of the United States, if any, that continue to require the suspension of, or limitations on, the entry on certain classes of nationals of countries identified in section 2 of this proclamation and whether the restrictions and limitations imposed by section 2 of this proclamation should be continued, modified, terminated, or supplemented; and

(ii) the interests of the United States, if any, that require the suspension of, or limitations on, the entry of certain classes of nationals of countries not identified in this proclamation.

(b) The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Director of National Intelligence, and the head of any other executive department or agency (agency) that the Secretary of State deems appropriate, shall engage the countries listed in section 2 of this proclamation, and any other countries that have information-sharing, identity-management, or risk-factor deficiencies as practicable, appropriate, and consistent with the foreign policy, national security, and public-safety objectives of the United States.

(c) Notwithstanding the process described above, and consistent with the process described in section 2(f) of Executive Order 13780, if the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Director of National Intelligence,

determines, at any time, that a country meets the standards of the baseline described in section 1(c) of this proclamation, that a country has an adequate plan to provide such information, or that one or more of the restrictions or limitations imposed on the entry of a country's nationals are no longer necessary for the security or welfare of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security may recommend to the President the removal or modification of any or all such restrictions and limitations. The Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of State, or the Attorney General may also, as provided for in Executive Order 13780, submit to the President the names of additional countries for which any of them recommends any lawful restrictions or limitations deemed necessary for the security or welfare of the United States.

Sec. 5. Reports on Screening and Vetting Procedures. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Director of National Intelligence, and other appropriate heads of agencies shall submit periodic reports to the President, through appropriate Assistants to the President, that:

(i) describe the steps the United States Government has taken to improve vetting for nationals of all foreign countries, including through improved collection of biometric and biographic data;

(ii) describe the scope and magnitude of fraud, errors, false information, and unverifiable claims, as determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security on the basis of a validation study, made in applications for immigration benefits under the immigration laws; and

(iii) evaluate the procedures related to screening and vetting established by the Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs in order to enhance the safety and security of the United States and to ensure sufficient review of applications for immigration benefits.

(b) The initial report required under subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted within 180 days of the date of this proclamation; the second report shall be submitted within 270 days of the first report; and reports shall be submitted annually thereafter.

(c) The agency heads identified in subsection (a) of this section shall coordinate any policy developments associated with the reports described in subsection (a) of this section through the appropriate Assistants to the President.

Sec. 6. Enforcement. (a) The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with appropriate domestic and international partners, including countries and organizations, to ensure efficient, effective, and appropriate implementation of this proclamation.

(b) In implementing this proclamation, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including those that provide an opportunity for individuals to enter the United States on the basis of a credible claim of fear of persecution or torture.

(c) No immigrant or nonimmigrant visa issued before the applicable effective date under section 7 of this proclamation shall be revoked pursuant to this proclamation.

(d) Any individual whose visa was marked revoked or marked canceled as a result of Executive Order 13769 of January 27, 2017 (Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States), shall be entitled to a travel document confirming that the individual is permitted to travel to the United States and seek entry under the terms and conditions of the visa marked revoked or marked canceled. Any prior cancellation or revocation of a visa that was solely pursuant to Executive Order 13769 shall not be the basis of inadmissibility for any future determination about entry or admissibility.

(e) This proclamation shall not apply to an individual who has been granted asylum by the United States, to a refugee who has already been admitted to the United States, or to an individual granted withholding of removal or protection under the Convention Against Torture. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to limit the ability of an individual to seek asylum, refugee status, withholding of removal, or protection under the Convention Against Torture, consistent with the laws of the United States.

Sec. 7. Effective Dates. Executive Order 13780 ordered a temporary pause on the entry of foreign nationals from certain foreign countries. In two cases, however, Federal courts have enjoined those restrictions. The Supreme Court has stayed those injunctions as to foreign nationals who lack a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States, pending its review of the decisions of the lower courts.

(a) The restrictions and limitations established in section 2 of this proclamation are effective at 3:30 p.m. eastern daylight time on September 24, 2017, for foreign nationals who:

(i) were subject to entry restrictions under section 2 of Executive Order 13780, or would have been subject to the restrictions but for section 3 of that Executive Order, and

(ii) lack a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States.

(b) The restrictions and limitations established in section 2 of this proclamation are effective at 12:01 a.m. eastern daylight time on October 18, 2017, for all other persons subject to this proclamation, including nationals of:

(i) Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, and Somalia who have a credible claim of a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States; and

(ii) Chad, North Korea, and Venezuela.

Sec. 8. Severability. It is the policy of the United States to enforce this proclamation to the maximum extent possible to advance the national security, foreign policy, and counterterrorism interests of the United States. Accordingly:

(a) if any provision of this proclamation, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remainder of this proclamation and the application of its other provisions to any other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby; and

(b) if any provision of this proclamation, or the application of any provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid because of the lack of certain procedural requirements, the relevant executive branch officials shall implement those procedural requirements to conform with existing law and with any applicable court orders.

Sec. 9. General Provisions. (a) Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect:

(i) the authority granted by law to an executive department or agency, or the head thereof; or

(ii) the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budgetary, administrative, or legislative proposals.

(b) This proclamation shall be implemented consistent with applicable law and subject to the availability of appropriations.

(c) This proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the United States, its departments, agencies, or entities, its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Presidential Proclamation Recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel and Relocating the United States Embassy to Israel to Jerusalem

Presidential Proclamation Recognizing Jerusalem as the Capital of the State of Israel and Relocating the United States Embassy to Israel to Jerusalem

Issued on: December 6, 2017

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The foreign policy of the United States is grounded in principled realism, which begins with an honest acknowledgment of plain facts. With respect to the State of Israel, that requires officially recognizing Jerusalem as its capital and relocating the United States Embassy to Israel to Jerusalem as soon as practicable.

The Congress, since the Jerusalem Embassy Act of 1995 (Public Law 104-45) (the “Act”), has urged the United States to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and to relocate our Embassy to Israel to that city. The United States Senate reaffirmed the Act in a unanimous vote on June 5, 2017.

Now, 22 years after the Act’s passage, I have determined that it is time for the United States to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. This long overdue recognition of reality is in the best interests of both the United States and the pursuit of peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

Seventy years ago, the United States, under President Truman, recognized the State of Israel. Since then, the State of Israel has made its capital in Jerusalem — the capital the Jewish people established in ancient times. Today, Jerusalem is the seat of Israel’s government — the home of Israel’s parliament, the Knesset; its Supreme Court; the residences of its Prime Minister and President; and the headquarters of many of its government ministries. Jerusalem is where officials of the United States, including the President, meet their Israeli counterparts. It is therefore appropriate for the United States to recognize Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

I have also determined that the United States will relocate our Embassy to Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This action is consistent with the will of the Congress, as expressed in the Act.

Today’s actions — recognizing Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and announcing the relocation of our embassy — do not reflect a departure from the strong commitment of the United States to facilitating a lasting peace agreement. The United States continues to take no position on any final status issues. The specific boundaries of Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem are subject to final status negotiations between the parties. The United States is not taking a position on boundaries or borders.

Above all, our greatest hope is for peace, including through a two-state solution, if agreed to by both sides. Peace is never beyond the grasp of those who are willing to reach for it. In the meantime, the United States continues to support the status quo at Jerusalem’s holy sites, including at the Temple Mount, also known as Haram al Sharif. Jerusalem is today — and must remain — a place where Jews pray at the Western Wall, where Christians walk the Stations of the Cross, and where Muslims worship at Al-Aqsa Mosque.

With today’s decision, my Administration reaffirms its longstanding commitment to building a future of peace and security in the Middle East. It is time for all civilized nations and people to respond to disagreement with reasoned debate — not senseless violence — and for young and moderate voices across the Middle East to claim for themselves a bright and beautiful future. Today, let us rededicate ourselves to a path of mutual understanding and respect, rethinking old assumptions and opening our hearts and minds to new possibilities. I ask the leaders of the Middle East — political and religious; Israeli and Palestinian; and Jewish, Christian, and Muslim — to join us in this noble quest for lasting peace.

Now, Therefore, I, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim that the United States recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel and that the United States Embassy to Israel will be relocated to Jerusalem as soon as practicable.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.

DONALD J. TRUMP

9. ДРУГИЕ АКТЫ

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

March 16, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives

March 16, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed appropriations request for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. The request includes an additional \$30 billion for the Department of Defense (DOD) to rebuild the U.S. Armed Forces and accelerate the campaign to defeat the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and an additional \$3 billion for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for urgent border protection activities.

This appropriations request would provide \$24.9 billion in the DOD base budget for urgent warfighting readiness needs and to begin a sustained effort to rebuild the U.S. Armed Forces. The request seeks to address critical budget shortfalls in personnel, training, maintenance, equipment, munitions, modernization, and infrastructure investment. It represents a critical first step in investing in a larger, more ready, and more capable military force.

The request also includes \$5.1 billion in the Overseas Contingency Operations budget for DOD to accelerate the campaign to defeat ISIS and support Operation Freedom's Sentinel in Afghanistan. This request would enable DOD to pursue a comprehensive strategy to end the threat ISIS poses to the United States.

In addition, this appropriations request would provide an additional \$3 billion for DHS implementation of my executive orders on border security and immigration enforcement. The request would fund efforts to plan, design, and construct a physical wall along the southern border, and make other critical investments in tactical border infrastructure and technology. The request also proposes funding to increase immigration detention capacity, which is necessary to ensure the removal of illegal aliens from the United States. Finally, the request funds new recruiting capacity at DHS so that it may hire additional immigration law enforcement officers and agents.

In conjunction with this request, I recommend that the Congress enact non-defense discretionary reductions of \$18 billion in FY 2017, which would fully offset the amounts proposed for DHS and would offset half of the amounts proposed for DOD.

The details of this proposal are set forth in the enclosed letter from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to South Sudan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 23, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to South Sudan

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY

WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH SUDAN

On April 3, 2014, by Executive Order 13664, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706), to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in and in relation to South Sudan, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan and the surrounding region, including widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian workers, and obstruction of humanitarian operations.

The situation in and in relation to South Sudan continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared on April 3, 2014, to deal with that threat must continue in effect beyond April 3, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

March 22, 2017.

Message to the Congress Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to South Sudan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 23, 2017

Message to the Congress Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to South Sudan

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 of April 3, 2014, with respect to South Sudan is to continue in effect beyond April 3, 2017.

The situation in and in relation to South Sudan, which has been marked by activities that threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan and the surrounding region, including widespread violence and atrocities, human rights abuses, recruitment and use of child soldiers, attacks on peacekeepers and humanitarian workers, and obstruction of humanitarian operations, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13664 with respect to South Sudan.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

March 22, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Somalia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 06, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Somalia

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA

On April 12, 2010, by Executive Order 13536, the President declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia, acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, which have repeatedly been the subject of United Nations Security Council resolutions, and violations of the arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council.

On July 20, 2012, the President issued Executive Order 13620 to take additional steps to deal with the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 in view of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2036 of February 22, 2012, and Resolution 2002 of July 29, 2011, and to address: exports of charcoal from Somalia, which generate significant revenue for al-Shabaab; the misappropriation of Somali public assets; and certain acts of violence committed against civilians in Somalia -- all of which contribute to the deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia.

The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared on April 12, 2010, and the measures adopted on that date and on July 20, 2012, to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond April 12, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

Message to the Congress Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Somalia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 06, 2017

Message to the Congress Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Somalia

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2017.

The United States is strongly committed to Somalia's stabilization, and it is important to maintain sanctions against persons undermining its stability. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

DONALD J. TRUMP

A Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 08, 2017

A Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE
April 8, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

At approximately 8:40 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on April 6, 2017, at my direction, United States military forces in the Mediterranean Sea, operating beyond the territorial sea of any state, struck the Shayrat military airfield in Syria. United States intelligence indicates that Syrian military forces operating from this airfield were responsible for the chemical weapons attack on Syrian civilians in southern Idlib Province, Syria, that occurred on April 4. I directed this action in order to degrade the Syrian military's ability to conduct further chemical weapons attacks and to dissuade the Syrian regime from using or proliferating chemical weapons, thereby promoting the stability of the region and averting a worsening of the region's current humanitarian catastrophe.

I acted in the vital national security and foreign policy interests of the United States, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. The United States will take additional action, as necessary and appropriate, to further its important national interests.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action.

Sincerely,
DONALD J. TRUMP

A Letter from the President to the President of the Senate

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 11, 2017

A Letter from the President to the President of the Senate

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

April 11, 2017
Dear Mr. President:

Consistent with the condition set forth in the Senate resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Protocol to the North Atlantic Treaty on the Accession of Montenegro of March 28, 2017, and based on the recommendation of the Department of State, I hereby certify to the Senate that:

(i) the inclusion of Montenegro in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO; and

(ii) the inclusion of Montenegro in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 05, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

May 5, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 6(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (the "Act"), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding (including the rescission of funds) and contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Actions of the Government of Syria

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 09, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Actions of the Government of Syria

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SYRIA

On May 11, 2004, pursuant to his authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701-1706, and the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, Public Law 108-175, the President issued Executive Order 13338, in which he declared a national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria. To deal with this national emergency, Executive Order 13338 authorized the blocking of property of

certain persons and prohibited the exportation or reexportation of certain goods to Syria. The national emergency was modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011, Executive Order 13573 of May 18, 2011, Executive Order 13582 of August 17, 2011, Executive Order 13606 of April 22, 2012, and Executive Order 13608 of May 1, 2012.

The President took these actions to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of the Government of Syria in supporting terrorism, maintaining its then-existing occupation of Lebanon, pursuing weapons of mass destruction and missile programs, and undermining United States and international efforts with respect to the stabilization and reconstruction of Iraq.

The regime's brutality and repression of the Syrian people, who have been calling for freedom and a representative government, not only endangers the Syrian people themselves, but also generates instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including with respect to chemical and biological weapons, supporting terrorist organizations, and obstructing the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, continue to foster the rise of extremism and sectarianism and pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. As a result, the national emergency declared on May 11, 2004, and the measures to deal with that emergency adopted on that date in Executive Order 13338; on April 25, 2006, in Executive Order 13399; on February 13, 2008, in Executive Order 13460; on April 29, 2011, in Executive Order 13572; on May 18, 2011, in Executive Order 13573; on August 17, 2011, in Executive Order 13582; on April 22, 2012, in Executive Order 13606; and on May 1, 2012, in Executive Order 13608, must continue in effect beyond May 11, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria.

In addition, the United States condemns the Assad regime's use of brutal violence and human rights abuses and calls on the Assad regime to stop its violence against the Syrian people, uphold the Cessation of Hostilities, enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and allow a political transition in Syria that will forge a credible path to a future of greater freedom, democracy, opportunity, and justice.

The United States will consider changes in the composition, policies, and actions of the Government of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 9, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 09, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

May 9, 2017

TEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Dear Mr. Speaker (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667 of May 12, 2014, is to continue in effect beyond May 12, 2017.

The situation in the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order, intersectarian tension, widespread violence and atrocities, and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, threatens the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and the neighboring states, and continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the Central African Republic declared in Executive Order 13667.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Central African Republic

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 09, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Central African Republic

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH
RESPECT TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

On May 12, 2014, by Executive Order 13667, the President declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic, which has been marked by a breakdown of law and order, intersectarian tension, widespread violence and atrocities, and the pervasive, often forced recruitment and use of child soldiers, and which threatens the peace, security, or stability of the Central African Republic and neighboring states.

The situation in and in relation to the Central African Republic continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared on May 12, 2014, to deal with that threat must continue in effect beyond May 12, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13667.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 9, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Yemen

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

May 09, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Yemen

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO YEMEN

On May 16, 2012, by Executive Order 13611, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Yemen and others. These actions and policies threatened Yemen's peace, security, and stability, including by obstructing the political process in Yemen and the implementation of the agreement of November 23, 2011, between the Government of Yemen and those in opposition to it, which provided for a peaceful transition of power that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people for change.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Yemen and others in threatening Yemen's peace, security, and stability continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared on May 16, 2012, to deal with that threat must continue in effect beyond May 16, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13611.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 8, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

May 16, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2017.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 06, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate

June 6, 2017

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

I am providing this supplemental consolidated report, prepared by my Administration and consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148), as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed about deployments of U.S. Armed Forces equipped for combat.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF UNITED STATES COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS

In furtherance of United States counterterrorism efforts, the United States continues to work with partners around the globe, with a particular focus on the U.S. Central and Africa Commands' areas of responsibility. In this context, the United States has deployed combat-equipped forces to enhance the counterterrorism capabilities and support the counterterrorism operations of our partners and allies. Specific information about counterterrorism deployments to select countries is provided below, and a classified annex to this report provides further information.

Military Operations against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and Associated Forces and in Support of Related United States Counterterrorism Objectives

Since October 7, 2001, U.S. Armed Forces, including Special Operations Forces, have conducted counterterrorism combat operations in Afghanistan against al-Qa'ida, the Taliban, and associated forces. Since August 2014, these operations have targeted the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which was formerly known as al-Qa'ida in Iraq. In support of these and other overseas operations, the United States has deployed combat-equipped forces to a number of locations in the U.S. Central, European, Africa, Southern, and Pacific Commands' areas of responsibility. Such operations and deployments have been reported previously, consistent with Public Law 107-40 and the War Powers Resolution, and operations and deployments remain ongoing. These operations, which the United States has carried out with the assistance of numerous international partners, have been successful in seriously degrading al-Qa'ida's capabilities. If necessary, in response to terrorist threats, I will direct additional measures to protect United States citizens and interests. It is not possible to know at this time the precise scope or the duration of the deployments of U.S. Armed Forces necessary to counter terrorist threats to the United States.

Afghanistan. U.S. Armed Forces have transitioned the lead for security to Afghan security forces while striking significant blows against al-Qa'ida's leadership and preventing Afghanistan from being used to launch attacks against the United States. United States forces remain in Afghanistan for the purposes of, among other things, training, advising, and assisting Afghan forces; conducting and supporting counterterrorism operations against the remnants of core al-Qa'ida and against ISIS; and taking appropriate measures against those who directly threaten United States and coalition forces in Afghanistan or provide direct support to al-Qa'ida. The United States remains in an armed conflict, including against the Taliban, and active hostilities remain ongoing.

The mission to help train, advise, and assist the Afghan National Defense Security Forces and Afghan ministries and institutions continues through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-led Resolute Support Mission. The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted

Resolution 2189, dated December 12, 2014, which welcomed the Resolute Support Mission and underscored the importance of continued international support for the stability of Afghanistan.

The Force Management Level for U.S. Armed Forces in Afghanistan currently is 8,448. (The actual number of United States military personnel may exceed the Force Management Level due to certain forces being excluded from counting against the Force Management Level; for example, incoming and outgoing forces that overlap during rotations of units do not count against the Force Management Level.)

Iraq and Syria. As part of a comprehensive strategy to defeat ISIS, U.S. Armed Forces are conducting a systematic campaign of airstrikes and other necessary operations against ISIS forces in Iraq and Syria. U.S. Armed Forces are also conducting airstrikes and other necessary operations against al-Qa'ida in Syria. In Iraq, U.S. Armed Forces are advising and coordinating with Iraqi forces and providing training, equipment, communications support, intelligence support, and other support to select elements of the Iraqi security forces, including Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces. Additionally, United States forces are deployed to Syria to help coordinate United States operations with indigenous ground forces conducting operations against ISIS. The Force Management Level for U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq currently is 5,262. The Force Management Level for U.S. Armed Forces in Syria is 503. Actions in Iraq are being undertaken in coordination with the Government of Iraq, and in conjunction with coalition partners.

On May 18, 2017, United States forces participating in the defeat-ISIS mission near At Tanf, Syria, were threatened by forces believed to be supporting the Syrian government. After employing appropriate measures seeking to de-escalate the situation, United States forces struck the forces in response to the threat to United States personnel.

Yemen. The United States military continues to work closely with the Government of Yemen and regional partner forces to dismantle and ultimately eliminate the terrorist threat posed by al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). Our efforts since the last periodic update report have included a number of airstrikes and two raids against AQAP operatives and facilities.

Jordan. At the request of the Government of Jordan, approximately 2,850 United States military personnel are deployed to Jordan to support defeat-ISIS operations and the security of Jordan and to promote regional stability. These forces will remain in Jordan, in full coordination with the Government of Jordan, until the security situation becomes such that they are no longer needed.

Turkey. United States forces, including strike and combat support aircraft with associated United States military personnel, remain deployed to Turkey to support defeat-ISIS operations and to support the defense of Turkey, at the Turkish government's request.

East Africa Region. In Somalia, United States forces continue to counter the terrorist threat posed by al-Qa'ida and its Somalia-based associated force, al-Shabaab, and ISIS-Somalia. United States forces also advise, assist, and accompany regional forces, including Somali and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) forces, during counterterrorism operations. Additional United States forces are deployed to Kenya to support counterterrorism operations in East Africa.

Djibouti. United States forces continue to partner with Government of Djibouti authorities, which have permitted use of Djiboutian territory for basing of United States forces. United States forces remain deployed to Djibouti, including for purposes of posturing for counterterrorism and counter-piracy operations in the Horn of Africa and Arabian Peninsula and contingency support for embassy security augmentation in East Africa, as required.

Libya. United States forces conducted airstrikes -- beginning in May 2016 -- against ISIS targets in Libya, including in support of efforts by forces aligned with the Libyan Government of National Accord to recapture the city of Sirte from ISIS, until December 19, 2016. United States forces reinitiated airstrikes against ISIS targets south of Sirte for a limited period, from January 18 to January 19, 2017. These airstrikes were conducted at the request of and with the consent of the Government of National Accord.

Lake Chad Basin Region. United States military personnel in the Lake Chad Basin continue to provide a wide variety of support to African partners conducting counterterrorism operations in the region. In Niger, there are approximately 645 United States military personnel deployed to support these missions. In Cameroon, approximately 300 United States military personnel are also deployed, the bulk of whom are supporting United States airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance operations in the region. These forces are equipped with weapons for the purpose of providing their own force protection and security, and they will remain in Cameroon, with the consent of the Government of Cameroon, until their support is no longer needed.

Cuba. Combat-equipped forces, deployed since January 2002 to the Naval Base, Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, continue to conduct humane and secure detention operations for detainees held at Guantánamo Bay under the authority provided by the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40), as informed by the law of war. There were 41 such detainees as of the date of this report.

MILITARY OPERATIONS RELATED TO THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY

Beginning in 2011, United States military personnel with appropriate combat equipment deployed to various countries in the central Africa region to serve as advisors to regional forces of the African Union Regional Task Force working to apprehend or remove Joseph Kony and other senior Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leaders from the battlefield and to protect local populations. The United States military counter-LRA mission ended on April 26, 2017. United States military personnel remaining in Uganda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic are conducting retrograde activities. The number of United States military personnel still deployed to those countries in the central Africa region is approximately 410.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN SYRIA

As I previously reported, on April 6, 2017, at my direction, United States forces in the Mediterranean Sea operating beyond the territorial sea of any state struck the Shayrat military airfield in Syria. These strikes were in response to the chemical weapons attack on Syrian civilians in southern Idlib Province, Syria, on April 4, 2017.

MILITARY OPERATIONS IN EGYPT

Approximately 700 military personnel are assigned to or supporting the United States contingent of the Multinational Force and Observers, which have been present in Egypt since 1981.

MILITARY OPERATIONS RELATED TO THE SECURITY OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS AND PROPERTY IN SOUTH SUDAN

My predecessor previously reported the deployment of United States military personnel with appropriate combat equipment to South Sudan to support the security of United States citizens and property in South Sudan, including of our Embassy in Juba. That military mission ended in late January 2017.

UNITED STATES/NATO OPERATIONS IN KOSOVO

The United Nations Security Council authorized Member States to establish a NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Resolution 1244 on June 10, 1999. The original mission of KFOR was to monitor, verify, and, when necessary, enforce compliance with the Military Technical Agreement between NATO and the then-Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (now Serbia), while maintaining a safe and secure environment. Today, KFOR deters renewed hostilities in cooperation with local authorities, bilateral partners, and international institutions. The principal military tasks of KFOR forces are to help maintain a safe and secure environment and to ensure freedom of movement throughout Kosovo. The United States contribution to KFOR is approximately 660 United States military personnel out of the total strength of approximately 4,080 personnel.

I have directed the participation of U.S. Armed Forces in all of these operations pursuant to my constitutional and statutory authority as Commander in Chief and as Chief Executive (including the authority to carry out Public Law 107-40 and other statutes), as well as my constitutional and

statutory authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States. Officials of my Administration and I communicate regularly with the leadership and other Members of Congress with regard to these deployments and we will continue to do so.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Stabilization of Iraq

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Stabilization of Iraq

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ

On May 22, 2003, by Executive Order 13303, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq.

The obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, and Executive Order 13668 of May 27, 2014, must continue in effect beyond May 22, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 16, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 13, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days of the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice

stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with that provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine democratic processes or institutions of Belarus that was declared in Executive Order 13405 of June 16, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond June 16, 2017.

The actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Belarus and other persons to undermine democratic processes or institutions of Belarus, to commit human rights abuses related to political repression, and to engage in public corruption continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13405 with respect to Belarus.

Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Western Balkans

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2017

Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Western Balkans

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT
TO THE WESTERN BALKANS

On June 26, 2001, by Executive Order 13219, the President declared a national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706), to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo. The President subsequently amended that order in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, to take additional steps with respect to acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia.

The actions of persons threatening the peace and international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans, including acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared on June 26, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date and thereafter to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond June 26, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans declared in Executive Order 13219.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

June 21, 2017.

A Message to the Congress of the United States on the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Western Balkans

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2017

A Message to the Congress of the United States on the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Western Balkans

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days of the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with that provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2017.

The threat constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting (i) extremist violence in the Republic of Macedonia and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, has not been resolved. In addition, Executive Order 13219 was amended by Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, to take additional steps with respect to acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 relating to Macedonia.

The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity outlined in these Executive Orders are hostile to United States interests and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

June 21, 2017.

Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to North Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2017

Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to North Korea

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY

WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA

On June 26, 2008, by Executive Order 13466, the President declared a national emergency with respect to North Korea pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula. The President also found that it was necessary to maintain certain restrictions with respect to North Korea that would otherwise have been lifted pursuant to Proclamation 8271 of June 26, 2008, which terminated the exercise of authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1-44) with respect to North Korea.

On August 30, 2010, the President signed Executive Order 13551, which expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the continued actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, manifested by its unprovoked attack that resulted in the sinking of the Republic of Korea Navy ship Cheonan and the

deaths of 46 sailors in March 2010; its announced test of a nuclear device and its missile launches in 2009; its actions in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874, including the procurement of luxury goods; and its illicit and deceptive activities in international markets through which it obtains financial and other support, including money laundering, the counterfeiting of goods and currency, bulk cash smuggling, and narcotics trafficking, which destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region.

On April 18, 2011, the President signed Executive Order 13570 to take additional steps to address the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 and expanded in Executive Order 13551 that would ensure the implementation of the import restrictions contained in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874 and complement the import restrictions provided for in the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.).

On January 2, 2015, the President signed Executive Order 13687 to expand the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, expanded in Executive Order 13551, and addressed further in Executive Order 13570, to address the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, including its destructive, coercive cyber-related actions during November and December 2014, actions in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718, 1874, 2087, and 2094, and commission of serious human rights abuses.

On March 15, 2016, the President signed Executive Order 13722 to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps in subsequent Executive Orders, to address the Government of North Korea's continuing pursuit of its nuclear and missile programs, as evidenced by its February 7, 2016, launch using ballistic missile technology and its January 6, 2016, nuclear test in violation of its obligations pursuant to numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions and in contravention of its commitments under the September 19, 2005, Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, that increasingly imperils the United States and its allies.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551, addressed further in Executive Order 13570, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and the measures taken to deal with that national emergency, must continue in effect beyond June 26, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to North Korea declared in Executive Order 13466.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

June 21, 2017.

A Message to the Congress of the United States on the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to North Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 21, 2017

A Message to the Congress of the United States on the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to North Korea

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days of the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with that provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2017.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to North Korea.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
June 21, 2017.

A Message to the Congress of the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 11, 2017

A Message to the Congress of the United States

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Consistent with subsection 401(b) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(b), and subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") that amends Executive Order 13761 of January 13, 2017, by changing certain effective dates and revokes a reporting requirement in that order.

The order changes the date by which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, is to provide a report to the President on the Government of Sudan's progress in sustaining the positive actions taken by the Government of Sudan that gave rise to Executive Order 13761, from July 12, 2017, to October 12, 2017. The order also changes from July 12, 2017, to October 12, 2017, the effective date for the revocation of sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and the entirety of Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, provided that the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, publishes on or before October 12, 2017, a notice in the Federal Register stating that the Government of Sudan has sustained the positive actions that gave rise to the order and has provided to the President the report described above.

The order revokes the requirement in Executive Order 13761 to provide an updated version of the report annually thereafter and, concurrent with those reports, to publish in the Federal Register a notice stating whether the Government of Sudan has sustained the positive actions that gave rise to Executive Order 13761.

The President issued Executive Orders 13067 and 13412, among other orders, to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan, including support for international terrorism; efforts to destabilize neighboring governments; and the prevalence of human rights violations.

In Executive Order 13761, the President determined that the situation that gave rise to the actions taken in Executive Order 13067 and Executive Order 13412 related to the policies and actions of the Government of Sudan had been altered by Sudan's positive actions over the prior 6 months. Executive Order 13761 directed the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and based on a consideration of relevant and credible information from available sources, including nongovernmental organizations, on or before July 12, 2017, to provide a report to the President on the Government of Sudan's progress in sustaining its positive actions that gave rise to Executive Order 13761. Executive Order 13761 further provided that if the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, published on or before July 12, 2017, a notice in the Federal Register stating that the Government of Sudan had sustained the positive actions that gave rise to Executive Order 13761 and had provided to the President the report described above, the revocation of sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 13067 and the revocation of Executive Order 13412 would become effective.

While the Government of Sudan has made some progress in areas identified in Executive Order 13761, I have decided that more time is needed for this review to establish that the Government of Sudan has demonstrated sufficient positive action across all of those areas.

For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to amend the effective date to October 12, 2017, to provide the report required by Executive Order 13761 and revoke sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 13067 and Executive Order 13412, provided that further action is taken by the Secretary of State, as set forth in Executive Order 13761, and to revoke the subsequent annual reporting requirement in Executive Order 13761.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

July 11, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release August 25, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), I hereby report that I have signed an Executive Order with respect to Venezuela that takes additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015.

The Executive Order prohibits transactions related to provision of financing for, and other dealings in (i) new debt of Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PdVSA) with a maturity of greater than 90 days, (ii) new debt of the rest of the Government of Venezuela with a maturity of greater than 30 days, (iii) new equity of the Government of Venezuela (including PdVSA), (iv) bonds issued by the Government of Venezuela before the effective date of this Executive Order, and (v) dividend payments or other distributions of profit to the Government of Venezuela from any entity owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by that government. The Executive Order also prohibits purchases of securities from the Government of Venezuela. The Secretary of the Treasury has authority to issue general licenses to mitigate hardship to the American and Venezuelan people and any negative unintended consequences that may result from this action.

I have authorized the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including promulgating rules and regulations and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the Executive Order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 08, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

In accordance with section 114(c) of division D of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018 and Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2017 (the "Act"), I hereby designate for Overseas Contingency Operations/Global War on Terrorism all funding (including the rescission of funds) and contributions from foreign governments so designated by the Congress in the Act pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts.

The details of this action are set forth in the enclosed memorandum from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Sincerely,

DONALD J. TRUMP

A Message to the Congress of the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 11, 2017

A Message to the Congress of the United States

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days of the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice

stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared in Proclamation 7463 of September 14, 2001, "National Emergency by Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks," is to continue in effect beyond September 14, 2017.

The threat of terrorism that resulted in the declaration of a national emergency on September 14, 2001, continues. The authorities that have been invoked under that declaration of a national emergency continue to be critical to the ability of the Armed Forces of the United States to perform essential missions in the United States and around the world to address the continuing threat of terrorism. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, in response to certain terrorist attacks.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE
September 11, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 11, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks

NOTICE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN TERRORIST ATTACKS

Consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency previously declared on September 14, 2001, in Proclamation 7463, with respect to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States.

Because the terrorist threat continues, the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, and the powers and authorities adopted to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond September 14, 2017. Therefore, I am continuing in effect for an additional year the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, in response to certain terrorist attacks. This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 11, 2017.

Order Regarding the Proposed Acquisition of Lattice Semiconductor Corporation by China Venture Capital Fund Corporation Limited

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release September 13, 2017

Order Regarding the Proposed Acquisition of Lattice Semiconductor Corporation by China Venture Capital Fund Corporation Limited

ORDER

REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACQUISITION OF LATTICE SEMICONDUCTOR CORPORATION BY CHINA VENTURE CAPITAL FUND CORPORATION LIMITED

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as amended (section 721), 50 U.S.C. 4565, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1. Findings. (a) There is credible evidence that leads me to believe that (1) Canyon Bridge Merger Sub, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware (Merger Sub); (2) Merger Sub's parent companies Canyon Bridge Acquisition Company, Inc., a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware (Acquisition Company), Canyon Bridge Capital Investment Limited, an entity organized under the laws of the Cayman Islands (Capital Investment), and Canyon Bridge Fund I, LP (CBFI), a limited partnership organized under the laws of Delaware; and (3) CBFI's limited partner Yitai Capital Limited, a company organized under the laws of Hong Kong (Yitai), and Yitai's parent company China Venture Capital Fund Corporation Limited, a corporation organized under the laws of the People's Republic of China (CVCF and, together with Merger Sub, Acquisition Company, Capital Investment, CBFI, and Yitai, the Purchasers), through exercising control of Lattice Semiconductor Corporation, a corporation organized under the laws of Delaware (Lattice), might take action that threatens to impair the national security of the United States; and

(b) Provisions of law, other than section 721 and the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), do not, in my judgment, provide adequate and appropriate authority for me to protect the national security in this matter.

Sec. 2. Actions Ordered and Authorized. On the basis of the findings set forth in section 1 of this order, considering the factors described in subsection 721(f) of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as appropriate, and pursuant to my authority under applicable law, including section 721, I hereby order that:

(a) The proposed acquisition of Lattice by the Purchasers (the proposed transaction) is prohibited, and any substantially equivalent transaction, whether effected directly or indirectly by the Purchasers, through the Purchasers' shareholders or shareholders' immediate, intermediate, or ultimate foreign person beneficial owners, or through the Purchasers' subsidiaries, is also prohibited.

(b) The Purchasers and Lattice shall take all steps necessary to fully and permanently abandon the proposed transaction not later than 30 days after the date of this order, unless such date is extended by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) for a period not to exceed 90 days, on such conditions as CFIUS may require. Immediately upon completion of all steps necessary to terminate the proposed transaction, the Purchasers and Lattice shall certify in writing to CFIUS that such termination has been effected in accordance with this order and that all steps necessary to fully and permanently abandon the proposed transaction have been completed.

(c) From the date of this order until the Purchasers and Lattice provide a certification of termination of the proposed transaction to CFIUS pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Purchasers and Lattice shall certify to CFIUS on a weekly basis that they are in compliance with this order and include with that certification a description of all efforts to permanently abandon the proposed transaction and a timeline for projected completion of remaining actions necessary to effectuate the abandonment.

(d) Any transaction or other device entered into or employed for the purpose of, or with the effect of, avoiding or circumventing this order is prohibited.

(e) The Attorney General is authorized to take any steps necessary to enforce this order.

Sec. 3. Reservation. I hereby reserve my authority to issue further orders with respect to the Purchasers or Lattice as shall in my judgment be necessary to protect the national security of the United States.

Sec. 4. Publication and Transmittal. (a) This order shall be published in the Federal Register.

(b) I hereby direct the Secretary of the Treasury to transmit a copy of this order to the parties to the proposed transaction named in section 1 of this order.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
September 13, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 16, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days of the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2017.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency continue to exist. The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia.

Sincerely,
DONALD J. TRUMP

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 23, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days of the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in, or in relation to, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2017.

The situation in, or in relation to, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues

to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the situation in, or in relation to, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 23, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 31, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States
TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Sudan declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 2017.

Despite recent positive developments, the crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067; the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006; and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, Executive Order 13761 of January 13, 2017, and Executive Order 13804 of July 11, 2017, has not been resolved. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. I have, therefore, determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067, as expanded by Executive Order 13400, with respect to Sudan.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 31, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 16, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA

On October 21, 1995, by Executive Order 12978, the President declared a national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia pursuant to the International

Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States constituted by the actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia and the extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm such actions cause in the United States and abroad.

The actions of significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to threaten the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For this reason, the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, and the measures adopted pursuant thereto to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 21, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

October 16, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 23, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Democratic Republic of the Congo

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

On October 27, 2006, by Executive Order 13413, the President declared a national emergency with respect to the situation in, or in relation to, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706), ordered related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in that country. The President took this action to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in, or in relation to, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities and continues to threaten regional stability. The President took additional steps to address this national emergency in Executive Order 13671 of July 8, 2014.

The situation in, or in relation to, the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, as amended by Executive Order 13671 of July 8, 2014, and the measures adopted to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond October 27, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to the situation in, or in relation to, the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413, as amended by Executive Order 13671.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

October 23, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Sudan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 31, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Sudan
NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SUDAN

On November 3, 1997, by Executive Order 13067, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Sudan pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) and took related steps to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan. On April 26, 2006, by Executive Order 13400, the President determined that the conflict in Sudan's Darfur region posed an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067, and ordered the blocking of property of certain persons connected to the Darfur region. On October 13, 2006, by Executive Order 13412, the President took additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067 and expanded in Executive Order 13400. In Executive Order 13412, the President also took steps to implement the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-344).

On January 13, 2017, by Executive Order 13761, the President found that positive efforts by the Government of Sudan between July 2016 and January 2017 improved certain conditions that Executive Orders 13067 and 13412 were intended to address. Given these developments, and in order to encourage the Government of Sudan to sustain and enhance these efforts, section 1 of Executive Order 13761 provided that sections 1 and 2 of Executive Order 13067 and the entirety of Executive Order 13412 would be revoked as of July 12, 2017, provided that the criteria in section 12(b) of Executive Order 13761 had been met.

On July 11, 2017, by Executive Order 13804, I amended Executive Order 13761, extending until October 12, 2017, the effective date in section 1 of Executive Order 13761.

Despite recent positive developments, the crisis constituted by the actions and policies of the Government of Sudan that led to the declaration of a national emergency in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997; the expansion of that emergency in Executive Order 13400 of April 26, 2006; and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13412 of October 13, 2006, Executive Order 13761 of January 13, 2017, and Executive Order 13804 of July 11, 2017, has not been resolved. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. I have, therefore, determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13067, as expanded by Executive Order 13400, with respect to Sudan.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
October 31, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 06, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice, stating that the national emergency with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that was declared in Executive Order 12938 of November 14, 1994, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

November 6, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 06, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I ask the Congress to consider the enclosed Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Budget amendments for the Department of Defense (DOD). The request includes an additional \$4.0 billion to support urgent missile defeat and defense enhancements to counter the threat from North Korea, \$0.7 billion to repair damage to U.S. Navy ships, and \$1.2 billion in support of my Administration's South Asia strategy.

This request supports additional efforts to detect, defeat, and defend against any North Korean use of ballistic missiles against the United States, its deployed forces, allies, or partners. The request also includes costs necessary to repair damage to and restore the operational readiness of the USS John S. McCain and the USS Fitzgerald. These ships provide critical naval presence and additional ballistic missile defense capabilities in the Asia-Pacific theater. My Administration requests that the funding requested for missile defense and Navy ship repairs be designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (the "Act").

This request also includes costs associated with increased U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan in support of my Administration's South Asia strategy. The additional resources would enable DOD to deploy an additional 3,500 troops, and includes funding for urgent needs and special operations forces capabilities. My Administration requests that the funding to support the South Asia strategy be designated as Overseas Contingency Operations pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(ii) of the Act.

In addition, I ask the Congress to act on the FY 2018 Budget request for the border wall of \$1.6 billion within the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Procurement, Construction, and Improvements account. Providing for the safety and security of the American people is my top priority. That priority is reflected in both the enclosed DOD Budget amendments and the border wall request, which provides the down payment on what CBP needs to secure the southwest border.

The details of the DOD Budget amendments are set forth in the enclosure from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. The border wall request was set forth in the FY 2018 Budget request.

Sincerely,
DONALD J. TRUMP

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Iran

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Iran

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO IRAN

On November 14, 1979, in Executive Order 12170, the President declared a national emergency with respect to Iran pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Our relations with Iran have not yet normalized, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is ongoing. For this reason, the national emergency declared on November 14, 1979, and the measures adopted on that date to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017. In accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to Iran declared in Executive Order 12170.

The emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 is distinct from the emergency declared in Executive Order 12957 on March 15, 1995. This renewal, therefore, is distinct from the emergency renewal of January 13, 2017.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 6, 2017.

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Text of a Letter from the President to the Congress of the United States

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 2017.

Our relations with Iran have not yet normalized, and the process of implementing the agreements with Iran, dated January 19, 1981, is ongoing. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12170 with respect to Iran.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 6, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Burundi

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Burundi
NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO BURUNDI

On November 22, 2015, by Executive Order 13712, the President declared a national emergency to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the situation in Burundi, which has been marked by the killing of and violence against civilians, unrest, the incitement of imminent violence, and significant political repression, and which threatens the peace, security, and stability of Burundi and the region.

The situation in Burundi continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared on November 22, 2015, to deal with that threat must continue in effect beyond November 22, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13712.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP
THE WHITE HOUSE,
November 6, 2017.

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Notice Regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction

NOTICE

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

On November 14, 1994, by Executive Order 12938, the President declared a national emergency with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons (weapons of mass destruction) and the means of delivering such weapons. On July 28, 1998, by Executive Order 13094, the President amended Executive Order 12938 to respond

more effectively to the worldwide threat of proliferation activities related to weapons of mass destruction. On June 28, 2005, by Executive Order 13382, the President, among other things, further amended Executive Order 12938 to improve our ability to combat proliferation activities related to weapons of mass destruction. The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering them continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For this reason, the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938 with respect to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of delivering such weapons must continue beyond November 14, 2017. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12938, as amended by Executive Orders 13094 and 13382.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

DONALD J. TRUMP

THE WHITE HOUSE,

November 6, 2017.

10. ИНФОРМАЦИЯ О ТЕЛЕФОННЫХ РАЗГОВОРАХ

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
January 22, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel

WASHINGTON, DC – President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu spoke today by phone to discuss ways to advance and strengthen the U.S.-Israel special relationship, and security and stability in the Middle East. The President emphasized the importance the United States places on our close military, intelligence, and security cooperation with Israel, which reflects the deep and abiding partnership between our countries. The President and the Prime Minister agreed to continue to closely consult on a range of regional issues, including addressing the threats posed by Iran. The President affirmed his unprecedented commitment to Israel's security and stressed that countering ISIL and other radical Islamic terrorist groups will be a priority for his Administration. The President emphasized that peace between Israel and the Palestinians can only be negotiated directly between the two parties, and that the United States will work closely with Israel to make progress towards that goal. The President invited Prime Minister Netanyahu to an early February meeting at the White House.

Readout of the President's Call With Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 24, 2017

Readout of the President's Call With Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

During a call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, President Trump emphasized that the United States considers India a true friend and partner in addressing challenges around the world. The two discussed opportunities to strengthen the partnership between the United States and India in broad areas such as the economy and defense. They also discussed security in the region of South and Central Asia. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi resolved that the United States and India stand shoulder to shoulder in the global fight against terrorism. President Trump looked forward to hosting Prime Minister Modi in the United States later this year.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

The White House
Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

January 26, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

Today, Vice President Mike Pence spoke with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. Foreign Minister Bishop congratulated the Vice President on the inauguration. The Vice President thanked Foreign Minister Bishop for Australia's steadfast partnership and contributions around the globe. The two reaffirmed the importance of continuing to strengthen the U.S.-Australia alliance to maintain peace and security in the region.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

January 28, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Trump and Prime Minister Abe spoke on the phone today to discuss the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance and cooperation on regional and global issues. President Trump affirmed the ironclad U.S. commitment to ensuring the security of Japan. The two leaders discussed the significance of Secretary of Defense Mattis's upcoming visit to the region, including Japan. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe said they would consult and cooperate on the threat posed by North Korea. The two leaders also committed to deepen the bilateral trade and investment relationship. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe agreed to meet in Washington, on February 10.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

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The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

January 28, 2017

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relationship. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe agreed to meet in Washington, on February 10.

Readout of the President's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 28, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Trump and Chancellor Merkel today held an extensive telephone conversation covering a range of issues, including NATO, the situation in the Middle East and North Africa, relations with Russia, and the Ukraine crisis. Both leaders affirmed the importance of close German-American cooperation to our countries' security and prosperity and expressed their desire to deepen already close German-American relations in the coming years. The President and Chancellor also agreed on the NATO Alliance's fundamental importance to the broader transatlantic relationship and its role in ensuring the peace and stability of our North Atlantic community. In this vein, the leaders recognized that NATO must be capable of confronting 21st century threats and that our common defense requires appropriate investment in military capabilities to ensure all Allies are contributing their fair share to our collective security. The leaders agreed on the need to strengthen already robust cooperation in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism, and to work to stabilize conflict areas in the Middle East and North Africa. The President accepted the Chancellor's invitation to attend the G-20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, in July, and said he looked forward to receiving the Chancellor in Washington soon.

Readout of the President's Call with Russian President Vladimir Putin

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 28, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Russian President Vladimir Putin

President Donald J. Trump received a congratulatory call today from Russian President Vladimir Putin. The call lasted approximately one hour and ranged in topics from mutual cooperation in defeating ISIS to efforts in working together to achieve more peace throughout the world including Syria. The positive call was a significant start to improving the relationship between the United States and Russia that is in need of repair. Both President Trump and President Putin are hopeful that after today's call the two sides can move quickly to tackle terrorism and other important issues of mutual concern.

Readout of the President's Call with French President Francois Hollande

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 28, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with French President Francois Hollande

President Trump spoke by phone today with President Francois Hollande of France to express his desire to strengthen U.S.-French cooperation on a range of issues, especially on counterterrorism and security. The leaders discussed our military and defense cooperation both bilaterally and

through NATO. President Trump reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to NATO and noted the importance of all NATO Allies sharing the burden on defense spending. The leaders also lauded our combined efforts to eliminate ISIS in Iraq and Syria. President Trump expressed his condolences for the loss of life in terrorist attacks in France over the past two years. The two leaders agreed to continue close coordination between Washington and Paris on issues of mutual concern.

Readout of the President's Call with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 28, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

President Donald J. Trump and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull spoke by phone for twenty-five minutes today. Both leaders emphasized the enduring strength and closeness of the U.S.-Australia relationship that is critical for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and globally.

Readout of the President's Call with King Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
January 29, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with King Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

President Trump spoke today with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The two leaders reaffirmed the longstanding friendship and strategic partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia. They agreed on the importance of strengthening joint efforts to fight the spread of radical Islamic terrorism and also on the importance of working jointly to address challenges to regional peace and security, including the conflicts in Syria and Yemen. The President requested and the King agreed to support safe zones in Syria and Yemen, as well as supporting other ideas to help the many refugees who are displaced by the ongoing conflicts. They also agreed on the importance of rigorously enforcing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran and of addressing Iran's destabilizing regional activities. The President voiced support for the Kingdom's Vision 2030 economic program. Both leaders expressed a desire to explore additional steps to strengthen bilateral economic and energy cooperation. The two leaders also discussed an invitation from the King for President Trump to lead a Middle East effort to defeat terrorism and to help build a new future, economically and socially, for the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the region. The President and King Salman closed by underscoring their personal commitment to continued consultations on a range of regional and bilateral issues.

Readout of the President's Call with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 29, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayid Al Nahayyan of the United Arab Emirates

President Trump spoke by telephone today with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayid Al Nahayyan of the United Arab Emirates. The two leaders reaffirmed the strong partnership between both countries and committed to further strengthen cooperation on fighting radical Islamic terrorism. They discussed recent developments in the Middle East, including the fight against ISIS and joint efforts to address the conflict in Yemen and elsewhere in the region. The President also raised the idea of supporting safe zones for the refugees displaced by the conflict in the region, and the Crown Prince agreed to support this initiative. The President and Crown Prince closed by underscoring their commitment to close consultations on issues of mutual concern.

Readout of the President's Call with Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of the Republic Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 29, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of the Republic Korea

READOUT OF THE PRESIDENT'S CALL WITH ACTING PRESIDENT HWANG KYO-AHN OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

President Trump and Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of the Republic of Korea (ROK) spoke by telephone today. Acting President Hwang congratulated the President on his inauguration. The two discussed the importance of the U.S.-ROK alliance. President Trump reiterated our ironclad commitment to defend the ROK, including through the provision of extended deterrence, using the full range of military capabilities. The two leaders agreed to take steps to strengthen joint defense capabilities to defend against the North Korean threat. They also discussed Secretary of Defense Mattis's upcoming visit to the ROK, noting that it reflects the close friendship between our two countries and demonstrates the importance of the U.S.-ROK alliance. They pledged to advance mutual security and prosperity. Finally, President Trump wished Acting President Hwang and the South Korean people a prosperous and happy lunar new year.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 04, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy to discuss strengthening bilateral cooperation across a range of shared interests, including security and counterterrorism. The leaders discussed Libya, the influx of migrants and refugees into Europe, as well as Italy's priorities, and the upcoming G-7 meeting in Italy. President Trump reiterated the U.S. commitment to NATO and emphasized the importance of all NATO allies sharing the monetary burden of defense spending. The leaders agreed to continue close coordination and cooperation on efforts to eliminate ISIS and other terrorist organizations. President Trump agreed to attend the G-7

Summit in Taormina, Italy in May, and said he looked forward to meeting with the Prime Minister at that time.

Readout of the President's Call with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 04, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine

President Donald J. Trump just had [5 p.m. Saturday] a very good call with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine to address a variety of topics, including Ukraine's long-running conflict with Russia. "We will work with Ukraine, Russia, and all other parties involved to help them restore peace along the border," said President Trump. Also discussed was the potential for a meeting in the near future.

Readout of the President's Call with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 05, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg about the United States' strong support for NATO. The leaders discussed how to encourage all NATO allies to meet their defense spending commitments. Additionally, the parties discussed the potential for a peaceful resolution of the conflict along the Ukrainian border. The parties agreed to continue close coordination and cooperation to address the full range of security challenges facing NATO. President Trump agreed to join in a meeting of NATO leaders in Europe in late May.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Bill English of New Zealand

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 05, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Bill English of New Zealand

President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Bill English of New Zealand spoke on the telephone today. The two leaders affirmed the close friendship and bilateral partnership between the United States and New Zealand. The two leaders discussed regional issues, including challenges to regional peace and security, and the President affirmed to the Prime Minister the U.S. commitment to strong and active engagement in Asia. President Trump expressed appreciation for New Zealand's significant contributions to international peace and security concerns.

Readout of the President's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 07, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump today spoke by phone with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey about the close, long-standing relationship between the United States and Turkey and their shared commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms. President Trump reiterated U.S. support to Turkey as a strategic partner and NATO ally, and welcomed Turkey's contributions to the counter-ISIS campaign.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of Spain

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 07, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of Spain

President Donald J. Trump today spoke with Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of Spain to reaffirm the strong bilateral partnership across a range of mutual interests. The leaders discussed shared priorities, including efforts to eliminate ISIS. President Trump reiterated the U.S. commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and emphasized the importance of all NATO allies sharing the burden of defense spending. The leaders agreed to continue close security, economic, and counterterrorism cooperation.

Readout of the President's Call with President Ghani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 09, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Ghani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

President Trump today spoke with President Ghani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and emphasized the ongoing importance of the U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership and his support for the National Unity Government. The leaders discussed opportunities to strengthen the bilateral relationship in areas such as security, counterterrorism cooperation, and economic development. President Trump looks forward to continuing a regular dialogue with President Ghani.

Readout of the President's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 09, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump and President Xi Jinping of China had a lengthy telephone conversation on Thursday evening. The two leaders discussed numerous topics and President Trump agreed, at the request of President Xi, to honor our "one China" policy. Representatives of the United States and China will engage in discussions and negotiations on various issues of mutual interest. The phone call between President Trump and President Xi was extremely cordial, and both

leaders extended best wishes to the people of each other's countries. They also extended invitations to meet in their respective countries. President Trump and President Xi look forward to further talks with very successful outcomes.

Readout of the President's Call with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait

President Trump spoke yesterday with His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait. The President reaffirmed the strong defense partnership between the United States and Kuwait and expressed appreciation to Kuwait for hosting U.S. military personnel. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen cooperation against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and other terrorist groups. They exchanged views on mechanisms to address Iran's malign regional activities. More broadly, both leaders agreed on the importance of strengthening bilateral economic and education cooperation, building on the progress achieved at the 2016 U.S.-Kuwait Strategic Dialogue. The two leaders agreed to remain in close contact on these and related issues.

Readout of the President's Call with His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar

President Trump spoke yesterday by telephone with His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Amir of Qatar. They reaffirmed the close defense cooperation between our two countries and committed to strengthen efforts to defeat violent terrorists. Regarding the situation in Syria, they agreed on the importance of defeating ISIS and establishing the conditions for a successful political transition. The two leaders committed to sustaining their efforts to strengthen economic and investment cooperation as well as stopping terror financing streams throughout the region. More broadly, they agreed on the importance of working with other regional partners to diversify their economies, invest in the region, and provide more effective governance so as to better meet the aspirations of a rising generation. They agreed to remain in close contact on these and related issues.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq to underscore the support of the United States for the Iraqi people in our shared fight against the terrorist group the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). President Trump emphasized the buildup of the United States military. President Trump also congratulated Iraqi forces on their recent progress in Mosul, thanked Prime Minister al-Abadi for his leadership, and expressed condolences for the many Iraqi lives lost in the counter-ISIS campaign. The two leaders discussed the strong partnership between the Iraqi and United States militaries, as well as the great sacrifice by both countries. Both leaders spoke to the threat Iran presents across the entire region. They also reaffirmed their commitment to the long-term partnership between the United States and Iraq grounded in the U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework Agreement.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

Vice President Mike Pence spoke by telephone today with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia. The two leaders discussed the important bilateral relationship between the United States and Colombia that has existed for many years, and they pledged to maintain and deepen their cooperation on security issues. The Vice President congratulated President Santos for the initial steps in implementing the Colombian peace accord. The two leaders vowed to remain in close communication on bilateral and regional priorities.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

Vice President Mike Pence spoke by telephone today with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina. The two leaders agreed that the United States and Argentina need to redouble their efforts to enhance job creation and economic growth in both countries. The Vice President underscored that Argentina's decision to host the G-20 Summit in 2018 provides a key opportunity to enhance Argentina's role in the global economy. The two leaders committed to maintaining an ongoing conversation on bilateral and hemispheric issues, and the Vice President noted that the President looks forward to speaking with President Macri soon.

Readout of the President's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 12, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru to reinforce the strong bilateral ties that exist between the United States and Peru. The two leaders agreed on the importance of building a foundation for robust economic growth in both countries. President Trump expressed concerns about developments in Venezuela, including that country's humanitarian situation, and the two leaders discussed the need to promote democratic governance throughout the Western Hemisphere. President Trump and President Kuczynski look forward to meeting with each other in the near future.

Readout of the President's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 13, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia over the weekend to underscore the importance of continuing the long history of cooperation with Colombia, one of our strongest allies in the Western Hemisphere. President Trump reiterated the value the United States places on the relationship, and both Presidents discussed U.S. support for Colombia's effort to create a just and lasting peace in its 52-year conflict with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). President Trump expressed concern about the situation in Venezuela, and the leaders discussed the importance of promoting respect for democratic institutions and norms throughout the Western Hemisphere. The two leaders look forward to meeting each other in the future.

Readout of the President's Call with President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 15, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria

President Donald J. Trump spoke this week with President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria to discuss the strong cooperation between the United States and Nigeria, including on shared security, economic, and governance priorities. President Trump underscored the importance the United States places on its relationship with Nigeria, and he expressed interest in working with President Buhari to expand the strong partnership. The leaders agreed to continue close coordination and cooperation in the fight against terrorism in Nigeria and worldwide. President Trump expressed support for the sale of aircraft from the United States to support Nigeria's fight against Boko Haram. President Trump thanked President Buhari for the leadership he has exercised in the region and emphasized the importance of a strong, secure, and prosperous Nigeria that continues to lead in the region and in international forums.

Readout of the President's Call with President Jacob Zuma of South Africa

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 15, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Jacob Zuma of South Africa

President Donald J. Trump spoke this week with President Jacob Zuma of South Africa to discuss ways to expand cooperation and trade between the United States and South Africa. President Trump highlighted the strong bilateral trade ties between the two countries and expressed interest in identifying new, mutually beneficial opportunities for trade. President Trump also suggested that the United States and South Africa do more to collaborate on shared security interests, including the fight against terrorism. Both leaders agreed to continue dialogue on these priorities and find ways to deepen the bilateral partnership.

Readout of the President's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 16, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina yesterday and emphasized the strong and enduring bilateral ties between the United States and Argentina. President Trump underscored the leadership role that he sees President Macri playing in the region. President Trump invited President Macri to visit Washington, D.C., in the coming months.

Readout of the President's Call with President Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 17, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Beji Caid Essebsi of Tunisia to discuss Tunisia's democratic transition and our counterterrorism partnership. President Trump praised Tunisia's stability and security as it continues its democratic transition more than six years after the revolution in January 2011. The two leaders also discussed the terrorist threats that Tunisia is facing and the importance of counterterrorism cooperation. The leaders reaffirmed the historic United States-Tunisia relationship and agreed to maintain close cooperation, including on security matters, and seek additional ways to expand cooperation between the two countries.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 23, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to reiterate America's strong bilateral cooperation with Canada. President Trump underscored the importance of America's relationship with Canada for addressing the problems facing both countries, as well as the opportunities for both countries. To that end, President Trump emphasized the importance of working closely with Canada on cross-border issues, including implementation of his Administration's actions to protect America from terrorist attacks by foreign nationals and others. The two leaders noted their desire to continue building on the countries' deep partnership, which has been strengthened by their meeting on February 13.

Readout of the President's Call with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 06, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu

President Donald J. Trump spoke by phone today with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The two leaders discussed the need to counter continuing threats and challenges facing the Middle East region. The Prime Minister thanked the President for his comments at the beginning of his speech before the Joint Session of Congress condemning anti-Semitism.

Readout of the President's Calls with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of South Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 06, 2017

Readout of the President's Calls with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of South Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke separately today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of South Korea to discuss North Korea's launch of ballistic missiles in clear violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions. President Trump emphasized the United States' ironclad commitment to stand with Japan and South Korea in the face of the serious threat posed by North Korea. He emphasized that his Administration is taking steps to further enhance our ability to deter and defend against North Korea's ballistic missiles using the full range of United States military capabilities. President Trump agreed with Prime Minister Abe and Acting President Hwang to continue close bilateral and trilateral cooperation to demonstrate to North Korea that there are very dire consequences for its provocative and threatening actions.

Readout of the President's Call with President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 07, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya to reaffirm the strong bilateral relationship between our two countries. The two leaders discussed our economic partnership and mutual dedication to overcoming terrorism and other regional security challenges through close cooperation. President Trump expressed appreciation for Kenya's significant contributions to the African Union Mission in Somalia and recognized Kenyan troops' sacrifices in the fight against al-Shabaab. The two leaders also discussed ways to boost bilateral trade and investment in Kenya and the broader East Africa region.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

President Donald J. Trump and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas spoke today by phone to discuss ways to advance peace throughout the Middle East region, including a comprehensive agreement that would end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The President emphasized his personal belief that peace is possible and that the time has come to make a deal. The President noted that such a deal would not only give Israelis and Palestinians the peace and security they deserve, but that it would reverberate positively throughout the region and the world. He underscored that such a peace agreement must be negotiated directly between the two parties, and that the United States will work closely with Palestinian and Israeli leadership to make progress toward that goal. The President noted that the United States cannot impose a solution on the Israelis and Palestinians, nor can one side impose an agreement on the other. The President invited President Abbas to a meeting at the White House in the near future.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 13, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to postpone the Chancellor's planned visit to the White House on March 14, due to inclement weather in the northeast region of the United States. Both leaders agreed to reschedule Chancellor Merkel's visit for Friday, March 17. The President and the Chancellor look forward to reaffirming their shared determination to stand together in confronting mutual challenges.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 22, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom to offer his condolences on today's terror attack in London and his praise for the effective response of security forces and first responders. He pledged the full cooperation and support of the United States Government in responding to the attack and bringing those responsible to justice.

Readout of the President's Call with the Chancellor of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 28, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with the Chancellor of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke with German Chancellor Angela Merkel to congratulate her on the outcome of the Saarland state election on March 26. The two leaders also used the occasion to reflect on the Chancellor's March 17 visit to the White House. The President said he looked forward to visiting Hamburg, Germany for the G-20 Summit on July 7th and 8th.

Readout of the President's Call with the Prime Minister of India

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 28, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with the Prime Minister of India

President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to congratulate him on the outcome of India's recent state-level elections. President Trump expressed support for the Prime Minister's economic reform agenda and emphasized his great respect for the people of India. President Trump also said he looks forward to hosting Prime Minister Modi in Washington later this year.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 29, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq today to thank him for the productive visit and meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 20. The President commended Prime Minister Abadi's leadership and the courage of the Iraqi Security Forces fighting ISIS in Mosul with the support of the United States and the Global Coalition against ISIS. The two leaders reiterated their commitments to political, economic, and security cooperation rooted in the Strategic Framework Agreement between the United States and Iraq. The President also praised the remarkable bravery and sacrifices of the Iraqi people in our shared fight against terrorism.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru to offer his condolences for the recent, tragic loss of life and devastation in Peru due to flooding and landslides. President Trump offered support to the Peruvian government during this tragedy.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia to express his condolences for the devastation caused by the country's recent mudslides. President Trump reiterated his support and offered the assistance of the United States Government.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation

President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation to condemn today's attack in St. Petersburg. President Trump expressed his deepest condolences to the victims and their loved ones, and to the Russian people. President Trump offered the full support of the United States Government in responding to the attack and bringing those responsible to justice. Both President Trump and President Putin agreed that terrorism must be decisively and quickly defeated.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release April 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump today welcomed President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt to the White House to continue efforts to strengthen the United States-Egypt strategic partnership and to mark a new day in the relationship between the countries. The United States and Egypt stand fully committed to addressing critical bilateral and international issues in a spirit of mutual respect and open cooperation. President Trump reaffirmed our deep and abiding commitment to Egypt's security, stability, and prosperity, and pledged continued support to Egypt's ongoing fight against terrorism and Egypt's historic economic reform program.

President Trump and President Al Sisi agreed on the critical importance of advancing peace throughout the Middle East including in Libya, Syria, and Yemen. They also expressed their

mutual interest in supporting the Israelis and Palestinians in moving toward a genuine and lasting peace.

President Trump and President Al Sisi agreed to continue coordinating military, diplomatic, and political efforts to defeat terrorism. Both leaders recognized that terrorism cannot be defeated solely by military force and pledged to explore ways to address the economic, social, political, and ideological factors that fuel terrorism. President Trump applauded President Al Sisi's courageous efforts to promote moderate understandings of Islam, and the leaders agreed on the necessity of recognizing the peaceful nature of Islam and Muslims around the world.

President Trump and President Al Sisi also agreed on the importance of deepening bilateral economic and commercial ties. American and Egyptian companies have built deep trade and investment relationships, and both countries' economies stand to benefit from further engagement in the years ahead. Egypt's ambitious homegrown economic reform plan, backed by a \$12 billion agreement with the International Monetary Fund, will help stabilize Egypt's economy and set the foundation for private-sector led growth and prosperity.

President Trump and President Al Sisi affirmed their governments' commitments to following up on President Al Sisi's historic visit and to continue the process of advancing and deepening the United States-Egypt partnership.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 05, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke today by telephone with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany. The leaders discussed several issues of mutual concern and interest, including the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the situation in Afghanistan. The leaders pledged close cooperation and coordination on these and other issues. They agreed to remain in close contact.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 05, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to discuss regional matters of concern, particularly North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile yesterday. The President emphasized that the United States stands with its allies Japan and South Korea in the face of the serious threat that North Korea continues to pose. The President also made clear that the United States will continue to strengthen its ability to deter and defend itself and its allies with the full range of its military capabilities. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe agreed to stay in close communication to enhance cooperation on North Korea and other regional issues of mutual interest.

Readout of the President's Call with King Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 08, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with King Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The King reaffirmed strong Saudi support for the United States' military strike against the Sayrat Airfield in Syria and thanked the President for his courageous action, which both agreed was a necessary response to the horrible chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians. Both leaders underscored their personal commitment to strengthening the longstanding relationship between their two countries and committed to remain in close contact on a range of regional and bilateral issues.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of South Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of South Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn of South Korea about recent developments in Syria. The leaders agreed that the use of chemical weapons, including Bashar al-Assad's April 4 attack on civilians, cannot be tolerated and that the international community should unite in its efforts to prevent further use of such weapons. President Trump thanked Acting President Hwang for his support for the United States strikes. The leaders also reaffirmed the strength of the United States- Republic of Korea alliance and agreed to stay in close touch regarding North Korea and other issues of mutual concern.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 09, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan about recent developments in Syria. The leaders agreed that Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons against civilians, including women and children, was abhorrent and warranted a strong response from the international community. President Trump thanked Prime Minister Abe for his support for the United States missile strikes in Syria, and the two leaders pledged to show continued resolve in response to al-Assad's brutal actions. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe also agreed to further cooperation on a range of regional issues, including the threat posed by North Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt to convey his deepest condolences to Egypt and to the families who lost loved ones in the heinous terrorist attacks against Christian churches on Palm Sunday. President Trump condemned the attacks that killed and injured dozens of Egyptians. The President also expressed his confidence in President Al Sisi's commitment to protect Christians and all Egyptians.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with the Commanding Officers of the USS Ross and USS Porter

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with the Commanding Officers of the USS Ross and USS Porter

Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump called Commander Andria Slough, Commanding Officer of USS Porter, and Commander Russell Caldwell, Commanding Officer of USS Ross, to thank them and their personnel for successfully executing the strike against the Shayrat Air Base in Syria, the location the regime of Bashar al-Assad used to launch a heinous chemical weapons attack against innocent civilians. The President commended the two commanders and their crews for the speed, precision, and effectiveness with which they carried out the operation. The President communicated that, as the Commander in Chief, he could not be more proud of the crews of USS Porter and USS Ross and their flawless execution of the operation.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Stefan Lofven of Sweden

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Stefan Lofven of Sweden

President Donald J. Trump spoke by phone yesterday with Prime Minister Stefan Lofven of Sweden to express condolences to the loved ones of those who were killed in Friday's terrorist attack in central Stockholm, and to wish a speedy recovery to those who were wounded. The two leaders agreed to maintain and strengthen the already close partnership between the United States and Sweden in the global fight against terrorism.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Calls with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Calls with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke separately today with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to discuss the United States' action in response to the Syrian regime's use of weapons of mass destruction against civilian men, women, and children on April 4. Prime Minister May and Chancellor Merkel expressed support for the action of the United States and agreed with President Trump on the importance of holding Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accountable. President Trump and his counterparts agreed to stay in touch regarding Syria and other international issues of mutual concern.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 12, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke last night with President Xi Jinping of China to follow up after President Xi's visit to Mar-a-Lago. It was a very productive call.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 17, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to congratulate him on his recent referendum victory and to discuss the United States' action in response to the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons on April 4th. President Trump thanked President Erdogan for supporting this action by the United States, and the leaders agreed on the importance of holding Syrian President Bashar al-Assad accountable. President Trump and President Erdogan also discussed the counter-ISIS campaign and the need to cooperate against all groups that use terrorism to achieve their ends.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump received a telephone call from Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom regarding her plans to call a special election in June. President Trump wished the British people the best of luck in their electoral process.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The two leaders addressed a range of regional and global issues of mutual concern.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with President Xi Jinping of China to address issues regarding North Korea. President Trump criticized North Korea's continued belligerence and emphasized that Pyongyang's actions are destabilizing the Korean Peninsula. The two leaders reaffirmed the urgency of the threat posed by North Korea's missile and nuclear programs, and committed to strengthen coordination in achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 24, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to address a wide range of issues of mutual concern. The leaders discussed the conflicts in Syria and Yemen and the urgent security challenge posed by North Korea. The President also reaffirmed our support for German- and French-led efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Ukraine on the basis of the Minsk agreements.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 25, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau spoke today. The two leaders discussed the dairy trade in Wisconsin, New York State, and various other places. They also discussed lumber coming into the United States. It was a very amicable call.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Peña Nieto of Mexico and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 26, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Peña Nieto of Mexico and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada

Late this afternoon, President Donald J. Trump spoke with both President Peña Nieto of Mexico and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada. Both conversations were pleasant and productive. President Trump agreed not to terminate NAFTA at this time and the leaders agreed to proceed swiftly, according to their required internal procedures, to enable the renegotiation of the NAFTA deal to the benefit of all three countries. President Trump said, "it is my privilege to bring NAFTA up to date through renegotiation. It is an honor to deal with both President Peña Nieto and Prime Minister Trudeau, and I believe that the end result will make all three countries stronger and better."

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 29, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines. It was a very friendly conversation, in which the two leaders discussed the concerns of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) regarding regional security, including the threat posed by North Korea. They also discussed the fact that the Philippine government is fighting very hard to rid its country of drugs, a scourge that affects many countries throughout the world. President Trump enjoyed the conversation and said that he is looking forward to visiting the Philippines in November to participate in the East Asia Summit and the U.S.-ASEAN Summit. President Trump also invited President Duterte to the White House to discuss the importance of the the United States-Philippines alliance, which is now heading in a very positive direction.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 30, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore. The two leaders affirmed their commitment to the close partnership between the United States of America and the Republic of Singapore. This partnership is marked by thriving trade and investment, robust security cooperation, and close collaboration on regional and global challenges. President Trump invited Prime Minister Lee to the White House to further strengthen ties.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha of Thailand

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release April 30, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha of Thailand

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha of Thailand. The two leaders underscored their commitment to the longstanding alliance between the United States and Thailand, which actively contributes to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. President Trump and Prime Minister Prayut expressed a strong shared interest in strengthening the trade and economic ties between the two countries. President Trump affirmed the commitment of the United States to playing an active and leading role in Asia, in close cooperation with partners and allies like Thailand, and invited Prime Minister Prayut to the White House.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 02, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation

President Donald J. Trump of the United States and President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation spoke today regarding Syria. President Trump and President Putin agreed that the suffering in Syria has gone on for far too long and that all parties must do all they can to end the violence. The conversation was a very good one, and included the discussion of safe, or de-escalation, zones to achieve lasting peace for humanitarian and many other reasons. The United States will be sending a representative to the cease-fire talks in Astana, Kazakhstan on May 3-4. They also discussed at length working together to eradicate terrorism throughout the Middle East. Finally, they spoke about how best to resolve the very dangerous situation in North Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President-Elect Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President-Elect Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President-elect Emmanuel Macron of France to congratulate him on his victory in the May 7th French presidential election. President Trump emphasized his desire to work closely with President-elect Macron in confronting shared challenges, and noted the long and robust history of cooperation between the United States and its oldest ally, France. The two leaders agreed to spend time together during the May 25th NATO leaders meeting in Brussels.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea to congratulate him and the Korean people on his great election victory and their peaceful, democratic transition of power. President Trump and President Moon agreed to continue to strengthen the United States-Republic of Korea alliance and to deepen the enduring friendship between our two countries. President Trump said he looks forward to working with President Moon and invited him to visit Washington at an early date. President Moon accepted the invitation.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Abdullah II of Jordan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 16, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Abdullah II of Jordan

President Donald J. Trump spoke with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan to reaffirm the importance of close and continued cooperation between the United States and Jordan on a range of shared priorities. The two leaders discussed efforts to end the crisis in Syria, and agreed on the urgent need to de-escalate violence and create conditions that can bring a lasting resolution to the conflict. The two leaders also discussed the President's upcoming trip to the Middle East. The President reiterated the commitment of the United States to Jordan's stability, security, and prosperity and thanked the King for Jordan's critical contributions in our shared fight to defeat ISIS.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 23, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke this morning from Jerusalem with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom about the apparent terrorist act in Manchester, England.

The two leaders agreed that this attack—which targeted teenage children and their friends at a joyous event—was particularly wanton and depraved.

The President reassured the Prime Minister that Americans stand with the people of the United Kingdom and that our resolve will never waiver in the face of terrorism. He offered American aid in the United Kingdom's investigation and vowed to continue the mutual fight against terrorism.

Both leaders commended the courage, speed, and professionalism of those who responded to the wounded, secured the innocent, and tended to the survivors and their families.

The President said he looks forward to seeing Prime Minister May in person this week and discussing America's unbreakable commitment to the United Kingdom and the ways both countries can work with allies and partners around the world to defeat terrorism.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 31, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan

President Donald J. Trump called President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan to convey his deepest condolences to the families and friends of those killed and injured in the murderous attack that took place this morning near the diplomatic zone in Kabul.

He condemned the attack, which occurred during the holy month of Ramadan, underscoring the barbaric nature of the terrorists who are enemies of all civilized peoples. President Trump commended the bravery of Afghan first responders, who worked quickly to support the wounded.

He also commended Afghan security forces for their steadfast efforts to defend the Afghan people from enemies who would seek to deny them the security and prosperity they so richly deserve. The United States Embassy is working with our Afghan and Coalition partners to assist the victims and help the National Unity Government pursue those responsible for this criminal attack.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Telephone Calls with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, President Emmanuel Macron of France, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, and Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 01, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Telephone Calls with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, President Emmanuel Macron of France, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, and Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke by telephone today with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, President Emmanuel Macron of France, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, and Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom. The President personally explained his decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Accord. He thanked all four leaders for holding frank, substantive discussions on this issue during his first months in office. He also reassured the leaders that America remains committed to the Transatlantic alliance and to robust efforts to protect the environment. He noted America's strong record in reducing emissions and leading the development of clean energy technology, and he reiterated that the United States under the Trump Administration, will be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth. The leaders all agreed to continue dialogue and strengthen cooperation on environmental and other issues going forward.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom today. The President offered his condolences for the brutal terror attacks on June 3 in central London. He praised the heroic response of police and other first responders and offered the full support of the United States Government in investigating and bringing those responsible for these heinous acts to justice.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The two leaders discussed the critical goals of preventing the financing of terrorist organizations and eliminating the promotion of extremism by any nation in the region. The President underscored that a united Gulf Cooperation Council is critical to defeating terrorism and promoting regional stability.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Amir Sheikh Tameem Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 07, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Amir Sheikh Tameem Bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Amir Sheikh Tameem bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar. The President emphasized the importance of all countries in the region working together to prevent the financing of terrorist organizations and stop the promotion of extremist ideology. The President reiterated that a united Gulf Cooperation Council and a strong United States-Gulf Cooperation Council partnership are critical to defeating terrorism and promoting regional stability. The President offered to help the parties resolve their differences, including through a meeting at the White House if necessary.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release June 07, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates. First, and most importantly, the leaders agreed on the importance of implementing agreements reached in Riyadh to counter extremism and to combat the funding of terrorist groups. Additionally, the President emphasized the importance of maintaining a united Gulf Cooperation Council to promote regional stability, but never at the expense of eliminating funding for radical extremism or defeating terrorism.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 09, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt. The two presidents agreed on the importance of all countries implementing the agreements reached in Riyadh to fight terrorism, counter extremism, and stop the funding of terrorist groups. President Trump also emphasized the importance of maintaining unity among Arab countries.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 09, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom to offer his warm support regarding the election. President Trump emphasized his commitment to the United States-United Kingdom special relationship and underscored that he looks forward to working with the Prime Minister on shared goals and interests in the years to come.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 16, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru to discuss bilateral and regional issues. President Trump discussed with President Kuczynski the new United States policy on Cuba. The two leaders affirmed the strong bilateral relationship between the United States and Peru. They also discussed the terrible situation in Venezuela.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 16, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada to address various aspects of the strong bilateral relationship between their two countries. President Trump commended Prime Minister Trudeau for Canada's recent announcement that it will increase military spending by 70 percent over the next decade. President Trump underscored the solid alliance that the United States enjoys with Canada.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 21, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia to congratulate him on his recent elevation. The President and the Crown Prince committed

to close cooperation to advance our shared goals of security, stability, and prosperity across the Middle East and beyond. The two leaders discussed the priority of cutting off all support for terrorists and extremists, as well as how to resolve the ongoing dispute with Qatar. They discussed efforts to achieve a lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. And they discussed ways to further deepen economic cooperation between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 27, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France to congratulate the French people on France's successful parliamentary elections. President Trump complimented President Macron for his leadership of the new political party that secured a majority in the French National Assembly and wished him luck in launching his legislative agenda. The two leaders also discussed the current situation in the Middle East and reviewed the agenda for the upcoming G20 Summit.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar of Ireland

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 27, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar of Ireland

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to congratulate him on his new role as the prime minister of Ireland. President Trump underscored the importance of the United States-Ireland relationship and invited Taoiseach Varadkar to participate in the traditional White House St. Patrick's Day celebration in March 2018.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 30, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey about numerous subjects, including ways to resolve the ongoing dispute between Qatar and its Gulf and Arab neighbors while ensuring that all countries work to stop terrorist funding and to combat extremist ideology. President Trump emphasized the importance of all our allies and partners increasing their efforts to fight terrorism and extremism in all its forms.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Calls with Gulf State Leaders

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 02, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Calls with Gulf State Leaders

President Donald J. Trump spoke separately today with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Abu Dhabi, and Emir Tamin bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar. On the calls, President Trump addressed his concerns about the ongoing dispute between Qatar and some of its Gulf and Arab neighbors. He reiterated the importance of stopping terrorist financing and discrediting extremist ideology. The President also underscored that unity in the region is critical to accomplishing the Riyadh Summit's goals of defeating terrorism and promoting regional stability. President Trump, nevertheless, believes that the overriding objective of his initiative is the cessation of funding for terrorism.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 02, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke this evening with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The two leaders exchanged views on the growing threat from North Korea, including their unity with respect to increasing pressure on the regime to change its dangerous path. They reaffirmed that the United States-Japan Alliance stands ready to defend and respond to any threat or action taken by North Korea. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe also discussed a range of other regional and global issues of mutual interest, and noted that they look forward to meeting at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 02, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Xi Jinping of China. President Trump raised the growing threat posed by North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. President Trump reiterated his determination to seek more balanced trade relations with America's trading partners. The two leaders also discussed a range of other regional and bilateral issues of mutual interest, and affirmed that they look forward to meeting at the G20 in Hamburg, Germany.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy to discuss the agenda for the upcoming G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany and to renew his appreciation for the Prime Minister's efforts in hosting the exceptional G7 Summit in May. President Trump also underscored his appreciation for Italy's efforts to address the significant Libyan migration crisis.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany about the upcoming G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. In an extensive discussion, the leaders addressed climate issues, the Women's Entrepreneurship Financing Initiative, and trade, including global steel overcapacity. The President said that he looks forward to helping Chancellor Merkel make the Summit a success.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 05, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump spoke today aboard Air Force One with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt to address the ongoing dispute between Qatar and its Arab neighbors. President Trump called on all parties to negotiate constructively to resolve the dispute, and he reiterated the need for all countries to follow through on their commitments at the Riyadh Summit to stop terrorist financing and discredit extremist ideology.

The two presidents also discussed the threat from North Korea. President Trump stressed the need for all countries to fully implement U.N. Security Council resolutions on North Korea, stop hosting North Korean guest workers, and stop providing economic or military benefits to North Korea.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 05, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini

The Vice President spoke by phone today with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini. The leaders agreed on the importance of the ongoing Conference on Cyprus in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, and expressed hope that the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders will agree to a settlement that would reunify Cyprus as a bizonal, bicommunal federation to the benefit of all Cypriots. The Vice President and High Representative and Vice President Mogherini also discussed trade and the Vice President's upcoming travel to Estonia, Georgia, and Montenegro.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot Leader Mustafa Akinci

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 06, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot Leader Mustafa Akinci

The Vice President spoke by phone today with President of the Republic of Cyprus Nicos Anastasiades and with Turkish Cypriot Leader Mustafa Akinci. The Vice President underscored to the leaders the United States' strong support for the Conference on Cyprus taking place in Crans-Montana, Switzerland. The Vice President urged President Anastasiades and Mr. Akinci to seize this historic opportunity to reunify the island and expressed his confidence in both leaders' ability to secure a settlement that would reunify Cyprus as a bizonal, bicommunal federation to the benefit of all Cypriots.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 11, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq. President Trump congratulated the Prime Minister on the liberation of Mosul by Iraqi Security Forces, which marks a major milestone in the fight against ISIS. The President praised the heroism of the Iraqi and American soldiers and underscored his commitment to the total defeat of ISIS. He stressed the need to consolidate gains to prevent ISIS or any other terrorist group from returning to liberated areas.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 14, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke today from Air Force One with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. King Salman congratulated President Trump on the victory over ISIS in Mosul. The two leaders discussed recent diplomatic efforts to resolve the dispute with Qatar and underscored the importance of following through on commitments from the Riyadh Summit. In particular, the President emphasized the need to cut all funding for terrorism and discredit extremist ideology.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Abdullah II of Jordan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 28, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Abdullah II of Jordan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with King Abdullah II of Jordan to discuss the events that transpired in the region over the past two weeks. Both leaders said they were encouraged by the efforts taken to de-escalate tensions and by the progress that has been made. They pledged to continue to stay in close communication. President Trump also emphasized Jordan's important role in regional security.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 30, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to address North Korea's launch of another intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The two leaders agreed that North Korea poses a grave and growing direct threat to the United States, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and other countries near and far. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe committed to increasing economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea, and to convincing other countries to follow suit. President Trump reaffirmed our ironclad commitment to defend Japan and the Republic of Korea from any attack, using the full range of United States capabilities.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

August 04, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France to explore how to increase cooperation in addressing the ongoing crises in Syria and Iraq and countering Iranian malign influence. They also talked about forging a political resolution in Libya and countering terrorist activity in the Sahel region of Africa. They agreed that the Maduro regime in Venezuela must restore the rights of the Venezuelan people and reaffirmed the importance of all sides implementing the Minsk agreements to reach a peaceful settlement in Ukraine. Finally, they discussed mutual interests regarding North Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea to discuss North Korea's July 28 launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. The two leaders affirmed that North Korea poses a grave and growing direct threat to the United States, South Korea, and Japan, as well as to most countries around the world. President Trump and President Moon welcomed the new United Nations Security Council resolution that unanimously passed 15-0. The leaders committed to fully implement all relevant resolutions and to urge the international community to do so as well.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

Vice President Mike Pence spoke today with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia. Prime Minister Turnbull offered his sympathy for the Osprey incident off the coast of Queensland, Australia. The two leaders discussed the recent counterterrorism operation in Sydney and agreed on the importance of fighting terrorism and radicalism in all their forms. Vice President Pence and Prime Minister Turnbull also discussed the grave and growing threat North Korea poses to countries near and far. Reflecting on joint counterterrorism initiatives and the shared North Korea threat, Vice President Pence and Prime Minister Turnbull reaffirmed the enduring bonds, deep friendship, and close alliance between the United States and Australia.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with President Xi Jinping of China. The leaders affirmed that the recent adoption of a new United Nations Security Council resolution regarding North Korea was an important and necessary step toward achieving peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. President Trump and President Xi agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behavior. The Presidents also reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. President Trump looks forward to seeing President Xi in China later this year, a meeting that will be a very historic event. The relationship between the two Presidents is an extremely close one, and will hopefully lead to a peaceful resolution of the North Korea problem.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Guam Governor Eddie Calvo

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Guam Governor Eddie Calvo

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Guam Governor Eddie Calvo. President Trump reassured Governor Calvo and our fellow Americans on Guam that United States forces stand ready to ensure the safety and security of the people of Guam, along with the rest of America. White House Chief of Staff John Kelly spoke separately to Governor Calvo earlier in the day.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France. They discussed the need to confront the increasingly dangerous situation associated with North Korea's destabilizing and escalatory behavior. President Trump and President Macron pledged to work together with allies and partners to enforce United Nations sanctions and achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. President Trump reiterated to President Macron the United States' commitment to stop the North Korean nuclear menace. President Trump stated that the United States is ready, along with its allies, to apply the full range of diplomatic, economic, and military measures to achieve that goal.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Telephone Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 15, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Telephone Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The two leaders exchanged views on the growing threat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), including the DPRK's most recent threats to United States and Japanese territory. President Trump reaffirmed that the United States stands ready to defend and respond to any threat or actions taken by North Korea against the United States or its allies, South Korea and Japan. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe also discussed a range of other regional and global issues of mutual interest.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 15, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to congratulate the 1.2 billion citizens of India, who will celebrate 70 years of freedom and independence on August 15. The leaders resolved to enhance peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific region by establishing a new 2-by-2 ministerial dialogue that will elevate their strategic consultations. As the leaders of two of the world's largest and fastest-growing major economies, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi looked forward to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in India this November. President Trump has asked Advisor to the President Ivanka Trump to lead the United States summit delegation. President Trump further welcomed the first ever shipment of American crude oil to India, which will occur from Texas this month, pledging that the United States would continue to be a reliable, long-term supplier of energy. Prime Minister Modi thanked President Trump for his strong leadership uniting the world against the North Korean menace.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Mariano Rajoy of Spain

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 18, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Mariano Rajoy of Spain

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Mariano Rajoy of Spain to extend his condolences to the victims and families of the August 17 terrorist attacks in Barcelona and Cambrils. President Trump pledged the full support of the United States in investigating the attack and bringing the perpetrators and their associates to justice.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

August 27, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump spoke on Thursday with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt to underscore the importance of the United States-Egypt relationship. President Trump emphasized that the United States will continue to work closely with Egypt on challenging regional and international issues.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 29, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to address North Korea's launch of a missile that overflowed Japanese territory. The two leaders agreed that North Korea poses a grave and growing direct threat to the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, as well as to countries around the world. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe committed to increasing pressure on North Korea, and doing their utmost to convince the international community to do the same.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 29, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

President Donald J. Trump spoke on the phone today with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore to discuss Hurricane Harvey response efforts. President Trump thanked Prime Minister Lee for his condolences and offer of assistance to support search and rescue operations, including the use of a Singaporean Air Force Chinook helicopter detachment that trains with the Texas Air National Guard. President Trump also thanked Prime Minister Lee for Singapore's support for the USS John S. McCain search, rescue, and recovery efforts. Finally, the two leaders discussed the grave threat posed by North Korea and its recent, unacceptable actions.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 30, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today by telephone with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan. The two leaders confirmed their continuing, close cooperation on efforts to address North

Korea's launch of an intermediate range ballistic missile that overflowed Japanese territory earlier this week.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 30, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The President and the King praised the resilience of the communities affected by Hurricane Harvey, and King Salman offered his condolences to the families who have lost loved ones. President Trump and King Salman also discussed the need to defeat terrorism, cut off terrorist funding, and combat extremist ideology. The President urged that all parties to the Qatar dispute find a diplomatic resolution that follows through on their commitments made at the Riyadh Summit, to maintain unity while fighting terrorism. The two leaders also addressed the threat Iran poses to the region.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 31, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

President Donald J. Trump today spoke with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada to address the continuing devastation from catastrophic flooding in Texas and Louisiana caused by Hurricane Harvey. President Trump thanked Prime Minister Trudeau and the people of Canada for their offer of assistance and underscored the close ties between our two nations. The two leaders also discussed the ongoing NAFTA renegotiation and stressed their hope to reach an agreement by the end of this year.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of South Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 01, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of South Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea to discuss our coordinated response to North Korea's continued destabilizing and escalatory behavior. They discussed the close and continuing cooperation between the United States, South Korea, and Japan to address this issue, following up on the recent meetings between the national security advisors of each country. President Trump and President Moon pledged to continue to apply strong diplomatic

and economic pressure on North Korea and to make all necessary preparations to deter and defend against the growing threat posed by North Korea. The two leaders agreed to strengthen our alliance through defense cooperation and to strengthen South Korea's defense capabilities. President Trump provided his conceptual approval of planned purchases by South Korea of billions of dollars in American military equipment

Readout of The President's Call with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 01, 2017

Readout of The President's Call with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan to discuss the two countries' 25-year relationship. President Trump and President Nazarbayev also discussed Kazakhstan's support for President Trump's recently announced South Asia strategy. President Trump expressed appreciation for Kazakhstan's regional and global leadership, including its upcoming tenure as Chair of the United Nations Security Council in January, and congratulated President Nazarbayev on hosting the Astana Expo 2017.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 01, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

President Donald J. Trump today spoke with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, who expressed solidarity with the United States and offered the support and sympathy of the Colombian people to Hurricane Harvey survivors. President Trump thanked President Santos and the Colombian people for their compassionate support of the communities devastated by the unprecedented flooding. The two leaders discussed the deteriorating political, economic, and humanitarian situation in Venezuela. Finally, President Trump stressed the importance of Colombia doing its utmost to eliminate the production and trafficking of illegal drugs.

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 02, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to discuss ongoing efforts to maximize pressure on North Korea. The two leaders reaffirmed the importance of close cooperation between the United States, Japan, and South Korea in the face of the growing threat from North Korea. President Trump noted that he looks forward to continued trilateral coordination on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 03, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to discuss North Korea's claimed test of a hydrogen bomb, on September 3. The two leaders condemned North Korea's continued destabilizing and provocative actions, confirmed the two countries' ironclad mutual defense commitments, and pledged to continue close cooperation. President Trump reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to defending our homeland, territories, and allies using the full range of diplomatic, conventional, and nuclear capabilities at our disposal.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 04, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to discuss North Korea's claimed September 3 test of a hydrogen bomb. The two leaders condemned North Korea's continued reckless and dangerous behavior and reaffirmed the importance of close coordination at the United Nations. President Trump noted that this latest provocation only serves to increase the international community's resolve to counter North Korea's prohibited activities. All options to address the North Korean threat are on the table.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of South Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 04, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of South Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea to discuss the allied response to North Korea's claimed September 3 test of a hydrogen bomb. Both leaders underscored the grave threat that North Korea's latest provocation poses to the entire world. The two leaders agreed to maximize pressure on North Korea using all means at their disposal. They also pledged to strengthen joint military capabilities. President Trump gave his in-principle approval to South Korea's initiative to lift restrictions on their missile payload capabilities. President Trump also provided his conceptual approval for the purchase of many billions of dollars' worth of military weapons and equipment from the United States by South Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia to discuss North Korea's claimed test of a hydrogen bomb on September 3. The two leaders condemned North Korea's belligerent actions and confirmed that their two countries will intensify joint efforts to denuclearize North Korea. President Trump reaffirmed his commitment to defending the homeland, territories, and allies of the United States, using all available diplomatic and military capabilities. The two leaders also discussed a range of global issues of mutual concern.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Telephone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Telephone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom to discuss North Korea's claimed September 3 test of a hydrogen bomb. They agreed that this latest reckless act only strengthens the world's determination to confront the growing North Korean threat. President Trump reiterated that now is not the time to talk to North Korea, and made clear that all options remain open to defend the United States and its allies against North Korean aggression. The two leaders resolved to continue working closely together on increasing diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea, and to call on others to do the same.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
September 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Xi Jinping of China to discuss North Korea's September 3 test of a powerful nuclear device. The two leaders condemned North Korea's latest provocative and destabilizing action and noted North Korea's current path is dangerous to the world and not in its own interest. President Trump and President Xi committed to strengthen coordination and take further action with the goal of achieving the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The two leaders discussed ways to continue advancing shared priorities, including enhancing security and prosperity in the Middle East. The two leaders also agreed that King Salman will visit the White House in early 2018

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Amir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar. The President underscored the importance of all countries following through on commitments from the Riyadh Summit to maintain unity while defeating terrorism, cutting off funding for terrorist groups, and combating extremist ideology. President Trump and Amir Tamim also discussed the continued threat Iran poses to regional stability.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France to extend his condolences for the devastation and loss of life on the French territories of St. Barthélemy and St. Martin due to Hurricane Irma. President Trump offered support to the French government during this tragic time.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 09, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. President Trump emphasized the common commitment of the United States and Turkey to work together to increase regional stability.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 12, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates to discuss efforts to resolve the ongoing dispute with Qatar. The President underscored the importance of unity among United States partners in the region and the need for all countries to do more to cut off funding for terrorist groups, discredit extremist ideology, and defeat terrorism.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 14, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico to extend his condolences for the lives lost and homes destroyed due to the earthquake and Hurricane Katia. President Trump expressed solidarity with the government and people of Mexico as both our countries respond to the recent spate of natural disasters. President Trump and President Peña Nieto both emphasized the continued need to work together on issues of mutual interest, including responding to natural disasters.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 15, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom to convey his sympathies and prayers for those injured in the terrorist attack today in London. The President pledged to continue close collaboration with the United Kingdom to stop attacks worldwide targeting innocent civilians and to combat extremism.

Readout Of President Donald J. Trump's Call With President Moon Jae-In Of The Republic Of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 17, 2017

Readout Of President Donald J. Trump's Call With President Moon Jae-In Of The Republic Of Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea. The two leaders discussed North Korea's launch of a ballistic missile that overflowed Japan, the second such launch over Japan in less than three weeks. The two leaders noted that North Korea continues to defy the international community, even after the United Nations strongly condemned North Korea's repeated provocations twice in the past week. President Trump and President Moon committed to continuing to take steps to strengthen deterrence and defense capabilities and to maximize economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea. The two leaders noted that they will continue their close consultations next week when they meet on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 18, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Xi Jinping of China to discuss North Korea's continued defiance of the international community and its efforts to destabilize Northeast Asia. The two leaders committed to maximizing pressure on North Korea through vigorous enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico to extend his condolences for the lives lost and damage caused by yesterday's earthquake in central Mexico. The President offered assistance and search-and-rescue teams, which are being deployed now. The President also pledged to continue close coordination with Mexico as the two countries respond to the recent earthquakes and hurricanes.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 23, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump today called Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to wish her country a successful election on September 24, when Germans go to the polls. President Trump underscored the steadfast bond between the United States and Germany.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 28, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to congratulate her on her election victory and wish her well in the formation of her fourth government. President Trump underscored the deep ties that bind our countries, our joint efforts to promote peace and prosperity, and the United States' commitment to our longstanding, strong alliance with the German government and the German people.

The leaders discussed how to counter Iran's malign activities in the Middle East, and addressed the nuclear deal and Iran's missile program, and its non-compliance with relevant United Nations resolutions. They also affirmed the importance of achieving the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 02, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom, who conveyed her condolences regarding the mass shooting in Las Vegas on Sunday night. President Trump thanked Prime Minister May and praised the first responders in Las Vegas for their immediate and continued actions.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 02, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada to accept the Prime Minister's condolences following last night's mass shooting in Las Vegas. President Trump also expressed solidarity with the people of Canada following the attacks in Edmonton over the weekend. President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau reiterated the close ties between the United States and Canada, commended the resilience of our communities, and offered to cooperate in the ongoing investigations.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 04, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico, who called to express condolences on behalf of the Mexican people for the loss of life in the Las Vegas tragedy. President Trump welcomed President Peña Nieto's expression of thanks for the rapid deployment of U.S. search and rescue teams to Mexico City following the devastating earthquake, as well as the two flights of relief supplies the United States shipped to southern Mexico to assist with recovery from the September 8 earthquake. President Trump and President Peña Nieto expressed their continued solidarity in the face of natural disasters and agreed to work cooperatively to restore communities as quickly as possible from Mexico City to Puerto Rico.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 04, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, who called to express his condolences to all of the victims and others affected by the senseless shooting in Las Vegas. The two leaders committed to continue close coordination on a range of issues, including North Korea, in advance of the President's visit to Japan in November.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France. President Macron expressed his condolences regarding the shooting in Las Vegas. President Trump welcomed President Macron's sympathies and expressed gratitude for the prompt actions of the first responders. President Trump conveyed his condolences regarding the knife attack in Marseille on October 2. The two leaders discussed joint counterterrorism operations in the Sahel region of Africa to defeat al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups. They reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They also discussed ways to continue working together to deny Iran all paths to a nuclear weapon.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman Jr.

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman Jr.

President Donald J. Trump met with U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman Jr., and his wife, Mary Kaye Huntsman, to wish them well as they return to Moscow to represent the United States and work toward improving our relationship with Russia.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Phone Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom to address ways to deny Iran all paths to a nuclear weapon. President Trump underscored the need to work together to hold the Iranian regime accountable for its malign and destabilizing activities, especially its sponsorship of terrorism and its development of threatening missiles. Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Joseph Dunford. The briefing and discussion focused on a range of options to respond to any form of North Korean aggression or, if necessary, to prevent North Korea from threatening the United States and its allies with nuclear weapons.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 15, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. King Salman praised President Trump for his visionary new Iran strategy and pledged to support American leadership. President Trump thanked King Salman for Saudi Arabia's support and emphasized the importance of the Gulf Cooperation Council in countering Iran's destabilizing activities in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and elsewhere in the region. The leaders agreed on the importance of the partnership between the United States and Saudi Arabia and discussed ways in which the two countries can combat terrorist groups and counter extremism.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi of Pakistan

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
October 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi of Pakistan

Vice President Mike Pence spoke with Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi by phone today. The Vice President thanked Abbasi for his government's assistance in recovering U.S. and Canadian hostages that were being held captive by the Haqqani Taliban Network in the tribal areas of Pakistan. Vice President Pence noted this effort as an important development in Pakistan's support to the U.S. strategy against terrorism in the region, but highlighted that cooperation against militant groups must be continued and sustained. Just as he did during the meeting the two had in New York last month, the Vice President again discussed ways that Pakistan could work with the United States and others to bolster stability and security for all in South Asia.

Readout Of President Donald J. Trump's Call With President Mauricio Macri Of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 18, 2017

Readout Of President Donald J. Trump's Call With President Mauricio Macri Of Argentina

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina. The two leaders underscored their continued commitment to expanding trade and investment between the United States and Argentina. President Trump praised President Macri's economic reform efforts. They also discussed the ongoing crisis in Venezuela and agreed to continue to work together to help the people of Venezuela restore democracy in their country.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister-Designate Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister-Designate Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister-Designate Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand to congratulate her on her recent election as prime minister. The two leaders underscored the importance of the bilateral partnership between the United States and New Zealand and pledged to continue close cooperation on the many priorities the two countries share.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 23, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to congratulate him on his recent electoral victory. The two leaders underscored the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific region, and a strong United States-Japan alliance. President Trump reaffirmed his desire to continue working closely with Prime Minister Abe, and said he looks forward to visiting Japan in early November.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 25, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Xi Jinping of China, on the occasion of the closing of China's Party Congress, to welcome continued cooperation of the two countries in the years ahead. President Trump told President Xi he looks forward to visiting China in early November, and to advancing joint efforts to denuclearize North Korea.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
October 26, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz

Today, Vice President Mike Pence spoke with Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz to congratulate him on his electoral success and the Austrian people on the successful conduct of their October 15 national elections. The Vice President expressed appreciation for Austria's contributions to global security efforts, and the leaders committed to continue U.S.-Austria cooperation on trade, counterterrorism, and defeating ISIS. The leaders reaffirmed the friendship between the United States and Austria and looked forward to continuing to strengthen the partnership between our nations.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
October 31, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan to discuss President Trump's upcoming travel to Japan. Both leaders affirmed the importance of promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific region and maintaining close coordination between the United States and Japan, and with the international community, to maximize pressure on North Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 01, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom. Prime Minister May conveyed her condolences regarding the terrorist attack in New York on October 31. President Trump and Prime Minister May agreed on the importance of closer counterterrorism coordination between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 01, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

Today, President Donald J. Trump spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and accepted his condolences following the October 31 terrorist attack in New York City. Prime Minister Modi strongly condemned terrorism, and offered thoughts and prayers for the victims and their families. The two leaders resolved that India and the United States will continue to fight together against the global scourge of terrorism.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 02, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina to express condolences on behalf of the American people for the loss of Argentine lives in the New York terror attack. President Trump underscored his full support of the ongoing investigation. He reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to work with close partners and allies like Argentina to prevent these cowardly acts of terror from happening. The two leaders also discussed ways to strengthen the strong bilateral ties between the United States and Argentina.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 05, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman of Saudi Arabia

President Donald J. Trump spoke yesterday with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. King Salman expressed his condolences for the recent terrorist attack in New York City. President Trump thanked the King for his support and emphasized America's commitment to defeating ISIS. The leaders also discussed the continuing threat of Iranian-backed Houthi militias in Yemen and last night's intercepted missile attack on Riyadh. They emphasized the importance of countering extremist ideologies and championing moderation and tolerance. The President commended the King on achieving the commitments he announced during the historic Riyadh Summit earlier this year, including launching the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center and the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology. President Trump thanked the King for military purchases, including a \$15 billion investment in Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) and billions more in commitments and investments. The President assured the King that he would support the purchase of appropriate military equipment that would keep Saudi Arabia safe and help create American jobs. The President asked the King to strongly consider listing Aramco on a stock exchange in the United States. Additionally, President Trump noted that the King and Crown Prince's recent public statements regarding the need to build a moderate, peaceful, and tolerant region are essential to ensuring a hopeful future for the Saudi people, to curtailing terrorist funding, and to defeating radical ideology – once and for all – so the world can be safe from its evil.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 18, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France about the situation in Lebanon and Syria. Both presidents agreed on the need to work with allies to counter Hizballah's and Iran's destabilizing activities in the region.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 21, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia

President Donald J. Trump today spoke with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia for more than one hour. The presidents affirmed their support for the Joint Statement of the United States and the Russian Federation, issued at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit on November 11. Both presidents also stressed the importance of implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 2254, and supporting the U.N.-led Geneva Process to peacefully resolve the Syrian civil war, end the humanitarian crisis, allow displaced Syrians to return home, and ensure the stability of a unified Syria free of malign intervention and terrorist safe havens.

The two presidents affirmed the importance of fighting terrorism together throughout the Middle East and Central Asia and agreed to explore ways to further cooperate in the fight against ISIS, al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and other terrorist organizations.

President Trump and President Putin also discussed how to implement a lasting peace in Ukraine, and the need to continue international pressure on North Korea to halt its nuclear weapon and missile programs.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 24, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. President Trump reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the United States and Turkey, particularly in combating terrorism in all its forms and fostering regional stability. On Syria, the two leaders discussed the importance of implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 and supporting the United Nations-led Geneva Process to peacefully resolve the civil war in that country. President Trump and President Erdogan underscored the need to end the humanitarian crisis, allow displaced Syrians to return home, and ensure the stability of a unified Syria free of malign intervention and terrorist safe havens. Consistent with our previous policy, President Trump also informed President Erdogan of pending adjustments to the military support provided to our partners on the ground in Syria, now that the battle of Raqqa is complete and we are progressing into a stabilization phase to ensure that ISIS cannot return. The leaders also discussed the purchase of military equipment from the United States.

Readout of the President's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 24, 2017

Readout of the President's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt to offer condolences to the people of Egypt after the heinous attack on worshippers in Egypt's North Sinai province. President Trump condemned the attack and reiterated that the United States will continue

to stand with Egypt in the face of terrorism. The international community cannot tolerate barbaric terrorist groups and must strengthen its efforts to defeat terrorism and extremism in all its forms.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 27, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France. The presidents agreed on the importance of the United Nations-based Geneva Process as the only legitimate forum for achieving a political solution in Syria. The leaders also stressed the need to confront and reverse Iran's destabilizing activities in Syria. Finally, President Trump and President Macron agreed on the need for all nations to impose and maintain maximum pressure on the North Korean regime to denuclearize.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 28, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of the Republic of Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea to discuss the alliance's response to North Korea's test of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Both leaders underscored the grave threat that North Korea's latest provocation poses not only to the United States and the Republic of Korea, but to the entire world. President Trump and President Moon reaffirmed their strong condemnation of North Korea's reckless campaign to advance its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, noting that these weapons only serve to undermine North Korea's security and deepen its diplomatic and economic isolation.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 29, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China to discuss North Korea's latest missile launch. President Trump underscored the determination of the United States to defend ourselves and our allies from the growing threat posed by the North Korean regime. President Trump emphasized the need for China to use all available levers to convince North Korea to end its provocations and return to the path of denuclearization.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 30, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Moon Jae-In of the Republic of Korea

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea for the second time since North Korea launched an intercontinental ballistic missile on November 28. The two leaders discussed next steps to respond to this most recent provocation by North Korea, including how to bring maximum pressure to bear on the regime. The presidents reiterated their strong commitment to enhancing the alliance's deterrence and defense capabilities. Both leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to compelling North Korea to return to the path of denuclearization at any cost. President Trump committed to sending a high-level delegation to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Emmanuel Macron of France
Issued on: December 4, 2017

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Emmanuel Macron of France. The Presidents agreed on the need for the Iraqi government and the Kurdistan Regional Government to resolve their differences through dialogue. President Trump and President Macron also discussed the path to peace in the Middle East. The conversation confirmed the close relationship between the United States and France as allies committed to stability in the Middle East and North Africa.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Calls with Leaders in the Middle East

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Calls with Leaders in the Middle East
Issued on: December 5, 2017

President Donald J. Trump spoke separately today with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel, President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority, His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan, President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt, and His Majesty King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. The President reaffirmed his commitment to advancing Israeli-Palestinian peace talks and the importance of supporting those talks. He underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation with each partner to advance peace efforts throughout the region. The leaders also discussed potential decisions regarding Jerusalem.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin of Russia

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin of Russia
Issued on: December 14, 2017

President Donald J. Trump spoke with President Vladimir Putin of Russia today. President Trump thanked President Putin for acknowledging America's strong economic performance in his annual press conference.

The two presidents also discussed working together to resolve the very dangerous situation in North Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Vladimir Putin

Issued on: December 17, 2017

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia called President Donald J. Trump today to thank him for the advanced warning the United States intelligence agencies provided to Russia concerning a major terror plot in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Based on the information the United States provided, Russian authorities were able to capture the terrorists just prior to an attack that could have killed large numbers of people. No Russian lives were lost and the terrorist attackers were caught and are now incarcerated. President Trump appreciated the call and told President Putin that he and the entire United States intelligence community were pleased to have helped save so many lives. President Trump stressed the importance of intelligence cooperation to defeat terrorists wherever they may be. Both leaders agreed that this serves as an example of the positive things that can occur when our countries work together. President Putin extended his thanks and congratulations to Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director Mike Pompeo and the CIA. President Trump then called Director Pompeo to congratulate him, his very talented people, and the entire intelligence community on a job well done!

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan

Issued on: December 19, 2017

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of Uzbekistan to discuss regional security and to explore opportunities for improved cooperation. President Trump and President Mirziyoyev discussed Uzbekistan's role in Central Asia, including its support for President Trump's South Asia strategy and United States efforts in Afghanistan. President Trump noted Uzbekistan's reform efforts, which will set the conditions for increased trade and improved security against terrorist threats.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

Issued on: December 19, 2017

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom. The two leaders exchanged holiday greetings and warm wishes for Christmas and the New Year. The Prime Minister offered her condolences for the tragic train accident in Washington State. The President and Prime Minister discussed next steps in forging peace in the Middle East. Both leaders also emphasized the urgency of addressing the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. President Trump congratulated the Prime Minister on the decision by European Union leaders to move to the second phase of the Brexit negotiations.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia

Issued on: December 20, 2017

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia. President Trump expressed solidarity with Saudi Arabia following the ballistic missile attack against King Salman's official residence, al-Yamamah palace, on December 19 – an attack enabled by the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. King Salman updated President Trump on the situation and briefed the President on Saudi Arabia's plan to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The leaders discussed the importance of engaging the United Nations to hold Iran accountable for its repeated violations of international law and agreed on the importance of reinvigorating a political process to end the war in Yemen.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

Issued on: December 29, 2017

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt to offer condolences to the people of Egypt after the attack on worshippers and security forces in the city of Helwan, which is located south of Cairo. President Trump condemned the attack and reiterated that the United States will continue to stand with Egypt in the face of terrorism. President Trump emphasized his commitment to strengthening efforts to defeat terrorism and extremism in all their forms.

11.

ИНФОРМАЦИЯ О ВСТРЕЧАХ

Joint Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
February 15, 2017

Joint Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Today, President Donald J. Trump welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the Oval Office and reaffirmed the special relationship and unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel. The tremendous strength of the United States-Israel relationship is reflected in the close partnership between our governments, and also in the ties that connect the peoples of Israel and the United States. Our deep-rooted political, military, economic, and social ties reflect our shared values, strategic interests, and dynamic economic and trade relationship.

In today's meeting, President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu agreed that there will be no daylight between the United States and Israel. The President underscored the United States' unwavering commitment to Israel's security, and that his Administration will safeguard and strengthen the overall security relationship. The President and Prime Minister agreed on the need to counter the threats posed by Iran and its proxies, in addition to countering the so-called "Islamic State" and other radical Islamic terrorist groups, so as to create a more secure Middle East to the benefit of all countries. The two leaders agreed that the Iran nuclear deal is a terrible deal for the United States, Israel, and the world. The President assured the Prime Minister that Iran must not, and will not, obtain nuclear weapons capability. The two leaders also discussed the crisis in Syria and other regional issues. The United States and Israel stand together facing a range of challenges, and the two leaders pledged to deepen cooperation to bring greater peace and stability to the Middle East and to protect the United States, Israel, and other nations from the global threat of terrorism.

President Trump reiterated his desire for peace throughout the Middle East, and for reaching a comprehensive agreement that would end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The President and Prime Minister agreed that peace between Israel and the Palestinians can only be negotiated directly between the two parties, and that the United States will work closely with Israel and the Palestinians to make progress toward that goal. The two leaders discussed the issue of Israeli settlement construction, and agreed to continue those discussions and to work out an approach that is consistent with the goal of advancing peace and security.

President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu agreed on their mutual goal of making the United States-Israel relationship even closer as both countries pursue shared interests in the region. The two leaders have directed their respective teams to form joint working groups in the months ahead to dramatically improve bilateral relations in a number of areas, including cyber, intelligence, security, trade, technology, countering the threats posed by Iran and other actors, and promoting Arab-Israeli cooperation, including economic cooperation. A working group will also focus on enabling the growth of the Palestinian economy.

It is a new day for the United States-Israel relationship, defined by a responsible approach to the challenges and opportunities our two countries face in the Middle East.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 16, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

This morning, Vice President Mike Pence hosted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for breakfast at the Vice President's Residence at the Naval Observatory. The two leaders reaffirmed the special relationship between the United States and Israel and underscored the unbreakable bond between our two countries. The Vice President reiterated the United States' unwavering commitment to Israel's security and pledged to work with Prime Minister Netanyahu to address the shared challenges we face throughout the Middle East, including the threats posed by Iran and its proxies as well as ISIS and other radical Islamic terrorist organizations. The two leaders discussed ways that the United States and Israel can work more closely together on critical issues such as cyber security, intelligence cooperation, and energy. They also agreed to work together against one-sided actions against Israel at the United Nations and other international forums, as well as boycotts that target Israel. The Vice President and the Prime Minister agreed that peace between Israel and the Palestinians can only be negotiated directly between the two parties, and that the United States will work closely with Israel and the Palestinians to make progress towards that goal.

Readout of the President's Meeting with Mohammed bin Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Crown Prince and Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 15, 2017

Readout of the President's Meeting with Mohammed bin Salman Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Crown Prince and Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Yesterday at the White House, President Donald J. Trump and Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman reaffirmed their support for a strong, broad, and enduring strategic partnership based on a shared interest and commitment to the stability and prosperity of the Middle East region. They directed their teams to explore additional steps across a broad range of political, military, security, economic, cultural, and social dimensions to further strengthen and elevate the United States-Saudi strategic relationship for the benefit of both countries. U.S. and Saudi officials intend to consult on additional steps to deepen commercial ties and promote investment, and to expand cooperation in the energy sector. The President and the Deputy Crown Prince noted the importance of confronting Iran's destabilizing regional activities while continuing to evaluate and strictly enforce the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The President expressed his strong desire to achieve a comprehensive, just, and lasting settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to continue the two countries' consultations to help reach solutions for regional issues. More broadly, the President and Deputy Crown Prince noted the ongoing security and military cooperation between the two countries in confronting Daesh/ISIS and other transnational terrorist organizations that pose a threat to all nations.

The two countries announced their determination to strengthen their cooperation in the economic, commercial, investment, and energy fields, with the aim of realizing growth and prosperity in the two countries and the global economy. President Trump provided his support for developing a new United States-Saudi program, undertaken by joint U.S.-Saudi working groups, and its unique initiatives in energy, industry, infrastructure, and technology worth potentially more than \$200 billion in direct and indirect investments within the next four years. The President also provided his support for United States investments in Saudi Arabia and the facilitation of bilateral trade, which will result in sizable opportunities for both countries. On energy, the two countries affirmed their desire to continue bilateral consultations in a way that enhances the growth of the global economy and limits supply disruption and market volatility.

The two countries highlighted that expanded economic cooperation could create as many as one million direct American jobs within the next four years, millions of indirect American jobs, as well as jobs in Saudi Arabia. The Deputy Crown Prince reviewed Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 program for the President and agreed to put in place specific bilateral programs to help both countries benefit from new opportunities created by the Kingdom's implementation of those new economic plans.

Readout of the President's Meeting with Taoiseach Enda Kenny of Ireland

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 16, 2017

Readout of the President's Meeting with Taoiseach Enda Kenny of Ireland

President Donald J. Trump met today with Taoiseach Enda Kenny of Ireland to discuss United States-Ireland economic and cultural ties as part of the White House St. Patrick's Day celebration. President Trump and the Taoiseach agreed on the importance of expanding the already powerful United States-Ireland trade relationship and of identifying new opportunities to collaborate on global issues. The leaders also discussed the consequences facing, and the opportunities available to, Ireland in the wake of the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union. Finally, they agreed on the importance of Northern Ireland's political parties finding a way forward on a shared regional government in order to sustain the peace process launched by the Good Friday Agreement.

Joint Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 20, 2017

Joint Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi

Today, President Donald J. Trump welcomed Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to the Oval Office to reaffirm America's support for Iraq and the Iraqi people in our shared fight against the terrorist group ISIS/Da'esh. The United States and Iraq stand fully committed to a comprehensive partnership, rooted in mutual respect and grounded in the United States-Iraq Strategic Framework Agreement, which provides a framework for political, economic, cultural, and security cooperation. President Trump was particularly honored that Prime Minister al-Abadi was one of the first foreign

leaders he has hosted at the White House, a testament to the close bonds between the American and Iraqi people and the importance of the relationship between our governments.

In today's meeting, President Trump and Prime Minister al-Abadi praised the unprecedented cooperation between the militaries of the United States and Iraq in the fight against ISIS/Da'esh, including the campaign to liberate west Mosul. Although ISIS/Da'esh remains a dangerous enemy, we are confident it will be defeated. As Iraqi forces consolidate gains against ISIS/Da'esh, the two leaders agreed that the United States and Iraq will pursue a long-term partnership to decisively root out terrorism from Iraq and strengthen the Iraqi military and other key institutions. Together with our partners in the 68-member Global Coalition against ISIS/Da'esh, the United States will continue training and support for Iraqi forces to bring about the terrorist group's decisive and enduring defeat and further build the capabilities of Iraqi forces. This security partnership is a vital component of the national security of both the United States and Iraq.

Recognizing that terrorism cannot be defeated by military might alone, the two leaders also agreed to promote a broad-based political and economic partnership based in the Strategic Framework Agreement. In the months ahead, United States and Iraqi leaders will consult on steps to deepen commercial ties and promote investment, expand collaboration in the energy sector, and seek new opportunities for cultural and educational cooperation. As we seek to advance common interests and promote prosperity, the United States commends Prime Minister al-Abadi's vision for building a prosperous and diversified economy in Iraq, capable of fulfilling the needs and aspirations of the Iraqi people. The United States strongly supports Iraq's partnership with the International Monetary Fund and, in concert with our G-7 partners, will continue to help Iraq stabilize Iraq's economy and achieve needed reforms. The United States also welcomes the Prime Minister's efforts to foster more inclusive and accountable governance in Iraq and to address the human suffering in the country created by the brutality of ISIS/Da'esh.

President Trump and Prime Minister al-Abadi agreed that it is essential that Iraq develop and maintain positive relations with regional partners, both to enhance stability in the Middle East and to help Iraq begin to rebuild from the ravages of the brutal occupation of ISIS/Da'esh. The President commended Prime Minister al-Abadi on Iraq's efforts to foster more constructive ties with countries in the region, which have a vital role in helping Iraq become a force for stability in the Middle East. As the United States and Iraq stand together against terrorism in all its forms, we will not tolerate efforts by any country to destabilize Iraq or undermine Iraq's democratic institutions.

The United States and Iraq remain unified in our commitment to a comprehensive and mutually beneficial partnership in the years ahead.

Joint Readout United States-Israeli Consultations March 20-23, 2017

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 23, 2017

Joint Readout United States-Israeli Consultations March 20-23, 2017

Senior-level United States and Israeli delegations concluded today four days of intensive discussions, with a particular focus on concrete, near-term measures to improve the overall climate in order to advance the prospects for a genuine and lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The United States delegation was led by Jason Greenblatt, President Donald J. Trump's Special Representative for International Negotiations, and included representatives of the National Security Council staff and the Department of State. The Israeli delegation was led by the Chief of

Staff to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Yoav Horowitz, and included Israeli Ambassador to the United States Ron Dermer and representatives of the Israeli National Security Council and office of the Prime Minister. The issues the two delegations discussed are exceptionally complicated, and the fact that both governments dedicated such senior delegations for nearly a full week of talks reflects the close cooperation between the two countries and the importance both assign to this vital task.

A principal focus of the discussions was specific measures that could have a meaningful impact on the economic environment in the West Bank and Gaza, allowing the Palestinians to more fully realize their economic potential. The Israelis welcomed United States interest in continuing to play a facilitating role in advancing issues regarding electricity and water in ways that will benefit both Israel and the Palestinians and also move the Palestinians toward self-sustainability in these crucial areas.

Following up on discussions Mr. Greenblatt had in Ramallah last week, the two sides agreed on the importance of implementing measures benefitting the people of Gaza, and in that regard, the delegations discussed the necessity of all parties to the 2014 Gaza Reconstruction Conference in Cairo fulfilling their pledges to bring humanitarian relief and economic development to Gaza in ways that benefit the population without further empowering Hamas or other terrorist organizations.

The two delegations also discussed Israeli settlement construction, following up on Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to Washington and Mr. Greenblatt's recent visit to Israel. The United States delegation reiterated President Trump's concerns regarding settlement activity in the context of moving towards a peace agreement. The Israeli delegation made clear that Israel's intent going forward is to adopt a policy regarding settlement activity that takes those concerns into consideration. The talks were serious and constructive, and they are ongoing.

Joint Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 30, 2017

Joint Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Danish Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen

The President today welcomed Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen of Denmark to the White House for bilateral consultations. Denmark is one of the closest allies of the United States, and the Prime Minister's visit is a testament to the deep and enduring ties between the two countries. The meeting was an opportunity to mark the 100th anniversary of Denmark formally ceding the United States Virgin Islands to the United States on March 31, 1917. Although the United States and Denmark did not establish diplomatic relations until 1801, American revolutionaries used neutral Danish ports in the Virgin Islands to procure munitions during their struggle for independence.

In today's meeting, the President and Prime Minister discussed their desire to see NATO strengthened to confront 21st century threats. The President urged the Prime Minister to work towards NATO's benchmark of committing 2 percent of GDP to defense, and the Prime Minister underscored his intention to push for a substantial increase in defense spending in the coming years.

The President and Prime Minister agreed to continue leveraging our bilateral ties and relationships with Allies and partners to maintain security and stability in the Baltic Sea region and the Arctic. They also underscored the need to maintain momentum in the fight against ISIS. Denmark was one of the first countries to join the counter-ISIS coalition, offering F-16 fighter jets, military trainers, special operations forces, and humanitarian assistance to the effort. The leaders

also discussed Afghanistan, where American and Danish soldiers have lost their lives fighting alongside one another since 2001.

The two leaders further addressed bilateral cooperation to create sustainable growth and jobs for American and Danish citizens. Both agreed that free and fair trade based on reciprocal opportunity should be the foundation for stronger transatlantic economic ties.

In the years ahead the United States and Denmark will continue to forge ahead side-by-side in pursuit of shared interests and linked by common values.

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to Excel Academy Public Charter School with Queen Rania of Jordan

The White House
Office of the First Lady
For Immediate Release
April 05, 2017

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to Excel Academy Public Charter School with Queen Rania of Jordan

After a brief visit to the oval office with their husbands, First Lady Melania Trump and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah enjoyed lunch in the residence and discussed their varying roles within their governments, and some of the challenges facing their nations.

Upon conclusion of lunch, the ladies visited Excel Academy Public Charter School, Washington DC's first public charter school for girls, serving grades Pre-K to 8th. At the school, the First Lady, Queen Rania, and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos participated in a listening session with teachers, parents, and students. The group discussed the schools demographics and mission, as well as teaching life skills and community engagement. After the listening session, the women took a tour of the school and visited with the students in two active classrooms - 8th grade art and 5th grade science.

"I was pleased to welcome and host Queen Rania Al-Abdullah to the White House today, and was excited to participate in the listening session and tour of Excel Academy Public Charter School with the Queen and Secretary DeVos," stated Mrs. Trump. "Education is critical to our efforts to shine a light on the topic of gender equality and empowerment of women. Excel Academy is an exceptional example of a school preparing young women both academically and personally so that they may succeed in a global community. Hearing directly from teachers and the students who attend the school was an important step in the dialogue needed to further my agenda as First Lady of the United States."

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Excel Academy Public Charter School is Washington D.C.'s first public charter school for girls, with scholars enrolled in Pre-Kindergarten to the 8th grade. Today, the school has 672 girls enrolled in their programs. The mission is to provide girls a solid academic foundation and enrichment opportunities to prepare them to success in high school and college and to develop the skills and confidence they need to make healthy, positive lifestyle choices.

Readout of the Meeting between President Donald J. Trump and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 03, 2017

Readout of the Meeting between President Donald J. Trump and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

President Donald J. Trump welcomed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to the White House today to discuss the advancement of Middle East peace and the strengthening of United States-Palestinian relations. President Trump and President Abbas reaffirmed the commitment of both the United States and the Palestinian Authority to achieving a genuine and lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. President Trump stressed that he is personally committed to helping Israelis and Palestinians achieve a comprehensive peace, and that any peace settlement can only be the product of direct negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. President Trump expressed appreciation for President Abbas' unambiguous support for a negotiated settlement of the conflict. Both leaders agreed that while the United States can support progress toward a peace deal, a solution cannot be imposed on the Israelis and Palestinians by any party, including by one side on the other. The two leaders discussed the value of actions that can help create a climate conducive to tangible progress toward peace.

President Trump and President Abbas reaffirmed the joint determination of the Palestinian Authority and the United States to combating violence and terrorism. The two leaders discussed the importance of the United States-Palestinian partnership in building and sustaining the capacity of Palestinian security forces to counter terrorism, maintaining peace and security for the Palestinians, and continuing strong coordination with the Israeli government to benefit both peoples. President Trump emphasized the importance of making a clear commitment to preventing inflammatory rhetoric and to stopping incitement, and to continue strengthening efforts to combat terrorism. President Trump raised his concerns about payments to Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails who have committed terrorist acts, and to their families, and emphasized the need to resolve this issue.

President Trump highlighted his commitment to enabling meaningful economic growth in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which will enhance the prospects for a just and lasting peace. The two leaders agreed to continue close consultations.

Readout of the Meeting between President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 05, 2017

Readout of the Meeting between President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia

President Donald J. Trump met with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia on May 4, 2017, in New York City. The President thanked Prime Minister Turnbull for traveling to New York for the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, a gesture which shows the deep ties between the United States and Australia. The President and Prime Minister Turnbull discussed the enduring bonds, deep friendship, and close alliance between the United States and Australia that have been critically important to the maintenance of regional and global peace and security. Together, the United States and Australia are building a more secure and stable world. This involves cooperating to fight ISIS and other terrorist groups, and shaping a more peaceful Asia-Pacific, including by addressing the threat posed by North Korea. President Trump and the Prime Minister also talked about the importance of building stronger economic bonds through increased trade and investment. President Trump is looking forward to working together with Prime Minister Turnbull to ensure a safer and more prosperous future for our people and the world.

Readout of the Meeting Between National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster and Venezuelan National Assembly President Julio Borges

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 06, 2017

Readout of the Meeting Between National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster and Venezuelan National Assembly President Julio Borges

National Security Advisor McMaster met with Venezuela's National Assembly President Julio Borges at the White House yesterday afternoon. They discussed the ongoing crisis in Venezuela and the need for the government to adhere to the Venezuelan Constitution, release political prisoners, respect the National Assembly, and hold free and democratic elections. They agreed that there is a strong need to bring the crisis to a quick and peaceful conclusion.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski of Peru to address the deteriorating political and economic crisis in Venezuela. President Trump underscored that the United States will work together with Peru in seeking to improve democratic institutions and help the people of Venezuela. President Kuczynski expressed his gratitude for President Trump's prompt humanitarian assistance in response to the devastating floods in Peru

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 10, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia

President Donald J. Trump met today with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov of Russia, following on the visit of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to Moscow last month. President Trump emphasized the need to work together to end the conflict in Syria, in particular, underscoring the need for Russia to rein in the Assad regime, Iran, and Iranian proxies. The President raised Ukraine, and expressed his Administration's commitment to remain engaged in resolving the conflict and stressed Russia's responsibility to fully implement the Minsk agreements. He also raised the possibility of broader cooperation on resolving conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere. The President further emphasized his desire to build a better relationship between the United States and Russia.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 15, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates

President Donald J. Trump welcomed Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates to the White House today to discuss steps to deepen our strategic partnership and promote stability and prosperity throughout the Middle East. The two leaders discussed bilateral defense cooperation, counterterrorism, resolving the conflicts in Yemen and Syria, and the threat to regional stability posed by Iran. They also explored ways to increase economic cooperation. The United States and United Arab Emirates have a deep and wide-ranging relationship that has advanced both countries' interests for years. The President and the Crown Prince committed to continuing that positive cooperation.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 16, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey to discuss how to further strengthen the deep and diverse relationship between our two countries. President Trump reiterated the commitment of the United States to the security of our NATO ally Turkey and the need to work together to confront terrorism in all its forms. President Trump raised the incarceration of Pastor Andrew Brunson and asked that the Turkish Government expeditiously return him to the United States. President Trump told President Erdogan that he looks forward to seeing him next week during his upcoming international travel.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 19, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

President Donald J. Trump met with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia to discuss ways to deepen the close friendship and longstanding partnership between the United States and Colombia. President Trump underscored the United States Government's support for the successful implementation of Colombia's historic peace accord and highlighted the need for Colombia to make quick and concrete progress in curbing coca cultivation and cocaine production. President Trump

commended Colombia's great leadership in training its neighbors in Central America and the Caribbean on security efforts. President Trump and President Santos also discussed the importance of strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties and increasing opportunities for United States military sales to Colombia. The leaders exchanged concerns about the deepening political and economic crisis in Venezuela and discussed the importance of preserving democratic institutions in that country.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meetings with Saudi Arabia's Leaders

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meetings with Saudi Arabia's Leaders

President Donald J. Trump met today with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohamed bin Nayef of Saudi Arabia, and Deputy Crown Prince Mohamed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia. The President's meetings underscored the deep and longstanding commitment of the United States to the security, stability, and prosperity of Saudi Arabia and demonstrated the President's confidence in the future of U.S.-Saudi relations. The President emphasized the importance of working jointly to address challenges to regional peace and security, including defeating ISIS and al-Qa'eda, countering Iran's destabilizing activities, and resolving conflicts in Yemen and Syria. The President and King Salman signed a Joint Strategic Vision Statement promising close collaboration to counter violent extremism, disrupt the financing of terrorism, and advance defense cooperation. Moreover, the President expressed his strong support for Saudi Arabia's economic reform plans and promoted U.S. companies as ideal partners for Saudi Arabia's economic transformation, as illustrated by the many deals signed by U.S. companies during the President's visit.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 21, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt to build on their recent engagements and continue efforts to strengthen the United States-Egypt strategic partnership. President Trump reaffirmed America's deep and abiding commitment to Egypt's security, stability, and prosperity. The President emphasized his support for Egypt's fight against terrorism and underscored the benefits of the longstanding military cooperation between the two countries. The President also encouraged deeper cooperation to address the root causes of terrorism and extremism and applauded President Al Sisi's strong calls to reform ideologies that inspire violence. The United States and Egypt stand fully committed to addressing critical bilateral and international issues in a renewed spirit of mutual respect and open cooperation.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan
President Donald J. Trump met briefly today with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan on the margins of the Islamic Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. President Trump welcomed President Ghani's leadership in Afghanistan on fighting terrorism and implementing key reforms. He also commended the brave service of Afghan security forces as they fight to secure their country.

Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 23, 2017

Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on President Trump's first official visit to Israel as President. The two leaders reaffirmed the special bond between the United States and Israel. President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu discussed their joint plan to further improve relations by focusing on increased cooperation across a range of issues, including regional and cyber security, trade, technology, innovation, and research. President Trump underscored the United States' ironclad commitment to Israel's security, including to the maintenance of Israel's Qualitative Military Edge. The two leaders also agreed on the need to counter Iran and its proxies, including by building strong military capabilities to protect Israel and the region from Iranian aggression. The two leaders commended the Riyadh summit's condemnation of terrorism and extremism and pledged to work together to defeat terrorist organizations. President Trump observed that common interests between Israel and Arab states have made new partnerships possible. Prime Minister Netanyahu discussed his desire for better relations with Arab states. The two leaders agreed on the need to end the violence in Syria and move toward a political solution that will allow the Syrian people to return to secure environments and rebuild their lives.

President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu discussed how to move forward with Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. President Trump reaffirmed his belief that peace is possible, not only between Israelis and Palestinians, but throughout large parts of the Middle East. President Trump welcomed the steps that Prime Minister Netanyahu's security cabinet have taken to improve the Palestinian economy, noting that greater economic opportunity for Palestinians would enhance the prospects for peace.

Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin

President Donald J. Trump was warmly welcomed by Israeli President Reuven Rivlin yesterday at the Presidential Residence in Jerusalem. The two Presidents spoke about the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel, and they committed to strengthening that bond. President Trump also reaffirmed the United States' unwavering commitment to Israel's security. The two Presidents discussed the opportunities and challenges facing the region, and President Trump shared conclusions from the extremely successful Arab Islamic American Summit held in Riyadh yesterday. At the conclusion of their meeting, President Rivlin took President Trump to view the tree that had been planted in the garden of the Presidential Residence in honor of President Trump's historic visit.

Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 23, 2017

Readout of Meeting Between President Donald J. Trump and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

President Donald J. Trump was warmly welcomed today in Bethlehem by President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority. President Trump again stressed his belief that peace between Israelis and Palestinians is possible. President Trump and President Abbas reaffirmed their commitment to reach for a genuine and lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis. President Trump stressed the importance of creating an environment consistent with the desire for peace. The two leaders discussed ways to advance negotiations and considered how Arab states might support those negotiations. President Abbas noted that he was ready to begin negotiating immediately.

President Trump and President Abbas condemned the terror attack that occurred in Manchester and offered condolences to the victims and the families of those who lost loved ones. The two leaders expressed their support for the Riyadh Summit leaders' condemnation of terrorism and corresponding pledge to counter terrorist financing and combat extremist ideology. President Trump and President Abbas agreed to continue their discussions on the issue of payments to Palestinian prisoners and the need to improve the Palestinian economy.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meetings with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 24, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meetings with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni

President Donald J. Trump today held meetings with Italian President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni. The leaders discussed the alliance between the United States and Italy, as well as priorities in the areas of defense cooperation, counterterrorism, and efforts to deny terrorists safe havens from Mali to Libya to Iraq to Afghanistan. President Trump thanked Italy for its contributions to global counterterrorism efforts, especially its participation in the Global

Coalition to Counter ISIS and its active role in Iraq and Afghanistan. He also complimented Italy on its important diplomatic efforts to end the violence in Libya.

President Trump reaffirmed transatlantic unity in holding Russia accountable for its actions in Crimea and eastern Ukraine, and noted the importance of convincing Russia to fulfill its commitments under the Minsk Agreements.

The leaders also discussed goals for the G7 Summit, where heads of state and government from the world's strongest economies can forge consensus on the most pressing diplomatic and economic issues of the day.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis and Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 24, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with His Holiness Pope Francis and Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin

President Donald J. Trump met today with His Holiness Pope Francis and Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin. This was the President's first engagement with the Holy See. In their meetings, the President focused on how the United States, the Holy See, and the international community can work together to combat terrorism.

The Pope and the President discussed how religious communities can combat human suffering in crisis regions, such as Syria, Libya, and ISIS-controlled territory. The President affirmed that the United States and the Holy See share many fundamental values and seek to engage globally to promote human rights, combat human suffering, and protect religious freedom.

The President also renewed the commitment of the United States to fighting global famine. As he relayed at the Vatican, the United States is proud to announce more than \$300 million in anti-famine spending, focused on the crises in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia, and Nigeria.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's May 25th Working Lunch with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 25, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's May 25th Working Lunch with President Emmanuel Macron of France

President Donald J. Trump hosted French President Emmanuel Macron for a working lunch today at the official residence of the United States Ambassador to Belgium. The meeting marked the first in-person engagement between the two presidents, and follows on their initial telephone call on May 9.

In advance of the NATO Leaders Meeting, President Trump urged President Macron to meet the NATO defense spending pledge and ensure that NATO is focused on counterterrorism. The President thanked President Macron for France's leadership in counterterrorism efforts in Africa. The leaders agreed on the critical importance of defeating ISIS in Iraq and Syria. President Trump discussed his recent travel to Saudi Arabia and Israel and his hope for Middle East peace. The two

leaders committed to maintaining and building on the already strong alliance between the United States and France as they cooperate on these and other vital issues.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 25, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker

President Donald J. Trump met today in Brussels with European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. The leaders reaffirmed the strong bond between the United States and Europe, anchored in shared values and longstanding friendship.

The leaders discussed the United States' and the European Union's shared challenges in fighting global terrorism and protecting our homelands. They agreed on the need to work together to deepen our security cooperation in fighting ISIS, combating radicalization, and responding to other common threats. They also discussed the threat from North Korea and agreed to work together to further isolate the North Korean regime politically and economically.

The leaders agreed that the United States and the European Union should deepen our strong economic relationship. They also discussed the need to protect American and European industries against unfair competition.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meetings with the King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium and Prime Minister Charles Michel of Belgium

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 25, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meetings with the King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium and Prime Minister Charles Michel of Belgium

Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump visited the Royal Palace in Brussels to meet with King Philippe and Queen Mathilde and with Prime Minister Charles Michel of Belgium. This visit marked the President's first engagement with Belgian leadership.

At the Royal Palace, President Trump and the First Lady first met with the King and Queen and expressed their appreciation for the hospitality and their long personal support for better economic relations between Belgium and the United States. This year is the centennial year of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, which kept millions of Belgians from starving during World War I and currently supports Belgian educational exchanges with the United States.

In a subsequent meeting with Prime Minister Charles Michel, the President praised Belgian contributions to the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS, noting the critical importance of Belgian F-16s flying missions in Iraq and Syria. On the eve of the NATO Leaders Meeting, the President discussed the responsibility of all nations to share our common defense burden, including the need for all NATO members to meet the Wales commitment to spend 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product on defense. The President expressed sympathy for Belgium's suffering at the hands of terrorists, and the two leaders explored how to improve their cooperation on counterterrorism. The

President reaffirmed his desire for a productive economic and security relationship with Europe and promised to continue strengthening cooperation with Belgium on these and other important issues.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
May 26, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump met today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan in Taormina, Italy, before the start of the G7 Summit. In the wake of the horrific terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena in the United Kingdom, the two leaders reaffirmed their shared resolve to cooperate to the fullest extent possible to counter terrorist threats.

The President said the United States will work with Japan and the Republic of Korea, as well as our other allies and partners around the world, to increase pressure on North Korea and demonstrate that North Korea's current path is not sustainable. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe agreed their teams would cooperate to enhance sanctions on North Korea, including by identifying and sanctioning entities that support North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear programs. They also agreed to further strengthen the alliance between the United States and Japan, to further each country's capability to deter and defend against threats from North Korea.

Readout of U. S. National Security Advisor Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster's Call with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 05, 2017

Readout of U. S. National Security Advisor Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster's Call with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan

U.S. National Security Advisor Lieutenant General H. R. McMaster spoke with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan today. Lieutenant General McMaster expressed the deepest sympathies of the United States for the barbaric attacks in Kabul last week. Lieutenant General McMaster condemned the terrorist attacks in the strongest terms and noted that the United States stands in solidarity with the Afghan government and people. Lieutenant General McMaster underscored America's steadfast support for the National Unity Government, and he recognized that because terrorists are seeking to divide the Afghan people, it is more important than ever, in the face of such adversity, to remain united and be strong in our resolve to achieve the security and peace that the people of Afghanistan deserve. He wished President Ghani and all Afghans best wishes for Ramadan and expressed confidence that the Afghan people would overcome this difficult period and defeat their enemies. He expressed admiration for the courageous Afghan security forces who, every day, work to confront the enemies of all civilized people.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 19, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama

President Donald J. Trump today met with President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama and discussed the close ties and longstanding partnership between the United States and Panama. President Trump underscored the need for continued cooperation to address drug trafficking and illegal migration in the region and expressed appreciation for President Varela's strong partnership on these issues.

The leaders discussed the importance of the United States-Panama High-Level Security Dialogue, which will be held in Panama in late June, to advancing our shared security priorities. President Trump congratulated President Varela on the Panama Canal expansion, which benefits American and Panamanian businesses and is a key driver of economic growth in the region.

leaders also addressed the increasingly dire situation in Venezuela and the importance of restoring democratic norms in that country.

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Lunch with Mrs. Lorena Castillo de Varela of Panama

The White House
Office of the First Lady
For Immediate Release
June 19, 2017

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Lunch with Mrs. Lorena Castillo de Varela of Panama

After a brief visit in the Oval Office with their husbands, First Lady Melania Trump and Mrs. Lorena Castillo de Varela of Panama enjoyed lunch in the White House residence and discussed a variety of topics, including their initiatives within their respective governments and the important platforms they each have the opportunity to promote. Mrs. Varela spoke about her interest in the Red Cross and involvement in other humanitarian efforts, specifically her position as UNAIDS Special Ambassador for AIDS in Latin America and her commitment to expanding HIV testing and services. She also described her efforts in the autism community. The two discussed Mrs. Varela's unique perspective as a former journalist, and the connection between media and politics in both the United States and Panama. Mrs. Trump spoke about her new role as First Lady, and her intentions for the role in the coming months.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine to discuss support for the peaceful resolution to the conflict in eastern Ukraine and President Poroshenko's reform agenda and anticorruption efforts.

Readout of Jared Kushner, Jason Greenblatt, and David Friedman's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 21, 2017

Readout of Jared Kushner, Jason Greenblatt, and David Friedman's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner, Assistant to the President and Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt, and United States Ambassador to Israel David Friedman met today in Jerusalem with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel and his senior advisors. The meeting was productive and the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to advancing President Trump's goal of a genuine and lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians that enhances stability in the region. The three United States officials discussed Israel's priorities and potential next steps with Prime Minister Netanyahu, acknowledging the critical role Israel plays in the security of the region. The United States officials and Israeli leadership underscored that forging peace will take time and stressed the importance of doing everything possible to create an environment conducive to peacemaking. Kushner and Greenblatt are also meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority and his senior advisors in Ramallah. After their meetings, Kushner and Greenblatt plan to return to Washington, D.C. to brief the President, Secretary of State Tillerson, and National Security Advisor McMaster and to continue the conversation about next steps.

Readout of Jared Kushner, Jason Greenblatt, and Don Blome's Meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 21, 2017

Readout of Jared Kushner, Jason Greenblatt, and Don Blome's Meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

Senior Advisor to the President Jared Kushner, Assistant to the President and Special Representative for International Negotiations Jason Greenblatt, and United States Consul General in Jerusalem Donald Blome met today in Ramallah with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority and his senior advisors. The two sides had a productive meeting and reaffirmed their commitment to advancing President Trump's goal of a genuine and lasting peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians that enhances stability in the region. Kushner and Greenblatt discussed with President Abbas priorities for the Palestinians and potential next steps, acknowledging the need for economic opportunities for Palestinians and major investments in the Palestinian economy. The United States officials and Palestinian leadership underscored that forging peace will take time and stressed the importance of doing everything possible to create an environment conducive to peacemaking. Kushner and Greenblatt plan to return to Washington, D.C. to brief President Trump, Secretary Tillerson and General McMaster and to continue the conversation about next steps.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic of Croatia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic of Croatia

President Donald J. Trump met today in Warsaw with President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic of Croatia to discuss issues of mutual interest and ways to further deepen already strong United States-Croatia relations. Reaffirming our commitment to supporting stability and security in the western Balkans, President Trump urged President Grabar-Kitarovic to do everything possible to advance regional reconciliation. President Trump welcomed Croatia's efforts to promote energy security and diversification, and expressed support for timely completion of the Krk Island liquefied natural gas facility.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 06, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany

President Donald J. Trump met in Hamburg, Germany today with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany to coordinate on key policy areas ahead of tomorrow's G20 Summit. The leaders conferred on a range of shared foreign and security policy priorities, including re-energizing implementation of the Minsk Agreements, de-escalating the conflict between Qatar and some of its Gulf and Arab neighbors, and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 07, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico during the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. President Trump emphasized the strong bilateral relationship that the United States enjoys with Mexico and noted the importance of renegotiating NAFTA to help workers in both countries. President Trump thanked President Peña Nieto for Mexico's partnership on the Central America Conference last month. The leaders also discussed regional challenges, including drug trafficking, illegal migration, and the crisis in Venezuela.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Joko Widodo of Indonesia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Joko Widodo of Indonesia

President Donald J. Trump met with President Joko Widodo today at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. The two leaders emphasized their commitment to strengthening the United States-Indonesia strategic partnership, which is grounded in the interests and values shared by two of the world's largest democracies. They discussed ways to expand fair and reciprocal trade between their countries, as well as ways to strengthen defense cooperation. The two Presidents underscored their resolve to defeat terrorist networks in Southeast Asia and around the world, and emphasized the importance of isolating terrorists from financial and ideological support. The two leaders pledged to continue to coordinate closely on other threats to international security, including North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump met with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom during the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. The two leaders affirmed the special relationship and discussed counterterrorism initiatives and trade. They also conferred on a range of joint foreign and security policy interests.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump met today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. The two leaders condemned North Korea's July 4 launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile, which showed that North Korea is a threat to the United States and its allies, and countries around the world. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe affirmed that the international community must address North Korea's ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs quickly and decisively. President Trump reaffirmed the ironclad commitment of the United States to the defense of Japan, as well as to the Republic of Korea, from any attack, and reiterated that the United States is prepared to use the full range of capabilities in such defense. President Trump and Prime Minister Abe committed to redoubling their efforts to bring all nations

together to show North Korea that there are consequences for its threatening and unlawful actions. The two leaders also discussed a range of other regional issues of mutual interest. They reaffirmed that the strong United States-Japan Alliance is the cornerstone of peace and prosperity.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore

President Donald J. Trump met with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore today at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. The two leaders praised the United States-Singapore economic relationship, which serves as an important hub for United States exports to the fast-growing Southeast Asia region. The President and Prime Minister Lee discussed regional security issues and their shared resolve to press North Korea to abandon its nuclear program and cease its provocations. They also affirmed close cooperation in preventing the rise of terrorism and Islamist extremism in Southeast Asia.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Xi Jinping of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 08, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Xi Jinping of China

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Xi Jinping of China at the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany. President Trump discussed the destabilizing threat posed by North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and the need to respond to North Korea's major escalation involving the test of an ICBM. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. The two leaders also reviewed work in other areas in the bilateral relationship, including economic issues such as reciprocal trade and market access. President Trump and President Xi directed their security and economic teams to make progress in upcoming dialogues.

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to Paris, France

The White House
Office of the First Lady
For Immediate Release
July 13, 2017

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to Paris, France

After arriving in Paris, First Lady Melania Trump traveled to Necker Hospital to visit with patients and staff. After the hospital visit, the First Lady continued to the United States Ambassador's residence to give remarks and introduce her husband during a meet-and-greet with military troops, embassy employees, and their families. The First Lady and the President then participated in an arrival ceremony with President and Mrs. Macron, followed by a tour of Les Invalides. After the tour, Mrs. Trump and Mrs. Brigitte Macron visited the historic Notre Dame

Cathedral and enjoyed a river cruise on the Seine that included views of Notre Dame, the Louvre, Musee d'Orsay, Les Invalides, the Eiffel Tower, and the French Statue of Liberty. Mrs. Trump concluded her day by joining her husband for dinner with President and Mrs. Macron at Le Jules Verne Restaurant in the Eiffel Tower.

"France is a beautiful country that is rich in history and culture," said First Lady Melania Trump. "I am grateful to President and Mrs. Macron for their gracious invitation and hospitality as we celebrate Bastille Day with them, which is not only a celebration of France's national day, but on this occasion, in 2017, also honors the historic cooperation between France and the United States during the First World War." The First Lady continued, "I also want to take a moment to thank the employees and families of the United States Embassy for all of their hard work on behalf of our country, and to extend my warmest wishes to the patients and staff at Necker Hospital. My visit with the patients was very special, and I will continue to keep them all in my thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery."

Tomorrow, Friday, July 14th, the President and Mrs. Trump will participate in a viewing of the National Day Parade in honor of Bastille Day with President and Mrs. Macron.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Al Sa'id of Oman

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
July 18, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Call with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id Al Sa'id of Oman

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Al Sa'id of Oman. President Trump underscored the importance of close bilateral cooperation. The two leaders discussed ways to resolve regional conflicts, and President Trump emphasized the need to counter Iran's destabilizing activities in the region.

Readout of the President's Meeting with General Zulkifeli of Malaysia

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
August 25, 2017

Readout of the President's Meeting with General Zulkifeli of Malaysia

President Donald J. Trump met with General Zulkifeli bin Muhammad Zin and Zulhasnan Rafique

President Donald J. Trump poses with General Zulkifeli bin Muhammad Zin, left, Director General of the Malaysian National Security Council, and Malaysian Ambassador Zulhasnan Rafique, right, Thursday, August 24, 2017, in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, D.C. (Official White House photograph by Joyce N. Boghosian)

On August 24, 2017, President Donald J. Trump met with General Zulkifeli bin Muhammad Zin, Director General of the Malaysian National Security Council, accompanied by Malaysia's Ambassador to the United States, Zulhasnan Rafique, and expressed the gratitude of the United States for the Malaysian Coast Guard, Royal Malaysian Navy, and Royal Malaysian Air Force's help in recovering the fallen United States sailors of the USS John S. McCain. The President also told General Zulkifeli that he looks forward to welcoming Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak to the White House on September 12. General Zulkifeli was in Washington, D.C., to meet

with Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs LTG H.R. McMaster. Noting the 60th anniversary of United States-Malaysia relations, LTG McMaster and General Zulkifeli discussed ways to strengthen bilateral ties, particularly in trade and investment, as well as defense and security cooperation. A stronger partnership in these areas will help the two countries address shared challenges and promote regional peace and stability, including the fight to defeat ISIS and other extremist networks.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 18, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel met today in New York to reaffirm the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel. The President underscored the unwavering commitment of the United States to Israel's security. The two sides discussed their continued cooperation across a range of issues and stressed their goals of countering Iran's malign influence in the region and resolving the Syria crisis in a manner consistent with American and Israeli security interests. They also discussed their continuing efforts to achieve an enduring Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement, the optimism in the region about peace, and expanding economic opportunities to improve conditions for peace. The President assured the Prime Minister that under his and Ambassador Haley's leadership, the United States will oppose unfair treatment of Israel at the United Nations.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Working Dinner with President Michel Temer of Brazil, President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama, and Vice President Gabriela Michetti of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 19, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Working Dinner with President Michel Temer of Brazil, President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama, and Vice President Gabriela Michetti of Argentina

Last night, President Donald J. Trump hosted a working dinner in New York with President Michel Temer of Brazil, President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia, President Juan Carlos Varela of Panama, and Vice President Gabriela Michetti of Argentina. President Trump thanked the Latin American leaders for their advocacy in support of the Venezuelan people and condemnation of the Maduro dictatorship. The group discussed the importance of working together to help restore democracy to Venezuela and reaffirmed the principles of the Lima Declaration from August 8, 2017. The leaders agreed to continue working together to resolve the Venezuelan crisis. They discussed multiple ways to improve security in the Western Hemisphere, advance prosperity, and ensure sovereignty through democracy and rule of law. This week, foreign ministers from across the region will meet to further build on the ideas discussed at the working dinner.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Emmanuel Macron of France

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 19, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Emmanuel Macron of France
President Donald J. Trump met last night in New York with President Emmanuel Macron of France. They exchanged views on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action for Iran and how to curtail Iran's destabilizing activities in the region. They also discussed how to accelerate the destruction of ISIS and help resolve the Syrian civil war in a manner consistent with American and French security interests. The two presidents discussed how best to protect the environment while promoting economic growth for both countries. President Trump and President Macron also discussed ways to address North Korea's dangerous and destabilizing behavior.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak

President Donald J. Trump met today with President of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak. President Trump welcomed Minister Lajcak to his new position as head of the UN General Assembly, underscored the pressing need to reform the UN's bureaucracy, and pledged his support for those efforts.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Luncheon with World Leaders

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Luncheon with World Leaders

President Donald J. Trump spoke today with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. President Trump pledged his support for the Secretary-General's efforts to reform the United Nations, focusing on three pillars: peace and security, development, and management reform.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar

President Donald J. Trump met today with Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani of Qatar at the United Nations General Assembly. The two leaders discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation and advance security, stability, and prosperity across the Middle East. The President and the Emir emphasized the benefits of increasing bilateral investments, which create jobs and stimulate growth in both countries. The leaders also discussed the importance of resolving Qatar's ongoing dispute with its neighbors and restoring unity in the region among partners of the United States in order to promote regional stability and counter the threat of Iran. The President acknowledged Qatar's progress implementing the United States-Qatar bilateral memorandum of understanding on counterterrorism cooperation and stressed the importance of taking additional steps to follow through on commitments from the Riyadh Summit to cut off funding for terrorists, discredit extremist ideology, and defeat terrorist groups.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi of Pakistan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi of Pakistan

Vice President Mike Pence met for the first time with Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi in New York today. The Vice President and Prime Minister Abbasi had an important conversation about the President's South Asia strategy that was announced late last month. The Vice President highlighted ways that Pakistan could work with the United States and others to bolster stability and prosperity for all in South Asia. The Vice President reiterated President Trump's belief that "Pakistan has much to gain from partnering with our effort" in the region.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan

President Donald J. Trump met today with His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan in New York. The President conveyed the enduring commitment of the United States to Jordan's security and prosperity. The two leaders discussed bilateral cooperation on a range of issues. The President thanked the King for Jordan's important humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and affirmed the commitment of the United States to Jordan's security and to the economic partnership between the two countries. The two sides discussed how to accelerate the defeat of ISIS and resolve the Syrian civil war in a manner consistent with American and Jordanian security interests. The

President also praised Jordan's commitment to opposing Iran's destabilizing actions and to fighting terrorism of all kinds in the region.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority

President Donald J. Trump and President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority met yesterday in New York to continue working toward an enduring Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. The President noted that he is encouraged by the serious and constructive conversations among all parties. President Trump stressed that it will be important throughout the talks for all parties to do everything possible to create an atmosphere conducive to making peace, and that he is personally committed to improving the economic opportunities available to the Palestinian people.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with African Leaders

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with African Leaders

Donald J. Trump yesterday hosted a working luncheon in New York with the leaders of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda to discuss how the United States and Africa can work toward prosperity and peace. They discussed a pragmatic strategy to focus on security, infrastructure, economic, and other common interests. The leaders expressed wide enthusiasm that this approach will reduce opportunities for terrorism and increase the possibility for job growth among Africans and Americans. They also addressed other global challenges, including the threat from North Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom

President Donald J. Trump met yesterday with Prime Minister Theresa May of the United Kingdom. They discussed approaches to end Iran's destabilizing influence in Syria and Iraq. The two leaders also reviewed next steps on the Iran nuclear deal. President Trump asked the United Kingdom to increase pressure on North Korea to denuclearize. The President and Prime Minister exchanged views on how to improve the two countries' joint efforts on counterterrorism, including addressing the use of the Internet by terrorists. Prime Minister May briefed President Trump on the status of the Brexit negotiations.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt

President Donald J. Trump met yesterday with President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi of Egypt in New York. The two Presidents highlighted the close relationship between their two countries. President Trump and President Al Sisi underscored the importance of bilateral security cooperation and praised recent efforts to strengthen regional security. The President emphasized that Egypt is a lynchpin of stability in the region and pushed for greater bilateral coordination to ensure peace and security. President Trump commended President Al Sisi's economic reform program. They also discussed other issues, including the Gulf dispute and North Korea.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Petro Poroshenko of Ukraine. President Trump welcomed Ukraine's reforms that contribute to the country's economic growth and its defense capability, and encouraged President Poroshenko to continue working to eliminate corruption and improve his country's business climate. President Trump reaffirmed American support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. President Trump and President Poroshenko discussed ways to achieve peace in eastern Ukraine.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan in New York. President Trump and President Ghani expressed their commitment to fully implementing President Trump's new South Asia strategy to defeat terrorism and ensure the safety and security of the American and Afghan people. They discussed economic development issues, including how American companies can help quickly develop Afghanistan's rich rare earth mineral resources. They agreed that such initiatives would help American companies develop materials critical to national security while growing Afghanistan's economy and creating new jobs in both countries, therefore defraying some of the costs of United States assistance as Afghans become more self-reliant.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Trilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Abe of Japan and President Moon of the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Trilateral Meeting with Prime Minister Abe of Japan and President Moon of the Republic of Korea

President Donald J. Trump hosted a working lunch in New York today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea. The three leaders agreed that North Korea's continued aggressive actions—including its two recent missile launches that overflowed Japan and its September 3, 2017 nuclear test—constitute clear and growing threats to their countries as well as to the rest of the world. The leaders committed to the fast and full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2375, and they resolved to work with all other countries to achieve that goal. They agreed to mobilize all available means to maximize pressure on North Korea and call on all other nations to do the same. The three leaders agreed that North Korea's provocative actions have drawn their nations even closer together. Finally, they affirmed close and continuing coordination in preparation for President Trump's visits to Japan and the Republic of Korea later this year.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump met today with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan in New York. The two leaders agreed that North Korea's continued provocative actions, including its two recent missile launches that overflowed Japan and the September 3rd nuclear test, constitute an unprecedented and grave threat to international peace. President Trump reiterated the U.S. commitment to defend Japan using the full range of U.S. military capabilities, and the leaders reaffirmed that the United States and Japan stand together shoulder-to-shoulder. The leaders welcomed the recent adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2375 and committed to working with South Korea and the entire world to secure its full implementation. They also committed to pursue other efforts to maximize pressure on North Korea, including urging China and Russia to play more consequential roles. The two leaders discussed economic matters and committed to deepening the partnership between the two countries, including through the U.S.-Japan economic dialogue. Finally, they affirmed continued coordination in preparation for President Trump's visit to Japan later this year.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release

September 22, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

President Donald J. Trump met today with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey. They reaffirmed the strategic partnership between the United States and Turkey and agreed to continue working together to foster regional stability and defeat terrorism in all its forms. The two leaders reaffirmed their rejection of the planned Kurdistan Regional Government's referendum on September 25th, and the serious consequences that would follow if it occurs. They called on Kurdish leaders to accept the process of intense negotiations on all outstanding issues which the United States and Turkey are prepared to endorse and support.

Joint Readout of the Meeting between President Donald J. Trump of the United States and President Moon Jae-in of South Korea

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 22, 2017

Joint Readout of the Meeting between President Donald J. Trump of the United States and President Moon Jae-in of South Korea

President Donald J. Trump met in New York with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea to discuss the serious and escalating threat posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. The two presidents condemned in the strongest terms North Korea's continued provocations, including its sixth nuclear test on September 3 and its two recent launches of ballistic missiles over Japan. The leaders stressed the importance of faithful and thorough implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2371 and 2375. The two leaders also agreed that maximum pressure and sanctions on North Korea are necessary to deter its threatening actions and take steps towards denuclearization.

President Trump and President Moon reaffirmed the two countries' joint goal of pursuing the complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of North Korea in a peaceful manner. They shared the view that maintaining overwhelming military superiority over North Korea is essential, and committed to maintain and strengthen our robust combined defense posture, including through South Korea's acquisition and development of highly advanced military assets. They also agreed to the enhanced deployment of U.S. strategic assets in and around South Korea on a rotational basis. The two leaders committed to continue their close consultation when President Trump visits Seoul in November.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

October 20, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

President Donald J. Trump met today with United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and discussed issues of mutual interest, including North Korea, Syria, Iraq, Burma, and United Nations reform. The President noted his support for Secretary-General Guterres' efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations. The two committed to work together to address these and other common challenges in the coming months.

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 06, 2017

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to Japan

Upon arrival in Japan, First Lady Melania Trump joined her husband at Yokota Air Base to thank members of the military for all they do to protect the United States. She then flew to Tokyo and joined Mrs. Abe for tea, and the two participated in a cultural presentation on the history of the pearl industry. Mrs. Trump and her husband ended the day at a private couples dinner at Ukai-Tei with Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe.

For her second day in Japan, Mrs. Trump attended a business leaders event at the U.S. Embassy along with the President, supporting him as he offered words of support to the victims of the horrific tragedy in Texas. Upon conclusion of the event, they attended a meet-and-greet to say thank you to the families of those who work for the U.S. Embassy.

The President and First Lady then traveled to the Imperial Palace to meet with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, followed by an Honor Guard Ceremony at Akasaka Palace with Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe.

First Lady Melania Trump and Mrs. Abe then traveled to Kyobashi Tsukiji Elementary School to visit with local school children, where they received a traditional calligraphy lesson. After the school visit, the two First Ladies traveled back to Akasaka Palace for lunch.

The First Lady re-joined her husband and they took part in a meaningful meeting with families of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea. Then Mrs. Trump attended a joint press conference with her husband and Prime Minister Abe. The day ended with a state banquet at Akasaka Palace.

"I enjoyed the time I was able to spend in Japan," states First Lady Melania Trump. "It was a pleasure to once again spend time with Mrs. Abe, and discuss many of the issues facing each of our nations. I learned so much about the rich traditions and history of this beautiful country, and want to personally thank Prime Minister and Mrs. Abe for being such gracious hosts."

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to the Republic of Korea

The White House
Office of the First Lady
For Immediate Release
November 08, 2017

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to the Republic of Korea

Upon landing at the Osan Air Base in the Republic of Korea, First Lady Melania Trump flew to Seoul to help kick off the United States Embassy's "Girls Play 2!" campaign, which is a program that garners support for the 2018 Winter Olympics and encourages girls' increased participation in sports.

Mrs. Trump then joined her husband for a welcoming ceremony at the Blue House. Following a warm welcome from President Moon and Mrs. Kim, the First Ladies participated in tea and a friendship walk, joining their husbands at a tea house where the couples engaged in friendly conversation. Mrs. Trump and Mrs. Kim then attended the joint press conference held by their husbands. The evening ended with a state banquet at the Blue House.

On her second day in Seoul, Mrs. Trump spoke at the U.S. Embassy meet and greet, thanking employees and their families for their dedicated service to our country. The First Lady then accompanied her husband to his speech at the National Assembly, after which they took part in a

wreath laying ceremony at the National Cemetery. The visit concluded with a departure ceremony at Osan Air Base.

“I was honored by the warm welcome we received in the Republic of Korea,” First Lady Melania Trump said. “I very much enjoyed the conversations I had with Mrs. Kim and was impressed by the children I had the opportunity to meet. I look forward to continuing this friendship and extend my continued support to the people of the Republic of Korea.”

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to China

The White House
Office of the First Lady
For Immediate Release
November 10, 2017

Readout of First Lady Melania Trump's Visit to China

Upon arriving in China, President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump participated in an arrival ceremony at the airport, followed by a welcome tea, a tour, and a couples dinner at the Forbidden City with President Xi and Madame Peng.

On day two, the First Lady and her husband traveled to the Great Hall of the People to take part in an official welcome ceremony. After the ceremony, Mrs. Trump and Madame Peng toured Banchang Primary School to participate in a variety of classes, including Peking opera, astronomy, fashion and design, calligraphy, cooking, and Chinese architecture. The tour ended with a cultural performance by some of the school's students. Mrs. Trump then participated in a U.S. Embassy meet-and-greet, and ended the day with a state dinner and cultural performance at the Great Hall of the People.

On day three of her visit, Mrs. Trump visited the panda exhibit at the Beijing Zoo, then toured the Great Wall.

“This visit to China is something I will never forget,” said First Lady Melania Trump. “President Xi and Madame Peng were gracious hosts, and I was honored to participate in many cultural experiences and personal conversations. I believe both of our countries made great strides during this trip, and I look forward to future visits.”

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 13, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

President Donald J. Trump met with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan today in Manila, Philippines. The three leaders reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining maximum pressure on North Korea in the effort to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula. They also discussed expanded security cooperation for enhanced deterrence and defense against North Korean aggression. President Trump, Prime Minister Turnbull, and Prime Minister Abe underscored the importance of working together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific region. The three leaders also acknowledged the need to pursue fair and reciprocal trade.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 13, 2017

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India
President Donald J. Trump met today with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India in Manila, Philippines. The two leaders discussed the comprehensive strategic partnership between the United States and India and their shared commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region. They pledged to enhance their cooperation as Major Defense Partners, resolving that two of the world's great democracies should also have the world's greatest militaries. President Trump expressed appreciation that Indian purchases of oil from the United States have surpassed 10 million barrels in recent months, and expressed confidence that stronger energy cooperation will be a geopolitical and economic game changer for both countries. Prime Minister Modi noted that he looks forward to hosting the United States delegation to the upcoming Global Entrepreneurship Summit, showcasing innovation and collaboration between India and the United States.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Fayeze Al-Sarraj of Libya

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Fayeze Al-Sarraj of Libya

Issued on: December 1, 2017

President Donald J. Trump met today with Prime Minister Fayeze al-Sarraj of Libya to discuss the bilateral relationship between the United States and Libya and opportunities for future partnerships. President Trump underscored the United States' continued support for the Government of National Accord and the United Nations-facilitated efforts to achieve political reconciliation in Libya. The President also thanked the Prime Minister for his cooperation in counterterrorism efforts and emphasized America's continued commitment to defeating ISIS and other jihadist terrorists in Libya. The President and Prime Minister agreed to work together to advance Libyan stability and unity.

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Fayeze Al-Sarraj of Libya

Readout of President Donald J. Trump's Meeting with Prime Minister Fayeze Al-Sarraj of Libya

Issued on: December 1, 2017

President Donald J. Trump met today with Prime Minister Fayeze al-Sarraj of Libya to discuss the bilateral relationship between the United States and Libya and opportunities for future partnerships. President Trump underscored the United States' continued support for the Government of National Accord and the United Nations-facilitated efforts to achieve political reconciliation in Libya. The President also thanked the Prime Minister for his cooperation in counterterrorism efforts and emphasized America's continued commitment to defeating ISIS and other jihadist terrorists in Libya. The President and Prime Minister agreed to work together to advance Libyan stability and unity.

12. ПРЕСС-КОНФЕРЕНЦИИ

Remarks by President Trump in Press Conference

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release February 16, 2017
Remarks by President Trump in Press Conference
East Room
12:55 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I just wanted to begin by mentioning that the nominee for Secretary of the Department of Labor will be Mr. Alex Acosta. He has a law degree from Harvard Law School, was a great student. Former clerk for Justice Samuel Alito. And he has had a tremendous career. He's a member, and has been a member, of the National Labor Relations Board, and has been through Senate confirmation three times, confirmed -- did very, very well. And so Alex, I've wished him the best. We just spoke. And he's going to be -- I think he'll be a tremendous Secretary of Labor.

And also, as you probably heard just a little while ago, Mick Mulvaney, former congressman, has just been approved -- weeks late, I have to say that. Weeks, weeks late. Office of Management and Budget. And he will be, I think, a fantastic addition. Paul Singer has just left. As you know, Paul was very much involved with the anti-Trump, or, as they say, "Never Trump." And Paul just left and he's given us his total support. And it's all about unification. We're unifying the party, and hopefully we're going to be able to unify the country. It's very important to me. I've been talking about that for a long time, but it's very, very important to me. So I want to thank Paul Singer for being here and for coming up to the office. He was a very strong opponent, and now he's a very strong ally. And I appreciate that.

I think I'll say a few words, and then we'll take some questions. And I had this time -- we've been negotiating a lot of different transactions to save money on contracts that were terrible, including airplane contracts that were out of control and late and terrible. Just absolutely catastrophic in terms of what was happening. And we've done some really good work. We're very proud of that.

And then right after that, you prepare yourselves and we'll do some questions -- unless you have no questions. That's always a possibility.

I'm here today to update the American people on the incredible progress that has been made in the last four weeks since my inauguration. We have made incredible progress. I don't think there's ever been a President elected who, in this short period of time, has done what we've done.

A new Rasmussen poll, in fact -- because the people get it; much of the media doesn't get it. They actually get it, but they don't write it -- let's put it that way. But a new Rasmussen poll just came out just a very short while ago, and it has our approval rating at 55 percent and going up. The stock market has hit record numbers, as you know. And there has been a tremendous surge of optimism in the business world, which is -- to me means something much different than it used to. It used to mean, oh, that's good. Now it means that's good for jobs. Very different. Plants and factories are already starting to move back into the United States and big league -- Ford, General Motors, so many of them.

I'm making this presentation directly to the American people with the media present, which is an honor to have you this morning, because many of our nation's reporters and folks will not tell

you the truth and will not treat the wonderful people of our country with the respect that they deserve. And I hope going forward we can be a little bit different, and maybe get along a little bit better, if that's possible. Maybe it's not, and that's okay too.

Unfortunately, much of the media in Washington, D.C., along with New York, Los Angeles, in particular, speaks not for the people but for the special interests and for those profiting off a very, very obviously broken system. The press has become so dishonest that if we don't talk about it, we are doing a tremendous disservice to the American people -- tremendous disservice. We have to talk about it to find out what's going on, because the press honestly is out of control. The level of dishonesty is out of control.

I ran for President to represent the citizens of our country. I am here to change the broken system so it serves their families and their communities well. I am talking, and really talking, on this very entrenched power structure, and what we're doing is we're talking about the power structure, we're talking about its entrenchment. As a result, the media is going through what they have to go through to oftentimes distort -- not all the time -- and some of the media is fantastic, I have to say; they're honest and fantastic. But much of it is not -- the distortion. And we'll talk about it, and you'll be able to ask me questions about it.

But we're not going to let it happen, because I'm here again to take my message straight to the people. As you know, our administration inherited many problems across government and across the economy. To be honest, I inherited a mess -- it's a mess -- at home and abroad. A mess. Jobs are pouring out of the country. You see what's going on with all of the companies leaving our country, going to Mexico and other places -- low-pay, low-wages. Mass instability overseas, no matter where you look. The Middle East, a disaster. North Korea -- we'll take care of it, folks. We're going to take care of it all. I just want to let you know I inherited a mess.

Beginning on day one, our administration went to work to tackle these challenges. On foreign affairs, we've already begun enormously productive talks with many foreign leaders -- much of it you've covered -- to move forward toward stability, security, and peace in the most troubled regions of the world, which there are many.

We've had great conversations with the United Kingdom -- and meetings -- Israel, Mexico, Japan, China, and Canada. Really, really productive conversations. I would say far more productive than you would understand. We've even developed a new council with Canada to promote women's business leaders and entrepreneurs. It's very important to me, very important to my daughter Ivanka.

I have directed our defense community, headed by our great general, now Secretary Mattis -- he's over there now, working very hard -- to submit a plan for the defeat of ISIS, a group that celebrates the murder and torture of innocent people in large sections of the world. It used to be a small group, and now it's in large sections of the world. They've spread like cancer. ISIS has spread like cancer. Another mess I inherited.

And we have imposed new sanctions on the nation of Iran, who's totally taken advantage of our previous administration. And they're the world's top sponsor of terrorism. And we're not going to stop until that problem is properly solved. And it's not properly solved now. It's one of the worst agreements I've ever seen drawn by anybody.

I've ordered plans to begin for the massive rebuilding of the United States military. I've had great support from the Senate. I've had great support from Congress generally. We've pursued this rebuilding in the hopes that we will never have to use this military. And I will tell you that is my -- I would be so happy if we never had to use it. But our country will never have had a military like the military we're about to build and rebuild. We have the greatest people on Earth in our military, but they don't have the right equipment. And their equipment is old. I used it, I talked about it at every stop. Depleted -- it's depleted. It won't be depleted for long.

And I think one of the reasons I'm standing here instead of other people is that, frankly, I talked about we have to have a strong military. We have to have strong law enforcement also. So

we do not go abroad in the search of war. We really are searching for peace, but it's peace through strength.

At home, we have begun the monumental task of returning the government back to the people on a scale not seen in many, many years. In each of these actions, I'm keeping my promises to the American people. These are campaign promises. Some people are so surprised that we're having strong borders. Well, that's what I've been talking about for a year and a half -- strong borders. They're so surprised -- "oh, you're having strong borders." Well, that's what I've been talking about to the press and to everybody else.

One promise after another after years of politicians lying to you to get elected. They lie to the American people in order to get elected. Some of the things I'm doing probably aren't popular, but they're necessary for security and for other reasons. And then coming to Washington and pursuing their own interests, which is more important to many politicians.

I'm here following through on what I pledged to do. That's all I'm doing. I put it out before the American people. Got 306 Electoral College votes. I wasn't supposed to get 222. They said there's no way to get 222; 230 is impossible. Two hundred and seventy, which you need, that was laughable. We got 306 because people came out and voted like they've never seen before. So that's the way it goes. I guess it was the biggest Electoral College win since Ronald Reagan.

In other words, the media is trying to attack our administration because they know we are following through on pledges that we made, and they're not happy about it for whatever reason. But a lot of people are happy about it. In fact, I'll be in Melbourne, Florida, five o'clock on Saturday, and I heard -- just heard that the crowds are massive that want to be there.

I turn on the TV, open the newspapers, and I see stories of chaos. Chaos! Yet, it is the exact opposite. This administration is running like a fine-tuned machine, despite the fact that I can't get my Cabinet approved, and they're outstanding people. Like Senator Dan Coates whose there -- one of the most respected men of the Senate -- he can't get approved. How do you not approve him? He's been a colleague, highly respected -- brilliant guy, great guy, everybody knows it -- but waiting for approval.

So we have a wonderful group of people that's working very hard, that's being very much misrepresented about, and we can't let that happen. So if the Democrats, who have -- all you have to do is look at where they are right now -- the only thing they can do is delay, because they've screwed things up royally, believe me.

Let me list to you some of the things that we've done in just a short period of time. I just got here. I got here with no Cabinet. Again, each of these actions is a promise I made to the American people. So we'll go over just some of them, and we have a lot happening next week and in the weeks coming. We've withdrawn from the job-killing disaster known as Trans-Pacific Partnership. We're going to make trade deals, but we're going to have one-on-one deals -- bilateral. We're going to have one-on-one deals.

We've directed the elimination of regulations that undermine manufacturing, and called for expedited approval of the permits needed for America and American infrastructure, and that means plants, equipment, roads, bridges, factories. People take 10, 15, 20 years to get disapproved for a factory. They go in for a permit -- it's many, many years. And then at the end of the process -- they spend tens of millions of dollars on nonsense -- and at the end of the process, they get rejected. Now, they may be rejected with me, but it's going to be a quick rejection. It's not going to take years. But mostly, it's going to be an acceptance. We want plants built, and we want factories built, and we want the jobs. We don't want the jobs going to other countries.

We've imposed a hiring freeze on nonessential federal workers. We've imposed a temporary moratorium on new federal regulations. We've issued a game-changing new rule that says for each one new regulation, two old regulations must be eliminated. Makes sense. Nobody has ever seen regulations like we have. If you go to other countries and you look at industries they have, and you say, let me see your regulations, and they're a fraction, just a tiny fraction of what we have. And I

want regulations because I want safety, I want all environmental situations to be taken properly care of. It's very important to me. But you don't need four or five or six regulations to take care of the same thing.

We've stood up for the men and women of law enforcement, directing federal agencies to ensure they are protected from crimes of violence. We've directed the creation of a task force for reducing violent crime in America, including the horrendous situation -- take a look at Chicago and others -- taking place right now in our inner cities. Horrible. We've ordered the Department of Homeland Security and Justice to coordinate on a plan to destroy criminal cartels coming into the United States with drugs. We're becoming a drug-infested nation. Drugs are becoming cheaper than candy bars, and we're not going to let it happen any longer.

We've undertaken the most substantial border security measures in a generation to keep our nation and our tax dollars safe, and are now in the process of beginning to build a promised wall on the southern border. Met with General, now Secretary, Kelly yesterday and we're starting that process. And the wall is going to be a great wall, and it's going to be a wall negotiated by me. The price is going to come down, just like it has on everything else I've negotiated for the government. And we're going to have a wall that works. We're not going to have a wall like they have now, which is either nonexistent or a joke.

We've ordered a crackdown on sanctuary cities that refuse to comply with federal law and that harbor criminal aliens, and we've ordered an end to the policy of catch and release on the border. No more release, no matter who you are -- release. We've begun a nationwide effort to remove criminal aliens, gang members, drug dealers, and others who pose a threat to public safety. We are saving American lives every single day. The court system has not made it easy for us. And we've even created a new office in Homeland Security dedicated to the forgotten American victims of illegal immigrant violence, of which there are many.

We've taken decisive action to keep radical Islamic terrorists out of our country. Though parts of our necessary and constitutional actions were blocked by a judge's, in my opinion, incorrect and unsafe ruling, our administration is working night and day to keep you safe -- including reporters safe -- and is vigorously defending this lawful order. I will not back down from defending our country. I got elected on defense of our country. And I keep my campaign promises. And our citizens will be very happy when they see the result. They already are. I can tell you that.

Extreme vetting will be put in place, and it already is in place in many places. In fact, we had to go quicker than we thought because of the bad decision we received from a circuit that has been overturned at a record number. I've heard 80 percent -- I find that hard to believe; that's just a number I heard -- that they're overturned 80 percent of the time. I think that circuit is in chaos and that circuit is, frankly, in turmoil. But we are appealing that and we are going further.

We're issuing a new executive action next week that will comprehensively protect our country, so we'll be going along the one path and hopefully winning that. At the same time, we will be issuing a new and very comprehensive order to protect our people, and that will be done some time next week, toward the beginning or middle at the latest part.

We've also taken steps to begin construction of the Keystone Pipeline and Dakota Access Pipelines -- thousands and thousands of jobs -- and put new "Buy American" measures in place to require American steel for American pipelines. In other words, they build a pipeline in this country and we use the powers of government to make that pipeline happen. We want them to use American steel. And they're willing to do that, but nobody ever asked before I came along. Even this order was drawn and they didn't say that. And I'm reading the order, I'm saying, why aren't we using American steel? And they said, that's a good idea. We put it in.

To drain the swamp of corruption in Washington, D.C. I've started by imposing a five-year lobbying ban on White House officials and a lifetime ban on lobbying for a foreign government. We've begun preparing to repeal and replace Obamacare. Obamacare is a disaster, folks. It's a disaster. You can say, oh, Obamacare -- I mean, they fill up our alleys with people that you wonder

how they get there, but they're not the Republican people that our representatives are representing. So we've begun preparing to repeal and replace Obamacare and are deep in the midst of negotiations on a very historic tax reform to bring our jobs back. We're bringing our jobs back to this country big league. It's already happening, but big league.

I've also worked to install a Cabinet over the delays and obstruction of Senate Democrats. You've seen what they've done over the last long number of years. That will be one of the great Cabinets ever assembled in American history. You look at Rex Tillerson -- he's out there negotiating right now. General Mattis I mentioned before, General Kelly. We have great, great people. Mick is with us now. We have great people.

Among their responsibilities will be ending the bleeding of jobs from our country and negotiating fair trade deals for our citizens. Now, look, fair trade -- not free -- fair. If a country is taking advantage of us, we're not going to let that happen anymore. Every country takes advantage of us, almost. I may be able to find a couple that don't. But for the most part, that would be a very tough job for me to do.

Jobs have already started to surge. Since my election, Ford announced it will abandon its plans to build a new factory in Mexico and will instead invest \$700 million in Michigan, creating many, many jobs. Fiat-Chrysler announced it will invest \$1 billion in Ohio and Michigan, creating 2,000 new American jobs. They were with me a week ago. You know -- you were here. General Motors, likewise, committed to invest billions of dollars in its American manufacturing operation, keeping many jobs here that were going to leave. And if I didn't get elected, believe me, they would have left. And these jobs and these things that I'm announcing would never have come here.

Intel just announced that it will move ahead with a new plant in Arizona that probably was never going to move ahead with. And that will result in at least 10,000 American jobs. Walmart announced it will create 10,000 jobs in the United States just this year because of our various plans and initiatives. There will be many, many more. Many more. These are a few that we're naming.

Other countries have been taking advantage of us for decades -- decades and decades and decades, folks. And we're not going to let that happen anymore. Not going to let it happen.

And one more thing. I have kept my promise to the American people by nominating a justice of the United States Supreme Court, Judge Neil Gorsuch, who is from my list of 20, and who will be a true defender of our laws and our Constitution -- highly respected, should get the votes from the Democrats -- you may not see that, but he'll get there one way or the other. But he should get there the old-fashioned way, and he should get those votes.

This last month has represented an unprecedented degree of action on behalf of the great citizens of our country. Again, I say it -- there has never been a presidency that's done so much in such a short period of time. And we haven't even started the big work that starts early next week. Some very big things are going to be announced next week.

So we're just getting started. We will be giving a speech, as I said, in Melbourne, Florida, at 5:00 p.m. I hope to see you there. And with that, I'd just say, God bless America, and let's take some questions.

Mara. Mara, go ahead. You were cut off pretty violently at our last news conference.

Q Did you fire Mike Flynn?

THE PRESIDENT: Mike Flynn is a fine person, and I asked for his resignation. He respectfully gave it. He is a man who -- there was a certain amount of information given to Vice President Pence, who is with us today. And I was not happy with the way that information was given.

He didn't have to do that, because what he did wasn't wrong, what he did in terms of the information he saw. What was wrong was the way that other people, including yourselves in this room, were given that information, because that was classified information that was given illegally. That's the real problem. And you can talk all you want about Russia, which was all a fake news, fabricated deal to try and make up for the loss of the Democrats, and the press plays right into it. In

fact, I saw a couple of the people that were supposedly involved with all of this -- they know nothing about it. They weren't in Russia, they never made a phone call to Russia, they never received a phone call. It's all fake news. It's all fake news.

The nice thing is I see it starting to turn, where people are now looking at the illegal, Mara -- and I think it's very important -- the illegal giving out classified information. And let me just tell you, it was given out, like, so much. I'll give you an example. I called, as you know, Mexico. It was a very confidential, classified call, but I called Mexico. And in calling Mexico, I figured, oh, well, that's -- I spoke to the President of Mexico, had a good call. All of a sudden it's out for the world to see. It's supposed to be secret. It's supposed to be either confidential or classified in that case. Same thing with Australia. All of a sudden people are finding out exactly what took place.

The same thing happened with respect to General Flynn. Everybody saw this, and I'm saying -- the first thing I thought of when I heard about it is, how does the press get this information that's classified? How do they do it? You know why? Because it's an illegal process, and the press should be ashamed of themselves. But, more importantly, the people that gave out the information to the press should be ashamed of themselves. Really ashamed.

Yes, go ahead.

Q Why did you keep your Vice President in the dark for almost two weeks?

THE PRESIDENT: Because when I looked at the information, I said, I don't think he did anything wrong. If anything, he did something right. He was coming into office, he looked at the information. He said, huh, that's fine, that's what they're supposed to do. They're supposed to be -- and he didn't just call Russia. He called and spoke to, both ways -- I think there were 30-some-odd countries. He's doing the job.

You know, he was just doing his job. The thing is he didn't tell our Vice President properly, and then he said he didn't remember. So either way, it wasn't very satisfactory to me. And I have somebody that I think will be outstanding for the position, and that also helps, I think, in the making of my decision.

But he didn't tell the Vice President of the United States the facts, and then he didn't remember. And that just wasn't acceptable to me.

Yes.

Q President Trump, since you brought up Russia, I'm looking for some clarification here. During the campaign, did anyone from your team communicate with members of the Russian government or Russian intelligence? And if so, what was the nature of those conversations?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the failing New York Times wrote a big, long front-page story yesterday. And it was very much discredited, as you know. It was -- it's a joke. And the people mentioned in the story -- I notice they were on television today saying they never even spoke to Russia. They weren't even a part, really -- I mean, they were such a minor part -- I hadn't spoken to them. I think the one person, I don't think I've ever spoken to him. I don't think I've ever met him. And he actually said he was a very low-level member of, I think, a committee for a short period of time. I don't think I ever met him. Now, it's possible that I walked into a room and he was sitting there, but I don't think I ever met him. I didn't talk to him, ever. And he thought it was a joke.

The other person said he never spoke to Russia, never received a call. Look at his phone records, et cetera, et cetera. And the other person, people knew that he'd represented various countries, but I don't think he represented Russia -- but knew that he represented various countries. That's what he does. I mean, people know that. That's Mr. Manafort, who's, by the way -- who's, by the way, a respected man. He's a respected man. But I think he represented the Ukraine, or Ukraine government, or somebody. But everybody -- people knew that. Everybody knew that. So these people -- and he said that he has absolutely nothing to do and never has with Russia. And he said that very forcefully. I saw his statement. He said it very forcefully. Most of the papers don't print it because that's not good for their stories.

So the three people that they talked about all totally deny it. And I can tell you, speaking for myself, I own nothing in Russia. I have no loans in Russia. I don't have any deals in Russia. President Putin called me up very nicely to congratulate me on the win of the election. He then called me up extremely nicely to congratulate me on the inauguration, which was terrific. But so did many other leaders -- almost all other leaders from almost all other countries. So that's the extent.

Russia is fake news. Russia -- this is fake news put out by the media. The real news is the fact that people, probably from the Obama administration because they're there -- because we have our new people going in place right now. As you know, Mike Pompeo is now taking control of the CIA. James Comey at FBI. Dan Coats is waiting to be approved. I mean, he is a senator, and a highly respected one. And he's still waiting to be approved. But our new people are going in.

And just while you're at, because you mentioned this, Wall Street Journal did a story today that was almost as disgraceful as the failing New Times's story yesterday. And it talked about -- you saw it, front page. So, Director of National Intelligence just put out -- acting -- a statement: "Any suggestion that the United States intelligence community" -- this was just given to us -- "is withholding information and not providing the best possible intelligence to the President and his national security team is not true."

So they took this front-page story out of The Wall Street Journal -- top -- and they just wrote the story is not true. And I'll tell you something, I'll be honest -- because I sort of enjoy this back and forth, and I guess I have all my life, but I've never seen more dishonest media than, frankly, the political media. I thought the financial media was much better, much more honest. But I will say that I never get phone calls from the media. How do they write a story like that in The Wall Street Journal without asking me? Or how do they write a story in The New York Times, put it on front page? That was like that story they wrote about the women and me -- front page. Big massive story. And it was nasty.

And then they called. They said, "We never said that. We like Mr. Trump." They called up my office -- we like Mr. Trump; we never said that. And it was totally -- they totally misrepresented those very wonderful women, I have to tell you -- totally misrepresented. I said, give us a retraction. They never gave us a retraction. And, frankly, I then went on to other things.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: You okay?

Q I am. Just wanted to get untangled. Very simply, you said today that you had the biggest electoral margins since Ronald Reagan with 304 or 306 electoral votes. In fact, President Obama got 365 in 2008.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'm talking about Republican. Yes.

Q President Obama, 332. George H.W. Bush, 426 when he won as President. So why should Americans trust --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, no, I was told -- I was given that information. I don't know. I was just given. We had a very, very big margin.

Q I guess my question is, why should Americans trust you when you have accused the information they receive of being fake when you're providing information that's fake?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I don't know. I was given that information. I was given -- actually, I've seen that information around. But it was a very substantial victory. Do you agree with that?

Q You're the President.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, thank you. That's a good answer. Yes.

Q Mr. President, thank you so much. Can you tell us in determining that Lieutenant General Flynn -- there was no wrongdoing in your mind, what evidence was weighed? Did you have the transcripts of these telephone intercepts with Russian officials, particularly Ambassador

Kislyak, who he was communicating with? What evidence did you weigh to determine there was no wrong doing?

And further than that, sir, you've said on a couple of occasions this morning that you were going to aggressively pursue the sources of these leaks.

THE PRESIDENT: We are.

Q Can we ask what you're doing to do? And also, we've heard about a review of the intelligence community headed by Stephen Feinberg. What can you tell us about that?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, first of all, about that, we now have Dan Coats, hopefully soon Mike Pompeo and James Comey, and they're in position. So I hope that we'll be able to straighten that out without using anybody else. The gentleman you mentioned is a very talented man, very successful man. And he has offered his services, and it's something we may take advantage of. But I don't think we'll need that at all because of the fact that I think that we're going to be able to straighten it out very easily on its own.

As far as the general is concerned, when I first heard about it, I said, huh, that doesn't sound wrong. My counsel came -- Don McGahn, White House Counsel -- and he told me, and I asked him, and he can speak very well for himself. He said he doesn't think anything is wrong. He really didn't think -- it was really what happened after that, but he didn't think anything was done wrong. I didn't either, because I waited a period of time and I started to think about it. I said, well, I don't see -- to me, he was doing the job.

The information was provided by -- who I don't know -- Sally Yates -- and I was a little surprised because I said, doesn't sound like he did anything wrong there. But he did something wrong with respect to the Vice President, and I thought that was not acceptable. As far as the actual making the call -- in fact, I've watched various programs and I've read various articles where he was just doing his job. That was very normal. At first, everybody got excited because they thought he did something wrong. After they thought about it, it turned out he was just doing his job.

So -- and I do -- and, by the way, with all of that being said, I do think he's a fine man.

Yes, Jon.

Q On the leaks, sir --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead, finish off, then I'll get you, Jon.

Q Sorry, what will you do on the leaks? You have said twice today --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we're looking at it very, very seriously. I've gone to all of the folks in charge of the various agencies, and we're -- I've actually called the Justice Department to look into the leaks. Those are criminal leaks. They're put out by people either in agencies. I think you'll see it stopping because now we have our people in. You know, again, we don't have our people in because we can't get them approved by the Senate. We just had Jeff Sessions approved in Justice, as an example. So we are looking into that very seriously. It's a criminal act.

You know what I say -- when I was called out on Mexico, I was shocked. Because all this equipment, all this incredible phone equipment. When I was called out on Mexico, I was -- honestly, I was really, really surprised. But I said, you know, it doesn't make sense, that won't happen. But that wasn't that important to call, it was fine. I could show it to the world and he could show it to the world -- the President who is a very fine man, by the way. Same thing with Australia. I said, that's terrible that it was leaked but it wasn't that important. But then I said, what happens when I'm dealing with the problem of North Korea? What happens when I'm dealing with the problems in the Middle East? Are you folks going to be reporting all of that very, very confidential information -- very important, very -- I mean, at the highest level, are you going to be reporting about that too?

So I don't want classified information getting out to the public. And in a way, that was almost a test. So I'm dealing with Mexico. I'm dealing with Argentina. We were dealing on this case with Mike Flynn. All this information gets put into the Washington Post and gets put into the New York Times. And I'm saying, what's going to happen when I'm dealing on the Middle East?

What's going to happen when I'm dealing with really, really important subjects like North Korea? We've got to stop it. That's why it's a criminal penalty.

Yes, Jon.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to get you to clarify just a very important point. Can you say definitively that nobody on your campaign had any contacts with the Russians during the campaign? And, on the leaks, is it fake news or are these real leaks?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the leaks are real. You're the one that wrote about them and reported them. I mean, the leaks are real. You know what they said -- you saw it. And the leaks are absolutely real. The news is fake because so much of the news is fake.

So one thing that I felt it was very important to do -- and I hope we can correct it, because there is nobody I have more respect for -- well, maybe a little bit -- than reporters, than good reporters. It's very important to me, and especially in this position. It's very important. I don't mind bad stories. I can handle a bad story better than anybody as long as it's true. And over a course of time, I'll make mistakes and you'll write badly and I'm okay with that. But I'm not okay when it is fake. I mean, I watch CNN -- it's so much anger and hatred and just the hatred. I don't watch it anymore because it's very good -- he's saying no. It's okay, Jim. It's okay, Jim. You'll have your chance. But I watch others too. You're not the only one, so don't feel badly.

But I think it should be straight. I think it should be -- I think it would be, frankly, more interesting. I know how good everybody's ratings are right now, but I think that actually would be -- I think that it would actually be better.

People -- I mean, you have a lower approval rate than Congress. I think that's right. I don't know, Peter, is that one right? Because you know, I think they have lower -- I heard, lower than Congress.

But honestly, the public would appreciate it. I'd appreciate it. Again, I don't mind bad stories when it's true. But we have an administration where the Democrats are making it very difficult. I think we're setting a record, or close to a record in the time of approval of a Cabinet. I mean, the numbers are crazy. When I'm looking -- some of them had them approved immediately. I'm going forever, and I still have a lot of people that we're waiting for.

And that's all they're doing, is delaying. And you look at Schumer and the mess that he's got over there, and they have nothing going. The only thing they can do is delay. And you know, I think they'd be better served by approving and making sure that they're happy and everybody is good. And sometimes, I mean -- I know President Obama lost three or four, and you lose them on the way. And that's okay. That's fine.

But I think they would be much better served, Jon, if they just went through the process quickly. This is pure delay tactics. And they say it, and everybody understands it.

Yeah, go ahead, Jim.

Q The first part of my question on contacts. Do you definitively say that nobody --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I had nothing to do with it. I have nothing to do with Russia. I told you, I have no deals there. I have no anything.

Now, when WikiLeaks, which I had nothing to do with, comes out and happens to give -- they're not giving classified information. They're giving stuff -- what was said at an office about Hillary cheating on the debates -- which, by the way, nobody mentions. Nobody mentions that Hillary received the questions to the debates.

Can you imagine -- seriously, can you imagine if I received the questions? It would be the electric chair, okay? "He should be put in the electric chair." You would even call for the reinstitution of the death penalty, okay? Maybe not you, Jon.

Yes, we'll do you next, Jim. I'll do you next. Yes?

Q Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to clarify one other thing.

THE PRESIDENT: Sure.

Q Did you direct Mike Flynn to discuss the sanctions with the Russian ambassador?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I didn't. No, I didn't.

Q (Inaudible.) (Off mic.)

THE PRESIDENT: No, I didn't.

Q Did you fire him because (inaudible) --

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me -- no, I fired him because of what he said to Mike Pence, very simple. Mike was doing his job. He was calling countries and his counterparts. So it certainly would have been okay with me if he did it. I would have directed him to do it if I thought he wasn't doing it. I didn't direct him but I would have directed him because that's his job.

And it came out that way -- and, in all fairness, I watched Dr. Charles Krauthammer the other night say he was doing his job. And I agreed with him. And since then I've watched many other people say that.

No, I didn't direct him, but I would have directed him if he didn't do it, okay?

Jim.

Q Mr. President, thank you very much. And just for the record, we don't hate you, I don't hate you. If you could pass that along.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Well, ask Jeff Zucker how he got his job, okay?

Q If I may follow up on some of the questions that have taken place so far, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Well, not too many. We do have other people. You do have other people, and your ratings aren't as good as some of the other people that are waiting.

Q They're pretty good right now, actually.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Go ahead, Jim.

Q If I may ask, sir, you said earlier that WikiLeaks was revealing information about the Hillary Clinton campaign during the election cycle. You welcomed that at one point.

THE PRESIDENT: I was okay with it.

Q You said you loved WikiLeaks. At another campaign press conference you called on the Russians to find the missing 30,000 emails. I'm wondering, sir, if you --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, she was actually missing 33,000, and then that got extended with a whole pile after that, but that's okay.

Q Maybe my numbers are off a little bit too.

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, but I did say 30,000, but it was actually higher than that.

Q If I may ask you, sir, it sounds as though you do not have much credibility here when it comes to leaking if that is something that you encouraged in the campaign.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, fair question. Ready?

Q So if I may ask you that -- if I may ask a follow-up --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, but are you -- let me do one at a time. Do you mind?

Q Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: All right. So in one case you're talking about highly classified information. In the other case you're talking about John Podesta saying bad things about the boss. I will say this: If John Podesta said that about me and he was working for me, I would have fired him so fast your head would have spun. He said terrible things about her. But it wasn't classified information.

But in one case you're talking about classified. Regardless, if you look at the RNC, we had a very strong -- at my suggestion -- and I give Reince great credit for this -- at my suggestion, because I know something about this world, I said I want a very strong defensive mechanism. I don't want to be hacked. And we did that, and you have seen that they tried to hack us and they failed.

The DNC did not do that. And if they did it, they could not have been hacked. But they were hacked, and terrible things came. And the only thing that I do think is unfair is some of the things were so -- they were -- when I heard some of those things, I said -- I picked up the papers the next morning, I said, oh, this is going to front page. It wasn't even in the papers.

Again, if I had that happen to me, it would be the biggest story in the history of publishing or the head of newspapers. I would have been the headline in every newspaper.

I mean, think of it. They gave her the questions for the debate, and she should have reported herself. Why didn't Hillary Clinton announce that, "I'm sorry, but I have been given the questions to a debate or a town hall, and I feel that it's inappropriate, and I want to turn in CNN for not doing a good job"?

Q And if I may follow up on that, just something that Jonathan Karl was asking you about - you said that the leaks are real, but the news is fake. I guess I don't understand. It seems that there is a disconnect there. If the information coming from those leaks is real, then how can the stories be fake?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, the reporting is fake. Look, look --

Q And if I may ask -- I just want to ask one other question.

THE PRESIDENT: Jim, you know what it is? Here's the thing. The public isn't -- they read newspapers, they see television, they watch. They don't know if it's true or false because they're not involved. I'm involved. I've been involved with this stuff all my life. But I'm involved. So I know when you're telling the truth or when you're not.

I just see many, many untruthful things. And I tell you what else I see. I see tone. You know the word "tone." The tone is such hatred. I'm really not a bad person, by the way. No, but the tone is such -- I do get good ratings, you have to admit that. The tone is such hatred.

I watched this morning a couple of the networks, and I have to say "Fox & Friends" in the morning, they're very honorable people. They're very -- not because they're good, because they hit me also when I do something wrong. But they have the most honest morning show. That's all I can say. It's the most honest. But the tone, Jim. If you look -- the hatred. I mean, sometimes -- sometimes somebody gets --

Q (Off mic.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, you look at your show that goes on at 10 o'clock in the evening. You just take a look at that show. That is a constant hit. The panel is almost always exclusive anti-Trump. The good news is he doesn't have good ratings. But the panel is almost exclusive anti-Trump. And the hatred and venom coming from his mouth, the hatred coming from other people on your network.

Now, I will say this. I watch it. I see it. I'm amazed by it. And I just think you'd be a lot better off -- I honestly do. The public gets it, you know. Look, when I go to rallies, they turn around, they start screaming at CNN. They want to throw their placards at CNN.

I think you would do much better by being different. But you just take a look. Take a look at some of your shows in the morning and the evening. If a guest comes out and says something positive about me, it's brutal.

Now, they'll take this news conference. I'm actually having a very good time, okay? But they'll take this news conference -- don't forget that's the way I won. Remember, I used to give you a news conference every time I made a speech, which was like every day.

Q (Off mic.)

THE PRESIDENT: No, that's how I won. I won with news conferences and probably speeches. I certainly didn't win by people listening to you people, that's for sure.

But I am having a good time. Tomorrow they will say, Donald Trump rants and raves at the press. I'm not ranting and raving. I'm just telling you, you're dishonest people. But -- but I'm not ranting and raving. I love this. I'm having a good time doing it. But tomorrow the headlines are going to be: Donald Trump Rants and Raves. I'm not ranting and raving.

Q If I may just --

THE PRESIDENT: Go ahead.

Q One more follow-up because --

THE PRESIDENT: Should I let him have a little bit more? What do you think, Peter?

Q Just because of this --

THE PRESIDENT: Peter, should I have let him have a little bit more? Sit down. Sit down.

Q Just because of the attack --

THE PRESIDENT: We'll get it.

Q Just because of the attack of fake news and attacking our network, I just want to ask you, sir --

THE PRESIDENT: I'm changing it from fake news, though.

Q Doesn't that undermine --

THE PRESIDENT: Very fake news now. (Laughter.)

Q But aren't you --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, go ahead.

Q Real news, Mr. President. Real news.

THE PRESIDENT: And you're not related to our new --

Q I am not related, sir, no. (Laughter.) I do like the sound of Secretary Acosta, I must say.

THE PRESIDENT: I looked -- you know, I looked at that name. I said, wait a minute, is there any relation there? Alex Acosta.

Q I'm sure you checked that out, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: No, I checked it. I said -- they said, no, sir. I said, do me a favor, go back and check the family tree.

Q But aren't you concerned, sir, that you are undermining the people's faith in the First Amendment freedom of the press, the press in this country when you call stories you don't like "fake news"? Why not just say it's a story I don't like?

THE PRESIDENT: I do that.

Q When you call it fake news, you're undermining confidence --

THE PRESIDENT: No, I do that. No, no, I do that.

Q -- in our news media.

THE PRESIDENT: Here's the thing.

Q Isn't that important?

THE PRESIDENT: Okay, I understand -- and you're right about that except this. See, I know when I should get good and when I should get bad. And sometimes I'll say, wow, that's going to be a great story, and I'll get killed. I know what's good and bad. I'd be a pretty good reporter -- not as good as you. But I know what's good. I know what's bad.

And when they change it and make it really bad -- something that should be positive. Sometimes something that should be very positive, they'll make okay. They'll even make it negative. So I understand it because I'm there. I know what was said. I know who is saying it. I'm there. So it's very important to me.

Look, I want to see an honest press. When I started off today by saying that it's so important to the public to get an honest press. The press -- the public doesn't believe you people anymore. Now, maybe I had something to do with that, I don't know. But they don't believe you.

If you were straight and really told it like it is, as Howard Cosell used to say, right? Of course, he had some questions also. But if you were straight, I would be your biggest booster, I would be your biggest fan in the world -- including bad stories about me. But if you go -- as an example, you're CNN -- I mean, it's story after story after story is bad. I won. I won. And the other thing: Chaos. There's zero chaos. We are running -- this is a fine-tuned machine. And Reince happens to be doing a good job. But half of his job is putting out lies by the press.

I said to him yesterday, this whole Russia scam that you guys are building so that you don't talk about the real subject, which is illegal leaks. But I watched him yesterday working so hard to try and get that story proper. And I'm saying, here's my Chief of Staff, a really good guy, did a phenomenal job at RNC. I mean, we won the election, right? We won the presidency. We got some senators. We got some -- all over the country, you take a look, he's done a great job.

And I said to myself, you know -- and I said to somebody that was in the room -- I said, you take a look at Reince, he's working so hard just putting out fires that are fake fires. They're fake. They're not true. And isn't that a shame, because he'd rather be working on health care. He'd rather be working on tax reform, Jim. I mean that. I would be your biggest fan in the world if you treated me right. I sort of understand there's a certain bias, maybe by Jeff or somebody -- for whatever reason. And I understand that. But you've got to be at least a little bit fair. And that's why the public sees it -- they see it. They see it's not fair. You take a look at some of your shows and you see the bias and the hatred. And the public is smart. They understand it.

Okay, yeah, go ahead.

Q We have no doubt that your latest story is (inaudible). But for those who believe that there is something to it, is there anything that you have learned over these last few weeks that you might be able to reveal that might ease their concerns that this isn't fake news? And secondly --

THE PRESIDENT: I think they don't believe it. I don't think the public would. That's why the Rasmussen poll just has me through the roof. I don't think they believe it. Well, I guess one of the reasons I'm here today is to tell you the whole Russian thing -- that's a ruse. That's a ruse. And, by the way, it would be great if we could get along with Russia, just so you understand that. Now, tomorrow you'll say, Donald Trump wants to get along with Russia, this is terrible. It's not terrible -- it's good.

We had Hillary Clinton try and do a reset. We had Hillary Clinton give Russia 20 percent of the uranium in our country. You know what uranium is, right? It's this thing called nuclear weapons and other things. Like, lots of things are done with uranium, including some bad things. Nobody talks about that. I didn't do anything for Russia. I've done nothing for Russia. Hillary Clinton gave them 20 percent of our uranium. Hillary Clinton did a reset, remember, with the stupid plastic button that made us all look like a bunch of jerks? Here, take a look. He looked at her like, what the hell is she doing with that cheap plastic button? Hillary Clinton -- that was a reset. Remember? It said "reset."

Now, if I do that, oh, I'm a bad guy. If we could get along with Russia, that's a positive thing. We have a very talented man, Rex Tillerson, who is going to be meeting with them shortly. And I told him, I said, I know politically it's probably not good for me. Hey, the greatest thing I could do is shoot that ship that's 30 miles offshore right out of the water. Everyone in this country is going to say, oh, it's so great. That's not great. That's not great. I would love to be able to get along with Russia.

Now, you've had a lot of Presidents that haven't taken that tact. Look where we are now. Look where we are now. So, if I can -- now, I love to negotiate things. I do it really well and all that stuff, but it's possible I won't be able to get along with Putin. Maybe it is. But I want to just tell you, the false reporting by the media, by you people -- the false, horrible, fake reporting makes it much harder to make a deal with Russia. And probably Putin said, you know -- he's sitting behind his desk and he's saying, you know, I see what's going on in the United States, I follow it closely; it's got to be impossible for President Trump to ever get along with Russia because of all the pressure he's got with this fake story. Okay? And that's a shame. Because if we could get along with Russia -- and, by the way, China and Japan and everyone -- if we could get along, it would be a positive thing, not a negative thing.

Q Tax reform --

Q Mr. President, since you --

THE PRESIDENT: Tax reform is going to happen fairly quickly. We're doing Obamacare -- we're in final stages. We should be submitting the initial plan in March, early March, I would say. And we have to, as you know, statutorily and for reasons of budget, we have to go first. It's not like -- frankly, the tax would be easier, in my opinion, but for statutory reasons and for budgetary reasons, we have to submit the health care sooner. So we'll be submitting health care sometime in

early March, mid-March. And after that, we're going to come up -- and we're doing very well on tax reform.

Yes.

Q Mr. President, you mentioned Russia. Let's talk about some serious issues that have come up in the last week that you have had to deal with as President of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay.

Q You mentioned the vessel, the spy vessel, off the coast of the United States.

THE PRESIDENT: Not good.

Q There was a ballistic missile test that many interpreted as a violation --

THE PRESIDENT: Not good.

Q -- of the agreement between the two countries. And a Russian plane buzzed a U.S. destroyer.

THE PRESIDENT: Not good.

Q I listened to you during the campaign --

THE PRESIDENT: Excuse me, excuse me, when did it happen? It happened when -- if you were Putin right now, you would say, hey, we're back to the old games with the United States. There's no way Trump can ever do a deal with us because the -- you have to understand, if I was just brutal on Russia right now, just brutal, people would say, you would say, oh, isn't that wonderful. But I know you well enough. Then you would say, oh, he was too tough, he shouldn't have done that. Look, of all --

Q I'm just trying to find out your orientation to those --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait a minute. Wait, wait. Excuse me just one second.

Q I'm just trying to find out what you're doing to do about them, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: All of those things that you mentioned are very recent, because probably Putin assumes that he's not going to be able to make a deal with me because it's politically not popular for me to make a deal. So Hillary Clinton tries to reset, it failed. They all tried. But I'm different than those people.

Go ahead.

Q How are you interpreting those moves? And what do you intend to do about them?

THE PRESIDENT: Just the way I said it.

Q Have you given Rex Tillerson any advice or counsel on how to deal?

THE PRESIDENT: I have. I have. And I'm so beautifully represented. I'm so honored that the Senate approved him. He's going to be fantastic.

Yes, I think that I've already --

Q Is Putin testing you, do you believe, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: No, I don't think so. I think Putin probably assumes that he can't make a deal with me anymore because politically it would be unpopular for a politician to make a deal. I can't believe I'm saying I'm a politician, but I guess that's what I am now. Because, look, it would be much easier for me to be tough on Russia, but then we're not going to make a deal.

Now, I don't know that we're going to make a deal. I don't know. We might, we might not. But it would be much easier for me to be so tough -- the tougher I am on Russia, the better. But you know what, I want to do the right thing for the American people. And to be honest, secondarily, I want to do the right thing for the world.

If Russia and the United States actually got together and got along -- and don't forget, we're a very powerful nuclear country and so are they. There's no upside. We're a very powerful nuclear country and so are they. I've been briefed. And I can tell you, one thing about a briefing that we're allowed to say because anybody that ever read the most basic book can say it: Nuclear holocaust would be like no other. They're a very powerful nuclear country and so are we.

If we have a good relationship with Russia, believe me, that's a good thing, not a bad thing.

Q So when you say they're not good, do you mean that they are --

THE PRESIDENT: Who did I say is not good?

Q No, when I read off the three things that have recently happened and each one of them you said they're not good.

THE PRESIDENT: No, it's not good, but they happened.

Q But do they damage the relationship? Do they undermine this country's ability to work with Russia?

THE PRESIDENT: They all happened recently, and I understand what they're doing, because they're doing the same thing. Now, again, maybe I'm not going to be able to do a deal with Russia, but at least I will have tried. And if I don't, does anybody really think that Hillary Clinton would be tougher on Russia than Donald Trump? Does anybody in this room really believe that? Okay.

But I tell you one thing: She tried to make a deal. She had the reset. She gave all the valuable uranium away. She did other things. You know, they say I'm close to Russia. Hillary Clinton gave away 20 percent of the uranium in the United States. She's close to Russia. I gave -- you know what I gave to Russia? You know what I gave? Nothing.

Q Can we conclude there will be no response to these particular provocations?

THE PRESIDENT: I'm not going to tell you anything about what response I do. I don't talk about military response. I don't say I'm going into Mosul in four months. "We are going to attack Mosul in four months." Then three months later: "We are going to attack Mosul in one month." "Next week, we are going to attack Mosul." In the meantime, Mosul is very, very difficult. Do you know why? Because I don't talk about military, and I don't talk about certain other things. You're going to be surprised to hear that. And, by the way, my whole campaign, I'd say that. So I don't have to tell you --

Q There will be a response?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't want to be one of these guys that say, "Yes, here's what we're going to do." I don't have to do that.

Q There will be a -- in other words, there will be a response, Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't have to tell you what I'm going to do in North Korea. Wait a minute. I don't have to tell you what I'm going to do in North Korea. And I don't have to tell you what I'm going to do with Iran. You know why? Because they shouldn't know. And eventually you guys are going to get tired of asking that question. So when you ask me, what am I going to do with the ship -- the Russian ship, as an example -- I'm not going to tell you. But hopefully, I won't have to do anything. But I'm not going to tell you. Okay.

Q Thanks.

Q Can I just ask you -- thank you very much, Mr. President -- the Trump --

THE PRESIDENT: Where are you from?

Q BBC.

THE PRESIDENT: Okay. Here's another beauty.

Q That's a good line. Impartial, free, and fair.

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, sure.

Q Mr. President --

THE PRESIDENT: Just like CNN, right?

Q Mr. President, on the travel ban -- we could banter back and forth. On the travel ban, would you accept that that was a good example of the smooth running of government, that fine-tuned --

THE PRESIDENT: Yeah, I do. I do. And let me tell you about the travel --

Q Were there any mistakes in that?

THE PRESIDENT: Wait, wait, wait. I know who you are. Just wait. Let me tell you about the travel ban. We had a very smooth rollout of the travel ban, but we had a bad court. We got a bad decision. We had a court that's been overturned -- again, maybe wrong, but I think it's 80

percent of the time. A lot. We had a bad decision. We're going to keep going with that decision. We're going to put in a new executive order next week sometime. But we had a bad decision. That's the only thing that was wrong with the travel ban.

You had Delta with a massive problem with their computer system at the airports. You had some people that were put out there, brought by very nice buses, and they were put out at various locations. Despite that, the only problem that we had is we had a bad court. We had a court that gave us what I consider to be, with great respect, a very bad decision. Very bad for the safety and security of our country. The rollout was perfect.

Now, what I wanted to do was do the exact same executive order but said one thing -- and I said this to my people: Give them a one-month period of time. But General Kelly, now Secretary Kelly, said, if you do that, all these people will come in, in the month -- the bad ones. You do agree, there are bad people out there, right? They're not everybody that's like you. You have some bad people out there.

So Kelly said, you can't do that. And he was right. As soon as he said it, I said, wow, never thought of it. I said, how about one week? He said, no good. You got to do it immediately, because if you do it immediately, they don't have time to come in. Now, nobody ever reports that, but that's why we did it quickly.

Now, if would have done it a month, everything would have been perfect. The problems is we would have wasted a lot of time, and maybe a lot of lives, because a lot of bad people would have come into our country.

Now, in the meantime, we've vetting very, very strongly. Very, very strongly. But we need help, and we need help by getting that executive order passed.

Q Just a brief follow-up. And if it's so urgent, why not introduce --

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, go ahead.

Q Thank you. I just was hoping that we could get a yes- or-no answer on one of these questions involving Russia. Can you say whether you are aware that anyone who advised your campaign had contacts with Russia during the course of the election?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I told you, General Flynn obviously was dealing. So that's one person. But he was dealing -- as he should have been --

Q During the election?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, nobody that I know of.

Q So you're not aware of any contacts during the course of the election?

THE PRESIDENT: Look, look, how many times do I have to answer this question?

Q Can you just say yes or no on it?

THE PRESIDENT: Russia is a ruse. Yeah, I know you have to get up and ask a question, so important. Russia is a ruse. I have nothing to do with Russia, haven't made a phone call to Russia in years. Don't speak to people from Russia. Not that I wouldn't, I just have nobody to speak to. I spoke to Putin twice. He called me on the election -- I told you this -- and he called me on the inauguration, and a few days ago. We had a very good talk, especially the second one -- lasted for a pretty long period of time. I'm sure you probably get it because it was classified, so I'm sure everybody in this room perhaps has it. But we had a very, very good talk. I have nothing to do with Russia. To the best of my knowledge, no person that I deal with does.

Now, Manafort has totally denied it. He denied it. Now, people knew that he was a consultant over in that part of the world for a while, but not for Russia. I think he represented Ukraine or people having to do with Ukraine, or people that -- whoever. But people knew that. Everybody knew that.

Q But in his capacity as your campaign manager, was he in touch with Russian officials during the election?

THE PRESIDENT: I have -- you know what, he said no. I can only tell you what he -- now, he was replaced long before the election. You know that, right? He was replaced long before the

election. When all of this stuff started coming out, it came out during the election. But Paul Manafort, who's a good man also, by the way -- Paul Manafort was replaced long before the election took place. He was only there for a short period of time.

How much longer should we stay here, folks? Five more minutes, is that okay? Five?

Q Mr. President, on national security --

THE PRESIDENT: Wait, let's see, who's -- I want to find a friendly reporter. Are you a friendly reporter? Watch how friendly he is. Wait, wait -- watch how friendly he is. Go ahead. Go ahead.

Q So, first of all, my name is (inaudible) from (inaudible) Magazine. And (inaudible). I haven't seen anybody in my community accuse either yourself or any of the -- anyone on your staff of being anti-Semitic. We have an understanding of (inaudible).

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Q However, what we are concerned about, and what we haven't really heard be addressed is an uptick in anti-Semitism and how the government is planning to take care of it. There have been reports out that 48 bomb threats have been made against Jewish centers all across the country in the last couple of weeks. There are people who are committing anti-Semitic acts or threatening to --

THE PRESIDENT: You see, he said he was going to ask a very simple, easy question. And it's not. It's not. Not a simple question, not a fair question. Okay, sit down. I understand the rest of your question.

So here's the story, folks. Number one, I am the least anti-Semitic person that you've ever seen in your entire life. Number two, racism -- the least racist person. In fact, we did very well relative to other people running as a Republican.

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Quiet, quiet, quiet. See, he lied about -- he was going to get up and ask a very straight, simple question. So you know, welcome to the world of the media. But let me just tell you something -- that I hate the charge. I find it repulsive. I hate even the question because people that know me -- and you heard the Prime Minister, you heard Netanyahu yesterday -- did you hear him, Bibi? He said, I've known Donald Trump for a long time, and then he said, forget it.

So you should take that, instead of having to get up and ask a very insulting question like that. Yeah, go ahead. Go ahead.

Q Thank you. I'm Lisa from the PBS --

THE PRESIDENT: See, it just shows you about the press, but that's the way the press is.

Q Thank you, Mr. President. Lisa Desjardins from the PBS Newshour.

THE PRESIDENT: Good.

Q On national security and immigration, can you give us more details on the executive order you planned for next week, even its broad outlines? Will it be focused on specific countries?

THE PRESIDENT: It's a very fair question.

Q And in addition, on the DACA program for immigration, what is your plan? Do you plan to continue that program or to end it?

THE PRESIDENT: We're going to show great heart. DACA is a very, very difficult subject for me, I will tell you. To me, it's one of the most difficult subjects I have, because you have these incredible kids, in many cases -- not in all cases. In some of the cases they're having DACA and they're gang members and they're drug dealers too. But you have some absolutely incredible kids - - I would say mostly -- they were brought here in such a way -- it's a very, very tough subject.

We are going to deal with DACA with heart. I have to deal with a lot of politicians, don't forget, and I have to convince them that what I'm saying is right. And I appreciate your understanding on that.

But the DACA situation is a very, very -- it's a very difficult thing for me. Because, you know, I love these kids. I love kids. I have kids and grandkids. And I find it very, very hard doing

what the law says exactly to do. And you know, the law is rough. I'm not talking about new laws. I'm talking the existing law is very rough. It's very, very rough.

As far as the new order, the new order is going to be very much tailored to what I consider to be a very bad decision, but we can tailor the order to that decision and get just about everything, in some ways more. But we're tailoring it now to the decision. We have some of the best lawyers in the country working on it. And the new executive order is being tailored to the decision we got down from the court. Okay?

Q Mr. President, Melania Trump announced the reopening of the White House Visitors Office.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes.

Q And she does a lot of great work for the country as well. Can you tell us a little bit about what First Lady Melania Trump does for the country? And there is a unique level of interest in your administration, so by opening the White House Visitors Office, what does that mean to you?

THE PRESIDENT: Now, that's what I call a nice question. That is very nice. Who are you with?

Q (Inaudible.)

THE PRESIDENT: Good. I'm going to start watching. Thank you very much.

Melania is terrific. She was here last night. We had dinner with Senator Rubio and his wife, who is, by the way, lovely. And we had a really good discussion about Cuba because we have very similar views on Cuba. And Cuba was very good to me in the Florida election as you know, the Cuban people, Americans. And I think that Melania is going to be outstanding. That's right, she just opened up the Visitors Center -- in other words, touring of the White House.

She, like others that she's working with, feels very, very strongly about women's issues, women's difficulties, very, very strongly. And she's a very, very strong advocate. I think she's a great representative for this country. And a funny thing happens because she gets so unfairly maligned. The things they say -- I've known her for a long time. She was a very successful person. She was a very successful model. She did really well. She would go home at night and didn't even want to go out with people. She was a very private person. She was always the highest quality that you'll ever find. And the things they say -- and I've known her for a long time -- the things they say are so unfair. And actually, she's been apologized to, as you know, by various media because they said things that were lies.

I'd just tell you this: I think she's going to be a fantastic First Lady. She's going to be a tremendous representative of women and of the people. And helping her and working with her will be Ivanka, who is a fabulous person and a fabulous, fabulous woman. And they're not doing this for money. They're not doing this for pay. They're doing this because they feel it, both of them. And Melania goes back and forth, and after Barron finishes school -- because it's hard to take a child out of school with a few months left -- she and Barron will be moving over to the White House. Thank you. That's a very nice question.

Go ahead.

Q Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Yes. Oh, this is going to be a bad question but that's okay.

Q No, it's not going to be a bad question.

THE PRESIDENT: Good, because I enjoy watching you on television.

Q Well, thank you so much. Mr. President, I need to find out from you -- you said something as it relates to inner cities. That was one of your platforms during your campaign.

THE PRESIDENT: Fix the inner cities, yes.

Q Fixing the inner cities. What will be that fix and your urban agenda, as well as your HBCU executive order that's coming out this afternoon? See, it wasn't bad, was it?

THE PRESIDENT: That was very professional and very good.

Q I'm very professional.

THE PRESIDENT: We'll be announcing the order in a little while, and I'd rather let the order speak for itself. But it will be something I think that will be very good for everybody concerned. But we'll talk to you about that after we do the announcement.

As far as the inner cities, as you know, I was very strong on the inner cities during the campaign. I think it's probably what got me a much higher percentage of the African American vote than a lot of people thought I was going to get. We did much higher than people thought I was going to get and I was honored by that, including the Hispanic vote, which was also much higher. And, by the way, if I might add, including the women's vote, which was much higher than people thought I was going to get.

So we are going to be working very hard on the inner cities having to do with education, having to do with crime. We're going to try and fix as quickly as possible -- you know it takes a long time. It's taken 100 years or more for some of these places to evolve, and they evolved many of them very badly.

But we're going to be working very hard on health and health care; very, very hard on education. And also, we're going to working in a stringent way, and a very good way, on crime. You go to some of these inner city places, and it's so sad when you look at the crime. You have people -- and I've seen this, and I've sort of witnessed it. In fact, in two cases, I have actually witnessed it. They lock themselves into apartments, petrified to even leave, in the middle of the day. They're living in hell. We can't let that happen. So we're going to be very, very strong.

It's a great question, and it's a very difficult situation, because it's been many, many years. It's been festering for many, many years. But we have places in this country that we have to fix. We have to help African American people that, for the most part are stuck there -- Hispanic American people. We have Hispanic American people that are in the inner cities, and they're living in hell.

I mean, you look at the numbers in Chicago. There are two Chicagos, as you know. There's one Chicago that's incredible, luxurious and all, and safe. There's another Chicago that's worse than almost any of the places in the Middle East that we talk about, and that you talk about every night on the newscasts. So we're going to do a lot of work on the inner cities. I have great people lined up to help with the inner cities.

Q Well, when you say -- when you say the inner cities, are you going to include the CBC, Mr. President, in your conversations with your urban agenda, your inner city agenda, as well as your --

THE PRESIDENT: Am I going include who?

Q Are you going to include the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, as well as --

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I would. I tell you what, do you want to set up the meeting? Do you want to set up the meeting?

Q No, no, no.

THE PRESIDENT: Are they friends of yours?

Q I'm just a reporter.

THE PRESIDENT: No, go ahead, set up the meeting.

Q I know some of them, but I'm sure they're watching right now.

THE PRESIDENT: Let's go set up a meeting. I would love to meet with the Black Caucus. I think it's great -- the Congressional Black Caucus. I think it's great. I actually thought I had a meeting with Congressman Cummings, and he was all excited, and then he said, oh, I can't move, it might be bad for me politically, I can't have that meeting. I was all set to have the meeting. You know, we called him and called him, and he was all set. I spoke to him on the phone. Very nice guy.

Q I hear he wanted that meeting with you as well.

THE PRESIDENT: He wanted it. But we called, called, called, called -- they can't make a meeting with him. Every day, I walked in, I said, I would like to meet with him. Because I do want to solve the problem. But he probably was told by Schumer or somebody like that -- some other lightweight -- he was probably told -- he was probably told, don't meet with Trump, it's bad politics. And that's part of the problem of this country.

Okay, one more. Go ahead.

Q Yes, Mr. President, two questions --

THE PRESIDENT: No, no. One question. Two, we can't handle. This room can't handle two. Go ahead, give me the better of your two.

Q (Inaudible) it's not about your personality or your beliefs. We're talking about (inaudible) around the country, some of it by supporters in your name. What do you --

THE PRESIDENT: And some of it -- and can I be honest with you? And this has to do with racism and horrible things that are put up. Some of it written by our opponents. You do know that. Do you understand that? You don't think anybody would do a thing like that. Some of the signs you'll see are not put up by the people that love or like Donald Trump, they're put up by the other side, and you think it's like playing it straight. No. But you have some of those signs, and some of that anger is caused by the other side. They'll do signs and they'll do drawings that are inappropriate. It won't be my people. It will be the people on the other side to anger people like you. Okay.

Go ahead.

Q You are the President now. What are you going to do about it?

THE PRESIDENT: Who is that? Where is that? Oh, stand up. You can --

Q What are you going to do about the tensions that have been discussed?

THE PRESIDENT: Oh, I'm working on it. No, I'm working on it very hard.

Q Are you going to give a speech?

THE PRESIDENT: No, no, look. Hey, just so you understand, we had a totally divided country for eight years, and long before that, in all fairness to President Obama. Long before President Obama, we have had a very divided. I didn't come along and divide this country. This country was seriously divided before I got here.

We're going to work on it very hard. One of the questions that was asked -- I thought it was a very good question -- was about the inner cities. I mean, that's part of it. But we're going to work on education. We're going to work on lack -- you know, we're going to stop -- we're going to try and stop the crime. We have great law enforcement officials. We're going to try and stop crime. We're not going to try and stop, we're going to stop crime.

But it's very important to me. But this isn't Donald Trump that divided a nation. We went eight years with President Obama, and we went many years before President Obama. We lived in a divided nation. And I am going to try -- I will do everything within my power to fix that.

I want to thank everybody very much. It's a great honor to be with you. Thank you. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

2:13 P.M. EST

13. ПРЕСС-БРИФИНГИ

Background Press Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the Upcoming Visit of Chancellor Merkel of Germany

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 10, 2017

Background Press Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the Upcoming Visit of Chancellor Merkel of Germany

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room
10:32 A.M. EST

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'd like to welcome all of you to this backgrounder. I'd like to start off by setting the ground rules if I can. So this is going to be backgrounder only. Attribution is going to be senior administration officials. And anything that goes on in this room is embargoed until we walk out of the room to allow us to get you the best information that we can.

We're going to start with a brief statement and then we'll move to a Q&A. So you can address -- we're going to introduce everybody. You can address your question up here and we'll figure out who the best person is to answer you.

So, again, thanks for being here. And I'll start off by allowing everyone to introduce themselves.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I'll start with just a quick statement here to lay out some of the context for this visit. So the President is very much looking forward to welcoming Chancellor Merkel to the White House on Tuesday. This will be their first meeting, and the Chancellor's first visit to the United States in over two years.

The level of interaction between this administration and the German government has so far been frequent and robust. To name just a few interactions, Vice President Pence met the Chancellor last month in Munich. The German foreign and defense ministers were here last month as well. Secretary Tillerson was in Bonn for the G20 Foreign Ministerial last month, and Secretaries Mattis and Kelly attended the Munich Security Conference. So we're very pleased with the level of interaction so far, and we trust that this will continue.

When he meets the Chancellor, the President will express his and the American people's appreciation for the deep friendship that exists between the United States and Germany. We share so much history, and the bonds between our people are strong. Germany is one of our most important allies and partners in the world, and we cooperate with the Germans on everything from counterterrorism to European security to generating strong economic growth.

Germany is one of NATO's strongest member states, and the President looks forward to talking with the Chancellor about how to strengthen the NATO alliance, including by ensuring that all allies shoulder the proper share of the burden for maintaining our collective defense. Every ally has to meet its commitments -- something we know the German government believes as well. So we are heartened by the German government's determination to reach NATO's benchmark of committing 2 percent of GDP to defense by 2024.

The President is impressed by Chancellor Merkel's leadership at a time when the states of the North Atlantic face a number of significant challenges, and he looks forward to consulting with her on our shared challenges.

We recognize, in particular, Germany's leadership role, alongside France, in resolving the conflict in Ukraine and Germany's enduring commitment to peace and stability in Afghanistan. Germany also plays a central role in the global effort to counterterrorism and violent extremism, particularly through its contributions to the counter-ISIS coalition.

The United States is committed to strengthening our political defense, security and economic relationship with Germany and with Europe more broadly. We will continue to stand together with the German people, and we are looking forward to Chancellor Merkel's visit on Tuesday.

Q Does the President think Germany is contributing enough money to NATO?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So the President believes that all allies must shoulder their share of the defense burden. And as I mentioned, he is heartened to hear that the German government is committed to meeting the Wales pledge of spending 2 percent of GDP by 2024. Of course, the messages from the administration so far have been strong and consistent that all allies need to be making progress towards this 2 percent goal. And he is heartened so far by the signals he has seen from Berlin regarding increases in their defense budget. And so I expect that will be definitely a topic of their conversation for the concrete plan to meet this commitment.

Q What will the President say will be the consequences if Germany does not meet its commitment in terms of NATO?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't answer that question at present. I think they're going to have a robust discussion about exactly how to operationalize this goal. And so I don't want to speak to any part of what the President's private discussions and negotiations will be on this issue.

Q Is 2024 acceptable to the President, or would you like it to be met sooner than that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, of course, that's going to be a discussion that he's going to want to have with all allies, including the Germans. But during his planned participation in the NATO leaders meeting at the end of May, I'm sure this is going to be a topic of discussion about whether it is really feasible for all allies to accelerate that timeline. And so, again, this is going to be a topic of robust discussion.

Q And with the Germans in particular, as a leading economy and one of the participants in NATO maneuvers in other places like Afghanistan, does the President believe it's especially important for Germany to set this example and to be out in front of this and ahead of the 2024 timetable?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: He does believe that Germany, as one of the largest economies within NATO, should be setting an example and should be leading by example, as we do from the United States. And so I'm sure that, again, this is going to be a topic of discussion about how concretely we get there, to the 2 percent benchmark.

Q Hi, I have two questions. Will the President be discussing with Chancellor Merkel any of the allegations that Russia is potentially interfering in European elections? And also, will the two of them discuss any sort of engagement with Russia to resolve the Ukraine crisis?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So, sure, what I can say is that the President will be very interested in hearing the Chancellor's views on her experience interacting with Putin. Of course, she's been doing this for more than a decade. She's met with Putin I think for at least a couple of dozen times. And so he's going to be very interested in hearing her insights and what it's like to deal with the Russians.

He is also very interested in hearing her insights into the Minsk implementation process and really how we can work together to resolve the Ukraine conflict.

Q What about the allegations that Russia is seeking to interfere in various European elections?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, I don't have a comment on that issue for you right now.

Q How do you plan to get around the potential awkwardness of Chancellor Merkel being a strong proponent of a strong EU? A strong proponent of immigration when the President sent very signals about that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think the Vice President, during his visit in Brussels, gave a pretty clear message that we are interested in maintaining our strong and enduring partnership with the European Union. We recognize that the European Union makes significant contributions to global peace and prosperity, and so he's going to be interested in exploring this topic more with the Chancellor.

Q Thank you. A follow-up to the question on Russia. The Ukrainian process that you referred to, is it envisioned that the U.S. might play a big role in the process, a direct role?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I think, again, this is going to be a topic that the President is going to want to discuss with the Chancellor, what role the United States can most helpfully play in this process. But I don't want to prejudge the outcome of the meeting.

Q Hi, I have a question about the EU. Some of the EU officials have been saying they're really worried about President Trump's views towards the EU. Can you tell us a little bit more about that? About how the EU is valued or how it's not valued, and how the conversation might happen?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, well, so I would refer you back to the Vice President's comments, which were very clear and direct when he was in Brussels, about the value that we see in our partnership with the European Union, and again our recognition that the European Union is a key contributor to global peace and prosperity.

And again, I'm sure that the President will want to discuss again his views of the European Union with the Chancellor. And again, I can't comment exactly on how that conversation is going to go or prejudge the outcome, but I'm sure it's going to be a topic of discussion.

Q You didn't mention climate in your opening statement. Do you expect that to be a topic of discussion, and what will the President's message be to Chancellor Merkel about his commitment to either staying in the Paris Agreement or withdrawing from the Paris Agreement?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure.

Q What's going to happen in the interim?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It's quite possible that that will be something that the Chancellor will raise. They don't know for sure. Internally, the United States is still working on that issue, and that's an issue that still is to be determined and will be discussed, I'm sure, with the Chancellor, but also further clarified in the weeks and months ahead, as we move forward to the G7 and the G20 ministerials and summit meetings.

Q Will the President be in any position to clarify what he want to do with the Paris agreement?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't speak for the President on that. I know that we're working on that issue internally. Whether we reach a decision by the time of the meeting or by the time of the summit meetings I think is still unclear.

Q And just on refugees, the President has been pretty critical of the Chancellor for her stance on that topic. Do you expect that to arise in their talks, and in what fashion will the President -- that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure. Yeah, we expect it to come up. They've talked about this issue already on the phone. And you know, at this point, it's how we move forward on this. And so the United States and Germany are doing quite a bit on counterterrorism, cooperation on border security, internal security cooperation. We have the NATO action that we've already had in the Aegean to help with migrants crossing from Turkey.

So the talk is out there, but there is quite a bit of work going on that we will continue to discuss behind scenes. And I'll leave it at that.

Q The President was sharply critical of Chancellor Merkel on the campaign trail. What sort of tone would he like to set for this meeting?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not aware of what criticism was on the campaign trail --

Q -- migration.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think the statement that my colleague made is very clear that the issue is one of several that is part of a very robust and expansive -- term in American relationships. So it'll come up, and we can have disagreements within the relationship, but, as I said, I think both leaders are determined to -- working together forward on how we address the issue moving forward on the security element, on the funding element, economic element. I'll leave it at that.

Q And what's the President's thinking in terms of how to get the Ukraine crisis resolved?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know if we want to think -- I can't say on the President's thinking specifically, but he recognizes the leadership role that Germany and France have on this. And certainly the point of this meeting is to determine how we go forward in cooperation with France and Germany on this issue. And that's why we're very pleased to be having this so early in the administration.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Let's get a few questions from the back row.

Q With the current prioritization of defense spending by the administration, it would appear that the commitment to NATO is going up and not down, even as the President says money is pouring in from other countries. So what data is informing that? And then a second question is, will the President be endorsing Chancellor Merkel for reelection?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We don't endorse foreign leaders in foreign elections. Those are elections that will be run on domestic issues and domestic processes.

On the NATO issue, can you repeat the specifics of that?

Q So the administration has said that defense spending would go up, and that of course is part of our contribution to NATO. So it would appear that even though he's been critical about how much the U.S. is putting toward NATO, that that would actually be going up, not down.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, yes, so I mean, the way that the NATO budget -- or the commitment to defense spending is calculated, I mean, you look at the U.S. defense budget, it's -- we're a global power. So we are committing part of that to Europe, part of that to Asia, elsewhere in the world.

So the commitment to defense spending is going to affect Europe, it's going to affect other parts of the world as well. And he's been very tough on the issue, and I think that he's done so in a way that has encouraged the Europeans to look at increasing the commitment as well. We've already seen the statements from the Chancellor and the government on this -- the German government, the foreign minister -- on the commitment to get to 2 percent. So we're encouraged by that and so, in many ways, we lead by example on what we put into defense. We expect the Germans to do so as well, and that's very much going to be how they approach the issue I think in the meeting.

Q I guess I'd like to ask two questions. One is, how detailed do you think there can be of a trade discussion at this point? How much can you flesh out for us now on that? And I guess as part of that, do you think there will be any deliverables? Maybe it's the Paris deal, maybe that's what it is. And then -- well, I have a second question but I'll wait.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not aware of any specific deliverables. That's not the purpose of the meeting. It's to get together and discuss the range of issues that we have in our bilateral relationship. And it's conceivable that trade may well come up; we don't have

any preconceived views that we're going to be expressing on that. We want to have an open discussion on trade issues.

Q The sort of softer question I guess is, over the course of the past year --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: May I just add, by the way, I mean, we are aware, obviously, that there was a trade surplus that Germany has with the United States, and that will probably be, if trade comes up, a part of the discussion.

Q But not in the context of the President promoting the notion of bilateral, and Merkel promoting the notion of EU is the bilateral part? Like, you don't think you're just --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, Germany is part of the European Union, so you could not have a bilateral trade agreement with them. You have to work through the European Union on that.

Q But okay, so it sounds like on the trade front, that's not going to be the hugest piece of the spending?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't predict exactly which direction the discussion will go in. I think trade will be an issue that may well be on the agenda, and as I said, we recognize there's a trade surplus and there may be a discussion around that as well.

Q On the softer question I think that I sort of wanted to ask, we know that Chancellor Merkel has spent many months studying President Trump by watching videos and reading things that he's written, and I'm just curious, for those of you who know him well, has he been similarly interested in sort of studying what makes her tick, who she is, how to kind of figure out a way to have a relationship in that sense? And is there going to be some effort on his part -- I guess "reset" is probably a loaded word, but he spent months talking about people are going to overthrow her, and the Syrian plan is terrible, and all this stuff. And he probably -- they probably both want to find a way to fix that so they can be closer allies. What's his part in thinking about that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, I am not aware that he -- whether he spent time studying her or not. I assume the purpose of the meeting is going to be to build on a personal relationship and try to have the largest country in Europe and the United States have a positive interaction on a range of issues. So the goal going in would be to have a very positive meeting.

Q The G20 -- the previous administration kept saying that the G20 is the preeminent international group for discussing economic issues. Will it be the same for the current administration?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We don't have any predisposed position as to whether it's the preeminent group or not. As you know, the G20 has dealt largely with financial and economic issues historically, and then it became converted to a summit meeting in the wake of the financial crisis. But as to what its role is in the broader play of international events, we don't have a particular opinion.

Q I guess my question is, do you think you'll be moving more to bilateral -- or are you still committed to working in these international fora?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, we will be attending the G7 and the G20 summits. We'll also be having bilateral meetings at those events. We don't see it as an either/or situation. And we'll see how the overall summit meetings go.

Q Given the recent WikiLeaks releases, and given what we know out of the previous administration, Chancellor Merkel's cellphone was hacked, what kind of reassurances can you give her and the German government that the United States is not looking into their television sets, their cellphones, their highly engineered automobiles, et cetera, et cetera.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We're not going to comment on specific intelligence allegations. We'll leave that to the proper agencies and departments to address that issue.

Q Does the President still believe that other EU countries will leave the EU, as he said in January? And does he think it's a good thing?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know his thinking on that. Certainly it's for the countries -- it's an EU process, and I'm not going to prejudge what he thinks, whether countries should leave or not.

Q And can you just confirm that you'll have a joint press conference after their meeting?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There will. There will be a -- yeah.

Q Thank you. I understand that you don't want to discuss the allegations of Russian interference in the upcoming European elections, but does the United States believe that the elections should be held in a manner that's free, fair and without interference?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think that goes without question. Free and fair elections without interference is the gold standard that we love to see.

Q Just wanted to follow up on my colleague's question. What's this administration's view of T-TIP, given what you said about bilateral -- on trade?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We have not formulated a final position on that. We have other trade priorities that we've been looking at earlier, but T-TIP is out there and that may well also be a topic of discussion during the meetings.

Q Would T-TIP violate the President's aversion to multilateral trade deals? Or since the deal would have to be with the European Union and not with a specific country, as you said, would that then make it acceptable --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, that's an issue that we're looking at. T-TIP, as you said, is between -- one could say it's bilateral in a sense -- it's between the European Union and the United States. It also deals largely with regulatory issues and how to harmonize regulations in a way that eases trade and reduces some of the burden of a regulatory burden. And it's hard to do that if you're doing it just with one country at time.

But the broader T-TIP discussions are something that will await the confirmation of our U.S. trade representative and discussions with our Commerce Secretary.

Q Would that, by necessity, have to wait until Great Britain resolves its situation in terms of the European Union and the President's expressed interest in a bilateral trade agreement with them?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: On T-TIP, I think -- by the way, on T-TIP, one should point out that the Europeans aren't going to be pushing that issue while they have a series of elections coming up through this year, including in Germany and in France as well. I don't think T-TIP is necessarily dependent on Brexit occurring, but obviously the leaving of the European Union by the British government raises a whole series of economic issues as well that we've been in discussion with the British on, and that may also come up in the discussion with the Chancellor.

Q On the relationship between the U.S. and Germany, it was particularly strong under President Obama, and then the relationship between the U.S. and the UK was sort of put on the back burner. I'm wondering if you see that continuing with this administration.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think we hope to have strong relationships with both countries. As you saw, Prime Minister May visited the first week when we were in office. The Chancellor's visit is coming very soon thereafter. They're both very important relationships with us and we want to manage them effectively.

Q Is it realistic to assume that we can have a strong relationship with Merkel under President Trump, given that -- his insults against her during the campaign trail and President Obama's particularly close relationship?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not going to get into what went on on the campaign trail, and I really don't want to compare --

Q What's your expectation of their personal relationship? How strong it can be?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: My expectation is that they'll have a very positive, cordial meeting. That's been the whole lead-up to it in terms of our interactions that were

mentioned previously with the German representative of the German government, and I know that's the desire that we have.

Q Given the President's criticism of Chancellor Merkel's policies, particularly with respect to refugees and generally the situation he sees in Germany with regards to terrorism, does he hope to convince Chancellor Merkel to change some of those policies or to close Germany's borders in a stronger manner, like the U.S. has sought to do here? Particularly because he said that it was weakening Germany, weakening Europe during the campaign.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Those are German government decisions. Certainly they're going to discuss security comprehensively, and Europe, the North Atlantic countries. But those are decisions for the German government to make. And the discussion that they have had on this already and the discussion that they will have on this I presume will focus on the areas where we can cooperate. We don't re-litigate the past, we don't go back in and atone for things, but we go forward and look at what we can do together. And that's what the focus is going to be.

Q Given, though, that Germany is part of the visa waiver program, for example, does the President believe that those policies are a problem for the U.S.?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know his views on that and I'm not going to comment and try and guess what his views are.

Q Just to go back one last time on the issue of Russia and cyber war. It's obviously a problem throughout Europe. It's also a problem here in the United States. Do you anticipate sort of a fulsome discussion on the issue of cyber war?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So again, I can't prejudge what the portion of their conversation is going to be, but I'm sure the cyber issue will come up because the President is very interested in us having very strong cyber defenses and in cooperation with the German government, again, on strengthening our collective defense against cyberattacks.

But again, I can't comment on how much of the meeting is going to discuss that.

Q On the issue of Ukraine, you mentioned that the U.S. and President Trump recognizes France and Germany's leadership goals in resolving the conflict. But at the same time, he's obviously been very critical of the former administration's failure to find a resolution there. Do you see any room for discussion about the U.S. -- to enhance our role in the Minsk agreement?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure. So as I said previously, I think that's going to be a main subtopic of the discussion on Ukraine, which is what role can the United States most helpfully play in the ongoing diplomatic process. Again, I can't prejudge what the level and the pace of U.S. engagement will be on that issue, but the President is going to be interested in soliciting the Chancellor's view on how the process is going. Again, she and French President Hollande have been at this now for a couple of years. They have a very good understanding of what the positions of the sides are. He's going to want to understand the dynamics of that negotiating process and see where the United States government can factor in most effectively on that.

Q Do you think there's any possibility that they could ask to join the Normandy format?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, I can't prejudge what they may or may not agree to, but I'm sure they will discuss, again, what level of representation on the United States side, what pace of engagement would be most helpful in this ongoing diplomatic process.

Q Does the President have a view of what he thinks has been stalling the process with regards to the Ukrainian peace process? Is there anything in particular that he thinks has been unhelpful from one side or the other, or something that he believes should be done to kind of jumpstart this process again?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not aware of anything specific that he's said about that. Again, he is still learning about the dynamics of the negotiating process, and this meeting with Chancellor Merkel is going to be a key discussion for him in understanding in greater detail what's been going right, what's been going wrong.

Q Does he at least think that there should be a larger U.S. role in the process?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't prejudge that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We have time for one more question.

Q You guys have said a couple of times that you're not going to discuss what happened on the campaign trail. And I guess my question is, why not? Do you not believe that anything said on the campaign trail would have an impact between -- on relationship between the United States and Germany?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sorry, these guys aren't campaign officials. They're National Security Council staff, happy to talk about Germany and all that.

Q The relationship between the United States and Germany -- does that not have an impact, sir?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Not on the diplomatic relationship.

Q Well, I would like to thank everybody. I would like to thank my colleagues for being here and sharing your time and your insights. And everybody who is in the room and on the phone, thank you for participating. And I refer any further questions to White House press or to NSC strat-comm. And please remember that this is background only, and senior administration officials is how we're going with that. And thank you again for being here.

END

11:00 A.M. EST

Background Press Briefing on the Upcoming Visits of President al-Sisi of Egypt and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 31, 2017

Background Press Briefing on the Upcoming Visits of President al-Sisi of Egypt and His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan

James S. Brady Briefing Room

10:29 A.M. EDT

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Good morning. I'd like to welcome everybody who's here and everybody who's dialed into our morning NSC backgrounder on the upcoming Egypt and Jordan visits.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We're going to address two topics that are coming up. One, next week, we've got President Sisi coming in on the third of April, and we've got King Abdullah coming in for a White House visit on 5 April.

To begin with, I will make a few comments about the President Sisi visit.

The President is excited to welcome Egyptian President al-Sisi to the White House on 3 April. And he wants to use President Sisi's visit to reboot the bilateral relationship and build on the strong connection the two Presidents established when they first met in New York last September.

Egypt is one of the traditional pillars of stability in the Middle East and has been a reliable U.S. partner for decades. President Trump's initial interactions with President al-Sisi, including their phone call on January 23rd, have already improved the tone of the relationship, and we hope next week's visit continues this positive momentum.

President Trump aims to reaffirm the deep and abiding U.S. commitment to Egypt's security, stability and prosperity. President Sisi has taken a number of bold steps on very sensitive issues since becoming President in 2014. He's called for reform and moderation of Islamic discourse, initiated courageous and historic economic reforms, and sought to reestablish Egypt's regional leadership role.

He has also led Egypt's campaign to defeat a long-running terrorist threat in the Sinai. The United States wants to support President al-Sisi's efforts in all of these areas. Our relationship has historically been driven by security, and that will remain a key component of the engagement with Egypt. The U.S. and Egyptian militaries have built close relationships, and many military officers from Egypt have trained at U.S. military installations.

President Trump also supports al-Sisi's ambition to develop a comprehensive counterterrorism approach that involves military, political, economic, as well as social efforts. But President Trump also wants to increase the focus on economic and commercial cooperation in our bilateral relationship. Building a more stable and productive economy is a critical step to ensuring long-term stability in Egypt. And President Sisi, we would like to note, has begun a necessary economic reform plan that will strengthen the Egyptian economy if it is fully executed.

There's no question the transition in their economy will be difficult, but in the long run, Egypt will be stronger if it follows through on its homegrown reform plan. Our relationship with Egypt is complex and covers a number of very challenging issues, and we're fully aware that next week's meeting is only the start of a long process of improving this historical relationship.

We are optimistic that we are heading in the right direction, and President Trump is very much looking forward to the visit.

Now, just a few comments on the visit of King Abdullah. The President is pleased to welcome King Abdullah on April 5th. The two leaders will gather for a meeting in the Oval Office and then proceed to a working lunch. Jordan is a key partner for the United States in the region, and we anticipate the two leaders will discuss a range of shared priorities, including efforts to defeat ISIS, how to end the conflict in Syria, and advancing progress between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

The President met with King Abdullah briefly on the sidelines of the National Prayer Breakfast in February, and at that time the two agreed on this follow-on meeting. It was important to the President that he welcome King Abdullah to the White House early in his administration as a sign of the strong friendship and partnership. Of utmost importance, this is an opportunity for the President to convey his continued support for our steadfast partnership with Jordan on a range of key regional issues.

And as the President has said, we'll work with our allies, including our friends and allies in the Muslim world, to extinguish ISIS. Jordan is a critical partner in that effort and it plays an outsized role in this effort as well as in the region.

And with that, that concludes our opening comments.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And again, I'd like to thank everyone for being here. And I'd just like to remind everyone that we have these two gentlemen who are national security policy experts. This backgrounder's purpose is to provide answers to you on issues relating to these two topics -- the upcoming visits and the relationships with these two countries.

So please, respectfully, pitch your questions that way. Also, at your request, you can expect that when we're done here we have a one-page written backgrounder that will be submitted on both countries to you guys. So please stick around after this to receive that.

Q Is the President expected to provide major financial assistance to the Egyptians? And will he bring up the issue of a human rights crackdown?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We've had a longstanding relationship with substantial foreign military assistance and economic support. That support has continued, and we anticipate it will continue until the future.

We're in the budget process right now, and those discussions are ongoing as to how it will be broken out. But we are going to maintain a strong and sufficient level of support to Egypt and Jordan.

Q And the human rights crackdown? Will the President bring that up with al-Sisi?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Human rights are always an issue of concern to the United States, and they're first and foremost in our discussions. Our approach is to handle these types of sensitive issues in a private, more discreet way. And we believe it's the most effective way to advance those issues to a favorable outcome.

Q Do you anticipate a conversation with King Abdullah about the refugees that the Jordanians have taken in and any sort of help that the Americans would provide in terms of financial support or aid to those refugees since we have slowed down our refugee program to the U.S.?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The United States and the international community are fully engaged in providing support to Jordan for those refugees that are within Jordan and those camps, as well as providing assistance to refugees that are on the Syrian side of the border, which is a difficult situation. And we're working with Jordan to make sure that their interests are taken into account, as well as making sure -- in collaboration with the international community that the needs of those refugees on the other side of the border are fully addressed.

Q Quick follow-up. Do you anticipate a conversation about Syrian safe zones around the border region right there? Obviously the Jordanians may be involved in the making of the safe zones.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The issue of what we would call interim de-escalation areas, rather than safe zones, is one that is a consistent part of our dialogue with Jordan as well as others that are involved in -- whether it's the Geneva talks that are focused on resolving the Syrian conflict, or in a bilateral way in trying to develop options to provide security, safety, and humanitarian access for displaced people, whether they're internally displaced in the country or fostering an environment where external refugees can return to their home country.

Q Two questions regarding President al-Sisi's visit. Will the President be discussing with President al-Sisi any issues concerning the Egypt-Russia relationship and Russia's attempts to rekindle that relationship as Egypt has moved closer to the U.S.? And related to that, is the decision or choice to downplay or take privately the human rights issues out of any desire to not want to alienate President Sisi and then drive him closer to Russia?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So on the Russia question, I would say the United States is going to talk with Egypt about any number of regional and international issues. Russia is obviously a country that is interested and involved in Egypt. The nature of those discussions, I don't want to get ahead of that or say what it will be, but there will be a number of regional and international topics that are discussed.

Q And the human rights issue?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I wouldn't look at it as -- I wouldn't read too much into it, the public or private nature of it. These are issues that are important. Human rights has been an area we've talked about with Egypt for a number of years, and we will figure out the best way to discuss that, to handle that.

Q (Inaudible.)

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We've always done that in a number of ways.

Q Two questions. Has there been by the administration any decision -- I know there has been some consideration of designating the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization, if there's talk of it -- where has that conversation ended? I imagine that will come up with at least Sisi, if not both leaders. And on the issue of Egypt, Aya Hijazi, the American who continues to be detained there, will her case be specifically brought up?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So the President is interested in hearing President al-Sisi's views on the Muslim Brotherhood issue. Obviously that is one that has received a lot of attention. We, along with a number of countries, have some concerns about various activities that the Muslim Brotherhood has conducted in the region. But that's going to be a discussion that will unfold between us and Egypt.

Q No decision by the administration yet?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: I don't want to get ahead of any process bilaterally or internally on that issue. But it is something that we will likely be discussing with Egypt.

Q And so is it safe to say then that that conversation continues within the administration?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: I think it's safe to say that that, along with a number of issues about how we engage with Egypt, continues in the administration.

Q And on Hijazi?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: On Hijazi, so, of course, we're very aware of her case. The most senior levels of the administration understand her situation. The protection of U.S. citizens in Egypt and around the world is one of the highest priorities for the President and for the administration. We are going to address this with Egypt in a way that we think maximizes the chances her case will be resolved in a satisfactory manner.

Q So not directly with Sisi?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: We will figure out the best way to raise this with the Egyptian government to maximize the chances her case is resolved positively.

Q Any reaction -- I know it's a background briefing -- to this decision to allow new settlements in the Occupied West Bank? And is this something that the President -- how will the President bring this up particularly with King Abdullah next week?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: I think the discussion about the settlements is not one that we want to address at this time. My office is deeply involved in that effort and working with both the Israelis and the Palestinians on that issue. But we do not anticipate that becoming a focal point for any discussions over the next week.

Q But you did say that the Israeli-Palestinian topic would be generally a matter of discussion. So, if not settlements, what's the discussion?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: We are not going to, in this forum, get into the specifics of the points that we're going to be bringing up. But we are going to be discussing the general outlines of our approach with the Middle East peace process and provide information as to the context of what we've been doing over the last few weeks to advance the process.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: I know there's going to be a lot of interest in the topic that has just been brought up. I would urge you to -- that there is a forum coming up here shortly, in a few hours here, where that will be -- you can address that more directly.

Go ahead.

Q There's reports in the Egyptian media that President Sisi will bring with him a list of Egyptians that he would like the Trump administration to extradite to Egypt. Is that something the President would be open to?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: I think it's hard to comment on something just based on reports in the Egyptian press. If that is conveyed, we can talk with the Egyptians about it. But we're not aware of any request coming, so I wouldn't want to get too far ahead of ourselves.

Q And he's also interested in changing some of the rules on the cash flow of the aid to reverse what President Obama had done.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: Cash-flow financing.

Q Right. Is that something that Trump is open to?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: So again, security cooperation is going to be something we talk about. There are a number of ways that we can try and improve and enhance security cooperation. U.S. foreign military financing had traditionally been \$1.3 billion a year. That's a very large amount, and that has contributed to Egypt's military preparedness.

The nature -- the way we deliver that assistance is something that has always been a topic of discussion and will remain that. We'll discuss with Egypt whether cash-flow financing is

something they need or not, but it is also something that would be a process of our internal budget discussions that are ongoing. So we can't really get ahead of the budget planning now.

Q There have been some discussions over the last couple of days about whether the U.S. government position on Assad in Syria is that he has to leave power. What is the current position of this White House? And how do you expect that to be discussed during these meetings?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We are not going to address that issue at this forum. That issue will be addressed, I'm sure, later in the day or in the very near future. We've worked on that communication, and it will be coming out, as I said, in the near future.

Q So does the Secretary of State's comment still stand?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not going to address any of those issues.

Q You said earlier that you anticipate the United States will continue to provide substantial foreign and military assistance to Egypt. The State Department has said that Egypt is one of the countries that would be impacted by the President's cuts to foreign aid in his budget. Can you just clarify that? Is that something that they are likely to talk about in their meeting? Is that something that the White House is looking at? And if so, how much would be slashed?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The administration wants to fully support the needs and requirements, and sustain the relationship in a very effective way. The discussions about the details of the budget process and how that's going to be allocated with the input from the Department of State is still an ongoing process.

Q Had the Prime Minister expressed any concern about that ahead of this visit, or any hope to address that in their meeting?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: You mean President al-Sisi?

Q I'm sorry, President.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So the Egyptians have consistently made clear that the security assistance is important and it has been for us. I anticipate that will be a topic of discussion with the Egyptians. What details we get into exactly, I can't get ahead of that. But I'm sure the Egyptians will want to sustain a strong security assistance relationship.

Q Several weeks ago, the Pentagon submitted a plan for defeating ISIS to President Trump. Can you say how far along he is in reviewing that plan? And do the contents of that, do you expect those to come up in the meetings with either of these two leaders?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We'll have discussions with both leaders about our approach to defeating ISIS. It will surely be of interest to President Sisi and, of course, King Abdullah. The details about any progress in the plan we would defer to another time.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I understand that you will have an event here in about four minutes, so we're going to wrap up to facilitate you making to it. But please, if you would just stay around, we'll get those backgrounders to you.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the room and on the phone, and just remind any latecomers that this is a backgrounder, attribution to senior White House officials, and that the information here is embargoed until 11:30 a.m.

Thank very much for being here.

END

10:48 A.M. EDT

Background Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China

The White House
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Background Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

6:36 P.M. EDT

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: Good afternoon. Thank you for your patience. We'd like to welcome you here for today's briefing on the upcoming visit between China and the United States. We'll start off by setting up the ground rules. This will be on background. Its attribution is senior White House official. We'll make some brief remarks, and then we'll open it up to Q&A.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: We're going to have the President meeting with his counterpart, President Xi Jinping of China, at Mar-a-Lago this week, starting on the 6th, in the afternoon and evening, and continuing into the 7th until after lunch. So about a 24-hour visit. This is really an opportunity for the two leaders to exchange views on each other's respective priorities and to chart a way forward for the U.S.-China bilateral relationship.

So they'll be talking about areas of common interest and also some of the clear areas of difference that we need to address in the relationship. And President Trump really views this meeting as a first step toward building a constructive and a results-oriented relationship that's going to deliver benefits to both countries.

I'm going to ask my colleague to make some remarks as well, and then we can answer some questions.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: I want to make a few brief remarks about the economic relationship between the United States and China. Together, the United States and China represent 40 percent of the global economy, and as the world's two largest economies, there's no greater or more consequential economic relationship. Indeed, our economies have become increasingly interdependent through growing trade and investment.

The key premise of our economic relationship is that bilateral trade and investment should be mutually beneficial. However, progress on a range of bilateral economic issues has become increasingly difficult. This reflects a slowdown and, in certain cases in our view, a retreat in China's move toward giving the market a more decisive role in the Chinese economy.

Accordingly, there will be significant trade and economic issues to discuss between our Presidents at the summit. President Trump is very concerned about how the imbalance in our economic relationship affects American workers and wants to address these issues in a candid and productive manner. President Trump will convey to President Xi the importance of establishing an economic relationship that is fair, balanced, and based on a principle of reciprocity.

Thanks.

Q I just have a couple questions on North Korea. The President has been talking about trying to get China's assistance on North Korea. Is he going to be trying to get any specific commitments from China on what he wants to see them do to exert more pressure on North Korea?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: So North Korea clearly is a matter of urgent interest for the President and the administration as a whole. I think the President has been pretty clear in messaging how important it is for China to coordinate with the United States and for China to begin exerting its considerable economic leverage to bring about a peaceful resolution to that problem.

So certainly it is going to come up in their discussions. Somewhere on the order of just shy of 90 percent of North Korea's external trade is with China, so even though we hear sometimes that China's political influence may have diminished with North Korea, clearly its economic leverage has not. It is considerable. And so that will be one of the points of discussion.

Q And is the President going to tell his Chinese counterpart about what he's willing to do proactively and unilaterally if China doesn't exert pressure?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, we'll leave that for the President to discuss. We have been reviewing U.S. policy towards North Korea. The President, on this issue, like many others, is not someone who wants to broadcast all of the ins and outs of his strategy in advance. But I think that he'll be sending a clear signal to President Xi.

Q In his interview with the Financial Times, the President said that he would leave the issue of potential tariffs against Chinese imports until another meeting. This was something that he talked about often on the campaign trail. Why not bring it up in this meeting?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: As [my colleague] indicated, the primary purpose of the meeting is to set a framework for discussions on trade and investment. I can't tell you whether they're going to get into specific issues to resolve at this time or to be on the agenda for discussion and hopefully early resolution in the weeks and months ahead. But this is the introductory meeting to put a framework in place for how we're going to discuss and address these matters.

Q In this introductory meeting, is that too charged an issue do you think to put on the table?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't want to prejudge what the parties are going to get involved in. But it's going to be the first effort of the top leadership in both countries to get together and begin to address the trade and investment issues.

Q Is the President going to raise his concerns about currency manipulation?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm going to leave any discussion of currency manipulation to the Department of Treasury, which is the place for it.

Q You said you'd like to see a relationship based on reciprocity. What does that mean exactly?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I said the principle of reciprocity, which means that we want to work with the Chinese in a constructive manner to reduce the systemic trade and investment barriers that they've created that lead to an uneven playing field for U.S. companies. We want the playing field to be level so that bilateral trade investment can be mutually beneficial.

Q President Xi reportedly wants to hear President Trump officially recognize Taiwan as a province of China. What will his message be on that and on the South China Sea?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, the President has reaffirmed our adherence to the one-China policy -- that is our one-China policy that's based on the three joint communiques with China, as well as the Taiwan Relations Act. That is longstanding policy of the United States; that is a policy that the President has reaffirmed. So I don't anticipate some kind of surprising deviation from that.

Q What will his message be on the South China Sea as it relates to --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I do expect that maritime issues will come up. The United States certainly will continue to fly and sail where international law allows. And I would not be surprised if that came up in conversation.

Yes.

Q Hi. I wanted to ask you about areas of cooperation. As you know, the last administration used climate change to offset some of the conflict in the relationship. I have yet to hear anybody from the administration talk about what you want to work on together with China. Can you enlighten us?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I'll tell you that we would like to work on North Korea together -- that there's an opportunity. And, in some ways, it's really -- we've been left, after 20-some-odd years of trying pretty much everything, to bring about a safe and denuclearized peninsula. And so this is, in some ways, a test of the relationship, I think.

Q Can you go into, though -- that's not a place where there's a lot of agreement. There's a different approach by each side. Are there any areas that you foresee where these two countries may actually have a similar approach to a global issue? Because obviously the relationship and what happens with the relationship affects everybody around the world.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure. I think that there are still a lot of areas, of course, of cooperation on public health, transnational crime. There's a whole grab-bag of daily issues that affect both of our countries and governments -- people-to-people issues. We have strong people-to-people ties. And there are certainly parts of the economic relationship that are working right, and substantial areas of difference that are going to have to be addressed.

Q There hasn't been a lot of talk recently about Chinese cyberattacks on the U.S. Has China eased off some of the things that President Obama told President Xi to stop doing?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I'd refer you really to DHS on the question of the volume and nature of cyberattacks. There's nothing that I would have to add to that right now.

Q But would it come up this weekend as an issue?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: This is a one-day visit, so I think that a lot of issues are going to come up. I think that the opportunity to resolve any particular -- we don't want to be unrealistic about that. I do think that there is going to be some movement toward a framework for dialogues that will be elevated from some of the previous or preexisting dialogues that have existed with prior administrations, and for those dialogues to be streamlined and for there to be clear deadlines for achieving results.

Q Most of the time, North Korea and China, this subject comes up, nobody gives any attention to the corridors that run from North Korea to China. And all these sanctions, which the world is imposing, go out of the window because there are no international monitors. What is going on in that area? Is there anything that you're going to do about that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, we're certainly going to be monitoring how well partners -- including China -- implement those U.N. resolutions that they've coauthored. And coal is one very important area, given the volume of trade and what that means in terms of hard currency for the North Korean regime, and certainly we'll use whatever methods we have to monitor compliance.

Q Can you shed a little bit more light on how these two men will be spending these 24 hours? Will there be a series of sessions? Any leisure time -- golf, photo ops, anything like that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, I think it's safe to say there's not going to be any golf -- (laughter) -- and there will be -- the First Ladies are both going to be there. There will be time, particularly in the first day, for them to get to know one another in a more informal kind of interaction as well as a dinner.

The next day will be a series of meetings up to and including a working lunch. And it's possible that they'll walk around a bit, as the mood strikes, but nothing formal or nothing involving golf clubs.

Q Do you anticipate any photo ops or press availabilities?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There will be some press availabilities. Are you able to -- okay -- we'll get back to you.

Q Can you talk about the atmosphere? Why Mar-a-Lago as opposed to here at the White House? If memory serves correctly, President Bush met with the then-Chinese Premier at Camp David. Do they not like the White House?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, I think that this was actually at the invitation of -- in fact, I'm certain it was President Trump's invitation that they meet outside of Washington, D.C. -- that this is the first time the two are ever going to be meeting, and the President -- you know, you've heard people refer to it as the "winter White House." It's a place where he feels comfortable and at home, and where he can break the ice with Xi Jinping without the formality, really, of a Washington meet-up.

Mark.

Q Thanks. Two questions: One, on South China Sea, what you said a moment ago sounded very much like a restatement of existing American policy. On North Korea, you've been pretty

clear that you want to draw a distinction between the last administration and this one. Is there any similar distinction you would draw in how you view the policy issue on the table with South China Sea? That's the first question.

And the second question is: In a category of tougher measures toward North Korea, would you consider secondary sanctions -- i.e. sanctions that target Chinese entities --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure. So to start with the second one first, because of the amount of leverage that China has economically, the best outcome would be one in which China very thoroughly implements those U.N. sanctions and resolutions. That is really what we're working toward, and I'll just leave it at that. I'll leave it at that.

On South China Sea, we will -- there will be an opportunity for the two leaders to discuss that. There's nothing that I would state in addition to what I've already said, but it's no secret that the President was disturbed by activities that took place under the last administration. And he and his Cabinet members have been on the record as saying that that has got to stop.

Q China is economically retaliating on the THAAD deployment in South Korea. How will the United States, against this problem, and what pressure take on China?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure. Look, we are familiar with China's objections to THAAD. The United States will always act to defend our allies and to defend our homeland against any threat, and particularly one of the nature of the North Korean regime with the kinds of terrible weapons that they're developing. There will be no move away from protecting our South Korean allies and the United States.

Q Will there be discussion of China's request to be considered a market economy? And what should we read into the action of the Commerce Department review?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, that may well be one of the issues. The topics have not been scripted out in advance, so the leaders are going to be free to raise whatever is on their mind, obviously. One of the issues currently that we're closely involved with is whether China will continue to be a nonmarket economy at the WTO -- they've brought a case against the European Union on that -- or whether there will be an effort to make them a market economy. And for us, it's very important that they continue to be designated as a nonmarket economy.

Q So is the Commerce Department review just sort of preparation for that WTO case?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The Commerce Department obviously monitors these activities, and we've also had consultations with various other countries on this matter.

Q I wonder if you can tell us a little bit more about the "terrible" weapons in North Korea. When you're doing the review, how much of a threat do you consider it to be in terms of a timeline? How urgent is the danger from North Korea when you're considering the threat in your review?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can tell you that it is now urgent because we feel that the clock is very, very quickly running out. And again, we would have loved to see North Korea join the community of nations. They've been given that opportunity over the course of different dialogues and offers over the course of four administrations, with some of our best diplomats and statesmen doing the best they could to bring about a resolution. The clock has now run out, and all options are on the table for us.

Q You said that the United States would defend its allies. Do you expect the President to bring up these new Chinese sanctions in response to the THAAD deployment with President Xi?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We will see. I certainly do think that the Chinese side in conversation we've already had, including with Secretary Tillerson's visit -- I was with him on that visit just a couple of weeks ago -- at the end of the day, South Korea is a responsible, friendly, economically dynamic democracy that is seeking, together with its ally, the United States, to put in place defensive systems.

So it doesn't make much sense, and at some level it's even disturbing, to be punishing South Korea for wanting to do that. If THAAD is a problem to other countries in the region, they need to look to North Korea.

Q But do you expect the President to offer that criticism of China?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I am not going to pre-talk the President's talking points, but I wouldn't be surprised if it comes up.

In the back.

Q Thanks. Just coming back to the venue for a second, at Mar-a-Lago, can you tell me -- I've seen reporting in both directions -- who requested that the meeting be at Mar-a-Lago instead of in Washington? And then a secondary, if you can tell me who's paying for the Mar-a-Lago --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So the President invited President Xi Jinping to Mar-a-Lago. That was our President.

Q So it was him that --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: -- yeah, invited President Xi Jinping to Mar-a-Lago. As for payment, we'd have to talk to the White House counsel. I'm not working those issues.

Q Did the White House get anything in return for that? Was there any sort of -- it is a concession of any sort?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Look, at the end of the summit, I think you'll get a pretty good readout of what was discussed and what the path is forward for resolving a lot of those contentious issues that are near and dear to the President's heart and are issues that helped get him elected.

Q Thank you. One of the things -- two of the things actually -- I think you said the President was free to bring up any issues with President Xi. And I'd like to ask two things of concern you haven't mentioned to his supporters. One, the Asian Infrastructure Bank, which has been a subject of major concern.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank that China set up?

Q Yes. And the other, religious persecution in China, which many of the President's supporters in the last campaign had hoped he would bring up when he engaged the Chinese. Are you either going to be brought up?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, on AIIB --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think to the degree that issue is brought up, it would be brought up, I would expect, by the Chinese as opposed to the United States. We're obviously aware of the issues and prepared to address it, but it's not something that that I would anticipate we're going to be raising.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And again, I'm not going to pre-speak the President's talking points. We'll see what is concretely discussed, but human rights are integral to who we are as Americans. It is the reason that we have alliances at the end of the day, one of the reasons in addition to the fact that they serve our security and prosperity here at home. And human rights issues I would expect will continue to be brought up in the relationship.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: This will be the last question -- since we skipped you twice.

Q All right, no worries. Thank you. I guess since it's the last one let me just ask you, boil it down, what's the top priority here? Is it for these two to set up a relationship? Is it a certain issue? You've talked about setting up a framework. And then to your colleague, if you're not going to talk about tariffs now, I guess the question is when?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There is time in even just a one-day summit for all of those things you mentioned to be priorities -- leaving tariffs off the table for a minute. But yes, this is an opportunity for them to meet one another, develop the beginnings of a relationship -- a working relationship -- to start putting together that framework for addressing all of the issues that we're all familiar with that carried us through the campaign and to the present day. And I'll leave it to my colleague --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I just want to clarify, I did not say that they would not be talking about tariffs. We haven't scripted out what they will be talking about. I don't anticipate there will be a resolution on those issues, but they'll be both establishing a framework for discussing the matters, and I am sure that each side will raise particular issues. But I would not anticipate we're going to be at the point of resolving those issues in this one-day set of meetings.

Q Could I just ask one more question before we go?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's it. Thanks, guys. I appreciate it. It's embargoed until 17:30. And we'll see a lot of you tomorrow.

END

5:00 P.M. EDT

Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Sean Spicer en route Palm Beach, FL, 4/6/2017

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 06, 2017

Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Sean Spicer en route Palm Beach, FL, 4/6/2017

En Route Palm Beach, Florida

2:32 P.M. EDT

Q Can you go over the schedule?

MR. SPICER: Yeah, let me walk you guys through it. So, obviously, just to recap, I think we had a great visit yesterday with King Abdullah and the Queen. Obviously, one quick note for this morning -- I think we put it out yesterday -- but the President ordered flags flown at half-mast today in recognition of Senator John Glenn of Ohio.

This morning, as many of you saw, the President continued a bipartisan tradition that started out of President Bush welcoming the Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride to the White House, and I think it was a really cool event. Ironically, as much as the weather dampened our ability to have it outside, I think spirits were high inside. We had 50 folks up there. A great way to start the day.

Obviously, right now, we're in flight to Mar-a-Lago. Quickly, to Steve's point, let me walk you through the schedule. I don't know how much you saw on TV, but the President of China, President Xi, arrived a few minutes ago. He was greeted by Secretary Tillerson at the airport. He will be, obviously, heading for the airport to where he'll be staying.

I've been asked a couple times, so I just want to get it out in front. No one from the Chinese delegation is staying at Mar-a-Lago. They were invited, but it was a room-size issue in terms of the size of their delegation, so they're staying just down the road. But the invitation was extended to them.

The delegation will arrive at Mar-a-Lago at 5:00 p.m. They will be greeted by the President and the First Lady. Following the welcome, the group will share some private time ahead of their dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the formal dining room. There will be a pool spray at the top of the dinner.

Tomorrow will be mostly spent in meetings. The First Lady and Madame Peng will also visit a local school. There will be a working lunch. And then the Chinese delegation --

(Interruption due to turbulence.)

There will be a working lunch. The President's weekly address will be released tomorrow, focusing on the President's pledge to reverse decades of dangerous open-border policies that have left the country open, unsafe. As you may have noted this week, U.S. Customs and Border Protection released a report on the decline of individuals that have been apprehended at the southwest border. I mentioned this the other day, but we had some really good numbers -- declining 35 percent in March, from February of 2017, and down 61 percent from January 2017,

and a 64 percent decrease from March 2017. All this will be mentioned in the brief tomorrow -- or in the weekly address.

The Vice President's office announced that the Vice President will travel to the Republic of Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Australia and Hawaii from April 15th to the 25th. This will serve as the Vice President's first official travel to the Asia Pacific region. The Vice President will emphasize the President's continued commitment to U.S. alliance and partnerships in the Asia Pacific region, highlighting the administration's economic trade agenda, and underscoring America's unwavering support for our troops here and abroad.

Next week, I mentioned previously the President will host the Secretary General of NATO on Wednesday. We'll have a press event at that.

With that, I'll take a few questions before we buckle back.

Q Sean, following up on Syria yesterday, there's a lot of people who see a contradiction between the sympathy expressed for the victims of the gas attack and the policy of basically not allowing, for humanitarian reasons, these sort of people to come into the United States now.

MR. SPICER: I'm sorry, what are you --

Q Syria.

MR. SPICER: Right. I think one of the things that you've seen the President talk to several of the folks in the region about is the setting up of safe zones and supporting them -- something that he's talked to several of the leaders in the region about. And I think we got to make sure, number one, while obviously our hearts break for the people of Syria who were innocently attacked the other day, especially these young children who we watched, we've got to make sure that we're always doing what we can to protect our nation. But that doesn't mean that we can't support efforts like safe zones through Syria; that we'll make sure that we do what we can for their people.

Q But there's no contradiction about not allowing people like this to come to the U.S. --

MR. SPICER: Every country's number-one priority is to its own people and the protection of them. We've got to do what we can to make sure that as we seek to root out ISIS and terrorism throughout the country -- throughout the world, rather, that we don't, at the same time, do things that would bring those same threats to our country.

So we can do what we can to provide humanitarian relief, to support the building and maintenance of safe zones throughout, and that's something that the President I think has found a lot of common ground with other heads of state, especially in the region.

Q Sean, what will the President's response be if President Xi urges more action on climate change and asking the U.S. to fulfill its commitments and go further on it?

MR. SPICER: I think it's a great question. I think we'll have an opportunity to talk to you guys at some point tomorrow, and I think we can get through what was discussed on the agenda. But I'm not going to get ahead of the leaders discussing issues, whether it's that or economic stuff or North Korea. There's going to be a very robust discussion on a lot of these issues, and to start to hypothetically guess what we're going to say if someone brings up something ahead of the talks is not a place that I want to --

Q And on the second question. You mentioned the border security issue. Yesterday, Secretary Kelly said that it would not be a contiguous border, it would not be a physical border throughout, it would be a combination --

MR. SPICER: I don't think he said it wasn't going to be a physical border. I think there's a question of whether there will be some fencing and some other stuff.

Q He said in response to a question from Senator McCain, would you consider all these other things, including electronic surveillance on the border, and he said, yes, I would, and that's a good definition.

MR. SPICER: I will let Secretary Kelly be the expert on that.

Q But is that a backing-down of the President's commitment on a physical wall?

Q No, I think -- no, because, again, I think it's a physical barrier. I think he's informed the President of what's feasible throughout the extent of our southern border. And the President's number-one goal is to do what we can to deter illegal immigration and keep our country safe. That's the primary focus.

Jim.

Q Chairman Nunes decide to step aside, at least in the House Intel investigation on Russia. Does the White House believe that it could have handled things better in terms of the invitation for him a couple weeks ago? Now you have the second administration official, starting with Jeff Sessions recusing himself, Chairman Nunes recusing himself. Does the White House believe that it could have handled this better? And how did you find out about Chairman Nunes's decision?

MR. SPICER: I found out about it by watching Fox News. It was on the television. So -- but I don't know --

Q Did he notify the White House, though?

Q I'm told he alerted the White House.

MR. SPICER: I saw it live. But I don't know how -- in terms of us handling with respect to Chairman Nunes, as you know, Jeff, he was the one who requested to come see some things and then said he wanted an appointment with the President. We were informed of his desire to talk to the President through media reports; he held a press conference and announced it. So I'm not sure what -- our job is not to --

Q But he was invited to the White House the day before that.

MR. SPICER: He was no invited to the White House the day --

Q (Inaudible.)

MR. SPICER: I know, but with respect, you're making -- stating a fact that isn't true. He wasn't invited. And not that he wouldn't be; he's more than welcome to come, as is any member of Congress. But by his own statement, he requested to come to look at something. So we have continued to say that we want the House and the Senate to look into it, and we continue to support that effort in both chambers.

Q If I could follow, going forward, will this change how anyone in the administration from the National Security Council and anyone talks to or deals with matters involving the Russia investigation?

MR. SPICER: I don't know that there's been any change in how we -- no. I mean, I'm not aware of anything that we've done that would change how we handle requests for information. But the answer to the question is, there's been no change in our policy.

Q Sean, have you been asked about Steve Bannon yet?

MR. SPICER: Have I been asked about him?

Q Do you have full confidence in him? Does he still have a seat at the table? Do you want to talk about him a little bit?

MR. SPICER: I mean, tell me what the question is and I'll answer it.

Q Well, does his removal from the NSC show that you're getting more of the professional people, less of the political people involved in national security?

MR. SPICER: The President respects Chairman McMaster's willingness to form the National Security Council in the way he did. It's something that we said when we announced Chairman McMaster back at Mar-a-Lago, ironically. We had talked about the fact that he would have full authority to oversee the National Security Council in terms of personnel and structure, and he has.

Q Are you saying that it was his decision to ask Bannon to leave then?

MR. SPICER: Well, obviously, he's the National Security Advisor, he runs all of these major decisions in restructuring by the President. But at the end of the day, he is the National Security Advisor.

Q Just on logistics for the next two days, should we expect to hear from the President and President Xi at all?

MR. SPICER: Well, I know that there will be pool sprays. I think, as you know, I wouldn't rule anything out. We're not -- there's nothing beyond that on the thing, and I think we may have some folks come by the filing center and such.

Q One last thing. Does the President plan to raise human rights with the Chinese President?

MR. SPICER: Julie, I'd go back to what Noah said. I don't -- we will have a readout of what they discussed after they discuss it. But I don't want to get ahead of what they're going to discuss or not discuss until they've had a chance to meet.

Q But does he feel like it's important, as the American President, to raise human rights?

MR. SPICER: (Inaudible) human rights, trade. There's a lot of areas of both economic and national security, human rights being one of them. There's things that we will discuss in private. And we will have a readout of those discussions.

Q What about climate change? Is that an issue? Oh, asked already? Sorry.

MR. SPICER: Again, I mentioned this to -- Noah brought that up. Once we have an update on what they discussed we'll make sure that we read it out, but I'm not going to -- part of this opportunity is for them to develop a relationship and start the discussion on some key issues.

But there's a lot of folks that are traveling down and having discussions as well. Secretary Ross is on the plane, Secretary Mnuchin. Secretary Tillerson, as I've mentioned, is already down there. Secretary Mattis is coming down. So there's going to be a lot of opportunity for our folks to interact. And again, I probably left some -- Gary Cohn is on the plane, General McMaster. There's going to be a lot of interaction that occurs during this bilateral with our senior officials and their counterparts.

Q Is Steve Bannon on the plane?

MR. SPICER: He is.

Q Can you give us a sense of -- we wanted to square in Judge Gorsuch.

MR. SPICER: We'll have an update. I would imagine there's some -- I don't want to get ahead of this but I know we are looking at dates for next week.

Q But you wouldn't fly back to Washington, or you wouldn't have the judge down here for a swearing-in?

MR. SPICER: No. The earliest that it would be would be Monday. There are some -- we're looking at some times. There's some other logistical things that we're just trying to figure out, whether it would be Monday. It could potentially be Tuesday. I know Wednesday we've got the NATO Secretary General. But once we lock in that, we'll have something out. But it would not be over the weekend, no.

Q The President said that he was flexible in his thinking maybe evolving on Syria. Can you give us a lens into where that is and kind of what he's doing behind the scenes?

MR. SPICER: The President has held several discussions with his national security team regarding the situation in Syria. Obviously he is being presented with a lot of options. But I would go back and echo the comments the President made yesterday in the Rose Garden where he is not one to telegraph those decisions or options until he's ready to make them, and that's where I think he continues to bring that sense of being a shrewd negotiator to the table and not revealing his hand until it's time.

Q And what's the timeline on the healthcare bill, renewing that or deciding whether to abandon a second attempt?

MR. SPICER: Well, first of all, I would just -- with respect to -- it's not a second attempt. It's been an ongoing discussion. You saw Chief of Staff Priebus and the Vice President were up on the Hill last night. We've had a continuation of discussions over the last several days, and I think they've been very productive.

You saw I think Freedom Caucus Chair Meadows made some comments earlier today that they've seen some very constructive proposals and ideas put forward. I think the amendment that

Speaker Ryan was talking about putting forward to the rules committee is something that shows tremendous progress by the team.

And look, honestly, as soon as we get to 216, we'll let you know.

Q Sean, did the White House ask for the House to go forward with the vote that they're planning this week? Was that driven by the White House?

MR. SPICER: (Inaudible) that, as I mentioned, Chief of Staff Priebus and the Vice President and some others were up on the Hill last night working with Speaker Ryan and Leader McCarthy, Greg Walden, Kevin Brady, and others. I think the idea is that we feel very good about where the discussions are going and some of the language that is being updated, moving this in a very positive direction towards getting that 216.

Q Does the President maintain full confidence in Speaker Ryan and his abilities to get this done?

MR. SPICER: Yes. Thank you, guys.

END

2:47 P.M. EDT

Press Briefing by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and National Security Advisor General H.R. McMaster, 4/6/2017

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

April 06, 2017

Press Briefing by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and National Security Advisor General H.R. McMaster, 4/6/2017

Tideline Ocean Resort & Spa

Palm Beach, Florida

10:18 P.M. EDT

MR. SPICER: Tonight, Secretary Tillerson and NSA Director, Lieutenant General McMaster, will both give comments regarding the President's order tonight, and then afterwards we'll take a few questions and then let you get to some sleep.

With that, Secretary Tillerson.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Good evening, all. I think what we want to try to do is give you a little bit of background on how we got to the statements by the President and the actions that were taken tonight.

As you're well aware, Bashar al-Assad has carried out chemical attacks this past week on civilians, including women and children, and carried out attacks earlier -- last month, March 25th and 30th in Homs Province, as well. We have a very high level of confidence that the attacks were carried out by aircraft under the direction of Bashar al-Assad's regime. And we also have very high confidence that the attacks involved the use of sarin nerve gas. At least the past three attacks were fairly high -- we have high confidence on that.

I think it's also clear that previous agreements that had been entered into pursuant to U.N. Security Council Resolution 2118, as well as Annex A agreements that the Syrian government themselves accepted back in 2013, whereby they would surrender their chemical weapons under the supervision of the Russian government. Now, the U.S. and the Russian government entered into agreements whereby Russia would locate these weapons, they would secure the weapons, they would destroy the weapons, and that they would act as the guarantor that these weapons would no longer be present in Syria.

Clearly, Russia has failed in its responsibility to deliver on that commitment from 2013. So either Russia has been complicit, or Russia has been simply incompetent in its ability to deliver on its end of that agreement.

I think the other thing that's important to recognize -- that as Assad has continued to use chemical weapons in these attacks with no response -- no response from the international community -- that he, in effect, is normalizing the use of chemical weapons, which then may be adopted by others. So it's important that some action be taken on behalf of the international community to make clear that these chemical weapons continue to be a violation of international norms.

I think it's also important to recognize, as I think everyone does, the chaotic circumstances that exist on the ground in Syria, with the presence of a battle underway to defeat ISIS, the presence of al Qaeda elements inside of Syria, and a civil war that is underway. So, clearly, one of the existential threats we see on the ground in Syria is if there are weapons of this nature available in Syria, the ability to secure those weapons and not have them fall into the hands of those who would bring those weapons to our shores to harm American citizens.

So there are a number of elements that, in our view, called for this action and which we feel was appropriate. We feel the strike itself was proportional because it was targeted at the facility that delivered this most recent chemical weapons attack. And in carrying this out, we coordinated very carefully with our international partners in terms of communicating with them around the world. And I will tell you that the response from our allies in Europe, as well as the region in the Middle East, has been overwhelmingly supportive of the action we've taken.

So I'll leave it there. And let me turn it to NSA Director McMaster.

GENERAL McMASTER: I really have very little to add except to say that it was important during the President's deliberations and its deliberations with his leadership that we weighed, of course, the risk associated with any military action, and we weighed that against the risk of inaction, which Secretary Tillerson has already really summarized, which is the risk of this continued egregious, inhumane attacks on innocent civilians with chemical weapons.

And so, really, nothing else to add to the Secretary's summary. And we're happy to take any questions that you have.

Q Could you go through just the timeline of how the President's thinking changed? And when did you present him with options and so forth?

GENERAL McMASTER: Okay. So the President was immediately notified upon news of the chemical attack, and he was very interested in understanding better the circumstances of the attack and who was responsible. Our intelligence community, in cooperation with our friends and partners and allies around the world, collaborated to determine with a very high degree of confidence precisely where the location originated, and then, of course, the sort of chemicals that were used in the attack.

That confidence level has just continued to grow in the hours and days since the attack, associated with additional evidence that's available, especially -- so sad -- sadly, from the victims that are being treated and the confirmation of the type of agent that was used, which was a nerve agent.

So that was -- the initial interactions with the President were about the attack and responding to his questions about the nature of the attack, the scope of the attack, and who was responsible in particular.

And then we convened a meeting of the National Security Council principals -- a small group; it wasn't the full -- it was almost the full National Security Council -- to deliberate on options. There were three options; you can imagine which those were. There were three options that we discussed with the President, and the President asked us to focus on two options in particular, to mature those options. And then he had a series of questions for us that we endeavored to answer.

We were able to answer those questions and come back to him in a decision -- briefing today, again, with virtually all of the principals on the National Security Council here in Florida and then by video-telephone conference back in Washington. And after a meeting of considerable length and a far-reaching discussion, the President decided to act. And that's the general sequence of events.

So rather two large and formal meetings, but really a whole series of discussions since the time of the attack.

Secretary, do you have anything to add to that?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: No, I think just as I said, as I think H.R. has said, this was a very deliberative process. There was a thorough examination of a wide range of options. And I think the President made the correct choice and made the correct decision, first to be decisive in acting -- acting against this heinous act on the part of Bashar al-Assad -- but acting in a way that was clearly directed at the source of this particular attack, to send that strong message.

Other things were considered. Those were rejected for any number of reasons. And in my view, the President made the exact, correct decision.

Q Mr. Secretary --

Q Mr. Secretary, can you talk a little bit about your discussions in the last hour? Secretary, did you speak to the President --

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I'll let Sean referee here.

MR. SPICER: (Laughter.) I'm good at it. Hallie.

Q Did you or did the President speak with President Putin prior to the attack? Can you talk about the discussions that you had with Moscow and what the expectation is from them?

And then, General McMaster, I have a question for you as well, please.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: There were no discussions or prior contacts, nor have there been any since the attack, with Moscow.

Q And can you tell us about your expectations for what you think you will hear from President Putin or Foreign Minister Lavrov?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I'll let them speak for themselves.

Q General, McMaster, I'd like to ask you -- the President -- you talked a little bit in response to Steve's question about the President's evolution of his thinking. Just a couple of years ago his encouragement was to stay out of Syria. You talked about the images that sort of moved him into this direction -- as he put it tonight, "beautiful babies cruelly murdered." Has his thinking then changed on allowing Syrian refugees into the United States, to your knowledge?

GENERAL McMASTER: No, that wasn't discussed as any part of the deliberations.

Q And on the target, anything else on specifically what you believe was destroyed in the strike?

GENERAL McMASTER: I'll defer to the Pentagon on that. But there were a number of targets that were associated with the ability of that airfield to operate and to continue mass-murder attacks against the Syrian civilians. And the one thing that I will tell you, though, there was an effort to minimize risk to third-country nationals at that airport -- I think you read Russians from that -- and we took great pains to try to avoid that. Of course, in any kind of military operation, there are no guarantees. And then there were also measures put in place to avoid hitting what we believe is a storage of sarin gas there so that that would not be ignited and cause a hazard to civilians or anyone else.

MR. SPICER: Margaret.

Q Can I ask H.R. -- sorry -- both the Secretary and H.R. McMaster -- what is the overriding message here? Is it that -- this is not clearly a declaration of war, but is it that for President Trump and this administration the credible threat of military force is back on the table? Was this articulated or explained in any way to President Xi prior to the President's remarks? And do you see this as in any way sending a message more broadly on your policy towards North Korea that the President is willing to take decisive action? If both of you would weigh in.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, I think as you just stated, this clearly indicates the President is willing to take decisive action when called for. And I think in this particular case, the use of prohibited chemical weapons, which violates a number of international norms and violates existing agreements, called for this type of a response, which is a kinetic military response.

I would not in any way attempt to extrapolate that to a change in our policy or our posture relative to our military activities in Syria today. There's been no change in that status. But I think it does demonstrate that President Trump is willing to act when governments and actors cross the line, and cross the line on violating commitments they have made and cross the line in the most heinous of ways. I think it is clear that President Trump has made that statement to the world tonight.

Q Mr. Secretary, can I --

MR. SPICER: Hold on, hold on --

GENERAL McMASTER: I really have no further comment on that question. I think the Secretary covered it comprehensively.

Sean.

Q Did you tell China in advance?

MR. SPICER: Hold on one second.

Q Mr. Secretary, if I could ask you to clarify Russia again -- you said no contacts were made with Russia before the strikes today.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: No contacts were made with Moscow, with President Putin. There are military de-confliction agreements in place with the Russian military, and our military did operate under and in accordance with those de-confliction agreements in coordinating this particular attack.

Q On the ground in Syria?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: In Syria.

Q Can you explain, Mr. Secretary, that process? How was Russia notified?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Let me let H.R. --

GENERAL McMASTER: There are normal channels open for de-confliction. And I'll just defer that to the Pentagon just for accuracy. But the Pentagon, I know, is going to be talking to the press here soon, and I think it would be better if they give you a more precise answer if you're looking for details.

Q And, Mr. Secretary, if I could, obviously the diplomatic considerations here are of a magnitude that didn't exist a number of years ago. When you went into this, unlike President Obama, who was dealing simply with Bashar al-Assad, you're dealing with Russia, you're dealing with the Kurds, you're dealing with Turkey. Can you give us a little bit of the diplomatic calculation in undertaking this attack?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, my expectation is that all of those parties, with the exception of Bashar al-Assad and perhaps Russia, I think are going to applaud this particular action or effort.

Overall, the situation in Syria is one where our approach today and our policy today is, first, to defeat ISIS. By defeating ISIS we remove one of the disruptive elements in Syria that exists today. That begins to clarify for us opposition forces and regime forces. In working with the coalition -- as you know, there is a large coalition of international players and allies who are involved in the future resolution in Syria.

So it's to defeat ISIS; it's to begin to stabilize areas of Syria, stabilize areas in the south of Syria, stabilize areas around Raqqa through ceasefire agreements between the Syrian regime forces and opposition forces. Stabilize those areas; begin to restore some normalcy to them. Restore them to local governance -- and there are local leaders who are ready to return, some who have left as refugees -- they're ready to return to govern these areas. Use local forces that will be part of the liberation effort to develop the local security forces -- law enforcement, police force. And then use other forces to create outer perimeters of security so that areas like Raqqa, areas in the south can begin to provide a secure environment so refugees can begin to go home and begin the rebuilding process.

In the midst of that, through the Geneva Process, we will start a political process to resolve Syria's future in terms of its governance structure, and that ultimately, in our view, will lead to a resolution of Bashar al-Assad's departure.

MR. SPICER: Jonathan.

Q Mr. Secretary and General McMaster, does this strike significantly change Assad's military capability to carry out an attack like this? Or was it really about sending a message that this kind of attack is not acceptable?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, I'll answer the last part of that. This was clearly a very decisive action taken on the part of President Trump, who I think you heard yesterday said this particular heinous attack changed his view of how horrible these types of use of these weapons are. That clearly changed President Trump's view that something has to be done in response.

I'll let H.R. McMaster respond to the second question of the military -- whether it's changed our military posture.

GENERAL McMASTER: Obviously, the regime will maintain the certain capacity to commit mass murder with chemical weapons we think beyond this particular airfield. But it was aimed at this particular airfield for a reason, because we could trace this murderous attack back to that facility. And this was not a small strike. It was not a small strike. And I think what it does communicate is a big shift, right, a big shift in Assad's calculus -- it should be, anyway -- because this is the first time that the United States has taken direct military action against that regime or the regime of his father.

So I think what is critical is the President's decision in response to this mass murder attack, but also in the context of all the previous attacks that have occurred -- I think over 50 -- I think it's over 50 chemical attacks previously, post-2013, when the U.N. resolution went into effect. And so I think that it's both. It was aimed at the capacity to commit mass murder with chemical weapons, but it was not of a scope or a scale that it would go after all such related facilities.

Q Were military personnel with any other nations, any of our allies, take part in this? Or was this 100 percent a U.S. operation?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: This was entirely a U.S. operation.

MR. SPICER: Jen.

Q Can you talk a little bit about whether there might have been just an emotional reaction to this from President Trump? Assad cannot gas Americans, so do you think some emotional response to the sight and images of what happened in Syria played into this? And secondly, can you talk about the reaction from President Xi?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: No, I don't think it was -- I do not view it as an emotional reaction at all. I think as President Trump evaluated this first attack, these attacks that occurred on his watch, and reflected upon the prior responses, or lack of responses, he came to the conclusion that we could not, yet again, turn away and turn an eye -- turn a blind eye to what's happened.

The use of these weapons, as I indicated earlier, one of the concerns we have is the more we fail to respond to use of these weapons, the more we begin to normalize their use. And when we begin to normalize their use, we are opening up wider-spread use by others who would use such weapons.

And I don't think we should in any way diminish the risk of the situation in Syria where there is a lot of chaos on the ground. There are elements on the ground in Syria, elements that are plotting to reach our shore, and these type of weapons falling into their hands and being brought to our shore is a direct threat on the American people.

Q Sorry, I wanted to ask you to clarify something, Secretary Tillerson, first, and then I also have a military question. You were saying that there was no coordination with Moscow for this, but then you said that you followed the rules of de-confliction. So that kind of suggests that you did talk to Russia in some capacity. Can you just clarify that?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, I think Director McMaster answered it. And again, I would direct you to the Pentagon to give you the precise procedures that are followed. But these are battlefield agreements, because we're operating in Syria, the Russians are operating in Syria. As we have begun the march to defeat ISIS, many of our forces are becoming more approximate to one another, and so we have a de-confliction agreement in place with the Russian military.

And so there are command contacts that exist 24/7 for any type of operation that could bring us into conflict. That's the level of contact that we're talking about.

Q So is it more accurate to say that you didn't seek approval from Moscow or anything like that for them to kind of give you the green light, but you followed protocol in terms of the military -

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We sought no approval from Moscow or at any other level within the Russian infrastructure. This was strictly following the rules that we have put in place, an agreement with the Russian military to de-conflict. Because our target in this attack was not Russia, it was not the Russians, it was not their forces, nor any Russian individuals. Our target was this airfield and the Syrian regime.

GENERAL McMASTER: I would just add one thing. The purpose was not to receive permission, the purpose was to reduce the chances of Russian casualties and to follow the procedures, as you mentioned. But we wanted to take every possible measure we could to reduce the chance of Russian casualties.

MR. SPICER: Thank you guys very much. Appreciate it. We're going to have a great night.

END

10:39 P.M. EDT

Briefing by Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, and Secretary Ross on President Trump's Meetings with President Xi of China

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 07, 2017

Briefing by Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mnuchin, and Secretary Ross on President Trump's Meetings with President Xi of China

Tideline Resort and Spa

Palm Beach, Florida

3:58 P.M. EDT

MR. SPICER: Hi, guys. So this is being streamed back to both the Tideline, as well as the White House.

Obviously, today the President was very pleased with the outcomes of today's meeting. I wanted to give you guys a quick readout, so today I've brought three of the top participants in this: Secretary of State Tillerson, Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, and Secretary Commerce Wilbur Ross.

They'll go in that order, and then we'll take a few questions.

With that, Secretary of State Tillerson.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, thank you, Sean.

I would open by saying the President was very happy to host President Xi at Mar-a-Lago these last two days. As those of you that have been here know, it was obviously a perfect weather day today, and it was a great opportunity for both the Presidents and their wives to really get to know one another and enjoy, share meals together, and work on important issues.

Each side did bring along senior delegations of officials

-- so, of course, we're represented here -- who also were able to build important relationships for a lot of work that's still ahead of us.

I think what I would really want you to get a grasp of is that both the atmosphere, the chemistry between the two leaders was positive. The posture between the two really set the tone for our subsequent meetings between our high-level delegations. And I would tell you the exchanges were very frank. They were candid, they were open, and they were very positive. So I think all of us are feeling very good about the results of this summit in terms of what it did for setting a very constructive tone going forward.

The two leaders had positive, productive meetings. President Trump and President Xi agreed to work in concert to expand areas of cooperation while managing differences based on mutual respect.

The two Presidents reviewed the current state of the bilateral relationship and noted the importance of working together to generate positive outcomes that would benefit the citizens of both of our countries. President Trump noted the challenges caused by Chinese government intervention in its economy and raised serious concerns about the impact of China's industrial, agricultural, technology, and cyber policies on U.S. jobs and exports. The President underscored the need for China to take concrete steps to level the playing field for American workers, stressing repeatedly the need for reciprocal market access.

The two sides noted the urgency of the threat of North Korea's weapons program, reaffirmed their commitment to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula, and committed to fully implement U.N. Security Council resolutions. They agreed to increase cooperation and work with the international community to convince the DPRK to peacefully resolve the issue and abandon its illicit weapons programs.

The two sides had candid discussions on regional and maritime security. President Trump noted the importance of adherence to international norms in the East and South China Seas and to previous statements on non-militarization. He also noted the importance of protecting human rights and other values deeply held by Americans.

The two Presidents agreed to elevate existing bilateral talks to reflect the importance of making progress on issues. They established a new high-level framework for negotiations. The U.S.-China Comprehensive Dialogue will be overseen by the two Presidents, and it will have four pillars: the diplomatic and security dialogue; the comprehensive economic dialogue; the law enforcement and cybersecurity dialogue; and the social and cultures issues dialogue.

The two sides agreed to undertake an ambitious agenda and schedule to show progress and achieve meaningful results. President Trump welcomed President Xi's invitation to visit China for a state visit at a future date. They agreed to work together in the interim to ensure successful and results-focused visits.

With that, I'd like to turn it to Treasury Secretary Mnuchin.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Thank you. I would just like to reiterate that we had a very productive two days with our counterparts. And specifically we had a meeting this morning that was a breakout of the first comprehensive economic dialogue. We had very direct and frank conversations about how we would work together. Secretary Ross and I will be leading that jointly, and we will be focused on trade, investment, and other economic opportunities between both companies -- countries.

We focused specifically on a more balanced economic relationship, specifically on trade. And we focused on the desire to have very specific action items both in the short term for the next time we get together, as well as what the goals are over the year. So I think we think the restructuring of the dialogue and having specifically a breakout that will address comprehensive economic opportunities across our different agencies both here and within China I think we felt was very productive, very good start in how we're going to structure it, and again, very specific things that we talked about to look forward on making progress in the short term on.

Secretary Ross?

SECRETARY ROSS: Thank you, Steven. I think in many ways, the most significant thing was a 100-day plan. Normally, trade discussions, especially between China and ourselves, are denominated in multiple years. This was denominated in the first instance in 100 days with hopefully way stations of accomplishment along the way. Given the range of issues and the magnitude, that may be ambitious, but it's a very big sea change in the pace of discussions. And I think that's a very very important symbolization of the growing rapport between the two countries.

MR. SPICER: We'll take a few questions. Steve.

Q Secretary of State Tillerson, can I ask you about North Korea? Did the President say that he might use trade against China if they do not rein in North Korea? And did you get any specific commitments from China to do something about the North Korea problem?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The Presidents' discussions -- President Trump and President Xi -- on North Korea were very wide-ranging, very comprehensive, and more focused entirely on both countries' previous commitments to denuclearize the peninsula. There was no kind of a package arrangement discussed to resolve this.

I think President Xi, from their part, shared the view that this has reached a very serious stage in terms of the advancement of North Korea's nuclear capabilities. They discussed the challenges that introduces for both countries, but there's a real commitment that we work together to see if this cannot be resolved in a peaceful way. But in order for that to happen, North Korea's posture has to change before there's any basis for dialogue or discussions.

President Trump indicated to President Xi that he welcomed any ideas that President Xi and China might have as to other actions we could take and that we would be happy to work with them, but we understand it creates unique problems for them and challenges and that we would, and are, prepared to chart our own course if this is something China is just unable to coordinate with us.

Q Two quick questions for Secretary Tillerson, and one for Secretary Ross. Previous administrations have been very tough on North Korea -- sorry -- tough on China in terms of human rights violations. And I was wondering if that came up and if this administration plans to pressure the Chinese on human rights violations. And the second question, if I may have the opportunity to ask since you're here on Syria -- a lot of the American people are concerned that yesterday's actions mean we're going to war. And I was hoping if you could just clarify -- is this just a one-fit situation, or is this going to be part of a -- campaign to try to the Assad government?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: As to the discussions around human rights in China, I think America's values are quite clear and they really occupied a core of all of our discussions. I don't think you have to have a separate conversation, somehow separate our core values around human rights from our economic discussions, our military-to-military discussions, or our foreign policy discussions. They're really embedded in every discussion, that that is really what guides much of our view around how we're going to work together.

As to Syria, I think as was indicated in our statements last night, this particular strike that was carried out on the airbase from which the chemical weapons attack was launched was very deliberately considered by the President. It is a response that we believe is both proportional and appropriate. And as we said last night, we will monitor Syria's response to that strike in terms of whether they attack our own forces or coalition forces, or whether we detect that they are considering mobilizing to take additional chemical weapons attacks. And I'd say at this point the future will be guided by how we see their reaction.

Q Thank you. And for you, Secretary Roth, I was wondering if talked to the Chinese about cracking down on any banks or companies that may be working with North Korea.

SECRETARY ROSS: As you know, Commerce fined ZTE, the second largest telecom company for making equipment in China, \$1.170 billion recently. So they recognize that that shows our clear determination to crack down on that sort of activity.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: And I would just also emphasize Treasury obviously manages multiple sanctions programs, some specifically towards North Korea, and we have had direct conversations with our counterparts in China about working with us on those.

Q Did the Chinese agree to do anything that will make it easier for American companies to export to China?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I think there was definitely an acknowledgement by them on the trade issue that we do need to get to a more balanced trade environment. We did begin those discussions today, but I would just emphasize there was a lot going on in two days. And although we had some specific conversations, as Secretary Ross, mentioned, the plan is for us to develop a 100-day plan, and we would expect to see some very specific items on that.

Q Will you move forward with a plan to label China a currency manipulator?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I would just comment on, I think as you know, the currency report is going to come out in the near future, and we will address that when it comes out.

SECRETARY ROSS: As other trade issues, you would not have expected us to reach agreement in a few hours of meetings. The issues are far more complex and far more deep rooted. But 100-days is a very, very short time for trade.

Q Did you discuss the environment and environmental commitments? And what was your response if China asked for more commitments from the United States on that issue?

SECRETARY ROSS: That was not a major part of the discussion, nor do I recall the Chinese specifically raising it.

Q There was anticipation that President Xi would come with some sort of gift for President Trump -- infrastructure investment, something that would demonstrate a Chinese commitment to having more jobs in the U.S. Was there anything like that?

SECRETARY ROSS: The best gift was his presence and the relationship what was built up between our President and President Xi.

Q Secretary Tillerson, Chinese media is reporting that President Trump was invited to visit China in 2017. Can you clarify just if that was the year that you've agreed to do this?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The President did accept the invitation of President Xi to visit China. Now, the invitation was for a 2107 visit. The President said that he would look at the dates, and we would work with them to see when that visit might occur.

Q Secretary Ross, could you give a couple of examples of the kind of way stations that people might see in the 100-day time?

SECRETARY ROSS: The exact way stations are a matter of negotiation itself. But, directionally, the objective is to increase our exports to China and to reduce the trade deficit that we have with them.

Q When you say that there was a recognition by the Chinese and acknowledgement of the trade issue that it needs to be a more balanced environment, what did they say exactly? That seems like that's sort of off message for them.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I don't think it was off message at all. Again, I think they look at -- we have very similar economic interests, and I think there are areas that they clearly want to work with us. And as Secretary Ross said the objective is for us to increase our exports to them. It's a very big market, and there will be more opportunities for both exports as well as investments.

Q We were told -- sorry, did you want to say something, Secretary Ross?

SECRETARY ROSS: What I was going to say was simply that it was a very wide range of products that we discussed, not a particularly limited one. And the most interesting thing to me was they expressed an interest in reducing their net trade balance because of the impact it's having on money supply and inflation. That's the first time I've heard them say that in a bilateral context.

Q We were informed that President Xi was informed of the Syria strikes during dinner yesterday, and so I was wondering if you could maybe explain what the reaction was from the

Chinese as to this. They've usually been very opposed -- in the U.N. at least -- on acts against Syria.

And so since the three of you are here, we saw that all three of you were in the photo in the Situation Room, as this was playing out. So I'd be very interested to hear -- especially it's not common to see maybe the Treasury Secretary or the Commerce Secretary in those situations. So if you can say what role you were playing and maybe what your thoughts were while this was unfolding.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The President did directly inform President Xi near the end of the dinner yesterday evening as the missiles that are launched were impacting, which was about 8:40 p.m. last night. The President told President Xi that we had launched a strike against Syria as a result of Assad's violation -- multiple violations of the use of chemical weapons against his own citizens, including the killing of women, children, and babies. The President provided President Xi the number of missiles that were launched and explained the rationale behind it.

President Xi I think expressed an appreciation for the President letting him know and providing the rationale and said, as it was told to me, indicated that he understood that such a response is necessary when people are killing children.

Now, China has issued its own statements. I'm sure those are available to you. I have read them on them on the wire service, as well.

As to the Situation Room, before I turn it to the two Secretaries to give you kind of their color on what was going on, I think it is important for everyone to recognize a couple of things on the Syrian attack. First, it was an overwhelming success. I think the performance our military and the expertise and the power of what the U.S. military is able to execute on a fairly short planning window was extraordinary. And I think all Americans, and, indeed, I think all our allies in the free world should take great comfort in what occurred with that strike last night. And Americans should be very proud of their men and women in uniform.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: I would just not only echo what Secretary Tillerson said, but I think, as you know, the Treasury Department has very important functions in terms of sanctions and other intelligence -- financial intelligence functions that I have been participating in. So on the National Security Council, the Treasury Department does participate in that.

We will be announcing additional sanctions on Syria as part of our ongoing effort to stop this type of activity and emphasize how significant we view this. And we expect that those will continue to have an important effect on preventing people from doing business with them.

Q Can you elaborate on the sanctions a little bit?

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Again, they will be coming out in the near future. But I would just say we view sanctions as being a very important tool, whether it's North Korea or whether it's Syria. These sanctions are very important and we will use them to the maximum effect.

SECRETARY ROSS: To me, the most dramatic thing about being in the Situation Room as he was making the decision was the thoroughness of the support and information that went into it, the consultation he did with a wide range of military and diplomatic and economic advisors, and the utter seriousness and thoughtfulness with which he made this very grave decision.

In terms of the strikes themselves, it's my understanding that they took out something like 20 percent of the entire Syrian air force. So it was huge not just in terms of number of planes but relative to the scale of their air force.

Q Secretary Tillerson, you talked about the great success. The AFP is reporting that the runway is still operational and is actually being used. Is that accurate? And can you comment on whether that was your intent, and if that puts a damper on the success of the operation?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The runways were not the target due to the nature of the construction of those runways. Our military estimate was that we could not do serious damage to the runways. They are very thick and they're constructed in a way that the ordnance that were used,

while would have damaged them -- the damage would have been easily repaired in a matter of hours.

So the targeting was selected very deliberately to render the airbase essentially inoperable as an operating base, and that means taking out all the infrastructure, the fueling capability, all the support infrastructure, hangars. And, indeed, there were a number of Syrian aircraft that were destroyed on the ground. Those were the targets that were selected for that very specific reason.

So the fact that planes may be landing in and out of there, they're not refueling and they're not able to certainly initiate any activity from that airfield today.

Q Can I also ask you a follow-up on reports that the United States is investigating Russia's role in the gas attacks themselves? How far are you in this investigation, and what's your confidence level and the direction on that, please?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I don't have any particular information I think that it would be appropriate to share with you at this point. Obviously we continue to gather the information that we can through our intelligence sources, as well as shared sources from other countries as well. And so I don't think it would be appropriate for me to comment on that at this time.

Q Russia has come out very strongly against the attack, calling it an "act of aggression." Do you have a message for the Russians or a response to that?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I'm disappointed in that response from the Russians because it indicates their continued support for the Assad regime and, in particular, their continued support for a regime that carries out these type of horrendous attacks on their own people. So I find it very disappointing, but, sadly, I have to tell you, not all that surprising.

Q There were reports prior to today that President Trump was planning to sign an executive order that would target countries that dump steel into the United States. Was that correct, and is he still planning to do so, if so?

SECRETARY ROSS: The practice is to announce executive orders and executive memoranda when they're issued, not in response to rumors.

Q Can you just if Westinghouse was talked about at all, and the scale of the bankruptcy of Westinghouse -- was that even a topic?

SECRETARY ROSS: That was not a topic in today's session, but we have been looking very carefully at that and the alternatives, both from an economic, from an energy generation and from a national security point of view.

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: And I would just comment that it -- obviously, any such transaction that involved foreign investment would go through the normal CFIUS process.

Thank you.

MR. SPICER: Thank you guys very much. Have a great weekend.

END

4:22 P.M. EDT

Background Press Briefing on Syria, 4/11/2017

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 11, 2017

Background Press Briefing on Syria, 4/11/2017

James S. Brady Briefing Room

12:10 P.M. EDT

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: This briefing today is about a declassified -- or it's a summary based on declassified information about the attacks on the 4th of April. So this is on

background only. Attribution is senior White House official, and it will be embargoed until the end of the brief. And I'll have each of my colleagues come up here and introduce themselves.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: My understanding is you'd just like to ask some questions. So I'm happy to go through some details of the narrative, or just take questions incoming, if you have them.

Q Do you mind walking through some of the narrative related to the chemical weapons attack -- what Russia knew perhaps beforehand, or during, or after, and some of the reporting that has come out about a Russian drone, et cetera?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So let me start with the narrative of what we think happened in the attack. And let me tell you, to start with -- what we've done here is we've declassified a lot of intelligence with great thanks to our colleagues in the intelligence community so that we can be very forthcoming with you about the amount that we know about this attack and why we believe the Russian and Syrian narratives are false. And we think it's really important for you to understand the depth of information that we have that supports this narrative.

I would say that since we started coming forward, in the immediate wake of the attack, all of the way through to today, we continued to get additional information. And the information we get about this attack continues to be clear and consistent with our understanding of the attack, starting on the day of the attack, April 4th, and working all the way through today.

And I would say we, even as recently as last night, for today, declassified additional information that, again, lends additional weight and credibility to the narrative I want to share with you today.

The information we have downgraded and declassified includes a wide body of open-source material, both social media accounts. It include open-source videos, reporting, open-source imagery, et cetera, as well as our own geospatial intelligence, our signals intelligence, and it include physiological samples of victims of the attack. And again, all of that tells a very clear and consistent story about what we think happened.

So to be clear, based on the pro-opposition social media reporting, those reports indicate that the chemical attack began in Khan Sheikun at about 6:55 local time on April 4th. Our information makes quite clear that the attack came from SU-22 fixed-wing aircraft out of the Shayrat airfield, which is regime-controlled. These aircraft were in the vicinity of Khan Sheikun for about 20 minutes before reports of the chemical attack came out, and they vacated the area shortly after the attack. And I think some of you have seen the information that we shared previously about the tracks of those aircraft that came out of the Khan Sheikun airfield -- or out of the Shayrat airfield, lingered over Khan Sheikun, and came back to that airfield.

In addition, we have information that suggests that personnel historically associated with the chemical weapons program were at Shayrat airfield in late March preparing for this attack. On the dates surrounding the attack, and the day of the attack, they were again present at that airfield. Hours after the attack, there were hundreds of accounts of victims of the particular chemical weapons attack.

The victimology, the symptomology of those victims is very consistent with nerve agent and sarin exposure. And now, as I will note, we do have physiological samples from a number of victims that confirm sarin exposure. The symptomology was quite consistent. We saw miosis, or pin-point pupils. We see frothing at the nose and mouth, twitching. All of those are consistent with nerve agent. They are not consistent with chlorine.

Also, the victimology shows that those people don't have other wounds or injuries that would be consistent with a conventional attack.

I would note, as well, that another clear symptom of sarin or nerve agent exposure is that the secondary responders also started to have symptoms consistent with sarin exposure. And those were the people that were there that took in the victims, that were touching them, that were removing their clothing. Some of those also passed out and had other symptoms of sarin exposure.

So by about 12:15 local time, the open source was very clear: It showed images of dead children of varying ages. And then we started to get accounts of the hospital, where some of those victims were being taken, being bombed at about 1:10 p.m. local. It showed, again, victims flooding to that particular hospital before there was a conventional attack against that hospital.

The impact craters that we have in imagery and open source show conventional weapons being used around that hospital, not chemical weapons there. The other information we have shows that leakage around the actual weapon that we think the sarin came from, not explosive debris that we would expect if it had been an explosive munition that it hit chemicals or something that would be consistent with a Russian attack. And again, we think that is not true.

Q Sorry, can you just go over that one --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, I'll come back through it. Let me hit the Russian narrative all the way through, and I'll help you there.

We also think -- some people have alleged that videos had been fabricated, that a lot of this information had been fabricated. The absolute massive data we have, and all the different vehicles we've gotten it from -- open-source videos, to victim accounts, to imagery, to signals intelligence -- it's just too massive for really any intelligence organization to fabricate in that short a period of time. We just think that's not a feasible explanation.

And then we did confirm that some of the videos that were shot of the account, we did go to independently confirm that the times at which those videos were taken were consistent with the times of the attack and not from prior footage of other attacks, other places.

So let me walk through a little bit -- and, I would also note the World Health Organization came up with similar analysis on April 5th. It, too, felt that the victims had been exposed to nerve agent based on the same kind of symptomology along the board. And we do expect that as others continue -- and we would expect we are looking forward to the OPCW's fact-finding mission, looking into this event itself, and we think it's really important for them to get out there, for them to have access to the site of the attack, to the airfield, to other places that might be affiliated. And we expect that any samples they find will again be consistent with what we've found so far.

In terms of the Russian narrative -- and I'll get back to your question about them and the inconsistency -- across the board, starting in 2013 and then since, we've seen both the Russians and the Syrians have a very clear campaign to try to obfuscate the nature of attacks, the attackers, and what has happened in any particular incident.

They've thrown out a bunch of potential agents, a bunch of potential responsible or accountable parties. And, often, their own information is inconsistent with their own narrative.

They certainly have dismissed the allegations of a chemical weapons attacking Khan Sheikun. They called it a "prank of a provocative nature." But again, we don't think it's remotely possible for the Syrians or the Russians to have fabricated this much information so fast and so consistently on this attack.

I'd also note that we've, of course, got extensive media observers and we have our own intelligence information. And the intelligence information and the accounts we've gotten from our partners, again, suggest very similar outcomes in this attack.

They noted, as I said -- the Russians did -- that this was a regime attack against a munitions depot, and that perhaps that terrorists had been holding chemical munitions that were attacked and then exploded from there. As I noted, we think that the information is inconsistent with that narrative. There is, as I said, leakage, and not in this hospital or this area where they said a building was attacked, but in a separate place where we can see the leakage from that munition. It is inconsistent with where the Russians would say that this attack happens and where the gas came from. And similarly, again, it's leakage; it does not show explosive dissemination of the chemicals. And we don't see a building, again, with that chemical residue we would expect if the Russian narrative was true.

Q When you say leakage, that's how a chemical weapon is supposed to work. It's deliberate leakage?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Right. Yeah, absolutely.

Q It's dispersed.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It's dispersed. But there's always leakage around the outside, or almost always leakage around the outside that shows that the material inside has leaked out as it disseminates.

Q Rather than it was bombed and then exploded.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Exactly. Exactly.

Q Do you believe it was only one munition that was dropped on the 4th?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I don't have details on the number of munitions here for you, but I think it's fair to say we think it's at least one munition. And we have one particular munition that we've seen via overhead that we think is a munition that contains sarin.

Q How do you explain the Russian drone at the hospital?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I don't think we have information for you today to talk about the Russian drone or any other information on the Russians, per se. We just want to walk right through the narrative here. We're still looking into what we think the intelligence community assessment or other is about Russian knowledge of involvement, et cetera. And I'm sure we'll come forward with more information on that, if we have it.

Q (Inaudible) on the question foreknowledge of Russia.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We don't have information on that, per se. I think it's clear that the Russians are trying to cover up what happened there.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'll say we're still looking into that, into the particulars of that question. And there's not a consensus on our side about the extent or how to interpret the information that we have and continue to get.

However, what we do know from looking at a history of the Russian military and the Syrian military operating together for the better part of two years now closely, since the Russian advisory mission and assistance mission began in earnest in 2015. And in addition, two militaries that have a decades-long support relationship. Based on that historical pattern, we've seen that these two militaries operate very closely, even down to an operational and tactical level.

And so considering the fact that there were Russian forces co-located with Syrian forces at the Shayrat airfield, in addition to many other installations -- many other Syrian regime installations around the country -- we do think that it is a question worth asking the Russians about how is it possible that their forces were co-located with the Syrian forces that planned, prepared, and carried out this chemical weapons attack at the same installation, and did not have foreknowledge.

Q So just to be clear, the attack that you mentioned against the hospital, which you said was aimed at covering up the initial chemical weapons attack, was that carried out by munitions that are linked to Russia?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, we don't have information on that today.

Q Is it the assessment at this point, though -- can you say the least that -- and you spoke to this a little, and, [senior administration official], I want to get your take -- that the Russians tried to cover up the chemical weapons attack? Do you believe that that is the case?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, we don't know the tactical intentions of the Russians on that day on any operations that they may have been involved in.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So what I would say, in terms of cover-up -- just in terms of cover-up to follow there, I'm talking about the absolute -- coming out afterwards to say it was terrorists, to say that they're --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The cover-up is the --

Q (Inaudible) stockpile --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, I would say --

Q -- you would say is absolutely an attempt to cover up a --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: To cover up Syrian regime culpability in a chemical weapons attack.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The cover-up is the disinformation that has happened from the day of the attack to today.

Q In your estimation, does this action show an increase in Russian involvement? Or is it has always been with Russia?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: What I'd like to do right now is get back to going through the narrative, and then we'll take more of the questions. If you can just finish going through the --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, if I can just finish why we think the Russian narrative is false.

So getting back to why we think the Russian narrative is false -- Moscow, as I noted, said that the release of chemicals was caused by the terrorist -- a strike on a terrorist ammunition depot, but a Syrian military source told Russian state media on April 4th that regime forces had not carried out any strike in Khan Sheikhun, which contradicted Russia's claim directly.

An open-source video shows where we believe the chemical munition landed -- again, not on a facility with weapons, but in the middle of a street in the northern section of Khan Sheikhun. The imagery of that site from April 6th, after the allegation, shows a crater in the road that corresponds to the open-source video, so we can track to where we think that particular munition was.

The Russians also allege that the terrorists -- this was a bombing on a terrorist ammunition depot. We do not assess and have not assessed that ISIS or other terrorists in the area have sarin. So while ISIS is using sulfur mustard -- and we've documented that quite well, and certainly oppose chemical weapons use by any actor, state or non-state, and are working, of course, to be able to push back ISIS chemical use as well -- it is quite clear to us that in this case this is not a terrorist holding of sarin or terrorist use of sarin. But we do know that the Syrian regime has sarin, that it used it in the 2013 attack, and there are outstanding questions from the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons that make quite clear that Syria has not fully come clean on the locations, facilities, types of agents, or personnel involved with its chemical weapons program, causing us additional questions on what's there.

In terms -- is there more you want me to hit from the Russian piece?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Go ahead.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think it's a clear pattern of deflecting blame. We've seen this in multiple accounts, including when the OPCW-U.N. joint investigative mechanism came out with reports in August and October of last year identifying Syria as culpable in three chemical weapons attacks. In these three cases these were chlorine attacks. They were from a different airfield here. The United States did come out with designations on personnel affiliated with that attack on that airfield to condemn that use, as well.

This is quite concerning, given that the Russians were part of setting up the deal by which Syria was supposed to give up its chemical weapons. It was party to the deal to create the Joint Investigative Mechanism to investigate these attacks. The JIM did come forward with clear attribution calls, and Russia has refused to accept those along the way.

And I think I would leave it there on the narrative.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay. So stepping back to some of your earlier questions, we're going to open this up again to questions. But to be clear, you're going to receive a 3.5-page background document at the end of this that's going to run you through this narrative that will be very detailed.

One thing I want to address is the questions come up before. We had a lot of questions about a hospital, about munitions use on that hospital, about who was responsible for bombing that hospital. So, at this time, what you'll see in this document is a discussion of the Russian use of

information and disinformation for obfuscatory purposes in an attempt to shift blame or to transfer blame away from the Assad regime, to prevent counter-narratives about U.S. actions. That's what we're addressing and discussing today.

We don't have any comment right now on who may have been involved in bombing that hospital and why and how. So that piece, just to be clear -- because there was some confusion about that -- we're talking -- when we talked about the Russian role, we talked about the obfuscatory information campaign, not the other thing that you asked on. We don't have a comment on that at this time.

And I'll open it up to questions.

Q Have you exchanged any information with the Russians? Because it's easy -- they say one thing, you say another thing. Why don't exchange the information, compare it?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, so we've come forward with a lot of the information we have publicly already. This is another attempt to come forward publicly with that information.

We have had conversations at a variety of levels with the Russians, as well, to explain to them what we understand about the attack, and ask them to be helpful to our efforts to get the Syrians to come clean. We have not done a full intelligence exchange, and I'm not sure that's particularly likely at this point.

Q I think I heard you mention signals intelligence. Do you have any SIGINT that actually indicates any level of collusion between Russia and Syria, or any indication that Assad himself ordered this strike?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So we don't have any comment on that right now.

Q On the question of the delivery mechanism for the sarin, are you sure that the (inaudible) was Syrian air force?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We are confident, as I noted, that the SU-22 took off from the Shayrat airfield, which is regime-controlled, and dropped the strike, and we believe the Syrian regime is culpable.

Q Do you have any details about the origin of the sarin?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We don't have additional details on the origin of the sarin. It's well-documented that the Syrians produce sarin as part of their chemical weapons program. They were supposed to, of course, have destroyed -- declared and destroyed all of that agent.

Q You had talked about the movement, in late March, indicating that personnel were moved to this base to prepare these weapons. Do you have any intelligence that indicates these types of personnel were moved to other airbases within Syria, that they may be preparing more chemical weapons attacks in the future?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I can tell you that we take very seriously the possibility that Syria may have additional agents elsewhere. We are working with our intelligence community to understand every piece of information they have about where such munitions might be located, who might be ahold of them, and I can tell you that that's going to be part of what we try to figure out and where we go from here.

Q Do you believe that the Assad regime still owns a large stock of chemical weapons, especially sarin and the nerve gas, or is it the small (inaudible) amount that they use, like we saw in (inaudible)?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I don't think we have any comment on how much we think is left. As I noted, we're working with our intelligence community to figure out what it is. But our clear goal right now, and the goal of this strike, was, in large part, to deter further chemical weapons uses by the Syria regime.

Q In the end, is there any indication that this action is an increase in Russian involvement?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, I don't think it's -- I don't think it indicates an increase. I mean, in the whole -- let's say, in the whole environment of operational cooperation between the Russian military and Syrian military, the level of cooperation is quite high, so we've seen. We haven't seen that peak or drop. It's been steady.

Q So following, then this isn't a provocative action aimed at the U.S., per se?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Don't see any indication of that. There were clear operational reasons, we think, probably, why they employed the weapons.

Q My question is about what President Putin said this morning, suggesting, according to him, the rebels were preparing other attacks around -- outside Damascus. Can you give us any insight on that, and your view of those statements?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Of chemical attacks?

Q Yes. Yeah, well, I don't think it was -- I don't think there was a specification.

Q He specifically said that there will be other provocations like this one that -- and then the General Staff of the Russian Forces -- armed forces -- already said that the rebels, whom you call rebels, are already bringing in the substances.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I would just say -- so to be clear, we are very confident that terrorists, or non-state actors, did not commit this particular attack. We are confident as well that these terrorists or rebels don't have sarin, so they would not be able to conduct a follow-on attack of this sort, given especially that they didn't conduct the first one.

Q Given the fact that chemical weapons were used in this attack, do you have a sense of whether Syria got rid of any of its chemical weapons -- where that stockpile stands at this point? And have you thought about next steps in terms of trying to get rid of it?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So we do know that Syria gave up a huge amount of its chemical weapons -- over 1,000 tons of chemical weapons. They declared them. And we had, through and incredible international effort with our partners, removed those chemical weapons and destroyed them.

Nevertheless, Syria -- it is clear that Syria's declaration was not complete. The OPCW has additional questions, and we look to the OPCW and the entire international community to support the OPCW's effort to press Syria for answers to the outstanding questions, to get them to declare any agent, facilities, personnel, or others involved in the chemical weapons program, and most certainly get rid of anything that's left.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay, we're going to hold for a second. [Senior administration official] is going to make a quick point here, and then we'll jump back into Q&A.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, I think it's important to understand the context in which these weapons were employed, what motivated the regime -- the fact that they were losing in a particularly important area, and that's what drove it.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, so in the middle of March, opposition forces launched an offensive from Southern Idlib province toward the major city of Hama, which is a strategic city in Syria. It's Syria's third city, and it's also the location of a key Syrian regime airbase that has been crucial for the regime and the forces that support it for projecting power from central Syria, both along the western spine, from Aleppo down to the south, and also further to the east to support operations in Palmyra. So that is an airbase that the regime had to calculate that it could not lose.

The opposition offensive approach was able to penetrate to within just a couple of miles of that strategic airbase and also threatened the Hama population center within just a few miles.

At that point, the regime we think calculated that with its manpower spread quite thin, trying to support both defensive operations and consolidation operations in Aleppo and along that north-south spine of western Syria, and also trying to support operations which required it to send manpower and resources east toward Palmyra, we believe that the regime probably calculated at

that point that chemical weapons were necessary in order to try to make up for the manpower deficiency.

That's why we saw, we believe, multiple attacks of this nature against locations that the regime probably determined were support areas for the opposition forces that were near Hama -- for example, in the town of Al-Tamanah and then in the town of Khan Sheikhun, both of which are in what would be, in military terms, the rear area for the opposition forces that were on the front line.

So we believe certainly that there was an operational calculus that the regime and perhaps its Russian advisors went through in terms of the decision-making.

Q You said there was an operational reason for this attack.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Correct.

Q So just to clarify what you just said, this was an attack on civilians, but your understanding is that these civilian areas were seen as providing some sort of operational support for the opposition forces, which is what they're --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes. Now, I don't mean -- I don't mean that that means that the munitions were aimed at some sort of military capability. What I --

Q They were aimed at civilians.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: They were clearly aimed at areas that were most likely civilian areas. However, what I mean is that they were most likely intended to create pressure in what was deemed a rear area for those opposition forces that were fighting.

Q So understanding that, just a quick follow-up on that, is there anything about the timing, why this took place now -- or when it did?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: In terms of the timing?

Q So you explained to us why you think they chose to attack where they did. Why did they do it then?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, if you look at sort of the punch-counterpunch of opposition and regime forces that are fighting in the vicinity of Hama, yes, you can see that -- in that context, you can see that the chemical weapons attacks seem -- could fit within the flow of a punch-counterpunch -- operational punch-counterpunch.

Q You said just a second ago, multiple attacks of this nature. So multiple sarin attacks, not just (inaudible)?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So it's a multiple chemical weapons attacks. So we think that the regime has consistently used chemical weapons over time, not necessarily all sarin, to be able to fill conventional voids in its ability to reach the opposition.

Q -- the context of your colleague's conversation with us about this particular one, so I'm just trying to clarify if they're all sarin attacks, or just the one in Khan Sheikhun, which you have established with your high degree of confidence.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So we would say that there are more than 200 allegations of regime chemical use since 2013, when Syria promised to give up its chemical weapons. We assess that many of those are credible. In terms of what we've been able to say right now, at least one of those is sarin, and we're continuing to look into --

Q Khan Sheikhun, correct?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It's Khan Sheikhun, right.

Q With all of this confirmation that you have today, how are you employing the world community, to include the U.N., as it relates to what's happening with the punch-counterpunch? And also with the collusion with Russia and Syria together, how are you employing them? And also is this clarification and confirmation ramping up efforts against Syria?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I'll start, and then I'm going to let these guys follow on.

In terms of the chemical weapons piece of this, it's incredibly important that we speak with one voice at the United Nations and at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

We need to speak with a clear message: That chemical weapons use of any kind, by any actor, is absolutely intolerable. That is our goal, and we need to do everything we can, collectively, to make sure that comes across clearly.

We're working with all of our partners, and we've made this message clear to the Russians as well, and will continue to do so, that we believe it's in no state's interest that any actor uses chemical weapons.

Q Support of additional forces, especially now that you believe to think that they have more agents left, be it sarin or what have you --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So we're still working through our partners. We have to get through U.N. and OPCW this week. We're continuing engagement there, and then we'll work with the international community. Really important is going to be for the fact-finding mission at the OPCW to do its job, to turn over any information that it has to the Joint Investigative Mechanism so that we have an outside body confirm, I think, is what they will do, what we already very strongly believe -- that the Syrian regime is behind this attack.

And again, I don't think there's evidence to the contrary at all, but we need to let the international community -- and empower those mechanisms of the international community to do their jobs. And our hope is that that will lend additional weight to what we've already talked here about.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We're going to let my colleague set up there. And do you want to follow on with that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, no, that's fine.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Quickly, we're going to end here. But what I'd like to say on this is it's also -- you guys have asked about this several times. Speaking with one voice is what we just said. This is an opportunity. We have a clear, concise and definitive analysis here. We understand what happened there with a very high degree of confidence. And this is an opportunity, going back to an earlier question, for the Russians to choose to stop the disinformation campaign and make the commitment to accept what happens and work forward to eliminate WMDs from Syria together.

And that's it, we're going to leave it there. Thank you. The document will be handed out. Thank you for being here. And this is on background. I'm going to finish off -- on background, senior White House officials, embargoed until we walk out of the room. Document is coming to you.

END

12:40 P.M. EDT

Background Briefing on the Visit of NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2017

Background Briefing on the Visit of NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

9:30 A.M. EDT

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I'm here today to provide some context on the President's meeting this afternoon with NATO Secretary General Jens Soltenberg. We expect the two leaders will exchange views on a wide range of topics in preparation for the meeting of NATO heads of state and government in Brussels on May 25th, the President's first foreign trip since taking office.

In his meeting with the Secretary General, we expect the President will reaffirm the strong commitment of the United States to NATO, and the value he places on the transatlantic bond in general. He will emphasize the ironclad U.S. commitment to the collective defense of NATO allies under Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

The President will also highlight the importance of NATO allies taking on their fair share of the burden of the collective defense of the North Atlantic region. In that connection, we expect the President and Secretary General to discuss how they can work with other NATO allies to increase defense budgets in line with the 2014 Wales pledge on defense investment. As a reminder, the Wales pledge commits all allies to “aim to move toward spending 2 percent of GDP on defense, and of that 2 percent, to dedicate at least 20 percent to equipment procurement, and research and development.”

The President and the Secretary General will also discuss NATO’s role in supporting international efforts to fight terrorism globally. On Afghanistan, the President and Secretary General will discuss the ongoing review of our policy in order to ensure our efforts are fully coordinated with NATO allies and partners.

On Iraq, the two will discuss NATO’s ongoing training and capacity-building mission in Iraq, as well as potential additional contributions we could make to the international effort to support Iraq in countering ISIS.

Finally, we expect the President and the Secretary General to talk about NATO’s approach to Russia and to emphasize that Russia must uphold all of its commitments under the Minsk agreements to peacefully resolve the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

And before I get to questions, of course, I would just remind everyone that on Monday, President Trump signed the United States instrument of ratification of the protocol for Montenegro’s accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and this followed, of course, the Senate’s March 28th overwhelming and bipartisan vote of advice and consent in support of ratification.

So with that, I will take your questions.

Q To what extent will they discuss Russia’s violation of the IMF treaty and options of how to respond? What are some of those options?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure. I can’t get into any specific options that they will discuss, but I imagine that will come up in the context of the broader Russia discussion that they’ll have today.

Q Is this going to be an awkward discussion, given that President Trump had called NATO “obsolete” during the campaign?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don’t anticipate it will be an awkward discussion. I think that the Secretary General has made clear that he also views it as a priority to get allies to shoulder a greater burden of defense investment. And so the President and Secretary General are likely to see eye-to-eye on that issue and talk about ways that they can cooperate together to work with allies to get defense spending up.

Q Do you think that the President’s view of NATO has evolved since the campaign?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I can’t comment on any comments that were made during the campaign or the transition, and of course, I don’t know exactly -- I can’t speak for what’s in the President’s mind right now, but the President has made it very clear repeatedly that he’s 100 percent committed to NATO. He has met already with several leader of NATO-allied countries -- the UK, Germany, the Prime Minister of Denmark last week. He’s made over a dozen calls to leaders of NATO-allied countries and emphasized to all of them that he’s 100 percent committed to the Alliance.

Q You talked a lot about the 2 percent goal that was agreed in Wales. For Germany, that represents something like, what \$60 billion additional spending per year on the military. What exactly do you want them to spend it on?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Say the last part again.

Q What exactly would you like Germany to spend \$60 billion a year on?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, of course, the Germans have signed up to the Wales pledge, as have the other allies. And in the President's meeting with Chancellor Merkel in March, Chancellor Merkel expressed very clearly that she and the German government continue to support the Wales pledge commitment to aim to move towards 2 percent of GDP by 2024. So it was not an area of disagreement between the President and the Chancellor. The Chancellor is firmly committed, as is her ruling coalition.

Q So what's the -- sorry to monopolize this -- so what's the goal? Everybody in Europe increase their spending so that your U.S. forces can scale down in Europe? I mean, what's the end goal?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It's about doing more, having the Alliance be able to do more. And so, again, we have been shouldering a disproportionate share of defense expenditures and, of course, those are not contributions to NATO, those are all national budgets. But we want the Alliance to be able to do more to confront the security challenges of the 21st century. And that means having all allies invest seriously in their defense. And that's why this agreement was made during the Wales Summit, to aim to move towards 2 percent, which, of course, was set as the benchmark at that time.

Q The 2 percent goal, though -- President Trump, when he met with Merkel last month, suggested that that was retroactive, and then he also said that that is money owed directly to the United States, not for the common defense. Is that a negotiating position of the President? Is that new U.S. policy? What did he mean by that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, of course, national defense budgets we know are not owed to NATO. There is a NATO common fund, and allies pay into that in a cost-sharing formula that's calculated based on their gross national income. And that's set. The United States' contribution is capped at 22 percent.

But separate from that are the national defense budgets and, of course, those are not owed to NATO. This commitment was not retroactive. But the President was probably making a broader point here that, for many, many years, Germany -- not only Germany, but many other allies have been chronically underinvesting in their defense. And so, again, we need to start to right this curve. And in 2015 and 2016, we saw, for the first time, the collective decline in NATO allies' national defense budgets was arrested, and it started to peak back up.

So again, we're on the right trajectory. And we refer back to the Wales pledge from 2014, of course, which gets allies to aim to move towards 2 percent by 2024.

Q Two specific questions about two different parts of the world. First, the Balkans -- Montenegro's membership, that's been greenlighted by the White House. Can you give us some idea of the thinking there and the timing of that? Because it seems rather odd to announce that just before the difficult meetings with Secretary Tillerson in Moscow.

And the second question on a very different part of the world -- Afghanistan. As you know, General Nicholson is asking for new troops there. He heads a NATO command -- Resolute Support. What is -- that, I assume, will come up in the discussions today. What's the current thinking on the extra troops in Afghanistan?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I'll answer the Montenegro question, and then I'll turn to my colleague on Afghanistan.

So Montenegro's accession will strengthen NATO and U.S. security by bringing a capable and committed partner in the alliance. Montenegrin troops have stood shoulder-to-shoulder in Afghanistan with U.S. and allied troops for a decade already. Montenegro now spends 1.7 percent of its GDP in defense -- a higher proportion than all but six other NATO allies. They've demonstrated political will and courage in implementing important military and rule of law reforms, setting an example for other NATO aspirants.

Montenegro's accession will also increase stability and security in the Western Balkans. After meeting rigorous standards to join the Alliance, Montenegro's accession will make clear that no third country has a veto over a country's sovereign decision to join NATO. So the door to membership in the Euro-Atlantic community of nations remains open.

And I would also just like to say that we are very concerned about Russian interference in the October elections in Montenegro, including credible reports of Russian support for an attempted election day attack on the government. The United States supports the efforts of the Montenegrin authorities to investigate this case in accordance with Montenegrin law. And we refer you to the government of Montenegro for any further commentary on that.

Q If I could follow up on that before you move on the Afghanistan. You could have read that statement after this difficult meeting underway right now in Moscow. It clearly was a decision to announce this just before the Secretary of State went there. Why?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not going to comment on the specific timing of that. Of course, the Senate's vote was on March 28th, and there was a certain procedure for the protocols to get here to the White House, et cetera. And we need to take certain steps to make sure that the instrument of ratification is deposited at the State Department in time for the leaders meeting in May. But I'm not going to comment on any specific timing.

So, on Afghanistan.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So on Afghanistan, we are undergoing a strategy review for our plans in Afghanistan in the future. We'll be obviously consulting with General Nicholson, both in his role as commander of Resolute Support, but also as commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan. And we'll definitely be working with NATO allies in advance of any decisions being made on troop levels in Afghanistan to make sure that those decisions are fully consulted and that allies are on board with our strategy going forward.

Q And a quick follow-up: What's the time frame of this review? Do you have an idea of when --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We're hoping to get it done as soon as we can. Obviously there are processes within NATO in terms of force generation that need a quicker answer rather than later, but we're not going to comment on a specific timeline. It's based on when the President makes a decision.

Q Has Russia's behavior in Syria changed the President's thinking about the importance of NATO? The events of the last couple of weeks -- has that shifted the President's calculation on how important NATO is?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, so I can't comment on what specifically is in the President's mind right now, but he has been very firm that he is 100 percent committed to NATO. Again, I think that position remains unchanged, and probably was reinforced by, again, everything that Russia is doing. But I can't speak specifically to his current thinking.

Q Thank you. You said the door to membership in the Euro-Atlantic community remains open. Does that mean that the President would be open to more countries joining NATO? And is that something that will be discussed, further expansion of the Alliance?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So, again, I won't comment on whether that topic will be discussed. And there's no current plans for further enlargement, so I can't speculate on that discussion in the future. But again, the bringing in of Montenegro into the Alliance reaffirms the principle that the door is open.

Q Despite Syria not being a member of NATO, do you anticipate at the joint press conference there's going to be extensive conversation about some things NATO members could do to help civilians in Syria? Obviously, there's been conversations of no-fly zones and also assisting around the borders of Syria.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't comment on that.

Q Obviously, Montenegro is a sore spot for Russia. And given all the other things, to what extent is the administration concerned that this move will just exacerbate or increase the tensions with Russia?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The specific move of taking in Montenegro?

Q Yes.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know that I have a specific response on that. Again, we saw what Russia did -- and I mentioned previously our concern about the reports of Russian interference in the election in Montenegro in October and credible reports of Russian support for an attempted election day attack. But again, I can't comment on that.

Q And just a follow-up, a broader question. NATO, the United States, and Russia -- is there a concern that we're moving to a posture that's closer to the Cold War than we've been in the last 30 years or so?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I would refer you to Secretary Mattis's comments yesterday, again, that we don't want escalation. And, of course, Secretary Tillerson is in Moscow today, and obviously we understand that we need dialogue with Russia -- that's very important. But we need to explore with them what areas we could concretely cooperate on, and it's important for Russia to show its seriousness about cooperating with us, and again, reintegrating into the rules-based order.

Q Thank you. On what you just mentioned, the Russian support for an election day attack on the government of Montenegro -- what exactly does that mean, an election day attack on the government? And from what you know, is it similar in its tactics and means to what the Russian government might have done here?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I would refer you back to the Montenegrin government for the up-to-date commentary on their investigation, which, of course, we completely support. But in regards to Montenegro, the credible reports we had were in reference to a violent election day attack, obviously very different than what we were looking at here and of much greater concern.

Q Because the Wales pledge is a percentage of GDP, a contraction in the economies of any of the NATO countries would also get them closer to the 2 percent level. So what is the President going to ask for in terms of net new dollars that these countries would be contributing?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, obviously, we don't want any economies of NATO members to contract. That would be bad. We saw that happen in Greece, and that's how they got to 2 percent. We obviously don't wish that on anyone. But I'll let my colleague just comment on the net dollars.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: NATO has a regular five-year cycle called the NATO Defense Planning Process, which takes a look at all the things that the collective governments want NATO to do in terms of operations and other activities. And it looks at very mathematically and very formulaically what capabilities are needed to reach NATO's level of ambition; then looks at all the military inventories of the NATO allies to determine what allies already have; and then looks at a gap analysis of what allies don't have that's needed and then apportions that out amongst the 28 allies.

So every ally will be assigned a certain number of capability targets that they need to invest in moving forward. We would encourage allies to focus on investing in those capabilities, first and foremost.

Q The Secretary General is on record saying that while defense spending is important, development spending is also important. Are you all expecting any sort of pushback from Stoltenberg on the President's budget in terms of foreign aid?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I can't comment on what specifically the Secretary General will say. But, again, I expect there to be a discussion certainly of defense spending, and this is probably going to be an element of it, as well -- how we think about security.

Q How will the President defend his proposed cuts in foreign --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't comment on that.

Q To follow up, a kind of overarching question, the President wants to ask for all of these countries to meet their targets, but the question about what happens if they don't is sort of still lingering out there. Is the President going to make clear what's going to happen from the U.S. perspective if these countries don't meet their targets? Is there any consequence for not meeting the targets?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I can't comment on any future actions or potential consequences or anything like that. But Secretary Mattis made clear when he was at the NATO defense ministerial in February that we're hoping to have all allies draft and deliver a plan by the end of the year on how they plan to meet the Wales investment pledge. And again, as he said, if we're in the same place by the end of the year that we are now, that's not going to be a great thing. So, again, we're hoping to work with NATO allies in a constructive manner within the terms and the confines of reality to really make progress on this defense investment pledge.

Q So just a quick follow-up. The credible report of plans for a violent attack, that comes from the Montenegrin government? Or is that intelligence that -- without getting into details, is that something that we have, that the U.S. government has?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I would refer you back to the Montenegrin government for more information on that.

Q Okay.

Q So last month, General Scaparrotti talked about a disinformation campaign in the Senate Armed Services Committee hearing, and it seemed like that was something that he was looking to coordinate better with European allies. Is that something that would fall under NATO's cyber command, and is there any plan to allocate more resources to that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So I would say, first and foremost, NATO doesn't have a cyber command. At the Warsaw Summit in 2016, they recognized cyber as an operational domain, and so they're continuing to look at how cyber can integrate into NATO's activities across the board.

On General Scaparrotti's comments to the Senate Armed Services Committee, we are concerned about Russian malign influences across Europe, and we're taking steps both bilaterally with our allies and partners in Europe, and also talking about this in NATO, as well.

Q Will that be part of the discussion of the delegation today?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It might come up. It's not something that we're planning on coming up. I don't think so, no.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'd like to thank everyone for being here. Thank you for your time. And you will receive the one-pager after this. Remember, it's embargoed until 10:30 a.m. Thanks.

END

9:48 A.M. EDT

Background Briefing on the U.N. Vote on Syria, and China Relations

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 12, 2017

Background Briefing on the U.N. Vote on Syria, and China Relations

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

5:16 P.M. EDT

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay, so it's been an eventful week, I think. And I think by any standards, you should characterize it or could characterize it as an extremely successful week for the United States of America and American citizens.

If you think about it, really, just last Tuesday, there was a chemical weapons strike against innocents in Syria, and it was then that the national security team assembled to assess the situation and provide options to the President. And then, by Thursday -- Thursday or Friday?

AIDE: Thursday.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thursday, the President was able to make a decision to respond to that chemical weapons strike with -- an attack, a brutal attack -- with a strike against the Syrian regime's ability to conduct that strike on the actual airfield where that strike initiated.

And as all of you know, this happened in the context of a major and national summit with Premier Xi -- a summit that was conducted simultaneous with that whole decision-making process and that resulted in tremendous success, a success because the two leaders were able to establish a close relationship. They had a lot of one-on-one time during that summit. And while it was never the expectation of anyone to resolve any issues or big problems that we're facing, there was broad and deep agreement on what the greatest problems and opportunities were that bear on the relationship, the U.S. and Chinese relationship. And, of course, no surprise to any of you, that is North Korea, first and foremost, in the security area, and then trade in the economic area.

So based on that agreement and based on that relationship, there was a strong basis for those two leaders going forward as we confront some of the biggest difficulties and opportunities that our nations are going to confront in the days and months and years ahead.

Very soon after that summit, it became clear that Russia was not playing a constructive role in the wake of the Syrian regime's murderous attack, and, in fact, was engaged in a very sophisticated propaganda and disinformation campaign designed to allow the Assad regime to escape responsibility for these heinous acts. And, of course, what we did is responded, along with all of our friends and allies across the world, in a way that made it quite clear that Russia was extremely isolated on this issue and on the issue of Syria broadly, and the behavior of the Assad regime broadly.

Of course, this is all happening in the context of our campaign against ISIS and al Qaeda-related groups such as al Nusra in Syria and in Iraq, but broadly across the globe. And those efforts continue apace during this time, especially operations alongside Iraqi forces, inside of Iraq, and operations along the Euphrates River Valley inside of Syria.

So sort of summarizing this, just to give you a sense for a very high degree of concurrent activity. Also at this period of time is in the midst of a review on a number of policy reviews, including a policy review involving the increasing threat of North Korea. And as I mentioned, this was the primary topic in a security dialogue down at Mar-a-Lago. And so what occurred in the last 24 hours is the President giving very strong guidance to our national security team, including our great Secretary of State, Secretary Tillerson, who traveled to Russia in the wake of the murderous attack in Syria. And our response and now, of course, the international community's response has been a resounding combination of the Assad regime's behavior to engage in talks with Foreign Minister Lavrov and with Mr. Putin.

You saw the press conference on the back end of this, and what that does is it indicates, really, that when you're able to frame a problem set and a set of opportunities, and able to establish your objectives, and then to build common understanding with allies and partners, you can accomplish very positive things. And while it was very important for us, very important for us to call out Russia for their sponsorship, along with Iran, of this murderous regime, we also thought it important at this stage to highlight the tremendous opportunity that's available to Russia to begin to play a productive role in this humanitarian and political catastrophe across the greater Middle East, and to help us, along with our partners, to move toward a resolution of that Syrian civil war, the defeat of

ISIS and al Qaeda-related groups, such as al Nusra and so forth -- these (inaudible) or jihadist group across the region -- and to do so in a way that also limits Iran's destabilizing influence, which we know has continued to throw fuel on the fire of this extraordinarily destructive civil war that's going on across the region.

So the press conference I think speaks for itself and the tremendous job our Secretary did, but I'd like to also highlight the role that President Xi played -- maybe not a readily (inaudible) role -- in China's abstention for the vote in the United Nations today, which is another, I think, significant victory for all civilized peoples, because it really showed how isolated that regime, the Assad regime, and its sponsors are from any degree of international support. And it was the relationship, the relationship that was solidified at Mar-a-Lago, that helped make that possible, and helped these two leaders work together based on common interest and a common recognition that was a very -- and egregious situation to cut against not only the interests of the United States and China, but against the interests of all civilized peoples.

So if you just think about that range of concurrent activity across the past week -- I think a week or so -- from, really, an egregious attack in Syria that highlighted all the complexities of that problem, involving the regime, involving terrorist organizations, involving very complex regional and political dynamics, as you're all aware, involving the role of Iran and Russia in supporting this force -- or this regime, the Assad regime, to working on the relationship between the leaders of the United States, our President and Premier Xi, and then applying that newly formed relationship to complex problem sets from the Middle East to Northeast Asia, and then a result in the United Nations -- it helps advance our mutual interests and the interests of all civilized people.

So I think it's difficult to portray this as anything but a really great week for our citizens and the United States.

Q Thanks so much. Japanese media is reporting that the USS Carl Vinson is in operations with the Japanese naval forces. As you know, they have a (inaudible) coming up. North Korea often likes missile into the Sea of Japan. What happens if there is an altercation this week between North Korean forces and Japanese and U.S. forces? And how will you prevent this from spiraling into a broader military conflict?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: Well, as you heard from the President many times, we're not in the business of trying to predict with a high degree of certainty precisely what our response is going to be. I think what we demonstrated last week was the ability of the President's national security team to come together, convened by the National Security Council, to look at events such as those that might occur on the Korean Peninsula, quickly analyze those events, place them in context with U.S. vital interests, establish objectives that protect American citizens and advance our interests, and then develop and present the President with options.

So we have a team that is, I think, particularly adept at doing that. And if there were to be continued destabilizing and aggressive behavior by the North Korean regime, that's how the national security team would respond.

Q Did the President personally ask President Xi and China to abstain from the U.N. resolution? And I have a second question on Russia. The President said relations are at an all-time low. What will it take for them to improve relations there?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR OFFICIAL: On the conversation with President Xi, I don't think the President would want me to go into the specifics of the conversation. I would just say that it was a very warm conversation based on not only the two leaders meeting, but their spouses meeting, and President Xi's ability to meet the President's extended family, and especially his grandchildren, which had, I think, a big effect on the relationship.

I think what I can say about the conversation is that it was a very frank and open conversation about two very complicated problems -- one in the Middle East involving Syria, and one in Northeast Asia involving the North Korean regime and its behavior and the unacceptable threat posed by a regime such as that that has nuclear weapons.

So it was a great conversation, and I think that President Xi's decision speaks for itself in terms of his leadership and his determination to not obstruct the U.N.'s ability to sanction the Assad regime for its behavior.

And in terms of the exercises with Japan, I just think it is obviously prudent for us to maintain our high level of vigilance in Northeast Asia, and it's also prudent for us to maintain the close relationships and high-level training that we have with our allies in the region.

Q And what about Russia -- how to improve -- what should they do to improve relations?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I'll defer to my colleague on that because he's the one who just had the conversations. But it sounds like, from the press conference that they did, that there is a way ahead. And you mentioned the working groups and so forth. You have probably as good a knowledge as I do on that right now based on the press conference.

Q A couple questions. One, why do we hold Syria accountable for its use of chemical weapons but not Russia for its support of Syria using its chemical weapons? What's the policy thought behind that?

Two, is there any movement in terms of our Special Forces in Syria? Are you taking any precautions to ensure that there isn't any retaliation against them? And lastly, how are we doing in Raqqa? Has this operation impacted our resources in terms of our ability to go into Raqqa and recapture the city?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay, for the last one first, it has not impacted in any way the offensive in Raqqa. I defer any specifics for you to follow back to the Defense Department.

I think it wasn't just us, but I think it was the entire international community that is holding not only the Assad regime but its sponsors responsible for this reprehensible and inhumane behavior of the regime that involves the chemical attack but also involves indiscriminate mass murder attacks against its citizens and through a number of other means as well.

Q I have two questions for you. You've cited the abstention by China in today's U.N. Security Council vote as a positive step for our national security. There has also been news today that the President is no longer labeling China a "currency manipulator." Circumstantially, it seems as perhaps those two events could be related. Is that accurate? Was there some sort of, perhaps, deal worked out at the summit or negotiations that the President undertook?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'll defer to my colleague on that. But I will just say in general that both decisions were made on the merits of those decisions separately. There was no explicit linkage that I'm aware of between the two of those.

Q And then my second question on Russia. You said that there's a tremendous opportunity available to the Kremlin to play a role here while, at the same time, obviously having very harsh language against the Assad regime. What gives you personally -- you've seen this -- what gives you hope that Russia is just going to change its mind?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think that maybe with the very strong international condemnation of their support for the Assad regime that this could change. And also I think what you have seen in the last week is a United States that is committed to leading in the region. And that creates opportunities for all kinds of people -- even Russia. And so I think that it's time for a recalculation of how they can best protect their interests there.

Q After the strike?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And for us, you know, maybe it's not as rational as it should be. But based on what Russian interests are in Syria, there is no reason that we can see that they can't pursue their interests in a way that would allow them to be more productive and helpful in ending that civil war and moving toward a sustainable political outcome.

There also, as you know, have been some very dedicated diplomats working on this from an international perspective for many years. And even they who have been working on it for many years are encouraged -- skeptically so, maybe -- but encouraged by recent developments. And we

owe it to humanity, we owe it to the Syrian people to do everything we can to allow Russia an avenue to play a productive role.

So I was going to go to all the way in the back.

Q What is the difference between Syrian civilians getting killed by chlorine bombs versus by sarin gas? Would the use of chlorine bombs, which the regime has used several times in the past, be a new red line for this administration?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, it wasn't a new red line, the use of chemical weapons. The weapons -- the nerve agent in particular. But the President, as you know, in every question he's asked about this, doesn't think it's really helpful to speculate about what a reaction will be in a specific case. What he's determined to do is do what's best for the American people in every one of these instances.

What we have been able to do across the national security team -- and by that I mean all the departments and agencies and their heads coming together -- is I think we've been able to impart a much higher degree of clarity to our policy by framing these problem sets. Whether it's the approach to China and that relationship, or the very serious problem associated with North Korea and the Korean regime and its nuclear capabilities; the very complicated and difficult situation in Syria and across into Iraq involving ISIS, but also the sectarian civil war and the civil war broadly, and the multi-party conflict in Syria; the role of Iran; the relationship with Russia and how to deter Russia's destabilizing behavior, but also the ability to look for areas of cooperation.

So these are really strategic problems and opportunities. And what we've been able to do in just a few short weeks is frame those problems and opportunities to understand the situations in each of these areas, to view those situations through the lens of our vital interests and the vital interests of the American people, the security of the American people and the nation's interest, and then to establish objectives.

So what's happening now is -- when events happen, we are able then to understand better how to sort of torque that even or to regard that event in a way that allows us to respond to it and move toward an objective. And so what this also allows for is a much higher degree of common understanding with our allies and partners and across our government as well.

So what you're seeing is a team now I think that's able to achieve a much higher degree of agility in the area of foreign relations and the area of national security. And I think it's going to continue to pay off in the weeks and months ahead as well.

Q Thank you. You said we owe it to humanity to give Russia -- to play a role. Would the U.S. consider joining, getting involved somehow in the Astana talks already going on?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I would ask Secretary Tillerson that question. I know that we're fully supportive of the Geneva process. I know that, of course, the dynamics have changed now, and we'll see how they've changed.

What we would like to do is to use this opportunity for a reevaluation for all the parties to understand better how to use this new situation to move more rapidly toward a sustainable, political outcome in Syria that resolves that civil war and results, obviously, in the defeat of ISIS, al Qaeda and related groups -- denies them the ability to control population centers and territory in Syria and Iraq -- and then allows the consolidation of those military gains politically such that reconstruction can begin, the return of refugees and the long-suffering Syrian people in particular can return.

So to answer your question indirectly, we know that there has to be a political process. We're very supportive of the Geneva process, and obviously I think the President will rely on Secretary Tillerson to determine whether or not there's a role for Astana in the days and weeks ahead.

Q You used the word "events." It reminds us of Prime Minister -- British Prime Minister Macmillan: Events, events, events, needless to say. When will events -- this is a question of urgency -- can events actually spiral out of control? And might it be time for the two most powerful men in the world -- President Trump and President Putin -- to meet together for their own special summit to try to resolve all of these issues?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, obviously, that's up to the President and President Putin. I think what you see is an extremely positive and appropriate step taken already with Secretary Tillerson's visit, during which he had extensive talks with Foreign Minister Lavrov and President Putin. And so it really remains to be seen based on the work that Secretary Tillerson has done there what an appropriate path ahead is.

So again, as you know, from the President's many interactions with you, he is not doctrinaire about very many things, and he will look at this opportunistically. I think what you've seen with the President in the last couple -- at least I have as a member of the team here -- is someone who sees possibilities where many others would see only difficulties.

Q So you're saying that that possibility is off the table?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, no, I'm not. I didn't say that. Come on. (Laughter.)

Q Thank you.

Q Thank you. The President described relations possibly at an all-time low. Secretary Tillerson echoed those comments as well. Vladimir Putin said that they appear "deteriorated." Yet you just described today as a positive step, and you also said that there appears to be a way ahead. So I'm trying to grasp both of those. My first question to you I guess is, is today viewed as a good day? It didn't apparently seem that way.

Then my second question, if you don't mind, on the call last night, can you say if currency manipulation was discussed with President Xi?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, I'm not going to talk about the content of those phone calls because I think having a privileged channel of communication between Premier Xi and the President is really important to have. So I just want both leaders to be confident that the discussions they have can be held in confidence, and that's really best for everybody.

In terms of the Russian threat, it really gets to the previous question on recognizing that there is always a risk, right? That there could be unintended consequences of any action, and it is much better to talk than to not talk.

And when I was alluding to a way ahead I was really alluding to a way ahead procedurally that Secretary Tillerson had laid out in his press conference with Foreign Minister Lavrov. Whether or not anything positive substantively happens, that remains to be seen obviously.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay, so I'll do one more.

Q One option that the President himself has mentioned several times is safe zones. Where is that option now? Is that under active consideration? And how exactly would that work? Could Raqqa, for example, become a safe zone if it's liberated?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, as you know, in the areas in the far south and some of the areas in the east and areas in the -- I'm sorry, in the west -- and the northeast, those areas where as these brutal, murderous criminals, terrorists are defeated become a safe zone. And for those of you who have been in these areas, you know that it's almost astonishing how quickly life can return to these areas and to people who have suffered almost unspeakable brutality.

So there already some safe zones, right? And while really what is important is how can the security gains be translated into sustainable, political outcomes consistent with the kind of security that we'd like to see -- enduring security for the Syrian people and a political settlement and a resolution that's in our mutual interest, right?

And so that's the work that has to be done. And you know that there are some key people at the U.N. working on this, and we're working in partnership with many others, and we hope maybe with even more partners in the future to be able to move to that political outcome.

Thanks a lot, everybody.

Q Thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Just a reminder, we were on background, senior administration official. Thanks.

Q No embargo, right?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, embargoed till it's over, so now it's over.

END

5:40 P.M. EDT

Background Press Call on the Vice President's Travel to South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and Australia

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 14, 2017

Background Press Call on the Vice President's Travel to South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and Australia

Via Conference Call

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Good afternoon, guys. Some of you I've met before. For folks I haven't met, look forward to seeing you on Saturday. For the purpose of the Vice President's upcoming trip to Seoul, to Tokyo, to Jakarta, and to Sydney, we're going to explain, lay out the administration's policies to our allies, to our partners in the Asia Pacific region, and to develop some personal connections with key interlocutors as we conduct economic dialogues and business relationships and business listening session.

A couple of key themes that you'll see reinforced throughout each visit with our alliances -- that we are fully committed to our security alliances, especially in the face of our evolving security challenges. And you've seen the nuclear threat of North Korea, and we'll reinforce those security alliances.

Also, a purpose of the visit -- its key theme is our economic engagement -- that withdrawing from the TPP shouldn't be seen as a retreat from the region. Quite on the contrary, that our economic presence in the region and during continues to grow; our commitment to APEC, our existing bilateral agreement. And we'll talk about the new economic dialogues with Japan, and as you saw with President Xi Jinping with China. And our economic presence in the region is enduring. We'll talk about how to level the playing field and how to maximize growth for the United States.

And then I would say the third theme that we'll reinforce is our partnership -- partnerships with our key countries, for example, Indonesia; partnerships with key institutions like ASEAN; those organizations that help advance our efforts in defeating ISIS; those organizations that assist with the denuclearization of North Korea; and then just upholding the rules-based order.

Do you want me to go through some of the key meetings or messages with those meetings?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, I think that will be good.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay. I'll try these in chronological order, but bear with me if they're a little bit out of order. Our visit with the Acting President, as we go into Seoul, the Vice President is going to reaffirm our commitment -- ironclad U.S.-ROK alliance. And the Vice President is going to underscore intent -- we're going to continue to consult with the Republic of Korea on North Korea's efforts to advance its ballistic missile and its nuclear program. So that will be critical as we sit down with the Acting President.

Kind of similarly with the key heads of state as the Vice President talks with Prime Minister Abe, he'll underscore about the alliance and building on the discussion that the President had here, underscoring the alliance that they continue to serve as the cornerstone of peace and security in Asia and, obviously, as a platform for our global cooperation. The Vice President, I would anticipate, he'll exchange views with Prime Minister Abe, and will talk security, economy, and regional issues.

You might have heard, as well, we'll have our U.S.-Japan economic dialogue kick off. We discussed with the Deputy Prime Minister Aso and then also when Prime Minister Abe was here at the White House, down at Mar-a-Lago. So the Vice President is going to kick off the U.S.-Japan economic dialogue there in Tokyo with Deputy Prime Minister Aso, as we agreed to back in February. We agreed to the structure and the goals of the dialogue and kind of the kickoff of that dialogue going forward.

When we get to Indonesia with President Widodo, the Vice President is going to reaffirm our strategic partnership with Indonesia, thank him for their leadership on counterterrorism, and he'll underscore the importance of their partnership on regional security challenges, again, like North Korea.

We're going to meet with the ASEAN Secretariat, and we're also going to meet with the permanent rep for the ASEAN Secretariat. It's the 40th anniversary of our relations, and the 50th anniversary of ASEAN. So the Vice President will reaffirm and talk through some ways maybe to, perhaps, strengthen those strategic partnerships.

When we get down to Sydney, meeting with Prime Minister Turnbull and members of his administration, the Vice President is going to reaffirm our enduring presence in the region. We'll thank Australia for its partnership in addressing global issues, and they'll continue to discuss our bilateral trade and investment relations.

You heard from my colleague that at many of the stops we're going to have business listening sessions and some remarks, so the Vice President is going to host smaller listening sessions with business leaders and then have some opportunities to speak to some of the larger business audiences to emphasize our administration's economic agenda, focusing on free and fair trade.

And then a common theme again, you'll see with the security alliance events. As my colleague mentioned, we'll have an opportunity to address the troops at the USS Ronald Reagan, and bring those security discussions at each of the stops with the two leaders, and, as we talked about, rebuilding our U.S. military and the commitment to our alliances and our partners in the region. And then the people-to-people events, we'll have great opportunity to get out and we'll have a few events there separate from the national security and the economic dialogue that some other events underscore -- shared history, shared values, religious freedom, entrepreneurship. So we'll do that in every country.

And I think that hits the highlights.

Q Justin from Bloomberg. I have two separate questions. One was on the South Korea portion, and obviously the North Korea issue is kind of looming over that. So I'm wondering if you can talk at all about whether the Vice President will be talking about some of the military options that the White House has been apparently considering in relation to North Korea, and also give kind of an update on the state of the THAAD deployment and how soon it might be operational -- if that's going to something that's talked about.

And then sort of separately, on Japan and the economic talks, I'm wondering if you could, I guess, generally talk about what some of the Vice President's priorities are going to be, but specifically wondering if he's going to advocate for U.S. pharmaceutical companies. I know President Trump has talked about wanting other countries to kind of pay their fair share, and Japan has been one where they've been really hit hard by price cuts. I know that's a lot, but that's all I got.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can take the North Korea and THAAD. And I don't my if my colleague is over there with you that can hit the pharmaceutical question. But I can take the first two, if you'd like.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Please do.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So to reference the military option, obviously the Vice President and the President have been in close collaboration with Secretary Mattis, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Dunford, General McMaster and the entire National Security Council as we develop not only for South Korea and the region, but as it relates to all of our national security

strategy, but with particular emphasis on the belligerency of North Korea -- absolutely we'll be discussing that with our allies and partners at every stop. And we've got some military options already being assessed, but we'll work that as we sit down in discussions with General Brooks, the commander there on Peninsula.

THAAD, I would imagine, would come up in the course of those discussions. Obviously, they've got an election that's coming up in the next few weeks, and that has been a domestic issue for the South Koreans. But from the military standpoint, I would imagine it would come up probably on their end, but we're prepared to address that as well. It's a critical point for the defense of South Korea in recognizing it's not an offensive weapon, it's there to prevent rockets slamming from the North Koreans. I would imagine both of those will come up.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: As it relates to the question on Japan and pharmaceuticals, the Vice President's goal in this is really to establish a bilateral framework that the future discussions -- to lead and guide the future discussions in the coming month -- do not see it getting at industry-specific level. This is going to stay very high level, anticipating just identifying the framework in the areas in which we'll go forward. But I don't think it's going to get into specific industry-level at this time (inaudible) continue.

Q Could I just follow up on one of the answers to Justin's questions? Can you just clarify what you mean by military options with regard to North Korea? Are we talking about kind of changing force posture, moving pieces around the border? Or are you considering something more substantial?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: No, we won't talk specifics of our strategy. Obviously, in our commitment to the Republic of Korea, we consult with them as well -- those discussions, as part of the broader assessment with the National Security Council, so we wouldn't get into the weeds in the military setting. That is the purview of the Secretary of Defense. But in the broad national security discussions, we'd welcome the dialogue between the Vice President and the South Korea's leadership, but just as a continuation of dialogue that's already been in place.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, and the only thing I would add, too -- the President has been very clear that, you know, under his leadership that we are not going to telegraph future potential moves one way or the other when it comes to military or national security issues. That's just not something in a public area that we're just going to engage in at any time.

Q Hi, it's Roberta from Reuters. I wanted to ask two things -- one about Japan and one about Indonesia. In Japan, will the Vice President discuss at all any plans that the Trump administration may have to pursue a bilateral trade deal with Japan? I know you said that they're going to be sort of high-level discussions, but is that kind of one of the goals that he wants to discuss?

And then, in Indonesia, in the discussions about business issues and free and fair trade, does the Vice President intend to discuss the ongoing dispute between U.S. mining company, Freeport, and the Indonesian government?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So in terms of the first question, which was involving the free trade agreement, again, this is establishing a framework for future discussions. The President has made very clear that we are looking for free, balanced, and fair trade with all of our allies and partners. And that is in the spirit and faith that we are moving forward. We have a longtime relationship with Japan. It is the cornerstone of peace and prosperity in the Asia Pacific region, and so we're going to work together in the mutual interests of both. And really, in terms of -- and so that's the framework which we will move under.

As it relates to the issue in Indonesia, we're going to discuss the business environment in Indonesia in a general sense, but it would not be appropriate, if that came up, for us to comment on something that is currently going through in a private business matter.

Q So, sorry, just to clarify -- does that mean the Vice President will seek to avoid talking about it because it's an ongoing issue?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I wouldn't be surprised if it came up, but it is something, obviously, that the Indonesian government and the company are working through their issues. And so that would be -- that's the level that that would be handled at.

Q So he doesn't plan to weigh in on it one way or the other? That's what you're saying.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm sorry. I missed that.

Q Sorry, so the Vice President wouldn't plan to weigh in on it one way or the other; he would want it to be left between the company and the government?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The one thing that I would suggest is that -- as companies internationally are looking to potential investments in Indonesia, they obviously look to see how the business climate, the business environment is in terms of its relationships overall. So I think it would be (inaudible) of that structure and how it might be viewed by potential investors who might be weighing various options for investment in Southeast Asia, it would come up, obviously, in terms of how it would relate toward that.

Q Hi. It's Ken Thomas with AP. On South Korea, do you expect the Vice President to talk about potential sanctions on North Korea or firms that do business with North Korea?

And then separately, there's obviously an election coming up in South Korea in May. Do you expect the Vice President to meet with any or all of the major candidates running to become the next President of South Korea?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Ken, this reference to sanctions is just -- it's another tool at our disposal. I would imagine again that the South Korean leadership may raise that as a point and we're prepared to address that. Obviously, we've been working here collaboratively with the National Security Council, again, to look for a wide range of options for North Korea, one of which, to no surprise, would be sanctions. So if that is raised, we're prepared to discuss it. This would not -- not open the dialogue with that, but that is, obviously, a tool at the administration's disposal.

In reference to the election, yeah, we've chosen not to -- we're going to meet with the current Acting President and not the presidential candidates. The election is coming up and we feel confident that the free and fair elections with the South Korean people -- whomever they choose as their President -- that we'll be able to work on behalf with the administration and continue to move our relationship forward.

Any other questions?

Q Hey, guys. It's Dana Bash. I just have a quick question, just broadly, about South Korea and whether or not the Vice President is going to be coming -- carrying a specific message, obviously in private, but even maybe more so in public about America's support for South Korea and the region, obviously, given the saber-rattling and everything we've been seeing happening in the North. I mean, is there anything specific and concrete that he's going to deliver either rhetorically or even more?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The thing I would tell you is I think the overriding message that the Vice President will be taking on a national security side to South Korea is that our long alliance between the U.S. and South Korea is the linchpin of peace and prosperity, that the President takes national security as a top priority, and that we have an ironclad commitment to all of our allies in the Asia Pacific that we take their defense very seriously, and that is unwavering.

Q It's Andrew again from AFP. If I could just ask how you're kind of approaching the possibility of North Korea testing either a nuclear device or missile on the day, or just before, we're taking off. Like, what kind of contingencies are you making? Would you expect that it would alter the substance or the actual logistics of his trip, of the Vice President's trip?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, first and foremost, the administration has been very clear -- the President, you've heard again, of the actions -- options available against North Korea -- and our allies in the region. They've telegraphed a bit. It's not a surprise that the

anniversary is on Saturday. Traditionally, in the big parade -- rolls out his weapons and his mock weapons. So we're anticipating that. The intelligence community is obviously keeping the President and the Vice President well informed on activities in the region, and the Defense Department and other partners have developed those options.

So, safety first, but do we anticipate it? Possibly. But are there options already developed? Absolutely. Unfortunately, it's not a new surprise for us. He continues to develop this program. He continues to launch missiles into the Sea of Japan. So with that regime it's not a matter of "if," it's "when." So we're well prepared to counter that.

Q Can I ask another quick one just on Australia? Because it hasn't come up. I'm wondering if the Vice President will have a message on the refugee deal. Obviously that was kind of a big point of contention in the President's first couple of weeks. So I'm just wondering if you guys are planning on, I guess, having any concrete new news on that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I wouldn't anticipate any new news on that front. I mean, obviously, it's entirely appropriate for a new President to ask questions about agreements struck by his predecessors, especially when it could involve the safety and security of the American people. But the United States is living up to its agreements, and the President is confident that the necessary vetting procedures are in place to protect Americans while, at the same time, accepting refugees through the deal struck by the Obama administration.

So I wouldn't anticipate anything other than -- anything additional coming up in that respect.

END

4:33 P.M. EDT

Background Briefing on the President's Cuba Policy

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 15, 2017

Background Briefing on the President's Cuba Policy

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

4:36 P.M. EDT

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for joining us this afternoon. This is an off-camera, not-for-audio broadcast, background briefing on President Trump's Cuba policy with senior White House officials here in the briefing room. Some of you are joining us via conference call. Just as a reminder, this background briefing information is embargoed until 9:00 p.m. tonight.

Q A lot of this stuff is out already. Can you guys move that embargo? Is that negotiable?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It's not negotiable right now. It's 9:00 p.m. tonight. It's embargoed until 9:00 p.m. tonight.

During the campaign last year, President Trump received an endorsement from the Bay of Pigs Veterans Association, the first presidential endorsement this group has ever made, at their museum in Little Havana, Miami. The President has repeatedly said he was "honored and humbled" to have received that endorsement from these veterans, recognizing that they were fighting to restore liberty and justice for the people of Cuba.

The President vowed to reverse the Obama administration policies toward Cuba that have enriched the Cuban military regime and increased the repression on the island. It is a promise that President Trump made, and it's a promise that President Trump is keeping.

With this is a readjustment of the United States policy towards Cuba. And you will see that, going forward, the new policy under the Trump administration, will empower the Cuban people.

To reiterate, the new policy going forward does not target the Cuban people, but it does target the repressive members of the Cuban military government.

To discuss this further, I'm going to introduce [senior administration officials]. We will take a few questions after their presentations. As background, you know they are going to be identified as senior White House officials.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks. And I'm going to be really quick and pretty bland here so we can get to your questions. But as my colleague mentioned, the President made a promise September 16, 2016, when he was speaking in Miami, about his commitment to overturn the Obama policy of appeasement toward Cuba. And, in doing so, he promised to restore some of the restrictions on Cuba until they provide religious and political freedom to their people.

In order to follow through on the promises the President made, he ordered a full review of U.S. policy toward Cuba in February, and of his team here internally. The National Security Council, led by General McMaster, engaged in a thorough interagency review process, including more than a dozen working-level meetings, multiple deputies meetings, and principal meetings. This interagency process included, among others -- there are additional agencies -- but those I think that are most impacted by the policy included the Treasury Department, the State Department, Commerce Department, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Transportation. So each of those agencies and secretaries were actively engaged in this policy formation.

Additionally, during this process, the President met with members of Congress who are experts on Cuba policy and have been leaders in formulating Cuba policy, from a legislative perspective, for years. These members also worked with us hand-in-glove in providing technical guidance and policy suggestions as we continued to formulate the policy and went through multiple drafts.

The President and other principals also met with members on both sides of the aisle in this process, and even, additionally, were sharing thoughts with those who have, I think, been advocates -- in particular, agricultural trade with Cuba.

The President has tasked his Cabinet to work together to find ways to improve what we consider President Obama's bad deal. And we're very excited about the result that the President will unveil tomorrow. And I think more details of that will be forthcoming.

I'll turn it over to my colleagues, and we'll take questions when finished.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Thanks. Breaking habit of a lifetime, I'm going to be even briefer, because this is really the President's policy to announce. But I want to reiterate that this is very much a promise that he made, that he took seriously, that he kept. And the basic policy driver was his concern that the previous policy was enriching the Cuban military and the intelligence services that contribute so much to oppression on the island. And that's the opposite of what he wanted to achieve, which is to have the benefits of any economic commerce with the United States go to the Cuban people. So that would be our guiding principle.

I did want to note that there will not be a change to wet foot, dry foot current policy, and that very much the hope of the administration is that the Cuban regime will see this as an opportunity for them to implement the reforms that they paid lip service to a couple of years ago, but that have not in any way been implemented to the benefit of the Cuban people.

So that's pretty much my part, and so we can open it up to questions.

Q Any details on the actual -- the action he's going to take tomorrow?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sorry, I'm the lawyer, so I don't get the (inaudible) parts, I just get the nitty-gritty details.

Q What is the President actually going to implement?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There's a few components of it. One part is, like my colleague was talking about, measures designed to restrict the flow of money to the oppressive elements of the Cuban regime -- the military, intelligence, and security services.

There are also measures to ensure that the statutory ban on tourism is strictly enforced, which will include ending the individual people-to-people travel. There are 12 categories of travel that are permitted still, but the one of the individual people-to-people travel was one that was at the highest risk of potential abuse of the statutory ban on tourism. And then there are several other components of the policy that you'll see tomorrow that relate to the supporting requirements ensuring that these regulations are enforced.

One key thing to note about the policy is that it directs the Secretaries of Treasury and Commerce to change their regulations on the topic. No changes go into effect until those regulations are promulgated.

Q So when will this go into effect?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The policy goes into effect tomorrow, but the policy directs the creation of new regulations, so the actual impact occurs when those regulations go into effect.

Q Things on travel and that sort of stuff doesn't change immediately?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's right. Not until the regulations go into effect.

Q Can you explain just -- let's start with the tourism, the ban on tourism which you guys will now be enforcing. What immediate impact will American travelers see on visits to Cuba from a tourism perspective? Sort of x, y, and z -- what really changes for somebody who wants to go to Havana, let's say?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Tourism is banned under the statute, was banned before. Tourism has never been allowed.

Q Obviously, commercial flights are still going to be in effect, still allowed, so -- I'm just trying to get at for like the average person who's trying to understand what this means for them.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It means that they'll have to follow the statutory requirements and the regulations about what kind of travel to Cuba is and is not allowed.

Q Is there still going to be self-certification?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes. It would still allow the Treasury to issue the general licenses that it has issued. And individuals obviously still have to keep records of their financial transactions and their travel, which can be subject to audit by the Treasury Department, but that does not change.

Q To clarify, you're getting rid of the people-to-people category, though? That will no longer be --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Individual people-to-people. So individuals can still go as parts of groups --

Q But you now have to do it as part of a group? You can't self-initiate?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's right.

Q Quickly, are you going to issue a replacement directive for the presidential directive that went into effect at the end of last year?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's what this is.

Q So we'll see that tomorrow.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Right.

Q What about cruise ships?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't think there's anything that specifically touches on cruise ships.

Q No changes to the commercial flights?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, there is a statutory ban on tourism. But if an individual follows the regulations to travel to Cuba, then they can travel, and -- whether they get there by air, boat, or any other means.

Q Does the Trump administration plan to have official diplomatic relations with the Castro regime?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't think that's changed by the policy.

Q Doesn't eliminating -- or changing the people-to-people requirement -- doesn't that somehow undermine supporting the private sector in Cuba? I mean, isn't that how a lot of Cuban people make their money, off the people-to-people exchanges and that sort of thing?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The other statutorily permitted categories of travel, including support for the Cuban people, are unchanged by the policy. But the requirement is that individuals who are going to Cuba actually engage in a full-time schedule of activities designed to enhance their interaction with the Cuban people and designed to get -- and consistent with the policy objectives of ensuring that the money goes to the Cuban people and not to the military intelligence services.

Q How is this going to restrict the flow of money to military intelligence and security services? And if you're not touching anything to do with airlines and cruise ships, does that mean that airlines and cruise companies are still transferring money to military-controlled entities, since they have to pay docking fees and landing fees?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, the way a policy is structured -- and you'll see tomorrow -- is that it directs Treasury and Commerce too provide the regulations to prohibit direct financial transactions with the military intelligence and security services.

There are several exceptions to that ban on direct financial transactions, one of which is for air and sea operations. Again, it restricts the flow of money to the military and intelligence and security services, but it does not completely -- there are several exceptions that you'll see on the policy for the kinds of travel that will still be allowed.

Q Say I met an Ohio electrical company owner who is looking to sell transformers to Cuba. Their electrical infrastructure is in shambles. Would that person's business with Cuba now be curtailed in any way?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Only if they want to sell to the military, intelligence or security services.

Q Can I follow up on that -- just a question about business more broadly? What's the President's message to businesses that have hoped to see Cuba as an expanding potential market? Is there a message here to American business?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Say that again, please.

Q What's the President's message more broadly to American business, particularly those businesses that had hoped to see an opening of the Cuban market? What do you tell those folks?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We tell them that we also very much want to see that kind of expansion of commercial interaction with Cuba, and that's entirely up to Raul Castro and his regime. It's entirely up to Raul Castro to make that happen.

Q What would the Cuban regime need to do in order to make that happen?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We're going to have a series of reforms that would make it considerably less difficult for whoever Raul's successor may be to continue to implement this kind of very repressive police state, which is being fueled by the companies owned by the military and the intelligence.

Q Are you going to roll out what those specific reforms you want to see, what boxes the Cuban regime would have to check in order to roll out more business --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Absolutely.

Q When? We'll see that tonight, tomorrow?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Tomorrow.

Q On the individual travel restrictions, when will those go into effect? Say somebody has a flight scheduled next week. They were planning to do individual people-to-people travel. It's too late to get a group. Do they cancel their flight? How does that affect those people?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, none of the changes will go into effect until the regulations are issued. One of the things that the Treasury Department will cover in its regulations is how individuals who have started planning travel to Cuba but have not actually completed that travel, how they will be affected. That's something we're going to be working with them on. But that is something that will be spelled out by the Treasury Department.

Q Is there a timeline for making progress?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It requires within 30 days for them to initiate the process, but then the process takes as long as it takes.

Q Can you explain the administration's thinking on the big picture? Why this is sort of done in like almost a half-measure? Why not -- if you're so concerned about the human rights situation there, why not cut off formal diplomatic relations, revert the embassy back to an interest section, and reinstate wet foot, dry foot? Why not do that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think that's very much what we've been talking about, that we want this relationship to be one in which we can encourage the Cuban people through economic interaction, and that that process is -- hopefully has been started. You can't put the genie back in the bottle 100 percent. And so I think this is an effort to move what the President has called a very, very bad deal.

It's not that he's opposed to any deal with Cuba; he's opposed to a bad deal with Cuba. And to start the process of making it clear to the regime that there are very specific benchmarks that they're going to need to meet if they want to continue this kind of relationship.

Q Thank you. So just to be clear, the embassy will remain in the place that it is?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There are not changes to that status.

Q Sorry, one other --

Q Ambassador?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We don't have an ambassador.

Q And one other, will you re-designate Cuba the sponsor of terrorism?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's not in this memorandum.

Q Will the new policy address U.S. fugitives living in Cuba?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The new policy reiterates the importance of extraditing those fugitives and returning them to justice, and directs the Attorney General to submit a report on those efforts.

Q What about political prisoners? Is there anything that affects -- is the President going to call for that tomorrow, for releasing political prisoners from Cuban prisons, or anything within this that speaks to that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: All I'd say is that absolutely, I think to my colleague's comment about -- someone asked the question how does it change. As soon as there are free and fair elections, and the political prisoners are freed, then they'll have direct change to the policy.

And regarding the question earlier on the private sector and wanting to continue to encourage engagement in the private sector, by all means, that's what this President's directive will do.

Our concern is that the loopholes the Obama administration have left and was not enforcing is that many of the transactions were benefiting the Cuban military, which is continuing to repress the people. So the directive that this will enforce will allow business-to-business engagement, but it will make sure that those profits and flow of money are not going to benefit the Cuban military.

Q I want to follow up on that. Because GAESA, the Cuban-military-owned intelligence company -- what percent -- like, how big are they when it comes to the Cuban economy? Like how large are they?

Q Is this restricted to GAESA or is this broader?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The prohibition on direct financial transactions is on Cuban military, intelligence and security service, and entities that they control, which, as I understand the situation, does include GAESA.

And in terms of what share they are of the Cuban economy -- I know they have a monopoly on various sectors of the economy.

Q So you're talking about -- you want to engage with the Cuban government if the regime becomes less repressive, but why is there a particular concern on human rights abuses in Cuba when this administration has been engaging with Saudi Arabia and lots of other regimes that don't have great human rights records? Why Cuba, in particular?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think the President has made clear that he will look toward repressive regimes in this hemisphere and believes that his comments stand from September 2016 when he said that the Cuba policy needs to change.

Q So we can expect this administration to be taking an aggressive stance based on human rights with other regimes?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think that this administration will continue to take aggressive stands. But I'm not commenting here on what his foreign policy will be toward other countries right now.

Q Just a final follow-up -- for people who, let's say, have a family member in Cuba -- you need to travel, you've got a family member dying -- what happens to those people? What kind of penalties go along with going outside of --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Family travel is one of the other categories of travel that is already authorized under the regulations and will continue to be authorized.

Q How much help did Marco Rubio provide in shaping this policy? And who else did you consult in shaping it?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: As I mentioned before, we consulted many members of Congress. Certainly Senator Rubio has been very helpful to us in this process. But we've consulted those who are part of coalitions that, again, support agricultural exports to Cuba. We've also consulted some on a bipartisan basis. And I'll kind of leave it to them to offer what their level of assistance has been. I think you'll be seeing more of that come forward in the next day or two as those who have been helping us come forward to talk about their engagement. But Senator Rubio was certainly central to helping us with this policy.

Q I just had two questions. The first is if this is all going to impact -- the Obama administration lifted or enabled people to bring more souvenirs, rum, cigars, that kind of thing back. Is there's any impact on that policy specifically? And then secondly, if you could at all lay out some of the other exemptions in addition to cruise ports and airports because obviously the military controls huge swaths of the economy.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: There aren't any changes to the regulations on what items Americans can bring back from Cuba. The other exemptions -- you'll see the full list tomorrow, but they include transactions related to the operation of the U.S. embassy or the naval station at Guantanamo Bay, transactions related to promotion of Cuban democracy, of expanding access to telecommunications access, Internet access to the Cuban people. Again, you'll -- I don't have the full list in front of me, but you'll see that tomorrow.

Q How much money has flown from Cuban military and intelligence services through the channels that you're now going to block in recent years?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think we'd have to refer that to the Department of the Treasury.

Q Can you give (inaudible) intelligence cooperation that some say flourished under the Obama policy? And then on the Defense Ministry owning Old Havana -- are payments to those banned as well?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not going to comment on intelligence operations in this context. I think that, again, if the Cuban government would like this kind of relationship to continue, the means to achieve that is firmly in their court.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And on the question about hotels owned by the armed forces of Cuba -- yes, the prohibition on direct transactions with the Cuban military would encompass that. One of the pieces of the policy is that the State Department would create a list of entities owned by the Cuban military, intelligence and security services so individuals can adjust their plans accordingly.

Again, the policy intent is to steer money away from the Cuban military and towards the Cuban people. So your individual who travels to Cuba and does not stay in one of those hotels would not be affected. But the individuals seeking to stay in military hotels -- that would not be allowed.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Some members of Congress pointed out that if Cubans continue to ship arms to North Korea and continue to fuel chaos in Venezuela, it's hard to see what the dividends are of that cooperation.

Q I was wondering, just to follow up on that, do you envisage any carve-outs for existing investments in Cuba? Say if I'm the CEO of Starwood, should I be worried about losing millions that I've already invested?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That will be handled in the specifics of the regulations that the Treasury and the Commerce Department craft pursuant to the policy. However, one of the administration's intent has been to not disrupt the existing business that has occurred or, again, to the question about travelers, who have already booked their plans.

Q There may be exceptions?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The specifics will be handled in the regulations that Treasury and Commerce issue.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And actually, can I quick add something on that? On Whitehouse.gov we'll have sort of a landing page where it will link to all of the relevant agencies that have their individual reports on how this is going to affect their operations tomorrow - - because it's more than you would imagine.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: One last question right here.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: It should be right with the speech.

Q Two quick questions. (Inaudible) -- what does that look like? And second, can you give us some examples of the benchmarks you are talking about that you want the government to meet?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: My colleague laid those out. It's free elections, releasing prisoners. You could get into things such as direct pay for Cuban workers.

Q Are they going to be really specific?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think they will be more general tomorrow, and then if this is a dialogue the Cuban Government wants to have, we can get into the specifics of what it would look like.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I was going to say I think releasing political prisoners and free and fair elections are pretty specific.

Q Can you answer the question on enforcement, please?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: On how it is more strictly adhering to the statutory ban on tourism? Again, the ending people-to-people, individual people-to-people travel is one way that is done. That is a category of travel that is particularly ripe for abuse. So directing the Treasury to change its regulations to ensure that anyone who goes to people-to-people travel does so as part of a group, is one way to ensure that the individuals who travel to Cuba to engage in a schedule of activities actually do so and aren't sitting on the beach.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Just a reminder. This background briefing is embargoed until 9:00 p.m. tonight. Thank you all very much for joining us.

END

5:02 P.M. EDT

Press Briefing on President Trump's Upcoming Visit to Poland and Germany, 6/29/2017

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release June 29, 2017

Press Briefing on President Trump's Upcoming Visit to Poland and Germany, 6/29/2017

PRESS BRIEFING

BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR GENERAL MCMASTER

AND DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL GARY COHN

ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S UPCOMING VISIT TO

POLAND AND GERMANY

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:21 P.M. EDT

AIDE: Hi. Just want to restate the ground rules. Today's briefing is off camera, on the record, and the audio is not for broadcast. It is embargoed until the end of the briefing.

And with that, I will turn the podium over to --

Q Can you make this on -- can you make the audio available? Because it puts radio at a disadvantage.

AIDE: It is off camera, not for broadcast. Those are the ground rules.

And now I'm going to turn it over to General H.R. McMaster and Gary Cohn. Thank you.

GENERAL MCMASTER: Good afternoon, everybody. Next Wednesday, President Trump will depart on the second foreign trip of his administration. He will travel first to Warsaw, Poland to meet that country's leaders and speak to the Polish people. He will continue on to Hamburg, Germany for the G20 and for meetings with many world leaders.

While this trip is short, the agenda is packed. I'll run through the objectives and the schedule, and then turn it over to Gary, who will walk you through the President's agenda for the G20.

First of all, the primary objectives are three: To promote American prosperity, to protect American interests, and to provide American leadership. These three objectives tie together every engagement President Trump has with foreign leaders, whether here in the White House, as you saw with the strengthening of our strategic partnership with India during Prime Minister Modi's visit on Monday and we'll see tonight and tomorrow with the strengthening of our alliance with South Korea during President Moon's visit.

Additional objectives for the trip include, first, to strengthen American alliances. America First, as Gary and I have stressed in the past, does not mean America alone. President Trump has demonstrated a commitment to American alliances because strong alliances further American security and American interests.

While there are no official NATO meetings on this trip, the President will meet with many NATO leaders, and he will reiterate both America's commitment to NATO's common defense and his expectation that all countries share responsibilities and burdens for that defense. We've seen countries strengthen their defense budgets in response to the President's call. When we all do more, our alliance becomes stronger and our countries are all more secure.

Second is to reassert who we are. Traveling to Europe, especially to Central Europe, which had its identity forcibly submerged for so long, is a great way to demonstrate what binds us together not just as an alliance, but as people. America has been influenced by many nations, but we share Europe's commitment to liberty and rule of law in particular.

Third is to continue to forge a common understanding of threats. We saw the President make great progress in Saudi Arabia on denying terrorists safe havens, cutting off their funding, and discrediting their perverted ideology. He'll continue to build on that work while also addressing other threats, including attempts by revisionist powers to subvert the global order that undergirds our common security and economic prosperity.

The fourth is to develop a common approach to Russia. As the President has made clear, he'd like the United States and the entire West to develop a more constructive relationship with Russia. But he's also made clear that we will do what is necessary to confront Russia's destabilizing behavior.

Fifth is to expand economic opportunity for Americans. Did I skip -- I think I skipped -- no, okay. Again, I'll let Gary cover most of this, but from a foreign policy perspective the President's goal will be to make clear, even to our allies, that America cannot tolerate unfair trade and economic practices that disadvantage our workers and our industries. We're prepared to act where necessary, but we hope to resolve our differences in ways that benefit all sides and are based on really a drive toward reciprocal trade and economic relationships.

The sixth is energy. We want to create robust, open and fair markets that drive economic growth and leave no countries hostage to energy-market manipulation. We are committed to the energy security of our allies and partners, and to the diversification of energy sources, supplies and routes. The President's America First energy plan will help us achieve all of these objectives.

The seventh is environment and climate, which Gary will cover as well.

Now, just a brief look at the schedule. In Poland, the President will meet with President Duda, the leader of a staunch NATO ally and of a nation that remains one of America's closest friends. He will speak to 12 Central European, Baltic, and Western Balkan leaders at the Three Seas Conference. His remarks will focus on infrastructure development and energy security, highlighting, for instance, the first shipments of American LNG into Poland earlier this month. He will also meet with Croatian President Grabar-Kitarović who is the co-host of the Three Seas Conference.

Then he will give a major speech to the Polish people at Krasiński Square, epicenter of the 1944 Warsaw uprising against the brutal Nazi occupation. He will praise Polish courage throughout history's darkest hour, and celebrate Poland's emergence as a European Power. And he will call on all nations to take inspiration from the spirit of the Poles as we confront today's challenges. He will lay out a vision, not only for America's future relationship with Europe, but the future of our transatlantic alliance and what that means for American security and American prosperity.

I'll let Gary cover the details of the G20. I'll just note that while in Hamburg, the President will meet with many world leaders, including Chancellor Merkel of Germany, the host of the G20, Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister Abe of Japan, President Moon of South Korea, President Xi of China, President Putin of Russia, President Peña Nieto of Mexico, President Jokowi of Indonesia, and Prime Minister Lee of Singapore, among others.

With that, I'll turn it over to Gary.

MR.COHN: Thank you. Thank you, H.R.

Let me go through the G20 quickly, because there's a lot of overlap with what H.R. just talked about. I won't go through the individual meetings but I'll touch on the major broad themes here.

The President's primary objectives of these meetings is to work with our partners to jumpstart the world economy. Economic growth around the world has been far too weak for far too long. It's important that leading economies of the G7 take steps in their own countries to strengthen economic growth, but also to work together to address economic challenges that cross all of our borders.

Here at home, the President has embarked on a strong pro-growth agenda featuring deregulation, tax reform, and infrastructure investment. On the trip, he will support G20 countries continuing to proactively use all the tools at their disposal -- monetary, fiscal, and structural -- to

strengthen growth in their countries. Importantly, the G20 also needs to do more to address global imbalances, especially from overcapacity in industrial sectors.

Which brings me to trade, and I'll repeat something H.R. said: On trade, no less than on alliances, America First does not mean America alone. The goal of U.S. trade policy is to expand trade in a way that are free and fair. Insisting on fair trade is the best way to ensure the long-term strength of the international trading system. We look forward to engaging in free and fair trade with the G20 economies. The United States stands firm against all unfair trading practices, including massive distortions in the global steel market and other non-market practices that harm U.S. workers. We ask the G20 economies to join us in this effort and to take concrete actions to solve these problems. But let us be clear: We will act to ensure a level playing field for all.

On energy, the President remains committed to working with world leaders and private sectors on sound environmental policies and on innovative technologies. We have been mindful of the fact that, while renewables have a role to play, we cannot achieve the growth or anti-poverty agenda we want without strong contributions from clean fossil fuel technologies which, in the United States, is a global leader.

On climate, the President looks forward to discussing his decision to leave the Paris Agreement with the other G20 leaders. He'll make clear that he has decided to leave the agreement because it was a bad deal for the United States, but that he is open to reengaging in the agreement or a new agreement if it makes sense for the American people.

Another focus of the G20 will be famine and other global crises. We are focused on the crisis in South Sudan, Nigeria, Yemen, and Somalia, and recently announced that the United States would provide more than \$329 million in additional humanitarian assistance in this crisis -- bringing the total U.S. humanitarian assistance here to nearly \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2017. The United States is one of the largest donors of humanitarian assistance here. The assistance we provide represents the best of Americans' generosity and goodwill. It will also improve our national security by helping to stabilize insecure regions while building strong relations with nations and people around the world.

Finally, the United States is pleased that the G20 will have a focus on women's economic empowerment. We believe that gender equality and women's empowerment is vital in today's labor market. We are advocating for more equality and equal access to the workplace, financial services, and the labor market with quality employment for women and men all throughout the world.

With that, General H.R. McMaster and myself are happy to take your questions.

Well, that was quick. (Laughter.)

Q Hey, Gary. A couple of questions for both of you. One on Russia and one on climate. Can you talk about the meeting with President Putin? What are the President's objectives in that meeting? And will he bring up Russia's interference in the 2016 election? Either of you.

GENERAL MCMASTER: Well, there's no specific agenda. It's really going to be whatever the President wants to talk about. And that's -- and he will talk with many other leaders during the conference as well.

Q And does he want to talk about election interference? Is that something he plans to bring up?

MR. COHN: We don't have an agenda set up for these meetings right now. As you know, these meetings are a week away. We're still finalizing schedules. So agendas for meetings have not been set up at this point.

Q Just on climate, I want to get you on that. Because Angela Merkel is now saying that she is not going to overlook tensions with the U.S. when it comes to the Paris Agreement. You noted just now, and the President has noted, he wants to renegotiate this Paris climate deal. In what concrete ways does he expect to do that, given what it took to get the deal in the first place?

MR. COHN: Well, look the President has been very clear on climate and on Paris. He cares very much about the climate. He cares about the environment. But he has to enter into a deal that's fair for the American people, the American workers. He's done everything he's done based on job creation, economic growth in the United States.

Q Then what will he ask for?

MR. COHN: He's going to ask for a fair and level playing field. We cannot be in a position where the United States is cutting and cutting emissions while other countries continue to grow until 2030. That doesn't seem like it's a fair and level playing field. We want a level playing field, just like everything else. We're looking for fairness across the board in the agreement.

Q Can I ask you about the Russia meeting a little bit, to follow up on that? Do you see that as a full-fledged meeting, as a bilateral, like we've been reading that the President wants? Or is it just a pull-aside? What's the format of the meeting?

MR. COHN: Well, look, in the G20 meetings as a whole, the world leaders are gathered. We will have pull-asides, we'll have bilaterals. As I said, the schedule is being formalized right now. We would imagine that the countries that H.R. talked about, we would be planning on bilateral meetings. But they're during the G20 meetings. So these are not long, long meetings. These are bilateral pull-asides during the G20.

Q I want to follow up. Gary, in that sense -- because Merkel, May, Abe, Moon -- they all fall into a category where the President has had meetings with them before. I would assume you would have a formal agenda. Putin is different from that. Is the Putin one going to be a separate bilateral -- 10, 20, 30 minutes -- not just something that is a chance encounter in the context of the G20? That's what we're trying to drive at, that it doesn't fit into this other category. You have to --

GENERAL MCMASTER: Indonesia is in that.

MR. COHN: Indonesia is in it. Singapore is in there. There's countries at the G20 that, yes, we have met with before, some we'll meet with tonight for the first time, and there's other that we will have a second or third meeting with, and they're the countries that are important to us because of economic relationship, military relationship, a lot of different reasons for us having meetings with them. There will be a more formal schedule as we get closer. But I think you should assume that most of these countries we're going to have sort of bilateral meetings set up in advance -- probably not a formal agenda of what's on the schedule, but a formal agenda of what time these meetings will happen in a bilateral situation.

Q -- for Russia, as well?

MR. COHN: Yes, yes.

Q So the President has laid out to NATO countries some of the things they need to do vis-à-vis meeting their 2 percent GDP investment in defense. Does he have a similar set of things to ask Moscow, to ask Putin -- to say, we need to see you do these trust-building measures before we can normalize relations?

GENERAL MCMASTER: Well, our relationship with Russia is not different from any other country in terms of us communicating to them, really, what our concerns are, where we see problems in the relationship, but also opportunities. Secretary Tillerson, obviously as he does with all countries in the world, has the lead for that and has been engaged in a broad, wide-ranging discussion about irritants, problems in the relationship, but also to explore opportunities -- where we can work together in areas of common interest.

So it won't be different from our discussions with any other country, really.

Q Given the assaults on press freedom by the ruling party in Poland, the Law and Justice Party, is the President concerned about assaults on a free press, and former communist countries backsliding as it were? And do you think that making this the first -- making Warsaw the first stop on the President's trip to Europe might send the wrong message, that he endorses such assaults on a free press?

GENERAL MCMASTER: I don't think there's a danger of that at all. I think Poland is a clear choice for a number of reasons. First of all, it's one of our staunchest allies. It is a NATO ally that will meet and exceed its pledge to go over 2 percent from the Wales conference. It is in many ways a front-line NATO nation in connection with threats on the Eastern flank. It is a country that has partnered with us and had been a great ally during combat missions in Afghanistan and in Iraq, as well. And so this will be -- the President will emphasize themes about the past, what Poland has gone through as a nation, what they've achieved to fight to be part of Europe. He'll talk about what Poland is doing now and how our relationship can be strengthened in that context.

But what he's really going to talk about I think is also the future -- the future of America's relationship with Poland, with Europe, the importance of transatlantic relationships generally. In the economic context, what Gary has talked about, which is free and fair trade, access to energy.

And so there are a lot of important things for us to emphasize in connection with the future of our relationship with Poland and with Europe.

Q Does any of that have to do with attacks on free press and free expression in Poland?

MR. COHN: So let me just answer the question in G20 terms as well, because it's interesting -- in the G7 as well as the G20, we go through these arduous communiqué writings. And we as Americans have fought very vigorously to protect intellectual property rights and to protect freedom of speech in Internet. And we'll continue to do that. We'll continue to defend that. We did it in the G7 communiqué; we're going to do it in the G20 communiqué.

So that's just where we stand.

You back -- the young lady. Yeah, you.

Q Thank you.

MR. COHN: No, behind you. The young lady.

Q I wanted to ask you about this -- the comments you made about steel. As you know, they were expecting an omnibus trade deficit report by the end of the week, and there's also this ongoing 232 investigation by Commerce and Treasury. That seems to tee you up perfectly for a conversation with China and Japan about trade deficits. Do you plan on releasing that information ahead of the G20 and presenting it there?

And then, secondly, on LNG, if you could just talk about -- will the President be offering or brokering any additional deals to backstop European needs in that respect to get them independent from Russia and a reliance on Russian energy?

MR. COHN: So I'm not sure when the Commerce Department is going to release their final report on the steel industry and what's been going on there. They have been working on it for quite some period of time, so it's in draft or final drafting forms. They will be delivering it to the White House at some point.

But the premise of that report will -- we will use that as an opportunity to talk with many of our trading partners around the world. What's going on in steel -- I mentioned steel in my remarks specifically, because if you look at the G7 communiqué, there has been consensus among our G7 allies that there is overcapacity and there's dumping in steel. So I think there's uniformed consensus among all of our G7 allies that we do need to deal with the steel problem specifically.

On LNG, what the President is committed to do is the President is committed to have a deregulated environment here in the United States where LNG facilities can get licensed, we can license more pipeline systems so we can be in the business of exporting LNG. It's not the President's job to broker LNG supply contracts. It's the President's job to make sure that the U.S. authorizes facilities to be built in the United States because they need federal approval. And then once those facilities are built, hopefully those facilities enter into long-term supply contracts around the world. Because, uniquely, the rest of the world needs something we have, which is our huge supply of LNG.

Eamon, in the back.

Q Thanks, Gary. If you could, could you give us your sense of the state of the relationship between the United States and Germany right now? We've had a couple of smallish flash points recently. We see reports that Chancellor Merkel might be preparing to press the U.S. on Paris. We see this moment where Secretary Ross was cut off in mid-speech. How do you see the relationship right now between the United States and Germany?

GENERAL MCMASTER: Okay, the relationship with Germany is as strong as ever. And, of course, there are going to be differences in relations with any country, and we'll talk frankly about those differences. The President enjoys those conversations.

But what we should remember about a relationship with Germany and other allies is that we agree on 95 -- at least -- percent of the key issues, and we're cooperating every day on those issues. That cooperation, I think, is stronger than ever, and really our common concerns in security in economic development -- in our relationships economically.

So I think that -- to answer your question, the relationship is as strong as ever.

Q Do you see that as a snub of Secretary Ross?

Q Yes. In terms of --

MR. COHN: We'll get you next.

GENERAL MCMASTER: We'll get you next. Go ahead, sir.

MR. COHN: Go ahead.

Q So in terms of the North Korean question, what more do you think that the President and this administration can do to pressure China? It seems like you have come to the point where you're realizing that China is not going to do more without more coercion, so what more can you do on that front?

And then a second question, with regards to Russia: Do you feel like the President is taking seriously the question of Russian meddling in the 2016 election? And do you think -- and what has he done to actually address that issue, which a number of senior U.S. officials have raised as a threat on U.S. democracy?

GENERAL MCMASTER: So, first of all, on North Korea and China's relationship with us and with others and working on the North Korea problem -- there are really three key things that came out of the Mar-a-Lago summit that I think are critical for us to build on.

It shouldn't really be about pressuring China, it should be about working with China in our common interests. The first big thing that came out of Mar-a-Lago was a recognition that a nuclear-armed North Korea with long-range missile capabilities is a threat not only to the United States, not only to South Korea and Japan, but also to China. And there was clear acknowledgement by both parties, the United States and in China on that.

The second is a recognition that while China's political influence with the regime might be limited, that they have tremendous coercive power in connection with the economic relationship and the trade relationships with North Korea. So China acknowledged that there is a lot that they can do in connection with convincing the North Korean regime that it's in their interest to denuclearize.

And the third is critical -- is that we agreed on a joint objective of denuclearization of the Peninsula. That's a solid basis to work together on. There's a lot more to be done, however. The President has told all of us -- he has said that he will not tolerate a North Korean regime that can target the United States, that can reach the United States with a nuclear weapon. He just won't tolerate it.

So what we have is a commitment to deliver to him a broad range of options and to do our best to work with everyone, including China, on this. So it's not a question of pressuring China. It's a question of working with China to do more about this problem so it doesn't get to everybody wants to avoid.

Q Are we doing enough?

GENERAL MCMASTER: Well, I mean, none of us are doing enough. I don't think China is doing enough now because the problem is not resolved. So the question is, how much more must we do together to address this, short of a military solution. So that's the kind of discussions that we'll continue to have with Chinese leadership as we work together with them -- not pressuring them -- but working with them.

On the second point on Russia. The President has asked us to work together across all departments and agencies to do, really, three things: to confront Russia's destabilizing behavior -- whether it's cyber threats, whether it's political subversion here in Europe and elsewhere -- in the Balkans now. So confront Russia's destabilizing behavior and to come up with a strategy to do that.

The second is to deter Russia, right? Because the worse thing -- nobody wants a major power war, right? And so what is it that we have to put in place to be able to deter conflict.

And then the third thing is to foster areas of cooperation. What are the areas that we can identify in which we can work together with Russia, which is clearly in both of our interests? And there are a lot of problems in the world that fall into that category. North Korea, for example, is one of them; the fight against transnational terrorist organizations is another. So the need to deescalate the Syrian civil war, to defeat ISIS there, and to end that humanitarian catastrophe.

And so these are areas of discussion, again being led extremely well by Secretary of State Tillerson, and that will continue to be the focus of our Russia policy and strategy.

Q Okay, thank you, sir. You mentioned that the President will be speaking with the President of Poland. Will he also meet with other leaders of Polish political scene? And this speech in Warsaw is really highly anticipated. So what is the main message the President wants to deliver to the people of Poland?

GENERAL MCMASTER: Yeah, the main message is that America is with you, America understands that its interests align with the interests of the Polish people, and we are determined to do our best to work together on our common priorities and our common interests.

Across the three areas -- the three main themes that I mentioned at the beginning -- which is, first, to protect our security -- this is Polish security, American security, our common security; to promote prosperity in terms of economic growth and development, and economic growth and development in a way that protects the environment, that advances our interests in the economic energy realm. And the third is to provide American leadership -- American leadership to help connect Poland broadly, to keep Poland connected to what they fought for for so long, which is to be part of Europe. And for American leadership to be associated with the Polish-American relationship, the American-European relationship, and transatlantic relations generally.

MR. COHN: And, yes, he's speaking to other Polish leaders. I've got to run to Energy Week. I'm on a panel at 2:00. I can take one last question.

Right there.

Q Thank you, Mr. Cohn.

MR. COHN: You're welcome, sir.

Q Very quickly, is the IMF going to come up at all when the meeting is held? During the IMF World Bank meeting earlier this year there was considerable discussion that there's been nothing said from the administration about the IMF and whether the U.S. would continue the same policy which directly connects us to the bailout in Greece.

MR. COHN: Look, I don't think the IMF directly will come up during the G20. The IMF will be there. They're one of the participants at the G20. That said, I'm having discussions with IMF leadership, and we've got very amicable discussions with IMF going on.

Q Madam Lagarde?

MR. COHN: Yes. Okay, thank you, everyone.

GENERAL MCMASTER: Thanks, everybody.

END

1:48 P.M. EDT

Press Briefing on the President's Meetings at the G20 | July 7, 2017

The White House

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Press Briefing on the President's Meetings at the G20 | July 7, 2017

PRESS BRIEFING

BY SECRETARY OF STATE TILLERSON

AND SECRETARY OF TREASURY MNUCHIN

ON THE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS AT THE G20

Hamburg Messe

Hamburg, Germany

7:18 P.M. CET

SECRETARY MNUCHIN: Hi, everybody. I just want to highlight very briefly, and then Secretary Tillerson will go on, and then afterwards we'll both answer a few questions.

But President Trump has had a very, very significant few days. I think, as you know, we went to Poland on Wednesday. In Poland, he met with 12 different leaders. We had bilats with Croatia and with Poland, as well as 10 other leaders at the Three Seas Conference where we talked about energy -- the importance of the energy markets, the importance of supplying independent energy, infrastructure and opportunities there. I think, as you know, the speech which was just incredibly well-received, is part of our "America First But America Not Alone."

Then coming here, the President has had very significant meetings at the G20 already. Yesterday, we had the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Merkel and her team. It was a very, very productive and friendly meeting. There were lots of areas for us to collaborate on that were very clear. We talked about economic issues, we talked about trade. We had a very productive dinner last night -- Secretary Tillerson, myself, General McMaster -- with President Moon Jae-in and Prime Minister Abe and their teams, discussing the importance of what's going on in North Korea and the issues there. And then today we've had, already, several other bilats, and tomorrow we have another six.

The President also participated in a very important session today on trade and an important session on the environment and the economy. So I would just generally say we've had very productive economic meetings. There's been very substantive issues discussed. The North Korea issue has been discussed very significantly, about the escalation in North Korea.

And with that, I will turn it over to Secretary Tillerson to talk about his meetings, and afterwards we'll take some questions.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Thank you, Steve, and thanks for staying with us late these evening.

President Trump and President Putin met this afternoon for 2 hours and 15 minutes here on the sidelines of the G20. The two leaders exchanged views on the current nature of the U.S.-Russia relationship and the future of the U.S.-Russia relationship.

They discussed important progress that was made in Syria, and I think all of you have seen some of the news that just broke regarding a de-escalation agreement and memorandum, which was agreed between the United States, Russia and Jordan, for an important area in southwest Syria that affects Jordan's security, but also is a very complicated part of the Syrian battlefield.

This de-escalation area was agreed, it's well-defined, agreements on who will secure this area. A ceasefire has been entered into. And I think this is our first indication of the U.S. and Russia being able to work together in Syria. And as a result of that, we had a very lengthy discussion

regarding other areas in Syria that we can continue to work together on to de-escalate the areas and violence once we defeat ISIS, and to work together toward a political process that will secure the future of the Syrian people.

As a result, at the request of President Putin, the United States has appointed -- and you've seen, I think, the announcement of Special Representative for Ukraine, Ambassador Kurt Volker. Ambassador Volker will draw on his decades of experience in the U.S. Diplomatic Corps, both as a representative to NATO and also his time as a permanent political appointment.

The two leaders also acknowledged the challenges of cyber threats and interference in the democratic processes of the United States and other countries, and agreed to explore creating a framework around which the two countries can work together to better understand how to deal with these cyber threats, both in terms of how these tools are used to interfere with the internal affairs of countries, but also how these tools are used to threaten infrastructure, how these tools are used from a terrorism standpoint as well.

The President opened the meeting with President Putin by raising the concerns of the American people regarding Russian interference in the 2016 election. They had a very robust and lengthy exchange on the subject. The President pressed President Putin on more than one occasion regarding Russian involvement. President Putin denied such involvement, as I think he has in the past.

The two leaders agreed, though, that this is a substantial hindrance in the ability of us to move the Russian-U.S. relationship forward, and agreed to exchange further work regarding commitments of non-interference in the affairs of the United States and our democratic process as well as those of other countries. So more work to be done on that regard.

I'd be happy to take your questions. You're going to referee, Sean?

Q Mr. Secretary, Nick Waters (ph) from Bloomberg News. Can you tell us whether President Trump said whether there would be any consequences for Russia to the interference in the U.S. election? Did he spell out any specific consequences that Russia would face? And then also, on the Syria ceasefire, when does it begin? And what makes you think the ceasefire will succeed this time when past U.S.-Russian agreements on a ceasefire have failed?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: With regard to the interference in the election, I think the President took note of actions that have been discussed by the Congress. Most recently, additional sanctions that have been voted out of the Senate to make it clear as to the seriousness of the issue. But I think what the two Presidents, I think rightly, focused on is how do we move forward; how do we move forward from here. Because it's not clear to me that we will ever come to some agreed-upon resolution of that question between the two nations.

So the question is, what do we do now? And I think the relationship -- and the President made this clear, as well -- is too important, and it's too important to not find a way to move forward -- not dismissing the issue in any way, and I don't want to leave you with that impression. And that is why we've agreed to continue engagement and discussion around how do we secure a commitment that the Russian government has no intention of and will not interfere in our affairs in the future, nor the affairs of others, and how do we create a framework in which we have some capability to judge what is happening in the cyber world and who to hold accountable. And this is obviously an issue that's broader than just U.S.-Russia, but certainly we see the manifestation of that threat in the events of last year.

And so I think, again, the Presidents rightly focused on how do we move forward from what may be simply an intractable disagreement at this point.

As to the Syria ceasefire, I would say what may be different this time, I think, is the level of commitment on the part of the Russian government. They see the situation in Syria transitioning from the defeat of ISIS, which we are progressing rapidly, as you know. And this is what really has led to this discussion with them as to what do we do to stabilize Syria once the war against ISIS is won.

And Russia has the same, I think, interest that we do in having Syria become a stable place, a unified place, but ultimately a place where we can facilitate a political discussion about their future, including the future leadership of Syria.

So I think part of why we're -- and again, we'll see what happens as to the ability to hold the ceasefire. But I think part of what's different is where we are relative to the whole war against ISIS, where we are in terms of the opposition's, I think, position as to their strength within the country, and the regime itself.

In many respects, people are getting tired. They're getting weary of the conflict. And I think we have an opportunity, we hope, to create the conditions in this area, and the south is I think our first show of success. We're hoping we can replicate that elsewhere.

MR. SPICER: Abby.

Q Mr. Secretary, you spoke, when you were speaking of the ceasefire, about they're being detailed information about who would enforce it. Can you give any more information on what conclusions were reached? And you spoke of the future leadership of Syria. Do you still believe that Assad has no role in their government?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: I would like to defer on the specific roles in particular of security forces on the ground, because there is -- there are a couple of more meetings to occur. This agreement, I think as you're aware, was entered into between Jordan, the United States, and Russia. And we are -- we have a very clear picture of who will provide the security forces, but we have a few more details to work out. And if I could, I'd like to defer on that until that is completed.

I expect that will be completed within the next -- less than a week. The talks are very active and ongoing.

And your second question again?

Q Does the administration still believe that Assad has no role in the future government of Syria?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Yes, our position continues to be that we see no long-term role for the Assad family or the Assad regime. And we have made this clear to everyone -- we've certainly made it clear in our discussions with Russia -- that we do not think Syria can achieve international recognition in the future. Even if they work through a successful political process, the international community simply is not going to accept a Syria led by the Assad regime.

And so if Syria is to be accepted and have a secure -- both a secure and economic future, it really requires that they find new leadership. We think it will be difficult for them to attract both the humanitarian aid, as well as the reconstruction assistance that's going to be required, because there just will be such a low level of confidence in the Assad government. So that continues to be the view.

And as we've said, how Assad leaves is yet to be determined, but our view is that somewhere in that political process there will be a transition away from the Assad family.

Q Thank you. Demetri Sevastopulo, Financial Times. On North Korea, did President Putin agree to do anything to help the U.S. to put more pressure on North Korea? And secondly, you seem to have reached somewhat of an impasse with China in terms of getting them to put more pressure on North Korea. How are you going to get them to go beyond what they've done already? And what is President Trump going to say to President Xi on that issue tomorrow?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: We did have a pretty good exchange on North Korea. I would say the Russians see it a little differently than we do, so we're going to continue those discussions and ask them to do more.

Russia does have economic activity with North Korea, but I would also hasten to add Russia's official policy is the same as ours -- a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

And so I think here, again, there is a difference in terms of view around tactics and pace, and so we will continue to work with them to see if we cannot persuade them as to the urgency that we see.

I think with respect to China, what our experience with China has been -- and I've said this to others -- it's been a bit uneven. China has taken significant action, and then I think for a lot of different reasons, they paused and didn't take additional action. They then have taken some steps, and then they paused. And I think in our own view there are a lot of, perhaps, explanations for why those pauses occur. But we've remained very closely engaged with China, both through our dialogues that have occurred face-to-face, but also on the telephone. We speak very frequently with them about the situation in North Korea.

So there's a clear understanding between the two of us of our intent. And I think the sanctions action that was taken here just in last week to 10 days certainly got their attention in terms of their understanding our resolve to bring more pressure to bear on North Korea by directly going after entities doing business with North Korea, regardless of where they may be located. We've continued to make that clear to China that we would prefer they take the action themselves. And we're still calling upon them to do that.

So I would say our engagement is unchanged with China, and our expectations are unchanged.

Q And you haven't given up hope?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: No, we have not given up hope. When you're in an approach like we're using -- and I call it the peaceful pressure campaign. A lot of people like to characterize it otherwise, but this is a campaign to lead us to a peaceful resolution. Because if this fails, we don't have very many good options left. And so it is a peaceful pressure campaign, and it's one that requires calculated increases in pressure, allow the regime to respond to that pressure. And it takes a little time to let these things happen. You enact the pressure; it takes a little while for that to work its way through.

So it is going to require some level of patience as we move this along, but when we talk about our strategic patience ending, what we mean is we're not going to just sit idly by, and we're going to follow this all the way to its conclusion.

Q Thank you. Mr. Secretary, I have issue -- you just mentioned on the DPRK. We note China and Russia recently said -- they asked North Korea to stop the -- to freeze, actually, the nuclear activities, and also they asked the U.S. to stop the deployment of THAAD system. So did President Putin bring up his concern about the deployment of THAAD system? And also, what's the expectation of President Trump on tomorrow's meeting with President Xi Jinping, other than the DPRK issue? Thank you.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The subject of THAAD did not come up in the meeting with President Putin.

In terms of the progress of North Korea and this last missile launch, again, those are some of the differences of views we have between ourselves in terms of tactics -- how to deal with this. President Putin, I think, has expressed a view not unlike that of China, that they would support a freeze for freeze.

If we study the history of the last 25 years of engagement with various regimes in North Korea, this has been done before. And every time it was done, North Korea went ahead and proceeded with its program.

The problem with freezing now -- if we freeze where they are today, we freeze their activities with a very high level of capability. And we do not think it also sets the right tone for where these talks should begin. And so we're asking North Korea to be prepared to come to the table with an understanding that these talks are going to be about how do we help you chart a course to cease and roll back your nuclear program? That's what we want to talk about. We're not interested in talking about how do we have you stop where you are today. Because stopping where they are today is not acceptable to us.

MR. SPICER: Margaret.

Q Margaret Talev with Bloomberg. Mr. Secretary, could you give us a roadmap? Did you agree on a next set of talks between the President and Mr. Putin? And I guess I have kind of like a

fluffy, color question on general impressions. We thought this was a 30-minute meeting. It ended up being 2 hours and 16 minutes. That's a lot of time to watch those two leaders interact and also to just -- whatever. Any insights on all those? Also, real quickly, any update on the dachas? Are they getting them back? And on Ukraine sanctions, any resolution or progress on those? Thanks.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Okay, so the first question?

Q Next talks.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Next talks. There's no agreed next meeting between the Presidents. There are agreed subsequent follow-up meetings between various working-level groups at the State Department. We agreed to set up a working-level group to begin to explore this framework agreement around the cyber issue and this issue of non-interference. So those will be ongoing with various staff levels.

Q Who's leading that? Is that Rob Joyce on the U.S. side?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, it will be out of the State Department and --

Q State.

SECRETARY TILLERSON: And the national security advisor's office.

As to the nature of the 2 hours and 15 minutes, first let me characterize -- the meeting was very constructive. The two leaders, I would say, connected very quickly. There was a very clear positive chemistry between the two. I think, again -- and I think the positive thing I observed -- and I've had many, many meetings with President Putin before -- is there was not a lot of re-litigating of the past. I think both of the leaders feel like there's a lot of things in the past that both of us are unhappy about. We're unhappy, they're unhappy.

I think the perspective of both of them was, this is a really important relationship. Two largest nuclear powers in the world. It's a really important relationship. How do we start making this work? How do we live with one another? How do we work with one another? We simply have to find a way to go forward. And I think that was -- that was expressed over and over, multiple times, I think by both Presidents, this strong desire.

It is a very complicated relationship today because there are so many issues on the table. And one of the reasons it took a long time, I think, is because once they met and got acquainted with one another fairly quickly, there was so much to talk about -- all these issues. Just about everything got touched on to one degree or another. And I think there was just such a level of engagement and exchange, and neither one of them wanted to stop. Several times I had to remind the President, and people were sticking their heads in the door. And I think they even -- they sent in the First Lady at one point to see if she could get us out of there, and that didn't work either. (Laughter.)

Q Is that true?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: But -- yes, it's true. But it was --

Q What was the timetable?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: Well, we went another hour after she came in to see us. (Laughter.) So clearly she failed.

But I think -- what I've described to you, the 2 hours and 15 minutes, it was an extraordinarily important meeting. I mean, there's just -- there's so much for us to talk about. And it was a good start. Now, I will tell you we spent a very, very lengthy period on Syria, with a great amount of detailed exchange on the agreement we had concluded today -- it was announced -- but also where we go, and trying to get much greater clarity around how we see this playing out and how Russia sees it playing out, and where do we share a common view and where do we have a difference, and do we have the same objectives in mind.

And I would tell you that, by and large, our objectives are exactly the same. How we get there, we each have a view. But there's a lot more commonality to that than there are differences. So we want to build on the commonality, and we spent a lot of time talking about next steps. And then where there's differences, we have more work to get together and understand. Maybe they've got the right approach and we've got the wrong approach.

So there was a substantial amount of time spent on Syria, just because we've had so much activity going on with it.

MR. SPICER: Peter.

Q Thank you very much. Mr. Secretary, can you say if the President was unequivocal in his view that Russia did interfere in the election? Did he offer to produce any evidence or to convince Mr. Putin?

SECRETARY TILLERSON: The Russians have asked for proof and evidence. I'll leave that to the intelligence community to address the answer to that question. And again, I think the President, at this point, he pressed him and then felt like at this point let's talk about how do we go forward. And I think that was the right place to spend our time, rather than spending a lot of time having a disagreement that everybody knows we have a disagreement.

MR. SPICER: Thank you, guys, very much. Have a great evening.

END

7:41 P.M. CET

Background Briefing on the President's Trip to France, 7/11/2017

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 11, 2017

Background Briefing on the President's Trip to France, 7/11/2017

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

3:32 P.M. EDT

AIDE: Good afternoon. For your recording purposes, this background briefing on the President's upcoming foreign travel is off-camera and not for broadcast. Attribution for your briefing is senior administration official. This information will be embargoed until the conclusion of the briefing and we'll release a transcript afterwards.

Okay, so open remarks and when my colleague calls on you, please identify who you are, and your outlet, so he knows who he's speaking with. Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Thanks for being here. For the next few minutes I'd like to brief you on the President's upcoming trip to Paris later this week.

The President will arrive in Paris midmorning on Thursday, July 13th to conduct meetings with President Macron of France and to participate the next day in annual Bastille Day celebrations at the invitation of President Macron, and the First Lady will also accompany.

On arrival on Thursday morning, the President will move to the U.S. Embassy for a meet-and-greet with embassy staff and also with U.S. participants who will be in the Bastille Day festivities on the following day, Friday.

Following the meet-and-greet, he will have a working lunch with senior members of his delegation and senior U.S. military leaders participating in the ceremonies. They include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Joseph Dunford; the Commander of U.S. European Command and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Mike Scaparrotti; and the Army Vice Chief of Staff, General James McConville.

Later in the afternoon, the President and First Lady will be greeted by President and Mrs. Macron at the Hotel Invalides. And while there, they will be hosted for a tour of the tomb of Marshal Foch, who was the Supreme Allied Commander at the end of World War I, the French National War Museum, and also the tomb of Napoleon.

The tour will be followed by bilateral meetings with President Macron and his senior advisors. The meeting will focus on Syria and counterterrorism topics. We also anticipate the two Presidents, in the introductory one-on-one meeting, will also share perspectives from the recent G20 meeting.

The bilateral discussion will be followed by a press event where President Macron and President Trump will make remarks followed by questions from the media.

Later that evening, the President and the First Lady will be hosted for a private dinner by President and Mrs. Macron.

On Friday, July 14th, the President and First Lady will participate as guests of honor in the annual Bastille Day ceremonies on the Avenue des Champs-Élysées. This is the French National Day.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the entry of American troops onto French soil and into World War I. As they do every year, French troops from all of the French military services will participate. This year will also feature participation by U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines from the Army's 1st Infantry Division -- of note because this was also the first U.S. unit to enter France and actually participated in the Bastille Day festivities in 1917 and was the first U.S. unit to go into combat -- the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which is also based in Europe; the 10th Mountain Division; U.S. Army Europe's 7th Army Training Command; sailors from U.S. Naval Forces Europe; airmen from U.S. Air Forces Europe; and Marines from U.S. Marine Forces Europe.

The U.S. Air Force demonstration team, the Thunderbirds, will also participate and conduct a fly-over during the ceremony. And there will be one U.S. naval aviator who will pilot a French Rafale fighter plane as part of the festivities. Three U.S. veterans of the Normandy invasion will also be present.

At the conclusion of the Bastille Day ceremonies, the President and First Lady will depart.

So that's a quick overview of the President's trip. I'm happy to take your questions at this time. Yes, ma'am.

Q I had two questions, sort of unrelated. On climate, you did mention that those were the subjects. So is that just completely off the table, or is the President going to entertain any discussions on that? Obviously very contentious with President Macron. My second question has nothing to do with that, so I can wait until after you answer that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Right, sure. The conduct of the bilateral session which is scheduled for something like an hour, an hour and 15 minutes, is based on topics that were coordinated with the French President. It's entirely possible that President Macron will raise the issue. And if he does, the President has spoken on the issue a number of times and he'll be ready to engage in that as well.

Q I mean, did they discuss that enough during the G20 Summit? Is that why it's not being prioritized this time around? Or is there any reason?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I can't speak for the French. They asked to focus the discussion on Syria and CT, but it's entirely possible that it may come up on the margins.

Q Got it. Totally unrelated topic, but since we have you, the BBC was reporting today that President Trump will not have an official visit to the UK this year -- maybe not a state visit either. We're trying to kind of determine what the plan is. He said he's going to go last week. So if you don't mind, if you have any clarity on that, that would be great.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, what we know about that is that the United Kingdom has extended an invitation for a state visit, the President has accepted, and the timing is being worked out between the two governments right now.

Yes, ma'am.

Q What are you guys hoping to accomplish with this trip? Obviously it's really short. Is there anything by way of deliverables that you could expect? Or what's the goal here?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, let's keep in mind what the, sort of, centerpiece of the trip is, which is the French National Day and its celebration of the 100th

anniversary of U.S. forces entering World War I -- an entry which was really decisive, historically. The French Army had sustained horrendous losses over three years of war; Russia had just fallen out of the war because of the Bolshevik Revolution, so a million German forces were being transferred to the Western Front. And so while we certainly didn't win the war by ourselves, the American contribution was decisive in the outcome of the war.

So I think that's the primary reason of this particular visit at this particular time. The national guest of honor, the nation which is the guest of honor, is the United States for this year's Bastille Day celebration, and the President and First Lady have been invited as guest of honor for that. And so, of course, while there they're going to use the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest, but that's really the centerpiece of this visit.

Yes, sir.

Q We saw the President and President Macron talking a lot on the sidelines at the G20. They seemed to spend a significant amount of time together, and you seem to mention that as separate from the Syria and counterterrorism things. So I'm wondering if there were specific policies or topics that they were going to want to follow up on in this bilat.

And then, secondly, if you could kind of put the President's visit and how you see it into, I guess, the broader context of what President Macron has been trying to do in his, sort of, first months in office. Obviously, President Putin was visiting a few weeks ago. He's kind of had a number of these big events. Just kind of maybe some insight into how you -- what you see as some of their reason for wanting to do this.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Pretty broad question. Of course, the President is going to be prepared to discuss a wide range of topics. I think that goes without saying. But we expect most of the discussion to focus on what's going on in Syria right now, and then the French and American cooperation both inside the alliance and bilaterally with respect to that, and counterterrorism issues not only in Syria, but in other places.

I think I'll just leave it at that. Yes, ma'am.

Q You said the two leaders would be sharing perspectives from the G20. Can you elaborate on that? What specifically -- which specific perspective does President Trump hope to share with President Macron?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, what I mean by that is both leaders had a number of pull-asides and bilateral exchanges with other heads of state. And what we expect is that President Macron and President Trump, when they have their private one-on-one session, will probably ask each other about those: What were your impressions of your meeting with, I don't know, Prime Minister May or President Putin, or whatever. I think that's highly likely.

And then, after the one-on-one session, they will move into a group session where their senior advisors will come in and they'll get on with the more formal agenda. That's what I meant by that.

Yes, sir.

Q Can you characterize the dynamic between President Macron and President Trump during those G20 meetings, and whether the issue of migration came up, and if that's something that they're going to talk about during this visit?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't believe they had a formal bilateral session at the G20. And the reason is because they've spoken at length a number of times before and knew they were going to be meeting in Paris this week. So that's the -- I guess that's the answer to that.

More generally, I would characterize the relationship between the two of them as being very positive. I've personally been present at a number of phone calls between the two of them. I see the chemistry as being very good. There are some issues where we see the world a little bit differently, but many issues where we see the world more or less the same. The French are and have been, and will be, very close security partners of ours who cooperate in many different domains and on many different issues. And I think the relationship, still in its early stages, is a very, very good one.

Q Can I follow up on that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure.

Q There was a lot made of the body language between Macron and Trump in their two handshakes. There was one at the G20, too, where they had this sawing motion, this sort of strong handshake. Is there anything larger to say about that? Are they rivals? Are they entering into a rivalry here in any way? Can you expand on that?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't want to get into characterizing body language. I do share with you -- my personal observation has been that their chemistry is quite positive and very good. President Macron really is an innovative, charismatic guy who's trying to do some different things in France, and his political party didn't exist a couple of years ago. So in that respect, he's been a real trailblazer. And I think both of them think they have some things in common in their experience. Obviously, many differences, but some things in common. So I see it as a very positive developing relationship.

In the back. Yes, ma'am.

Q Can you talk about -- are you expecting any sort of protests at all during the President's time there?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Always possible. But President Macron has indicated he doesn't expect to see anything of particular note on this, certainly nothing like we see at all the G20 events.

Yes, sir.

Q Thank you. A couple for you. First, I know that Secretary Mattis has been asking NATO partners to pony up troop contributions for the new strategy. Does the United States at this point have everything it needs from France, or will the President be asking President Macron directly for troop contributions?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The President is consistent in this message whenever he meets NATO as a body, or whenever he meets his counterparts among the NATO allied nations. France is currently spending 1.8 percent of its GDP, so it's very close to the 2 percent target that was agreed at Wales in 2014. And their numbers are trending in a positive direction, and they've assured the President that they have every intention of meeting the Wales targets, which are supposed to be met by 2024.

I sort of remind the audience that France is far and away one of the largest and strongest military members of the alliance and spends an awful lot of defense right now, and carries a heavy load in the counterterrorism fight, in particular in places so that really we don't have to. So when you consider that the Sahel, for example, is half the size of the United States, and the French are carrying on the counterterrorism effort there with 4,000 or 5,000 French soldiers, I mean, their contributions are great.

I think the President is happy with where France is and doesn't see that as a particular issue.

Q And then, on a lighter note, are there cultural sights that the President would like to see while he's in Paris?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, he's not going to be there very long, but, yeah, I think what he's going to see at the Invalides is going to be great. That's where the French President would like to take him. So there's going to be a real photo opportunity there. And then, if you've ever been on the Champs-Élysées for Bastille Day, it's pretty spectacular. There's not a lot of time, given the meetings that they've scheduled for the President to see other sights.

Yes, please.

Q Thank you, sir.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: You're from where, please?

Q Oh, I'm from NHK Japan. So we're hearing reports that Chancellor Merkel is going to be meeting with President Macron on July 13th in Paris, before the meeting with Trump. Is there any possibility that President Trump will also have the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Merkel, or that the three of them will be able to meet?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, I don't think so. That's not on the schedule right now. We're aware that President Macron and his senior team are meeting with Chancellor Merkel and her senior team all through the morning of the 13th. I think they finish at something like 2:30 p.m. in the afternoon. But there's no plan right now.

The President, as you're aware, met at some length with Chancellor Merkel at the G20.

Yes, ma'am, right here.

Q Is there going to be any discussions of any trade issues while they're there? T-TIP? Any bilateral? Any trade at all?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Always possible. There's an hour and 15 minutes blocked. They may run a little bit longer than that. Obviously, the President is always ready, willing and able to talk about issues of importance to the American worker and to the American economy. And there's every possibility that it will be raised. But we've been asked to focus on preparing, and the President has been focused on preparing specifically for Syria and CT topics.

Yes, sir.

Q Thank you, sir. From your understanding with the conversations that President Trump and President Macron have had so far, do they view the threat posed by radical Islamic terrorism in the same way?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think there's a lot of commonality in their worldview and in their perspective. I don't know if I would go so far as to say that it's an identical perspective, because obviously the French experience is different from ours. But broadly speaking, I would say they see the threat in much the same way. Yes.

Q Also, just to follow up -- after the events on the Champs-Élysées, President Macron is traveling down to Nice, France --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: He is.

Q -- for the memorial associated with the events of last year -- the terrorist act last year. Did President Macron extend an invitation to President Trump to go down with him to Nice as well?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, no, he did not. Although the President will address that event, I think, in his remarks.

Yes, please.

Q Tara McKelvey, BBC. I know that the U.S. and France have had a close military relationship in the past, and it seems like you're trying to build on this. So could you tell us a little bit of what the President has said about France? Like, is he looking forward to the trip to Paris? How does he see the relationship between the two countries?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: When the President -- President Macron asked him if he would -- so they extended a formal invitation, a written invitation, and then, in a subsequent phone call when President Macron asked him to come, he was excited to tender the invitation in person, and President Trump was very excited to respond to it and to accept the invitation. So, yes, I think he's very excited. The First Lady is very excited. Anytime that you can go visit a couple like the Macrons in the City of Light, it's pretty tremendous.

On this particular day, however, it's got added significance. So I think the President is excited and very much looking forward to that.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Ayesha Rascoe with Reuters. There was some talk after the G20 that the U.S. was a bit isolated, especially on issues like climate change. Do you feel like -- or does the administration feel like this trip to France is, at all, a way of showing that the U.S. is still engaged in international issues and still kind of leading on the world stage?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, the U.S. is engaged in international leadership. It is engaged on the world stage. The President -- every leader at the G20 came in with a request to meet personally with President Trump. So I think that that pretty much says it all right there.

Yes, please.

Q I'm Jackie from CBS.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Hi, Jackie.

Q You just spoke in pretty glowing terms about the city of Paris, which isn't the way the President has spoken of the city in the past. He said it's not what it used to be. Will he clarify those remarks at all?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I don't think the President is going to clarify earlier remarks. From everything that I've seen and everything that I've heard, the President has got very positive feelings about the city of Paris, and the people who live in Paris, and the French nation more generally.

Q Well, he spoke pretty disparaging of the city during the campaign.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'm not in a position to characterize that. I can only tell you what I've seen and heard since I've been here.

Q Okay. And then, just once more, is there a reason that this visit was prioritized? I'm sure he gets lots of invitations to visit other countries.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, there are few allies that are closer than France. And I think when President Macron asked, the President was happy to accept.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Can you tell us which administration official principals are going to be accompanying the President on this trip?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes. The White House Chief of Staff will accompany, the National Security Advisor, and the Homeland Security Advisor will accompany. We will also meet Chairman General Dunford in Paris.

Yes, please.

Q Just a point of clarification. This will be a press conference with questions -- two questions each. Is that --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That's right. I think both President Macron and President Trump will make brief remarks, perhaps 10 minutes each. And they'll be followed by two questions for President Macron and two questions for President Trump -- is the format.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Does the U.S. have a position on an EU Army and just defense integration, period? I ask that because you said they would be talking about Syria. We've been told that they'll be talking about the military. And I'm wondering what the position is on that, especially with respect to NATO.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Right. I think our position about an EU Army can be pretty simply summed up. Where additional European security measures and capabilities can be brought to bear in the service of American interests and European interests -- and, of course, they're conjoined in so many ways -- then I think we support it.

Where an EU Army might evolve over time and become, in some ways, a competition to the NATO Alliance -- which we see as the primary security provider for the transatlantic union -- then I think we might have some questions and we would want to engage on that.

Yes, ma'am.

Q Can I just ask you a (inaudible) kind of question? Can you describe whether the President has ever talked about his previous visits to Paris? Is there any color that you can add about him ever rhapsodizing about visiting Paris before? And also, will he return to the White House or will he return to New Jersey?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, I'm not in a position to characterize or add color to that particular question. And I wish I could, but I'm just not in a position to do that. He's going to return to the United States --

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't think that (inaudible) put out yet.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't know if they nailed that down.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can't say yes, but we'll keep you posted.

AIDE: We have time for two more questions and then we have to wrap things up.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Or zero, if you don't have any.

AIDE: Or zero. (Laughter.)

Q With President Trump requesting that NATO countries spend more on defense, that could benefit the French industrial complex significantly. Is that a piece of the conversation? Is Donald Trump going there to try to make sure that big countries also buy American weaponry as they ramp up, and not just go to the French?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah. You know, part of the conversation that usually gets left out is that there's a 2 percent goal, but there's a 20 percent goal. And the 20 percent goal is just as important. And that's a commitment to spend at least 20 percent of national defense spending for NATO allies on actual capability, on equipment. Right? Because there are lots of things that you can spend defense funds on that would mean very little in the way of actual capability for NATO. And the French are very serious about that.

You probably saw, from the President's trip in Warsaw, the announcement that the Poles are going to do a big buy of our Patriot Air Defense Missile System and also the HIMARS system, which is sort of a long-range rocket artillery system.

So where it makes sense, where there's a market, and where's there's interest in American technology -- which is the best in the world -- then, yes, the President is going to press that. But these are national decisions. Of course, France has its own military industry as well, and they're going to take that into account also.

Yes, sir.

Q Thank you. Jake Turx, Ami Magazine. You had mentioned just earlier that part of the trip is to highlight World War I. And my question is, is there any particular message that the administration might want to be focusing in on, particularly draw any parallels between World War I and any events that are going on in the world today?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, thank you very much. I'm sure the President will mention that -- address that in his remarks. So the fact that we participated in such a major way in World War I, side by side with the French, is a clear parallel to what we're doing today. We still live in a dangerous world. We still live in a world that has many, many threats.

The French were strong allies -- so, with us in Afghanistan, in the Gulf War. There were with us in the Korean War, as well. So we have a long history -- not always marching in lockstep, but real friends and real allies. And so there are clear parallels to our partnership and our alliances 100 years ago and today, no question about that. That's a big part of why the President is going to be there this week.

I think that's all we have time for. Thanks very much.

END

3:55 P.M. EDT

Press Briefing Call on the Vice President's Trip to Latin America

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 11, 2017

Press Briefing Call on the Vice President's Trip to Latin America

Via Teleconference

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: The Vice President is traveling to South and Central America, as my colleague said, to visit Colombia, Argentina, Chile, and Panama. These are

four key partners and friends of the United States and each in their own way are emblematic of a positive direction that we've seen in Latin America -- open markets, strong democracies.

The Vice President will meet with President Santos in Colombia, visit with President Macri in Argentina, Bachelet in Chile, and Varela in Panama. And many of these, he's either joined the President here in the White House or hosted in the West Wing, and also had phone calls. So looking forward to reengaging with those four key leaders.

We're going to further our close economic and security ties. We'll express to all four the support for important economic reform efforts across the region, and, again, share concerns with the disturbing collapse of democracy in Venezuela that I'm sure will be raised in all the stops.

Honing down a little bit in each country -- in Colombia, our visit to Cartagena will highlight our strong bilateral ties with Colombia. That includes our support for the country's efforts to address some serious challenges of implementing its peace accords. They are reducing historic levels of drug cultivation which was at an all-time high. And we'll also highlight our significant trade and investment relationships. You'll see that theme through all four stops. Underpinning our bilateral trade promotion agreement that's been in place since 2012.

The Vice President is also going to underscore the helpful role Colombia is playing to increase pressure on the Maduro regime. He's going to call on Colombia to continue to take actions against the Maduro regime and assist with other regional actors to do the same.

Then, as my colleague said, we'll transit to Argentina. In Argentina, the Vice President is going to highlight President Macri's bold reform agenda, the reemergence of Argentina into a position of global leadership. They'll be hosting -- Argentina will be hosting the WTO ministerial later this year. And I'm certain you'll hear from President Macri -- they're hosting the G20 in 2018, which is huge for them and for us, as well.

The Vice President will also deliver, as my colleague said, a major policy address in Buenos Aires. We'll outline a vision of productive engagement with likeminded partners across the region. And we'll talk about our shared commitments to security, to prosperity, and to democracy.

We'll then fly down to Chile. We'll recognize Chile as a leader and a model for open and integrated economy, their solid, stable democracy. We'll highlight our successes of our trade relationship, the free trade agreements, and a robust security partnership. And as my colleague mentioned, we'll also highlight the 50th anniversary of the Association of U.S. Chambers in Latin America and the 100th anniversary of the American Chamber there in Chile -- a very historical time for that organization. He'll address that in his speech with U.S. business community leaders. He'll note the positive legacy that our U.S. businesses have in the region, and recommit everyone to fighting corruption and building transparency in the region.

And then our last stop in Panama, the Vice President is going to continue to talk about our bilateral commercial and security relationships. We'll highlight the role of our new successful free trade agreement with Panama. As my colleague said, he will tour at the historic Miraflores Lock and then the new expanded Cocoli Lock. And we'll talk about the historic connection and, really, the past, but more so looking at the future and the future that we're going to build with them in the region.

And as my colleague mentioned, I would imagine in each of these stops we'll talk about Venezuela. All of these countries have demonstrated their clear support for democracy, rejecting the dictatorship of Maduro's regime. A note that the Declaration of Lima -- I believe that was, gosh, a couple days ago now, on the 8th -- 12 countries from the region expressed unanimous support for democracy in Venezuela, and we'll reaffirm that with each of our stops.

So I'll keep it at that so we can go to some questions. Thanks, everybody.

Q Hey. So on Venezuela, obviously, yeah, I imagine that's going to be a big theme. Is there anything, I guess, new that you think can be added to the conversation beyond sort of reaffirming support? Any additional sanctions that could be discussed? Yeah, I guess if you could just give a little more color, sort of like what new or what more might be added on that issue.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, so the important piece with these four countries is it's a multilateral approach, a regional approach. We've been firm in both word and deed against the Maduro regime, and it's important to get others in the region. And these four countries have, but we want to continue to put the pressure on the Maduro regime. We'll talk to economic options, diplomatic options -- every tool that's available. It's not only the United States putting forth pressure on Maduro, but that he's getting it from all sides of the region as well.

Q And one last thing. Any trade deals you expect? I don't know if there was anything, you know, like trade announcements that might be made along the way.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, we anticipate there will be a couple announcements made along the way. We've been working hard with partners and both with Commerce and USTR, and the Vice President will be making a couple announcements while we're there in region.

Q Okay, great. Thank you.

Q Are you anticipating any additional sanctions against Venezuela to be announced during the time that we're there?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: You know, we've got a full range of options available. And obviously, the National Security Council and interagency worked hard to lay out options for the President. I would never want to project our moves for the administration, but we're working through a range of options to give to the President.

Q In terms of trade, is there going to be any talk about the -- there's like the TPP-minus-one that's sort of developing with some of these countries. Is that going to be a topic of discussion?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Trade will be a topic of discussion in all of the stops. We've had good engagements with the leaders, again, during their visits here, and we'll build upon the previous conversations and working with their teams. But absolutely would anticipate bilateral trade discussions with each of these countries.

Q Can you actually just tell us a little bit about whether the Vice President has ever been to any of these countries before? And just talk a little bit more about the relationship -- if he has any beyond just the meetings while the leaders were visiting the White House -- whether he has any past relationships with these leaders.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I can only speak during the time with the administration; he hasn't traveled to the region. I'd have to get back and check on what he did in his time as governor and, I would anticipate, during his time with the Foreign Affairs Committee. But again, I'd have to go back and verify. But during his time as Vice President, he has not been to the region.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, we'll take that as a follow-up on that one. He has met with some of these leaders as they've come to the White House, so that's probably the most recent interaction.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Absolutely, yep. He has hosted -- he has visits on his own and with the President.

Q And just a question if this is happening during this brinksmanship, if you will, over North Korea. And I'm curious if you anticipate the Vice President to address the situation in the Korean Peninsula at all, or if that will be a subject of any of the talks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: You know, the Vice President talks to the President every day. This is obviously at the forefront with our administration and national security. So I would imagine it will be raised. It is a global problem that requires a global solution. With the range of ICBM, it's not just North America that has these concerns. So, if raised, we're ready to address, and it's not leaving the radar screen just because we're leaving the time zone.

Q You talked about a major policy announcement in Argentina. Now you have a country like Colombia and Chile that have a positive trade balance. The U.S. has a positive trade balance with them. That would be an issue. What about immigration? How will you bring immigration

about this trip? And how will you be able to avoid Venezuela overshadowing the rest of the message of this very long visit of the Vice President to Latin America?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, I'll address the latter half first. It's relevant to us and it's relevant to the four countries that we're visiting. So I don't see it as a distractor; I see it as an important discussion point as we talk about the multilateral approach. I guess the parallelism I would make is, during our trip to Asia, North Korea did a test when we were in country there, and it obviously didn't distract from the relationship with the host countries. It's, again, a global problem that requires a global solution. And so I would imagine that will get raised.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I would just chime in on that. I actually think that what the situation in Venezuela demonstrates is the divide between the future of South America and the past of South America. And that will be a theme that will be highlighted throughout the trip, is that Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Panama -- they represent the future -- the future of freedom, opportunity, prosperity, trade, growth, whereas Venezuela is going into the past of dictatorship, oppression. And these other countries that we are highlighting, we're highlighting them because of the relationship and the steps to move forward that they have made. So I think that will be a theme you'll see throughout the trip. So the events that are happening will play into that as well.

So do you want to take the other part of the question?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah. can you just refresh?

Q Yeah, immigration.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yep. We've had the discussions here. We had the discussions with -- we've hosted President Macri, President Santos, Varela. He hasn't had the opportunity to meet Bachelet, but we'll address it. Again, it's important to this administration. We're going to talk about how the importance of a good, solid economy and trade keeps economic migrants from fleeing if they can have jobs. And we're going to talk about any corruption and, again, how we can keep the folks back in their homes. Most of the folks -- most of the immigration issues have not generated from these four particular countries, but they have, again, the regional influence, as we discussed when the Vice President hosted down in Miami at the Northern Triangle Conference, on some of the immediate areas.

So it will be discussed more in a "how can they support the region" and less of immigration proper -- because with these particular countries, they're not leaders in that.

Q In a follow-up, any concern on Argentina? You have their primary elections this weekend. They don't define much but they define a lot. And the Vice President will arrive right after. Will this have an impact? And will there be kind of a message of his support for Macri?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, no -- the timing -- we realize that we're coming in the day after, but he had a good meeting with President Macri here at the White House when the President hosted President Macri. And we look forward to building upon that relationship.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Anybody else?

Q In previous administrations we've seen Presidents ask their Vice President to take on Latin America -- not quite as a special dossier. But we've seen Vice Presidents in the past develop very close relationships not just with their (inaudible), but also with heads of state, heads of government. Has President Trump asked the Vice President to make sure that Latin America gets enough attention? Because it's a time on with what's going on in the world.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, I mean, the President has asked the Vice President, and that's why he is going on this trip. It's important to this administration and that's why we were given the direction from the President to head down.

Q But more specifically, you saw -- I don't want to mention previous Vice Presidents by name to kind of upset everyone, but it's kind of been like an area of specialty for some of these previous Vice Presidents. To take on Latin America is something -- it's their kind of dossier. Is

there a sense that that's part of Vice President Pence's role, to pay special attention to Latin America?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: (Inaudible) special attention to the globe. That's what I've seen as the national security advisor in just a few short months. The President has asked him to go to Europe, to Asia; we just got back from Eastern Europe, the Baltics, and the Balkans, and now to Latin America. It's important to the President and this administration that we get the message out globally, and the Vice President is looking forward to being part of that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: One of the things we'll also talk about is the fact that the United States exports more to the Western Hemisphere than all of Asia combined, and the Vice President will get into that in a little more specificity in some of his remarks. But that will be something we'll highlight.

One other thing I should clarify when I was talking a little bit about the theme: Just to note, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Panama are representing the future of Latin America. I might have said South America, but obviously we're including Central America in that, as well. So, I apologize -- the future of Latin America.

END

Press Briefing on the Attribution of the WannaCry Malware Attack to North Korea

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Issued on: December 19, 2017

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

9:09 A.M. EST

MR. BOSSERT: Good morning, all. Sorry for being a little tardy this morning. I'd like to talk to you today about a cyber issue of significance.

In May of this year, a dangerous cyberattack known as WannaCry spread rapidly and indiscriminately across the world. The malware encrypted and rendered useless hundreds of thousands of computers in hospitals, schools, businesses, and homes in over 150 countries. While victims received ransom demands, paying those demands did not unlock their computers.

This was a careless and reckless attack. It affected individuals, industry, governments. And the consequences were beyond economic. The computers affected badly in the UK and their healthcare system put lives at risk, not just money.

After careful investigation, the United States is publicly attributing the massive WannaCry cyberattack to North Korea. We do not make this allegation lightly. We do so with evidence, and we do so with partners.

Other governments and private companies agree. The United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and Japan have seen our analysis, and they join us in denouncing North Korea for WannaCry.

Commercial partners have also acted. Microsoft traced the attack to cyber affiliates of the North Korean government, and others in the security community have contributed their analysis.

The stability of the Internet and the security of our computers is vital to free and fair trade and the fundamental principles of our liberty. And accountability and cooperation are the cornerstone principles of our cybersecurity strategy.

North Korea has acted especially badly, largely unchecked, for more than a decade. Many of you have reported on that. Its malicious behavior is growing more egregious, and stopping that malicious behavior stops with this step of accountability.

The attribution is a step towards holding them accountable, but it's not the last step. Addressing cybersecurity threats also requires governments and businesses to cooperate to mitigate cyber risk and to increase the cost to hackers by defending America. The U.S. will lead this effort.

President Trump has rallied allies and responsible tech companies around the free world to increase the security and resilience of the Internet. Cooperation between industry and good governments will bring improved security, and we can no longer afford to wait.

We applaud our corporate partners, Microsoft and Facebook especially, for acting on their own initiative last week without any direction by the U.S. government or coordination to disrupt the activities of North Korean hackers. Microsoft acted before the attack in ways that spared many U.S. targets.

Last week, Microsoft and Facebook and other major tech companies acted to disable a number of North Korean cyber exploits and disrupt their operations as the North Koreans were still infecting computers across the globe. They shut down accounts the North Korean regime hackers used to launch attacks and patched systems.

I'm extremely proud of the hard and dedicated work of the intelligence services and cybersecurity professionals. And I'm very happy today to have one of the finest with me.

I'd like to introduce Jeanette Manfra, Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications at DHS. We call today — I call today, and the President calls today, on the private sector to increase its accountability in the cyber realm by taking actions that deny North Korea and the bad actors the ability to launch reckless and disruptive cyber acts.

As responsible U.S. companies join us in this cooperation, it will fall to Jeanette and her leadership team — Chris Krebs, Secretary Nielsen. They're in charge, literally, of coordinating the operations that will protect us.

As we make the Internet safer, we will continue to hold accountable those who harm us or attempt to threaten us, whether they act alone or on behalf of criminal organizations of hostile nations.

With that, I turn it over to Jeanette. Thank you.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY MANFRA: Thank you, sir.

At DHS, cybersecurity is a core mission of ours. And just like preventing terrorism or responding to hurricanes and wildfires, it is a shared responsibility between government, industry, and the American people.

WannaCry is a great example of how this partnership works. It began on May 12th, the Friday before Mother's Day. We first learned that something unusual was happening from our partners in the Asia-Pacific region. As the malware traversed the globe, we received information from our partners in Europe. As the day went on and the National Health Service in the U.K. was impacted, we knew we were dealing with a serious issue, and began to activate our domestic-industry partnership.

By midafternoon, I had all of the major Internet service providers either on the phone or on our watch floor sharing information with us about what they were seeing globally and in the United States. We partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to reach out to hospitals across the country to offer assistance. We engaged with federal CIOs across our government to ensure that our systems were not vulnerable. I asked for assistance from our partners in the IT and cybersecurity industry. And by 9:00 p.m. that night, I had over 30 companies represented on calls, many of whom offered us analytical assistance throughout the weekend.

By working closely with these companies and the FBI throughout that night, we were able to issue a technical alert, publicly, that would assist defenders with defeating this malware. We stayed on alert all weekend but were largely able to escape the impacts here in this country that other countries experienced.

In many ways, WannaCry was a defining moment and an inspiring one. It demonstrated the tireless commitment of our industry partners, a moment that showed how the government and private sector got it right; that our preparation, our investments in cybersecurity, keeping our systems up to date, and sharing information paid off.

Although the WannaCry attack demonstrated our national capability to effectively operate and respond, we cannot be complacent. We are seeing increased activity and sophistication from both nation-states and non-state actors. In many instances, these are the same adversaries we have faced in the past. They are just now operating in a different space.

Most devices are connecting to the Internet, which broadens the threat landscape and compounds the challenge for security practitioners. And there is no sign of these trends abating in the years to come. This is why cybersecurity continues to be one of the most significant and strategic risks to the United States.

In addition to broadening the threat landscape, we see some gaps between what an entity might consider adequate security for themselves or their sector and what is in the public's interest. The American people depend upon critical services and functions, such as electricity, a stable financial system, and dependable communications — all things that enable our modern way of life. Many of these are run by the private sector.

Therefore, in order to ensure the security of these services and functions, we rely heavily on public-private collaboration. This collaboration is entirely voluntary and provides companies with strong liability and privacy protections should they participate.

To ensure adequate security in the private sector, DHS plans to move beyond only offering voluntary assistance to more proactively becoming the world leader in cyber risk analysis and intervening directly with companies when necessary.

Specific to North Korea, we have issued technical alerts to assist network defenders in understanding the types of malware that they're using, and urge them to remove them from their systems so that they cannot continue to have access to our infrastructure. As we learned during the WannaCry attack, these incidents can have life-threatening consequences.

So how did we get here? The Internet was engineered for interoperability, trust, and openness. Innovation and automation equals efficiency and cost savings, but oftentimes the cost of security, which is too commonly an afterthought or bolted on after-market. Attackers only have to be right once but defenders have to be right all the time.

Some say that defending cyberspace is impossible and that attacks are inevitable. I disagree with this assumption. We can take small tangible actions to make the cyber ecosystem safer. Our goal is a cyber environment where a given threat, such as a malicious e-mail, can only be used once before it is blocked by all other potential victims.

We need to get the advantage to the defender. We make it way too easy for attackers by operating independently. Our adversaries are not distinguishing between public and private, so neither should we. Government and industry must work together now more than ever if we are serious about improving our collective defense. We cannot secure our homeland alone. A company can't single-handedly defend itself against a nation-state attacker. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility. We all play a part in keeping the Internet safe.

To prevent another attack like WannaCry, we are calling on all companies to commit to the collective defense of our nation. And this commitment does not end on our borders. As identified in the WannaCry incident, cybersecurity defense is a global challenge. As many as 150 countries had systems infected by this ransomware. And it is only through international partnerships that the United States had time to prepare.

Therefore, we are working to strengthen our international partnerships with cybersecurity centers across the world. We are taking a greater leadership role in cybersecurity at DHS. We seek to drive the market toward more secure, scalable, and interoperable solutions. Ahead of us lie great challenges, but even greater opportunities, which I know we can accomplish by working together.

Thank you very much.

MR. BOSSERT: Thanks, Jeanette. Questions? Sir.

Q Two questions. The United States was apparently a bit slow to publicly identify North Korea at the culprit in all of this. Was there some new evidence that came to the fore that led to making the public conclusion?

The second question is about Marcus Hutchins, who's been identified as an individual who helped out to stop the WannaCry. What's going to happen to him, given the fact that he's been locked up on unrelated charges? Will the U.S. intervene?

MR. BOSSERT: So, two questions there. One, did we do it too slowly? No. My answer is, no. I think the most important thing is to do it right and not to do it fast. We took a lot of time to look through classified, sensitive information. What we did was, rely on — and some of it I can't share, unfortunately — technical links to previously identified North Korean cyber tools, tradecraft, operational infrastructure. We had to examine a lot. And we had to put it together in a way that allowed us to make a confident attribution.

As we move forward and attribution becomes part of our accountability pillar, we can't do it wrong. We can't get it wrong. We can't try to rush it. I think ultimately, at this point, if we had gotten it wrong, it would have been more of a damage to our reputation and national security than it would have been a boom for us to do it quicker.

The second question, I can't comment on the ongoing criminal prosecution or judicial proceedings there. But I will note that, to some degree, we got lucky. In a lot of ways, in the United States we were well-prepared. So it wasn't luck — it was preparation, it was partnership with private companies, and so forth. But we also had a programmer that was sophisticated, that noticed a glitch in the malware, a kill-switch, and then acted to kill it. He took a risk, it worked, and it caused a lot of benefit. So we'll give him that. Next time, we're not going to get so lucky.

So what we're calling on here today is an increased partnership, an increased rapidity in routine speed of sharing information so that we can prevent patient zero from being patient 150.

Q You said that cyber affiliates within the North Korean government were responsible for this. North Korea is a fairly reclusive country. How do you believe, generally, that their cyber operations and their hacking operations work? How does that all piece together, in your mind, from what you've been able to tell? And secondly, you talk about wanting the private sector to do more. Exactly what do you want to see out of the private sector?

MR. BOSSERT: So the difficulty in attribution is often to figure out who is operating the keyboard and on whose behalf. And so those are the two biggest challenges. People operating keyboards all over the world on behalf of a North Korean actor can be launching from places that are not in North Korea. And so that's one of the challenges behind cyber attribution.

We're comfortable in this case, though, that it was directed by the government of North Korea. We're also comfortable in saying that there were actors on their behalf, intermediaries, carrying out this attack, and that they had carried out those types of attacks on behalf of the North Korean government in the past. And that was one of the tradecraft routines that allowed us to reach that conclusion.

That said, how they operate is often a little mysterious. If we knew better, with perfect knowledge, we would be able to address the North Korean problem with more clarity. And part of the larger strategy of increased pressure on North Koreans is to get them to change that behavior.

I mean, my observation: They've got some smart programmers. It's a real shame that their government is leading them down — the use of that — in the wrong direction. If they have smart people there and a free government, they would be positive contributors to the world. I wish that their leadership and despots would get out of the way.

Q So do you think they outsource the majority of these operations? Or do you think this comes from within the actual borders and the actual government of North Korea itself?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, I don't think there's an outsourcing distinction here with the North Korean regime. I think that everything that happens in North Korea happens with, and by, the direction of their leadership.

Q And on the private sector, you want to see them do more?

MR. BOSSERT: The private sector — what we're doing here is improving our own ability to work with them. So there's two halves to this. Remember that what they do is they report to us all the targeted attack vectors that they're seeing. We put it together and share it back out with everybody. So if you're receiving a phishing attack and you report it to us, we can notify the whole country to be on the lookout for that.

So we want them to increase their sharing of information with us. And then, as we move forward and become more sophisticated in this administration, we're going to ask them to look into sharing more technical information on how they're architected and where their exposure points are so we can get a better strategic view of defending ourselves.

Q Tom, the purpose of ransomware is to raise money. So do you have a sense now of exactly how much money the North Koreans raised as a result of this? And do you have any idea what they did with the money? Did it go to fund the nuclear program? Did it go just to the regime for its own benefit? Or where did that money go?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, it's interesting. There's two conundrums here. First, we don't really know how much money they raised, but they didn't seem to architect it in the way that a smart ransomware architect would do. They didn't want to get a lot of money out of this. If they did, they would have opened computers if you paid. Once word got out that paying didn't unlock your computer, the payment stopped.

And so I think that, in this case, this was a reckless attack and it was meant to cause havoc and destruction. The money was an ancillary side benefit. I don't think they got a lot of it.

Q Two things. First, Tom, what is the consequence for this? I understand that we have to have a collective defense of our nation. What is the consequence to North Korea for doing this?

MR. BOSSERT: Well, at this point, North Korea has done everything wrong as an actor on the global stage that a country can do. And President Trump has used just about every lever you can use, short of starving the people of North Korea to death, to change their behavior. And so we don't have a lot of room left here to apply pressure to change their behavior.

It's, nevertheless, important to call them out to let them know that it's them and we know it's them. And I think, at this point, some of the benefit that comes from this attribution is letting them know that we're going to move to stop their behavior. It also allows us to galvanize — back to the question previously — the private sector. In this case, the private sector also acted. Facebook took down accounts that stopped the operational execution of ongoing cyberattacks. And Microsoft acted to patch existing attacks, not just the WannaCry attack initially.

So this is allowing us to call on all likeminded and good, responsible companies to stop supporting North Korean hackers, whether they're operating in North Korea or elsewhere.

And it's, secondarily, an opportunity for us to call on the other countries in the region that were affected to mobilize them to stop that same behavior. Often, North Koreans can travel outside of North Korea to hack, or they can rely on people outside of the country with better access to the Internet to carry out this malicious activity. And we need other countries, not just other companies, to work with us.

Q So then to follow up on this, it seems like there's a different handling of different intelligence assessments. First, on North Korea, there's an elaborate rollout here today where you're calling out North Korea by name for its cyber activities. But take Russia, for example, for interfering in the U.S. election. Why hasn't there been a similar rollout like this to call Russia out for its activities?

MR. BOSSERT: I'm not sure this is all that elaborate, but I'll tell you that there was. I think President Obama called them out. And I think, for what it's worth and underreported, President Trump not only continued the national emergency for cybersecurity, but he did so himself and sanctioned the Russians involved in the hacks of last year.

And so I think that that was the appropriate act. I think he's continued that for another year and will probably continue for that year after that.

Q Have all the sanctions been implemented?

MR. BOSSERT: This was — yeah, this was the Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities. President Trump continued that national emergency, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, to deal with the “unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.”

Now, look, in addition, if that's not making people comfortable, this year we acted to remove Kaspersky from all of our federal networks. We did so because having a company that can report back information to the Russian government constituted a risk unacceptable to our federal networks.

In the spirit of cooperation, which is the second pillar of our strategy — accountability being one, cooperation being the second — we've had providers, sellers, retail stores follow suit. And we've had other private companies and other foreign governments also follow suit with that action.

I think we're leading to take bad actors — whether they be Russia, North Korea, at times China and Iran — off the Internet and knocking them off their game. And I think today is about North Korea, but I welcome the question on Russia. I think we stand with a good record.

Sir.

Q Thanks, Tom. I have a follow-up on that and a separate question. The President has said — sort of casting doubt on the findings about Russian interference — he said, unless you catch the hackers in the act, it's very hard to know exactly who is behind it.

MR. BOSSERT: Very true.

Q Did the U.S. catch the North Koreans in the act on this?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, that's the key here, right? So today, it took us a little while, but we did it in a thoughtful manner because we believe now we have the evidence to support this assertion. It's very difficult to do when you're looking for individual hackers or different groups. In this case, we found a concerted effort.

Q And then, secondly, you mentioned earlier that North Korea has acted especially badly and, you said, largely unchecked for the last decade. Now there's been reporting that the U.S. has actually acted to combat North Korean interference; we've taken actions, reportedly, against their nuclear facilities, in terms of using our own capabilities. Obviously, none of that is being confirmed on the record, but when you say largely unchecked, doesn't that sort of undermine the idea that the U.S. has actually taken action to combat what North Korea is doing?

MR. BOSSERT: No, I think President Trump has made it very clear that his view is that previous administrations of both parties could have done more and should have done more, in his opinion, to apply more pressure on North Korea when the opportunity to do so might have resulted in a better world. And I think, at this point, the cyber issue has come on the heels of his other decisive actions. So it leaves us with little room left to apply additional pressure, but we will continue to apply that pressure campaign without any wavering.

David.

Q Thanks very much for doing this. Can you take us a little more into your attribution process here? You said the leadership of North Korea ordered this. That's not something that would necessarily be visible from the code itself.

MR. BOSSERT: That's right.

Q Can you tell us a little bit about that within the limits of what you can, and whether you believe Kim Jong-un was directly involved in that decision? Can you also tell us a little bit about what you think the motive was? As you pointed out, ransom seemed to be sort of a cover story. Chaos — I can see that, but that's not the usual North Korea m.o.; they usually have something that's a little more concentrated. And your map shows this is all over the place — Indonesia, Japan. So tell us a little bit about that and how attribution got you to intent.

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, so let go backwards on those, if you don't mind — address them in reverse order. One of the difficulties here of this assertion is that it is wanton and reckless. And it's also one of the most troubling attributes of what we've seen in WannaCry, and why it's so important for us to treat this one differently.

The idea here, David, is that what discriminates on the map is not the intent of the attacker, but the quality of the defenses and security of the people that they sought to attack. So the targets in the United States were harder, thanks to people like Jeanette. So they were suffering less.

People in Russia, people in China took this one badly. Some sectors in Great Britain took this one very badly, and so their computers weren't defended properly, in this case — or at least in time; I shouldn't say "properly." We're all struggling to keep up with this increasingly reckless behavior.

So I disagree that they're looking to be more targeted and more sober in their calculus. I think at this point, North Korea has demonstrated that they want to hold the entire world at risk, whether it be through a nuclear missile program or through wanton cyberattacks.

Secondly, it's a little tradecraft, to get to your second question. It's hard to find that smoking gun, but what we've done here is combined a series of behaviors. We've got analysts all over the world, but also deep and experienced analysts within our intelligence community that looked at not only the operational infrastructure, but also the tradecraft and the routine and the behaviors that we've seen demonstrated in past attacks. And so you have to apply some gumshoe work here, not just some code analysis.

Q Had they not been able to take advantage of the vulnerabilities that got published in the Shadow Brokers website, do you think that would have made a significant difference in their ability to carry out the attack?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah. So I think what Dave is alluding to here is that vulnerabilities exist in software. They're not — almost never designed on purpose. Software producers are making a product, and they're selling it for a purpose. When we find vulnerabilities, the United States government, we generally identify them and tell the companies so they can patch them.

In this particular case, I'm fairly proud of that process, so I'd like to elaborate. Under this President's leadership and under the leadership of Rob Joyce, who's serving as my deputy now and the cybersecurity coordinator, we have led the most transparent Vulnerabilities Equities Process in the world.

And what that means is the United States government finds vulnerabilities in software, routinely, and then, at a rate of almost 90 percent, reveals those. They could be useful tools for us to then exploit for our own national security benefit. But instead, what we choose to do is share those back with the companies so that they can patch and increase the collective defense of the country. It's not fair for us to keep those exploits while people sit vulnerable to those totalitarian regimes that are going to bring harm to them.

So, in this particular case, I'm proud of the VEP program. And I'd go one step deeper for you: Those vulnerabilities that we do keep, we keep for very specific purposes so that we can increase our national security. And we use them for very specific purposes only tailored to our perceived threats. I think that they're used very carefully. They need to be protected in such a way that we don't leak them out and so that bad people can get them. That has happened, unfortunately, in the past.

But one level even deeper. When we do use those vulnerabilities to develop exploits for the purpose of national security for the classified work that we do, we sometimes find evidence of bad behavior. Sometimes it allows us to attribute bad actions. Other times it allows us to privately call — and we're doing this on a regular basis, and we're doing it better and in a more routine fashion as this administration advances — we're able to call targets that aren't subject to big rollouts. We're able to call companies, and we're able to say to them, "We believe that you've been hacked. You need to take immediate action." It works well; we need to get better at doing that. And I think that allows us to save a lot of time and money.

So that process is an equities balancing process. I think we've got it right. And I know the United States is, by far, head and shoulders above any other country in the world.

Ma'am.

Q Two things. One, on a matter of policy, is this administration's policy that an attack on a U.S. company constitutes an attack on the U.S. government? How did you get to that conclusion that it's — you're clearly holding the state of North Korea responsible here. So can you explain that policy?

And then on digital currency, I believe — I know you said not much money was raised off this, you don't think — but that seems to be sort of an open space since that does appear to be how the hackers were seeking any compensation.

MR. BOSSERT: Right.

Q What are you doing on that?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, so any cryptocurrency might be difficult to track, so it's both a good and a positive innovation, but also a concern, as we hope it doesn't end up being used for illicit behavior.

In this particular case, our assumption on them not raising a lot of money comes from our belief that the hackers hit targets that then reported to us what they did about it. The targets seem to have reported to us, by and large, that they mostly didn't pay. Some seemed to have tried to pay and then quickly reported to others online and through other media that they weren't getting their computers unlocked, and so the others stopped paying. Does that make sense?

So we were able to track the behavior of the targets in that case.

Q But without that report, you would not have necessarily had visibility into how this cryptocurrency was being used or manipulated?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, I'm going to reserve judgment on that. It is a difficulty that, as a general matter, I'm not sure how we would have tracked a cryptocurrency into this particular country. So I'll have to get back on that.

But I will say that your last question is open — it's not about holding a country accountable; it's about simple culpability. We've determined who was behind the attack and we're saying it. It's pretty straightforward. It's all I've learned about cybersecurity, I learned in kindergarten.

We're going to hold them accountable, and we're going to say it. And we're going to shame them for it. And when we need to increase our collective defenses, we're going to cooperate and we're going to try to trust each other more. And I think companies are demonstrating that trust. I think this President is inspiring that kind of trust. I think he's bringing them together in a way that's got them feeling like we're on their side. And I think it's going to improve our security.

Q Is that why, in this case, you're saying an attack on U.S. companies constitutes an attack on the U.S. government?

MR. BOSSERT: I'm not saying that.

Q That's not the policy? And you're not moving in that direction to make that policy?

MR. BOSSERT: That's not the policy right now, no.

Q How do you expect North Korea to respond after —

MR. BOSSERT: I'm sorry, can you say it again?

Q Yes. How do you expect North Korea to respond after this announcement?

MR. BOSSERT: I hope that they decide to stop behaving badly online. I'm not naïve, and I think they'll probably continue to deny and to continue to believe that they're beyond repercussions and beyond consequences. But I think, at some point, they're going to realize that this President and this country, and the allies that he's rallied unanimously around this cause, will bring them to change their behavior.

And if they don't, this President is going to act on behalf of the United States and its national security interests, and not the national security interests of another country. I think he's been clear on that, and I'm glad he's our President in that regard.

Q Can you say how the President initially interpreted these findings — how many times he was briefed? Was he receptive or did he have any doubts? And then, secondly, Senator Lindsey Graham says there's a 30 percent chance that the President will act to strike North Korea. And if they test another nuclear weapon, that jumps to 70 percent. Do you dispute Graham's claims?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, I have no ability to put a percentage on those outcomes. I'd hate to do so. It doesn't seem productive for me to do so.

That said, the President is briefed regularly by the heads of his intelligence communities, and that's how he received this information.

Sir.

Q So you talked about the 90 percent of times when you guys share information back with companies rather than exploit those vulnerabilities. Was this one of the 10 percent that you guys had held onto?

MR. BOSSERT: So I think there's a case to be made for the tool that was used here being cobbled together from a number of different sources. But the vulnerability that was exploited — the exploit developed by the culpable party here — is the tool, the bad tool. But the underlying vulnerability in the software that they exploited predated and preexisted, I believe, our administration taking power.

And so I don't know what they got and where they got it, but they certainly had a number of things cobbled together in a pretty complicated, intentional tool meant to cause harm that they didn't entirely create themselves. And part of that allowed us to attribute their behavior and their culpability here because we were able to look at where they got different parts and tied them together, and how they did so. And when they tied them together, they used their tradecraft and revealed their hand.

Q I just want to follow up on that a little bit. One of the criticisms that came out in late May after this was that the NSA chose to hoard security holes in operating systems. That's been criticized by Microsoft's Brad Smith, even Vladimir Putin. Brad Smith writing, "This attack provides yet another example of why the stockpiling of vulnerabilities by governments is such a problem." You're talking about private industry needing to step in information sharing, but how much is the U.S. government, specifically the NSA, to blame for this?

MR. BOSSERT: No, not at all. And I think that, while the U.S. government needs to better protect its tools, and things that leak are very unfortunate and we need to apply security measures that prevent that from happening, I think Brad also now appreciates more and better what we hold on to and why we hold onto it. And, in part, he appreciates that more and better, because we made it a transparent process. It's something that we addressed and changed under President Trump's tenure. It's something we've rolled out. And while you're quoting people that have criticized us, I'll tell you back that even the ACL, complimented us for how well that process rolled out.

Q But this isn't some small player. This is Microsoft. I mean, you're talking about —

MR. BOSSERT: Microsoft today — Brad Smith is standing with me on this. He'll stand with me on television if you need him to. Brad is a good partner for this country. And Brad has come out in this particular case and joined us in this attribution. So I think Microsoft is a strong partner. I have absolutely no fear that there's any wedge between us.

Q Okay, but you didn't really answer the question fully, like what I'm trying to get at. You haven't provided the assurance —

MR. BOSSERT: I believe I did, so let me back up and tell you why I thought I did, ma'am. I didn't mean to give you short shrift. The reason I thought I answered it already is in part because Mr. Sanger's question earlier touched on that process. So I'll go back.

What Brad was talking about at that time, at the time that quote was made contemporaneous to that remark, was his belief that we were not adequately weighing the different equities in the process when we held onto tools, or vulnerabilities, that we discovered inside the government. Now

he understands how that process works because we've made it transparent and we've opened it. At the time he made those comments, it was not an open and transparent process.

Q So we're still holding onto tools?

MR. BOSSERT: As I said, we hold onto about 10 percent, give or take, of the vulnerabilities that we find for the purpose of national security exploitation.

Q So how does that make the private industry feel comfortable this can't happen again if you're still doing that and not providing 100 percent —

MR. BOSSERT: We don't use them to attack anyone indiscriminately. We certainly didn't attack 150 countries and hundreds of thousands of computers. The North Koreans took a vulnerability, modified it into a weapon, and deployed it recklessly — not the United States.

I'm going to wrap that —

Q Last question.

MR. BOSSERT: Can I go last question?

Q Yeah, just one more follow-up to what Margaret had asked you about cryptocurrency while we have you here. You said it's difficult to track. Sarah had told us a couple of weeks ago that you were monitoring it. What exactly is being monitored, and why are you monitoring it? What is the administration's position on this seemingly booming industry?

MR. BOSSERT: Yeah, we don't have a formal position on block-chain currencies and cryptocurrencies at this point. Block-chain technologies operate in a way that there's, I guess, great hope and promise. They also have some — they also present some security risks and concern for us.

And so I think what Sarah meant to tell you is that I track and monitor this very closely from a security perspective, because among other things, I'm not only advising on cyber policy, but also on counterterrorism policy.

And so what we want to make sure is that block-chain cryptocurrencies aren't being used to support illicit behaviors in ways that we can't discover. But we have other people in the administration equally following it for the promise it provides economically and from a trade perspective. So we don't have any negative or positive view on it right now, but we have to monitor it closely as this new technology is becoming quite, quite, I guess, expensive — lucrative.

Q Does it need regulation?

MR. BOSSERT: Not prepared to say that now. Thank you.

Q How many future trips to Puerto Rico — are you guys (inaudible)?

MR. BOSSERT: I'll tell you what, I'll give you a full briefing on Puerto Rico. I try to track it regularly. The administration is tracking it regularly. And as for current trips, the Secretary of Homeland Security is there today, Kirstjen Nielson, with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Housing is a major challenge for us in Puerto Rico. The Governor is doing a great job, but he's got a large problem here as we move forward with 55 percent of his housing population in informal housing.

Q Power too, obviously?

MR. BOSSERT: Power is making strong recovery. We're up over, I think, 65 percent in terms of power restoration, which is 65 percent of the load capacity, which is a significant milestone. We're hoping to get to 70 by the end of the year. So we'll see how that tracks. Pretty close to what we set for ourselves in an aggressive target. But Puerto Rico is on my mind on a regular basis and the President's as well. And he sent Kirstjen and Ben Carson down to see what's happening.

Q Thank you.

MR. BOSSERT: Thank you. Thanks all.

END

9:43 A.M. EST

14.

ИНТЕРВЬЮ

Donald Trump Super Bowl interview with Fox News' Bill O'Reilly

O'Reilly: So another big week for the Trump administration. Judge Gorsuch, that rollout went very smoothly, I think.

Trump: Yes it did, yes it did.

O'Reilly: But the refugee deal, not so much.

Trump: I think it was very smooth. We had 109 people out of hundreds of thousands of travelers and all we did was vet those people very, very carefully.

O'Reilly: You wouldn't do anything differently if you had to do it over again? Some of your people didn't really know what the order was.

Trump: Well, that's not what General Kelly said. General Kelly — who's now Secretary Kelly — he said he totally knew, he was aware of it, and it was very smooth. It was 109 people.

O'Reilly: Let's talk about Iran, your assessment. Do you think we're on a collision course — we being the United States — with that country?

Trump: I think it was the worst deal I've ever seen negotiated. I think it was a deal that never should have been negotiated —

O'Reilly: The nuclear deal?

Trump: Absolutely. The deal that was made by the Obama administration. I think it's a shame that we've had a deal like that and that we had to sign a deal like that and there was no reason to do it and if you're going to do it, have a good deal.

We gave them \$1.7 billion in cash, which is unheard of, and we put the money up and we have really nothing to show for it.

O'Reilly: Possible you'll tear it up?

Trump: We'll see what happens. We're going to see what happens. I can say this: They have total disregard for our country. They are the number one terrorist state, they are sending money all over the place, and weapons, and you can't do that.

O'Reilly: Sanctions, that's how you're gonna start with them. But you're moving a carrier right?

Trump: I never talk about military moves. I always criticized President Obama with having an announcement that they're going into Mosul. They give the name, the date the time. I don't believe in that.

O'Reilly: So you're not real bullish on Iran at this point.

Trump: I'm not bullish. I think they have total disrespect for our country and I understand that deal. I would have lived with it if they said "OK, were all together now," but it's just the opposite. It's like they're emboldened. They follow our planes, they circle our ships with their little boats and they lost respect because they can't believe anybody could be so stupid as to make a deal like that.

O'Reilly: You talked to Putin last week. You had a busy week last week.

Trump: Busy week and a half.

O'Reilly: Do you respect Putin?

Trump: I do respect him but —

O'Reilly: Do you? Why?

Trump: Well, I respect a lot of people but that doesn't mean I'm going to get along with him. He's a leader of his country. I say it's better to get along with Russia than not. And if Russia helps

us in the fight against ISIS, which is a major fight, and Islamic terrorism all over the world — that's a good thing. Will I get along with him? I have no idea.

O'Reilly: But he's a killer though. Putin's a killer.

Trump: There are a lot of killers. We've got a lot of killers. What do you think — our country's so innocent. You think our country's so innocent?

O'Reilly: I don't know of any government leaders that are killers.

Trump: Well — take a look at what we've done too. We made a lot of mistakes. I've been against the war in Iraq from the beginning.

O'Reilly: But mistakes are different than —

Trump: A lot of mistakes, but a lot of people were killed. A lot of killers around, believe me.

O'Reilly: Let's talk about Mexico. There's a report that you talked to President Nieto and you told him — this was the report, I want to know if it's true or not — that if his army couldn't handle the drug cartels, that U.S. army soldiers would. Did you say that?

Trump: We have to do something about the cartels. I did talk to him about it. I want to help him with it. I think he's a very good man. We have a very good relationship, as you probably know. He seemed very willing to get help from us because he has got a problem, and it's a real problem for us. Don't forget those cartels are operating in our country. And they're poisoning the youth of our country.

O'Reilly: At this point, do you consider Mexico a corrupt country? Because this stuff has been going on for decades.

Trump: I love the people. I really like this administration. I think he's a good man. We get along very well. But they have problems controlling aspects of their country. There's no question about it, and I would say the drugs and the drug cartels, No. 1.

O'Reilly: Have you figured out what kind of a tariff you're gonna levy on Mexico to pay for the wall?

Trump: Well, right now it's very unfavorable. Right now, we're losing our jobs to Mexico. You look at the plants, these massive plants. Now I have to tell you, I've turned it around already, I've turned it around. You see that. Ford has been phenomenal. They cancelled a plant. They're building tremendous ...

O'Reilly: Yeah, you intimidated them. They're afraid of you.

[crosstalk]

Trump: I don't know if they're afraid of me. They wanna do what's right.

O'Reilly: They wanna do what's right? Why didn't they do what was right in the past? They're afraid of you.

Trump: Because the wrong people spoke to them. But they're gonna do what's right, and they're bringing jobs back to Michigan and Ohio and Pennsylvania and all the places that have lost their jobs. That's already happening. I think you're gonna see tremendous job growth in this country.

O'Reilly: Let's turn to domestic policy. I just spent the week in California. As you know, they are now voting on whether they should become a sanctuary state. So California, and the USA, are on a collision course. How do you see it?

Trump: Well, I think it's ridiculous. Sanctuary cities, as you know, I'm very much opposed to sanctuary cities. They breed crime, there's a lot of problems. If we have to, we'll defund. We give tremendous amounts of money to California — California in many ways is out of control, as you know. Obviously the voters agree, otherwise they wouldn't have voted for me.

O'Reilly: So defunding is your weapon of choice?

Trump: Well it's a weapon. I don't want to defund a state, a city.

O'Reilly: But you're willing to do it?

Trump: I don't want to defund anyone. I want to give them the money they need to properly operate as a city or state. If they're going to have sanctuary cities, we may have to do that. Certainly that would be a weapon.

O'Reilly: Is there any validity to the criticism of you that you say things you can't back up factually, and as the president, if you say, for example, that there are 3 million illegal aliens who voted and then you don't have the data to back it up, some people are gonna say that it's irresponsible for a president to say that. Is there any validity to that?

Trump: Many people have come out and said I'm right. You know that.

O'Reilly: I know, but you've gotta have data to back that up.

Trump: Let me just tell you. And it doesn't have to do with the vote, although that's the end result. It has to do with the registration. And when you look at the registration and you see dead people that have voted, when you see people that are registered in two states that voted in two states, when you see other things, when you see illegals, people that are not citizens, and they're on the registration rolls. Look, Bill, we can be babies, but you take a look at the registration, you have illegals, you have dead people, you have this. It's really a bad situation. It's really bad.

O'Reilly: So you think you're gonna be proven correct in that statement?

Trump: Well, I think I already have. A lot of people have come out and said that I am correct.

O'Reilly: But the data has to show that 3 million illegals voted.

Trump: Forget that. Forget all of that. Just take a look at the registration, and we're gonna do it, and I'm gonna set up a commission, to be headed by Vice President Mike Pence, and we're gonna look at it very, very carefully.

O'Reilly: Well, that's good. Let's get to the bottom of this. 2017, can Americans expect a tax cut?

Trump: I think so, yes, and I think before the end of the year. I would like to say yes.

O'Reilly: Can Americans in 2017 expect a new healthcare plan rolled out by the Trump administration, this year?

Trump: In the process, and maybe it'll take until sometime into next year, but we are certainly gonna be in the process. Very complicated. Obamacare is a disaster. You have to remember, Obamacare doesn't work. So we are putting in a wonderful plan. It statutorily takes a while to get. We're gonna be putting it in fairly soon. I think that, yes, I would like to say, by the end of the year, at least the rudiments, but we should have something within the year and the following year.

O'Reilly: Last question. You get four hours of sleep or some crazy thing like that. When your head hits the pillow, do you ever say to yourself, "I can't believe I'm here. I cannot believe that I'm the president of the United States when I wasn't a politician, I didn't start out this way, that wasn't my life goal?" Does that ever come into your mind?

Trump: Well, I must tell you, the other day, I walked into the main entrance of the White House, and I said to myself, "This is sort of amazing." Or you walk into Air Force One. It's like a surreal experience, in a certain way, but you have to get over it, because there's so much work to be done, whether it's jobs or other nations that truly hate us. You have to get over it.

O'Reilly: Football. How do you see this game?

Trump: Well, I like Bob Kraft. I like Coach Belichick, and Tom Brady is my friend.

O'Reilly: They're all taking gas because of that, you know.

Trump: I know, they're talking a lot of heat. But you know what? They're also getting a lot of popularity out of it. I think they're gonna do very well. Tom's a winner.

O'Reilly: So you're rooting for the Patriots?

Trump: I think the other team is fantastic, though. No, I think it's a fantastic team. Turned out to be a good quarterback. But you know, there's less pressure on the Patriots, because they've been there. Once you've won, once you've done it, and they've done it, once you've done it, there's a lot less pressure. So we'll see what happens. But you know, you have to stick up for your friends, right?

O'Reilly: Sure. Now, Fox Sports is demanding I ask you to make a prediction.

Trump: I hate to make predictions.

O'Reilly: But you have to.

Trump: I hate to do it. I don't even know what are the odds. I guess it's pretty even, two great teams, pretty even, so I'll say the Patriots will win.

O'Reilly: By how many points?

Trump: By eight points.

O'Reilly: All right. That's a good presidential prediction, and we'll see.

Trump: Shouldn't be doing those things, but that's OK.

O'Reilly: You don't need data on that.

Trump: I need no data on that.

O'Reilly: Mr. President, thanks very much for taking the time.

15.

ФАКТ-ЛИСТЫ

Fact Sheet on Cuba Policy

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 16, 2017
Fact Sheet on Cuba Policy

President Donald J. Trump is changing the policy of the United States toward Cuba to achieve four objectives:

Enhance compliance with United States law—in particular the provisions that govern the embargo of Cuba and the ban on tourism;

Hold the Cuban regime accountable for oppression and human rights abuses ignored under the Obama policy;

Further the national security and foreign policy interests of the United States and those of the Cuban people; and

Lay the groundwork for empowering the Cuban people to develop greater economic and political liberty.

Summary of Key Policy Changes:

The new policy channels economic activities away from the Cuban military monopoly, Grupo de Administración Empresarial (GAESA), including most travel-related transactions, while allowing American individuals and entities to develop economic ties to the private, small business sector in Cuba. The new policy makes clear that the primary obstacle to the Cuban people's prosperity and economic freedom is the Cuban military's practice of controlling virtually every profitable sector of the economy. President Trump's policy changes will encourage American commerce with free Cuban businesses and pressure the Cuban government to allow the Cuban people to expand the private sector.

The policy enhances travel restrictions to better enforce the statutory ban on United States tourism to Cuba. Among other changes, travel for non-academic educational purposes will be limited to group travel. The self-directed, individual travel permitted by the Obama administration will be prohibited. Cuban-Americans will be able to continue to visit their family in Cuba and send them remittances.

The policy reaffirms the United States statutory embargo of Cuba and opposes calls in the United Nations and other international forums for its termination. The policy also mandates regular reporting on Cuba's progress—if any—toward greater political and economic freedom.

The policy clarifies that any further improvements in the United States-Cuba relationship will depend entirely on the Cuban government's willingness to improve the lives of the Cuban people, including through promoting the rule of law, respecting human rights, and taking concrete steps to foster political and economic freedoms.

The policy memorandum directs the Treasury and Commerce Departments to begin the process of issuing new regulations within 30 days. The policy changes will not take effect until those Departments have finalized their new regulations, a process that may take several months. The Treasury Department has issued Q&As that provide additional detail on the impact of the policy changes on American travelers and businesses.

Fact Sheet: The United States and India — Prosperity Through Partnership

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 26, 2017

Fact Sheet: The United States and India — Prosperity Through Partnership

President Donald Trump hosted Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the White House on June 26, 2017. The visit reinforced the close ties between the United States and India that have strengthened both great democracies. Highlights of this cooperation include:

Global Partners on Defense and Security

Major Defense Partner. The United States remains a reliable provider of advanced defense articles in support of India's military modernization efforts. United States-sourced defense articles, including the Sea Guardian Unmanned Aerial System, Apache attack helicopters, and C-17 aircraft will further enhance the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces and provide additional opportunities for interoperability. Completion of these sales would increase bilateral defense trade to nearly \$19 billion, supporting thousands of United States jobs. If selected, United State offers to sell F-16 and F/A-18 fighter aircraft to India would represent the most significant defense cooperation between the United States and India to date.

DTTI. The United States-India Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) remains the premier forum for deepening collaboration on defense co-development and co-production. The seven DTTI Joint Working Groups continue to discuss a range of technologies and platforms for potential co-development, including India's participation in the Future Vertical Lift program. DTTI representatives met most recently in April 2017.

Military-Military Engagements. Key military and civilian defense leaders continue to meet via reciprocal counterpart visits and strategic and policy dialogues, promoting closer service ties and improving interoperability among our forces. The annual MALABAR naval exercise, occurring in July 2017 in the Indian Ocean, will be the most complex to date, including participants from the U.S. Navy, Indian Navy, and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. The United States and India also participate in the VAJRA PRAHAR Special Forces exercise, the RED FLAG air force exercise, and YUDH ABHYAS army exercise.

Counter-Terrorism Partnership. The United States and India are committed to combatting terrorism in all its forms and to strengthening cooperation on terrorist screening, intelligence, and information sharing, terrorist use of the internet, and multilateral terrorist designations. Reflecting this partnership, the U.S. Terrorist Screening Center and Indian counterparts are cross-screening known and suspected terrorists for investigative and intelligence purposes.

Law Enforcement Cooperation. The United States has provided anti-terrorism assistance training for more than 1,200 Indian security personnel since 2008.

Facilitating Strategic Trade. The High Technology Cooperation Group (HTCG) facilitates greater civil high technology and defense trade between American and Indian businesses, leveraging India's status as a Major Defense Partner. In 1999, 24 percent of all exports from the United States to India required an export license. Currently, licensed exports still make up only a small percentage of trade with India; in 2016, only 0.4 percent required a license, commensurate with the United States' closest allies and partners.

Committed to Increasing Free and Fair Trade

Trade. Two-way trade in goods and services reached \$114 billion in 2016. With the Indian economy growing at 7 percent annually, both countries are committed to further expanding and balancing the trade relationship.

Aviation. In 2017, Indian airline SpiceJet announced the order of 100 new Boeing 737MAX-8s, bringing its order to 205 planes valued at more than \$20 billion and, according to industry,

creating and sustaining 130,000 American jobs in the state of Washington and elsewhere. At the Paris Air Show in June, SpiceJet announced a preliminary commitment for an additional 20 Boeing aircraft.

India is projected to become the world's third-largest commercial aviation market by 2020. Through the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program, the United States has increased the safety and security of India's rapidly growing aviation sector, and generated over \$600 million in exports of U.S. manufactured goods and services.

Trade Facilitation. The United States and India, both signatories to the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), are working together to implement the TFA's provisions and help lower the cost of trade for both our countries.

Investment. According to the Government of India, the United States is one of the top five destinations for investment from India. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that Indian companies have invested over \$11 billion in the United States economy, creating and sustaining more than 52,000 jobs. Industry sources indicate these investments are spread across 35 states.

Capital Markets. The Department of Treasury and Indian Ministry of Finance continue to collaborate on resolving outstanding tax disputes, building Indian capital markets, and promoting greater bilateral investment. Enhanced technical cooperation includes areas such as the development of India's municipal bond market. The just-completed issuance of a municipal bond for the city of Pune was India's first municipal issuance since 2011.

Powering the New India

Liquefied Natural Gas Exports and Investment. Indian energy companies have signed more than \$30 billion in long-term contracts for U.S.-produced liquefied natural gas (LNG), including from Louisiana and Maryland. Industry estimates that Indian companies have invested more than \$10 billion in the United States LNG and shale sectors.

Nuclear Power. The United States and India are committed to realizing commercial civil nuclear cooperation, in particular through a contract for six Westinghouse Electric AP-1000 nuclear reactors to be built in Andhra Pradesh, India. Once completed, the project will provide reliable electricity for millions of Indian citizens.

Fossil Energy. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency will host a Refineries Performance Optimization Reverse Trade Mission in fall 2017, familiarizing senior executives from Indian refining companies with U.S. technologies that can optimize the performance of India's oil refineries.

Grid Expansion and Modernization. The Department of Commerce will lead a Smart Grid and Energy Storage Business Development Mission to New Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai in March 2018 to showcase U.S. technologies and services that can help India address its grid modernization needs. The two countries also announced the Smart Grid and Energy Storage consortia under the U.S.-India Joint Clean Energy and Research Development Center.

Energy Finance. The U.S.-India Clean Energy Finance Task Force is delivering recommendations to mobilize U.S. technology exports and American and Indian private investment in India's \$1.2 trillion power market. Additionally, the Department of State is facilitating connections between American and Indian industry, state governments, and universities to advance energy solutions.

Expanding Ties Between Our Citizens

Today, nearly 4 million Indian-Americans reside in the United States and over 700,000 U.S. citizens live in India. Last year, the United States Government issued nearly one million visas to Indian citizens, and facilitated 1.7 million visits by Indian citizens to the United States.

Global Entry Trusted Traveler Program. The United States began accepting applications from India for the expedited entry program, facilitating travel in both directions that will lead to more business, investment, and tourism. In 2016, Indian visitors in the United States spent nearly \$13 billion, making India the sixth largest market for U.S. travel and tourism exports.

Skills Development. More than 166,000 Indian students studied in the United States in 2016, contributing \$5 billion in economic activity and supporting some 64,000 American jobs. Over the last decade, Indian students contributed \$31 billion to the U.S. economy.

Entrepreneurship. The United States and India will co-host a Global Entrepreneurship Summit this year in India, focused on supporting women entrepreneurs, and geared toward solving 21st century challenges and improving lives. President Trump has asked Ivanka Trump to lead the United States delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit.

Indian Americans have embraced innovation and entrepreneurship, sitting at the forefront of Silicon Valley's technology revolution, and founding an estimated 15 percent of Silicon Valley startups. They have helped to develop the Pentium chip, fiber optics, and noise canceling headphones, among numerous other innovations.

Tackling Global Challenges

Exploring Space. The United States and India are working together in the exploration of space, from discovering water on the surface of the Moon to sharing data on Mars from our respective orbiters. The joint NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, scheduled for launch in 2021, will help scientists to better understand some of Earth's most complex systems and hazards.

Afghanistan Development. The United States and India support increased stability and prosperity in Afghanistan and their expanded development coordination and cooperation benefits all three countries. India has spent \$2 billion on development assistance to Afghanistan since 2001, and pledged an additional \$1 billion in 2016. In September 2017, the United States will co-sponsor the India-Afghanistan Export, Trade and Investment Fair in New Delhi, to promote expanded Afghan commercial ties with India.

Global Agriculture Cooperation. Fifty years after the Green Revolution helped India to free millions from hunger, the United States and India have trained more than 1,500 agricultural practitioners from 17 countries across Africa and Asia on specialized farming practices to improve productivity and income.

U.N. Peacekeeping Burden Sharing. India and the United States remain committed to U.N. peacekeeping and building the capacity of African partners, training participants from 13 countries and the African Union. The two sides will conduct additional joint training in July 2017 and lead a mobile training team in Africa this fall.

Disease Research and Treatment. For more than 40 years, the United States has collaborated with India on disease research, including tuberculosis (TB), HIV, and rotavirus, and non-communicable diseases – cancer, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases. The United States supports India's ambitious goal to end TB by 2025, through the scale-up of detection, diagnosis, and new treatments for drug-resistant TB.

Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA). As GHSA Steering Group members, the United States and India recognize the importance of strengthening global capacity to counter infectious disease threats. India is working across sectors to address antimicrobial resistance (AMR) stewardship, a key threat to global health security and modern medicine. The United States remains committed to supporting India as it develops and implements multi-sectoral national action plans to combat AMR and two national AMR networks for the use of antimicrobial surveillance.

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Protects American Intellectual Property

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

August 14, 2017

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Protects American Intellectual Property

PRESIDENT DONALD J. TRUMP PROTECTS AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

“Enforcing intellectual property rules alone could save millions of American jobs.” – Then-Candidate Donald J. Trump

INVESTIGATING THEFT: Today, President Donald J. Trump is taking the first step to ensure we protect American innovation and the intellectual property (IP) of American companies.

President Trump is signing a Presidential Memorandum to direct the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to examine whether China should be investigated for unreasonable or discriminatory policies that may harm American IP rights, innovation, or technological development.

President Trump and his Administration have a strong commitment to protecting the IP of Americans and ending the illegal theft and transfer of IP to foreign nations.

USTR will analyze issues raised by the Presidential Memorandum and consult with Government agencies and advisory committees to determine what action, if any, is appropriate.

While there have been serious and consistent allegations of a problem with China and IP theft, President Trump is not prejudging the inquiry and USTR will decide whether to launch a formal investigation and, if so, whether action should be taken and what that action would be.

CHINA PROFITS FROM AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: Reports suggest that China has greatly benefited from the theft of American IP, in some cases forcing American companies to transfer their innovation to benefit China.

According to the 2017 update to the 2013 report of the Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property (IP Commission Report) released by the National Bureau of Asian Research, Chinese government policies lead to the theft of American IP.

China uses restrictions such as joint venture requirements, equity ownership limitations, opaque administrative processes, and other practices aimed at the transfer of United States technology to Chinese companies.

China has gained unauthorized access to the computer networks of United States businesses for commercial purpose and, on a number of occasions, has stolen firms' commercial information.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, China, including Hong Kong, accounts for 88 percent of seized counterfeit goods coming into the United States.

According to the United States Chamber of Commerce, 86 percent of all counterfeit goods worldwide come from China and Hong Kong.

According to the United States Chamber of Commerce, the equivalent of 12.5 percent of China's exported goods are counterfeit.

AMERICA AND ITS WORKERS SUFFER: IP theft directly harms the American economy and American workers.

American workers and companies are directly harmed by theft of IP, which has caused hundreds of billions of dollars in damage to the United States economy.

The IP Commission Report estimates that the annual cost to the United States economy from IP theft could be as high as \$600 billion.

According to the IP Commission Report, China is estimated to be responsible for between 50 percent and 80 percent of all IP theft costs that harm the United States economy.

The United States economy and labor markets depend on American innovation and productivity; the scale and persistence of IP theft directly threatens the economy.

The 81 industries designated as IP-intensive accounted, directly and indirectly, for 45.5 million jobs in 2014, representing 29.8 percent of all jobs in the United States.

As General Keith Alexander, former Director of the National Security Agency, put it: the ongoing theft of IP is “the greatest transfer of wealth in history.”

A PROMISE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: President Trump is following through on his promise to the American people to protect their IP so they can benefit from their innovation.

Then-candidate Trump said, on August 8, 2016:

“Just enforcing intellectual property rules alone could save millions of American jobs. According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, improved protection of America’s intellectual property in China would produce more than 2 million more jobs right here in the United States.”

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Increases Pressure to Cut off Funding for North Korea

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 21, 2017

Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Increases Pressure to Cut off Funding for North Korea
STRONG FINANCIAL SANCTIONS: President Trump today issued a new Executive Order (E.O.) imposing additional sanctions with respect to North Korea.

The provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea constitute a continuing threat to the national security, foreign policy, and, economy of the United States and a disturbance of the international relations of the United States.

The United States is committed to targeting all means used by North Korea to earn, access, and transfer funds that North Korea uses to further its WMD programs.

We must maximize pressure on North Korea to demonstrate to its leadership that the best and only path is to return to denuclearization.

The E.O. also authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to impose sanctions on persons involved in:

Industries: The construction, energy, financial services, fishing, information technology, manufacturing, medical, mining, textiles, or transportation industries in North Korea;

Ports: Ownership, control, or operation of any port in North Korea, including any seaport, airport, or land port of entry;

Imports/Exports: at least one significant importation from or exportation to North Korea of any goods, services, or technology.

TARGETING TRADE AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS: These new authorities target individuals and entities that engage in trade with North Korea as well as the financial institutions that facilitate this trade.

Trade: The E.O. directly targets North Korea’s shipping and trade networks and issues a 180-day ban on vessels and aircraft that have visited North Korea from visiting the United States. This ban also targets vessels that have engaged in a ship-to-ship transfer with a vessel that has visited North Korea within 180 days. North Korea is dependent on its shipping networks to facilitate international trade.

Financial Institutions: The E.O. provides the authority to impose sanctions on any foreign financial institution that knowingly conducts or facilitates any significant transaction on behalf of certain designated individuals and entities, or any significant transaction in connection with trade with North Korea, on or after the date of the E.O.

Under this new authority, the sanctions measures can be either restrictions on correspondent or payable-through accounts or blocking sanctions.

The E.O. also provides the Secretary of the Treasury additional authority to block any funds originating from, destined for, or passing through accounts linked to North Korea that come within the United States or possession of a U.S. person.

Foreign financial institutions must choose between doing business with the United States or facilitating trade with North Korea or its designated supporters.

16.

ДРУГОЕ

President Trump's First Week of Action

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 28, 2017

President Trump's First Week of Action

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S FIRST WEEK OF ACTION

15: Presidential Actions to begin fulfilling his promises to Make America Great Again.

11: Diplomatic conversations with foreign leaders to promote an America First foreign policy.

4: Members of President Trump's cabinet sworn into office.

3: Stakeholder meetings to get input from both workers and business leaders on jumpstarting job creation.

3: Engagements with members of Congress to discuss his agenda.

3: Visits to federal agencies committed to protecting our homeland and ensuring our national security.

1: Official White House visit by a foreign head of state.

1: Reception to honor law enforcement and first responders.

1: Proclamation supporting National School Choice week.

The President's team followed through on his commitment to action, by:

collaborating with 28 federal agencies and departments on a near daily basis.

discussing legislative items with at least 75 House members or their staffs and 35 Senators or their staffs.

making initial contact with governors in each state and territory, and having in-depth discussions with 32 governors or their staff.

discussing issues with 22 state attorneys general.

beginning outreach to our nation's largest municipalities and tribes.

President Trump Used The Power Of His Office To Follow Through On His Promises To The American People

WITHIN HOURS OF HIS INAUGURATION: President Trump moved to protect Americans from ObamaCare, government regulations, and future bailouts.

On the evening of his Inauguration, President Trump sought relief for Americans from the cost burdens of ObamaCare.

Through a memorandum issued by the Chief of Staff, all new regulations were frozen to protect job creators from the crush of new government rules on their businesses.

President Trump put a stop to a reckless action that would have reduced funding for the Federal Housing Authority after it was bailed out by the taxpayers as recently as 2013.

MONDAY: President Trump fulfilled his promise to immediately address trade and jobs by withdrawing from the harmful Trans-Pacific Partnership, put in place a hiring freeze, and protected taxpayer money from funding abortions overseas.

President Trump protected American workers by withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

To stem the tide of an ever growing government, President Trump put in place a hiring freeze on federal civilian employees.

After years of taxpayer money being spent to promote abortions abroad, President Trump reinstated the “Mexico City Policy” to ban such usage.

TUESDAY: President Trump promoted job creation by jumpstarting the construction of two new energy pipelines, requiring the use of American-made materials and equipment in building those pipelines, and reduced the regulatory burden on America’s manufacturing and construction industry.

President Trump began the process to finish construction on the Dakota Access Pipeline after a series of delays.

After years of delays, President Trump signed a presidential memorandum to revive the Keystone XL pipeline.

To make sure Americans benefit from infrastructure projects, the President signed an executive memorandum requiring all new construction and repair of pipelines to use American materials and equipment.

President Trump ordered the Commerce Department to streamline and reduce regulations affecting U.S. manufacturing to help bring factories back to America.

To jumpstart much needed infrastructure projects, President Trump signed an executive order to speed up the environmental impact review of projects.

WEDNESDAY: President Trump followed through on his pledge to protect America’s borders and end the lack of compliance with immigration laws.

Following through on his commitment to protecting the American people, President Trump signed an executive order to improve border security, particularly through the construction of a physical barrier on the southern border.

President Trump signed an executive order to ensure that immigration laws are enforced throughout the United States, including halting federal funding for sanctuary cities.

FRIDAY: President Trump followed through on his top priority to keep America safe.

President Trump signed an executive order protecting the United States from foreign nationals entering from countries compromised by terrorism, and ensuring a more rigorous vetting process.

President Trump issued a presidential memorandum to direct the Secretary of Defense to review our readiness and create plans to rebuild the U.S. military.

President Trump Has Held or Scheduled 11 Conversations With Foreign Leaders To Promote American Interests Around The Globe

On Saturday, President Trump spoke with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico and discussed respect for the sovereignty of both nations.

On Saturday, President Trump also spoke with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the importance of strong U.S.-Canada ties.

On Sunday, President Trump spoke with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel to discuss opportunities to strengthen relations.

On Monday, President Trump spoke with President Abdel Fattah Al-Sissi of Egypt, expressing his commitment for a new push in bilateral relations.

On Tuesday, President Trump spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India to strengthen relations and cooperation.

Today, President Trump spoke again with President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico to discuss bilateral relations, border security and trade.

Tomorrow, President Trump is scheduled to speak with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan

Tomorrow, President Trump is scheduled to speak with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany.

Tomorrow, President Trump is scheduled to speak with President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Tomorrow, President Trump is scheduled to speak with President François Hollande of France.

Tomorrow, President Trump is scheduled to speak with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia.

Four Of President Trump's Nominees Were Confirmed By The Senate And Sworn Into Office

Last Friday, retired General John Kelly was sworn in as Secretary of Homeland Security.

Also last Friday, retired General James Mattis was sworn in as Secretary of Defense.

On Monday, former Congressman Mike Pompeo was sworn in as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

On Wednesday, former Governor Nikki Haley was sworn in as Ambassador to the United Nations.

Following Through On His Commitment To Job Creation, President Trump Held Stakeholder Meetings With Business And Labor Leaders

On Monday, President Trump met with labor leaders to discuss his plans to renegotiate trade deals and put Americans back to work.

Later on Monday, President Trump met with manufacturing leaders to discuss how to bring factories and manufacturing jobs back to America.

On Tuesday, President Trump met with key industry leaders to discuss how the auto industry can bring back American jobs.

President Trump Held Meetings Or Spoke With Congressional Leaders To Discuss His Agenda

On Monday, President Trump hosted Republican and Democrat congressional leaders and chiefs of staff at the White House to discuss the upcoming legislative agenda.

On Tuesday, President Trump met with key Senate leaders to discuss his upcoming choice to fill the Supreme Court vacancy.

On Thursday, President Trump spoke at the Republican congressional retreat in Philadelphia.

President Trump Spoke At The Headquarters Of The CIA, The Department Of Homeland Security, And The Department Of Defense

On Saturday, President Trump spoke at CIA headquarters and told a raucous crowd that he'd have their back as he thanked them for their service to the country.

On Wednesday, President Trump visited the Department of Homeland Security to reinforce his strong belief in protecting America's borders.

On Wednesday, President Trump visited the Department of Defense to highlight his commitment to rebuild our military.

President Trump Hosted U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May

In hosting his first foreign head of state at the White House, President Trump welcomed Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Theresa May.

As One Of His First Actions After Inauguration Day, President Trump Thanked American Law Enforcement And First Responders

On Sunday, President Trump held a White House Reception to honor and thank law enforcement and first responders who helped make his Inauguration safe and successful.

President Trump Proclaimed National School Choice Week

On Thursday, President Trump renewed his commitment to expand school choice for Americans by proclaiming January 22 through January 28, 2017, as National School Choice Week.

The President's Team Is Following Through On His Commitment To Action

President Trump's team has worked to ensure his team is in place at various departments and agencies and working to implement his agenda:

The White House Office of Cabinet Affairs made 140 calls to 28 separate federal departments and agencies to collaborate on various issues.

Cabinet Affairs personally met with 10 Cabinet nominees.

Cabinet Affairs coordinated the swearing in of four cabinet members this week by the Vice President.

President Trump's team has worked to ensure his legislative agenda is well-received in Congress:

The White House Office of Legislative Affairs met or spoke with 110 congressional offices or elected representatives in 75 House and 35 Senate offices.

Vice President Pence had several in-person meetings this week on Capitol Hill.

President Trump's team began outreach to our nation's states, municipalities, and tribes:

The White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs made initial contact with the governor's offices in all of the states and territories.

Intergovernmental Affairs held detailed discussions with the governors or their staff in 32 separate states.

Intergovernmental Affairs made initial contact with 22 of the 50 state attorneys general.

Intergovernmental Affairs has begun outreach to America's largest municipalities, such as Los Angeles County and met with the president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Intergovernmental Affairs made contact with the largest tribes in the country and has begun outreach with many leaders.

President Trump's Second Week of Action

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 04, 2017

President Trump's Second Week of Action

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SECOND WEEK OF ACTION

7: Presidential Actions to Make America Great Again

4: Diplomatic conversations with foreign leaders to promote an America First foreign policy.

4: Meetings to get input from workers and business leaders on jumpstarting job creation.

2: Events for the nomination of Judge Gorsuch to the Supreme Court

2: Events to commemorate African American History Month

2: Members of President Trump's Cabinet sworn in.

1: Bill signed into law

1: Meeting with cyber security experts

1: Commemoration of American Heart Month

1: Speech at the National Prayer Breakfast

1: Letter of Recognition for National Catholic Schools Week

Following Through On His Promise To The American People, President Trump Nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch To The Supreme Court

On Tuesday, President Trump nominated Judge Neil Gorsuch to become Associate Justice on the Supreme Court, filling the seat left behind by the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

The next day, President Trump met with various stakeholders to thank them for their input in making such an important decision.

President Trump Continued To Drain The Washington Swamp And Further Protect All American.

PROTECTING AMERICANS: President Trump signed two executive memoranda to protect Americans and sanctioned the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism in Iran.

On Friday, the Trump administration sanctioned twenty-five individuals and entities that provide support to Iran's ballistic missile program and to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force.

Last Saturday, President Trump ordered a 30-day review and development of a new plan to defeat ISIS.

Last Saturday, to better get advice and information needed to ensure the safety and security of the American people, President Trump signed an executive order that modernized the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Council.

DRAINING THE SWAMP: President Trump used the power of his office to promote government transparency, preventing lobbying influence, and limiting regulatory overreach.

Last Saturday, President Trump signed an executive order establishing new ethics commitments for all Executive branch appointees to limit the influence of lobbyists and Washington insiders.

On Monday, President Trump signed an executive order to reduce government regulations by requiring two existing regulations to be ended if a new one is approved.

On Tuesday, President Trump signed into law the “GAO Access And Oversight Act Of 2017” (H.R.72) allowing the Government Accountability Office to gather records from all federal agencies so it can be more responsive to civil action.

President Trump Continued To Put Jobs Front And Center Through Two Executive Actions And Holding Four Stakeholder Meetings With Labor And Business Leaders

FREEING UP THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM: President Trump made two Presidential actions to better enable the financial system to promote job creation and serve all Americans

On Friday, President Trump signed an executive order to regulate the financial system in a way that protects consumers while promoting economic growth and job creation.

On Friday, President Trump issued a memorandum to prevent the unintended consequences of financial fiduciary rules from limiting economic opportunity and American’s investments.

HEARING FROM STAKEHOLDERS: Throughout the week, President Trump met with labor and business leaders to get input on how best to jumpstart job creation for all Americans.

On Monday, President Trump met with small business owners to get input on how to spur job creation and help businesses like theirs succeed.

On Tuesday, President Trump met with leaders in the pharmaceutical industry to discuss how jobs can be brought back to America and reduce prices so all Americans can afford quality healthcare.

On Thursday, President Trump met with the executives of Harley-Davidson and union representatives to encourage American manufacturing.

On Friday, President Trump met with his economic advisory council to discuss ways to deliver jobs to all Americans.

To Start African American History Month, President Trump Honored The History Of The African American Community And Their Vast Contribution To American Society

On Wednesday, President Trump met with African American community leaders to honor their contribution and listen to their input on what can be done to improve the lives of all Americans.

The same day, President Trump signed a proclamation honoring February 2017 as Black History Month.

Despite Historic Democratic Obstructionism, President Trump Continued To Get His Cabinet Nominees Confirmed By Congress

On Tuesday, Elaine Chao was sworn in as President Trump’s Secretary of Transportation.

On Wednesday, Rex Tillerson was sworn in as President Trump’s Secretary of State.

President Trump Held Three Conversations With Foreign Leaders To Promote American Interests Around The Globe

On Sunday, President Trump spoke with King Salman bin Abd Al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia on creating safe zones in Syria and Yemen to help refugees and strict enforcement of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran.

On Sunday, President Trump spoke with the Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Muhammad bin Zayid Al Nahayyan of the United Arab Emirates to reaffirm the strong partnership between both countries and combating radical Islamic terrorism.

On Sunday, President Trump spoke with Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn of the Republic of Korea on the important of the their mutual alliance and defending against North Korea.

On Thursday, President Trump met with King Abdullah II of Jordan where he conveyed the U.S.'s commitment to Jordan's stability and defeating ISIS.

To Further Protect America's Cyber Security, President Trump Met With Experts

On Tuesday, President Trump held a listening session with cyber security experts to help fulfill his campaign promise of securing America against cyber threats.

President Trump Spoke At The National Prayer Breakfast

On Thursday, President Trump continued to champion repealing the Johnson Amendment to allow representatives of faith to speak freely and without retribution.

President Trump Commemorated American Heart Month

On Friday, President Trump proclaimed February 2017 as American Heart Month.

President Trump Recognized National Catholic Schools Week

On Friday, President Trump issued a letter recognizing National Catholic Schools week.

In Two Weeks Of Action, The President Has Been Relentless In This Effort To Make America Great Again

21 Presidential Actions

16 Meetings With Foreign Leaders

10 Stakeholder Meetings

6 Cabinet Members Sworn-In

4 National Proclamations

3 Agency Visits

2 Speeches

1 Legislation signed into law

1 Supreme Court Nomination

1 Manufacturing Initiative Launch

1 Thank-You Reception

1 Letter Of Recognition

President Donald J. Trump's First Month: Achieving Results for the American People

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's First Month: Achieving Results for the American People

JUMPSTARTING JOB CREATION: President Trump is looking out for American workers that Washington has left behind.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum ordering the United States to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations and agreement.

President Trump hosted the CEO of Intel to announce Intel's plan to invest \$7 billion in a United States factory that will create 10,000 American jobs.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum to clear roadblocks to construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum declaring that the Dakota Access Pipeline serves the national interest and initiating the process to complete construction.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum ordering that all new pipeline construction and repair work use materials and equipment from the United States.

President Trump signed legislation, House Joint Resolution 38, to block the burdensome “Stream Protection Rule” from causing further harm to the coal industry.

President Trump signed legislation, House Joint Resolution 41, to eliminate a costly regulation that threatened to put domestic extraction companies and their employees at an unfair disadvantage.

SAVING TAXPAYERS MONEY: President Trump is fighting to save Americans’ hard-earned tax dollars.

After negotiations with Lockheed Martin, President Trump saved Americans \$700 million on a new batch of F-35 fighters.

Secretary of Defense Mattis has ordered a cost-cutting review of Boeing’s next-generation Air Force One fleet, after President Trump was able to cap the cost at millions below that which was agreed to by the Obama administration.

RESTORING PUBLIC SAFETY: President Trump will work to reduce the threats of crime and illegal immigration to public safety.

President Trump signed an Executive Order to enhance the safety and security of the United States by, among other things, constructing a wall on the southern border.

President Trump signed an Executive Order to make sure Federal immigration laws are faithfully enforced throughout the country and that Americans’ tax dollars do not go to jurisdictions that obstruct the enforcement of immigration laws.

President Trump signed an Executive Order that directs the Attorney General to develop a strategy to more effectively prosecute people who engage in crimes against law enforcement officers.

President Trump signed an Executive Order that establishes a task force, led by the new Attorney General, to reduce crime and restore public safety in communities across America.

President Trump signed an Executive Order that re-focuses the Federal Government’s energy and resources on dismantling transnational criminal organizations, such as drug cartels.

GETTING GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY: President Trump understands that excessive regulations stifle job-creation and harm our businesses.

President Trump signed an Executive Order instructing Federal agencies “to minimize the burden” of the Affordable Care Act.

President Trump has required that for every new Federal regulation, two existing regulations be eliminated.

President Trump directed the Commerce Department to streamline Federal permitting processes for domestic manufacturing and to reduce regulatory burdens on domestic manufacturers.

President Trump signed an Executive Order expediting the environmental review and approval processes for domestic infrastructure projects.

AN AMERICA FIRST FOREIGN POLICY: The President’s first priority is the safety and security of the American people.

Under President Trump’s leadership, the Department of the Treasury sanctioned 25 entities and individuals involved in Iran’s ballistic missile program.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to work with other cabinet members to develop a plan to defeat ISIS.

President Trump has called or met with more than 30 foreign leaders.

DRAINING THE SWAMP: President Trump has taken action to ensure that all members of his Administration are working for the American people.

President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing new ethics commitments for all Executive branch appointees, putting in place a five-year lobbying ban and a permanent ban on lobbying for foreign governments, so appointees serve the American people instead of their own interests.

President Trump put in place a hiring freeze for Federal civilian employees to stop the growth of a bloated government.

KEEPING HIS PROMISE TO DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION: President Trump promised a Supreme Court justice in the mold of late justice Antonin Scalia.

President Trump nominated Judge Neil M. Gorsuch to the Supreme Court because of his consistent record defending the Constitution.

HELPING WOMEN SUCCEED IN BUSINESS: President Trump knows the country cannot reach its potential unless every American has a chance to prosper.

President Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau launched the United States-Canada Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders.

President Donald J. Trump's First Month: Achieving Results for the American People

FEBRUARY 20, 2017 AT 11:38 AM ET BY THE WHITE HOUSE

After one month in office, President Donald J. Trump is already achieving results for the American people.

Jump starting Job Creation: President Trump is looking out for American workers that Washington has left behind.

Signed a Presidential Memorandum ordering the United States to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations and agreement

Hosted the CEO of Intel to announce Intel's plan to invest \$7 billion in a United States factory that will create 10,000 American jobs

Signed a Presidential Memorandum to clear roadblocks to construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline Signed a Presidential Memorandum declaring that the Dakota Access Pipeline serves the national interest and initiating the process to complete construction

Signed a Presidential Memorandum ordering that all new pipeline construction and repair work use materials and equipment from the United States

Signed legislation, House Joint Resolution 38, to block the burdensome Stream Protection Rule from causing further harm to the coal industry

Signed legislation, House Joint Resolution 41, to eliminate a costly regulation that threatened to put domestic extraction companies and their employees at an unfair disadvantage

Saving Taxpayers Money: President Trump is fighting to save Americans' hard-earned tax dollars.

Saved Americans \$700 million on a new batch of F-35 fighters

Capped the cost of Boeing's next-generation Air Force One fleet at millions below that which was agreed to by the Obama administration

Restoring Public Safety: President Trump will work to reduce the threats of crime and illegal immigration to public safety.

Signed an Executive Order to enhance the safety and security of the United States by, among other things, constructing a wall on the southern border

Signed an Executive Order to make sure Federal immigration laws are faithfully enforced throughout the country and that Americans' tax dollars do not go to jurisdictions that obstruct the enforcement of immigration laws

Signed an Executive Order that directs the Attorney General to develop a strategy to more effectively prosecute people who engage in crimes against law enforcement officers

Signed an Executive Order that establishes a task force, led by the new Attorney General, to reduce crime and restore public safety in communities across America

Signed an Executive Order that re-focuses the Federal Government's energy and resources on dismantling transnational criminal organizations, such as drug cartels

Getting Government Out of the Way: President Trump understands that excessive regulations stifle job-creation and harm our businesses.

Signed an Executive Order instructing Federal agencies “to minimize the burden” of the Affordable Care Act Required that for every new Federal regulation, two existing regulations be eliminated

Directed the Commerce Department to streamline Federal permitting processes for domestic manufacturing and to reduce regulatory burdens on domestic manufacturers

Signed an Executive Order expediting the environmental review and approval processes for domestic infrastructure projects

An America First Foreign Policy: The President’s first priority is the safety and security of the American people.

Department of the Treasury sanctioned 25 entities and individuals involved in Iran’s ballistic missile program

Signed a Presidential Memorandum directing the Secretary of Defense to work with other Cabinet members to develop a plan to defeat ISIS

Called or met with more than 30 foreign leaders

Draining the Swamp: President Trump has taken action to ensure that all members of his Administration are working for the American people.

Signed an Executive Order establishing new ethics commitments for all Executive branch appointees, putting in place a five-year lobbying ban and a permanent ban on lobbying for foreign governments, so appointees serve the American people instead of their own interests

Put in place a hiring freeze for Federal civilian employees to stop the growth of a bloated government

Keeping His Promise to Defend the Constitution: President Trump promised a Supreme Court justice in the mold of the late Justice Antonin Scalia.

Nominated Judge Neil M. Gorsuch to the Supreme Court because of his consistent record defending the Constitution

Helping Women Succeed in Business: President Trump knows the country cannot reach its potential unless every American has a chance to prosper.

Launched the United States-Canada Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders

President Trump has spent the last 30 days fulfilling promises and helping the American people. He’s looking forward to the many more successful months and years of action to come.

President Trump's First 40 Days of Action: Achieving Results for the American People

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 28, 2017

President Trump's First 40 Days of Action: Achieving Results for the American People

ACCOMPLISHING GOALS: President Donald J. Trump has taken action to ensure that all Americans are able to live safely, pursue their ambitions, and have faith in their Government.

President Trump has worked with the private sector to deliver tens of thousands of new jobs for Americans.

President Trump has negotiated to bring down the price of the F-35, saving millions of dollars.

President Trump put in place a hiring freeze for Federal civilian employees to stop the growth of a bloated Government.

President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing new ethics commitments for all Executive branch appointees, putting in place a five-year lobbying ban and a permanent ban on

lobbying for foreign governments, so appointees serve the American people instead of their own interests.

President Trump directed each agency to establish a Regulatory Reform Task force to identify costly and unnecessary regulations in need of repeal or modification.

President Trump has required that for every new costly Federal regulation, two existing regulations be eliminated.

President Trump directed the Commerce Department to streamline Federal permitting processes for domestic manufacturing and to reduce regulatory burdens on domestic manufacturers.

President Trump signed legislation, House Joint Resolution 38, to prevent the burdensome “Stream Protection Rule” from causing further harm to the coal industry.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum to clear roadblocks to construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum declaring that the Dakota Access Pipeline serves the national interest and initiating the process to complete construction.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum to help ensure that all new pipeline construction and repair work use materials and equipment from the United States.

President Trump withdrew the United States from the job-killing Trans-Pacific Partnership.

President Trump and Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada launched the United States-Canada Council For Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs.

President Trump directed the Department of Justice to form a Task Force on reducing violent crime.

President Trump instructed the Attorney General to form a comprehensive approach to dismantling criminal cartels across the United States.

President Trump set directives to begin construction of a border wall along the United States-Mexico border and outlined other new immigration enforcement measures.

President Trump has taken action to remove illegal immigrants who are gang members, drug dealers, and criminals that threaten our communities.

President Trump ordered the Secretary of Defense to work with other cabinet members to develop a plan to defeat ISIS within 30 days.

Under President Trump’s leadership, the Department of the Treasury sanctioned 25 entities and individuals involved in Iran’s ballistic missile program.

President Trump kept his promise to the American people by nominating Judge Neil M. Gorsuch to the Supreme Court.

President Trump's First 50 Days of Action: Achieving Results for the American People

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 10, 2017

President Trump's First 50 Days of Action: Achieving Results for the American People

President Trump's First 50 Days of Action

JUMPSTARTING JOB CREATION: President Donald J. Trump is looking out for the American workers who Washington has left behind.

President Trump has worked with the private sector to deliver tens of thousands of new jobs for Americans.

President Trump ordered the United States to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement and negotiations.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum to clear roadblocks to construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum declaring that the Dakota Access Pipeline serves the national interest and initiating the process to complete its construction.

President Trump signed a Presidential Memorandum to help ensure that new pipeline construction and repair work use materials and equipment from the United States.

CUTTING GOVERNMENT RED TAPE: President Trump has quickly taken steps to get the Government out of the way of job creation.

President Trump directed each agency to establish a Regulatory Reform Task Force to identify costly and unnecessary regulations in need of modification or repeal.

President Trump has required that for every new Federal regulation, two existing regulations be eliminated.

President Trump directed the Department of Commerce to streamline Federal permitting processes for domestic manufacturing and to reduce regulatory burdens on domestic manufacturers.

President Trump signed legislation, House Joint Resolution 38, to prevent the burdensome “Stream Protection Rule” from causing further harm to the coal industry.

President Trump ordered the review of the “Clean Water Rule: Definition of Waters of the United States,” known as the WOTUS rule, to evaluate whether it is stifling economic growth or job creation.

REFORMING WASHINGTON: President Trump has taken actions to reform the old Washington way of doing business and to ensure that his entire Administration are working for the American people.

President Trump put in place a hiring freeze for Federal civilian employees to stop the further expansion of an already bloated government.

President Trump signed an Executive Order establishing new ethics commitments for all Executive branch appointees, putting in place a five-year lobbying ban and a permanent ban on lobbying for foreign governments, so that appointees serve the American people instead of their own interests.

PUTTING PATIENT HEALTHCARE FIRST: After years of false promises, rising costs, and shrinking accessibility, President Trump is championing reforms to put patients first.

President Trump has supported efforts by Republicans in Congress to repeal the worst parts of Obamacare and replace them with the American Health Care Act.

President Trump acted on his first day in office to instruct Federal agencies to minimize the burden of Obamacare on Americans.

PRIORITIZING AMERICAN NATIONAL SECURITY: President Trump has taken action to ensure the safety and security of the United States homeland, its borders, and its people.

Under President Trump’s leadership, the Department of the Treasury sanctioned 25 entities and individuals involved in Iran’s ballistic missile program.

President Trump implemented new protections against foreign terrorists entering our country.

President Trump has proposed increasing the military’s budget by \$54 billion so that it can begin to rebuild.

As a result of a Presidential Memorandum President Trump signed on January 28, he has received a plan to defeat ISIS designed by the Secretary of Defense and other members of his Cabinet.

President Trump ordered a review of military readiness and made it the policy of the United States to rebuild the United States’ Armed Forces.

President Trump has negotiated to bring down the price of the F-35, saving millions of dollars.

DELIVERING ON IMMIGRATION REFORM: President Trump has made enforcing the Nation’s immigration laws a priority of his Administration.

President Trump signed an Executive Order to start work on a southern border wall.

President Trump signed an Executive Order to enhance the public safety of Americans through enforcement of immigration laws.

President Trump signed an Executive Order to halt funding to jurisdictions in the United States that do not comply with Federal immigration rules.

President Trump signed an Executive Order to begin the removal of illegal immigrants who have committed certain crimes.

Following through on President Trump's direction, the Department of Homeland Security will hire 10,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and agents and 5,000 border patrol agents.

RESTORING PUBLIC SAFETY TO AMERICAN COMMUNITIES: President Trump is following through on his promise to restore public safety for all Americans.

President Trump signed an Executive Order directing the Attorney General to develop a strategy to more effectively prosecute people who engage in crimes against law enforcement officers.

President Trump signed an Executive Order to establish a task force, led by the Attorney General, to reduce crime and restore public safety in communities across America.

President Trump signed an Executive Order re-focusing the Federal Government's energy and resources on dismantling transnational criminal organizations, such as drug cartels.

HELPING WOMEN AND MINORITIES SUCCEED: President Trump knows the country cannot reach its potential unless every American has a chance to prosper.

President Trump signed an Executive Order strengthening and repositioning the Historically Black Colleges and Universities initiatives within the White House to foster better opportunities in higher education.

President Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau launched the United States-Canada Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders.

President Trump signed into law the Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act to encourage the National Science Foundation's entrepreneurial programs to recruit and support women to extend their focus beyond the laboratory and into the commercial world.

President Trump signed into law the Inspiring the Next Space Pioneers, Innovators, Researchers, and Explorers (INSPIRE) Women Act to encourage women to study science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), pursue careers in aerospace, and further advance the nation's space science and exploration efforts.

KEEPING HIS PROMISE TO DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION: President Trump promised a U.S. Supreme Court justice in the mold of late Justice Antonin Scalia selected from his previously announced list of 20 judges

President Trump nominated Judge Neil M. Gorsuch to the U.S. Supreme Court because of his consistent record defending the Constitution.

President Trump's 100 Days of Historic Accomplishments

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 25, 2017

President Trump's 100 Days of Historic Accomplishments

GETTING GOVERNMENT OUT OF THE WAY: President Donald J. Trump has done more to stop the Government from interfering in the lives of Americans in his first 100 days than any other President in history.

President Trump has signed 13 Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolutions in his first 100 days, more than any other President. These resolutions nullified unnecessary regulations and block agencies from reissuing them.

Since CRA resolutions were introduced under President Clinton, they've been used only once, under President George W. Bush.

The Wall Street Journal editorial: "So far the Trump Administration is a welcome improvement, rolling back more regulations than any President in history."

TAKING EXECUTIVE ACTION: In office, President Trump has accomplished more in his first 100 days than any other President since Franklin Roosevelt.

President Trump will have signed 30 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Obama signed 19 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President George W. Bush signed 11 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Clinton signed 13 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President George H.W. Bush signed 11 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Reagan signed 18 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Carter signed 16 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Nixon signed 15 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Johnson signed 26 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Kennedy signed 23 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Eisenhower signed 20 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Truman signed 25 executive orders during his first 100 days.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed 9 executive orders during his first 100 days.

A SLEW OF LEGISLATION SIGNED: Despite historic Democrat obstructionism, President Trump has worked with Congress to pass more legislation in his first 100 days than any President since Truman.

President Trump has worked with Congress to enact 28 laws during the first 100 days of his Administration.

President Obama enacted 11 laws during his first 100 days.

President George W. Bush enacted 7 laws during his first 100 days.

President Clinton enacted 24 laws during his first 100 days.

President George H.W. Bush enacted 18 laws during his first 100 days.

President Reagan enacted 9 laws during his first 100 days.

President Carter enacted 22 laws during his first 100 days.

President Nixon enacted 9 laws during his first 100 days.

President Johnson enacted 10 laws during his first 100 days.

President Kennedy enacted 26 laws during his first 100 days.

President Eisenhower enacted 22 laws during his first 100 days.

President Truman enacted 55 bills laws during his first 100 days.

President Trump's 100 Days of Accountability

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2017

President Trump's 100 Days of Accountability

"Our moral duty to the taxpayer requires us to make our Government leaner and more accountable."

— President Donald J. Trump

A GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: For too long the Washington swamp worked to serve itself, but President Donald J. Trump is reforming the Government to serve the American people.

President Trump implemented tough ethical standards to ensure his Administration works for the American people and not itself.

President Trump introduced tough new lobbying standards for political appointees, including a five-year ban on lobbying and a lifetime ban on lobbying for foreign countries.

President Trump donated his first quarter salary to the National Park Service, following through on his promise to the American people.

President Trump is keeping his promise to the American people to reform the Government to better address their needs. President Trump:

Implemented a temporary Federal hiring freeze to prevent taxpayer dollars from financing unnecessary bureaucracy.

Directed his Administration to create a comprehensive plan to reorganize the executive branch.

Required executive branch agencies to eliminate two regulations for every one they issue.

Created the Office of American Innovation to streamline and improve Government for future generations.

President Trump's budget blueprint takes a sober look at how to responsibly spend taxpayer dollars and seeks to streamline government.

President Trump proposed the largest cut to non-defense spending since the Reagan Administration.

President Trump fulfilled his promise to the American people by nominating and, after Senate confirmation, appointing Neil Gorsuch as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF ALL AMERICANS: President Trump has taken action to help marginalized communities past administrations have neglected.

After years of scandal and failing healthcare, President Trump has taken action to expand access to care for America's veterans.

For the first time, accurate and up-to-date wait times and quality-of-care information is easily available online.

Under President Trump, authorized appointments for veterans outside of VA facilities have increased by 42 percent.

The President signed an extension of the Veterans Choice Program, giving eligible veterans the option of seeking care from private physicians.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has expanded emergent mental health care access to an estimated 500,000 former service members with Other than Honorable (OTH) discharges.

President Trump created a commission and focused grants to tackle the opioid epidemic that has increasingly plagued our country.

President Trump took action to prioritize Historically Black Colleges and Universities, after these critical institutions were marginalized in the previous administration.

Under President Trump's leadership, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has gone on a national listening tour, promoting accountability at HUD field offices to the citizens they serve.

Under President Trump and Secretary DeVos's leadership, the Administration has rolled back harmful regulations to ensure America's schools are helping students.

A FOREIGN POLICY THAT PROMOTED ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: President Trump's America First foreign policy restores the voice of the American people in world affairs.

President Trump is holding the U.N. accountable by calling out false and defamatory anti-Israel bias and forcing it to confront threats to the world's security. At the U.N., the United States is:

Removing a blatantly biased report against Israel.

Condemning Russia's support for the Assad regime and continued failure to live up to its commitment to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Challenging Iran's launch of ballistic missiles.

President Trump is supporting our allies across the world, while making sure everyone is accountable to international obligations. The United States is:

Working with NATO members to boost their defense spending to meet their commitments.

Supported Montenegro joining the NATO alliance.

President Trump re-negotiated the F-35 fighter jet agreement, saving more than \$700 million in taxpayer money while improving America's national security.

A PROMISE TO HOLD THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE: President Trump promised that he would drain the Washington swamp and restore accountability to Government.

President Trump: "Our moral duty to the taxpayer requires us to make our Government leaner and more accountable."

President Trump: "There is duplication and redundancy everywhere. Billions and billions of dollars are being wasted on activities that are not delivering results for hardworking American taxpayers."

President Trump's 100 Days of Security and Safety

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2017

President Trump's 100 Days of Security and Safety

"We're going to make our country safe again. And we are going to make our country great again"

– President Donald J. Trump

PUTTING AMERICA FIRST, PROTECTING NATIONAL SECURITY: President Donald J. Trump's top priority is the security of the American people and the American homeland

President Trump has prioritized rebuilding and empowering the military to restore national security. During his first 100 days, the President has:

Advocated increasing the defense budget by \$54 billion to end the devastating effects of the sequestration that has persisted for years.

Empowered commanders in the field to make decisions.

Saved hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars by negotiating with defense contractors.

President Trump has stood up to countries that have threatened our national security after years of failed diplomacy. During his first 100 days, the President has:

Sent a message to the world with his swift and decisive order to strike the Syrian air base that launched a horrific chemical weapons attack on innocent civilians.

Further isolated Syria and Russia at the United Nations through successful diplomacy with President Xi Jinping of China.

Imposed sanctions on Syria for its use of chemical weapons against innocent civilians.

Imposed sanctions on Iran for violating an international agreement that restricts its ballistic missile programs.

Worked to isolate North Korea and repositioned military assets to confront the regime's provocative missile tests.

AMERICA FIRST DIPLOMACY: President Trump has rebuilt America's standing in the world and forged stronger ties with our allies.

President Trump has actively reached out to world leaders to advance American interests and build relationships. During his first 100 days, President Trump has:

Made 70 calls to 38 different world leaders.

Hosted 17 bilateral meetings with world leaders.

President Trump negotiated with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al Sisi to free American charity worker Aya Hijazi, her husband, and four other humanitarian workers.

RESTORING LAW AND ORDER TO AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM: President Trump has made restoring order to America's borders and immigration a cornerstone of his agenda.

President Trump's actions have dramatically affected illegal immigration.

Southern border crossings are at a 17-year low.

Illegal crossings on the southern border have fallen by 61 percent since January.

President Trump is following through on his promise to the American people by building a wall on the southern border. President Trump:

Signed an Executive Order to establish initial funding for the border wall's construction.

Received hundreds of bids for the construction of the wall.

President Trump is taking action to make sure immigration laws are enforced across the country. President Trump:

Directed withholding of certain funds from several jurisdictions that do not comply with immigration laws.

Prioritized criminal immigration enforcement, including ending "catch-and-release."

Directed the hiring of 10,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers and agents and 5,000 Customs and Border Patrol agents.

Under President Trump's direction, the Department of Justice is hiring more immigration judges to address the backlog in immigration courts.

As hiring takes place, existing judges are being reassigned to twelve priority cities to expedite processing.

RESTORING PUBLIC SAFETY TO AMERICAN COMMUNITIES: President Trump has been steadfast in his approach to addressing our Nation's most pressing public safety issues.

President Trump directed a comprehensive approach to tackle transnational criminal organizations and international drug traffickers, including the cartels that plague the southern border.

President Trump ordered the formation of a task force aimed at reducing violent crime that has spiked in recent years.

President Trump is restoring law enforcement's faith that they are protected under the law by prosecuting those who threaten law enforcement officers.

A PROMISE TO MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN: President Trump promised that the safety and security of the American people was a top priority in his mission to Make America Great Again.

Then-Candidate Donald Trump:

"We're going to make our country safe again. And we are going to make our country great again."

"Politicians have failed in their duty to secure our borders and enforce our laws... Let's fix this problem. Let's secure our border."

"The military, we are going to make bigger, stronger. We need a strong military."

Background Briefing on the First 100 Days

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
April 26, 2017
Background Briefing on the First 100 Days
James S. Brady Press Briefing Room
3:30 P.M. EDT

AIDE: I'm here to introduce a senior administration official, well known to you all, I'm sure. This is off the record and off camera, and he will remain a senior administration official. I know that's disappointing, but that's the way it is.

Q On background?

AIDE: Background, sorry.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: All right, good to see you. So what I'm here to talk about is really the actions of the national security team here and the events and initiatives and efforts to advance and protect U.S. interests in the area of national security over the first 100 days of the Trump presidency.

I do believe this has been a period of time in which the national security team has worked extremely well together to provide options for the President to deal with some of our most vexing, difficult issues, problems, and also in an effort to take advantage of opportunities to advance and protect U.S. interests.

As you know, there have been a number of events in the world that demanded a U.S. response. Those include the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons against its own people, and a pattern of murderous activity on the part of that regime, with many of those actions involving weapons of mass destruction, chemical weapons.

And then, also, we've been engaged in efforts to establish and maintain strong relationships with key allies and partners, and to forge some new relationships that will allow us to identify areas of cooperation. I think that that characterizes the summit with President Xi of China. And, of course, as you've all been reporting on, we have the problem set of North Korea and North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and a ballistic missile program that poses a grave threat to our partners and everyone in the region, but also represents a potential threat to the U.S. homeland.

There's no shortage of things, of course, to talk about in terms of the ongoing campaign against ISIS -- a campaign that has been centered, really, in Iraq and in Syria, but, as you know, reaches far beyond that into other regions and into Afghanistan, the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region, for example, and then into North Africa, the Maghreb, and so forth.

So I could try to summarize these, but I think what I'd really like to do is hear what's on your minds, what questions you have, what you'd like me to discuss.

Q I was wondering if putting North Korea back on the state sponsor of terrorism list, one of the major priorities that this administration is pushing for, especially with the meeting of senators now, and what are some other options that you put on the table?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: That is one of the things we're considering. We're looking at a broad range of options, obviously, across all elements of national power and multinational power in connection with North Korea. And so what the President has done is he's made a decision for us to pursue a certain course, and that course obviously has a number of options associated with it, depending on how the situation develops in the future.

So I think that what you've seen is really an integrated effort to prioritize diplomatic and informational aspects of national power, but also what you'll see soon is using the economic dimension of national power, as well as the military preparations that are underway.

Q Do you have a timeline?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, we have timelines in mind for what we would like to see changed, but it's mainly event-driven. It depends on the actions of North Korea.

It depends on the actions of others whose help we're looking for in resolving this problem and moving toward the goal of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

I'll go to the far back, the gentleman with the mustache there.

Q Thank you, all. You recently visited India, Afghanistan and Pakistan. We haven't heard from you what your meetings were, especially with the Indians. When is the Afghanistan review coming out?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, we're in the midst of a policy review, so I don't really want to foreclose on any of the discussions we're going to have with the national security team and with the President. What we've been able to do, though, is take a fresh look at a problem that we've been engaged with for 15 years, and identify, really, how that -- and understand better how that conflict has evolved in Afghanistan and evolved in Pakistan, as well.

And what we're determined to do is to take a regional perspective, a regional look at the problem, and to make sure that we're integrating again all of our efforts. And what we found is that often what's been consistent, I think, in recent years is that we've often done just enough in Afghanistan to avoid failure, but maybe not done enough. And when I say "enough," I don't mean scale of effort as much of integration of our efforts to succeed.

And I think the other critical thing that we've looked at is that our approach to regional aspects of the problem has to change, because we've taken a consistent approach, for example, to the regional dimensions of the problem, and haven't really seen improvements in assistance from others and efforts to address the problem in Afghanistan more effectively.

So what we've done is really looked at opportunities to better connect what we're doing militarily in Afghanistan, which, as you know, involves a very significant counterterrorism effort that was highlighted by recent operations against ISIS Khorasan in the far eastern part of the country, in Nangarhar Province. Very effective operations that have resulted in the destruction of a large percentage of that enemy force, and an enemy that is an ISIS enemy, but we've identified, really, overlap with Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan groups, as well as Lashkar-e-Taiba and other groups there. So it's a counterterrorism effort, certainly.

But the other aspect, the military effort, is to advise and assist the Afghan security forces. And you saw the very serious attacks against those forces this past week, which highlights the need for us to work with the Afghan government, to strengthen those security forces, which you know have been fighting and making tremendous sacrifices to defend their nation and their people against the Taliban, the Haqqani Network, as well as these transnational terrorist organizations that were seeking the safe haven and support base in Afghanistan.

But, oftentimes, what hasn't happened is a connection -- very strong connection between that military effort and political efforts and diplomatic efforts, and so forth. And so that's what we're endeavoring to do with this review, is to create options that produce a better integrated effort and a more effective effort.

Q Can you tell us a little bit about what the briefing with the senators is all about?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: What we wanted to highlight obviously -- and of course the Senate asked for a hearing, essentially, and the President offered to host it here at the White House -- to communicate the seriousness of the threat from North Korea and to allow the senators to ask questions of the national security team and understand better the nature of the threat, but also what our response to that threat has been and how we're proceeding to protect the American people and our partners in the region from this very grave threat represented by what we know is a brutal regime, what we know is an unpredictable regime, what we know is a capable regime in terms of conventional military capabilities, and a regime that holds at risk a large portion of the population of South Korea.

But, now, really a new level of threat from North Korea associated with the unacceptable and erratic and unlawful behavior of the Kim regime -- Kim Jong-un's regime -- are represented by the murder of his brother using a nerve agent in a public place, in an airport, but also the increasing

capability for destruction that that regime possesses in the form of a nuclear program and the ballistic missile program. So it's about the seriousness, and it's about a discussion of a strategy and approach that's developed a broad range of options to remove this threat not only to the American people, but to our allies and partners in the region.

Q Sorry, I just had a follow-up on that.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I'll just go to Kim.

Q I would like to ask, are they getting a list of options, but also, what do you assess is the risk of a miscalculation by North Korea. If there is a U.S. preemptive strike of some sort, do you assume that they will launch some sort of an attack on South Korea or Japan?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, what we've done is taken a very systematic look at this, and obviously everything begins with our intelligence community and their assessments.

But then even as we take certain actions as we put into place elements of these integrated -- of this integrated strategy, we ask the intelligence community to help us anticipate reactions to our actions. And then if there's risk associated with that, we build into the strategy efforts to mitigate risk.

Obviously nothing is risk-free, and certainly this situation is not risk-free. But the team has done everything that we can to try to anticipate reactions and then mitigate any risk associated with those.

Q What is the state of play with North Korea? Are they -- do they seem to be on the brink of another nuclear test? Or are they about to test another ballistic missile?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, what we have seen in recent weeks are indications that they were preparing these kind of activities. We've seen a pattern of activities, right, over recent years. And what we saw instead was a conventional firepower demonstrated associated with army day on the 25th. But we're remaining vigilant to identify any indicators of another nuclear test or of a ballistic missile test or certainly an intercontinental ballistic missile test; and are prepared to respond to any of those provocations.

Let's go in the far back with the -- the plaid shirt.

Q Thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Actually, it was the man behind you, but I'll take the plaid tie, followed by the plaid shirt. How about that?

Q Thank you. Did I hear you correctly at the top saying that the North Korean strategy is evolving, where there will be -- soon there will be an economic dimension, as well as military preparations? That's obviously going to get a lot of attention. Can you flesh that out a little bit for us? What kinds of preparations are we talking about? Are they going to be visible to the North Koreans?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, so, of course, some of the economic actions take time to develop. And what we're endeavoring to do is to work with partners in the region and others to isolate the North Korean ballistic missile program and the nuclear program from any sort of external support.

If you just look at the images, right, of the big parade there recently and look at the complexity of that equipment, those components, even the tires, right, are not made in North Korea. So it's clear that all of us have a lot more to do to isolate the regime from its access to the kind of materials and technologies and components it needs to advance those two very dangerous programs.

Q The military preparations that you mentioned, sir? The military preparations.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, those -- I don't think we're going to describe those in any detail.

Q Thank you. We've seen a broader view of the President's foreign policy. Last night Chief of Staff Reince Priebus offered us a first draft of what he would define the Trump doctrine as. I

was hoping you might be able to put a finer point on what you believe now -- here in the 100 days -- what is the Trump doctrine?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, what I would say a couple of observations you could make -- whether it's actually a component of the Trump doctrine or not, that's up to the President. And we're working on that. Dr. Nadia Schadlow is here. She's working on the national security strategy, working with the President's team and the President to get his guidance and to formulate that national security strategy -- the congressionally mandated national security strategy.

But I think what you've seen is that the President obviously weighs the risk of any action that he's anticipating. But what he's also done in these first few weeks is weigh the risk of inaction. And whereas, considering the risk only of action could have the tendency to paralyze a leader, I think what he's done is he's recognized that there is a cost associated with inaction. And I think the obvious example of this is the response to the mass murder of civilians with chemical weapons in Syria.

And so the actions that he's taken, though, I would say -- and this is another element of how we've seen the President lead, is that he doesn't just look at a discreet event and react to that event. He tries to use that event and the U.S. response to it to make progress toward objectives that are related to the security and prosperity of the American people.

The other thing I would say an element of the Trump doctrine is, it's not doctrinaire at all. (Laughter.) It's very pragmatic. It's based on the President's consultation with his advisers and his national security team, for whom he has a great deal of trust. So I think that there's some sort of top-level observations you can make about what is the Trump doctrine. But there will be more about that in the coming months.

Gentleman right here.

Q Thank you very much. Moving back to ISIS, again, early on, during the campaign, the President said over and over again that one of his hopes was to get along with Russia and to work with Russia to defeat ISIS. Obviously, the situation is not the same as it was during the campaign between the two countries. But what if any efforts can we expect to reach out to the Russian government and try to work together on this one issue where our interests most definitely align?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think Secretary Tillerson has been really clear about this that while we are going to confront what we regard as Russian inappropriate and regretful and support for the Assad regime, for example, that we'll continue to look for ways to cooperate with Russia.

While we will not back off from our support for our European allies and for partners in Southern and Central Europe that have been subjected to a sophisticated campaign of subversion and disinformation, or we're not going to back away from our NATO allies and their efforts to stand up to a very sophisticated Russian approach to try to undermine the alliance, what we are looking for are areas and opportunities and places to cooperate with Russia.

And there are areas where our interests overlap. You mentioned one of those, which is the defeat of ISIS and the denial of ISIS control of territory and populations in Syria, for example.

But we have to also recognize that it's Russia's support for the Assad regime, along with their Iranian allies, that helps perpetuate the cycle of sectarian violence there, and the chaotic environment that perpetuates human suffering and obstructs really a sustainable end to the civil war there.

So the simple answer to your question is while we will compete with Russia where we think that our interests are at odds with them, we are looking for areas that we can cooperate.

Q And those areas, what kind of outreach has there been?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, you saw Secretary Tillerson's visit to Russia, and then there will be follow up from that. And he's the best person to ask about that. He certainly has the lead.

Yes.

Q Can I just follow in the conversation about the DPRK? Obviously there has been a lot of discussion by President Trump about his relationship with President Xi. Can you talk about what you realistically believe that Beijing can accomplish given the fact that even over the weekend, we've seen a war of words between Pyongyang and Beijing. They're not exactly seeing eye-to-eye all the time these days. What is a realistic expectation? And are you encouraging them to have a carrot as well as a stick with respect to economic incentives, not just denials?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, what the President said is, we'll see, right? And he has certainly established a very close, personal relationship with President Xi, and there are areas, as you know, where our interests overlap. And I think what's different about how China is viewing the problem in North Korea today is that China is viewing that problem as a threat not only to U.S. interests and security, or South Korea and/or Japanese interests and security, but also a threat to Chinese interests and security. And so I think that is a big shift in and of itself.

The second thing is the willingness to support -- or at least not block the United Nations' and international community's sanction of Syria for the use of weapons of mass destruction. I think that indicated another area that we can work together.

You have seen some early indications of China doing a better job enforcing existing U.N. sanctions on North Korea, as well as I think you see in the Chinese press and in other areas really a clear effort to communicate to North Korea that its behavior, its provocative behavior, the nuclear test, missile tests, the existence of these programs can't be tolerated.

And so I think you've seen two things -- and acknowledgement of the threat to China, but I think you've also seen a willingness for China to take this problem on in new ways. And I think we ought to suspend judgment until we see how this develops in the coming days, months, so forth.

All right, thanks. I will just say one last thing just in conclusion, and I'll just say that I think it is -- you've seen that the team has really come together well around these complex issues. And if you think about the pace of events and the degree of concurrent activity that we have going on, you can I think recognize that we are achieving a degree of strategic competence here by being able to view events and what's happening day-to-day in context with what we're trying to achieve overall.

And one of the things that the President has asked us to do is to get the White House out of tactical details day-to-day. He trusts his national security team to implement. And so what you have now is a focus on the part of the National Security Council on identifying what are the biggest problems and dangers and threats to our national security, but also what are the biggest opportunities?

And now what we're doing is organizing our efforts around framing some of these problems and opportunities, viewing them through the lens of U.S. vital interests, and primarily obviously the security of the American people, and then establishing clear objectives, and then working together at a very senior level to identify how we can integrate efforts across the elements of national power, diplomatically, informationally, militarily, economically, law enforcement, intelligence and so forth to advance towards those objectives.

And, of course, none of these problems and opportunities are going to be easy to either capitalize on or to solve, but the team I think has the right focus, has come together. And I think we have really the ability now to not just respond to events, but to understand how events fit in to what we'd like to achieve at a larger level of generality.

So, thank you.

END

3:41 P.M. EDT

President Donald J. Trump's Six Months of America First

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 20, 2017

President Donald J. Trump's Six Months of America First

“Together, we are working every day for the citizens of this country: protecting their safety, bringing back their jobs and, in all things, putting AMERICA FIRST.” – President Donald J. Trump

BRINGING ACCOUNTABILITY BACK TO GOVERNMENT: In six months in office, President Trump has followed through on his promise to the American people to bring accountability back to government.

President Trump fulfilled his promise to the American people by nominating and, after Senate confirmation, appointing Neil Gorsuch as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

President Trump implemented higher ethical standards to make sure his Administration works for the American people.

President Trump signed an Executive Order implementing tough new lobbying standards for political appointees, including a five-year ban on lobbying and a lifetime ban on lobbying for foreign countries.

President Trump has donated his salary, following through on his promise to the American people.

To make sure the Government serves the needs of all Americans, President Trump has called for a comprehensive plan to reorganize the executive branch and has used his budget to begin to implement his plan.

President Trump created the Office of American Innovation to streamline and improve the Government for future generations.

SPURRING JOBS CREATION: President Trump’s impact on the economy has been immediate, spurring job creation across the country.

President Trump signed the “Buy American and Hire American” Executive Order, prioritizing the interests of American businesses and workers.

“Buy American” promotes American industry, protecting it from unfair competition by targeting the abusive use of waivers and exceptions to laws on the books.

“Hire American” calls for the reform of our visa programs, ensuring that they no longer displace American workers, while fully enforcing laws governing the entry of foreign workers.

President Trump signed an Executive Order, making it easier for businesses to start and expand apprenticeship programs.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average has increased 17 percent since election day, hitting new highs 25 times this year already.

Since January, the economy added 863,000 jobs, including 821,000 in the private sector.

79,000 construction jobs added since January.

42,000 mining and logging jobs added since January.

41,000 manufacturing jobs added since January.

CUTTING DOWN JOB KILLING REGULATIONS: Just six months in office, President Trump has taken historic action to eliminate wasteful and costly regulations that have stood in the way of hardworking Americans.

The American Action Forum estimates a potential \$70 billion in costs reductions from President Trump’s actions to cut back regulations.

President Trump has signed 14 Congressional Review Act resolutions into law, ending burdensome Obama-era rules and regulations, more than all other Presidents combined.

By withdrawing from the Paris Climate Accord, President Trump protected America from a bad deal that would have harmed our economy.

According to a study by NERA Consulting, meeting the Obama Administration’s obligations under the Paris Climate Accord could have cost the United States economy nearly \$3 trillion.

According to the same study, 6.5 million industrial sector jobs could have been lost, including 3.1 million manufacturing sector jobs.

In order to control regulatory costs, President Trump signed an Executive Order mandating that for every one new regulation, two old regulations must be eliminated.

Through infrastructure reform and investment, the Trump Administration aims to dramatically reduce permit approvals for projects from 10 years to 2 years, spurring investment and job creation.

OPENING UP AMERICAN ENERGY: In six months, President Trump has turned around America's policy on energy production after years of opposition.

President Trump has acted aggressively to increase exports of our energy resources to a global market.

Updated guidance from the Treasury Department to allow the United States to export coal.

Expedited the permitting and approval processes of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminals and exports, including the approval of the Lake Charles LNG terminal in Louisiana.

President Trump has unleashed oil and gas development in the United States by expanding access to resources and the infrastructure needed to get them to market.

Approved the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines, creating over 42,000 jobs and \$2 billion in earnings.

Signed an Executive Order mandating future pipeline work to be done by American workers and with American steel.

Expedited new pipeline approval and production, such as the New Burgos Pipeline to Mexico.

Signed an Executive Order to extend offshore oil and gas drilling and reissued a leasing program to develop offshore resources.

Boosting oil and gas development on Federal lands.

The Environmental Protection Agency is reconsidering an Obama-era rule on greenhouse gas emissions that is estimated to cost oil and natural gas operators as much as \$530 million annually.

President Trump kept his campaign promise to coal miners and rolled back the previous Administration's "Stream Protection Rule," which targeted the beleaguered industry with estimated costs of at least \$81 million a year.

A FREE AND FAIR TRADE AGENDA: President Trump is putting America First in trade negotiations, pursuing reciprocal agreements with our trading partners so everyone benefits.

One of President Trump's first actions was to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, after the Obama Administration's efforts failed to protect American workers.

President Trump announced he will renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to better reflect our modern economy while benefitting all parties so involved.

This week, the United States Trade Representative released its objectives for upcoming NAFTA negotiations.

Last week, the President began the process of renegotiating the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

Negotiations President Trump started with China on economic cooperation have already produced results for American businesses.

For the first time in 14 years, American beef imports have returned to China.

China is welcome to negotiate contracts to import American liquefied natural gas.

President Trump delivered on his campaign promise to roll back the Obama Administration's bad deal on Cuba that benefitted the Cuban regime at the expense of the Cuban people.

RESTORING LAW AND ORDER TO IMMIGRATION: President Trump has prioritized enforcing immigration laws in his first six months to protect all Americans, ensuring that our immigration system treats everyone fairly.

President Trump instituted tough immigration policies that have reduced illegal border crossings by 53 percent compared to the same time last year.

The President ordered the hiring of 10,000 new Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers, including 5,000 additional border patrol agents.

Within the first 100 days of President Trump signing his executive orders on immigration enforcement, ICE conducted nearly 40 percent more Enforcement and Removal Operations compared to the same time last year.

Arrests of convicted criminal aliens climbed by nearly 20 percent in this time compared to the same time last year.

In fiscal year 2017, ICE has removed over 2,700 criminal gang members, compared to 2,057 criminal gang members in all of fiscal year 2016.

ICE has specifically targeted MS-13 criminal gang members for removal on immigration violations.

To jumpstart construction on the border wall, the President ordered the Department of Homeland Security to use \$100 million of unspent appropriations in its account for border security, fencing and infrastructure.

President Trump directed executive agencies to employ all lawful means to enforce the immigration laws of the United States, including clamping down on sanctuary cities.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions implemented new charging guidelines to end catch-and-release policies.

President Trump ordered the creation of the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) office at DHS, ensuring that our Government can no longer ignore the victims of criminal acts by illegal aliens.

PROVIDING FOR OUR NATION'S VETERANS: President Trump is making sure our veterans get the care they deserve after they have sacrificed for our country.

Under President Trump, Department of Veterans Affairs fired over 500 employees, suspended 200, and demoted 33, as part of President Trump's efforts to restore integrity and accountability to a department charged with supporting our Nation's heroes.

22 senior leaders were disciplined.

President Trump signed the Veterans Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, enabling senior Veterans Affairs officials to fire failing employees while establishing important safeguards to protect whistleblowers.

The Veterans Affairs administration is shifting veterans' electronic medical records to the same system used by the Defense Department, ending a decades-old rift in sharing information between the two agencies.

President Trump signed legislation allowing our veterans to receive care outside of the Veterans Affairs medical system.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has acted to increase transparency and accountability by launching an online "Access and Quality Tool" to provide veterans a way to access wait time and quality of care data.

AMERICA FIRST FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY: In the first six months of his Administration, President Trump has put America First in world affairs and national security.

During his historic speech in Poland, President Trump reasserted that America would defend its interests and allies after years of neglect by the previous Administration.

President Trump brokered a ceasefire in southwest Syria as part of his commitment to end the conflict, reduce human suffering, and defeat ISIS.

During his first international trip, President Trump supported the opening of a new "Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology" in Saudi Arabia, created to empower Muslim-majority countries to more effectively combat radicalization.

President Trump has increased pressure on Iran to end its destructive and destabilizing actions in the Middle East, including its continued ballistic missile research.

The Department of the Treasury sanctioned over 25 entities and individuals involved in Iran's ballistic missile program, ensuring our ability to monitor potentially malicious actors while preventing future acts of terrorism.

This week, the United States sanctioned sixteen entities and individuals that have supported Iran's military and Revolutionary Guard Corps in the development of drones, fast attack boats, and other military equipment.

President Trump has allowed the military to push back against threats to our interests and allies.

In his first six months, President Trump worked with our partners and allies in the Middle East to defeat ISIS, leading to Iraqi forces recapturing Mosul.

After the Syrian regime used chemical weapons against civilians, President Trump authorized strikes against the airbase that launched the chemical attacks, demonstrating our national commitment to preventing further atrocities.

President Trump has lifted restrictions that had prevented the Secretary of Defense and our commanders in the field from fully using their judgement and expertise.

ВИЦЕ-ПРЕЗИДЕНТ США

ЗАЯВЛЕНИЯ РЕЛИЗЫ

Vice President Mike Pence Announces Andrea Thompson as National Security Advisor

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
January 25, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence Announces Andrea Thompson as National Security Advisor

WASHINGTON, DC – Vice President Mike Pence today announced the appointment of Colonel Andrea Thompson (U.S. Army - Retired) as Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Advisor to the Vice President.

"Colonel Thompson brings a wealth of knowledge as a career military intelligence officer and combat veteran to her role as my National Security Advisor," said Vice President Pence. "She has a deep understanding of the complex challenges that face the United States at this juncture in history and is uniquely qualified to serve in this important role."

Thompson brings more than 25 years of service in the U.S. military to her new role, including deployment on multiple combat tours such as: Intelligence Directorate/J2 Chief of Staff in Afghanistan, Senior Intelligence Officer for Multi-National Division (North) in Iraq, and additional tours in Iraq, Bosnia and operational deployments around the world.

Thompson previously served as the National Security Advisor for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security, the Executive Officer to the Under Secretary of the Army and the Senior Military Advisor to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

Thompson graduated with honors from the University of South Dakota, Long Island University and National Defense University. She previously served as the Director of the McChrystal Group Leadership Institute and is the co-author of the book *Achieving Victory in Iraq: Countering an Insurgency*.

Vice President Pence also announced additional members of the Vice President's staff.

Daris Meeks, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Domestic Policy for the Vice President

Sarah Makin, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Vice President

Marc Lotter, Special Assistant to the President and Press Secretary to the Vice President

Andeliz Castillo, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Vice President

Stephen Ford, Special Assistant to the President and Director of Speechwriting for the Vice President

Jonathan Hiler, Assistant to the Vice President and Director of Legislative Affairs

Mark Paoletta, Assistant to the Vice President and Counsel

Matt Morgan, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President and Deputy Counsel

Lani Czarniecki, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President for External Affairs

Mike Boisvenue, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President and Director of Administration

Robert Peede, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President and Director of Advance

Meghan Patenaude, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President and Director of Scheduling

Kara Brooks, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President and Communications Director to the Second Lady

Sara Egeland, Deputy Assistant to the Vice President and Policy Director to the Second Lady

Zach Bauer, Special Assistant to the Vice President

Vice President Mike Pence to Travel to the Republic of Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Australia, and Hawaii

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 06, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence to Travel to the Republic of Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Australia, and Hawaii

WASHINGTON, DC - Vice President Mike Pence will travel to the Republic of Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Australia, and Hawaii from April 15-25, 2017. This trip will serve as the Vice President's first official travel to the Asia-Pacific region. During his trip, the Vice President will emphasize President Trump's continued commitment to U.S. alliances and partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region, highlight the Administration's economic agenda, and underscore America's unwavering support for our troops at home and abroad.

The Vice President on April 16 will arrive in Seoul, Republic of Korea, where he will spend Easter Sunday with United States and Republic of Korea troops and their families. During the remainder of the visit, he will participate in a bilateral meeting with Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn and meet with National Assembly Speaker Chung Sye-kyun. Vice President Pence will also participate in a listening session with local business leaders and give remarks to the business community.

On April 18, the Vice President will travel to Tokyo, Japan, where he will meet with Prime Minister Shinzō Abe and lead the inaugural U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue with Deputy Prime Minister Tarō Asō. The Vice President will participate in a listening session followed by remarks to the U.S. and Japanese business community. Continuing the Administration's commitment to rebuilding the U.S. military and to our alliances in the region, the Vice President will tour the USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and give remarks to U.S. and Japanese service members.

The Vice President will then travel to Jakarta, Indonesia on April 20 to meet with President Joko Widodo and Vice President Jusuf Kalla. Noting the 40th Anniversary of US-ASEAN relations, Vice President Pence will meet with the ASEAN Secretary General and ASEAN Permanent Representatives. Among other events, the Vice President will participate in a listening session with U.S. and Indonesian business leaders and give remarks to the business community.

On April 22, the Vice President will visit Sydney, Australia, where he will meet with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Vice President Pence will also meet with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten along with U.S. and Australian service members. Focusing again on American businesses, jobs, and the economy Vice President Pence will join a listening session and give remarks to the U.S. and Australian business community.

The Vice President will conclude his trip with a visit to Honolulu, Hawaii on April 24. Vice President Pence will meet with senior leadership from the Pacific Command and pay honor to those

who fought and perished during the attack on Pearl Harbor by visiting the USS Arizona Memorial. Finally, the Vice President will meet with U.S. troops and their families before returning to Washington, DC.

Note: The Vice President will travel with the Second Lady of the United States, Karen Pence, and his two daughters. Mrs. Pence will release a more detailed schedule of her meetings and cultural visits in the coming days.

Joint Press Release from Vice President Mike Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso on the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
April 18, 2017

Joint Press Release from Vice President Mike Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso on the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue

Vice President Mike Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso met today to launch the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue in Tokyo, Japan. In February, President Donald J. Trump and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed to this Economic Dialogue when the two leaders met in Washington, D.C., as a way to deepen the strong economic ties between the United States and Japan.

The Co-Chairs agreed to structure the Economic Dialogue along three policy pillars: Common Strategy on Trade and Investment Rules/Issues; Cooperation in Economic and Structural Policies; and Sectoral Cooperation. They agreed that the Dialogue should generate concrete results in the near term.

The Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister look forward to engaging again in the Dialogue by the end of this year.

The two Chairs approved the launch of the following three pillars of activity under the Economic Dialogue:

Common Strategy on Trade and Investment Rules/Issues

The United States and Japan agreed that this pillar would cover: a bilateral framework for setting high trade and investment standards; perspectives on trade and investment initiatives of the United States and Japan in the regional and global trading environment; and addressing third-country concerns.

Cooperation in Economic and Structural Policies

The United States and Japan agreed that this pillar would cover: active use of the G7's Three-Pronged Approach (mutually-reinforcing fiscal, monetary, and structural policies); cooperation on global economic and financial developments and challenges; and cooperation on regional macroeconomic and financial issues.

Sectoral Cooperation

The United States and Japan discussed specific sectors where improved commercial relations will promote mutual economic benefits and job creation in both countries.

Vice President Mike Pence to Participate in the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 02, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence to Participate in the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America

WASHINGTON, DC - On behalf of President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence will give the Keynote Address at the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America to be held in Miami, Florida, on June 15. The conference, co-hosted by the Governments of the United States and Mexico, will bring together the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras on June 15-16 to discuss the region's economic, security, and governance agendas.

"I look forward to affirming President Trump's support for the Northern Triangle countries' commitment to improve security, governance, and economic prosperity in their countries and calling on our partners – governments, businesses, and development organizations – to redouble their efforts toward achieving this common goal," said Vice President Pence.

Following his remarks, the Vice President will participate in a series of bilateral meetings with President Salvador Sánchez Cerén of El Salvador, President Juan Orlando Hernández of Honduras, and President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala.

Vice President Mike Pence to Travel to Central and South America

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 15, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence to Travel to Central and South America

WASHINGTON, DC – Speaking at the inaugural Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America today, Vice President Mike Pence announced he will travel to Central and South America in August on behalf of President Trump. On August 13–18, 2017, the Vice President will travel to Cartagena and Bogota, Colombia; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Santiago, Chile; and Panama City, Panama.

During his travel, the Vice President will meet with leaders from government and the business community to reaffirm the President's commitment to deepening bilateral trade and investment ties with the region and continue the Administration's support of security cooperation, business engagement, agriculture, and infrastructure development.

"At President Trump's direction, and in a sign of the high importance he places on this region, in August I will travel to Central and South America," said Vice President Pence. "I will build on the good work that has been done throughout President Trump's Administration to bolster our shared economic and security goals."

Additional details about the Vice President's trip are forthcoming.

Vice President Mike Pence to Attend Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Korean War Veterans Memorial

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 28, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence to Attend Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Korean War Veterans Memorial

On Friday, June 30, Vice President Mike Pence will join President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea to pay tribute to the veterans of the Korean War at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC. President Moon Jae-in, Vice President Mike Pence, and President of the National Korean War Veterans Association

Tom Stevens will lay three wreaths at the memorial before a gathering of Korean War veterans and their families. The event will conclude with a moment of silence.

Vice President Mike Pence to Travel to Estonia, Georgia, and Montenegro

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 29, 2017

Vice President Mike Pence to Travel to Estonia, Georgia, and Montenegro

WASHINGTON, DC - At the direction of President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence will travel to Tallinn, Estonia; Tbilisi, Georgia; and Podgorica, Montenegro July 30-August 2, 2017.

In Tallinn, Estonia, the Vice President will meet with Estonian Prime Minister Jüri Ratas and other officials to discuss bilateral issues. The Vice President will also meet with the three Baltic leaders, President Kersti Kaljulaid of Estonia, President Raimonds Vējonis of Latvia, and President Dalia Grybauskaitė of Lithuania.

In Georgia, the Vice President will meet with President Giorgi Margvelashvili and Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili, among others, and visit U.S. and Georgian troops participating in the Noble Partner exercise.

In Podgorica, Montenegro, the Vice President will meet with Montenegrin President Filip Vujanović and Prime Minister Duško Marković. The Vice President will also participate with leaders from across the Western Balkans in an Adriatic Charter Summit.

Additional details about the Vice President's trip are forthcoming.

Joint Press Release from Vice President Mike Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso on the Second Round of the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
October 16, 2017

Joint Press Release from Vice President Mike Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso on the Second Round of the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue

Vice President Mike Pence and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso met today for the second round of the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue.

At today's meeting, Vice President Pence and Deputy Prime Minister Aso, as Chairs of the Economic Dialogue, affirmed the importance of strengthening bilateral economic, trade, and investment ties. Fostering strong domestic demand-driven growth and fair trade practices can expand trade and foreign direct investment between our two countries that contribute to economic growth and job creation and result in more balanced trade. Both sides committed to build on momentum in the Dialogue to demonstrate progress in the near future.

Common Strategy on Trade and Investment Rules/Issues

Technical-level work is underway that is to (1) result in more effective enforcement activities against unfair trade practices by third countries, as well as (2) identify new areas of common interest for promoting high trade and investment standards.

Some initial progress was made on bilateral trade issues, including the lifting of restrictions on Japanese persimmons and on U.S. potatoes from Idaho. In the area of autos trade, Japan will streamline noise and emissions testing procedures for U.S. automobile exports certified under Japan's Preferential Handling Procedure (PHP). Japan committed to ensure meaningful transparency and fairness in its system for geographical indications (GIs) in accordance with its

domestic law and procedures, including those receiving protection through international agreements. Japan also committed to ensure meaningful transparency continuously with respect to reimbursement policies related to life sciences innovation. Both sides affirmed that they would intensify work to achieve further progress in the near term on bilateral trade issues.

Cooperation in Economic and Structural Policies

The United States and Japan reaffirmed the active use of the three-pronged approach (mutually-reinforcing fiscal, monetary, and structural policies) affirmed by the G7 members.

The United States and Japan share the view that financial regulatory regimes should be calibrated to reduce regulatory costs and burdens, while maintaining high standards of safety and soundness and ensuring the accountability of the financial system to the public.

As major shareholders in the Multilateral Development Banks, the United States and Japan are committed to working closely together to promote sustainable and inclusive development, consistent with the highest international standards and debt sustainability.

Sectoral Cooperation

The United States and Japan are coordinating on specific sectors to promote economic benefits and job creation in both countries. These focus on programs to increase investment and promote quality infrastructure, as well as to deepen energy ties; dialogues that develop shared strategies to level the global playing field for businesses; and activities that promote cooperation in specific sectors, including the digital economy, and inclusive workforce participation.

Our two countries affirmed that infrastructure projects in the Indo Pacific should be consistent with market competition and transparency, responsible financing arrangements, open and fair market access, and high standards of good governance.

Today, both governments concluded negotiations on a Memorandum of Cooperation to enhance cooperation in the transportation sector, including infrastructure development, financing, and maintenance, as well as intelligent transportation systems.

With respect to energy ties, both sides look forward to announcements in the near future on concrete achievements in a range of energy issues, including liquefied natural gas; highly efficient coal and carbon capture, utilization, and storage; civil nuclear energy; and energy infrastructure.

ВЫСТУПЛЕНИЯ

Remarks by the Vice President at the Munich Security Conference

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at the Munich Security Conference

The Munich Security Conference

Munich, Germany

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Ambassador Ischinger. Chancellor Merkel, Secretary General, distinguished colleagues, and honored guests, I bring greetings on behalf of the 45th President of the United States, Donald Trump. In my still new capacity as Vice President, I am honored and humbled to have the privilege to address this important annual forum.

I'm also pleased to have with me two members of the President's Cabinet, one of which you've already heard from, our Secretary James Mattis, of the Department of Defense, and Secretary John Kelly, of Homeland Security. We're also joined by a distinguished delegation of United States senators and congressmen, led by Senator John McCain. Please join me in welcoming my fellow Americans here with us today. (Applause.)

It's an honor to be with you all.

Founded in 1963, the Munich Security Conference has long played an important role in international affairs, bringing together political, economic, and social leaders from both sides of the Atlantic to promote peace and prosperity for our nations and our peoples.

History will attest that when the United States and Europe are peaceful and prosperous, we advance the peace and prosperity of the entire world.

Now, the President asked me to be here today to bring his greetings -- and a message.

Today, on behalf of President Trump, I bring you this assurance. The United States of America strongly supports NATO and will be unwavering in our commitment to this transatlantic alliance. (Applause.)

We've been faithful for generations -- and as you keep faith with us, under President Trump we will always keep faith with you.

Now, the fates of the United States and Europe are intertwined. Your struggles are our struggles. Your success is our success, and ultimately, we walk into the future together.

This is President Trump's promise: We will stand with Europe, today and every day, because we are bound together by the same noble ideals -- freedom, democracy, justice, and the rule of law.

So strong is our bond that over the past century, Americans have poured forth from our land to help defend yours. It's remarkable to think that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War One.

More than two decades later, in the fires of World War Two, we fought to defeat dictatorship and keep the flame of freedom alive in Europe and across the entire world.

Tens of thousands of my fellow countrymen now rest here for eternity. Tens of thousands more still stand guard here in Europe to this day.

So lest anyone doubt the United States' commitment to Europe and the importance of your defense, they need only look to our nation's investment in your peace and prosperity, in your safety and security, yesterday and today. And it has been an investment of treasure, yes, but so much more than that, America has sent you our best and bravest. (Applause.)

Our shared values and our shared sacrifices are the source of the United States' enduring bond to the nations and peoples of Europe. We honor that history by doing our part -- all of us -- to ensure the horrors of war never return to this continent.

For generations, we have worked side by side with you to strengthen and defend your democracies. Together, we formed the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 1949 to defend our shared heritage and shared principles, such as sovereignty, territorial integrity, and self-determination. We confronted the menace of Communism, which threatened to overwhelm Europe and the world in its heartless, inhuman embrace. We stood together in 1990 as this very nation reunited and Eastern Europe chose freedom, free markets, and democracy.

I saw that choice firsthand as a young man. In 1977, at the age of 18, I traveled through Europe with my older brother, and we found ourselves in West Berlin. I marveled at the streets, the people, and the bustling commerce of a city renewed just 30 years after the ravages of war.

Then we crossed through Checkpoint Charlie. The vibrant color of the free world fell away, replaced by the dour greys of still-bombed-out buildings and the shadow of repression hanging over the people.

In that moment, I came face to face with the choice facing the Western World -- the choice between freedom and tyranny.

By the grace of God, and through the leadership of Reagan, Thatcher, Kohl, Mitterrand, Havel, Walesa, the wall fell, communism collapsed, and freedom prevailed.

The fall of the Soviet Union ushered in an opportunity for unprecedented peace and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. But the end of that era only marked the beginning of another. The collapse of communism has been followed by the rise of new adversaries and new threats.

Rogue nations developing nuclear weapons now jeopardize the safety of the entire world. Radical Islamic terrorism has fixated on the destruction of Western civilization. In the early days of this new century, that enemy struck ruthlessly at our nation's capital and our greatest city.

With the smoke still rising from Ground Zero and the Pentagon, the strength of our alliance shone forth. Just as the United States stood with Europe through the end of the 20th century, Europe stood tall with the United States at the outset of the 21st. And the American people will be forever grateful.

Again I had the privilege to see our bond firsthand. Only two weeks after those horrific attacks on 9/11, as a member of Congress I traveled to Germany to participate in an international conference on terrorism. I'll never forget what I saw as we arrived at the American Embassy in Berlin -- a wall of flowers, 10-feet high, surrounded it; fragrant tokens of condolences, support, and prayers of your people for ours.

That image will forever be etched in my heart and mind. But the support of the European community went well beyond acts of kindness. For the first and only time in its history, NATO invoked Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, fulfilling our commitment to confront our common enemies together, and the American people will never forget it.

In the global war against radical Islamic terrorists, we have been bound by shared sacrifice. For the past decade and a half, the nations of NATO and many other allies have answered the call to rid the world of this great evil. From Afghanistan to Iraq to many other conflicts across the globe, our sons and daughters have served together and fought together on the field of battle.

Thousands of our citizens, coming from every corner of this alliance and beyond, have given their lives in this struggle. Fighting alongside U.S. servicemembers under NATO's mandate, more than 1,100 brave men and women from allied nations have fallen in Afghanistan since 2001. The Afghans have lost many more in order to free their homeland and keep it free today.

No matter which country they hailed from, these heroes gave the last full measure of their devotion in the cause of our peace and our security. And I hope each one of you will assure their

families, the families of their fallen that the American people will never forget their service and sacrifice on our behalf. (Applause.)

Now, those sacrifices, which continue to this day, are the surest sign of our enduring commitment to each other and our future together.

On President Trump's behalf, that future is exactly what I came here to address.

If the past century has taught us anything, it's that peace and prosperity in Europe and the North Atlantic can never be regarded as achieved; it must be continually maintained through shared sacrifice and shared commitment.

Peace only comes through strength.

President Trump believes we must be strong in our military might, able to confront any and all who would threaten our freedom and our way of life. We must be strong in our conviction that our cause is just and that our way of life is worth defending. If we lose the will to do our part to defend ourselves, we jeopardize our shared heritage of freedom.

Under President Trump's leadership, I can assure you, the United States will be strong -- stronger than ever before. We will strengthen our military, restore the arsenal of democracy, and working with many of the members of the Congress who are gathered here today, we're going to provide our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard with renewed resources to defend our nation and our treaty allies from the known threats of today and the unknown threats of tomorrow.

As we speak, the United States is developing plans for significant increases in military spending to ensure that the strongest military in the world is stronger still.

We will meet our obligations to our people to provide for the common defense, and we'll continue to do our part to support our allies in Europe and in NATO.

But Europe's defense requires your commitment as much as ours. Our transatlantic alliance has at its core two principles that are central to its mission. In Article 5, we pledged to come to each other's aid in the event of an attack.

And to be ready, if and when that day comes, in Article 3 we vowed in that treaty to contribute our fair share to our common defense. The promise to share the burden of our defense has gone unfulfilled for too many for too long, and it erodes the very foundation of our alliance.

When even one ally fails to do their part, it undermines our ability to come to each other's aid. At that Wales summit in 2014, all 28 members of NATO declared their intention to move towards a minimum security commitment of 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense within the decade.

In the words of the summit's declaration, such investments were necessary in "meeting NATO's capability targets and filling NATO's capability shortfalls."

As of this moment, the United States and only four other NATO members meet this basic standard. Now, while we commend the few nations that are on track to achieve that goal, the truth is that many others, including some of our largest allies, still lack a clear and credible path to meeting this minimum goal.

Let me be clear on this point, the President of the United States expects our allies to keep their word to fulfill this commitment, and for most that means the time has come to do more. (Applause.)

We must shoulder this responsibility together because the dangers we face are growing and changing every day. The world is now a more dangerous place than at any point since the collapse of communism a quarter century ago. The threats to our safety and security span the globe, from the rise of radical Islamic terrorism, to the threats posed by Iran and North Korea, and to many others who threaten our security and our way of life.

The rise of adversaries new and old demands a strong response from all of us.

In the east, NATO has markedly improved its deterrent posture by stationing four combat-ready multinational battalions in Poland and the Baltic States.

In the wake of Russian efforts to redraw international borders by force, rest assured the United States, along with the United Kingdom, Canada, and Germany, will continue its leadership role as a framework nation in the Enhanced Forward Presence Initiative, and we will support other critical joint actions to support this alliance. (Applause.)

And with regard to Ukraine, we must continue to hold Russia accountable and demand that they honor the Minsk Agreements, beginning by de-escalating the violence in eastern Ukraine.

And know this: The United States will continue to hold Russia accountable, even as we search for new common ground, which, as you know, President Trump believes can be found.

To the south, upheavals in Africa and the Middle East have sent violence rippling in every direction, reaching not only Europe but also the United States.

Today, the leading state sponsor of terrorism continues to destabilize the Middle East, and thanks to the end of nuclear-related sanctions under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran now has additional resources to devote to these efforts.

Let me be clear again: Under President Trump, the United States will remain fully committed to ensuring that Iran never obtains a nuclear weapon capable of threatening our countries, our allies in the region, especially Israel. (Applause.)

Throughout the Middle East, radical Islamic terrorists have found safe havens and secured vast resources that have allowed them to launch attacks here in Europe and inspire attacks in the United States.

Driven by evil, they target their own communities, their fellow Muslims, indiscriminately killing or enslaving those who reject their apocalyptic mania.

From Yemen to Libya, Nigeria to Syria, the rise of extremist groups ranging from ISIS and al-Qaeda, to al-Shabaab and Boko Haram endanger millions, including many faith-based peoples whose roots in their homelands extend into the mists of history.

ISIS is perhaps the greatest evil of them all. It showed a savagery unseen in the Middle East since the Middle Ages.

As President Trump has made clear, the United States will fight tirelessly to crush these enemies -- especially ISIS and its so-called caliphate -- and consign them to the ash heap of history, where they belong. (Applause.)

Last month, the President ordered the development of a comprehensive plan to utterly defeat ISIS. President Trump has no higher priority than the safety and security of the American people and ensuring the security of our treaty allies.

To confront the threats facing our alliance today, NATO must build upon its 20th century tactics and continue to evolve to confront the crises of today and tomorrow.

Last summer President Trump called on NATO to step up its efforts to disrupt terrorist plots before they ever reach our borders. And we've made great progress in expanding cooperation and information sharing between our intelligence and security services in recent years. But we must do more -- much more.

Consistent with the President's call, we are heartened to see that NATO has taken steps to increase focus on counter-terrorism and collaboration. The appointment of a new intelligence chief, charged with facilitating collaboration on counterterrorism, marks a positive strategic shift in NATO's ability to fulfill its mission.

Going forward, we must intensify our efforts to cut off terrorists' funding, increase our cyber capabilities. We must be as dominant in the digital world as we are in the physical world. (Applause.)

We must always stay at least one step ahead of our adversaries. For our shared goal of peace and prosperity can only be achieved through superiority and strength.

For our part, thanks to President Trump, the United States will be stronger than ever before. Our leadership of the free world will not falter, even for a moment. Our strength, and that of this alliance, is not derived solely from our strength of arms, though. It's borne of our shared principles,

the principles and ideals that we cherish -- freedom, democracy, justice, and the rule of law. These are the wellspring of the United States' strength and of Europe's strength.

They spring from that timeless notion that our unalienable rights -- of life and liberty -- are not granted to us by sovereigns, or governments, or kings. They are, as the American Founders observed, endowed by our Creator. Marshalling the will to confront the evils of the 21st century will require faith, faith in these timeless ideals.

And as President Trump has said in his Inaugural Address, it's important to know: "We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but rather to let it shine as an example for everyone to follow."

This then is our cause. It's why NATO exists. It's why, after so many centuries of strife and division, Europe is unified.

The United States has been faithful to Europe for generations, and we will keep the faith that drove our forefathers to sacrifice so much in defense of our shared heritage.

We share a past, and after all we've been through, we share a future. Today, tomorrow, and every day hence be confident that the United States is now and will always be your greatest ally. (Applause.)

Be assured, President Trump and the American people are fully devoted to our transatlantic union.

Our choice today is the same as it was in ages past: security through shared sacrifice and strength, or an uncertain future characterized by disunity and faltering will.

Well, the United States chooses strength. The United States chooses friendship with Europe and a strong North Atlantic alliance.

And in the name of all the sacrifices of the generations who have gone before, who have fought and bled and died for this alliance, with confidence in all of you, and firm reliance on Providence, I know the best days for America, for Europe, and for the free world are yet to come.

Thank you for the honor of joining you today and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

Remarks by the Vice President and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg at a JPA

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg at a JPA

Vice President and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg at a JPA

NATO Headquarters

Brussels, Belgium

4:13 P.M. CET

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: (In progress) took office, and just a few days after your great speech in Munich where you so clearly declared the strong commitment and the unwavering support of the United States to the transatlantic bond.

And we welcome that because we see the strong commitment of the United States to the transatlantic bond, not only in words but also in deeds. These days the United States is deploying new forces -- additional forces -- to Europe, which is of great importance for the security of Europe and which demonstrates the strong transatlantic commitment of the United States. And we are very grateful for this commitment.

You also stressed that just as the U.S. stood with Europe, Europe stood tall with the United States. And we have to remember that the only time that the alliance has involved our collective

defense clause, Article 5, was after an attack on the United States. And this was more than just a gesture. Several hundred thousands of Canadian and European troops have served in Afghanistan, and more than a thousand have paid the ultimate price.

The bond between the United States and NATO -- between the United States and Europe embodied in the NATO alliance is very important today because we live in times of turmoil and instability, and then we need a strong alliance more than ever. And we are stronger when we stand together.

During our meeting, we discussed our progress in the fight against terrorism. NATO continues to train security forces in Afghanistan. We have started to train security forces and officers in Iraq. And we support the U.S.-led coalition against ISIL with AWACS surveillance planes.

But we agree that the alliance can and should do more in the fight against terrorism. We also agree on the importance of higher defense spending and fairer burden sharing in NATO. This has been my top priority since I took office. Europeans cannot ask the United States to commit to Europe's defense if they are not willing to commit more themselves.

And they are committing more. In 2016, after many years of cuts, we turned a corner. Defense spending increased across Europe and Canada by 3.8 percent in real terms, or U.S. \$10 billion. But we still have a long way to go, so all allies must speed up their efforts to spend 2 percent of GDP on defense.

This will be an important point when allied leaders meet here in Brussels in May. So, Mr. Vice President, thank you for our excellent discussion. We agree that NATO is the most successful alliance in history because NATO has been able to adapt and change when the world is changing. And we agree that we must continue to change to keep our people safe. U.S. leadership remains indispensable. So I really look forward to working with you and to welcoming President Trump in Brussels in May.

So please, you have the floor.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Secretary General.

It is a privilege to meet with you today to bring greetings on behalf of President Donald Trump and also to have the opportunity for a thorough and substantive discussion of the issues facing NATO and our historic alliance.

It has been a busy weekend for me. As I prepare to head back to the United States, I'm grateful. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to speak on Saturday about our shared security issues at the Munich Security Conference. And I appreciate your encouraging words about the message of the United States at that conference.

And I also was pleased to be able to hold a series of productive bilateral meetings with leaders from all across the world.

It was also deeply moving for me and my family to return to Dachau, the very first concentration camp, and to be accompanied by a survivor by the name of Abba Naor. I had first visited that camp in 1977. I wanted my daughter to see it. And we went there and walked through that historic memorial.

Abba told me that he arrived at Dachau as a 17-year-old boy. He told me of the nightmarish existence that he experienced there. But then he spoke words that resonate with our alliance. He said: "Then the Americans came."

Those words touched my heart, and they speak volumes about the history and importance of the North Atlantic alliance and of NATO, more of which I'll address momentarily.

But I thank you again for your hospitality in this historic place at this important time.

I was also grateful today to meet with the leadership of the European Union. And on behalf of President Trump, I express the commitment of the United States to continued cooperation and partnership with the EU.

While we have our differences on some issues, I reiterated this point in all of my meetings with the EU leadership and appreciated the cordial and substantive discussions that we had.

But on Saturday, as the Secretary General mentioned, at the Munich Security Conference, I brought a message from President Trump -- the message is the same one I bring to you today.

It is my privilege here at the NATO Headquarters to express the strong support of President Trump and the United States of America for NATO and our transatlantic alliance.

The United States has been a proud and faithful member of NATO since its founding in 1949. This alliance plays a crucial role in promoting peace and prosperity in the North Atlantic and, frankly, in the entire world.

The United States' commitment to NATO is clear. As we speak, President Trump and our administration are developing plans to ensure that the strongest military in the world in the United States becomes stronger still.

Let me assure you, Mr. Secretary, that in the United States, we're about the process of strengthening our military and restoring the arsenal of democracy. Working with members of Congress, we intend to increase military funding to make it possible for us to provide for the common defense for the people of the United States, but also meet the obligations that we have with our treaty allies, including in this historic treaty.

America -- therefore I can say with confidence: America will do our part. But Europe's defense requires Europe's commitment as much as ours.

At the Wales Summit in 2014, all 28 members of the NATO alliance declared their intention to move towards a minimum security investment of 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense within a decade.

As a candidate for office, President Trump actually called attention repeatedly to the fact that for too long, for too many, this burden has not been shared fairly among our NATO allies. And that must come to an end.

At this moment, the United States and only four other NATO members meet this basic standard. And while we commend the few nations that are on track and have met the obligation, the truth is that many others, including some of our largest allies, still lack a clear and credible path to meet this minimum goal.

So let me say again what I said this last weekend in Munich, the President of the United States and the American people expect our allies to keep their word and to do more in our common defense. And the President expects real progress by the end of 2017.

As Secretary of Defense James Mattis said here in Belgium just a few short days ago, if you're a nation that meets the 2 percent target, we need your help encouraging other nations to do likewise. If you have a plan to get there, as he said, our alliance needs you to accelerate it. And if you don't yet have a plan, these are my words not his: Get one. It is time for actions, not words.

And let me thank specifically the Secretary General for your outspoken leadership on this issue. As you and I discussed privately and you've discussed with the President, the world needs NATO's strength and leadership now more than ever before. And we are grateful, Mr. Secretary General, that you join us in calling for immediate and steady progress on all of our NATO allies' commitment to our common defense.

The truth is the rise of adversaries new and old demands a strong response from this alliance. In the east, NATO has embarked on improvement in its deterrent posture by stationing four combat-ready multinational battalions in Poland and the Baltic States.

And as I assured the Secretary General in our meeting today, in the wake of Russian efforts to redraw international borders by force, the United States will continue its leadership role in the Enhanced Forward Presence Initiative and other critical joint actions.

With regard to Ukraine, as I said before, our alliance will continue to hold Russia accountable and demand that they honor the Minsk Agreements, beginning with de-escalating violence in eastern Ukraine.

For the sake of peace and for the sake of innocent human lives, we urge both sides to abide by the ceasefire that began today. And we pray for peace in Ukraine.

Be assured, the United States, as well, will continue to hold Russia accountable, even as we search for new common ground, which President Trump firmly believes can be found.

As I said in Munich, though, NATO's continued leadership is also necessary in the fight against radical Islamic terrorism; this, another item that as a candidate for office, President Trump first raised.

As a candidate a year ago, he called on NATO to evolve by expanding counterterrorism operations. And we're encouraged to see under your leadership NATO is in the process of doing just that. It's hard to speak of these issues in the abstract as I stand here in Brussels, just now almost a year ago that three horrific suicide bombings occurred, 33 innocent victims, including four Americans, hundreds more injured. I just want to assure the people of Brussels and all the people of Europe that your pain is our pain, your loss our loss. And it's precisely why the President believes it's essential that NATO continue on this new path of evolving and expanding its mission to be more effective in counterterrorism.

We will work tirelessly with our NATO allies to ensure security in our countries and yours. But adapting to these new and ever-shifting challenges must remain a central focus of our collaboration and cooperation. Our alliance needs to intensify efforts to cut off terrorist funding and increase cyber capabilities. We must be -- as I said before, we must be as dominant in the digital world as we are in the physical world. And the United States is committed to continuing to work with our NATO allies to achieve that objective for the security of all the nations in our alliance.

By building on tactics from the last century with these new century opportunities and challenges, NATO will be better prepared to confront and overcome the new adversaries of the 21st century.

Under President Trump's leadership, the United States, I can assure you, is fully committed to NATO's noble mission. We are grateful for your leadership, Mr. Secretary General. And I know the President looks forward to working closely with you to advance our shared objectives. A strong NATO means a safer world. And the United States of America looks forward to continuing to work with our partners in NATO to achieve just that.

So, Mr. Secretary, thank you very much for your hospitality and for your leadership.

Q Vice President, you've given your assurances today here in Brussels to European leaders that the U.S. is committed to working with Europe. President Trump has said very different things. He's said that the EU is a vehicle for Germany, that the U.K. was smart to get out, and he expected other countries to follow. Who should European leaders listen to -- you or President Trump? Can they be certain that what you say, the assurances you give, won't be contradicted in a tweet or a statement at a press conference tomorrow?

And, Secretary General, who do you listen to? And are you concerned about differences in what you hear?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for the question. Let me say it's my great privilege to serve as Vice President for the 45th President of the United States. And the President directed me to go to Munich and to come here to Brussels with a very specific message: To go to Munich to the Munich Security Conference and make it very clear, as I do so again today here at NATO's Headquarters, that the United States is expressing strong support for NATO, even as we challenge NATO and challenge our allies to evolve to the new and widening challenges and further meet their responsibilities in this ever-changing, ever-complicated world of threats.

But with regard to the EU, the President also directed me to come here to Brussels. And I had the great privilege of meeting with leaders of the Europe Union throughout the morning, and to express the desire of the United States to continue cooperation and partnership with the European Union.

We respect the determination of the people of Great Britain, as manifested in Brexit. And we respect the judgement of the peoples of Europe in the European Union. And as I said today through many leaders, we look forward to working across the Channel with all parties in the years ahead on behalf of peace and prosperity.

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: I have heard exactly the same firm message from the President of the United States in two phone calls; from the Vice President in meetings today and in Munich; and from Secretary Mattis -- Tillerson, and Kelly. They all conveyed the same message that the United States is firmly committed to the transatlantic partnership and have an unwavering support for the NATO alliance.

And I welcome that very much -- both the very clear statements from all leaders in the new administration, but also the fact that this is not only something we see in words, but we also see it in deeds.

For the first time in many years, we see an increase of U.S. military presence in Europe. And we are deploying new battle groups. The U.S. is deploying a new brigade. And we see on the ground more U.S. presence in Europe. So this is a commitment in words, but also in deeds.

When it comes to the European Union, I would like to underline the importance of the enhanced cooperation between NATO and the European Union. We have actually been able to bring that to a new level, implementing many different issues -- or measures. And we signed the joint declaration between President Tusk, President Juncker, and me in Warsaw and are now following up on implementing that.

We are working closer on hybrid, on cyber, on addressing how to build the capacity in our neighborhood, and how to stabilize our neighborhood, our areas where we work together with the European Union. And I think, actually, the NATO-EU cooperation is even more important now because we live in times with turmoil and unpredictability, and then we need a strong cooperation between NATO and the European Union, and I welcome the very strong U.S. support for that approach.

Q Thank you. Mr. Vice President, I wanted to ask you about the dismissal of General Flynn recently. Did you feel like you were misled by members of the Trump administration? Or were you frustrated that you were left out of the loop on this situation? And what assurances have you received from President Trump that something like this will not happen again?

And for Mr. Secretary General, both you and the Trump administration have talked about the need for additional funding for defense. What are the consequences for inaction by NATO members? Is there any scenario in which the Article V commitments might be considered conditional if NATO members do not fulfill their defense spending obligations?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you, Ken. Let me say, I am very grateful for the close working relationship I have with the President of the United States. I would tell you that I was disappointed to learn that the facts that had been conveyed to me by General Flynn were inaccurate. But we honor General Flynn's long service to the United States of America, and I fully support the President's decision to ask for his resignation. It was the proper decision. It was handled properly and in a timely way.

And I have great confidence in the national security team of this administration going forward. The combination of Secretary Mattis, of Director Pompeo at the CIA, of Secretary Kelly at Homeland Secretary I think gives the American people great confidence that the team in this administration is providing the leadership and the direction to those agencies and also to the President of the United States to advance the security of our people.

GENERAL SECRETARY STOLTENBERG: Our collective defense clause, our collective defense commitment is unconditional. It's absolute, and it's the core of the NATO alliance. And I welcome the very strong commitment of the United States to this transatlantic bond and to this collective defense clause.

At the same time, I fully support what has been underlined by President Trump and by Vice President Pence today, the importance of burden-sharing. And I think we have to remember that this is not only something that the U.S. is asking for, it's actually something that 28 Allies agreed. The leaders from 28 NATO-allied countries sat around the same table in 2014 and agreed to stop the cuts, to gradually increase defense spending, and then to meet the 2 percent target within a decade.

And the good news is that we are moving in the right direction. After many years of decline, after many years of defense cuts across Europe and Canada, we saw that in 2015 we stopped the cuts, the first year after we made the pledge. And then, in 2016, we had a significant increase of 3.8 percent in real terms, or \$10 billion.

There is a long way to go, and much remains to be done, but at least we have turned a corner and we have started to move in the right direction. I am encouraged by that, and I expect all allies to make good on the promise that they made in 2014 to increase defense spending and to make sure to have a fairer burden-sharing.

Q A question to the Vice President and the Secretary General. The German Foreign Minister has called the 2 percent goal too ambitious, and said that more spending would not necessarily lead to more security. Are you disappointed by that? And what would be the consequence if a country like Germany would not hold up to the 2 percent goal?

And a question to the Vice President, if I may. President Trump has repeatedly talked about his war with the press. Since NATO is an alliance of values, can you assure the allies that the freedom of press is not under threat in the United States? Thank you.

GENERAL SECRETARY STOLTENBERG: All allies have committed to the defense investment pledge, meaning to stop the cuts and to start to increase. And that also includes Germany, and it has also been clearly expressed from Germany that they are committed to the defense investment pledge we made together in 2014.

The good thing is that Germany has started to increase defense spending. In 2017, there will be a significant increase in German defense spending, with around or by -- around 8 percent. So, of course, Germany, as many other allies, have a long way to go. And some allies will meet the 2 percent target within a year or two. Romania declared last week that they will meet the 2 percent target this year. Lithuania and Latvia will soon be able to meet the 2 percent target also within a year or two.

So we are really making progress. Germany has started to increase defense spending. And again, I expect all allies to keep the pledge they made together as leaders in 2014.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Let me say again: The President and I, our administration, are very grateful for the Secretary General's focus on burden-sharing and for our NATO allies, whether it be Germany or other countries, to meet the commitment that treaty allies made to one another.

I think it's a demonstration of President Trump's leadership that before taking office he was speaking about the fact that the United States provides more than 70 percent of the cost of NATO today, and we are committed to continue to do our part, but that the time has come for our NATO allies to step forward. And the Secretary General's strong message on this is in all of our collective interest.

I will tell you that I had very productive discussions with Chancellor Merkel. We spoke about just this issue. And we look forward to a continued dialogue. Our hope is that we will have a date very soon where Chancellor Merkel will come to the White House. I expect the President will talk with her about it, as well. But this is simply about all of us doing what we all said we would do -- to provide for our common defense. And in the ever-changing threat environment in which we live, that's more important now than ever.

With regard to your second question, rest assured that both the President and I strongly support a free and independent press. But you can anticipate that the President and all of us will continue to call out the media when they play fast and loose with the facts. And the truth is that we

have in President Trump someone who has a unique ability to speak directly to the American people. And when the media gets it wrong, I promise you President Trump will take his case straight to the American people to set the record straight.

Q Mr. Vice President, you said the U.S. commitment to the EU was steadfast and enduring. Is the administration opposed to further disintegration of the EU, further countries exiting? And on NATO, what is the or else? If there isn't more defense spending this year, would you recommend cutting the European Reassurance Initiative? Would you cut back on exercises? What's the or else?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, I think your second question is a very fair one. What is the "or else"? I think when Secretary Mattis was here, he spoke very plainly here at NATO's headquarters about the frustration of the American people, that as our country continues to make investments in Europe's security, we see European countries falling behind. The President really put this issue front and center, before the American people in his campaign for President. And, frankly, it struck a very resonant chord.

And so I don't know what the answer is to "or else," but I know that the patience of the American people will not endure forever; that the commitment that we have made to one another, that the American people are keeping with the people of Europe and NATO, is a commitment that the President of the United States and the American people expect our allies in Europe to keep, as well. But failing that, questions about the future we'll just leave in the future as hypotheticals.

But I have to tell you, with the Secretary General's strong leadership, having made the issue of burden-sharing his top priority, having a partnership with so many countries across NATO who, in my meetings over this weekend, have expressed a desire to step forward and keep their word, I'm very encouraged about the progress. What you see happening here is in a very real sense the result of American leadership. In President Trump we have a President who is stepping forward, he's expressing American leadership not just on the issue of funding, but also on his call last year that NATO should evolve to widen its tactics to include counterterrorism as a major focus. And NATO has begun to do that. The United States looks forward to supporting that.

With regard to the European Union, my message very simply was that the United States is committed to continuing our partnership with the European Union. And I wanted to make that very clear. We understand the relationship between our economies. We understand the deep heritage of member states in the European Union with people in the United States of America. Looking for ways that we could reassure this weekend leaders of the European Union of our commitment to ongoing cooperation and that maintaining that partnership in the years ahead is hopefully a resonant message that came through, and it's my great privilege to be here to deliver it.

SECRETARY GENERAL STOLTENBERG: Let me just add that the focus of the alliance is on how can we make sure that we succeed in delivering on what we agreed about fairer burden-sharing and increased defense spending. And, therefore, I will not speculate so much about "or else," what will happen if we don't succeed. But we heard a very firm and clear message from the United States. We heard it from the President, we heard it from the Vice President, and from Secretary Mattis at the defense ministerial meeting.

So I think that just underlines the importance of making sure that we move, that we succeed in increasing defense spending across Europe and Canada. And the good thing is that we have started; 3.8 percent real increase in 2016 is a significant step, but is only one step in the right direction. We need much more.

Let me also add that we need both to spend more, but we also need to spend better. So the focus of the alliance, the focus of the defense ministers, but also in our cooperation with the European Union, is how can we increase efficiency, how can we develop cooperation, how can we make sure that we address the fragmentation of especially European defense industry so we can reduce costs and get more out of the money we invest in our defense.

But there is no way we can choose between either spend more or better. We need to spend both more and better. So what we committed in 2014 was not either to spend more or to spend

better, but it was to spend 2 percent of GDP in a better way, and we are addressing both things, and we are moving forward on both tracks.

END

4:44 P.M. CET

Remarks by the Vice President and European Council President Tusk

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 20, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and European Council President Tusk

Vice President Pence with European Council President Donald Tusk

The European Union Council

Brussels, Belgium

PRESIDENT TUSK: Mr. Vice President, dear friends, let me first of all thank you for this meeting. We all truly needed it.

Too much has happened over the past month and in your country and you; too many new and sometimes surprising opinions have been voiced over -- in this time about our relations and our common security for us to pretend that everything is as it used to be.

And thank you for being so open and frank with me, Mr. Vice President. Today I heard words which are promising for the future, words which explain a lot about the approach of the new administration in Washington.

I repaid our guest by offering honesty in my assessment of the situation. I shared our concerns and hopes. Given that I am an incurably pro-American European who is fanatically devoted to transatlantic cooperation, I could afford to be outspoken even more.

I asked the Vice President directly if he shared my opinions on three key matters: international order, security, and the attitude of the new American administration towards the European Union.

Firstly, I expressed my belief that maintaining order based on the rules of international law where brute force and egoism do not determine everything lies in the interest of the West; and that maintaining that order can only be enforced through a common, mutually supportive and decisive policy of the whole of the Western community. And for millions of people around the world, the predictability and stability of our approach provides the guarantee of, at the very least, hope that chaos, violence, and arrogance will not triumph in the global dimension.

Referring to some statements made in Munich just two days ago, I would like to say clearly that the reports of the death of the West have been greatly exaggerated. Whoever wants to demolish that order, anticipating a post-West order must know that in its defense we remain determined.

Secondly, our security is based on NATO and the closest possible transatlantic cooperation. We must work together to modernize the forms of this cooperation. Some of them should, indeed, be improved. But we should also, I believe, agree on one thing: The idea of NATO is not obsolete, just like the values, which lay at its foundation are not obsolete.

Let us discuss everything, starting with financial commitment -- but only to strengthen our solidarity, never to weaken it.

Thirdly, we are counting, as always, on the past; on the United States' whole-hearted and unequivocal -- let me repeat unequivocal -- support for the idea of a united Europe. The world would be a decidedly worst place if Europe were not united.

Americans know best what great value it is to be united, and that becoming divided is the prelude to a fall. It is in the interest of us all to prevent the disintegration of the West.

And as for our continent, in this respect, we will not invent anything better than the European Union.

In reply to these three methods, I heard today from Vice President Pence three times, yes. After such a positive declaration, both Europeans and Americans must simply practice what they preach.

On Saturday in Munich, you mentioned that during your trip across Europe in 1977 with your older brother, you found yourselves at some point in West Berlin, marveling at what you saw; then crossing through Checkpoint Charlie only to see the shadow of repression hanging over people. If you know, I had been living under this shadow for over 30 years. What I vividly remember from my own past is how after martial law was imposed in Poland on December 13, 1981, President Ronald Reagan urged all Americans to light a solidarity candle on Christmas Eve, as he did himself.

It is not difficult to imagine how this moving message of American solidarity with the oppressed Polish nation against, as Reagan said, the forces of tyranny and those who incite them from without, helped bring back hope and the determination not to give in.

In your speech, you also highlighted the historic role of some American and European leaders including Vaclav Havel and Lech Walesa. I was lucky to cooperate closely with the two of them in difficult times. Similarly to us, they all believed in the purpose of cooperation and solidarity between Europe and the U.S. We cannot let their efforts go to waste.

After today's talks, it will be easier for me to believe that we will fulfill this task.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you, President Tusk. Thank you for your warm hospitality today.

And thank you for those eloquent words and your personal courage and leadership. It's an honor to meet you and on behalf of the President of the United States to bring greetings. And I may make a note never to follow you at a podium again. (Laughter.) So thank you again for your eloquence.

Last night I was honored to have dinner with the Prime Minister of Belgium. This morning I met with the European Union's High Representative Mogherini. And this morning, a very constructive and productive conversation with President Tusk, and it's an honor to be here.

This afternoon, I will meet with President Juncker of the European Commission before taking meetings at NATO at returning to Washington, D.C.

Saturday, as President Tusk said, I was pleased to address the Munich Security Council to speak about the importance of the strategic alliance the United States entered upon so many years ago in the North American Treaty Organization.

But the President did ask me to come here to Brussels, to the home of the European Union, and deliver an additional message. And so today it is my privilege on behalf of President Trump to express the strong commitment of the United States to continued cooperation and partnership with the European Union.

Whatever our differences, our two continents share the same heritage, the same values, and above all, the same purpose: to promote peace and prosperity through freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. And to those objectives we will remain committed.

This has been the European Union's goal since before its formal founding in 1993. What began as a modest Western European trade agreement in 1951 has grown into a commitment to the four freedoms: freedom of movement -- goods, capital, services, and people; a common currency; and a common approach to foreign and security policy.

And what began 60 years ago with the Treaty of Rome among six Western European nations has grown to encompass north and south, east and west; and you welcomed new states after the end of the Cold War.

With this union and in cooperation with the United States, history will attest that when the United States and Europe are peaceful and prosperous, we do advance the peace and prosperity of all the world.

Our economies are the world's largest -- accounting for half of the world's economic output. Transatlantic commerce supports 14 million jobs on both continents and improves the lives and well-being of all of our citizens.

And so today we reaffirm our commitment to free, fair, and flourishing economies that undergird our success, and to cooperation in achieving that.

Maintaining and strengthening our economic vitality will require hard but necessary choices. Renewed growth means improved peace and prosperity for all. We must be strong, and we must be united, as well, in our efforts to confront threats to Europe's security and stability.

It's heartbreaking to reflect that now nearly a year ago, here in Brussels, in the heart of the European Union, three horrific suicide bombings and attacks took place, killing 33 innocent victims, including four Americans, injuring hundreds more.

Let me say to this community, the European community, your losses at the hands of barbaric terrorists are felt equally in every household and every heart in America. And you have our condolences and our determination to continue to do all that we can in partnership with the European Union and with all of our allies in Europe to ensure that such attacks never happen again.

We seek to take measures, and we call upon the European community to join with the United States in continuing to intensify our efforts to counter the threat of radical Islamic terrorism here on the continent.

Now, this will require greater coordination and intelligence sharing among EU member states and between the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And let me assure you, the United States is committed to continuing and expanding our collaboration on the collective security of all of our peoples.

The safety and security of your union and our people depends on that increased collaboration in the global fight against terrorism. And the United States will remain a full partner with the EU and with all of our European allies to accomplish that.

In addition to confronting terrorism together, clearly we must stand strong in defense of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations in Europe. In the wake of Russian efforts to redraw international borders by force, we will continue to support efforts in Poland and the Baltic States through NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence Initiative.

And with regard to Ukraine, the United States will continue to hold Russia accountable and demand that Russia honor the Minsk Agreements, beginning by de-escalating the violence in eastern Ukraine.

We urge both sides -- we urge both sides -- to abide by the cease-fire that was scheduled to begin today. And in the interest of peace and in the interest of innocent human lives, we hope and pray that this cease-fire takes hold.

While the United States will continue to hold Russia accountable, at President Trump's direction, we will also search in new ways for new common ground with Russia, which President Trump believes can be found.

The United States' commitment to the European Union is steadfast and enduring.

President Tusk, President Trump and I look forward to working together with you and the European Union to deepen our political and economic partnership. We are separated by an ocean, but we are joined by a common heritage and by a common commitment to freedom, to democracy, and to the rule of law. And we're confident that that bond will endure and grow in the years ahead as we meet our future together.

Thank you again for your hospitality, Mr. President. And thank you all.

END

Remarks by the Vice President and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats at a Swearing-in Ceremony

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
March 16, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats at a Swearing-in Ceremony

2:12 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, good afternoon.

On behalf of the President of the United States, today it will be my great privilege to administer the oath of office to Senator Dan Coats, who will become the fifth Director of National Intelligence for the United States of America. (Applause.)

This is a singular privilege for me as I have known Senator Coats now for more than 30 years and couldn't be more grateful for his willingness to continue his service to the United States of America in this vitally important role in the life of our nation.

We're joined this afternoon by his wife, Marsha, his son Andrew, his daughter Lisa. And we send greetings from afar to his daughter Laura, who is watching from Louisville, Kentucky, I know with great pride in her father and in her parents and their continuing service.

Also very honored to be joined today by a member of the intelligence committee in the Senate, Senator James Lankford, and the newest member of the United States Senate, Senator Luther Strange. Thank you both for being here for this occasion. (Applause.)

Senator Coats, you come here today after a long career in public service. In our home state of Indiana, you served with great distinction -- first answering the call to serve our country in uniform in the United States Army. You would be elected to the United States Congress in 1980, serving four terms in the House of Representatives, and then decade in the Senate, followed by four very distinguished years as the United States Ambassador to Germany.

You arrived literally -- your second day on the job was September 11th, 2001. And in that moment of crisis for the United States and crisis in the world, you played a leading role in marshalling European support for our nation in that dark hour.

Although you tried to retire from public service in 2005, you failed -- just as you have again. (Laughter.) And you ran for the United States Senate in 2010 and served another term, serving on the intelligence committee. You chaired the joint economic committee, adding to the more than a decade that you served on the armed services committee in the United States Senate.

Throughout all of your years, you represented not only the state of Indiana well, but you represented the interests of the United States with extraordinary integrity and commitment.

From one Hoosier to another, I'm grateful and proud for your service to date. And I know that President Trump is grateful and proud of your willingness to serve our nation at such a time as this.

The President has called you to serve this country as our Director of National Intelligence. As you know from your many conversations with him, President Trump has no higher goal than the safety and security of the American people, and from this day forward, as Director of National Intelligence, you will bring your background, your experience, your integrity, and the relationships that you have built around this nation and around the world in integrating and improving the best intelligence community in the world to be even better still.

The President and I have absolute faith in you. You've served our country with distinction for decades, and the President and I are confident that you will continue that record of leadership, integrity, and devotion to this country in the days ahead.

And so, on behalf of President Trump, it is my great privilege to administer to you the oath of office.

(The oath is administered.) (Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Ladies and gentlemen, the Director of National Intelligence for the United States, Dan Coats. (Applause.)

DIRECTOR COATS: Mr. Vice President, thank you for a more than generous introduction. But more importantly thank you for the many years of friendship with you and Karen, for your service in the House of Representatives, on the leadership in that House, for being an outstanding governor for our cherished Hoosier state, and now being awarded the great privilege of being Vice President of the United States.

To know you, to know who you are, to be so proud of our friendship, so proud of you in terms of your leadership, and being part of the team that's going to do everything we can to keep America safe, to keep America prosperous, to keep America being the America that serves all Americans, the kind of country that is recognized around the world. I'm deeply grateful for your leadership with that.

These are clearly uncertain times. It's so wonderful to be supported by a wife of many, many years who is -- and at my right-hand side -- counselor, supporter, a faithful companion; by our daughter Lisa; by our son Andrew; and our daughter Laura, who is in Louisville, Kentucky watching hopefully this procedure.

These are clearly uncertain times, but I inherit an intelligence community made up of men and women who have dedicated their careers and their lives. It's a 24/7-365-day operation. And it is designed to protect Americans from threats from home and abroad. It is designed to be the best intelligence agency in the world. It is functioning well, but everyone that serves in that community say we can even do better. It's a great privilege to be able to be selected to lead that effort and to continue to be the best intelligence service in the world providing our President, Vice President, and policymakers with the needed information they need to inscribe safe policies, good policies, and lead our nation; and in fact, always lead the world as America has done since its founding.

Mr. Vice President, I thank you. (Applause.)

END

2:20 P.M. EDT

Remarks by Vice President and Ambassador Friedman at a Swearing-in Ceremony

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

March 29, 2017

Remarks by Vice President and Ambassador Friedman at a Swearing-in Ceremony

Swearing in Ceremony for Ambassador to Israel David Friedman.

The Indian Treaty Room

5:23 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. On behalf of the President of the United States of America today it is my great privilege and honor to administer the oath of office to the 20th United States Ambassador Israel, David Friedman. (Applause.)

We're joined today by his beautiful family, beginning with his wife, Tammy; their five children. (Applause.) And five of their beautiful and highly animated grandchildren. (Laughter.)

It is really an honor to have with us David's counterpart, as well, the Israeli ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Ron Dermer. Mr. Ambassador. (Applause.)

Thank you all for being here at this historic occasion. It's the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Vice President to President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

The President of the United States of America is a lifelong friend of Israel and the Jewish people, and under his leadership, if the world knows nothing else, the world will know this: America stands with Israel. (Applause.)

One of the clearest signs of the President's commitment to the State of Israel and to its people is in his choice of David Friedman as America's Ambassador to Israel.

David, you literally were born for this job. It is because of families like yours that the Jewish people are such a beautiful thread in the fabric of this nation.

Your father, Morris, was a rabbi in New York, and as the Book of Proverbs teaches, he and your mother trained you up in the way you should go.

And so you have. They raised you with the same faith as your forefathers, and instilled in you a love for America and for Israel from your very earliest days.

And that love has been evident throughout your life. In over 35 years as a successful lawyer, you have always made it a priority to support Israel's peace, security, and prosperity. And you've worked tirelessly to deepen the friendship between our two nations.

Over the years, you have literally traveled to Israel more 75 times. You have been a leader in humanitarian philanthropy to help the people of Israel in their time of need. You've always been quick to rise to Israel's defense from those who would condemn her -- because in your heart you know that those that hate Israel hate Israel not for what she does wrong, but for what she does right.

David, your record of compassion and care for Israel and her people is an inspiration to the President and an inspiration to us all. (Applause.)

President Trump has now called on you to represent our nation as the ambassador to our most cherished ally. And this is a critical time for our two nations and our peoples. The challenges we face are many, but our resolve to overcome them has never been stronger.

Under President Trump's leadership, the United States will always be a faithful friend to the Jewish State of Israel. And David, the President and I both know that you will help us make the immutable bond between our people and the people of Israel even stronger still.

So, on behalf of President Trump, it's now my great privilege to administer to you the oath of office.

(The oath is administered.) (Applause.)

AMBASSADOR FRIEDMAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice President, for your kind words and your extraordinary leadership. You have been a beacon of moral clarity in a world that increasingly needs such a beacon more and more. Thank you so much.

My thanks to President Trump for his courageous leadership, his friendship, and his guidance. I am humbled by the trust he has placed in me, and I will do everything that I can to justify his faith and confidence in my abilities.

I'm very proud to say that my nomination represents the first time in American history that the U.S. ambassador to Israel was nominated by the President as early as the first day of his presidency. I was nominated on January 20th on Inauguration Day.

I'm equally proud to say that this is the first time in American history that the U.S. ambassador to Israel was the first ambassador approved by the Senate and given the oath of office. Those facts speak volumes about how highly the Trump-Pence administration prioritizes our unbreakable bond with the State of Israel.

I've also been deeply inspired by the leadership of Secretary Tillerson, and I look forward to working with him to promote peace and stability within the Middle East.

A few days ago I left a legal practice that was a great source of professional pride and accomplishment. My deepest gratitude to the partners of what was once called Kasowitz, Benson, Torres & Friedman. (Laughter.) And especially to Marc Kasowitz for his deep friendship and understanding.

I have a few close friends who are here whose friendship I deeply value -- none more so than Eric Hirschman (ph), who has guided my transition from the private sector to public life. Thank you, Eric.

My children and most of my grandchildren are here. They are everything to me -- seeing the pride in their eyes inspires me to take on this new task with great energy and enthusiasm.

My wife and I have four parents. Our fathers are no longer of this world, and my mother is not well enough to travel. And so I welcome today Bunny Sand, my mother-in-law, as the representative of our beloved parents. And I know that her pride is felt by those who are no longer with us. (Applause.)

Finally, my undying love and devotion to my beautiful wife, Tammy. As I said at the confirmation hearing without her, none of this would have even been thinkable, let alone possible.

Thank you all very much. (Applause.)

END

5:32 P.M. EDT

Remarks to the Troops by the Vice President with Q&A, Demilitarized Zone, South Korea

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2017

Remarks to the Troops by the Vice President with Q&A, Demilitarized Zone, South Korea

Freedom House

Demilitarized Zone, Republic of Korea

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for being here. It's my great honor to represent the President of the United States here in the Demilitarized Zone. And I'm very grateful for the leadership of General Brooks and General Lee and the ironclad and immutable alliance that is represented here by these two strong military leaders.

To stand here in this place to be able to (inaudible) of the commitment of the people of the United States to our long-term alliance for the people of South Korea is a great honor for me.

And I bring greetings to our soldiers here and to soldiers of South Korea from the President of the United States. We commend them for their vigilance here along this historic frontier of freedom, and we express the resolve of the people of the United States of America to stand together in the months and years ahead with the people of South Korea to both preserve their freedom, and ensure the objective of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. It is an objective not just shared by the United States and the people of South Korea, but by our allies across the globe.

We are heartened by the support of allies across the Asia Pacific, including China, who will continue to advance this objective on the Korean Peninsula. And I'm here to express the resolve of the people of the United States and the President of the United States to achieve that objective through peaceable means, through negotiations, but all options are on the table as we continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of South Korea for the denuclearization of this peninsula and for the long-term prosperity and freedom of the people of South Korea.

Let me say it's also very humbling for me to be here because my father served here in Korea in the United States Army more than 64 years ago. The General favored me this morning with a few reflections on my father's service here. And it seems altogether fitting that as Vice President I could be here to personally express the timeless bond between the people of South Korea and the people of the United States of America. People across the world should know that the bonds between our people are not simply strategic and military and economic, but they are personal, and they span generations of Americans and South Koreans.

And on that foundation, we will see freedom through. We will see the interests of the security and prosperity of the people of South Korea. And in a word, we go together.

Any questions?

Q Mr. Vice President, question for you. You said that everything is still on the table. Does that include a potential U.S. preemptive strike?

And secondly on China, what concrete steps did China lay out to President Trump that led him to believe that China is working very hard to put pressure on North Korea?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think President Trump and President Xi had a very frank and productive discussion about a broad range of international issues, including the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. I know the President is hopeful that China will use its influence here on the Korean Peninsula with North Korea to achieve that objective. And we are heartened by some initial steps that China has taken in this regard, but we look for them to do more. And our hope is that we'll be able -- working with China, working with our partners here in South Korea, working with Japan and other allies across the region -- to achieve this objective through peaceable means.

Q And a preemptive strike would be on the table?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: As the President has made clear, we will never discuss military tactical decisions. But the President has made clear, our administration has made clear, we stand with the people of South Korea. And all options are on the table to achieve the objectives and ensure the security of the people of this country and the stability of this region.

Q Mr. Vice President, do you have a message for the people on the other side of this line?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I think the message of the people of the United States of America is that we seek peace, but America has always sought peace through strength. And my message here today standing with U.S. Forces Korea, standing with courageous soldiers from the Republic of Korea is a message of resolve.

The people of North Korea, the military of North Korea should not mistake the resolve of the United States of America to stand with our ally. The alliance between South Korea and the United States is ironclad. We will fulfill that alliance for the sake of our people and the people of South Korea. And we will continue to stand strong to achieve our shared objective across this region and across the world of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

Q Mr. Vice President, how is this a different policy that the Trump administration is pursuing compared to the Obama administration?

And why do you believe that you can trust China this time to follow through? Past administrations have sought help from China and they often haven't come through?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I know President Trump is very hopeful that China will take actions necessary to bring about a change in policy in North Korea, an abandonment of its nuclear program and its ballistic missile program. We're hopeful that they'll use the extraordinary levers that they have and relationship they have with North Korea to achieve that objective.

But as the President has made very clear, either China will deal with this problem or the United States and our allies will.

Now with regard to a change, we have literally gone through decades -- it was more than some quarter century ago that we first learned of the presence of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula in the possession of North Korea. There was an agreed framework. There was a period of strategic patience. But the era of strategic patience is over.

President Trump has made it clear that the patience of the United States and our allies in this region has run out, and we want to see change. We want to see North Korea abandon its reckless path of the development of nuclear weapons. And also its continual use of and testing of ballistic missiles is unacceptable. That clarity we hope will be received in North Korea, and that they will understand that the United States of America, the people of South Korea, our allies across the region are resolved to achieve our objectives through peaceable means or ultimately by whatever

means are necessary to protect the interest, the security of the people of South Korea and to bring stability to the region.

END

Remarks by the Vice President and South Korean Acting President Hwang at a Joint Press Statement

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
April 17, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and South Korean Acting President Hwang at a Joint Press Statement

The Prime Minister's Residence
Seoul, Republic of Korea

ACTING PRESIDENT HWANG: (As interpreted.) Good afternoon. First of all I would like to wholeheartedly welcome Vice President Pence on his first visit to Korea, and I would also like to extend my warmest welcome to his family and delegation.

Vice President Pence's late father was a Korean War veteran who had devoted himself to the defense of our freedom and democracy during the Korean War. And this morning, Vice President Pence visited the Demilitarized Zone to inspect our stalwart combined defense posture and reconfirm our strong will to deter North Korea. This symbolizes not only a special personal tie, but also the depth and sturdiness of our alliance that has lasted over 60 years.

In particular at this time when the security situation on the Korean Peninsula is dire due to North Korea's nuclear and missile provocations, Vice President Pence's visit to Korea as his first destination in Asia since taking office shows the firm stance of the new U.S. administration on developing our alliance and responding to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. As such, I believe Vice President Pence's visit is timely and meaningful.

Today, the Vice President and I shared the view that on the basis of close cooperation and collaboration, the ROK-U.S. alliance has grown into an indispensable linchpin for peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia, as well as a successful strategic alliance that works together to resolve global challenges.

We have also reconfirmed our unwavering will to continue to make our alliance even stronger through further cooperation in the areas of security, economy and trade, and global issues.

Ten days ago on April 10th, I spoke with President Trump on the results of the U.S.-China summit and ways to work together going forward. Today with Vice President Pence we shared the understanding of the gravity and urgency of North Korea's nuclear and missile threat and agreed to double our efforts to change North Korea's strategic calculations by further tightening the global network of pressure on North Korea and thoroughly implementing sanctions under the unwavering principle of denying North Korea nuclear weapons.

Furthermore under the shared view that China's constructive efforts and role are critical, we applaud the results of the recent U.S.-China summit, and we will closely strengthen our cooperation with China. If North Korea commits another provocation, we will swiftly implement intensive punitive measures based on our cooperation with China.

At the same time in response to North Korea's continuously advancing nuclear and missile threat, we have agreed to continue to pursue various measures to strengthen our deterrence capabilities and combined defense posture to include extended deterrence. We have also agreed to further strengthen the readiness posture of the ROK-U.S. alliance in response to North Korea's growing threat by ensuring the early deployment and operation of the USFK's THAAD system.

In this respect I appreciate the United States taking a clear position on various occasions, including at the U.S.-China summit with regard to China's unfair actions in connection with USFK's deployment of THAAD. We have agreed to continue to work together so that such unfair actions may come to an end at an early date.

Furthermore, we fully shared the view that in responding to and resolving such critical issues the watertight collaboration between our two countries is of the utmost importance, and that all future policies and measures will be made under totally seamless cooperation and coordination.

Furthermore, as global partners we have also agreed to work together to resolve global issues.

It is truly meaningful that close cooperation and collaboration has continued to develop since the launch of the new U.S. administration. And I am confident that today's meeting with Vice President Pence will serve as yet another meaningful occasion for the further development of the ROK-U.S. alliance.

Thank you.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Ahn-young Ha-shim-nika.

To Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn, thank you for the kind words and the hospitality you have shown me and my family in welcoming us to the Republic of Korea, my very first stop in the Asia Pacific as Vice President of the United States.

It's a great honor for me to be in South Korea today. And I bring greetings from the President of the United States, President Donald Trump, and on his behalf, I am here to express the unwavering support of the United States for our longstanding alliance with South Korea.

President Trump and I are grateful for your strong partnership with the United States. We commend you personally for your steady hand in this time of transition in South Korea. The President and our entire administration admire the South Korean people's commitment to the rule of law and the democratic process -- and we look forward to the upcoming election with great anticipation.

While change is coming on May 9th, the people of South Korea may be assured -- whatever change happens in your elections, the commitment of the United States to South Korea's safety and security will remain unchanged.

On behalf of the President of the United States, my message to the people of South Korea is this: We are with you 100 percent. Even in these troubled times, we stand with you for a free and secure future.

The United States of America stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the Republic of Korea, and the service and vigilance of some 37,500 U.S. soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines on this frontier of freedom stand as a testament to the enduring partnership between our people.

The alliance between South Korea and the United States is the linchpin of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and indeed throughout the Asia Pacific.

The United States' commitment to South Korea is ironclad and immutable. And under President Trump's leadership, I know our alliance will even be stronger, our nations will be safer, and the Asia Pacific will be more secure.

Nowhere is that more evident than with our commitment to confront the region's most dangerous and urgent threat to peace and security -- the regime in North Korea.

Since 1992, the United States and our allies have stood together for a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. We hope to achieve this objective through peaceable means. But all options are on the table.

Just in the past two weeks, the world witnessed the strength and resolve of our new President in actions taken in Syria and Afghanistan. North Korea would do well not to test his resolve -- or the strength of the Armed Forces of the United States in this region.

We will continue to deploy the THAAD missile-defense system as a defensive measure -- called for by the alliance, and for the alliance. We will continue to evolve a comprehensive set of capabilities to ensure the security of South Korea. And as our Secretary of Defense made clear here

in South Korea not long ago, we will defeat any attack, and we will meet any use of conventional or nuclear weapons with an overwhelming and effective response.

Strategic patience has been the approach of the last American administration and beyond. For more than two decades, the United States and our allies have worked to peacefully dismantle North Korea's nuclear program and alleviate the suffering of their people. But at every step of the way, North Korea answered our overtures with willful deception, broken promises, and nuclear and missile tests.

Over the past 18 months, North Korea has conducted two unlawful nuclear tests and an unprecedented number of ballistic missile tests, even conducting a failed missile launch as I traveled here for this visit.

The era of strategic patience is over.

Earlier this month, President Trump spoke with you, Acting President Hwang, to reaffirm the strength of our alliance. As I reassured you today, we will continue to closely consult with South Korea and your leadership as we make decisions moving forward.

We also call on other regional powers and the entire international community to join us to confront North Korea and demand that it abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, to turn away from renewed hostility towards its neighbors, and to end the repression of its own people.

Earlier this month, President Trump met with Chinese President Xi at the Southern White House. The two leaders noted the urgency of the threat posed by North Korea's weapons programs and each of them reaffirmed their commitment to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula during that meeting on April 7th.

They also committed to fully implement U.N. Security Council resolutions, and to increase cooperation to convince North Korea to abandon its illicit weapons programs.

It is heartening to see China commit to these actions. But the United States is troubled by China's economic retaliation against South Korea for taking appropriate steps to defend itself. The better path would be for China to address the North Korean threat that is actually making such defensive measures necessary.

Now while issues like that remain, the President and I have great confidence that China will properly deal with North Korea, but as President Trump made clear just a few short days ago, if China is unable to deal with North Korea, the United States, and our allies, will.

So today it is my privilege, on behalf of President Trump, to reaffirm the United States' enduring commitment to the security and prosperity of South Korea and to assure the people of South Korea of our unbreakable bond. We are bound together by our shared values, but also by our shared sacrifice. A free and democratic South Korea was forged in the fires of sacrifice by soldiers from both our lands. And my father was one of them.

Sixty-five years ago, Second Lieutenant Edward J. Pence, of the 45th Infantry Division in the United States Army, fought alongside brave South Korean forces, to win the freedom of this land.

While he came home to raise a family, he had friends in uniform, from America and Korea, who went home to eternity. So, too, the friendship between our two free nations is eternal. We have bled together. We have prospered together. And on that foundation, the people of the United States of America and South Korea, will face the future together.

With courage, determination, and faith -- we go together --Katchi Kapshida.

So thank you, Mr. Acting President, for your hospitality. It is a great, great honor to be with you today. (Applause.)

END

Remarks by the Vice President and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Aso at a Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Aso at a Press Conference

The Prime Minister's Residence

Tokyo, Japan

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ASO: (As interpreted.) I'm delighted to welcome to Vice President Pence to Japan in April when some cherry blossoms are still remaining. Perhaps it reminded you of the big celebration of the Cherry Blossom Festival, which was held in Washington last month. So I hope you can still have some good impression about the cherry blossom.

Vice President Pence in his governor days in the state of Indiana visited Japan many times over and attracted many Japanese businesses to Indiana. He had really always worked very hard to strength Japan-U.S. relationship. Very soon after my visit to the United States where I had a very useful meeting with our dear, longstanding friend of Japan in February, I am very proud to say today that the Japan-U.S. Economic Dialogue was kicked off, opening up a new page for our bilateral relations.

I feel very proud about it. Security and economy are two wheels supporting Japan-U.S. alliance for the stability of the Asian Pacific region, economic prosperity is indispensable. At the dialogue today, from the perspective of further deepening win-win economic relations between Japan and the United States, Vice President Pence and I were able to have a good discussion.

Going forward in the dialogue we concurred to discuss three pillars, namely common strategy on trade and investment rule and issues; cooperation in economic and structural policy area; sectoral cooperation. Those three pillars will be discussed.

As for the common strategy for trade and investment rules and issues, at the Japan-U.S. summit meeting held a while ago, two leaders confirmed that they are fully committed to strengthening economic relationship bilaterally, as well as in the region based on the free and fair trade rules.

And based on this common recognition, Japan and U.S. relationship will further be strengthened. And under our bilateral leadership we will build high-level trade and investment standards and spread that to the Asian Pacific region, that is free and fair trade rules.

To rectify unfair trading practices in the region, Japan and the United States agree to further our mutual cooperation. Being mindful of WTO's dispute settlement procedures, Japan will push for Japan-U.S. authorities to work ever more closely, including the minister of foreign affairs dispute settlement section, as well as general counsel office, which was newly formed within METI.

On the cooperation on economic and structural policy area, Japan and the U.S. will actively use three-pronged approach of fiscal monetary and structural policy agreed at G7. And we'll discuss the ways to lead a balanced and strong growth. Views will be exchanged on international economic and financial developments, and we'll work closely.

On sectoral cooperation, infrastructure such as high-speed rail and energy various themes where Japan-U.S. could cooperate will be taken up. And Japan-U.S. economic relationship will be deepened, a multi-faceted front along with these three pillars, Japan-U.S. economic relations will leap forward significantly. And Japan and U.S. together will lead strongly economic growth of the Asian Pacific region, as well as the rest of the world.

Also Vice President Pence and I agreed to hold the second economic dialogue meeting by the end of this year at a mutually convenient time.

To further deepen Japan-U.S. win-win economic relations and to build a new history of our bilateral relations going forward, Vice President Pence and I will continue to have constructive dialogue. As far as looking at the Japan-U.S. relationship, we started with a friction, but for the

very first time, no longer it's a friction. But it's based on the cooperation now. This is a very important juncture where we are opening a new page.

Thank you so much.

Vice President Pence, please.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Konnichiwa and hello. To Deputy Prime Minister Aso, thank you. Thank you for your great hospitality and your friendship and the kindness that you've shown us in the effort that begins today.

I thank you for your tireless work to strengthen the bond between your nation and mine. It is an honor to be back in Japan. On my very first visit to the Asian Pacific as Vice President of the United States, I had to come to Japan.

I bring greetings from the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. And earlier today on the President's behalf, I had the honor to meet with Prime Minister Abe to reaffirm the abiding friendship and the enduring alliance between Japan and the United States.

The United States-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace, prosperity, and freedom in the Asia Pacific. And under President Trump, America is committed to strengthening our alliance and deepening our friendship for the benefit of our people and for the benefit of the world.

Already our bond is growing stronger. Prime Minister Abe was one of the very first world leaders who President Trump hosted at the White House. They continued their meeting at the Southern White House, and I can attest personally that they have forged a good, personal relationship which is already benefitting both of our nations.

Their relationship truly demonstrates the extraordinary respect that President Trump has for our critically important ally Japan. Today as we have for more than half a century, the United States and Japan stand united in defense of democracy and the rule of law, not only in this region, but all across the world.

Tomorrow I will speak from the deck of the USS Ronald Reagan at Yokosuka Naval Base, a tangible sign of our unity with Japan and the United States' unyielding commitment to peace and security in the Asia Pacific.

Under President Trump, the United States will continue to work with Japan and with all our allies in the region, including South Korea to confront the most ominous threat posing this region of the world, the regime in North Korea. And let me be clear, our commitment is unwavering and our resolve could not be stronger.

As President Trump told Prime Minister Abe at the Southern White House so I say on his behalf today to all the people of Japan, in these challenging times, we are with you 100 percent.

In the face of provocations across the Sea of Japan, the people of this country should know that we stand with you in the defense of your security and prosperity now and always. Now the United States will continue to work with Japan, our allies across the region, and China to bring economic and diplomatic pressure to bear until North Korea abandons its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. But all options are on the table.

Nevertheless, President Trump and I have great confidence that together with Japan and our allies in the region, we will protect the peace and security of this part of the world and achieve our shared goal of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

Now security is the foundation of our prosperity. But promoting prosperity is actually the main reason that I had the privilege of meeting today with your deputy prime minister. At the direction of President Trump and Prime Minister Abe, today Deputy Prime Minister Aso and I have the great privilege to formally launch the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue.

This dialogue presents the United States and Japan with an opportunity to deepen our bilateral economic ties and to foster jobs, prosperity, and growth on both sides of the Atlantic [sic]. We're building on a strong foundation. But as the Prime Minister said, our economies have been

intertwined for generations, and this is a new day and a new chapter in relations between the United States and Japan.

Every day, though, our nations already exchange goods and services that improve people's lives and help businesses on both sides of the Pacific succeed. Japan is the United States' fourth largest goods trading partner and our fourth largest goods export market. And Japan is one of America's leading investors. Japanese foreign direct investment in the United States now totals more than \$400 billion, the second-most of any nation.

I saw that firsthand back in my old job when I was governor of Indiana, how trade and investment between our countries can be beneficial to us all. In 2013 and again in 2015, I led a group of Indiana businesses and community leaders here to Japan to foster closer economic ties, create jobs, and spur opportunity and growth.

Today the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue seeks the very same objectives for both of our countries in full. It signifies President Trump's commitment to strengthening our economic relationship with Japan using a bilateral approach.

Today's meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Aso was an opportunity for us to broadly discuss how we view the dialogue structure and goals. The Prime Minister and I agreed that the dialogue will focus on three key policy pillars, as he just discussed. The first is a "common strategy on trade and investment rules and issues." Under President Trump's leadership, the United States seeks stronger and more balanced bilateral trade relationships with every country, including Japan. Our goal is simple: We seek trade that is free and we seek trade that is fair.

This requires breaking down barriers, leveling the playing field so that American companies and exporters can enjoy high levels of market access.

The second pillar involves economic and structural policies with a specific focus on fiscal and monetary issues. President Trump believes that both the United States and Japan can enact pro-growth and fiscally sustainable monetary and budgetary policies, a key to both of our long-term economic success.

The final pillar is what we call sectoral cooperation. The President and I are confident that we can find new ways to expand our economic ties with Japan in different sectors and different industries. American and Japanese businesses have much to offer each other. By working together, we can ensure that our two nations' economic leadership grows even stronger in the years ahead to the benefit of all of our people.

This is an important day for the partnership between the United States and Japan, and I'm deeply humbled to be a part of it. The U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue will provide us with a new forum to address the economic issues that are crucial to our long-term success. The relevant U.S. agencies -- the Department of Commerce, the Department of Treasury, and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office will lead discussions for each of these three pillars, focusing on concrete economic results in the near term and reporting back to my office.

The Deputy Prime Minister and I look forward to receiving input on the progress and accomplishment from these agencies over the coming months, and we have agreed to meet again by the end of the year to discuss the progress in each area.

President Trump and I are confident that working with Prime Minister Abe and Deputy Prime Minister Aso, we will open a new chapter of opportunity and agreement for both our people.

The President is working tirelessly to create forward momentum to deepen our bilateral economic partnership with Japan. And today's announcement is a reflection of that. President Trump and I are grateful that Prime Minister Abe and Deputy Prime Minister Aso share our goal of a mutually beneficial economic relationship, and we look forward to working with them through the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue to achieve our vision of an equal partnership that creates jobs and prosperity and growth in the United States and in Japan on an equal basis.

We have before us a historic opportunity, and today I say with confidence based on our first discussions we will seize this opportunity. We will take this moment to strengthen the ties of

commerce and friendship that exist between our people. And I believe we will usher in a new era of prosperity for ourselves and for future generations.

There is a closeness between our people that is best described with a Japanese word, and it does not have a corollary in the English language. But I learned it a while ago. As governor of Indiana, I had the opportunity to understand and appreciate the more than 250 Japanese companies that had decided to make Indiana home. The word is kizuna, and it is a reflection of a close relationship -- a relationship of understanding and of mutual respect. And I can't help but feel today that we're renewing that relationship on that foundation as we initiate this important U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue.

So thank you again, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister, for hosting me here today. I look forward to this work with great anticipation.

Q (As interpreted.) I have both questions to Mr. Aso and Vice President Pence. Trump administration declared they would withdraw from TPP. And within Japan great attention is drawn to what is going to be the U.S. trade policy going forward. Mr. Lighthizer, USTR nominee, said that in the agricultural area trading and negotiation Japan will be the first to target. So what will be the trade negotiation going forward between Japan and U.S.? What is the outlook? Are you looking for concluding Japan-U.S. FTA in the end?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ASO: Thank you, now can I answer your question first?

Well, at the Economic Dialogue this time as the common strategy on trade and investment rules and issues, free and fair rule-based trade and investment is an indispensable value and action principle for realizing the growth and prosperity not only for Japan and the United States but for the rest of the global economy, as well.

And on this course, once again Vice President Pence and I were able to confirm this. And based on that, having a good understanding about the situations underway in the Asian Pacific, it's important that Japan-U.S. should lead the rulemaking process in the region. I think it's very important, and we've been discussing that concretely -- not only to strengthen trade and investment flow bilaterally, but also Japan-U.S. can play pivotal role in spreading high-level, fair rules over Asia and the Pacific region.

We like to strengthen economic aspect of Japan-U.S. alliance, and we've been discussing that.

And looking at the Japan-U.S. economic relationship, it used to be described as being an economic fiction. We started with the word fiction. And fiction used to be the symbol of our bilateral relationship, but no longer. We are now in the era of cooperation between our two countries.

It's not a matter of which sides say what to the other side. From the big picture and strategic point of view, we would like to seek the best shape and forum of bilateral framework and define its significance and have a good constructive discussion. And I think we were able to mark a first step toward that.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for your comments, Mr. Deputy Prime Minister.

And in response to the question let me say with great respect to those who worked on the Trans-Pacific Partnership in the past, the TPP is a thing of the past for the United States of America. The Trump administration has made a decision and taken steps to formally withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and that will be our policy going forward.

But today I think gives evidence to the fact that the United States of America is determined to reach out to our partners here in the Asian Pacific and around the world to at least begin to explore the possibility of expanded economic opportunities, including trade, on a bilateral basis.

President Trump truly does believe that it's in the interests of the United States of America to negotiate trade agreements on a bilateral basis. That creates a framework within which countries can better assess whether the deal itself is -- what we call a win-win arrangement.

But today I think what the Deputy Prime Minister has said so eloquently is that today we're beginning a process of an economic dialogue, the end of which may result in bilateral trade negotiations in the future.

But we're beginning that conversation today, beginning to identify areas that we can enhance and strengthen the economic interaction between our two nations. And at some point in the future, there may be a decision made between our nations to take what we have learned in this dialogue and commence formal negotiations for a free-trade agreement.

But I'll leave that to the future, but tell you that these discussions are very much a reflection of the President's view that negotiating at arms' length on a bilateral basis with nations is the best path forward for the United States, the best path forward for the nations with whom we enter into such agreements, and I think in the days ahead you'll continue to see the United States work on a bilateral basis with countries around the world to expand jobs and opportunity for our people and the prosperity of the world at large.

Q Thank you very much. Vice President Pence, you've said that the United States will increase diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea. Today we heard Prime Minister Abe say that while he agrees with that, and we shouldn't have dialogue for dialogue's sake, Japan also places paramount importance on the need to seek a diplomatic effort to achieve a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

My question is: What exactly must North Korea do? What are the conditions for beginning that dialogue? And what form should that dialogue take?

And for Deputy Prime Minister Aso, President Trump during his campaign often called on Japan to share more of the burden for common defense and pay more for U.S. security presence here in Japan. What specifically is Japan prepared to do to respond to President Trump's call?

(Speaks Japanese.)

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you, Josh. Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula has been the longstanding policy of the United States of America, of South Korea, of Japan, of China, and it's been the longstanding policy of nations across the world.

For more than a generation, we've seen the very failure of dialogue writ large. First we remember the agreed framework of the 1990s, then we remember the six-party talks. And with good-faith efforts by nations around the world again and again, North Korea met those efforts and resolution with broken promises and more provocations.

That's why we've said the era of strategic patience is over. And President Trump has made it very clear: The policy of the United States of America will be to reach out to our allies in the region here in Japan where I just had a productive conversation with Prime Minister Abe on this topic. Yesterday, in South Korea, where I met with officials in the National Assembly and acting President Hwang.

President Trump recently met with President Xi, and the President of China reaffirmed China's commitment to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. It is our belief that by bringing together the family of nations with diplomatic and economic pressure, we have a chance -- we have a chance -- to achieve our objective of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

Now all options are on the table, and there they will remain. But President Trump and I and our administration believes the most productive pathway forward is dialogue among the family of nations that can isolate and pressure North Korea into abandoning permanently and dismantling its nuclear weapons program and its ballistic missile program.

As Prime Minister Abe said today in our brief conversation, dialogue for the sake of dialogue is valueless. It is necessary for us to exercise pressure, and the United States of America believes the time has come for the international community to use both diplomatic and economic pressure to bring North Korea to a place that it has avoided successfully now for more than a generation. And we will not rest and we will not relent until we achieve the objective of a denuclearized Korean Peninsula.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ASO: Washington Post, my English hearing is still good enough. But if I may say in Japanese.

(As interpreted.) Well, economic dialogue, TPP -- whether the TPP can be made as a foundation for a dialogue going forward, is that what you said?

Sorry. Then my English hearing is absolutely wrong. Would you mind repeating the question again?

Q Minister Aso, President Trump during his campaign often called on Japan to share more of the burden for common defense and pay more money for U.S. security presence here in Japan. What is Japan willing to do to respond to President Trump's calls for a better deal for the United States in the U.S.-Japan security relationship?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ASO: I think I got a picture. Response in Japanese is okay, right?

(As interpreted.) Now, responding to your question, let's look at Japanese defense. Just the other day -- Mr. James Mattis, Defense Secretary, came to Japan, at which occasion I had an opportunity to talk with him.

At least look at Okinawa's host nation's support -- host nation's support came up as a topic. And he said that Japan is behaving like a textbook case -- 75 percent is paid to the Okinawa host nation; ROK -- 40 percent; 30 percent Germany; and 20 percent Italy. That is a burden share. And I think whole picture was understood by General Mattis.

And also just lately when the Abe Cabinet was formed, look at the defense expenditure -- how it is being allocated. The navy is the crucial area where more budget allocation has been done, followed by air and the land. And I think this is the most appropriate allocation of the defense budget.

So at least -- ever since inclusive by General Mattis and other military personnel of the United States with regard to the Japanese defense or discontent, at least no message has been given to us from the United States as far as I know. So we will continue to make mutual effort and try to share the information as much as possible going forward, and particularly look at the East China Sea and Korean Peninsula and Sea of Japan. Certain fictions might arise. So information exchange is particularly important -- intelligence sharing and the information sharing has to continue in appropriate manner most of all because of the situation we are in.

END

Remarks by the Vice President to US-Japanese Business Community

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President to US-Japanese Business Community

Hotel Okura

Tokyo, Japan

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, good afternoon. Konnichiwa. (Laughter.)

To Chris LaFleur, thank you for that gracious introduction and for your great leadership; to Ambassador Sasae; to the chargé d'affaires, Hyland; to our state minister, Sonuora (ph); the members of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan; members of the Keidanren; representatives of the Mount Fuji Dialogue, distinguished business leaders; and my friend the Secretary of Commerce for the United States of America, Wilbur Ross, who is with us today. (Applause.)

It is great to be back in Japan. This isn't my first time here. As governor of the state of Indiana, it was my great privilege to come to Japan, which is a great partner with the people of that

heartland state, on two different occasions. But it is my first trip to the Asian Pacific, so I had to come to Japan as Vice President of the United States of America. (Applause.)

I bring greetings from the President of the United States, President Donald Trump.

Yesterday, under the President's behalf, I had the honor to meet with Prime Minister Abe to reaffirm the abiding friendship and the enduring alliance between Japan and the United States.

The United States-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace, prosperity, and freedom in the Asia Pacific. And under President Donald Trump, America is firmly committed to strengthening our alliance and defending the prosperity and security that we have built together between our nations.

As President Trump told Prime Minister Abe, so I say on his behalf today to all of the business leaders that are gathered here, to all of the people of Japan: We are with you 100 percent. (Applause.)

Know that we stand with you, now and always, and together, we will address the challenges that we face in these uncertain times; and most especially, we will address the region's most dangerous and urgent threat to peace and security -- the regime in North Korea.

Now rest assured, under President Trump, the United States is unwavering in its commitment to defend Japan. Earlier today I had a great privilege to speak on the deck of USS Ronald Reagan at Yokosuka Naval Base. Her steel deck I said there signifies the ironclad alliance between the United States and Japan. And it is a testament to our commitment to our shared security. (Applause.)

Today, over 50,000 U.S. servicemembers and a further 50,000 civilians and family members are stationed here in Japan. And the United States will continue to deploy our most advanced military assets in the region. And with regard to this challenge, let me be clear: While all options are on the table, the United States will continue to work directly with Japan, our allies across the region, and China to bring economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on the regime in North Korea until they once and for all abandon their nuclear and ballistic missile programs. (Applause.)

The President and I have great confidence, that together with Japan, and our allies in the region, we will protect the peace and security of this region, and achieve our shared goal of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

Security, of course, is the foundation of our prosperity, and prosperity is what I came to talk about with all of you today.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States is deeply committed to strengthening our economic ties with Japan. For more than 70 years, our nations have been partners in commerce, bringing our peoples together and generating growth and prosperity for generations to the benefit of both our nations.

Today, the United States' partnership with Japan is one of our most vibrant and one of our most cherished. And the American Chamber of Commerce Japan has played a pivotal role in that relationship for decades.

Since 1948, you've brought together hundreds of businesses, on both sides of the Pacific, to develop commerce between our nations and to invest in our shared future.

And the same goes to all the businesses represented here today. I just had the opportunity to meet with a number of great American and Japanese business executives -- companies like Aflac, IBM, Toyota, General Motors. All of you are pillars of our shared prosperity. And join me in a round of applause for these great business leaders who have joined us here today. We are truly honored by your presence. (Applause.)

Your businesses create jobs and drive innovation in the United States and in Japan. And thanks in no small part to your hard work, the economic partnership between the United States and Japan will continue to grow and flourish. Of that I'm confident.

Our two nations have powered the global economy for decades, and today, we account for nearly a third of the world's gross domestic product. And the trade between us is an important factor to our success.

In 2016, Japan was the United States' fourth-largest goods exports market. From aircraft to medical devices, machinery to pharmaceuticals, the United States has sent more than \$63 billion worth of goods to Japan last year alone.

When you add in services, our annual exports are closing in on \$110 billion, supporting more than 600,000 good-paying American jobs.

Our countries have also invested historic sums in each other's economies. America is a top foreign direct investor in Japan, with over \$108 billion invested.

And the benefits flow both ways. Today, Japanese-owned businesses employ 839,000 American workers, and Japanese foreign direct investment in the United States topped a stunning \$411 billion -- the second most of any nation in the world. And America is grateful. (Applause.)

I know from firsthand experience how important Japan is to the American economy. And some of these business leaders I actually met in my old job. As governor of the state of Indiana, in 2013 and 2015, I led a group of business and community leaders here to Japan. I'll always be incredibly appreciative of the more than \$1.8 billion in planned investments and the nearly 7,000 jobs in the state of Indiana that have been created by Japanese-owned firms during my time in office.

I must tell you that I saw firsthand in the state of Indiana more than 250 Japanese companies that came not just to do business, but to help build communities. And the relationship that I saw develop in communities large and small across my heartland state could only be described with that Japanese word *kizuna*. It's a bond. It's a bond of friendship, of shared heritage and shared values.

And now, as Vice President, I'm grateful to all the Japanese businesses that are investing all over the United States at this very moment. I believe the best is yet to come.

Ever since President Donald Trump's election, Japanese businesses have dramatically increased their commitment to the American economy, and we're grateful. Last December, for instance, SoftBank announced a \$50 billion investment in the United States, creating 50,000 new American jobs.

And in January, Toyota unveiled a \$10 billion investment in America, and just last week dedicated more than \$1.3 billion to a plant in the state of Kentucky.

These are only a couple of examples of many more that I could name at the podium today. The truth is, though, is that our economic partnership with Japan could still be even stronger, and that's why President Trump is taking critical steps to strengthen our bond in the years ahead.

President Trump has made it clear that our administration will strengthen our international trade relationships using a bilateral approach, and yesterday, at the President's direction, I met with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Aso to kick off the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue. And we've gone straight to work. (Applause.)

This dialogue presents the United States and Japan with the opportunity to deepen our bilateral economic ties, and to foster jobs, prosperity, and growth on both sides of the Pacific.

In yesterday's meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister, we broadly discussed how we view the dialogue's structure and goals. That dialogue we decided will focus on three key policy pillars in the months ahead.

The first is to seek a common strategy on trade and investment rules and issues.

Under President Trump's leadership, the United States seeks a stronger and more balanced bilateral trade relationship with Japan. Our goal is simple: We seek trade that is both free and fair and benefits both our nations equally.

This requires breaking down barriers and leveling the playing field so that American companies and exporters enjoy high levels of market access.

The second pillar involves economic and structural policies, with a specific focus on fiscal and monetary issues.

The President believes that both the United States and Japan can enact pro-growth and fiscally sustainable monetary and budgetary policies, which are both key to our long-term economic success.

And the final pillar is what we call sectoral cooperation. The President and I are confident that we can find new ways to expand our economic ties with Japan in different sectors and industries. In fact, as we discussed earlier today with business leaders, one of the areas we agreed upon is to examine ways that we can promote and advance women empowerment in business in the United States and in Japan. (Applause.)

American and Japanese businesses have much to offer each other, and by working together, the President and I believe that we can ensure that our two nations' economic leadership grows even stronger in the years ahead to the benefit of the entire world.

President Trump and I are grateful that Prime Minister Abe and Deputy Prime Minister Aso share our goal of a mutually beneficial economic relationship.

And as members of the business community, all of you will play an integral role in helping us identify where and how we can make the most impact in the days ahead.

President Trump and I value your continued input on the issues that you face, and we know that you can help us move toward a system that maximizes jobs, growth, and a brighter future for Japan and the United States of America.

The truth is simply that a stronger American economy means a stronger economy for Japan and for all our trading partners. The United States and Japan are drivers of global growth, and under President Donald Trump, I can promise you, the United States will drive growth like never before. (Applause.)

President Trump and our entire administration are working around the clock to pass an agenda of lower taxes, less regulation, better infrastructure, and a renewed focus on American energy. I'm sure you'll be glad to know that tax reform is one of our top priorities. I don't have to tell you how complicated the American tax code is and how much harm it does to business investment in our country -- at home and, frankly, abroad.

Our corporate tax rate sadly is one of the highest in the developed world -- it's more than 10 percent higher than the tax rate here in Japan. President Trump's tax plan is to slash the corporate rate and reform the tax code and make it simpler, flatter, and fairer.

Rest assured, our tax reform plan will make the strongest economy in the world stronger still. And it will benefit every business represented here today. (Applause.)

The same is true of the President's energetic actions from the outset of our administration to reduce the regulatory burden in America. The President already ordered every agency in Washington, D.C. to find two regulations to get rid of before issuing any new red tape on the American economy and the American people.

The President has also signed more than a dozen bills turning back the last administration's excessive regulatory mandates, and we're going to continue to work with Congress to slash through the red tape.

Make no mistake about it: Under President Donald Trump, the era of over-regulation in the American economy is over, and a new era of jobs and growth has begun. (Applause.)

Now, these are just a few of the President's policies that I could discuss today. I appreciate the feedback I received from so many of you at our earlier conversation about what our administration can continue to do to create an environment on both sides of the Pacific where we can grow and thrive.

Rest assured, President Trump's agenda in America will renew our country's reputation as the premier investment destination in the world, which will benefit both of our countries and all the enterprises gathered here.

And our success will further strengthen our bond with the businesses and the people of Japan. Of that I'm certain.

The truth is that both our nations seek the same thing. We want good-paying jobs for our people. We want more investment and higher growth. We want innovation and high-tech companies. And we want our people to be more prosperous tomorrow than they are today. These are shared goals, and they're shared values. And I can tell you that under President Trump's leadership, and working closely with Prime Minister Abe, they're the shared expectations of both of our peoples. We're looking forward to working with all of you and with the leadership here in Japan to achieve that aim.

This is a historic time in the relationship between our nations. For more than 70 years, the United States and Japan have built on a foundation of freedom and friendship, and together we've become the pillars that support opportunity and prosperity around the world.

Today, I say with confidence: With your continued help, through an enduring alliance and economic partnership, and under President Donald Trump, our nations will reach new heights, for the benefit of all of our people, and for the benefit of the world.

Thank you so much for having me here today and thank you for the opportunities that the enterprises here represent in America and in Japan. And God bless you all. (Applause.)

(The Mount Fuji Dialogue Award is presented.)

END

Remarks by the Vice President Aboard USS Ronald Reagan

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 19, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President Aboard USS Ronald Reagan

Yokosuka Naval Base

Yokosuka City, Japan

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Lieutenant General Martinez, Major General Chiarotti, Vice Admiral Aucoin, Vice Admiral Doman, Rear Admiral Williams, Rear Admiral Carter, Rear Admiral Inoue, Rear Admiral Shimo, Captain Donnelly, Chargé Hyland, Ambassador Sasae, Director-General Mori, members of United States Forces of Japan, the Japan Self-Defense Forces, it is my high honor and distinct privilege to join you here today on America's flagship -- the USS Ronald Reagan -- where every day, all of you prove it can be done. (Applause.)

You all look sharp out there, but at ease. It's so good to be with you today.

I bring greetings from the President of the United States of America, your Commander-in-Chief, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

I spoke to the President this morning, just before I boarded the ship. He said to tell you that he's proud of you. And he said to me, "I wish I could be where you are." And I know he meant it, from the bottom of his heart.

The President sent me here today to thank you -- to thank you for your service -- all of you, American and Japanese, who have stood up, who've stepped forward to protect our countries, our values, and our very way of life.

You are the sons and daughters of freedom, willing to defend it with your life -- so that your families, your fellow countrymen, and future generations may continue to call themselves free. Give yourselves a round of applause. All of America is proud of you. (Applause.)

The Good Book tells us, "if you owe debts pay debts, if honor, then honor, if respect, then respect." I stand before you today, on behalf of your Commander-in-Chief, to pay a debt of

gratitude to each of you and to express the well-deserved respect of the President of the United States and the American people for all of you who wear the uniform of this country.

Our prayers for you, for your families, your safety rise every day into the heart of heaven. In a word, you are the best of us -- heroes all. And you are here, the Americans among you so far away from home, because the United States of America and Japan are bound by history, a time-honored treaty, and the abiding oath of friendship.

The United States-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace, prosperity, and freedom in the Asia Pacific. And let me be clear: Under President Donald Trump, the United States stands unwavering in our alliance and unyielding in our resolve to defend all that we have built together over these generations. (Applause.)

Our bond with Japan is strong and growing stronger by the day. In February, only weeks after he took his oath of office, President Trump welcomed Prime Minister Abe to the White House, where they reaffirmed in their words "their strong determination to further strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance."

You here, on the deck of this great ship, are the physical manifestation of that alliance, and I have to tell you it is deeply inspiring to stand before you today, and see what I see gathered here on this deck. Every American would be inspired and proud if they had this view, and I know I am. (Applause.)

As the President and the Prime Minister made clear, the United States will strengthen its presence in the Asia Pacific, Japan will assume a larger role and responsibility in our alliance in the years ahead, and both of our nations will continue to expand our cooperation for our common defense.

Under President Trump, the United States' commitment to Article 5 of our Security Treaty is unwavering. And our treaty covers all of the territories administered by Japan, including the Senkaku Islands.

It's fitting that today I deliver this message aboard this great ship, a majestic ship, the USS Ronald Reagan, here at Yokosuka Naval Base. Her steel deck literally signifies the ironclad alliance our country enjoys with Japan and our enduring commitment to the Asia Pacific. (Applause.)

And we are standing on a ship named after my second favorite President. Our 40th President, Ronald Reagan, was a great President who powerfully reminded us that peace only comes through strength. You are that strength.

Today, over 50,000 U.S. troops and a further 50,000 civilians and family members are stationed here in Japan. And the United States will continue to deploy more of our most advanced military assets to the region in the years ahead.

Beyond this noble ship and the carrier strike group that it leads, by the year 2020, this ocean will boast 60 percent of our Navy's fleet. And the skies above already have F-35 Joint Strike Fighters flying for freedom. (Applause.)

And you can rest assured, the full range of the United States military capability is dedicated to the protection of Japan. Japan, you are our friend -- you are our ally -- and on that foundation, we will face the future together.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States once again will stand with our allies and stand up to our enemies. (Applause.)

And I can assure you President Trump will unfailingly support the brave men and women in uniform who defend our freedom every single day.

We're the proud parents of a United States Marine, stationed as we speak at a naval air station in the South of the United States. And I have to tell you, as the parent of someone in the service, it is the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Vice President to a President who is so dedicated to the men and women of our armed forces, their families, and our veterans.

I can tell you from my heart: President Donald Trump will be the best friend America's Armed Forces will ever have. (Applause.)

The President and I will honor your commitment and secure America's safety through historic investments in our national defense.

Just as President Ronald Reagan restored the armed forces in his day, so too President Donald Trump will make the strongest fighting force in the world even stronger still.

Just look at what President Trump has already accomplished. In his first 100 days, President Trump has taken decisive action to end the era of budget cuts for America's military. (Applause.)

President Trump has submitted a budget which will rebuild our military and restore the arsenal of democracy with the largest increase in defense spending since the days the namesake of this ship sat in the Oval Office. (Applause.)

And in just the past two weeks, the world witnessed the strength and resolve of our new President in the decisive action that he took in Syria and Afghanistan. The enemies of our freedom and this alliance would do well not to test the resolve of this President -- or the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the United States of America and our allies. (Applause.)

Make no mistake: Under President Donald Trump, the United States will be strong -- stronger than ever before. For as history attests, when America is strong, the world is safe. (Applause.)

A strong America -- militarily, economically, and diplomatically -- is vitally important to this region and all who call it home. It was through the bravery of our servicemembers and the spirit of our people, that America established the foundation of peace and freedom that endures in the Asia Pacific to this very day.

And under President Trump, the United States will continue to defend prosperity and ensure security on these seas, and between our lands.

Today, as in ages past, American leadership lights the way. The United States stands with all our allies and our partners in the region to keep the peace, enrich our people, and advance the common good.

Together, we will defend the rules-based order upon which the region's progress, past and future, depends. We will protect the freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, in the South China Sea and elsewhere, and we will ensure the unimpeded flow of lawful commerce on the Seven Seas. (Applause.)

And we will uphold international rules and norms, promote peaceful diplomatic dialogue to address issues of regional and international concern, and we will defend human rights -- because the dignity and worth of every person is an eternal value of the United States of America.

Under President Trump, the United States will faithfully defend all that we hold dear -- for we know that if we falter, the light of truth and freedom in the world could swiftly be extinguished.

We gather here today, on this deck, and in this place, as storm clouds gather on the horizon. On Monday, I traveled to the frontlines of freedom, where the vibrancy of a free South Korea meets directly the repression of North Korea. At the Demilitarization Zone, I met with the brave men and women who watch over that land, day and night.

They know what you who stand in the gap in this region already know -- North Korea is the most dangerous and urgent threat to the peace and security of the Asia Pacific.

For more than a generation, North Korea's leaders have sought to develop nuclear weapons and the ballistic missiles on which to deliver them. They have impoverished their people and embittered the region in their pursuit of this dangerous goal. For more than two decades, from the Agreed Framework of 1994, the Six-Party Talks from year 2003 to '09, to the strategic patience of the recent past, the United States and our allies have worked to tirelessly to peacefully dismantle North Korea's nuclear program and alleviate the suffering of its people.

But at every step of the way, North Korea answered our overtures with willful deception, with broken promises, and nuclear and missile tests -- including a failed missile test they attempted just this past Sunday.

As President Trump has made clear to the world, the era of strategic patience is over. (Applause.)

At the President's direction, the policy of the United States will be to continue to work diligently with Japan, our allies across the region, China, and the wider world to bring economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on the regime in North Korea, and we will do so until they abandon their nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

But as all of you know, readiness is the key. And you, the instruments of American policy, should know -- all options are on the table. History will attest, the soldier "does not bear the sword in vain."

And those who would challenge our resolve or our readiness should know: We will defeat any attack and meet any use of conventional or nuclear weapons with an overwhelming and effective American response. (Applause.)

The United States of America will always seek peace, but under President Trump, the shield stands guard and the sword stands ready.

Rest assured, under President Trump's leadership, the United States will continue to protect our people and our allies and to strengthen the bonds between us -- today, tomorrow, and every day that follows.

As I look out across this deck, I see men and women -- American and Japanese -- who have answered the call to duty. And you have my deepest respect. In these challenging times, it is you -- through your voluntary service and your sacrifice -- who guard the flame of freedom, undimmed and undiminished, to give to generations to come.

The President and I have absolute faith that you will accomplish this mission and freedom will prevail because you follow in the footsteps also of those who defended freedom in the Asia Pacific in the past. I stand before you deeply humbled to be among so many in uniform because my own life's journey did not take me into the uniform of the United States. But it took my father.

Sixty-five years ago, a young Edward J. Pence left his home, in Illinois, put on the uniform and crossed this vast Pacific on which you serve. Like so many of his countrymen, that second lieutenant in the 45th Infantry Division of the United States Army landed on the shores of South Korea, in the midst of a battle for freedom, a rifle in hand, resolved to defend that freedom with his life.

Just two days ago, I stood at the Demilitarized Zone, and looked out across the landscape -- the very landscape where my father had fought, in the Battle for Old Baldy and the battle on Pork Chop Hill. It was a deeply emotional experience for me. There, alongside his brothers-in-arms, American and Korean, my dad had helped seize the high ground, repulsing more than 20 enemy counterattacks. And they seized the high ground of freedom, which prevails in South Korea to this day. (Applause.)

Sixty-four years ago last week, my dad was -- had a medal pinned on his chest for his valor on the field of battle. But like most of our nation's heroes, my dad never talked much about his time in combat. I believe that he carried in his heart something that you understand in ways that I perhaps never will.

My dad never thought of himself as a hero. He often would say that the heroes were the ones that didn't get to come home. He lost friends -- young shining faces filled with promise -- who gave the last full measure of devotion for your sake, and for mine to defend our freedom and to plant freedom in that ancient land. And they succeeded.

So now it's our turn in this generation. And more to the point, it's your turn. Today, we best honor the sacrifices of those who have gone before by defending the freedom they fought and bled and died to secure.

And on behalf of your Commander-in-Chief, this we know you will do.

As President Ronald Reagan said in his time, “we must realize that no arsenal, or no weapon in the arsenals of the world, is so formidable as the will and moral courage of free men and women. It is a weapon our adversaries in today’s world do not have.” (Applause.)

For generations, the United States has stood guard over the Asia Pacific, protecting freedom through our strength of will and strength of arms.

With our friends and with our allies, with Japan and so many others, we have ushered in an era of unprecedented peace and prosperity on these seas and between our lands.

Our choice today is the same as in ages past: Security through strength, or an uncertain future of weakness and faltering will. Let me assure you, under President Donald Trump, the United States has again chosen the way of strength. (Applause.)

Under President Trump, the United States has chosen prosperity and security and an unwavering commitment to the Asia Pacific.

And in the name of the generations that came before, together with our allies, with confidence in all of you, and in the Commander-in-Chief who leads you, I know we will together go forth to meet the glorious future that awaits, a future of freedom for ourselves and our posterity.

Thank you. Godspeed on the USS Reagan’s imminent deployment. God bless you. God bless Japan. And God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

Remarks by the Vice President and Indonesian President Widodo to the Press

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and Indonesian President Widodo to the Press

Merdeka Palace

Jakarta, Indonesia

PRESIDENT WIDODO: (As translated.) It is an honor for Indonesia to welcome the visit of the Vice President of the United States, His Excellency Michael Richard Pence.

This is my first meeting with the new administration of the United States. However, I have communicated with President Trump since January. And receiving the courtesy call of Vice President Pence, we discussed a number of bilateral and international issues.

The first is the commitment of the United States to enhance its strategic partnership with Indonesia. We’ll focus on the issues of cooperation and investment. And next month, there will be a team that will discuss the arrangement of trade and investment bilateral between the countries based on the principles of win-win solution.

Second, as the largest Muslim population country in the world, as well as the third largest democracy in the world, Indonesia also agree to strengthen cooperation on peace. That is what I can convey to you all in this auspicious occasion. And I also send my best regards to President Trump through Vice President Pence. That is all from me. Thank you very much.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Good morning. Thank you, President Widodo, for hosting me here today. Thank you for your warm hospitality to my family, and the extraordinarily colorful welcome that we received from all the children as we approached this morning will be a memory for a lifetime.

It is my great privilege to be here in Indonesia. My very first visit to Indonesia to represent the President of the United States of America, Donald Trump. And I bring his greetings to you and his appreciation for your kindness and outreach since his election in November.

I know I'm the first member of President Trump's administration to visit Southeast Asia, and the President sent me here -- sent me here as a sign of the high value the United States places on our strategic partnership with Indonesia.

As the second and third largest democracies in the world, our two countries share many common values -- including freedom, the rule of law, human rights, and religious diversity.

The United States is proud to partner with Indonesia to promote and protect these values, the birthright of all people.

And as President Widodo and I discussed under President Donald Trump, the United States and Indonesia are going to work even more closely together for the mutual benefit of our nations, our people, and for the benefit of Southeast Asia, as a whole.

Economically, President Trump and I seek to expand the United States' commercial relationship with Indonesia. And the President and I spoke about that very openly today, and we look forward to those discussions continuing.

American companies have been doing business in Indonesia for years, and American products and services have contributed greatly to Indonesia's economic development. But we believe that we still have room for significant progress.

Under President Trump's leadership, the United States seeks trade relationships that are both free and fair, that spur job creation, and economic growth for both parties.

As you, President Widodo, have said so often, we're looking for a win-win relationship, and we're confident that we can find it on an increasing basis.

We believe we must level the playing field, break down barriers to ensure that American exporters can fully participate in the Indonesia market, the same freedom that Indonesia exporters have had in many sectors in the United States for many years.

Mr. President, President Trump and I look forward to working with you to make progress for this objective and are grateful for your openness to our teams beginning those conversations in the coming weeks.

The United States is also proud to be one of Indonesia's oldest and most engaged defense partners. And under President Trump we are firmly committed to continuing to collaborate on the security of both of our peoples. A stronger defense partnership will serve us well as we confront the various security threats and challenges that we now face. And of course, one of the greatest threats we face is the rise and spread of terrorism.

Sadly, Indonesia is no stranger to this evil, nor is the United States of America, as the President and I discussed. The world watched with heartbreak in January of last year when ISIS-linked terrorists struck in central Jakarta in a barbaric suicide bombing. Our hearts broke for your people. This vile attack claimed the lives of five innocents, injured more than two dozen others. What I can assure you and the people of Indonesia is that you had the condolences and the prayers of the American people as you confronted this tragedy.

We too know the terrible cost of terrorism, and the United States stands with you to condemn it and to confront it.

We will also continue to work with Indonesia to defend the rules-based system that is the foundation for Southeast Asia's peace and prosperity. The United States will uphold the fundamental freedoms of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea and throughout the Asia Pacific; will ensure the unimpeded flow of lawful commerce; and promote peaceful diplomatic dialogue to address issues of regional and global concern.

Finally, with President Trump's leadership, the United States intends to deepen our cultural ties with the nation and the good people of Indonesia. Later today I'm greatly humbled to have the privilege to visit Indonesia's national mosque, where I'll have the opportunity to speak with leaders of many faiths.

And, Mr. President, I'm very much looking forward to that visit and that honor.

As the largest majority Muslim country, Indonesia's tradition of moderate Islam, frankly, is an inspiration to the world. And we commend you and your people.

In your nation, as in mine, religion unifies -- it doesn't divide. It gives us hope for a brighter future, and we are all grateful for the great inspiration that Indonesia provides for the world.

Rest assured, under President Trump, the United States welcomes all who share our values and strive for that brighter future. Today on President Trump's behalf, I have the privilege of reaffirming the United States' strategic partnership with Indonesia and declaring our commitment to strengthen our bonds of friendship, commerce, and security.

Today I say with confidence through our continued partnership, the United States and Indonesia will continue to maintain a peaceful, stable, and a prosperous Southeast Asia for the benefit of both of our nations and for the benefit of the world.

So on behalf of President Trump, let me say again, President Widodo, thank you. Thank you for your leadership. Thank you for your hospitality. And thank you for the opportunity to build on a foundation of friendship and partnership between our two nations.

END

Remarks by the Vice President at ASEAN

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at ASEAN

ASEAN Secretariat

Jakarta, Indonesia

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. This is my first visit to the Asia Pacific as Vice President of the United States, and I bring greetings from the President of the United States, President Donald Trump.

And it is such an honor to be here today at ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Since 1967, ASEAN has fostered friendship and economic integration between its members. It's helped forge regional cooperation to tackle common challenges. It's promoted prosperity and security -- not just for ASEAN and its members, but for the Asia Pacific as a whole.

I want to thank the chargé d'affaires, Jane Bocklage, for that kind introduction. Thank you for faithfully representing the United States of America to ASEAN. The President and I are grateful for your work.

I also want to thank Secretary General Minh and Chairwoman Bwin Soseso (ph) and the ASEAN permanent members who are here with me today.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to meet with each of you today and appreciate our discussion about our shared values and shared opportunities.

Today on President Trump's behalf, I'd like to congratulate ASEAN on its 50th anniversary. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the United States' diplomatic relationship with ASEAN. Our relationship without a doubt has benefitted both ASEAN and America -- diplomatically, economically, and from the standpoint of national security.

The relationship between the United States and ASEAN is a strategic partnership. And under President Trump's leadership, the United States is already taking steps to strengthen our partnership with ASEAN and deepen our friendship.

I spoke to President Trump this morning, and he gave me the great privilege to inform the Secretary General and the permanent members of ASEAN that the President of the United States will attend the U.S.-ASEAN Summit, the East Asia Summit, and the APEC Leaders Meeting in Vietnam and the Philippines this November. (Applause.)

The President asked me to deliver this message directly to the leadership here at ASEAN and to express how enthusiastic he is to join the U.S.-ASEAN Summit during the golden anniversary year of this organization.

It is a testament to the value that President Trump places on the U.S.-ASEAN strategic partnership and the Asia Pacific as a whole. And it's a sign, I hope, to all of our firm and unwavering commitment to build on the strong foundation that we already share.

By strengthening our economic ties, the United States and ASEAN member nations can foster jobs, prosperity, and growth in new and unprecedented ways. American exports to ASEAN member nations already support more than 550,000 jobs in the United States, and almost 42,000 U.S. companies export more than \$100 billion in goods and services to ASEAN nations every year. At the same time, the United States imports a significant amount from ASEAN member nations, as well. But amazingly, U.S. companies invest more in ASEAN and its members than any other part of Asia, nearly \$274 billion, which is an investment -- which is more, in fact, than our investment in China, India, and Japan combined.

Now to protect that prosperity and to ensure our continued growth, the United States will redouble our cooperation with ASEAN on issues of regional security. The menace and the reality of global terrorism threatens all our nations. And under President Trump, we will continue to support increasing information sharing and security efforts to protect our people and our way of life across this region and across the wider world.

We'll continue to work closely with ASEAN to promote peace and stability in the South China Sea by upholding a rules-based order, ensuring the lawful and unimpeded flow of commerce, and encouraging the peaceful and diplomatic resolution of disputes. For 40 years, the United States has worked side by side with ASEAN to foster peace and prosperity on these seas and between our lands; and President Trump and I are confident that through our continued partnership, which even now, today, is growing stronger, together we will build on our firm foundation to reach even greater heights in the next 50 years of this great organization.

So I want to say thank you. Thank you to the permanent members, thank you to the Secretary General for the warm hospitality today. President Trump and I look forward to reaffirming our commitment to each of you in the days ahead, and I know he looks forward to seeing you all at the summits this November.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to make this announcement. It is an honor to be with you all. (Applause.)

END

Remarks by Vice President Pence at an Israel Independence Day Commemoration Event

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

May 02, 2017

Remarks by Vice President Pence at an Israel Independence Day Commemoration Event

Indian Treaty Room

Eisenhower Executive Office Building

3:38 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Thank you all for being here. And on behalf of the First Family, welcome to the White House. (Applause.)

I bring greetings from the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.) And on behalf of President Trump, just a few minutes ago, I had the distinct honor to wish a happy Independence Day to Prime Minister Netanyahu over the phone as we

celebrate the 69th anniversary of the independence of America's most cherished ally, the Jewish state of Israel. (Applause.)

I want to thank all the distinguished guests who are here and members of Congress who made time to come to the White House this afternoon, and people representing a broad spectrum of Americans who all cherish the relationship that the American people have enjoyed throughout these 69 years with the people of Israel.

It's humbling to be here with you on this remarkable and even a hallowed day. From Secretary Steve Mnuchin to Ambassador David Friedman -- (applause) -- to Senator Orrin Hatch, who has been a great, great champion for Israel all these many years in the United States Senate. (Applause.)

Distinguished members of Congress, including Congressman Peter King, who's with us today. (Applause.) Republicans and Democrats who are gathered here, honored guests, my fellow friends of Israel, thank you, on behalf of the President of the United States. Just thank you for being here today at the White House to celebrate this day, the anniversary of a moment that will be remembered for eternity.

You're all here, all of you, regardless of your home, your creed, because on this day, the fifth day in the month of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar in 1948, nothing short of a miracle occurred. On that day, in the ancient and eternal homeland of the Jewish people, the state of Israel was reborn. (Applause.)

On that day, the Jewish people's 2000-year exile, the longest exile of any people anywhere, ended. And on that day, a prophecy literally came to pass. And I believe in my heart that God himself fulfilled his promise to his people. The Lord God tells us in the Old Book, "Behold, I will cause breath to enter into and ye shall live." And Israel lives today. (Applause.)

Today and every day, the state of Israel and her people bear witness to God's faithfulness as well as their own. How unlikely was Israel's birth? How much more unlikely has been her survival? And how confounding against all odds, both past and present, has been her thriving. Since the moment of their independence, the Israeli people have awed the world with their strength of will, and their strength of character. They've turned the desert into a garden, scarcity into plenty. And people of Israel have turned hope into a future of security and prosperity.

And at all times, in war and in peace, the people of Israel and the Jewish people have held their heads high. Every day, Israel takes the curses and slanders of too much of the world and turns them into blessings. The dignity of the people of Israel rebukes all who condemn them, not for what they do wrong, but they condemn them for what they do right.

And under President Donald Trump, let me assure you of this -- if the world knows nothing else, the world will know this: America stands with Israel. (Applause.) President Trump stands with Israel for the same reason that every freedom-loving American stands with Israel -- because her cause is our cause. Her values are our values. And her fight is our fight.

And President Donald Trump is a lifelong friend and supporter of the state of Israel and its people. You know, I've seen firsthand the President's deep affection for Israel and all who cherish her, and so has the world. Just last week, President Trump stood with Holocaust survivors during the National Days of Remembrance. And he declared, "I will always stand with the Jewish people, and I will always stand with our great friend and partner, the state of Israel." (Applause.)

For my part, my Christian faith compels me to cherish Israel as well as our deep alliance and historical ties. The songs of the land of the people of Israel were the anthems of my youth when I was growing up. You know, my wife and I had the privilege of visiting Israel in 2004 and 2008, and we fulfilled a lifelong dream to bring all of our children to the Holy Land in December of 2014. It was a joy -- inexpressible.

So let me say with confidence to all who are gathered here: President Trump stands without apology for Israel, and he always will. (Applause.)

Just look at the actions our President has taken since he took office. The President named David Friedman to represent the United States of America in Israel. (Applause.) The President named Governor Nikki Haley to be America's Ambassador to the United Nations. (Applause.) And the President of the United States, as we speak, is giving serious consideration into moving the American embassy in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. (Applause.)

To be clear, the President has also personally committed to resolving the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. Even now, we're making valuable progress toward the noble goal of peace. Thanks to the President's tireless leadership, momentum is building and goodwill is growing. And that while there will undoubtedly have to be compromises, you can rest assured President Donald Trump will never compromise the safety and security of the Jewish State of Israel -- not now, not ever. (Applause.)

President Trump has made it clear America stands alongside Israel, as friends and as allies, as together we confront those enemies who threaten our people and all that we hold dear. Since the moment of their nation's birth, there's hardly been a day when the people of Israel have not lived without war or the fear of war, or the grim reality of terror. Know today that our prayers for the safety of the people of Israel, each and every day, go from the hearts of the American people to heaven. And know that Israel does not stand alone.

Today, under President Donald Trump, America's support for Israel's security is at record levels. (Applause.) And in President Trump, America has a leader who will call our enemies by their name. I want to promise you, as the fight even goes on now in precincts around Mosul and Iraq, even in northern Syria and Afghanistan, this President is determined to keep his promise to the American people. ISIS is on the run, and we will hunt down and destroy ISIS and terrorist organizations at their source so they no longer threaten our people, our allies, and our most cherished ally, Israel. (Applause.)

And under President Donald Trump, America will stand strong in the face of the leading state sponsor of terrorism. This administration has put Iran on notice. America will no longer tolerate Iran's efforts to destabilize the region and jeopardize Israel's security. Under President Donald Trump, the United States of America will not allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. (Applause.) This is our solemn promise to you, to Israel, and to the world.

History attests that enmity toward the Jewish people often turns from evil thought to evil action. The State of Israel bears witness to this truth. On this day, so many years ago, only three years after the horrors of the Holocaust, Israel was given life by a people who had looked into the eye of the angel of death. The Jewish people have persevered through history's darkest hour, for in that darkness shine the light of faith, of hope, and of love.

It was faith that led the Jewish people to return to their ancient homeland. It was hope that spurred them to strive with all their strength for a brighter future. And it was love for each other, and a love for freedom, that has inspired the Jewish people to greatness at the hour of Israel's birth and every hour since.

And so today we celebrate and we marvel at all that Israel and her people have accomplished. We praise their vigilance and resolve in the face of crisis and condemnation, and for their enduring courage in this time of widening challenges and unknowable threats. And today we remember the sacrifice of those who gave so much for Israel's existence, and for those brave men and women who stand sentry at this very hour.

Israel is an eternal testament to the undying fortitude of the Jewish people, to the unfathomable power of human freedom, and to the unending faithfulness of God. Indeed, though Israel was built by human hands, it's impossible not to sense that just beneath their history lies the hand of heaven. For as God tells us in his word, speaking to his people so long ago, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

I believe these words are as true today as they were in millennia past. And so I say with confidence, with your help, with God's help, through the strength and courage of the people of Israel and all who cherish her, and with President Donald Trump in the White House, the best days for Israel and America are yet to come. (Applause.)

Thank you very much. May God continue to bless and protect Israel and the people, and may God bless America. (Applause.)

END

3:50 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President Introducing President Trump's Statement on the Paris Accord

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 01, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President Introducing President Trump's Statement on the Paris Accord

The Rose Garden

3:29 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Secretary Mnuchin, Secretary Ross, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, members of Congress, distinguished guests, on behalf of the First Family, welcome to the White House. (Applause.)

It's the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Vice President to a President who is fighting every day to make America great again.

Since the first day of this administration, President Donald Trump has been working tirelessly to keep the promises that he made to the American people. President Trump has been reforming healthcare, enforcing our laws, ending illegal immigration, rebuilding our military. And this President has been rolling back excessive regulations and unfair trade practices that were stifling American jobs.

Thanks to President Trump's leadership, American businesses are growing again; investing in America again; and they're creating jobs in this country instead of shipping jobs overseas. Thanks to President Donald Trump, America is back. (Applause.)

And just last week we all witnessed the bold leadership of an American President on the world stage, putting America first. From the Middle East, to Europe, as leader of the free world, President Trump reaffirmed historic alliances, forged new relationships, and called on the wider world to confront the threat of terrorism in new and renewed ways.

And by the action, the President will announce today, the American people and the wider world will see once again our President is choosing to put American jobs and American consumers first. Our President is choosing to put American energy and American industry first. And by his action today, President Donald Trump is choosing to put the forgotten men and women of America first.

So with gratitude for his leadership -- (applause) -- and admiration for his unwavering commitment to the American people, it is now my high honor and distinct privilege to introduce to all of you, the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

END

3:31 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President to the Atlantic Council

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 05, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President to the Atlantic Council

The Ritz Carlton D.C.

8:35 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, all. Thank you, Ambassador Gray, for that kind introduction.

It truly is an honor to be with you tonight as the Atlantic Council celebrates so many distinguished leaders from North America and Europe, and from across the wider world. The Atlantic Council Distinguished Leadership Awards 2017 -- thank you all for making this possible and for your warm welcome. (Applause.)

And I bring greetings tonight from the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

Now before I get started let me first and foremost, on the President's behalf speak a word from the heart. Let me express the sorrow of our administration and all the American people for the horrific terrorist attack just two days against our cherished friend and beloved ally, the United Kingdom.

Our hearts break for the families of the victims and the injured in London. They are just the latest innocents to suffer at the hands of terrorists, joining those who died in Manchester, in Paris, in Istanbul, in Brussels, Berlin, San Bernardino, and too many other places -- victims of barbaric acts of terrorism. They have our prayers, but more than that --our unwavering resolve.

Speaking just last night, President Trump said "this bloodshed must end" and "this bloodshed will end." (Applause.)

And I want to speak not only for all the Americans gathered here but all of our friends from around the world, President Donald Trump will not relent until we protect the American people and our allies from the scourge of global terrorism.

But as you well know, this is a threat we must face together. Now is the time for NATO and this Transatlantic Alliance to stand united and stand strong in the face of global terrorism.

Our enemies seek to divide us so that they might defeat us. But our Alliance has faced far greater threats and emerged stronger and more secure and united as allies. I say with confidence and with faith we will drive the cancer of terrorism from the face of the Earth, and we will do so together. (Applause.)

So let me thank all of you in the Atlantic Council for hosting this important gathering. To President Fred Kempee, Chairman Jon Huntsman, all the Council's leadership -- thank you for your important work. For 56 years the Atlantic Council has drawn our continents closer together, and our President and the American people are grateful for more than half a century of work.

Let me also recognize the members of the Brzezinski family who are here with us tonight. Our thoughts and our prayers are with you. Mr. Brzezinski was a great man. And more important, he was a good man. And America will bear the imprint Zbigniew Brzezinski's leadership for generations to come. (Applause.)

And let me join in the chorus of congratulations to all the recipients of this year's award, many who I've had the privilege to know before and greatly admire like Admiral Michelle Howard, Her Royal Highness Haya Bint Al Hussein, Bill Ford, Jr., Renée Fleming.

And especially let me express my appreciation and congratulations to the winner of the Distinguished International Leadership Award who in the time that I met him in Brussels and the time he spent with the President at the White House and just recently overseas has demonstrated his role and his commitment to be an unfailing advocate for a stronger and more secure Transatlantic Alliance, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. You have our congratulations and our thanks. (Applause.)

It is an honor also to be joined here this evening by the leader of the newest member of our Atlantic Alliance, Prime Minister Markovic of Montenegro. Congratulations to you and to the people of Montenegro on your accession to NATO. (Applause.)

I had the privilege of welcoming the Prime Minister to the White House today. We had a wonderful discussion. I was very humbled to be able to share a few moments with him on the very day that Montenegro became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

So to Mr. Secretary General, Mr. Prime Minister, let me just say to each of those leaders that were represented in Brussels recently, President Trump so appreciated, as I do, the opportunity to meet with all of you and with NATO leaders in Brussels just a few weeks ago and over the last several months. It truly has marked this administration's beginning of a relationship that I know will only strengthen the Alliance across the Atlantic in the months and years ahead. (Applause.)

Now the world saw firsthand just a few weeks ago, President Trump embracing his role and America's role as leader of the free world. I know that under the President's leadership, the United States' leadership that I know our Alliance will grow stronger, our people will be safer, and freedom will march onward.

You know, it's fitting that I'm here on June the 5th. This is actually a seminal day in the history of our transatlantic relationship.

Seventy years ago today, it's amazing to think that George Marshall outlined his groundbreaking plan for the United States of America to partner with Europe to rebuild its economies after the ravages of World War Two, and to keep lit the flame of freedom on the continent where freedom was first kindled.

The Marshall Plan established the foundation of security and prosperity that reigns in Europe to this very day.

Two years later, it was on that foundation that we created the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, to provide for the collective defense and to protect all that we've built together.

And today, under President Donald Trump, let me assure you, the United States vows will continue to build -- to reach new heights of prosperity and security -- and we will continue to strengthen the bonds between our nation and the nations of Europe for the benefit of our peoples for generations to come. (Applause.)

As the world looked on, in his meeting with Secretary General Stoltenberg in April, President Trump reaffirmed the United States' commitment to the NATO Alliance and to the enduring values that we proudly share.

And make no mistake: Our commitment is unwavering. We will meet our obligations to our people to provide for the collective defense of all our allies.

The United States is resolved, as we were at NATO's founding and in every hour since, to live by that principle that an attack on one of us is an attack on us all. (Applause.)

Our unbreakable unity for freedom is our greatest strength. And a strong NATO is vitally important, especially in these trying times.

Only a few days ago, speaking at the unveiling of NATO's beautiful Article 5 Memorial, President Trump evoked in his words the "courage of our people, the strength of our resolve, and the commitments that bind us together as one." And this President called on us to rise together to confront in his words the "grave security concerns" that face our historic Alliance.

From Russia's efforts to redraw international borders by force, to Iran's attempts to destabilize the Middle East, to the global menace of terrorism that can strike anywhere, at any time -- it seems that the world is more dangerous today than at any point since the fall of Communism a quarter century ago.

With the rise of adversaries new and old, our Alliance must continue to evolve to confront the threats of today and tomorrow, especially with where I began tonight, confronting the threat and the menace of terrorism.

To be clear: It should be “cause for alarm” to us all, that we need to deploy our military to protect our citizens going to a concert, watching a marathon, or simply taking a stroll on a Saturday night because that is not the way a free people should ever be forced to live. (Applause.)

Already our Alliance is taking vital steps to protect our citizens and hunt down the terrorists on our terms, on their soil.

NATO continues to play a leading role in equipping the government and people of Afghanistan to confront the threat of terror. Last week’s horrible mass-murder attack in Kabul only underscores the importance of our mission.

And in light of the President’s statement in Brussels that “the NATO of the future must include a great focus on terrorism,” I know it’s heartening to the President and to our administration to see that NATO will become a full member of the Global Campaign to Counter ISIS and play a greater role in our shared fight against terrorism.

But to most effectively confront the terrorist threat -- and any other challenge, known or unknown, that faces our Alliance -- we must all be prepared do our part, without exception.

It’s encouraging that our NATO allies committed in Brussels to develop national plans to fulfill their Wales commitment to spend 2 percent of their GDP on defense.

We’re grateful to those nations that have already taken concrete steps to increase their commitment to our common security. But we have a long way to go. And as the President said in Brussels, 2 percent should be considered “the bare minimum” in this time of widening challenges and unknowable threats.

And be confident of this, President Donald Trump will continue to work with Secretary General Stoltenberg and all our NATO allies to ensure that our Alliance has the resources and the capabilities it needs to accomplish its noble mission well into the 21st century. (Applause.)

And as we look toward the future, we cannot only look inward. NATO’s “Open Door” must always remain so, for those nations, like our newest ally Montenegro, that share our values, wish to contribute to the most successful alliance in history, and seek a brighter future of security and prosperity for our nations and the world, the door must remain open.

The truth is that NATO is as important today as it was at its founding nearly 70 years ago. We are bound together by the same timeless ideals -- freedom, democracy, justice, and the rule of law.

We share a past -- of shared sacrifice, and shared commitment -- and after all we’ve been through, I know we share a future, too.

Today, tomorrow, and every day hence be confident that the United States is now and will always be Europe’s greatest ally.

Our devotion to this historic Alliance is unwavering and eternal. And together, we will go forth to meet that glorious future that awaits freedom-loving people.

One of my favorite quotes of Winston Churchill is actually carved into the wall of the narthex of the National Cathedral. It simply reads as follows. It’s words that he spoke before the Congress in a time of great challenge in the life of this nation. Prime Minister Churchill said, “He must indeed have a blind soul, who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below, of which we have the honor to be the faithful servants.”

To all of us in this historic Transatlantic Alliance, to all the freedom-loving nations represented here, let us have that same faith, let us be the faithful servants of freedom, and let us rededicate ourselves to the preservation of this Alliance and all it stands for.

Thank you for the honor of being with you tonight. Thank you for the work of the Atlantic Council. God bless NATO, all of our allies, and God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

8:50 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President on the Policy of the United States Towards Cuba

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 16, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President on the Policy of the United States Towards Cuba

Manuel Artime Theater

Miami, Florida

1:25 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Hello, Miami! (Applause.)

What a great day.

Governor Scott, Senator Rubio, Congressman Diaz-Balart, Congressman Curbelo, Secretary Acosta, Secretary Perdue, Secretary Ross, distinguished members of the Cuban-American community, honored guests, my fellow Americans, welcome to history! (Applause.)

Welcome to a historic day, a day when America will renew our commitment to the ideal of freedom in this hemisphere, a day when the world will witness America once again standing in solidarity with the people of Cuba thanks to the strong and unwavering leadership of President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

It is the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Vice President to President Donald Trump -- a man of his word, a man of action, and a President who stands without apology as leader of the free world. (Applause.)

Since the hour of our nation's birth, the United States has stood for the proposition that all are created equal, that we are endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights -- life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. (Applause.)

As Americans we believe these rights belong to the entire human family. But for 58 years the people of Cuba have labored under a repressive regime that has stifled their liberty and with it, their future.

For generations, the sons and daughters of Cuba have come to our shores in search of the freedom that their friends and family at home are denied.

But while you came to the land of the free, you never forgot home. You raised your voices through the generations to demand that Cuba be free once more -- and once again, you have a President who hears you and is with you. (Applause.)

Today, President Donald Trump will make it clear that America is with you, that America stands with the persecuted, the oppressed, and the exploited in Cuba -- that this nation stands not with tyrants, but today, President Donald Trump will make it clear that the United States of America stands with the courageous men and women of Cuba who seek to reclaim their God-given rights to life and liberty. (Applause.)

Today, under the leadership of President Donald Trump America, will say once again with one voice -- Que Viva Cuba Libre -- Cuba Si, Castro No. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Cuba Si, Castro No, Cuba Si, Castro No, Cuba Si, Castro No!

THE VICE PRESIDENT: So With gratitude for his leadership, and with admiration for his unwavering dedication to freedom, it is now my high honor and distinct privilege to introduce to you my friend, the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

END

1:30 P.M. EDT

Remarks by Vice President Pence at the Wilson Center

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2017

Remarks by Vice President Pence at the Wilson Center

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

Washington, D.C.

1:00 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you all for that warm welcome, and thank you to Jane Harman for that very kind introduction and those stirring words. And thank you for your leadership at the Wilson Center. I served in the Congress of the United States with Jane Harman and it was always better to be with her than against her. (Laughter.) Do join me in thanking Jane Harman for her great leadership here at the Wilson Center.

Let me also mention someone, who, as Jane noted, is not here today but may well be looking on. When I grew up in a small town in Southern Indiana, there was a fixture in that town -- someone who was actually elected to the Congress from Columbus, Indiana, but he was no stranger to anyone in the town. On any given week it would be easy to find Congressman Lee Hamilton walking down Washington Street in Columbus, Indiana, stopping on the curb -- always available. I have great memories, although it may pain him, of the times that he visited my high school and would lean against the teacher's desk and explain in a way that he's so capable of the uniqueness and specialness of the United States House of Representatives. And, Lee, I know you're looking on today, and while our politics are still different, my respect for you is boundless. Thank you for your service to the country, and thank you for your leadership in your years here at the Wilson Center. God bless you. (Applause.)

It's an honor to be here at the Director's Forum with the members and friends of this well-respected institution -- an institution of "independent research, open dialogue, and actionable ideas." It's truly a bipartisan stalwart here in Washington, D.C. -- the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. I'm honored to have the opportunity to speak to so many leaders from public life, academia, and the international community, especially. And to all of you, I bring greetings from the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

And I'm here, at the President's direction, to reaffirm the United States' commitment to, in his words, an America First agenda -- an agenda of advancing security and prosperity and freedom across the world. And I'm also here to reaffirm our commitment to the Western Hemisphere as a whole and especially the nations and people of Central America.

But before I do, let me, again, thank the Wilson Center for hosting this forum and for all you do all across this country. The Wilson Center and all of you gathered here today have a unique perspective on America's essential role in global affairs. And that's been true since the founding of this institution in 1968. You recognize that the world looks to America as the standard bearer for freedom; that American strength is critical to peace and prosperity across the wider world.

From the outset of this administration I can tell you, we've been busy. We've been busy holding up that standard in the world, but we've also been busy here at home keeping our promises to the American people.

Quick report for my fellow citizens gathered here today. President Trump has signed 39 bills into law since Inauguration Day. He's actually signed more bills into law rolling back federal red tape than any President in American history. And along the way in the first 100 days, we confirmed a principled jurist to the Supreme Court of the United States in Justice Neil Gorsuch. The President's put a renewed focus on American energy, set the stage for historic tax relief for working families and American businesses.

And today, my fellow Americans here can be assured before this summer is out, working with the Congress, President Donald Trump will keep his promise to repeal and replace the Affordable

Care Act. Following on the work of the House of Representatives, today the United States Senate released its repeal-and-replace bill.

And the President and I are grateful to Leader Mitch McConnell and all the Senate Republicans for their deliberative efforts over the past month. We look forward to working with the Senate majority to move this legislation forward. And the President and I are determined, before this summer is out, to keep our promise to the American people -- to repeal and replace Obamacare and give the American people the kind of world-class healthcare they deserve.

So we've been busy here at home. But in case you haven't noticed, we've been busy abroad, as well. Since day one of this administration, President Trump has been taking decisive action to restore America's role as the leader of the free world by putting America first. Just last week, in defining his foreign policy, President Trump said that the United States is adopting a principled realism rooted in our values, our shared interests, and common sense.

And this President, by his actions, has shown the world that America First does not mean America alone. Since the outset of this administration, President Trump has engaged with the wider world in new and in renewed ways, and this President has rebuilt America's standing in the world and forged even stronger ties with our allies and friends across the globe.

President Trump has personally spoken to foreign leaders 93 times since he's taken office. He's hosted 32 foreign leaders at the White House. In fact, President Trump hosted Japanese Prime Minister Abe, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, Prime Minister May of the United Kingdom, and of course, Chinese President Xi of the People's Republic of China, just to name a few. And in just a few days, the President will host the new President of South Korea and the Prime Minister of India -- yesterday, was speaking to the new Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia.

The world saw the leadership that this American President has taken on the world stage just last month when President Trump traveled to the Middle East and Europe. And our President took the occasion of that trip to reaffirm historic alliances and forged new partnerships to ensure the safety and security of the American people in a time of widening challenges and unknowable threats.

For my part, I can tell you it's been very humbling and a great privilege for me to have the opportunity to represent this President and meet many world leaders here in Washington, D.C. and travel across the world on the President's behalf. In February, the President sent me to the Munich Security Conference to deliver a message to the nations and people of Europe that under President Trump, the United States strongly supports our North Atlantic alliance and strongly supports NATO, and we will be unwavering in our commitment to that alliance. (Applause.) The President had me deliver a message then that he reiterated on his recent trip that we expect our allies to live up to their word. We expect NATO to continue to evolve as changing threats occur in the world stage. I reiterated this message in Brussels in my meeting with NATO Secretary Jens Stoltenberg, and at the President's direction, I met with leaders from the European Union to reinforce our ties with those nations as well.

But President Trump also dispatched me to the Asian Pacific to strengthen our alliances and partnerships across that vital region with South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Australia on the itinerary and all the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. I had the opportunity to meet with the representatives of ASEAN when I was there.

As I told them, our primary focus was on the greatest threat to security in the Asian Pacific -- the brutal regime in North Korea. And my message was very straightforward: When it comes to North Korea, under this administration, the era of strategic patience is over.

This week, American hearts broke with the news that Otto Warmbier had passed away shortly after being restored to his family from his brutal incarceration at the hands of the regime in North Korea. And our prayers are with Otto's family and friends today as they lay him to rest and give their final goodbyes.

As the President said just a few days ago, North Korea's treatment of Otto Warmbier was a disgrace. And I can assure you it only deepens our determination to prevent such tragedies from befalling innocent people in the days ahead.

As I expressed on the President's behalf on my trip to the Asian Pacific, under this administration, the United States will continue to work diligently with our allies across the region and China and the wider world to bring increased economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on North Korea. And we will do so until North Korea abandons its nuclear and ballistic missile programs once and for all. (Applause.)

Under the leadership of President Trump, the United States stands strong for our most cherished ideals. And to protect these ideals, we stand with our allies and our partners across the world. And that holds true here in our hemisphere, and literally with our neighbors to the south. We feel a connection, as I said last week in Miami -- a connection in history, a connection in geography. And I'm here to tell you, Latin America is a priority for the Trump administration. (Applause.)

Our partnerships and alliances throughout the region are critical to our national interests. The President has said -- in his words -- it's best for America to have freedom in the Western Hemisphere. And last Friday, on that count, as Jane just mentioned, the President took decisive action to end the last administration's failed policy toward Cuba and support the courageous Cuban people in their six-decade struggle for liberty.

Under this administration, the United States now will restrict financial transactions with repressive military, security and intelligence services of the Castro regime and instead redirect lawful commerce to entrepreneurs, to private enterprises in Cuba, and to all those brave Cuban citizens who yearn for freedom and for a brighter future.

No longer will America enrich the Cuban regime at the expense of the Cuban people. Because America stands for opportunity, not oppression; for liberty, not tyranny. The Cuban regime must make real progress on human rights and individual freedom. And as the President has said, our policy will not change until all political prisoners are freed, freedoms of assembly and expression are respected, all political parties are legalized, and free and internationally supervised elections occur. That's what American leadership looks like. (Applause.)

But, as we all know, Cuba is not the only nation in the region where democracy and freedom are in steep decline and at risk of being completely eradicated. It's increasingly true of the troubled nation of Venezuela. Venezuela's collapse into authoritarianism and anarchy has been heartbreaking to see. The people of that once-rich nation now suffer rampant crime and grinding poverty on a daily basis.

Just as we stand with the people of Cuba, under President Trump, the United States stands with the people of Venezuela. The United States of America condemns the Maduro regime's abuse of power and the abuse of its people, and we call upon the Maduro regime to restore a robust democracy and the rule of law, and do it now. (Applause.)

Throughout this week, our diplomats at the Organization of American States General Assembly in Cancun worked with likeminded partners to build a consensus in support of democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela. We were, frankly, disappointed that the OAS did not act in the face of crisis and was unwilling to protect the inter-American democratic charter that was founded to preserve.

Nevertheless, 20 nations did courageously speak out against the Maduro regime's repression. And to them, we say thank you. And rest assured, the United States of America will continue to support international efforts to restore freedom, democracy and the rule of law to Venezuela until freedom occurs. (Applause.)

America cares deeply for the plight of the Venezuelan people and the Cuban people, because what happens in our neighborhood affects everybody in the neighborhood. And that holds true in Central America. Under President Trump, the United States has three priorities when it comes to

that vital region, particularly in the Northern Triangle nations of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. We seek to destroy the gangs and criminal networks, to halt illegal immigration.

And lastly, we're working to stop the flow of illegal drugs into our country, into our communities that are tearing apart American families. Last Thursday, at the President's direction, I traveled to Miami to discuss these goals at the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America that we organized along with our ally, Mexico. The conference was co-hosted by our Departments of State, Homeland Security, and the government of Mexico.

And in my remarks, I commended Foreign Minister Videgaray and Interior Minister Osorio for their actions to address the serious problems throughout the region. And I had time with the foreign minister privately when we were there. Mexico is a valued partner of this administration. And we will continue to seek ways to advance security and prosperity in the region with them. (Applause.)

When we met, I reaffirmed that the United States is grateful for the significant investments made by leaders in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to strengthen security, to promote prosperity, and to bring real reforms to their nations, and to promote reform across the region. And on President Trump's behalf, I assured them the United States is with them.

We stand with them to root out corruption and crime. We stand with them to stop the scourge of illegal drugs and illegal migration. And under President Donald Trump, the United States stands with the nations and the people of the Northern Triangle to ensure a brighter future for themselves and their posterity. (Applause.)

These three nations literally sit at the heart of the Western Hemisphere, where north meets south. And every day, countless people and products pass over their streets, through their airports, their seaports, and across their borders. By and large, this flow of commerce and crowds benefits us all, and the exchange of cultures as well as goods and services. But, as we all know, Central America is also plagued by vicious gangs, vast criminal organizations that drive illegal immigration and carry illegal drugs north into the United States.

Sad truth is that American demand is driving the flow of drugs. And fully 80 percent of documented drug smuggling travels through Central America. The cartels and kingpins cause untold suffering in that region, and so too do these merchants of death spread violence and leave victims all across America. President Trump has said this must end. And working with our allies in the region, and with men and women of law enforcement in this country, this will end. (Applause.)

The President has already taken decisive action to protect the American people from the harshest consequences of illegal immigration and the transnational drug trade. At the President's direction, American law enforcement is targeting gangs and criminals like never before. As President Trump has pointed out, criminal cartels like MS-13 are being decimated, in his words, and being sent directly to prison.

Thanks to President Trump and with the help of our partners in Mexico and in the Northern Triangle, reports of illegal border crossings at America's southern border are already down nearly 70 percent since the first of this year.

This progress is remarkable. But President Trump knows that fully addressing these problems requires confronting them in new and in renewed ways. And just last night, President Trump called for new immigration rules that will say that those seeking admission to our country would not be able to do so unless they can support themselves financially. And he promised to take action very shortly to ensure that that is the policy and practice of the United States.

And beyond our immigration laws, the United States is committed to addressing the demand for illegal drugs here in our nation, which drives so many of the problems south of our border. And finally, under President Trump, the United States is firmly committed to cracking down on the gangs and criminals before they ever reach this nation; to partnering with nations in Central and South America to foster prosperity and give their people the opportunities they need to prosper.

As we all know, the United States has long partnered with nations in the region to accomplish these goals. Under President Trump, this administration is now directed to continue to work in new and renewed ways with our partners to support the programs that prove effective. The President made that clear in our commitment when he requested an additional \$460 million in our budget for security and prosperity in Central America. Yet the most important work throughout the region belongs -- the President and I know -- to the nations and the people who call the region home.

As I said at the conference in Miami last week, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador must now redouble their efforts to bring about the reforms that will protect their citizens and promote economic growth; to give people hope, a reason to put down roots in their own homes; to give them a vibrant economy and an alternative to a life of poverty or, worse, a life of crime. I made it clear that they must bring in new partners in the business community, in the faith community, and the public sector to ensure continued progress.

Now, I am pleased to report that the conference in Miami has already generated concrete results. At the conference, key private sector leaders identified policies that will promote sustainable economic growth and create a more attractive destination for investment. And the Northern Triangle governments have now committed to enact the kind of reforms to improve their business climates, including minimizing red tape, improving transparency, and streamlining business formalization and processes.

Three nations have also committed to develop a roadmap to enhance economic integration in the region, and streamline import/export systems and customs procedures. And we began initial discussions to further integrate energy markets and develop infrastructure.

And on security, the United States is committed to enhancing our work with Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries to combat organized crime, strengthen citizen security, improve border security, and promote regional security cooperation through programs that are focused on capacity building and information sharing.

These steps are encouraging, and I hope all of you find them as heartening as we do. And in the days and months ahead, I can assure you this administration will continue to work with the Northern Triangle, and with all of Central and South America, to promote prosperity and security throughout the Western Hemisphere.

As I announced last week, in less than two months, at the President's direction, I will be trying to build on the work that's been done thus far in this administration. I'll be traveling to Colombia, Argentina, and Chile, and Panama to represent the United States and the commitment of this administration to the nations and the people of that region. And it will be my great honor to go.

Each of these nations is an important partner for this administration, and I look forward to discussing areas of shared concern and new opportunities for collaboration, for the benefit of our people and the benefit of this hemisphere that we all call home.

We are, all of us, bound together -- as I said at the outset, we're bound together by history and geography in this new world. And under the leadership of President Trump, I believe we're entering a new era in the new world. The Old Book tells us that we should encourage one another and build each other up, just as, in fact, we are doing.

Under President Trump's leadership, I can assure you that we will build on the foundation of friendship in this hemisphere, between our lands and between our people. Together, we will achieve new heights of security and prosperity. And I have faith that with our partners across this hemisphere, and with the help of all of you gathered here, and with President Trump in the White House -- together, we will claim the promise of a brighter future for ourselves, for our hemisphere, and for generations to come.

So, thank you. And God bless you. And God bless the work you do in these halls. And God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

MS. HARMAN: Well, Mr. Vice President, I was looking out at the heads nodding as you charted the course of continued U.S. engagement in the world. It matters a lot to my colleagues at

the Wilson Center and this international audience that the United States project strong and secure and sure leadership. And the things you were talking about are really central to doing that, so thank you. And thank you also for doing something that I know is unusual so far in your vice presidency and that is agreeing to take a few questions. And I offer these questions on behalf of myself, but also my colleagues and some in the audience, and they relate specifically to the summit, which is our topic today.

So you described what is happening coming out of the summit, which is only a week ago. Time flies. What's new? What are things that you are doing that, perhaps, the past administrations -- all of which talked about Latin America and most of the leaders visited Latin America. What's different in the approaches you're taking, especially in the Northern Triangle?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Jane, and again thank you for the opportunity to be here and thank you all for making time to be here for this forum today. I think what's new is a new and renewed engagement that combines security and prosperity as co-equal goals in the region, and perhaps especially in the Northern Triangle.

Our Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary Kelly, in his last assignment, when it was General Kelly, forged extraordinary relationships with leaders in countries across the region. And at the President's direction, he tasked Secretary Kelly and Secretary Tillerson to bring together the nations in the region around the conference that's focused on both of those issues, and to seek ways that we could work with countries in the region to fight insecurity, impunity, lack of opportunity, but also coordinate in ways that would advance public safety in those nations and our national security.

As I mentioned in my speech, I think what's also new is a renewed energy that we see, particularly in the Northern Triangle, to advance not only cooperation on security issues -- which, in the case of almost all the countries, has been strong in other countries in the region -- but, also as I described, the discussion of standardizing customs rules, of creating a more attractive business environment.

We actually had at the conference last week a significant number of American businesses who have a great interest or would consider investing in the region, and connecting those businesses with those countries we believe is a key part of advancing our security and prosperity interests.

So I think it's a holistic approach, looking at security and prosperity simultaneously; a great focus on promoting the kind of reforms in the Northern Triangle that we think will advance their prosperity and our interests. And that's what might be fresh.

MS. HARMAN: Well, I applaud you for that, and for sending

-- I applaud the administration for sending the A-team down there. And just so you know, Secretary Kelly is no stranger to the Wilson Center. The Homeland Security Department has some offices in this building, and he's already hosted one of his advisory board meetings -- I sit on that board -- here at the Wilson Center. And he does offer unique leadership because of his experience as head of the Southern Command.

So congratulations to you -- and also to him.

Let me turn to Mexico. You mentioned Mexico and the fact that Mexico co-chaired the conference -- I think that was a brilliant idea -- and that Vice President Videgaray and others were there. There have been a few bumps in the road in terms of a relationship with Mexico in the last months, but there have also been some very good stories. And it's complicated, as they say.

The Southern border between Mexico and the Northern Triangle is, I think, quite secure now. And that's a great credit to Mexico. The Northern border with the U.S. between Mexico and the U.S., as you said, is working better. Bad people are being stopped at the Northern border.

What are your expectations in the relationship with Mexico? And what do you want them to do to be the best ally for the United States? And what do you think the United States should do to be the best ally for Mexico?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you for making mention in your remarks and reiterating it. This was a conference that was conceived of when the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Homeland Security visited Mexico earlier this year and said, where are ways that we can begin to work together on issues of common interest.

And I don't want to paper over -- look, we're in the Reagan Building, and President Reagan is my second favorite President. (Laughter.) He had some memorable lines. One of them is, a nation without borders is not a nation. And people know that President Trump has made it clear we're going to invest in border security, we're going to build a wall. We're going to secure the Southern border of the United States of America. And he's spoken very plainly about that, both in the campaign and in the course of this administration.

But that being said, we've also been engaging with Mexico. I know that's created some tension, but we've also been engaging with Mexico on areas where we strongly agree. And we do strongly agree on the issue of transnational migration. And you're right, Mexico has made great progress securing their Southern border. We've been providing assistance to them with regard to confronting criminal gangs, and we will continue to.

We also just minted a very successful trade agreement on sugar with Mexico. And so where we agree to disagree, where we have differences, our friends will always know where those are. But I can assure all those present that we're going to continue to work with the Mexico as a critical partner in the region, critical partner in this hemisphere, and dealing with the issues of promoting security in the region and promoting prosperity in the region is in the interest of the United States of America.

And so I appreciate that. We saw Miami as a great example of both governments' commitment to find things that we can work on together, and we'll continue to do so.

MS. HARMAN: Well, I'm totally unbiased, but our Mexico Institute here at the Wilson Center is absolutely best in class. And we're really proud -- Duncan Wood, where are you? We're really proud of what we have. And we're happy to have it. (Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: That's great.

MS. HARMAN: So turning to a painful subject -- drugs. You mentioned it, Mr. Vice President. And this morning, I was on Capitol Hill participating on something called the National Security Forum. And John Kelly was there, and he said, "Our drug demand is brutalizing Northern Triangle societies." Our drug demand. The U.S. drug demand. The pull factor. I mentioned that 90 percent of the cocaine last year that came into our country came in from Central America to Mexico to the U.S.

And I don't think it's as big a problem in Indiana as perhaps opioids are, but it's a huge problem in California, my home state of California. You mentioned that we're doing things. But we've spent billions of dollars on this problem. What can this administration do hopefully to solve this problem?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I think that the President's view of this is that we've got to deal with this in a multifaceted way. It's the reason why the President has taken decisive action to secure our borders and to prevent the flow of illegal drugs into our country to begin with.

We've also, with the Justice Department, working with local law enforcement, we've been taking swift and decisive action against drug gangs across this country -- not just people that are in the country illegally that are involved in these gangs, but we're moving very swiftly to interdict. We announced 12 cities' federal grants just yesterday morning, and are encouraging even greater collaboration.

But the President also recognizes that while we must vigorously secure our borders, we must vigorously enforce our laws. We've also got to recognize, particularly when it comes to opiate abuse and addiction, that we've got to lean into this challenge with new and compassionate efforts. I mentioned healthcare reform, which continues to make progress on Capitol Hill. And we remain hopeful that there will be action in the coming days in the United States Senate.

tell you that, as governor of the state of Indiana, our Medicaid program that we were able to modify through a state waiver plan was enormously important in dealing with opiate abuse and drug abuse and addiction in our state. And we're working with members of Congress to give states greater flexibility to focus resources in Medicaid on the point of the need.

I have to tell you, I've sat at kitchen tables with recovering addicts, great young people, top of their class, promising futures who found themselves addicted to opiates, oftentimes beginning with prescription medication that then avalanched into heroin abuse. And then I've also sat at kitchen tables with parents who buried their children. And that's one of the reasons why the President tapped Governor Chris Christie, established a commission to confront opiate abuse in the country. And our administration is deeply committed to identifying new approaches.

Vigorous law enforcement, strong border security, but also finding ways that we can extend health and healing and compassion to people that are caught up in the grip of drug abuse and addiction in this country. The approach has to be multifaceted, and President Trump is committed to advancing that in our administration.

MS. HARMAN: Well, I appreciate your use of the word "compassion." And maybe we could add prevention too, if there's a way, possibly, to start -- to stop the process before it starts. Because it is taking our youngest and best lives.

Finally, you mentioned North Korea. I'm not going to ask you about North Korea, but it obviously is an urgent problem, something else that we know a great deal about at the Wilson Center. But North Korea, the problems in Syria, challenges around the world are also commanding U.S. attention. And so my question is, how does this conference last week on security and prosperity in Central America fit into our broader engagement in the region and in the world?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, I think the conference this week was an expression of the President's desire to ensure that we are advancing security and prosperity in our neighborhood. Even as we see widening asymmetrical threats developing around the world we'd do well to see to Central and South America to ensure that these countries are advancing the kind of reforms that will encourage growth, promote prosperity and promote security.

And we also -- I was with the President in Miami at the close of our conference when he announced that we were abandoning the last administration's policy on Cuba and implementing -- new approach demanding that if -- Cuba live up to the empty promises it made to the last administration about advancing reforms. And we'll hold them to that.

And also, the issue of Venezuela, which continues to spin out of control. The headlines this morning about even new developments in Venezuela -- I think the President will continue to call for real leadership in the region to bring pressure on Venezuela, to hold elections as their constitution requires, and to uphold free elections and the rule of law.

And so I think it's -- for us it's about putting first things first. And the first priority of President Trump and this administration is the safety and security of the American people. And that begins with ensuring the security and prosperity of nations in this region, but also I think people have seen, as I mentioned in the first part of my speech, this is a President who will always stand for America first. That doesn't mean America alone.

What I've seen this President do in one meeting after another in the Oval Office, what the world saw him do as he traveled around the world was engage -- engage on behalf of the United States, engage on behalf of the people of this country and our vital national interests. But the United States is engaging. We're going to continue to engage.

I think that involves diplomacy. The President believes strongly that involves rebuilding our military to ensure that we have the readiness and capability as the arsenal of democracy to see to our vital national interests around the world and those of our treaty allies.

But it all begins close to home, and I hope, as we confront challenges in the Middle East, in the Asia Pacific, and we confront them with firmness and resolve and with clarity, that our

neighbors in this hemisphere know that we're also with them, we stand with them, and we are determined to advance the peace and security and prosperity of this hemisphere.

So I thank you, Jane. Thank you for the invitation. And thank you all for making time to join us here today. God bless you. (Applause.)

MS. HARMAN: Well, if I just might add one thing -- and then we'll applaud you again -- you started your comments by talking about Lee Hamilton. And Lee Hamilton was a mentor to me, as well as to you, and he was a role model in the United States Congress of the kind of person we need more of. He was well-informed. He was humble. He was bipartisan. He was friendly. And if he were here, he'd be totally embarrassed by these comments. He provided enormous leadership at the Wilson Center for 12 years, and with other Hoosiers like Dick Lugar, showed that bipartisanship can work.

So it's just my plea to a town where there is too much partisanship that Lee Hamilton remain as a model not just to the Wilson Center and to me and to Vice President Pence, but to all of us.

And in this spirit, thank you so much for coming here. It's a huge honor for us. (Applause.)

END

2:05 P.M. EDT

Remarks by Vice President Pence to Troops

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 23, 2017

Remarks by Vice President Pence to Troops

Schriever Air Force Base

Colorado Springs, Colorado

2:06 P.M. MDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you so much. Thank you. How about a big round of applause for General Raymond. He is a remarkable leader. (Applause.) We couldn't be more honored to be here in Colorado with the men and women of Schriever Air Force Base where every day you are evolving the force, driving innovation, and mastering space. Give yourselves a round of applause, would you please. (Applause.)

I bring greetings this afternoon from your Commander-in-Chief, a champion of the Armed Forces of the United States, the 45th President of the United States, President Donald Trump. (Applause.) And I also brought my commander-in-chief with me --(laughter) -- my wife of 32 years, who also is a Marine Corps mom. Would you give a rousing welcome to the Second Lady of the United States, Karen Pence, is with us today. (Applause.)

MRS. PENCE: I'd like you all to know I was born on McConnell Air Force Base. (Applause.)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: And we're just delighted to be with all of you today and for the great work at Air Force Space Command. And also I want to congratulate the newest Brigadier General of the United States Air Force -- just announced this morning -- the Commander of the 50th Space Wing, General Deanna Burt. Congratulations, General. (Applause.) And lastly, allow me to just -- this is my first opportunity to do this -- to introduce the President's choice to be the United States Secretary of the Air Force, herself an 11-year veteran of the Air Force. I served with her in the Congress of the United States. She is an incredible advocate of our armed forces, a courageous veteran who has worn the uniform. Join me in welcoming Secretary and Doctor Heather Wilson. (Applause.)

And to all the leadership and all the men and women who serve at Schriever Air Force Base, it's an honor to be with you. The Old Book says if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if

respect, then respect. And I'm just really here to pay a debt of honor and a debt of gratitude on behalf of the American people for your service to this country. Each and every one of the men and women in this cafeteria have stepped forward in this all-volunteer military that we have to serve our country at an enormously important time. And you here at Space Command in every real sense -- as I'll say more than once -- literally, you might be in Colorado, but you are on the front lines and every day you are in the fight for freedom and the American people are grateful. (Applause.)

I told the President this morning I was headed your way and he said to me just, "just tell 'em I'm proud of 'em." And I'll tell you what, the President speaks for all of the American people. I can attest to it. The pride the American people place in all the men and women of our armed forces is incalculable and I hope you feel it every single day.

This Air Force Base has really exemplified American leadership and American excellence now for more than 30 years. There may not be any runways here, but every day you reach into the stars and you make it possible for your fellow warriors to be able to take the fight to the enemy with enhanced security and enhanced safety. And you guard the nation in space and in cyberspace. You're on the cutting edge of technology and arms and you complete the Air Force's mission. You know, the Air Force's mission -- if I get this right, Heather -- is to "Fly, fight, and win in air, space and cyberspace." And you're the last two of that in every sense of the word and we commend you for it.

You know, this base is named after a legendary American who wore the uniform, General Bernard Schriever -- the father of the Air Force Space program. And today the more than 7,700 members of the 50th Space Wing operate the space and cyber systems that literally are the envy of the world and keep America one step ahead of all who would do us harm.

You direct no fewer than 175 American satellites that are crucial to our national security every day -- in weather, communications, and early warning of foreign missile tests. Every American benefits from your efforts here -- the world's only global utility, the GPS system that's essential to our daily life.

And as the President said in his inaugural address and many times since, space is a priority for this administration and it is a priority for the American people and it will always be. (Applause.) In fact, I'm pleased to report that nearly two decades after it was disbanded, in just a few short weeks the President will soon relaunch the National Space Council. And it will be my great honor as Vice President of the United States to serve as its chairman, which has been a historic role for this office. The President recognizes that America needs a coherent and cohesive approach to the last, greatest frontier in history, and the National Space Council, as it has played a role before, will advise the President on both civilian and military national policy and strategy for space and we look forward to the work of that new entity.

It will strengthen opportunities that we have and it will encourage more investment at the national level and more aspiration for all of our people to look to space for careers and for service. And I just want you all to know that this administration is determined to once again ensure that America is leading in space in near Earth orbit and exploration far, far beyond our planet.

And you, the men and women of Schriever Air Force Base, will play a leading role as America leads in space. Under President Trump your mission will be more important than ever before because this administration knows that your work, in the depths of space and cyberspace, is crucial to our security in the 21st century.

You know, it really is the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Vice President to a President who cares so deeply about the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States, their families, and our veterans. In fact, you'll probably see on the news a little bit later today that not more than a couple of hours ago, President Trump gathered in the East Room at the White House and signed the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act -- comprehensive legislation to provide our veterans with the care they earned in the uniform of the United States and America and we're going to see it through for world-class healthcare for all those who served.

This new act, following the Choice Act the President signed into law, is a historic step to hold VA employees accountable to the highest performance standards, it will ensure they're accountable when those standards are not met, and it includes long-overdue protections for VA employees who uncover wrongdoing or blow the whistle on poor care. We all remember those terrible stories. Literally some of our veterans, men and women who have worn the uniform of this country and protected our freedom, who literally struggled with health and some who passed away waiting for care at the VA. I promise you, with this new legislation today and under President Trump's leadership and Secretary Shulkin, the day of bad healthcare at the VA are over. And reform at the VA is coming.

And let me also say -- as I already mentioned before -- as the proud parents of a United States Marine, I couldn't be more grateful to stand with a President who is so committed to rebuilding our military, restoring the arsenal of democracy. And President Donald Trump is fighting every day to make sure that our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard have the resources and the training you need to accomplish your mission and bring our soldiers home safe. (Applause.)

Last month, the President signed a \$21 billion increase in funding for the Armed Forces of the United States. It was the largest investment in our military readiness in nearly a decade. In his first budget the Congress will take up this fall, the President called for the biggest increase in military spending since the days of Ronald Reagan -- including a nearly 20 percent increase in the Air Force space budget. We're going to fight to lead in space and we're going to put the resources of the United States of America behind you. (Applause.)

In short, the President of the United States is going make the strongest fighting force in history stronger still -- American strength will only grow under the leadership of this new President and this new administration. It doesn't matter whether we're dealing with a brutal regime in North Korea or Iran, or radical Islamic terrorists in Syria, Yemen, or Iraq, the United States will continue to stand strong. We'll continue to take the fight to the enemy on our terms on their soil.

And each one of you are going to continue to be at the tip of the spear, and I understand that, and so does the President. It's one of the reasons I wanted to be here today. It's one of the reasons why I'm told the Secretary of the Air Force has already been here once before in her very short tenure. Because you warriors in the room are playing a central role every hour, every day in the fight against radical Islamic terrorism and the fight for freedom around the world, and we recognize it.

As we speak, your brothers-and-sisters-in-arms are stationed across the wider world on the frontiers of freedom in the mountains of South Korea, fields and forests of Eastern Europe, the deserts and valleys of Iraq and Afghanistan; and it's an enormous comfort to them and a great source of confidence that you're here. That your vigilance and your professionalism is here ensuring that they have the real-time information to accomplish their missions.

You know those who wear the uniform of the United States, all of you in this room, and all those around our country and around the world are really the bulwark of American freedom. Every day you here at Schriever Air Force Base play your part to defend our freedom, protect the American people, and I want you to know we're grateful each and every day.

You know, it's always humbling for me to stand before men and women who are wearing the uniform of the United States because my life did not take me on that path. I didn't wear the uniform. I'm actually the son of a soldier. My father saw combat in the Korean War. And as I mentioned, I'm the proud father of a United States Marine. But maybe it's altogether fitting that someone like me stands before men and women like you just to say thanks. Make sure you know how grateful the American people are each and every day for the service that you provide here and the sacrifice you and your families make to keep our country safe.

So let me tell you, I can assure you that you have the support of your Commander-in-Chief and of his number two and of our entire administration. You have the support of the Congress of

the United States and the support of the American people that they represent. Let me also assure you one other way -- you also have the prayers of the American people. I know each and every day, there are people across this country who pray for your protection, who pray for your skill and professionalism, and you provide protection and cover over those in harm's way. And they'll continue to carry you, carry you in faith and in prayers as you serve our country.

So I came today to say thank you. Thank you for your service. Thank you for your service that creates our freedom at home and our security around the world. And I look out around this room I have faith. I have faith that in the days ahead we will keep America safe. That we'll make it possible for America to prosper. And to borrow a phrase, we'll Make America Great Again.

Thank you for your service, God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

2:16 P.M. MDT

Remarks by the Vice President to the US-India Business Council

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

June 27, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President to the US-India Business Council

Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium

Washington, D.C.

11:00 A.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Chairman Chambers, President Aghi, Ambassador Sarna, Ambassador Roemer, distinguished Members of Congress who join us here today. It is an honor to join you for the 42nd Annual Leadership Summit of the U.S.-India Business Council. Give yourselves a round of applause. This is a great, great annual event. (Applause.)

I couldn't be more grateful to join you at this important gathering. And before I get started, I just left the Oval Office a little bit ago, and the President wanted me to bring greetings from a leader who has already strengthened the bond between the United States and India -- the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

This conference is particularly timely. As you all know, yesterday President Trump welcomed Prime Minister Modi to the White House. I was there for most of the meetings. It was a historic and productive time, and at its conclusion, standing next to the Prime Minister, President Trump declared that India had in his words a "true friend in the White House" -- and so do all of our friends from India who are gathered here. (Applause.)

President Trump recognizes that the United States' relationship with India is one of the most important strategic relationships in the 21st century.

Our two great nations are bound by friendship, by commerce -- so well represented by American and Indian businesses here. And we're partners in the fight against global terrorism and as brothers-and-sisters in the cause of freedom and our commitment to democracy. And today, I say with confidence: Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, our friendship will grow deeper, our partnership will grow stronger for the benefit of both of our nations and our people -- and the world. (Applause.)

As you well know, commerce is central to both of our nations' prosperity and well-being; the commerce between us that is. Fortunately, the United States and India have formed a strong trade relationship in recent years -- in no small part thanks to the work of the U.S.-India Business Council over these four decades.

And for more than 40 years, this council has brought together leaders in industry and leaders in public life to “promote bilateral trade,” foster investment, job growth, innovation in both of our nations. And you’ve succeeded by any stretch of the word. So why don't you give yourselves just one more round of applause for promoting a tremendous relationship between two great nations? (Applause.)

And let me also offer the President and our entire administration’s congratulations to the two winners of this year’s Leadership Award who I just met in the back room -- Adi Godrej of the Godrej Group and my friend Andrew Liveris of Dow Chemical Company. My congratulations to both of you for this well-deserved honor. (Applause.)

And thanks to the companies represented in this room, the trade relationship between the United States and India is flourishing. It’s remarkable to think that not even 20 years ago, two-way trade between our nations was less than \$20 billion per year. But by the end of last year, it had grown by more than 500 percent to an annual \$115 billion in trade; and U.S. exports to India now support roughly 200,000 American jobs.

The last few years have been particularly noteworthy. Between 2014 and today, American foreign direct investment in India grew from \$800 million to \$2.4 billion in investments.

And on the other side of the ledger, Indian businesses I’m glad to report are investing in America at an unprecedented rate. For instance: Earlier this year, Infosys announced it would hire 10,000 new American workers at four U.S.-based technology centers, one of which will be in my home state of Indiana. And we thank you for investing and believing in America. (Applause.)

Our heartfelt appreciation to all the businesses represented here for your investment in our nation’s future. Yet the truth is the United States and India we believe have only scratched the surface when it comes to bilateral investment and trade. This council hopes to more than quadruple our two-way trade relationship to more than \$500 billion before the decade is out, and the President and I believe that that goal is achievable.

Yesterday, President Trump and Prime Minister Modi committed to expanding and balancing our trade relationship in the years ahead.

For our part, this administration is fully committed to restoring the United States’ reputation as the premier investment destination anywhere in the world. And let me assure everyone gathered here: America is open for business once again. (Applause.)

President Trump has already taken decisive action to make the strongest economy in the world stronger still. This President has signed more laws to cut through red tape than any President in American history that already have saved businesses up to \$18 billion in regulatory costs per year.

President Trump has put a renewed focus on American energy, approving the Keystone and Dakota Pipelines. And the President is strengthening the American workforce by signing executive action into place to prioritize apprenticeships and vocational training to meet the needs of growing businesses and a growing American economy.

And if you haven’t noticed yet, the American people elected a builder to be President of the United States, and President Trump has already taken steps to rebuild America. And before we're done we're going to rebuild the roads and bridges and harbors and airports of America to the very best in the world. (Applause.)

And this year, let me assure you: Working with the Congress, we’ll pass one of the largest tax cuts in American history so businesses from across the world can invest in American jobs, America’s workers, and America’s future.

And there’s one more thing, our President is also even as we speak fighting every day to give the American people the world-class health care they deserve. And working with this Congress, I can say to the American businesses that are gathered here and all of you who do business in America, we're going to keep our promise the American people. We're going to repeal and replace

Obamacare and give the American people the kind of world-class healthcare they deserve. And we're going to do it before the summer is out. (Applause.)

Our hope is that President Trump's actions give companies in this country great confidence about the future, but also give our friends in India even greater reason to invest in America.

And of course, American business wants to contribute even more to India's success through exports and investment. Prime Minister Modi saw American industry's excitement about India on Sunday when he met with 21 business leaders before his bilateral meeting with our President. There are many places where this nation's firms can benefit our great partner.

India is projected to become the world's third-largest market for planes and passengers. American companies are already providing airport infrastructure and the airplanes themselves. I just had the chance to meet with the CEO of SpiceJet who just last week placed an order for 40 brand new Boeing jets, on top of 100 new jets it ordered earlier this year. I know that American companies are going to continue to give India's aviation industry the wings it needs to soar. And let me just take the opportunity, as the President did yesterday, to say thank you to SpiceJet for investing and believing in American workers and American businesses. (Applause.)

Energy is another area for a more robust partnership. India boasts the world's fastest-growing economy. But it can't continue without energy, and American producers and grid developers are the best-suited to provide it. From liquefied natural gas, to nuclear power, to clean coal, to everything in between, American energy and American expertise can help power India's future.

The final example I'll mention is in the area of security and defense. A first-rate global power needs a first-rate military, and the United States will continue to enable the Indian armed forces to obtain the resources and technology it needs to protect the Indian people and support security in the region. You need look no further than yesterday's announcement that the United States will sell Sea Guardian UAVs, Apache attack helicopters, and C-17 transports to India. That process of approval is all underway as we speak. But I hope it accurately reflects the commitment to mutual security among both of our nations and the importance of our partnership for security.

The bottom line is the United States and India can deepen our commercial bond in many industries and areas. But to achieve the highest possible benefit, I would suggest with great respect that India must continue to enact the necessary economic reforms to ensure that our trade relationship, as the President said last night over dinner, is both "fair and reciprocal."

The President and I applaud Prime Minister Modi for his courageous move to simplify and standardize the Goods and Services Tax, the largest tax reform in India's history.

We support Prime Minister Modi in his effort to strengthen India's -- India's intellectual property protections, and cut tariffs on manufactured and agricultural goods, and break down the barriers to investment and market access.

But we truly believe with great respect that the time to act is now -- because progress in these areas means progress for both our great nations and the more than 1.6 billion people that call them home.

I know the U.S.-India Business Council will continue to play a leading role in promoting pro-growth policies and engaging new commercial partnerships.

And our administration is committed to this goal, as well. As the President announced yesterday, his daughter Ivanka Trump will lead the American delegation to the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in India this fall.

And I was very humbled when the Prime Minister Modi extended a personal invitation to me to represent the United States. And we're already making plans to take him up on his invitation. (Applause.) In fact, I told him when I was governor of Indiana one of my ambitions was to be the first governor from Indiana to visit India. (Laughter.) I didn't get it done then, but the Prime Minister and I had a nice chuckle because he told me that the words "India ana" mean "coming to India." (Applause.)

The President and I are very confident that with the help of this great council, with the commitment that the President and Prime Minister Modi renewed yesterday, we're going to usher in a new era of jobs, opportunity, and prosperity for both our countries and for all our people.

But as we all reflect that security is the foundation of our prosperity, and under the leadership of President Trump, the United States will also expand our partnership with India to protect our nations, our citizens, and the values that we cherish.

Yesterday, President Trump reaffirmed the United States' commitment to our in his words "incredibly important" "security partnership" with India.

We're proud that India is a Major Defense Partner for the United States. And as the President said yesterday, "our militaries are working every day and will continue to enhance cooperation," and working together, we'll "make great strides in defeating the common threats" that we face.

The United States and India seek the same objectives in the Indo-Pacific region: prosperity, security, peace.

We both want to uphold a rules-based system of national sovereignty and international law. We both want lawful commerce to flow unimpeded on the seas and in the air. (Applause.)

These practices and principles are foundational to prosperity and security across the Indo-Pacific, and the United States is grateful to see India step into its role as a regional security provider and partner.

But our two nations' mutual interests stretch far beyond the region. As India has grown, so has its role on the world stage. And in recognition of this fact, let me assure you: President Trump and our administration fully support India's permanent membership on a reformed United Nations Security Council. (Applause.)

In this time of widening challenges and unknowable threats, the United States welcomes India's strong bilateral relationships with our common friends and partners across the world, such as Japan and Australia, countries across the Middle East and Southeast Asia because we increasingly -- all of us -- face the same issues and face the same challenges.

Of course, the greatest threat facing the peace and prosperity of Indo-Pacific region is the brutal regime in North Korea. President Trump and I are grateful for India's leadership in fully implementing the United Nations' sanctions and for its commitment to use its growing global leverage to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea.

We must not waver in our resolve. North Korea's reckless actions are a threat to us all, and so all of us must continue to step forward to work in close cooperation with one another and all our allies and partners in the region to ensure that we bring the appropriate amount of economic and diplomatic pressure until North Korea permanently abandons its nuclear and ballistic missile programs once and for all. (Applause.)

Let me also thank India for its continued commitment to stability and security in Afghanistan. A peaceful Afghanistan is good for India, it's good for America, and a peaceful Afghanistan is good for the region and the wider world.

And finally, the United States and India are committed to strengthening our partnership in the fight against the greatest evil of our time -- the threat of global terrorism.

Like the United States, India is all too familiar with the grave danger posed by radical Islamic terrorists. These barbarians have struck on Indian soil too many times over the decades, including the horrific attacks in Mumbai nearly a decade ago, claiming the lives of more than 160 innocents, including six Americans.

The United States and India already collaborate to a significant extent. But in the face of terror networks that are ever-more sophisticated, ever-more dispersed, we will continue to take renewed action to facilitate two-way information and intelligence sharing to confront this threat.

Only by working together can we protect our people from the terrorist threat. President Trump and Prime Minister Modi have already agreed to strengthen our partnership for the

protection of both of our nations and our people, and together, I am convinced in our time, we will drive the cancer of global terrorism from the face of the Earth. (Applause.)

This is a very exciting time for the relationship between the United States and India. I could see it in the faces of the two leaders yesterday and in the warm exchanges that took place between our delegations.

As President Trump said just last night, the “future of our partnership has never looked brighter.” And I believe it. Long after the cameras left the Blue Room, we had an engaging time together -- warm fellowship among friends. As Prime Minister Modi would say across the table as we talked about issues of mutual interest, he said, we speak to one another as friends. And we always will.

Every day, the people of India and the people of the America are drawing closer together. At this very moment, some 4 million Americans trace their heritage back to India already, as the children and grandchildren of immigrants, or as first-generation immigrants themselves.

And truth be told, their impact on America has made a profound difference in the life of our nation, and we celebrate that. Let’s hear a round of applause for all our Indian Americans. (Applause.)

For generations, you Indian Americans have raised your families, built businesses, studied and taught in our colleges and universities, made your own mark, large and small, and been an inexorably vital part of the beautiful tapestry of American life. And we celebrate it.

As I stand before you today, I can’t help but feel a small measure of pride on behalf of the President to think of the first Indian American to serve on the Cabinet of a President of the United States, the Ambassador to the United Nations for our nation, Ambassador Nikki Haley. (Applause.)

The people of the United States and the people of India already share a friendship -- and more than that, we share a future.

I believe our two nations have the power, have the vision, the shared ideals to guide this still-new century to greater prosperity and greater freedom together. I truly believe it’s our responsibility to help guide countries around the world by our example on the path to prosperity, to guide it on a path to security. And I believe it is the responsibility of the United States and India to do this together, to guide the 21st century on a path to democracy and freedom.

We hold the future in our hands -- but I have faith -- that with your help, and the continued energy of all the great men and women who have been a part of this council for some 40 years, with the leadership of President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Modi, and with God’s help, that the best days for America and India are yet to come.

Thank you for the honor of addressing you today. God bless you all and God bless the nation of India and the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

11:20 A.M. EDT

Remarks by Vice President Pence introducing President Trump at the Unleashing American Energy Event

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 29, 2017

Remarks by Vice President Pence introducing President Trump at the Unleashing American Energy Event

The Department of Energy
Washington, D.C.
3:27 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you so much. How about another round of applause for Secretary Rick Perry who is doing such a tremendous job here at the Department of Energy? (Applause.)

To Secretary Perry, to Secretary Ryan Zinke, to Administrator Scott Pruitt, Chairman Lisa Murkowski, Chairman Lamar Alexander, Chairman Greg Walden, Chairman Mike Simpson, all the distinguished members of Congress and honored guests who are here, welcome to a new era of American energy, a new era in American energy dominance. And welcome to an era defined by the pro-energy leadership of President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

We're gathered here today as further evidence that President Trump knows that affordable, abundant, and reliable energy is the foundation of American prosperity. In fact, since day one of this administration, President Trump has taken decisive action to unleash the unlimited potential of America's energy resources, and we're just getting started.

In one of his very first acts in office, President Trump approved the Keystone and Dakota pipelines. And the Dakota pipeline is up and running, and Keystone isn't far behind. (Applause.)

And under the leadership of this President, coal mines are actually reopening in America, coal miners are going back to work, and the war on coal is over. (Applause.)

President Trump has been rolling back the Clean Power Plan, he's opening the way for more offshore drilling, and President Donald Trump sent a message to the world that we're going to put American energy and American jobs first when he withdrew the United States of America from the Paris Climate Accord. (Applause.)

President Trump knows that America needs all our nation's energy resources to power our homes, power our economy, and really to power our future. And his actions in this Energy Week demonstrate this President's commitment to putting American jobs, American families, and American energy first

So with gratitude for his leadership unleashing America energy, it is now my high honor and distinct privilege to introduce to you the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

END

3:27 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau in a Bilateral Meeting

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

July 14, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau in a Bilateral Meeting

Rhode Island Convention Center

Providence, Rhode Island

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Prime Minister Trudeau, it's an honor to extend the greetings of the President of the United States and the people of the United States to welcome you here to Rhode Island, grateful for the opportunity to share the podium with you, and we look forward to continuing to build our relationship both economically and diplomatically and strategically and grateful for the strong relationship that you've already forged with our President and with our administration.

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. It's a pleasure to sit down with you for our first bilat. We got a chance just to talk a fair bit when we were in Washington in February, but this opportunity to sit down and talk about the great relationship we've built in Canada and the United States and this administration specifically and all the work we're going to be

doing together to create prosperity and good opportunities for our citizens and, indeed, for people around the world.

(Speaks French.)

END

Remarks by the Vice President at Christians United for Israel Washington Summit

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

July 17, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at Christians United for Israel Washington Summit

Washington Convention Center

Washington, D.C.

8:48 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Hello, CUFI! (Applause.) Thank you, Pastor John Hagee, Ambassador Dermer, distinguished members of Congress, honored guests, my fellow believers and friends, it is humbling for me to be before you today to join you at the 12th annual summit of the largest pro-Israel organization in the United States of America -- Christians United for Israel! (Applause.)

It's great to be back with so many friends. And to all of you -- I bring greetings from another friend. I just left him a few moments ago. He is a leader, a believer, and a tireless friend of the Jewish state of Israel -- the 45th President of the United States, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

Thanks to the support of so many in this room and your prayers, last November President Trump won a historic victory -- more counties than any President since Ronald Reagan, 30 of 50 states -- no Republican had carried in a generation. The truth is President Donald Trump turned the blue wall red, and you made it happen. (Applause.)

Now as the Good Book says: If you owe debts, pay debts. If honor, then honor. If respect, then respect. And I'm really here on the President's behalf and on our entire team's behalf to pay a debt of gratitude to all of you who helped elect a President who is fighting every single day to defend faith, restore freedom, and strengthen America's unbreakable bond with our most cherished ally, Israel. (Applause.)

Just last month, President Trump made a historic visit to Israel. I know all of you were watching from afar. One of the very first countries our President visited since he took office, standing in Jerusalem, in that ancient and holy city, our President declared for all the world to hear that under his leadership, the United States of America "will always stand with Israel." (Applause.)

In Jerusalem, our President said that the bond between America and Israel in his words "is woven together in the hearts of our people" -- and Christians United for Israel proves this statement true every single day all across this country.

You know, it was only 11 years ago that my friend Pastor John Hagee had the courage and the vision to unite American Christians to rally around those ancient words "for Zion's sake, I will not keep silent." And, Pastor John Hagee, I thank you for your leadership on behalf of this nation and the Jewish state of Israel. (Applause.)

And today, through Christians United for Israel, more than 3.3 million believers have raised their voices, have not been silent in support of Israel, and you can be heard in every city and town across America and in every office on Capitol Hill. And rest assured, the man down the street at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue hears you, too. (Applause.)

Now for my part, Karen and I have always treasured our relationship with Christians United for Israel. I had the honor to speak to this great group when I was a member of Congress. I worked hand-in-hand with CUFI when I was governor of the state of Indiana. And with the support and prayers of men and women gathered in this room, I'm proud to say in my last year as governor, it was my great privilege to sign one of the strongest anti-BDS laws in the America to ensure that our state never does business with those who seek to inflict financial damage on Israel. (Applause.) Because boycott, divestment, and sanctions have no place in my home state and no place in America. (Applause.)

It's humbling to stand before you today for another reason because it was just one year ago this past weekend that the phone rang at the governor's residence, and there was a familiar voice on other line. And I remember when that call came and when the invitation came to join this national ticket, I couldn't help but think of that ancient verses: Who am I and who is my family, that you've brought me this far?

So tonight, let me just take a moment to thank all of you men and women of CUFI, and all those you represent around America, thank you for your friendship, your support, and your prayers every step of the way on the journey my little family has taken throughout my career. It's hard for me to express before you friends of so many years the humility and gratitude I feel today to stand before you today as the 48th Vice President of the United States of America. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. (Applause.)

My friends, to look at Israel is to see that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob keeps his promises, keeps the promises He makes to His people and to each one of us.

Ezekiel prophesized: "Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live." And the State of Israel and her people bear witness to God's faithfulness, as well as their own.

How unlikely was Israel's birth, how more unlikely has been her survival, and how confounding, against the odds, has been her thriving.

Since the moment of their independence, the Jewish people have awed the world with their strength of will and their strength of character.

Indeed, anyone with eyes to see and ears to hear must acknowledge that Israel is a living testimony to the power of hope over hate and so will she always be. (Applause.)

The Jewish people have turned the desert into a garden, sickness into health, scarcity into plenty, despair into hope, and slander into blessings -- rebuking all who condemn them; not for what they do wrong, but for what they do right.

And under President Donald Trump, if the world knows nothing else, the world will know this: America stands with Israel. Now and always. (Applause.)

President Trump and I stand with Israel for the same reason every freedom-loving American stands with Israel -- because her cause is our cause, her values are our values, and her fight is our fight.

And President Trump is actually a lifelong friend of Israel. I've seen his passion firsthand in the President's deep affection for Israel. The morning after the election, I was actually in the room when Prime Minister Netanyahu called to congratulate the President on his great victory. I heard President Trump express his unwavering support for Israel and the Jewish people that morning, support he reiterated when he welcomed the Prime Minister to the White House.

And just last month, the world saw our President's commitment to Israel during that visit to Jerusalem, when President Donald Trump declared that America's "deep and lasting friendship" with Israel will only in his words "grow deeper and stronger as we work together in the days ahead." (Applause.)

For my part, like all of you, my passion for Israel springs from my Christian faith. The songs of the land and the people of Israel were the anthems of my youth. As for me and my house, we pray for the peace of Jerusalem and all who call her home. It's really the greatest privilege of my life to serve as Vice President to a President who cares so deeply for our most cherished ally.

And let me say with confidence to all gathered here and to all of the watching world, President Trump and I stand without apology for Israel today. We will stand without apology for Israel tomorrow, and President Donald Trump and I will stand with the Israel always -- of that you may be assured. (Applause.)

You just need to look at the actions our President has taken since he took office. Like when he named Governor Nikki Haley to be America's Ambassador to the United Nations. (Applause.)

At the President's direction, Ambassador Haley has been standing up for America and she's been standing up for Israel. And as Ambassador Haley said just a short while ago, in her words, "The days of Israel-bashing at the United Nations are over." (Applause.)

And the President also named David Friedman to represent our country in Israel as our ambassador. David is an unabashed advocate for a stronger America-Israel relationship, and our friendship is already stronger with him in our embassy in Israel.

And to the men and women of Christians United for Israel, this President hears you. This President stands with you. And I promise you that the day will come when President Donald Trump moves the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It is not a question of if, it is only when. (Applause.)

President Trump is also personally committed to helping the parties resolve the long-standing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In addition to his own visit to Israel, the President has dispatched several of his top advisors to help guide negotiations. But our President I can assure knows any peace requires an end to the incitement of hatred, an end to any support whatsoever of terrorism. And above all else, a lasting peace requires true and complete Palestinian willingness to accept and recognize the Jewish state of Israel. (Applause.)

And while there will undoubtedly have to be compromises, let me assure all of you gathered here today, President Donald Trump will never compromise the safety and security of the Jewish state of Israel -- not now, not ever. (Applause.)

Since the moment of its birth, there has hardly been a day when Israelis have lived without war, or the fear of war, or the grim reality of terror. We were reminded of this just last Friday, when three gunmen ambushed a group of Israeli police officers in the very heart of Jerusalem. Two brave officers were murdered in this barbaric act of terrorism. We mourn with those who mourn and grieve with those who grieve. We grieve with the families of these fallen heroes of Israel, and the prayers of our President, our family, and all who cherish Israel are with these heroic law enforcement officers and their families. (Applause.)

And so is our resolve. President Trump has made it clear: America stands shoulder-to-shoulder with Israel, as together we confront those enemies who threaten our people, our freedom, and our very way of life.

America and Israel are united together as friends and allies in the West. Just a few weeks ago, in Warsaw, Poland -- home to so much Jewish history, and so much Jewish heartache, our President defined our struggle with moral clarity, courage, and vision more than any President since Ronald Reagan when President Trump declared in his words: "The West will never, ever be broken. Our values will prevail. Our people will thrive, and our civilization will triumph." (Applause.)

We will triumph because our courage and conviction cannot be matched, and for that matter, neither can our strength.

Today, America's support for Israel's security is at record levels. And America now has a President who is fighting every day to rebuild our military.

And under President Donald Trump I promise you we're going to rebuild this military. We're going to restore the arsenal of democracy. And we're once again going to give our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard the resources and training they need and deserve to accomplish their mission and come home safe. (Applause.)

In President Trump, America once again has a leader who will stand with our allies and stand up to our enemies. And this President calls our enemies by their name. And at this very moment

I'm proud to report, the Armed Forces of the United States of America are taking the fight to ISIS terrorist on our terms and on their soil. And under this Commander-in-Chief, we will continue to fight ISIS until we wipe them off the face of the Earth. (Applause.)

And under President Trump America will continue to stand strong, continue to stand strong in the face of the leading state sponsor of terrorism. President Trump has put Iran on notice: America will no longer tolerate Iran's efforts to destabilize the region and jeopardize Israel's security.

And let me be clear on this point: Under President Donald Trump, the United States of America will not allow Iran to develop a useable nuclear weapon. This is our solemn promise to the American people, to the people of Israel, and to the world. (Applause.)

So we stand with Israel. We stand with Israel today and every day, because the American people throughout our history have always cherished Israel.

We stand with Israel because our bond was knit millennia ago in the finery of faith. And we stand with Israel because millions of Americans throughout the generations of this country have embraced that ancient truth and admonition that He will bless those who bless her, and he will curse those who curse her.

Indeed, though Israel was built by human hands, it is impossible not to sense that just beneath its history, lies the hand of heaven. (Applause.)

Over the mantle of our home, since the year I was first elected to Congress, are framed words that have long inspired my family. We had them over the fireplace in our home in a small town in southern Indiana. We had them over the fireplace at the governor's residence in Indianapolis, and now they hang over the mantle of the home of the Vice President of the United States.

They're words of confidence and faith. They're words to which my family has repaired to as generations of Americans have done so throughout our history, and the people of Israel through all their storied history have clung. They come from the Book of Jeremiah, and it simply reads: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope, and a future."

These words are as true today for all people of faith as they were in millennia past. And so I encourage you to embrace them. I urge the men and women of Christians United for Israel to cling to that hope and that promise, and I urge you to do particularly what you've done exceedingly well these many years, to continue to bow the head, to bend the knee, and to pray. Pray for our most cherished ally. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem and pray that God will continue to bless America.

And when you pray, pray with confidence because our God is a faithful God, and He will guide us, and He will guard us as we go forth and do His work. (Applause.)

And so I thank you for the honor of joining you once again in this new capacity. And I close tonight saying simply from my heart as I look out on this shining crowd, and I see the support that you represent all across this country for our most cherished ally. And I have faith. I have faith that with God's help and with the men and women gathered here, with all those who cherish Israel, and with President Donald Trump in the White House, the best days for Israel and for America together are yet to come. (Applause.)

Thank you. God bless you. God bless the Jewish state of Israel and God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

9:12 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President at a Swearing-in Ceremony for the Ambassador to Japan

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release July 27, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at a Swearing-in Ceremony for the Ambassador to Japan
Indian Treaty Room
4:49 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, good afternoon. And on behalf of the First Family, welcome to the White House. It's going to be my great honor today and, in fact, a privilege to administer the oath of office to the 42nd United States Ambassador to Japan, Bill Hagerty. (Applause.)

We're joined today by some very distinguished guests. Senator Alexander and Senator Corker are both from Bill Hagerty's home state of Tennessee. Would you join me in welcoming both of them? (Applause.)

I see distinguished members of the military and other honored guests. I know the family is very grateful you're here, as is the President and myself.

We're joined today also by the most distinguished guests who are here, and that is our incoming ambassador's wonderful family -- his mother, Ruth -- (applause) -- and most especially, his wonderful wife Chrissy and their four beautiful children. (Applause.) Could you guys stand up? The Hagerty family heads to Japan, and it's a big crew.

We also have many other honored guests with us today, including the Commander of the United States Armed Forces Japan, General Jerry Martinez, and many distinguished members of Congress from his home state, as well as the senators I mentioned before. In fact, it's important to note that Senator Corker is, in fact, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and we're truly honored to have you and Senator Alexander here.

We're also joined by members of Congress from the House of Representatives in Tennessee -- Congressman John Duncan, Congresswoman Diane Black, Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn, Congressman Scott DesJarlais, David Kustoff, and Congressman Phil Roe. Would you give them all a round of applause. (Applause.)

And I know it's a particular honor to have with us Bill's counterpart, Japan's ambassador to the United States of America, Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae and his wife, Mrs. Nobuko Sasae -- (applause) -- as well as the Special Advisor to the Prime Minister and member of the Diet, Katsuyuki Kawai.

As I had the privilege of expressing during my trip to Japan on the President's behalf earlier this year, under President Donald Trump, the United States is firmly committed -- firmly committed to our treasured friend and ally, Japan. One of the clearest signs of that commitment, I believe, today, is the President's choice of Bill Hagerty as America's Ambassador to Japan. (Applause.)

Bill, throughout your life, you have helped to strengthen the ties between America and Japan. It started early in your career, when you actually lived in Japan on a three-year assignment as a consultant.

You then served as an economic advisor under President George Herbert Walker Bush, and in your time as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, you worked with Japanese firms to make investments in your home state that have created good-paying jobs for the people of Tennessee.

But your commitment to Japan reaches far beyond a professional level. Your service on the Board of the Far East Council of the Boy Scouts of America has brought the people of our nations closer together and has deepened our friendship of our nations for generations to come.

President Trump has now called on you to represent the United States as our ambassador to Japan. This is a momentous time in the life of our alliance.

In this time of challenge and widening threats in the region, the U.S.-Japan alliance remains the cornerstone of peace, prosperity, and freedom in the Asia-Pacific. The United States and Japan stand together resolutely to confront whatever threats are posed to us, especially those posed by the regime in North Korea -- and we always will. (Applause.)

And the President is also committed to expanding our bonds of commerce. As President Trump said when he met with Prime Minister Abe earlier this year, in his words, the "vibrant exchange between us is truly a blessing" -- and so it is.

And through the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue, which the President had me launch during my visit in April, our nations have been working tirelessly to deepen our bilateral economic ties even further, and we look forward to working with you to advance that effort.

Bill, given your integrity, your record of leadership, and your distinguished history, the President and I are confident that you will excel in this new role. You will help make the extraordinary friendship and alliance between the United States and Japan even stronger.

And now it is my privilege to administer to you the oath of office.

(The oath of office is administered.)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to introduce to you the United States Ambassador to Japan, William Frances Hagerty IV. (Applause.)

END

4:57 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President with Baltic Leaders in a JPA

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President with Baltic Leaders in a JPA

Kadriorg Palace

Tallinn, Estonia

11:15 A.M. EE EST

THE VICE PRESIDENT: President Kaljulaid, thank you for your warm welcome and the hospitality you have shown to me and my family. And to you, to President Vējonis, and, to President Grybauskaitė, it is an honor to be with you today with the leaders of the Baltic States.

And it's my great privilege to be here today to bring a very simple message from the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump.

President Trump sent me here to: We are with you. We stand with the people and nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania -- and we always will.

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of freedom for all three of your nations, but for most of this past century, you had to fight to reclaim your independence and your sacred birthright of liberty.

The United States proudly stood with you as you labored under Communist occupation. Through all the decades, we refused to recognize the Baltic States as part of the Soviet Union.

When you raised your voices in the Singing Revolution, we joined the chorus from afar for liberty. When you joined your hands in the Baltic Way, we reached out from across the world.

And the people of the United States believed, with you, that the Baltic States would one day reclaim your rightful place among the community of free and sovereign nations -- and so you did.

Today, you have achieved that goal -- and more -- by acceding to the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

It's a particular honor to be here in Estonia with the advent of your presidency of the Council of the European Union. The United States joined you in your call, in your leadership role in the EU for stronger internal security and external borders, a more robust partnership between the EU and NATO, and increased European defense spending.

And as I told these three Presidents, President Trump and I applaud each of their unwavering commitment to our NATO Alliance.

Estonia is one of only five nations to meet its obligation to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense; and Latvia and Lithuania, I'm pleased to note, will meet this goal by the end of 2018.

The Baltic States are leading by example but are also contributing mightily to international security.

You're members of the Global Campaign to Defeat ISIS, and at this moment I say with gratitude, all three of your nations are participating in NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. The people of the United States thank you and your people, and we mourn for the 14 Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian heroes who have given their lives in the cause of freedom.

In just a few short hours, the four of us will meet with members of the Armed Forces of the United States, Estonia, the United Kingdom, and France -- all of whom stand guard in this region through NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence initiative.

We stand together, here and across the world, because we know that a strong and united NATO is more necessary today than at any point since the collapse of communism a quarter-century ago. And no threat looms larger in the Baltic States than the specter of aggression from your unpredictable neighbor to the east.

At this very moment, Russia continues to seek to redraw international borders by force, undermine democracies of sovereign nations, and divide the free nations of Europe -- one against another.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States of America rejects any attempt to use force, threats, intimidation, or malign influence in the Baltic States or against any of our treaty allies.

To be clear: We hope for better days, for better relations with Russia, but recent diplomatic action taken by Moscow will not deter the commitment of the United States of America to our security, the security of our allies, and the security of freedom-loving nations around the world.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States stands firmly behind our Article 5 pledge of mutual defense, and an attack on one of us is an attack on us all.

President Trump also knows that security is the foundation of our prosperity, and the United States and our Baltic allies, as we discussed today, will continue to seek new and renewed ways to contribute to each other's prosperity. Our two-way trade in goods already totals more than \$3.5 billion, our combined investment in each other's economies is nearly \$300 million.

But as the four of us discussed, we have many ways to expand our economic ties, and we'll pursue them. Here in Estonia, there is a thriving start-up culture that reminds me of America; and across the region, the opportunities for greater trade and investment are almost too numerous to count.

The President and I were pleased to see a Lithuanian firm's recent decision to purchase liquefied natural gas from the United States. And when the first delivery occurs next month, it will benefit not only our prosperity, but it will contribute to regional security and stability. And I'm confident that this deal will only be the first of many.

Today, the bond between the United States and the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania is strong -- and under President Trump, and with the leaders gathered here, I know our bond will only grow stronger as time goes on.

Ours is a shared future of security and prosperity, ours is a shared future of freedom, and we will go forth to meet that future -- together, as allies and friends always.

Thank you.

END

11:22 A.M. EE EST

Remarks by the Vice President to Enhanced Forward Presence and Estonian Troops

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President to Enhanced Forward Presence and Estonian Troops

Estonia Defense Force Headquarters

Tallinn, Estonia

THE VICE PRESIDENT: President Kaljulaid, President Vējonis, and President Grybauskaitė, General Terras, Colonel Ridland, members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America, members of the armed forces of Estonia, the United Kingdom, and France -- it is my great honor to be here at the Defense Forces Headquarters of the great nation of Estonia.

And to all of you, I bring greetings from the leader of the free world, the President of the United States of America --President Donald Trump.

The President personally sent me here -- to this place, at this time, to thank all of you who have stood up and stepped forward to protect this alliance, to protect our values, and to stand in the gap for our way of life.

Before me today is the Enhanced Forward Presence, the embodiment of the NATO Alliance - free peoples from free nations, standing together as brothers and sisters in arms.

The Good Book tells us, "if you owe debts pay debts, if honor, then honor, if respect, then respect."

And I stand before you today to pay a debt of gratitude, honor, and respect to each one of you on behalf of the President of the United States of America and the American people.

You are the best of us, heroes all.

And you are here, including the Americans among you so far away from home, because the United States and Europe are bound together by history, a time-honored alliance, and the abiding oath of friendship -- and most of all, we are bound together in our devotion to freedom.

Under President Trump, the policy of the United States of America is to place the security and the prosperity of America first. But as the President has made clear, and as my presence here today demonstrates, America First does not mean America alone.

In my meeting earlier today with the leaders of the Baltic States, I gave them the same message that I am here to deliver to each and every one of you: The United States is with you. America stands with the nations and people of the Baltic States -- and we always will.

We stand with our NATO allies in our commitment to your security.

And under President Trump, the United States of America stands in defense of the timeless values that unite America and Europe together in the West -- freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

As the President expressed in his historic speech in Warsaw, Poland just last month, these values are in his words "the priceless ties that bind us together as nations, as allies, and as a civilization."

Western civilization is a beautiful mosaic of diverse, free nations and peoples -- each with their own unique and special histories, cultures, languages and traditions -- all of which deserve to be recognized, cherished and protected.

And Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are sterling examples of our civilization's vitality and commitment to freedom.

Next year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of freedom in the Baltic States. You've clung to that birthright ever since -- even in the face of those who would take it from you.

For the better part of this last century, your nations were locked behind the Iron Curtain. That communist regime personified everything free peoples reject. It sought to eradicate your identity, your traditions, your language, the very essence of who you are -- the cherished ties of family and faith.

But through all the decades of brutal occupation, I'm proud to say the United States of America never accepted the illegitimate claims of the Soviet Union on your three Baltic States. Your perseverance inspired free nations around the world, and it was our honor to stand with you.

It is no coincidence or accident of history that it was right here in Tallinn that some of the very first cracks in the Iron Curtain first appeared.

You had preserved your memory of the past as the foundation of your future -- you kept the flame of freedom alive in your hearts.

It was only 30 years ago that more than 300,000 Estonians began to gather together to sing the songs of your land and your people -- as in the days of Hezekiah, the "singers sang." And soon your culture and nation were renewed. Shortly thereafter, your brothers and sisters in Latvia and Lithuania joined the chorus of a Singing Revolution.

And in 1989, you joined hands in the Baltic Way -- an unbroken line of unbroken will -- connecting Tallinn, Riga, and Vilnius. So strong were your voices, so firm was your grip that the Soviet Union crumbled before you, and you reclaimed your freedom from the ashes of communism.

And since that day, the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, have reached out your hands in friendship to Europe and to the United States -- and today, together, we stand as one.

The United States and Europe are stronger together than we will ever be apart; and so it was, only 13 years ago, that we welcomed the Baltic States into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the most successful mutual-defense alliance in the history of the world.

The Baltic States embody the spirit of our alliance; your commitment to NATO's common defense inspires us all.

At the Wales Summit in 2014, every NATO member committed to move toward spending a minimum of 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense within a decade.

President Trump has made it clear that every NATO member must in his words "finally contribute their fair share and meet their financial obligations."

At this moment, I am proud to stand in the heart of one of only five NATO member nations that meets this basic standard. Estonia joins the United States, the United Kingdom, Greece, and Poland in meeting or exceeding their obligation for our common defense. And I'm happy to report that by the end of 2018, Latvia and Lithuania will join these nations in fulfilling their promise -- and President Trump expects all of our NATO allies to follow your lead.

The President and I are grateful for the leadership and the example of the Baltic leaders gathered here. And to Estonia in particular, as your presidency of the Council of the European Union, know that you have the United States' full support in your call for stronger internal security in Europe, stronger external borders, a more robust partnership between the EU and NATO, and increased European defense spending.

At the heart of our alliance is the solemn promise that an attack on one is an attack on all. But this oath requires action -- and every NATO member must renew their commitment to our common defense -- and they must renew it now.

A strong and united NATO is needed more today than at any point since the collapse of Communism a quarter-century ago. The adversaries we face are more numerous and sophisticated and asymmetrical than ever before.

In this age, once-distant threats have become local threats to nations and communities across the world -- and so all free nations must band together to confront and overcome them.

As we speak, our alliance is taking the fight to radical Islamic terrorism on our terms, on their soil -- and we will not rest and we will not relent until we hunt down and destroy ISIS at its source - - so it can no longer threaten our people, our allies, or our sacred gift of freedom.

The Baltic States are members of the Global Campaign to Defeat ISIS, and the United States and our people are grateful for your action. And all three of your nations are participating in NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, where our citizens have served together and sacrificed for many years.

The people of the United States mourn the Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian citizens who have given their lives in the cause of freedom. They are heroes, and their names will always be enshrined in the hearts of the American people.

But terrorism is not the only adversary we face. Just last week, our alliance and all the world saw the grave and growing threat posed by the missile capabilities of dangerous regimes in North Korea and Iran.

Both regimes conducted provocative launches over a 24-hour span. Their actions have brought them closer to threatening our partners in their regions, our transatlantic alliance, and the American homeland itself.

In these times of widening threats and provocations, we will stand together in defense of our alliance and all we hold dear. We all have a vital role to play -- for all nations in this alliance loom large in the tapestry of freedom. America has no small allies.

Today we stand where East meets West, on a great frontier of freedom. And no threat looms larger in the Baltic States than the specter of aggression from your unpredictable neighbor to the east.

At this very moment, Russia continues to seek to redraw international borders by force, undermine the democracies of sovereign nations, and divide the free nations of Europe one against another.

President Trump has called on Russia to cease its destabilizing activities in Ukraine and elsewhere and to cease its support for hostile regimes like North Korea and Iran.

And under President Trump, the United States will continue to hold Russia accountable for its actions -- and we call on our European allies and friends to do the same.

In a sign of our commitment, very soon, President Trump will sign legislation to strengthen and codify the United States' sanctions against Russia.

The preference of the United States is a constructive relationship with Russia based on cooperation on common interests. Russia, too, has said that they would like to normalize relations with the United States. Regrettably, last week Russia took the drastic step of limiting the United States' diplomatic presence in their nation.

President Trump has made it clear: America is open to a better relationship with Russia. But the President and our Congress are unified in our message: A better relationship and the lifting of sanctions will require Russia to reverse the actions that caused sanctions to be imposed in the first place.

We hope for better days and better relations with Russia, but as I said earlier today, recent diplomatic actions taken by Moscow will not deter the commitment of the United States to our security, that of our allies, and to freedom-loving nations around the world.

Be assured: The United States rejects any attempt to use force, threats, intimidation, or malign influence in the Baltic States or against any of our treaty allies -- and under President Donald Trump, the United States of America will stand firmly behind our Article 5 pledge of mutual defense -- and the presence of the U.S. Armed Forces here today proves it.

As the President said in Poland, we have demonstrated our commitment to the common defense not with mere words, as he said, "but with actions."

Simply look at the United States' leadership role in the Enhanced Forward Presence initiative, the one that brings us here today.

The Enhanced Forward Presence is the largest reinforcement of our alliance's collective defense in a generation.

Here, United Kingdom and French troops stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Estonian forces. To the South, in Latvia and Lithuania, Germany and Canada have taken on leadership roles in additional battlegroups. And the United States proudly leads the combat-ready battlegroup stationed nearby in Poland.

But the United States' commitment does not rest solely with this initiative. We have deployed a full armored brigade combat team to Central and Eastern Europe through the European Reassurance Initiative.

And American forces throughout the region are conducting visible exercises with our allies and partners, such as BALTOPS and Saber Strike.

Our actions firmly demonstrate our unwavering resolve -- and they enhance our alliance's ability to stand firmly for freedom and face any scenario.

Under the leadership of President Trump, the United States will make the strongest fighting force in the history of the world even stronger. As the President said only a few days ago, "American might is second to none -- and we're getting bigger, and better, and stronger every day." And the world knows it.

The President has already signed the largest increase in military spending in nearly a decade. And we've called on Congress to pass one of the largest investments in defense spending since the days of the Cold War.

And so today, the United States calls on all our allies, and all who cherish freedom, to rededicate themselves to strengthening our alliance and our commitment to this cause. We must, all of us, be strong in arms. We must, all of us, be strong in our resolve. But most of all, we must be strong in our conviction that our cause is just and that freedom at the heart of our way of life is worth defending.

In these times of widening challenges, President Trump has powerfully also reminded us that our fight in his words "begins with our minds, our wills, and our souls."

So let us steel our minds, strengthen our wills, and refresh our souls -- for if we do, as our President Trump promised, "the West will never, ever be broken. Our values will prevail. Our people will thrive, our civilization will triumph."

This, then, is our cause. It is why NATO exists. It is why Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania have united with Europe. And it's why the United States stands with you -- today and always.

The United States is now and will always be your greatest ally and your surest friend.

And I have faith -- faith that our alliance will grow stronger and our friendship will deepen because I have faith that we do not walk alone.

In these times of greater challenges, I urge the people of Estonia and the Baltic States, and all who cherish freedom, to have that faith.

For as the Old Book tells us: "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

My friends, ours is a shared future -- a future of security, a future of prosperity -- and ours is a shared future of freedom united in this great "community of nations," together in the West.

And so today I say with confidence: With the courage of the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania; with the partnership of all of our allies; with Armed Forces of the United States of America and with our Commander-in-Chief, President Donald Trump; and with firm reliance on Almighty God; I know the future of freedom in these lands and around the world is brighter than ever before -- and we will meet that future together.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia. And God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

Remarks by the Vice President and Georgian Prime Minister in a Joint Press Conference

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 01, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and Georgian Prime Minister in a Joint Press Conference
Georgian Chancellery
Tbilisi, Georgia

PRIME MINISTER KVRIKASHVILI: (In progress, as interpreted.) -- that we are receiving not only the Vice President of our key strategic partner, Vice President of the United States, but the great friend of Georgia, Mr. Mike Pence, who we obtained as friend not long ago.

In Munich after the brief meeting of introduction, I was honored to have meetings on the invitation of the Vice President in Washington. And we continued our meetings (inaudible) actually, your visit shortly after coming to office. He is attesting to the large desire by President Trump and your administration to strengthen the strategic cooperation with Georgia. For this, please accept my hearty gratitude.

This year notes the 25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties. And in this regard, the U.S. role in strengthening our democratic development, sovereignty, and the track leading towards membership of NATO -- your role was the key one. And by your assistance, Georgia is right now neither Soviet nor post-Soviet-type of a country. Right now we are the European democracy associated with EU.

We stand proud alongside with American side on the watch of the global stability, and we're contributing into the peace worldwide. Georgian people highly prize the friendship of the American people standing by and invariable support.

Mr. Vice President, we have conversed even on the deeper insight in terms of our cooperation. I would like to single out and salute our work in the defense field.

Your upcoming meeting with the Georgian and U.S. servicemen partaking in Noble Partner exercise is strongly attesting to the U.S. support in terms of solidifying Georgian sovereignty, Georgian security, and Georgia's aspiration to NATO.

We have agreed on the joint plan of action that will further contribute in strengthening of the Georgian defense capability. It's very important for stability within our region.

The U.S. has contributed financially immensely to assist Georgia in the course of 25 years, and we are -- extremely (inaudible) that we're becoming more and more attractive for U.S. visitors. We have one of the best visits environment, with a low level of corruption and bureaucracy; and with low taxes, as well, which is the best opportunity for the benefits of the United States' visited.

We are aiming to prepare (inaudible) for U.S. visits in the region. And it is no small feat to underscore the U.S. visit's interest, so we (inaudible) infrastructure projects going on in our country.

Group involvement in the deep-sea, Anakalia (inaudible) projects -- will also salute the signing of the document between Anakalia Port Consortium and one of different (inaudible) SSA Marine, U.S. company managing ports. (Inaudible) of this agreement, it will manage the port terminal and also make investment in this project, which is the overarching one for Georgia.

The (inaudible) project is one more time manifesting the readiness of American businesses to get involved in this project and turning Georgia into regional hub. We have implemented the scores of (inaudible) energy projects in Georgia on the grounds of cooperation with the U.S. side, which is assuring the sustainability of European energy safety.

And we are going to continue this cooperation. We are the partners who stand ready for the high level of economic trade and investment relations, which will be resting on the mutual benefits.

Georgia is a very important partner to the United States in the region. And also we are sharing one and the same values like democracy and human rights.

America has played a significant role in construction of our democratic institutions. And our development is a precursor for us; as we'll be in the position to develop the sustainable and strong state that will assure the protection of rights of every citizen and retaining cultural identity.

The support of the U.S. is the overarching in the peaceful resolution of Georgia-Russian conflict. We are highly prizing this invariable end -- staunch position by the U.S. toward Georgian territorial integrity.

It was unprecedented on the part of President Trump, personally, you, and the Congress, the resolution made on the Georgian occupied territories.

We have deliberated on the immense challenges facing our country at the outcome of the occupation. You have had the huge role to play in the Geneva talks, and it is very important at a high-level engagement to seek now concrete solutions of the occupation of Georgian territory, ensuring safety as well as the solution in terms of politically resolve this conflict and allow me unequivocally mention in the end of my speech that Georgia will be standing by the United States when we will dealing with the most important challenges to our friends on a world scale. Our partnership is oriented at the strengthening of Georgian, as well as the global security in terms of assisting peaceful and democratic development.

Allow me one more time to emphasize the immense importance of the visit and the results which were procured. We highly appreciate the fact that -- the fact that -- existing challenges (inaudible) Georgia, the Vice President within the framework of first bilateral European tour visited Georgia.

A lot of thanks to our American counterparts (inaudible) Georgia and their contribution in deepening our mutual relationship -- special contribution, and I am assured that by joint effort, we'll further deepen our strategic cooperation.

At the same time, we are extremely gratified to introduce Georgian culture to the Vice President, his spouse, and our American guests.

Thank you very much for your attention.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Prime Minister Kvrikashvili, thank you so much for those words and for the hospitality you have shown me and my family. It was an honor to welcome you to the White House just a few short months ago, and now it's my honor to be welcomed by you to the beautiful and storied nation of Georgia.

The President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump sent me here with a simple message for you and for the people of Georgia: We are with you. We stand with you. We are proud of our friendship and strategic partnership with the nation and the people of Georgia.

In word, I'm here to say America First does not mean America alone. And America stands with Georgia.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the United States' diplomatic relationship with Georgia, yet this is a nation whose roots stretch back into the mists of history.

Sitting at the crossroads of empires and civilizations -- where East meets West, where North meets South -- Georgia has fostered your own traditions, your own language, and your own identity over the millennia.

Today the people of Georgia are renowned the world over for your vibrant culture, which my wife and I enjoyed last night, at our first Supra dinner, featuring Georgian cuisine and a lot of it, and traditional song and dance from Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and all across Georgia.

We've also been deeply inspired by the rich heritage of faith, and my wife and I look forward to visiting the historic Sioni Cathedral and meeting the Patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church this afternoon.

And while this may be my first visit to this nation, the enduring courage and spirit of the Georgian people have long inspired me.

It was only a generation ago that Georgia was still imprisoned inside the then-Soviet Union. When that brutal regime collapsed, you reclaimed your independence and your freedom. You reached out your hand in friendship to Europe and the United States of America -- and we were proud to reach back.

Today, I commended the Prime Minister for Georgia's democratic development, which has brought Georgia closer to unity with Europe and membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Further progress on the goals that the Prime Minister has set will bring Georgia even closer and NATO even closer to your grasp, and it will strengthen the bond between our nations.

Nowhere is the bond between our two nations stronger than in our shared effort to promote security and stability across the wider world. Georgia is a key strategic partner of the United States of America.

Since 2004, thousands of Georgians have served shoulder-to-shoulder with Americans -- in Kosovo, in Iraq, and in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan alone, I say with a grateful heart, Georgia has provided more troops on a per-capita basis than any other country in the world. And 31 brave Georgian soldiers have given their lives for the cause of freedom. The American people remember and mourn the sacrifice of your countrymen. They are heroes, all. And they and their families will be enshrined in the hearts of the American people forever.

Later today, I will meet with troops participating in Exercise Noble Partner. This initiative has brought together the armed forces of the United States, Georgia, and many other nations to train together and strengthen Georgia's ability to defend itself, and it's only one of many examples of the United States' commitment to Georgia's security.

President Trump and I stand by the 2008 NATO Bucharest statement, which made it clear that Georgia will one day become a member of NATO.

As I expressed to the Prime Minister, it is heartening to see that Georgia already exceeds NATO's goal of spending 2 percent of its gross domestic product on its national defense. But as we all know, Georgia's investment in defense is an investment borne of necessity.

At this very moment, just 40 miles from where we stand, Russian tanks stand on occupied territory in South Ossetia. Today, Russia continues to occupy one-fifth of Georgian territory.

So to be clear: The United States of America strongly condemns Russia's occupation on Georgia's soil.

The United States supports Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. And under President Donald Trump, the United States of America will reject any claim, at any time, by any nation that undermines this enduring principle.

President Trump has called on Russia to "cease its destabilizing activities" -- and my purpose here today is to reinforce that message to the people of Georgia.

In a sign of our commitment, very soon, President Trump will sign legislation to strengthen and codify the United States' sanctions against Russia.

As always, our country prefers a constructive relationship with Russia based on cooperation and common interests. But the President and our Congress are unified in our message to Russia: A better relationship, the lifting of sanctions will require Russia to reverse the actions that caused sanctions to be imposed in the first place.

We hope for better days, and we hope for better relations with Russia, but the recent diplomatic action taken by Moscow I can assure will not deter the commitment of the United States to our security, to that of our allies, and to freedom-loving nations around the world like Georgia.

The United States will continue to work with Georgia to reduce your vulnerabilities and counter Russian aggression. And so, too, will we work with Georgia to deepen our ties of commerce of which the Prime Minister just spoke.

The United States has a keen interest in expanding our trade and investment relationship with Georgia, and your ongoing reforms, Mr. Prime Minister, have clearly demonstrated your openness and commitment to a stronger commercial partnership with the West.

Today, I thanked the Prime Minister for his leadership and focus on bringing greater economic opportunity to all of Georgia's citizens.

The Anaklia deep-sea port shows the potential of a stronger bilateral relationship between our nations. American companies are investing alongside their Georgian counterparts in this multi-billion-dollar project. As we look toward the future, our two nations have untold opportunities to contribute even more to each other's prosperity.

The United States has stood with Georgia for a quarter century, and under President Donald Trump, we will continue to stand with you -- as partners, as friends, and one day, we will stand together as allies.

Georgia's future is in the West. And as the people of Georgia have long declared, our strength is now and always will be in our unity.

So thank you, Mr. Prime Minister. Thank you for your hospitality here today. And thank you for the strong leadership that you've provided for this country. We look forward to working with you for the prosperity and the security of the people of Georgia and of our great nation.

Q (As interpreted.) Mr. Vice President, while visiting the Baltic countries, you mentioned that U.S. always stands to guard the safety of the world, that the Americans will always support Georgia's safety. And when we see that the -- on a daily basis, the rights of the people living on the occupied territories are being breached -- what steps may be taken by the Georgian side, alongside with the (inaudible)?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, as I said, the United States of America stands strongly for the territorial integrity of Georgia, and we've stood on that principle since the time that Russian tanks overtook Abkhazia and South Ossetia in 2008. And we'll continue to stand strong.

The joint military operations that are taking place today we hope are a visible sign of our commitment to Georgia's sovereignty and to her internationally recognized borders.

We also believe that in addition to security partnership, that a stronger and more prosperous Georgia will lead to a restoration of a whole and free Georgia. And so the United States will continue to look for ways that we can strengthen Georgia not only from the standpoint of its defense and security, but where we can strengthen Georgia economically, creating jobs and opportunity and prosperity, and strengthening the hand of Georgia so that one day, Georgia can once again celebrate its historic territorial integrity intact.

PRIME MINISTER KVRIKASHVILI: (In progress, as interpreted.) -- so much for your question, and I would like to render my thanks to the Vice President for his clear-cut (inaudible) message, invariable support, which actually we -- which with Georgia (inaudible) our strategic partner in the United States. As it has been noted, our territorial integrity (inaudible) acute problem which requires consistent approach on one part to attain in Georgia stability, economic development, and democratic involvement, as well as (inaudible) in-depth cooperation to achieve the advances in the field of safety.

But the territorial integrity may be resurrected by the peaceful steps, economic development, and by the staunch support of our strategic partners -- first and foremost, the United States.

Q Mr. Vice President, in light of Russia's retaliation against sanctions, as well as Russia sending 100,000 troops to the eastern end of NATO's territories to drill, do you truly believe the better relationship that you and President Trump want with Russia is possible? And if things continue in this direction, could we be headed for another Cold War?

And then, Mr. Prime Minister, you know better than anyone how real the threat of Russia aggression is. The Vice President just said the United States supports Georgia's aspirations into NATO. So what concrete assurances do you have that the U.S. will defend you should Russia attack, as President Putin has threatened?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for the question. President Trump sent me on this journey to send a very clear message to the Baltic States, to the people of Georgia, and before the end of the day in Montenegro that the United States of America will stand with freedom-loving nations around the world; and that we will do so, as the President has said, not merely with words but with actions.

The presence of American forces in Poland, the presence of the British forces, with whom I met in Estonia at a gathering yesterday, all give material evidence of the commitment of NATO in that region to live up to our Article 5 obligation.

The current Russian exercises, which news reports today suggest will move up to 100,000 Russian troops into Belarus, is simply a confirmation of the importance of clarity within the NATO partnership.

President Trump and I believe that better relations with Russia may be possible. But as the President has said, we'll see.

But negotiations between parties always begin with a recognition and a respect for the position of each party. And with the sanctions that President Trump will sign this week, codifying sanctions that have been in place by the United States, our country is sending a very clear message and calling on our European allies to join us in a very clear message that we mean what we say and say what we mean; that Russia's destabilizing activities in Ukraine, their support for rogue regimes like Iran and Syria and North Korea, that their posture has to change.

But we believe that by being clear and being strong, that we can pursue a dialogue based on mutual understanding. And President Trump holds the view that it's been a lack of clarity and commitment by the United States that's created much of the instability in the world today.

When in the past America had spoken of red lines and not followed through on red lines, many argue that that emboldened others to act in ways that they would not have.

And so President Trump believes that we can have peace through strength. And strong and clear positions, we believe, can create a foundation where authentic dialogue may -- we hope -- result in better relations and in the resolution of long-standing disputes in Ukraine, in Georgia, and in other areas of the world.

PRIME MINISTER KVRIKASHVILI: Thank you, Mr. Vice President, and thank you for the question.

I think the very clear and strong message "we are with you" tells everything. Georgia faces endless provocations daily. On the occupation line, we are facing challenges of borderization, capturing, kidnapping of ethnic Georgians -- violating basic human rights of ethnic Georgians residing on the occupied territories. But the response to that is only even more resolve and consistency and dedication to the goals we set for ourselves.

Integration into NATO is that process which matters for Georgia. Of course, the final goal to join NATO is set by Georgian population, and we are following this very difficult path of reforming Georgia's military system and developing institutional democracy in Georgia.

And believe me, through the consistency and through the dedication, clearness of our messages and unity with our important strategic partners, it will be able for Georgia to reach this very important goal to ensure long-term stability. And it is possible. We Georgians believe that.

Q Mr. Vice President, what are the red lines -- Washington's red lines on Russia, especially in regard to Georgia? And also you said in Estonia that in case of Russia's aggressions against NATO allies, members of the alliance, the United States will intervene. What would be your reaction in case of Russia's aggression against Georgia -- against NATO's partners?

Thank you very much.

And, Mr. Prime Minister, do we have enough patience to wait for NATO membership where we are waiting -- Georgia is waiting for a while? Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for the question.

The essence of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is a mutual-defense agreement, that an attack on one is an attack on all. And what the President wanted me to communicate as I travel to our NATO countries, as later today I'll visit the newest members of NATO, is that the United States says what it means and means what it says. And we'll live up to our obligations under Article 5.

With regard to Georgia, we strongly support Georgia's aspiration to become a member of NATO. And we'll continue to work closely with this Prime Minister and the government of Georgia broadly to advance the policies that will facilitate becoming a NATO member. We believe that Georgia has made extraordinary progress -- not just in the past 25 years, but over the last five years, there has been significant progress in Georgia that we believe will strengthen the application for NATO membership.

With regard to the Russian aggression, which took place in 2008, which has as we stand here today Russian tanks parked on Georgian soil 40 miles from where we stand, the United States will continue to be unambiguous in our commitment to the territorial integrity of Georgia.

We will stand for a strong and whole Georgia. We will continue to provide support for the defense and security of Georgia, and we will continue to seek a peaceful resolution that will reestablish the internationally recognized borders of this nation.

PRIME MINISTER KVRIKASHVILI: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. Thank you for question. You said it's about patience. Yet it's about strategic patience I would say. To stay consistent on the road where we are, today we have all practical tools to advance towards NATO membership. We have substantial package. We are implementing it very successfully. We have Georgia Defense

Readiness program, jointly with the United States, which is complementary to the substantial package.

And it was said many times by the leaders of our strategic partners -- the United States first, of course, and NATO leadership that no other country has a say to block the membership of Georgia to NATO. It's only NATO members and applicant countries who decide about the future in NATO. And we have made our own decision.

Thank you.

Q Thank you. Mr. Vice President, you've talked about the new Russia sanctions bill as an example of U.S. resolve in the face of Russia aggression. But did not the Trump White House oppose this bill, fearing that it relinquishes presidential authority to Congress? What happened in this process that caused the White House to sign on?

And, Mr. Prime Minister, the U.S. intelligence community has concluded that Russia tried to interfere in our presidential election. Living so close to Russia, having dealt with Russian provocations, do you have any advice for the United States in how to cope with Russian efforts to intervene in our elections and influence voters in our country?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you, Peter. Thank you for the question.

President Trump will sign the Russia sanctions bill soon. Our administration had concerns about this legislation when it emerged from the United States Senate. The concern was that it did not include the traditional flexibility that is afforded to the State Department or any administration in the conduct of American foreign policy.

I'm pleased to report that the bill improved significantly as it moved through the House of Representatives and through the legislative process. This legislation we believe will not only codify current Russian sanctions that our administration has upheld, but will also strengthen those sanctions -- even while giving the President of the United States and our State Department the ability and the flexibility to be able to administer American foreign policy as appropriate.

And let me say that in signing the sanction, our President and our Congress are speaking with a unified voice that those matters that the President spoke about so eloquently in Warsaw, about Russian destabilizing activities, about Russia's efforts to support rogue regimes -- that has to change.

For there to be a change in our relationship with Russia, Russia has to change its behavior. And by these sanctions, by my presence here, by the President's powerful affirmation of the objectives and the values of our alliance in the West, our hope is that we will move toward better relations and a better future and a more peaceful world as a result.

PRIME MINISTER KVRIKASHVILI: Thank you. First of all, let me once again mention how important is strong America for Georgia. We are genuinely interested in the strength of the United States, and we would like to see the United States united to cope with the global challenges.

I don't think that Georgia is in a position to judge about Russian interference. With our excellent intelligence capabilities, we were not able to detect any interference, and we think that American nation has made its decision to elect a President. And of course, we look for more partnership with the current administration of the United States.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you all.

END

Remarks by the Vice President to Noble Partner Participants

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 01, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President to Noble Partner Participants

Tbilisi International Airport

Tbilisi, Georgia

THE VICE PRESIDENT: President Margvelashvili, Prime Minister Kvirikashvili, Minister Izoria, General Chachibaya, members of the armed forces of the United States of America and Georgia, to all our distinguished guests, it is an honor to join you here today to address the men and women of Exercise Noble Partner. (Applause.)

And to all of you, I bring greetings from the leader of the free world, the President of the United States of America -- President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

The President sent me here to this place, at this time simply to thank all -- thank you for stepping up to serve your nations, for standing in the gap on this great frontier -- united in the defense of freedom.

You are the best of us -- heroes all.

And you are here, the Americans among you so far away from home, because the United States and Georgia are bound together by the abiding oath of friendship and by our shared commitment to the cause of freedom.

Under President Trump, the policy of the United States is to place the security and the prosperity of America first. But as the President has made clear, and as our presence here today demonstrates, America First does not mean America alone.

We are here today, with the steadfast assurance of the United States of America to tell our friends in Georgia: We are with you. (Applause.)

We stand with the nation and the people of Georgia, and we will stand with you as you pursue membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And the United States of America stands with Georgia in defense of what President Trump in Warsaw called "the priceless ties that bind us together as nations, as allies, and as a civilization." And those ties are freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

The roots of the nation and people of Georgia stretch back into the mists of history. Sitting here at the crossroads of empires and civilizations -- where East meets West, where North meets South -- Georgia has fostered a vibrant culture and a rich heritage of faith.

And through all the millennia, none have been able to deprive you of your identity. The people and culture of Georgia have stood the test of time. (Applause.)

It was only a generation ago that Georgia was still imprisoned inside the Soviet Union. That Communist regime personified everything that free peoples reject, and it sought to crush you in its heartless, inhuman embrace. The Soviet Union sought to eradicate your history -- even the very essence of who you are, the cherished ties of culture and faith.

But when the Soviet Union collapsed, Georgia reclaimed its liberty. You reached out your hand in friendship to the free nations of Europe and the United States, and the United States of America proudly reached back. (Applause.)

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between the United States and Georgia, and we marvel at your progress -- the progress you've made since you regained your independence. Georgia's future is in the West.

For many years, Georgia has been a key strategic partner of the United States. Since 2004, thousands of brave Georgians have served with their American brothers-and-sisters-in-arms in Kosovo, in Iraq, and in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan alone, Georgia has provided more troops on a per-capita basis than any other country in the world. (Applause.)

And today we remember 31 Georgian soldiers who've given their lives in the cause of freedom in that land. The American people remember their sacrifice and their families on this day. They are heroes. And let me assure you and their families that they will be enshrined in the hearts of the American people forever.

The strategic partnership between the United States and Georgia is stronger now than ever before, and this joint exercise is a tangible sign of our commitment to each other to make it stronger still.

Exercise Noble Partner brings together the Armed Forces of the United States, of Georgia, and many other nations to train together and execute complex operations.

Noble Partner will strengthen Georgia's ability to defend itself in the years ahead. It will prepare Georgian soldiers to join NATO's Response Force in the future.

This exercise is a testament to your professionalism, to the high value that the United States and our NATO allies place on Georgia's security. But our commitment to your security doesn't stop there.

American advisors will continue to work alongside your leaders to improve Georgia's military readiness. And along with all our NATO allies, the United States is contributing to the Substantial Package for Georgia, to strengthen Georgia's resilience, and to bring Georgia ever closer to your goal of membership in NATO. (Applause.)

And to be clear, President Trump and the United States stand firmly behind the 2008 NATO Bucharest statement, which made it clear that Georgia will someday become a member of the most successful military alliance in the history of the world. (Applause.)

Georgia has already taken important steps toward this goal -- especially in terms of security. Georgia has long exceeded NATO's own goal of spending 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense. Your commitment is a model for many current NATO members, many of which have not fulfilled their obligations to our common defense. And so I want to congratulate and thank Georgia for your strong commitment and your strong example of national leadership on national defense. (Applause.)

And to those here in the uniform of the United States, be assured your Commander-in-Chief is busy making the strongest fighting force in the history of the world stronger still.

As President Trump said just a few days ago, in his words, "American might is second to none -- and we're getting bigger, and better, and stronger every day."

The President has already signed the largest increase in military spending in nearly 10 years. And we're calling on Congress to pass one of the largest investments in defense since the days of the Cold War.

Our investments in our defense, like Georgia's, are borne of necessity. The rise of adversaries new and old requires renewed strength and renewed resolve by all who cherish freedom.

We stand here today in the gap, on a frontline of freedom, a frontline compromised by Russian aggression nearly a decade ago. At this very moment, just 40 miles from where we stand, Russian tanks sit on Georgian land in South Ossetia. Today, Russia continues to occupy one-fifth of Georgian territory.

The United States strongly condemns Russia's occupation of Georgia's soil. (Applause.)

Be assured: The United States will continue to support Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

The United States of America, under President Donald Trump, will reject any claim, at any time, by any nation that undermines this enduring principle.

To that end, President Trump has called on Russia recently, here and elsewhere, to "cease its destabilizing activities," and we will continue to work with Georgia to reduce your vulnerabilities and counter potential Russian aggression.

And in a further sign of our commitment, very soon, President Trump will sign legislation to strengthen and codify the United States' sanctions against Russia.

The United States prefers a constructive relationship with Russia based on mutual cooperation and common interests. But the President and our Congress are unified in our message to Russia -- a better relationship, the lifting of sanctions will require Russia to reverse the actions that caused the sanctions to be imposed in the first place. And not before. (Applause.)

We hope for better days, for better relations with Russia, but the recent diplomatic action taken by Moscow I can assure you will not deter this President or the commitment of the United States to our security, that of our allies, and freedom-loving nations around the world like the freedom-loving people of Georgia.

The United States has stood with Georgia since your independence, and under President Trump, we will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder and work hand-in-hand with you to fortify your defense, to strengthen your democracy, and to deepen your ties of friendship with Europe and the United States.

We stand with you because we know the wisdom of that ancient Georgian saying there is -- "strength is in unity." (Applause.)

So in unity, together, we will be strong in arms. In unity, together, we will be strong in resolve. And in unity, together, we will be strong in faith -- faith in freedom, and faith in Him from whom our freedom springs.

Earlier today, my wife and I visited the Patriarch of the Georgian Orthodox Church at the Sioni Cathedral; that soaring temple, whose foundations stretch back more than 1,500 years, is deeply inspiring. It's a symbol of the ancient faith that fills this land.

As I walked beneath its painted dome, I could not help but think of an ancient truth from the sacred scriptures, one which we'd do well to reflect on in these challenging times. As we train, as we prepare, as we promote commerce and mutual prosperity, we do well to remember those words: "Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Today, we recommit ourselves to the cause of security, prosperity, and liberty for the people of Georgia. We renew our pledge to stand together in unity as partners and as friends, and to one day stand together as allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (Applause.)

And we do so with confidence and with faith -- faith in the courage of all of you who wear the uniform, faith and confidence in the strength and resilience of the proud people of this ancient land, confident in the leadership of our Commander-in-Chief, President Donald Trump, and your

leadership in Georgia, and with faith in the blessings and protection of God above, I know the United States and Georgia will embrace a future of freedom in unity together.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless Georgia. And God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

Remarks by the Vice President at the Adriatic Charter Summit

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 02, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at the Adriatic Charter Summit

Hilton Podgorica Crna Gora

Podgorica, Montenegro

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you all. Prime Minister Markovic, Prime Minister Zaev, Prime Minister Brnabic, Prime Minister Cerar, Prime Minister Plenkovic, Prime Minister Rama, , President Thaci, Minister Zvizdic, distinguished guests, it is my great honor to join you today to celebrate the progress of the Western Balkans here at this historic Adriatic Charter Summit. (Applause.)

The President of the United States, President Donald Trump, personally sent me here as a sign of our country's enduring commitment to the Western Balkans.

It's a special honor for me to be here today, as the very first Vice President of the United States to ever visit Montenegro.

It's remarkable to think that Montenegro reclaimed its independence just 11 years ago. But while Montenegro may be a young country, this is a land with an ancient history, and we are grateful for your leadership and hospitality today, Mr. Prime Minister.

Montenegro's culture and traditions have long enriched the continent of Europe as a whole. And the same can be said of all the countries represented here today.

The Western Balkans show the diversity of Western civilization -- a beautiful mosaic of free countries and peoples -- each with their own unique histories, cultures, languages and traditions and all of which deserve to be cherished, celebrated, and protected.

And the Adriatic Charter has played a leading role in bringing the Western Balkans into unity with Europe and alliance with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And under President Trump, the United States of America will continue to support each of you as you pursue this future together. (Applause.)

The Adriatic Charter itself is a testament to the United States' commitment to the Western Balkans, and to Europe as a whole.

Established in 2003, the Adriatic Charter serves our shared vision, and the United States of America remains committed to this day to a "Europe whole, free, and at peace."

The charter began small -- with the United States, Albania, Croatia, Macedonia as founding members -- but today it's grown to encompass the entire Western Balkans.

The charter now counts Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina as members, and Serbia, Kosovo as observers, and we look forward to overcoming the obstacles for Kosovo to become a full member in the near future.

And let there be no doubt: The Adriatic Charter is fulfilling its purpose to bring the states of the Western Balkans closer together into a most successful defense alliance in history, NATO itself.

Eight years ago, Albania and Croatia acceded to NATO, joining Slovenia, which is represented here today. And less than two months ago, NATO proudly welcomed the newest member of our historic alliance -- Montenegro.

I actually had the privilege to personally congratulate Prime Minister Markovic at the White House on that very historic day. Mr. Prime Minister, on behalf of President Trump, and here with other NATO allies, allow me to thank you for your leadership and allow me to congratulate you and the people of Montenegro once again for successfully acceding to NATO. (Applause.)

My friends, Montenegro's accession proves that NATO's open door remains open. And so will it always be for those European countries that share our values, contribute to the common defense, and strive to achieve security, prosperity, and freedom for their people.

And to all the leaders gathered here, let me assure you: Under President Donald Trump, the United States will continue to stand with you as you pursue your European future together.

Whether your future is in NATO, the European Union, or both, the United States supports you -- because either path will strengthen Europe. And as President Trump said during his historic trip to Poland, in his words: "A strong Europe is a blessing to the West and to the world."

And by bringing the Adriatic ever closer to the Atlantic, we can ensure a brighter future not only for the Western Balkans, but for the West itself.

Under President Trump, the policy of the United States will always be to put the security and prosperity of America first. But as the President has made clear, and I hope as my presence here today demonstrates, America First does not mean America alone.

The bond between the United States and Europe has been, is now, and always will be essential -- for we are stronger together than we will ever be apart.

During his visit to Poland last month, President Trump challenged all our allies and partners in Europe, and really all who cherish freedom, to renew in his words our "commitment of will" to confront the shared challenges that we face.

And that commitment begins with you and the actions that you, the leaders of this region, take in the days and years ahead.

This is a time of great opportunity for each of your countries. Virtually every state in the Western Balkans has recently held free and fair national elections, with the participation of all political parties, and with a result that reflected the will of your people.

This is a historic accomplishment -- and President Trump and I congratulate each of you. You belong to a new generation of Balkan leaders, and this is a historic moment for progress in the Western Balkans. And so I urge you with great respect to make the most of this moment.

You have the opportunity to settle grievances of the past and bring people of different backgrounds and beliefs together in pursuit of the common good. You can strengthen your economies and open the pathway to prosperity for your people through tax and regulatory reform. You can tackle corruption and build accountable and transparent governments which will deliver on the highest aspirations of your people and build confidence among those who would invest in the prosperity of your future.

The task before you requires courage.

But your fellow citizens have placed their trust in you. They believe in your ability to help them realize their dreams for a more prosperous and peaceful future. And so do we.

As they say in Montenegro, "In good times, it's easy to be good, but in adversity, heroes are recognized."

So today with great respect, I urge each of you to be the heroes your people deserve -- unlock the vast potential of your countries and realize our shared dream of a Europe whole, free, and at a peace.

Under President Trump, be assured, the United States will continue to support the Western Balkans as you take these important steps toward good government, democratic reform, and the rule of law.

We'll continue to support the Dayton Accords and the principles they represent, and we're committed to dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo to fully normalize relations between them.

And throughout the Western Balkans, the United States will partner with your citizens to foster a vibrant civil society, a free and independent press, and an economy that opens opportunity for all who seek it.

And we must never forget that security is the foundation of our prosperity, and the United States I can assure you will continue to partner with each of you as you promote security in the Western Balkans and beyond.

We'll continue to forge strong relationships between your armed forces and the Armed Forces of the United States, training alongside you and partnering with you to professionalize your militaries even further.

We'll continue to build your capability to operate alongside NATO and other Western forces. And the United States will partner with you to reduce your dependency on legacy Soviet and Russian military hardware.

But as President Trump has made clear, your defense requires your commitment as much as ours. Collective defense is the essential foundation of the NATO Alliance, and President Trump has made it clear that the United States expects all our allies, and all who would wish to join our alliance, to meet the minimum commitment of spending at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on their own national defense.

This investment is necessary to keep our solemn pledge that an attack on one is an attack on all. This oath requires action, and every NATO member and NATO aspirant must renew their commitment to our common defense -- and they must renew it now.

We must shoulder this responsibility together because the dangers we face are growing and changing every day. Throughout my trip, I have met with the brave men and women in uniform of the Armed Forces of the United States and our allies and our strategic partners. I'm always inspired. They're the best of us. And along with so many of your citizens, in Europe and across the wider world, they stand on the front lines of freedom. Their service and their sacrifice keep our families safe and our freedom strong.

These heroes stand guard at a pivotal time, for our world is now a more dangerous place than at any point since the collapse of communism a quarter of a century ago.

As President Trump said in Poland, we are now confronted by adversaries, as he said, from inside and out, from the South and the East, that "threaten to undermine our values and erase the bonds of culture, faith, and tradition that make us who we are."

And no enemy is more widespread than the global menace of radical Islamic terrorism. Terrorism threatens us all, from the Western Balkans, to Western Europe, to the United States of America.

It was less than one year ago that many of your countries disrupted the ISIS-inspired plans for coordinated attacks in Albania, Kosovo, and Macedonia.

The United States is grateful -- grateful for your contributions in the Global Campaign to Defeat ISIS, and in the fight against terror in Afghanistan. Our shared sacrifices on the field of battle have only brought us closer and strengthened our commitment to freedom.

And make no mistake about it: President Trump and the United States of America under his leadership will not rest, we will not relent until we hunt down and destroy ISIS at its source so it can no longer threaten our people, our allies, or our way of life. (Applause.)

As our militaries and coalition forces drive ISIS from Iraq, and soon from its very existence, your countries will continue to face the danger of foreign fighters returning home from the Middle East, with the singular goal of sowing chaos and taking innocent lives.

We must be vigilant to this threat, a cancer in our countries, and we must be prepared to cut it out before it can fester and grow.

Beyond terrorism, President Trump has called attention to in his words "powers that seek to test our will, undermine our confidence, and challenge our interests."

In recent days we've seen the completion of Venezuela's collapse into dictatorship. Not only did the regime hold a sham National Assembly election, but on Monday night, the regime seized two prominent members of the opposition, Leopoldo Lopez and Antonio Ledezma, who are being held illegally as we speak.

President Trump said yesterday, "The United States condemns the actions of the Maduro dictatorship," and that we will hold Maduro personally responsible for the health and safety of these two brave men.

The United States calls on all who cherish freedom to condemn the Maduro regime for its abuse of power and its abuse of its own people. Venezuela deserves democracy, and the Venezuelan people deserve freedom.

Beyond the Western Hemisphere, over the past week the world also witnessed, once again, the grave and growing threat posed by missile capabilities in the hands of dangerous regimes in North Korea and Iran.

Both regimes conducted provocative launches over a 24-hour span. Their actions have brought them closer to threatening our partners in their regions, our transatlantic alliance, and the American homeland itself.

In these times of widening threats and provocations, more than ever before, we must stand together in defense of all that we hold dear. We all have a vital role to play -- for all the countries gathered here today loom large in the tapestry of freedom.

Here, in Europe, we must be resolute and uncompromising in the face of aggression from an unpredictable country that casts a shadow from the east, as well.

As you well know, Russia continues to seek to redraw international borders by force. And here, in the Western Balkans, Russia has worked to destabilize the region, undermine your democracies, and divide you from each other and from the rest of Europe.

Russia's intentions were laid bare over the past year when Moscow-backed agents sought to disrupt Montenegro's elections, attack your parliament and even attempt to assassinate your Prime Minister to dissuade the Montenegrin people from entering our NATO Alliance.

President Trump has called clearly on Russia to "cease its destabilizing activities." And I can assure you: The United States of America rejects any attempt to use force, threats, or intimidation in this region or beyond. The Western Balkans have the right to decide your own future, and that is your right alone. (Applause.)

The United States will continue to hold Russia accountable for its actions, and we call on our European allies and friends to do the same. In a further sign of our commitment, very soon, President Trump will sign legislation to strengthen and codify the United States' current sanctions against Russia.

Let me be clear: The United States prefers a constructive relationship with Russia based on mutual cooperation and common interests. But the President and our Congress are unified in our message to Russia -- a better relationship and the lifting of sanctions, will require Russia to reverse the actions and conduct that caused sanctions to be imposed in the first place.

Finally, in these challenging times, President Trump has reminded us all that our fight, in his words, "begins with our minds, our wills," and our very souls.

So let us steel our minds, strengthen our wills, and refresh our souls. For if we do, as the President has said, "the West will never, ever be broken. Our values will prevail. Our people will thrive, and our civilization will triumph."

My friends in the Western Balkans, we gather at this historic Adriatic Charter Summit with the weight of history on our shoulders.

For 15 years, the United States has helped guide your countries as you walk the path toward peace at home, unity in Europe, and allied for our common defense. You need only seize the day. Take this opportunity, through your actions, to draw even closer to each other and to the West;

complete the unfinished business of the Western Balkans; and finish the journey that we started together so many years ago.

And as I say these words of admonition, I have faith -- I have faith you will succeed. We'll succeed together -- because I have faith in strong and good people of this region. I have faith in their aspiration and determination to embrace freedom for this generation and the next. And I have faith in the beautiful tapestry of belief that I have seen as I've traveled across Europe in recent days.

I've seen many creeds, many rich and ancient traditions, but in them all, I've witnessed the power of faith to stir the soul and rekindle and renew the spirit. For as the Good Book says, where the spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Ours is a shared future of security and prosperity. Ours is a shared future of liberty and freedom. United in this great "community of nations," I know we'll face that future together.

And with your help, and with God's help, we will achieve the vision of a Europe whole, free, and at peace.

And so I say with confidence: With the courage of your people, with the commitment of this brave, new generation of Western Balkan leaders, with the strength of President Donald Trump and the United States of America, and with firm reliance on Almighty God, the future for the Western Balkans, the West itself, and the future of freedom is bright -- brighter than ever before. And we will meet that future as allies and friends together.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless all your nations and may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

Remarks by Vice President Pence and President Santos of Colombia in Joint Press Conference

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Remarks by Vice President Pence and President Santos of Colombia in Joint Press Conference

Casa de Huespedes Ilustres
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PRESIDENT SANTOS: (As interpreted.) Good afternoon. Mr. Vice President, Mike Pence, welcome. Welcome to Colombia. We are truly honored to have you here.

I had the honor of being the first head of state of the Western Hemisphere to take a phone call from you after your inauguration, and I am very grateful for it because I interpreted it as you recognizing the very special relationship that our two countries have had.

Last May, you had me over in your home, the Naval Observatory in Washington, and now you have had another kind gesture, because Colombia is the first country you visit in Latin America.

And this reaffirms our strategic alliance and our friendship with your government and the people of the United States. Colombians are very proud of this alliance that has been strengthened over time and over several administrations.

Vice President Pence is arriving at a historical moment, at a turning point when the last containers in which we have placed all of the FARC weapons and are now in the hands of the United Nations and our leaving the rural areas where the former guerilla have gotten together, and the idea now is to decommission and destroy all those arms. And that is no more and no less than

the end of the decommissioning of our weapons. And we have already begun a process of reintegration of the former members of this insurgent group into civilian life.

During this peace process that your country has proven so helpful is a triumph -- a triumph for democracy -- and clear evidence that conflict, regardless of how profound they may be, they can be resolved through reason and dialogue.

Here, we did not negotiate our economic model, nor did we negotiate private property, nor the development model or public policy, and much less our military services. What we did was to strengthen the rule of law, as well as our democratic institutions, and to give our countryside, our rural area, and our agrarian agricultural policy the importance that they should have had for a very long time. And you, Vice President Pence, understand this very well because you come from an agricultural state.

And we have now embarked in a new era of cooperation with the United States on several fronts. Plan Colombia, that has now become Paz Colombia with bipartisan support, will focus on very special programs that will allow us to make headway in peace-building and also in rebuilding all the areas most affected by the conflict.

Allow me to reiterate, on behalf of the people of Colombia and on my own behalf, our gratitude to the government of the Trump administration for supporting the consolidation of peace in Colombia.

The end of the conflict with FARC will allow us to be far more effective in this common battle that our two countries are waging against drug trafficking. We are cognizant that illegal crops have increased in recent years, and that is a shared concern because we have a shared responsibility.

During our talks, I had the chance to explain to Vice President Pence the specific plan that we've put in motion in order to do away with -- or to disappear 100,000 hectares of coca shrub in Colombia. The first half that corresponds to forced eradication, we have already cleared 27,000 hectares. The other 50 percent is being eradicated through voluntary substitution programs, and we have already eradicated over 10,000 hectares, but we do have the commitment with over 86,000 families to surpass the 50,000 hectares that we intend on destroying.

The Minister of Defense is responsible for this program, together with the High Advisor for the post-conflict, coordinated by the Vice President of Colombia, General Naranjo. And we measure it every week with the support of the U.S. embassy, with the purpose of guaranteeing its fulfillment.

And this is a monumental task, and we are going to fulfill it. We are very happy to share this good news with you, Mr. Vice President Pence, and also explain that the agenda between our countries has evolved and has gone way beyond the war on drug trafficking. The U.S. has provided us with very valuable support in our desire to join the OECD, and we already have the approval of several committees, and that support has been reiterated by President Trump himself, and it is going to prove key so that we receive a green light in the other two committees we need to be approved in order for Colombia to join the OECD.

And the trade relation between our countries is becoming increasingly stronger. The free trade agreement has brought great benefits that we can further empower. Less than a year ago, it was here, in the city of Cartagena, that we installed the U.S.-Colombia Entrepreneurial Advisory Council. And this council has become a very important voice for both our countries' private sectors, and has allowed us to understand and support business opportunities.

And thanks to the end of the conflict with FARC, new opportunities are opening up for agriculture and mining, particularly in areas hit very hard by violence. And as far as access to the U.S. market is concerned, Vice President Pence has brought good news, but I will let him give us that good news.

Tourism is another front of our relationship that is on the rise and that we hope to further strengthen. Last year, we had an average of U.S. tourists increase by 16 percent. In the past, that

average annual number was barely 5 percent. And we want an increasing number of U.S. visitors to come to Colombia and enamor themselves with all the beautiful treasures that we have to share with you and the world at large. And to this, there are many social, economic, and academic opportunities for the citizens of both our countries.

Naturally, we spoke about Venezuela, and with Vice President Pence and President Trump, we have expressed our concern, and the concern of the entire region and world, over what is happening in Venezuela.

In the sister nation of Venezuela, they are destroying the freedom and institutional framework and institutional order. Your country, Vice President, and my country have always defended the legacy of our founding fathers -- freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, and, naturally, peace. And those are values that we must always uphold and defend -- always. And that's why we must do everything possible so that Venezuela reestablishes its democracy.

But since friends have to tell each other the truth, I have told Vice President Pence that the possibility of a military intervention shouldn't even be considered, neither in Colombia nor in Latin America. From the south of the Rio Grande to the Patagonia, could we agree on this? America is a continent of peace. It is the land of peace. Let us preserve it as such.

The pressure on the Venezuelan regime must be maintained and increased, as was stated by the countries that met in Lima last week. They said: We condemn and reject what is happening in Venezuela.

An illegal constituent assembly is killing democratic institutions. It is the coup de grâce we support all the measures adopted by the U.S. government, and we will support additional measures, provided we always look for a negotiated solution and, above all, a peaceful solution.

Mr. Vice President, we are here at the House of Illustrious Guests -- that is how it's called -- and it is located inside the cadet naval school facilities where I, 50 years ago, acquired the values of military education, and they have been with me all of my life. The anthem of our navy ends with a beautiful sentence that says: And that is why I sing when I sail. I do not care about the storm, because I am always guided by two stars -- that of my country and my home.

And I could add that the Americans -- both Americans from the north and Americans from the south -- must always be enlightened by two other stars -- that of democracy and that of freedom. And always, always we must be vigilant to ensure that they never lose their shine and light.

Thank you once again, Vice President Pence, for your gesture of choosing us as the first country on your tour throughout Latin America.

Thank you. Thank you for your government support to our country and to peace in Colombia. Let us continue working together, united, to further strengthen our relationship as strategic partners, allies, and, above all, as friends.

Thank you. Thank you very much.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: President Santos, thank you for the warm welcome you and Maria Clemencia have shown to me and my wife, Karen.

It was an honor, along with President Donald Trump, to welcome you to the White House during your historic visit in May. And now it is a personal honor for me to be to be the first member of our new administration to visit Colombia.

And on behalf of President Trump, I'm here to deliver a very simple message to you and to the people of this great nation: The United States stands with Colombia. Colombia has no better partner and friend than the United States of America.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States will always put the security and prosperity of America first. But as I hope my presence here today demonstrates, America first does not mean America alone.

The United States stands with Colombia because our security and our prosperity are inextricably linked. Our interests are aligned. Our values that you spoke of so eloquently are the same. And the birthright of freedom belongs to both our people.

Colombia won its independence less than a half-century after the United States. And, last week, Colombia celebrated the 198th anniversary of the Battle of Boyacá, when your forbearers cast off the shackles of foreign oppression.

The United States was proud to be the first democracy to recognize your independence. Colombia signed its first treaty of commerce with the United States, back in 1824. And over the generations, our citizens have stood shoulder-to-shoulder to protect our most precious values of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

The United States has stood with Colombia through times of great challenge, and we continue to stand with you today, in this time of hope and opportunity for the Colombian people.

Mr. President, under your leadership, Colombia has signed an agreement that ended the longest-running conflict in the history of the Western Hemisphere. But now, Colombia faces the greater challenge of consolidating that peace. The greatest risk, as we discussed, to that peace is practical and real: the absence of infrastructure, basic services, the rule of law in war-affected areas that's creating a haven for criminal activities, drugs and violence.

Mr. President, know that the United States will continue -- continue to partner with Colombia to address these issues, because we've long recognized the importance of Colombian security and prosperity to our own.

This year, on trade, marks the 6th year of the U.S.-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement. It's an agreement that has created jobs and opportunities in both our nations. Colombia is the United States' third-largest trading partner in Latin America, with a two-way goods trade of nearly \$27 billion in 2016 alone.

Today, I am pleased to announce that the United States has reached an agreement to allow Colombian Haas avocados into the U.S. market. I want to congratulate you, President Santos, and your government. I also want to thank you for expanding access for U.S. rough rice in Colombia.

We welcome this progress, and we're confident that our nations' leaders can continue with further progress in the days ahead.

To that end, as I told you today, the United States supports Colombia's aspirations to join the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. As a concrete demonstration of this support, I'm pleased to announce today that the United States will provide Colombia up to \$2 million in technical assistance to achieve that objective.

In spite of all this progress, our greatest concern, as President Trump discussed with you at the White House -- and we discussed again today -- is the dramatic increase in cocaine production, which has now reached an all-time high in Colombia. This worsening crisis requires swift action to protect the people of both our countries.

The drug trade is a wellspring of violence, crime, and corruption, victimizing the Colombian people. And in the United States, illegal drugs coming from Colombia have poisoned our children, torn apart our families, and devastated too many communities. Mr. President, this must end -- and this must end soon.

I can assure you, under President Donald Trump, the United States will continue to take decisive action to address our nation's demand for illegal drugs, with border security, internal enforcement, and a renewed effort to remove dangerous criminals, gang members, and drug dealers from the streets of our country.

Last week, I stood with President Trump as he declared a national health emergency to combat the scourge of opioid abuse and addiction all across our nation.

And to protect the people of the United States, we will also continue to work directly with Colombia to combat drug production and transnational criminal syndicates. And, Mr. President, we will support efforts to strengthen the Colombian judicial system to deal with traffickers more effectively.

Under your leadership, Mr. President, Colombia represents the future of Latin America. It is a future of freedom, security, and prosperity. And America stands with you.

As we look toward that future, Colombia stands not only with the United States, but with free nations and peoples all across our hemisphere. The last three decades have seen the flowering of freedom and democracy from the tip of South America to the top of Central America.

And while Colombia and other countries across the region have achieved such rapid progress toward freedom, as the world watches we see your neighbor to the east has gone in the exact opposite direction.

In Venezuela, we're seeing the tragedy of tyranny play out before our eyes. As President Trump has said, in his words, "The [Venezuelan] people are suffering and they are dying." They're experiencing grinding poverty. Families cannot find the food and medicine they need to survive. Innocent children are perishing every day from hunger.

Today, the once-free people of Venezuela are being forced to endure this fate by the brutality of the Maduro regime. No free people has ever chosen to walk the path from prosperity to poverty. No free people has ever chosen to turn what was once, and should still be, one of South America's richest nations into its poorest and most corrupt.

The Maduro regime has ignored and undermined its National Assembly. It's stifled the voices of a free press and the masses alike, and imprisoned countless political opponents. And more than 130 brave Venezuelans have already died in the desperate fight for democracy.

The United States, Colombia, and free nations of Latin America will not be silent. Venezuela is sliding into dictatorship, and as President Donald Trump has said, "The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles." We will continue to stand with free nations across our hemisphere until democracy is restored for the Venezuelan people.

Let me take this moment to thank you, President Santos, for Colombia's regional leadership in this cause. Colombia has publicly denounced the Maduro regime and increased financial surveillance of its ill-gotten assets.

Last week, 12 nations, including Colombia, jointly issued the Lima Declaration -- a strong statement of the region's opposition to the Maduro regime's abuse of power and abuse of the Venezuelan people.

At President Trump's direction, the United States of America has issued three rounds of targeted sanctions, including new sanctions just last week, against Maduro and his inner circle. And you can be assured, Mr. President, we will continue to take action until the Maduro regime restores democracy, holds free and fair elections, releases all political prisoners, and ends the repression of the Venezuelan people.

As President Trump said just a few days ago, "We have many options for Venezuela." But the President also remains confident that, working with all of our allies across Latin America, we can achieve a peaceable solution to the crisis facing the Venezuelan people.

Working with free nations across this hemisphere, the United States will continue to bring the full measure of American economic and diplomatic power until democracy is restored in Venezuela.

We do this because it's right. The Venezuelan people deserve freedom. We do this because, as President Trump has said, in his words, a "stable and peaceful Venezuela is in the best interest of the entire hemisphere." Failed states know no borders. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal drug trafficking, with its murderous criminal consequences, radiating outward. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal migration, compromising our borders, damaging our economies. And ultimately, a failed state in Venezuela will endanger the wellbeing of all who call this hemisphere home.

And know this, Mr. President: What we do for Venezuela, we will do together. We all live in the same neighborhood. We succeed when our neighbors succeed. We suffer when our neighbors suffer. And so we will continue to act, together, to support the people of Venezuela in their struggle for freedom.

And we call on our neighbors and your neighbors in Latin America to do more. And I promise you, the United States will not rest, we will not relent until Venezuela is restored to a full and prosperous democracy.

The Venezuelan people will be free once more, for here in the New World, freedom always wins. And as Simón Bolívar said, "A people that loves freedom will in the end be free."

The United States is grateful for our partnership and our friendship with Colombia. And, Mr. President, you can be assured that we will continue to work hand-in-hand with Colombia, in security, in prosperity, and in defense of the timeless values that gave birth to our nations and that have brought us closer together ever since.

We share a past and we share a future -- and we will meet that future together.

Thank you, President Santos, again for your hospitality. It's my great honor to be here.

MODERATOR: President Santos and Vice President Pence will take a couple of questions from the media from both countries. And we will start with the Colombia press, Maricia de la Torre (ph) from Caracol News.

Q (In progress) -- here in Colombia. When President Trump, when your government said this day that he is not ruling out a military intervention in Venezuela, exactly what does it mean? And I also would like to know if this part of this trip that you're having in Latin America includes looking for support from the countries, like Colombia, Chile. You're going to Chile, you're going to Argentina, you're going to Panama later. So are you looking for support in Latin America for that military intervention?

And also, if President Santos would like to say something about that. Welcome. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you very much. And let me say, as the world learned in this administration, President Trump is a leader who says what he means, and means what he says. But the President sent me here to continue to marshal the unprecedented support of countries across Latin America; to achieve, by peaceable means, the restoration of democracy in Venezuela. And we believe it is achievable by those means.

As I said earlier, the United States will continue to bring the full weight of American economic and diplomatic power to bear. We simply will not accept the emergence of a dictatorship in our hemisphere. The Venezuelan people deserve better. Our hemisphere deserves better. And you hear in President Trump's words the resolve of the United States of America to see this through and to restore democracy and constitutional government in Venezuela. And as I travel throughout the region, it will be my aim to continue to build on the momentum that exists today among countries all across this region to achieve that objective for the Venezuelan people.

PRESIDENT SANTOS: (As interpreted.) I have little to add to what I said earlier. A military intervention would be unacceptable to all countries in Latin America. And what we all want is to reestablish democracy in Venezuela, and we will continue collectively pressing in this regard.

Q Hi, Mr. President, Mr. Vice President, thank you very much. To start with -- Vice President Pence, President Trump on Friday, when he suggested that a military option may be under consideration for Venezuela, many analysts interpreted that to play into Maduro's hand because it invoked dark memories of a whole generation of U.S. interventionism abroad. Can you speak to that at all? How does that affect that situation here diplomatically? Do you think it makes it more difficult to unite the forces within the region and within the hemisphere against Maduro? And, separately, is the United States considering any oil sanctions as additional pressure for the Venezuelan government?

And, Mr. President Santos, a question for you. You said that you thought it was unwise for President Trump to make that threat, and I'm wondering why you think that is. If you can elaborate that on a little bit more. And does it make more difficult for you to unite your allies and your neighbors here in the continent against Venezuela when there's a U.S. military threat that looms over all of this? Thank you.

PRESIDENT SANTOS: (As interpreted.) I will repeat what I said during my initial remarks. The Latin American continent, every country in Latin America would not favor any form of military intervention, and that's why we're saying that we are intent on looking into other measures, some of which are already underway, and others to be implemented in the future.

But a transition in the Venezuelan regime towards democracy must be a peaceful transition. It must be, hopefully, a democratic transition. And it must be quickly, this transition -- because as we have said here, what interests us the most is the people of Venezuela, because the people of Venezuela are suffering. They are hungry. They lack medications. And that's why this transition has to take place as promptly and quickly and possible. But it must be done peacefully.

You mentioned in your question the ghost of military interventions. Fortunately, in Latin America, [this] disappeared a long time ago, and we don't want that phantom to reappear.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for the question, Phil. The President said the United States has many options. But the President sent me here to build on what we believe is an unprecedented and growing alliance among Latin American nations, with the United States of America, to isolate Venezuela economically and diplomatically. And we believe that we can achieve, by peaceable means, a transition in Venezuela back to the democracy that the people of that country so richly deserve.

What the world heard last week in the voice of President Donald Trump was resolve and determination -- a determination not to let this moment slip, not to stand idly by while a neighbor collapses into dictatorship -- which, as President Santos said very eloquently, is precisely what is happening in their neighbor to the east.

Under the guise of democratic institutions and a so-called constituent assembly, we're seeing the apparatus put in place to result in Venezuela crumbling into a dictatorship. And that is simply unacceptable not just to the President of the United States and our country, but, happily, it is broadly acceptable to leaders all across this region. And I can assure you that what the United States and our friends and allies in the region have done before, we will do more.

President Santos and I discussed in some detail additional measures that could be taken to further pressure the regime in Venezuela economically. We will continue on this trip, and beyond, to bring diplomatic pressure to bear.

But as the President has said, the people of Venezuela are suffering. They're suffering under deprivation. They're suffering under the brutal tactics of the Maduro regime. And President Trump is absolutely determined to marshal all of the support of nations across this region to see democracy restored in Venezuela.

Q The possibility of oil sanctions, is that something that came up in your discussions?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, let me say that we're looking at a full range of additional economic sanctions and also calling on nations around the world to become more engaged and more involved in restoring democracy in Venezuela.

But again, the President sent me here to say that we are going to bring the full weight of American economic and diplomatic power to bear on creating the conditions where the Venezuelan people can once again enjoy the democracy that is their heritage, before the last two regimes, and will be their future.

MODERATOR: Maria Camila Roa from Blu Radio.

Q Now that FARC are no longer an armed group, will the U.S. government be willing to remove them from the terrorist list? And will there be support from the United States in this stage without FARC to combat or to face common crime here in Colombia?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: President Santos and I talked extensively about his government's efforts to follow through on the historic peace agreement. And the United States, in a variety of ways -- USAID and others -- has made efforts to come alongside and support those efforts, and we will continue to do so.

We remain hopeful that peace will prosper in the wake of this agreement, but we do believe that addressing core issues of judicial reform, infrastructure, basic services, will all be part and parcel of moving the nation forward in the years ahead.

But Colombia is a valued partner of the United States, a cherished friend, and we will continue to stand with Colombia for security and for the advancement of peace in this nation in the years ahead.

PRESIDENT SANTOS: (As interpreted.) As I said earlier, we are truly grateful for all the support that the United States has provided us to bring about the process. Because without its support, the process would not have been possible. The U.S. has supported us during the process in order to coordinate it, and now it will support us in peace-building. And this is something for which we are truly grateful. It's been significant help, and will continue to be very important, this help -- because we stand before the monumental challenges I've said in the past. Putting an end to the conflict is one thing, but building peace -- that is another thing and a very difficult thing. And in peace-building we need all the help we can get, and the help received from the U.S. is something we appreciate from the bottom of our heart.

Q President and Vice President, thank you so much for having us here and for holding this press conference.

President Santos, I wanted to begin with you. I know that you both spoke a great deal about the drug crisis. Are you considering at this point, or would you endorse the idea of returning to aerial fumigation?

PRESIDENT SANTOS: (As interpreted.) We did discuss that point precisely, and I've explained to Vice President Pence that aerial spraying did not bring about the results everyone hoped for. In the year 2007 -- and I showed him the numbers -- is when we did the highest volume of air spraying of illegal crops, and that is one of the years when coca production increased the most.

And we are convinced that the plan we have in place today, for the very first time, will provide us with a long-term structural solution -- because we've been combatting drug trafficking and illegal crops for 30 years. And in spite of all the efforts made, Colombia is the country that has made the biggest sacrifices in this global war on drugs. Even though those efforts did bring about some results, they were all marginal results, because today, regrettably, we are still a major exporter of cocaine to the global market.

However, now, thanks to the peace process, we'll be able to go out to all these places where coca shrub is being grown, and we have in place a plan so that the coca growers will voluntarily substitute their illegal crops for legal crops. And we've already signed agreements with 86,000 families so that at least 50,000 hectares, from here to early next year, will be voluntarily substituted,

And, on the other hand, we are doing what we call forced eradication, plant by plant, through our military services -- an additional 50,000 hectares of which we've already cleared 27,000.

So the ongoing plan is a plan we measure on a weekly basis with the participation of the United States. And I am confident that this plan, for the very first time -- because we are in times of peace and we don't have FARC opposing this process -- we will be successful.

Q To Phil Rucker's question, would you expect any additional sanctions announced this week? And then, I wanted to give you a chance to address what has been having in Charlottesville over this weekend. A number of critics, Republicans included, have criticized the President, saying that he was not forceful enough in specifically condemning white supremacists and other racist rhetoric that happened during that weekend. What do you make of that criticism, and what do you have to say about the crisis?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, on the first topic, let me say that we did talk extensively about aerial spraying and the need for enforcement of the peace agreement and arrangements that are made transitioning citizens of Colombia away from illicit crops. And the United States will look to Colombia to follow through strongly on that, and we'll be supportive of those efforts.

With regard to additional sanctions, what I can assure you is that we will remain vigorous in our efforts to isolate Venezuela economically and diplomatically. And I would anticipate additional U.S. action in this regard sooner rather than later. We'll be talking to our allies across the region on this trip.

But again, as President Trump has made clear, we simply will not be silent. We will not stand by while Venezuela collapses into dictatorship.

With regard to yesterday, what happened in Charlottesville was a tragedy. Charlottesville, Virginia is a beautiful community, a university town with a rich heritage. President Santos's son just graduated from the University of Virginia, and the President himself spoke on that campus.

And what occurred there, as local and state officials have said, is in no way a reflection of the good and decent people of Charlottesville or of America.

Of what happened there -- yesterday, President Trump clearly and unambiguously condemned the bigotry, violence, and hatred which took place on the streets of Charlottesville.

Our hearts go out to the victims of violence that ensued; the family of the young woman who lost her life; of the families of the two police officers who fell in the line of duty, and all of those that are injured.

We have no tolerance for hate and violence, from white supremacists, neo-Nazis, or the KKK. These dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life and in the American debate, and we condemn them in the strongest possible terms.

The President also made clear that behavior by others of different militant perspectives are also unacceptable in our political debate and discourse. Our administration is bringing the full resources of the Department of Justice to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the violence that ensued yesterday in Charlottesville. And we will hold them to account, under the law.

The President's call for unity yesterday, though, was from the heart. It was a sincere call, in these too divided times in our country, for those on the extremes to be dismissed, and for the vast majority of Americans who cherish freedom, who cherish justice for all, to come together in new and in renewed ways.

I will say I take issue with the fact that many in the national media spent more time criticizing the President's words than they did criticizing those who perpetrated the violence to begin with.

We should be putting the attention where it belongs, and that is on these extremist groups that need to be pushed out of the public debate entirely, and discredited for the hate groups and dangerous fringe groups that they are.

The truth, as President Santos knows, is, the overwhelming majority of Americans, I would say, with very few exceptions, cherish the values that are at the foundation of our nation. They're the shared values that we have with the people of Colombia.

And in the aftermath of yesterday's violence, and on this Sunday here in Colombia, I think it's a good time to pray -- to pray for those who lost their lives yesterday; to pray for their families; to pray for the injured; but also to pray for greater unity in America that I believe will come. We can seize this moment, as President Trump said yesterday, as a moment where we stop, where we pause, and where we move forward together.

END

7:10 P.M. Local ET

Remarks by Vice President Pence and President Macri of Argentina in Joint Press Conference

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 15, 2017

Remarks by Vice President Pence and President Macri of Argentina in Joint Press Conference
Quinta de Olivos

Buenos Aires, Argentina

PRESIDENT MACRI: (As interpreted.) Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. And thank you joining us on a special morning. I would like to welcome and thank the Vice President of the United States for this official visit.

This truly certifies the level of interest and enthusiasm with regard to our country, given that we've started to build trust, to become predictable, and, clearly, that is the beginning of a process of employment generation in our country as it brings investments, most definitely -- investments which are necessary for our country's development.

In addition, this reflects a relationship which began to heal 19 months ago, by starting to look for common areas. And this was obviously certified when I went to Washington and met with President Trump. This involves the affection there is between our countries.

I would like to thank you, Mr. Vice President, for your presence here. Your visit with leading companies of the United States, some companies which are ratifying and confirming investments, and companies that are interested in taking part in the development of our country in the near future. Again, we need to generate employment, as that is a solution to poverty. We need to create a lot of jobs, and your companies that are determined to invest in our country are most welcome.

During our working meeting, we also discussed trade matters, and we are obviously willing to exchange what both the Argentinians and the Americans produce. We also discussed the G20 and the WTO meeting at the end of the year. We think these are meetings that will provide an opportunity to boost the development of the whole continent.

I also conveyed our deep gratitude, considering the clear and conclusive position of the United States in favor of Argentina's bid to join the OECD. We think this is a very important step as part of our transformation process. We do wish to become members of such a distinguished group of work.

I also reiterated that we are very happy to be able to continue fighting against drug-trafficking, terrorism, money-laundering, and corruption. We have worked very collaboratively and intelligently in recent months, and we hope to continue to do so, as this is a path that guarantees the growth of our countries and development and peace of mind for our communities, essentially.

And we also talked a bit about Venezuela. We share the concern over developments in our beloved Venezuela. We feel for the suffering of Venezuelans. And we reiterated, both of us, the need to continue to demand President Maduro an electoral schedule, respect for individual liberties, for the independence of the powers, and to stop actions that have only impoverished Venezuela and have greatly damaged its population.

This has been a truly important meeting for us. Your presence is important, Mr. Vice President. We believe in a mature, intelligent relationship between our countries, and we think, on that basis, we can build a better future for the Argentinians and the Americans.

So let us hope this will be the first of many visits. You will always be welcome. I know last night you had a very nice meal with your wife -- a very romantic evening at your hotel. (Laughter.) So I do hope you'll visit us once again with your wife and that you will get to see other parts of our country, which is a large country, like your own. It has beautiful spots that are worth visiting.

Thank you once again.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you, President Macri. Thank you for the warm hospitality that you've shown to me on my very first visit to Argentina. I extend the warm and personal greetings of your friend of many years, the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump.

I spoke with the President this morning, and he wanted me to convey his gratitude to you, not only for your hospitality, but for the growing partnership and strong relationship that is now enjoyed under his leadership with the United States and your leadership here in Argentina.

It was my honor, along with the President, to welcome you to the White House just a few short months ago, and now it's my honor to be welcomed by you to Argentina and to your beautiful capital city of Buenos Aires, where my wife and I did enjoy a date last night. (Laughter.)

I'm here today to reaffirm the enduring bond between the United States and Argentina. And I'm here to commend you, President Macri, for your bold reform agenda, an agenda that's transforming Argentina's economy at home and restoring its reputation around the world. Argentina, in many ways, is an inspiration across this hemisphere and across the wider world. And I'm here to tell you, on behalf of President Trump, the United States is with you.

Under President Trump, the United States will always put the security and prosperity of America first. But as I hope my presence here demonstrates, America first does not mean America alone.

The United States and Argentina are woven together by geography and history, and a tapestry of liberty. It was nearly 250 years ago that the founders of the United States of America proclaimed our independence. It was only 40 years later -- almost to the day -- that the forebears of Argentina followed their own path to freedom.

Where the United States has George Washington, Argentina has San Martín, whose mausoleum I had the privilege to visit earlier today. Where the United States has our Declaration of Independence, Argentina has the Acta de Independencia. The United States is proud to stand with Argentina to this day in defense of freedom, democracy, and the rule of law.

President Macri, under your leadership, Argentina has reemerged as a strong advocate for these values and as a symbol of the productive and positive future that Latin America is building for itself. Today, Argentina has embarked on a great economic and political revival. And as our President said to you in his meeting at the White House, we applaud your political and economic reforms.

Over the past 18 months, President Macri has taken important steps to break down barriers to growth, eased currency controls, reentered global capital markets, cut import and export tariffs, modernized labor rules, and invested in much-needed infrastructure.

As we share your view that membership in the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development will help consolidate these reforms in Argentina, on behalf of the President, let me reiterate again that the United States of America strongly supports Argentina's bid to join the OECD.

Under your leadership, Mr. President, Argentina holds the promise of a stronger commercial partnership with the United States. Today, President Macri and I spoke about increasing our two-way trade for the benefit of both our countries. Our trade currently totals more than \$24 billion, and our investment stands at more than \$13 billion. This is a solid foundation for shared prosperity, as we look forward to building on it to our mutual benefit.

Furthermore, as President Trump has said, we welcome Argentina's growing leadership role on the world stage. Last year -- or, excuse me, later this year, as we discussed, Argentina will host the World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference, and next year, of course, you'll assume the G-20 presidency.

Argentina's global leadership is good for our hemisphere. And, President Macri, let me thank you again for your actions, which are renewing Argentina's leadership and prosperity.

But as we know and as we discussed, security is the foundation of our prosperity, and today, our nations face many threats to our security, most especially the threat of global terrorism.

Argentina, of course, is no stranger to this enemy. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Israeli Embassy bombing, which was followed two years later by the AMIA bombing -- the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of Argentina.

These two attacks claimed the lives of 114 innocent citizens. Earlier today, it was my great privilege to visit the memorial for these victims at the Metropolitan Cathedral, to breathe a word of prayer and respect for the loss.

A quarter-century later, terrorism still threatens our nations, our people, and our very way of life. And President Macri, I can assure you: The United States will continue to stand with Argentina to confront this enemy and ensure our mutual security.

As a result of your visit to Washington, D.C., the United States will continue to strengthen our partnership to combat terrorist financing, as well as money laundering, and other illicit financial activities by transnational criminal organizations. And we are grateful for the full partnership in this cause.

The newly established Argentina-United States Dialogue on Illicit Financing, and our new bilateral Cyber Policy Working Group are protecting the security and economic interests of both our countries. And President Trump and I appreciate Argentina's partnership in this critical area, in this challenging time.

Argentina is boldly leading Latin America toward a brighter future, but your progress, and the progress of the wider region, sadly stands in stark contrast to the collapse that we see in Venezuela.

In Venezuela, we are seeing the tragedy of tyranny play out before our eyes, in our own hemisphere. As President Trump has said, in his words, "The [Venezuelan] people are suffering and they are dying." And they're experiencing grinding poverty; families cannot find the food and medicine they need to survive; innocent children are perishing from hunger every single day.

Today, the once-free people of Venezuela are being forced to endure this fate by the brutality of the Maduro regime. The Maduro regime has ignored and undermined the National Assembly; stifled the voices of the free media and the people alike; and has imprisoned countless political opponents. And, most heartbreakingly, more than 130 brave Venezuelans have died in the desperate fight to restore democracy.

Venezuela is sliding into dictatorship. And as President Donald Trump has said, and I quote, "The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles." President Trump has said that a stable and peaceful Venezuela is in the best interest of our entire hemisphere. And you can be assured, Mr. President: We will continue to stand with free nations across this hemisphere until democracy is restored for the Venezuelan people.

As I told you today, President Trump and I are especially grateful for Argentina's regional leadership in this cause. We applaud the measures you've taken to track down corrupt Venezuelan officials. We are grateful that Argentina voted with Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay to suspend Venezuela from Mercosur until democracy is restored.

And we thank Argentina for joining 11 other countries to sign the Lima Declaration just last week -- sending a powerful message that the free peoples of the Americas will stand with the Venezuelan people and stand up to their oppressors.

But President Trump said, and we call on Latin America to do more. And know this: The United States will continue to bring the full measure of American economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy is restored in Venezuela.

As the President mentioned a few days ago, the United States has, in his words, "many options for Venezuela." But the President and I remain confident that, working with all our allies across Latin America, we will achieve a peaceable solution to the crisis facing the Venezuelan people.

And know this, Mr. President: What we do for Venezuela, we will do together. We all live in the same neighborhood. We succeed when our neighbors succeed. We struggle when our neighbors struggle. And so we will continue to act, together, to support the people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom.

Mr. President, President Trump and I believe that Argentina will continue to be an exemplar of a better path in Latin America, under your leadership -- the path toward prosperity, security, and freedom. The United States is proud to partner with Argentina as you continue your march toward progress.

And with the leadership of President Trump and the United States, and your leadership, President Macri, and with faith in the good people of both of our countries, we're confident that the best days for the United States and for Argentina are yet to come.

President Macri, thank you again for your hospitality. It's a great, great honor to be with you today.

MODERATOR: (As interpreted.) We will next begin the actual press conference offered by the President of Argentina, Mr. Macri, and the Vice President of the United States, Mr. Pence.

Martin Dinatale from Infobae takes the floor.

Q (As interpreted.) Good morning. We would first like to ask President Mauricio Macri, what position did you convey for Argentina regarding President Trump's position a few days ago on his statement regarding a possible military intervention in Venezuela? Do you agree with that position? Have you discussed the possibility of other either economic or political sanctions that could be implemented? And this position stated by President Trump, couldn't it somehow conspire against the peaceful, pro-peace position of Latin America thus far?

And we would also like to ask Vice President Pence specifically whether there has been any progress in terms of agreements on cybersecurity, which you referred to, and what sort of progress has there been. And what kind of advances could you mention in the fight against terrorism, considering, as you yourself stated, that Argentina has been targeted by terrorism? And, accordingly, whether there's any cooperation being provided by the United States with regard to the death of prosecutor Nisman. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MACRI: (As interpreted.) The statement that the Vice President has just made clearly shows the level of agreement between us on how to tackle the issue of Venezuela. We must refine diplomatic and economic skills in order to ensure that a democracy is restored as swiftly as possible; that Venezuela, again, has an election schedule; that there are no normal political detainees; and that the powers are again independent in a framework of democracy.

That's the contents of our Mercosur communiqué, and we think that is a way to go. The way to go is not the use of force, but to deepen the political demand, taking into account the economic dimension, as well, to see how we can help ensure that democracy is restored in Venezuela.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for the question. Specifically on the issue of counterterrorism, the President and I spoke at some length about enhanced cooperation and intelligence-sharing that's been taking place since President Macri's meeting with President Trump at the White House earlier this year. We pledged our mutual support to continue to work in a collaborative way, and we are grateful for President Macri and his government's full cooperation.

To see the tragedy that took place a quarter-century ago here in Argentina, to think of 9/11 in the United States, to see the unfolding asymmetrical threat that global terrorism presents, we greatly welcome and appreciate the expanded cooperation that President Macri and President Trump initiated in their meeting in Washington, D.C. And we'll continue to work in those ways to see to the security of the people of both of our countries.

With regard to Venezuela, we spoke about that issue as well. And as I just stated, President Trump sent me here to make it clear, in Argentina and across Latin America, that the United States will not stand by while Venezuela crumbles. And the President had made it clear, as well, that the United States has many options, and we reserve those options.

But we truly believe that by increasing economic and diplomatic pressure on the Maduro regime -- not just across the Americas, but across the wider world -- that we can achieve a restoration of democracy in Venezuela by peaceable means. And we'll continue to work very closely.

I'm grateful to President Macri for his leadership over the last year and a half, speaking out boldly on the slide into dictatorship in Venezuela. We'll continue to work with countries all across the region to achieve that objective.

But President Trump is determined to bring the full weight of American economic and diplomatic power to bear until we see the suffering relieved in Venezuela, and democracy restored.

MODERATOR: Our next question is from Shannon Pettypiece of Bloomberg News.

Q President Macri, given your desire for a diplomatic solution to the situation in Venezuela, if the United States was to move forward on a military option, given all options are on the table, how would you respond? And do you feel that that type of language is helpful?

And then, for Vice President Pence, as you travel around the world trying to present this strong, unified message, back in Washington there continues to be this infighting in the West Wing, in particular these attacks on the National Security Advisor. Does that hurt your efforts abroad? And do you think there are additional changes needed in West Wing staff to eliminate or tamp down some of that very public infighting?

PRESIDENT MACRI: (As interpreted.) Again, within Mercosur, we do not see force as an option to resolve the conflict in Venezuela. And we are very pleased to see unanimity across the continent. And with the leadership of the United States, in order for democracy to be restored in Venezuela, we need to carry on working in all fields of diplomacy to ensure that this is achieved -- because, every day, Venezuelans lose the lives while defending their rights to freedom. And we can't continue to tolerate that.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for the question. Our administration, not some seven months old, has seen America restore more than a million jobs at home. But also, what the world has seen, under President Donald Trump, is an American President who is once again embracing our historic role as leader of the free world without apology.

I think you can see the results of the President's strong leadership in the unanimous vote in the United Nations Security Council on additional sanctions in North Korea. I think you can see the result of the President's strong leadership in the 12-0 vote last week, embracing the Lima Declaration, further isolating Venezuela as its nation collapses into dictatorship.

In a very real sense, I believe that President Trump has restored the credibility of American power by being willing to take American values and American interests onto the world stage. And while we're putting America first, as I said earlier, I think the world is also getting the message that America first does not mean America alone.

And my presence here, and in this swing across Latin America, as when the President himself has traveled around the world, is to bring together nations around the world, to work toward our common interests and to achieve results. And I believe the results speak for themselves.

So it's my great honor to represent the President this week in Latin America. And we're encouraged by the level of agreement among Latin American countries, and countries across the wider world, for what needs to be done with regard to isolating North Korea economically and diplomatically, to achieve the objective in North Korea of a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. And I know that President Trump is encouraged by the level of support and the response to American leadership -- bringing a focus on the tragedy in Venezuela. We were just there yesterday.

President Macri told me there are some 60,000 Venezuelan refugees here in Argentina. There are more than half-a-million, by some reports, in Colombia, where we were yesterday.

I met with families who were fleeing the deprivation and persecution of the Maduro regime, and to hear from a grandmother who told me that she went and collected her five grandchildren because poverty had become so severe in their hometown. The children had to rise at four in the morning in Venezuela to get a ticket and then wait all day to use that ticket to buy one piece of bread. It's extraordinary to think. Venezuela has the potential to be one of the wealthiest nations in our hemisphere with its oil reserves alone. And yet the poverty and deprivation that is resulting from their collapse into dictatorship speaks for itself.

And President Trump is going to continue to provide that strong unambiguous leadership on the world stage, and I think we're going to continue to see the progress that we've seen in Asia and as well as in our own hemisphere.

MODERATOR: (As interpreted.) Next, Martin Ceval (ph) from El Cronista.

Q (As interpreted.) Good morning. Mr. Vice President Pence, me and my colleagues would like to ask the following: Since the beginning of the Trump administration, negotiations between Mercosur and the EU have sped up for a trade agreement. Does the United States feel any threat to its predominant position on that front? And do you intend to state any particular position during the upcoming WTO meeting? And we'd also like to know whether the White House intends to again get Argentina within the General System of Preferences and what the position of Argentina will be within the market.

And for President Macri: Since the government has repeatedly spoken in favor of the multilateral trade system, does the bilateral position shown by the United States perhaps conspire against the goals of the December summit?

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for the question. President Macri and I spoke at some length about expanded trade opportunities between the United States and Argentina. And we think they are significant, particularly in the area of agriculture.

I come from an agricultural state in the United States. I was governor of the state of Indiana before I became Vice President. And I know the quality of American pork, and I know that President Trump and President Macri have spoken, as well as officials -- even in the last week -- about expanding access of American pork to the market here in Argentina. And we've made great progress. We're going to continue to work toward making that progress. We also discussed the interest in exporting and importing beef on both sides. And, of course, lemon exports from Argentina were a topic.

So we had a very extensive conversation on commodity-specific areas, and those will continue. And our hope is that, with the energy that our administration and that President Macri's administration are placing behind this, we may have a breakthrough soon that will expand the economic relationship between Argentina and the United States, particularly on agricultural goods.

That being said, I'll speak later today at the stock exchange about the extraordinary economic relationship between the United States of America. We are greatly encouraged by the economic reforms that President Macri is advancing here. We believe that those reforms will further enhanced and strengthened in Argentina with membership in the OECD. And President Trump has weighed in strongly in favor of Argentina's membership in the OECD.

But I can assure you that a strong relationship -- economic relationship between the United States and Argentina, I think, can grow even stronger, still, to the benefit not only of your economy, but of ours. We believe that Argentina's turn towards free-market principles, reentering global capital markets, bringing about the kind of reforms that President Macri is advancing will support jobs and opportunities in the United States, and it will invite more foreign direct investment from our country here. And we look forward to building that relationship.

PRESIDENT MACRI: (As interpreted.) I agree with the Vice President. We have so many opportunities to enhance relations between the United States and Argentina. We think that will bring prosperity, jobs, and development for our own country, and we hope that in December, at the WTO meeting, we'll find areas in which to deepen the potential, aside from the fact that the United States may not see multilateral relations as attractive as bilateral relations at this stage.

But we hope to achieve a balance at the meeting -- because, clearly, our possibilities -- the possibilities in relation to the growth of our relationship are vast. We can create a lot of jobs through increased trade with the United States and through U.S. companies, which have always led investment in Argentina over the past century. We hope that they will continue to invest further in Argentina.

MODERATOR: Our next question -- David Rennie of The Economist.

Q A question for President Macri. You're probably the leader in Latin America that's closest to President Trump. You have an agenda that's very much aligned with free markets.

You're proud of your meeting coming up hosting the WTO. Does it make your life harder when you're trying to speak to the anti-American forces that do exist in this continent when President Trump says things like the WTO is another one of our disasters, when he withdraws from TPP, when he has very harsh language about NAFTA that sounds protectionist, or when he says that a military option could be on the table for Venezuela? Does that make life harder for a pro-American leader like yourself in a continent like Latin America?

And a similar question, Vice President. You're now going on this continent as an envoy of President Trump. You've been explaining how America First does not mean America alone. But when the President steps on his own message with things like the military options or when he gives people the impression he might be about to attack North Korea, does that mean that you have work to do? And have leaders told you that they're worried that America First looks and sounds like the ugly American of the past?

PRESIDENT MACRI: (As interpreted.) I've had the honor and responsibility of leading the Argentine Republic for 19 months now. Right from the outset, I told the Argentine people that if we were isolated from the world the way we were for seven decades -- we didn't do very well, we did quite badly. One-third of Argentines are in poverty. And I propose intelligent mutual benefit relations with all countries all around the world, especially the countries that respect our own country; the countries that respect our own identity.

And right from the start with the visit of President Obama, and then with the new administration that welcomed me in Washington -- and we were very warmly received not just by the President, but by the U.S. Congress, and the American community at-large, which showed a degree of interest and affection for our country that really touched us all -- let me say that we were truly moved.

So I would much rather focus on the fact that President Trump has reiterated his deep affection for Argentina, his great respect; the fact that he believes in our country. He sees our country as one with vast potential, and the United States wants to be part of that process of development and growth.

So we're at a very good stage. We are seeking commonalities. Trade will increase, as well as investment flows. We shall continue to work together in the fight against corruption, against drug trafficking, against organized crime generally, which afflicts us so much in our everyday lives.

So I think we have a very positive era ahead of us for both countries.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Well, thank you for that, Mr. President. I couldn't agree more.

We do have before us a very opportune era, not only between our two countries, but across this hemisphere. And I believe it is a result of the strong leadership that President Donald Trump has brought back to the world stage as President of the United States of America.

I've had the great privilege to represent the President in Europe now twice, in South Asia, and now here in Latin America. And what I hear again and again from leaders around the world is that they welcome -- they welcome American strength back on the world stage. In President Donald Trump, President Macri has known for a very long time we have an American President who says what he means, and means what he says.

The American people appreciate his strength, but I am convinced, from not only public events but private conversations with leaders around the world, free nations around the world welcome the President's leadership as well. In a very real sense, President Donald Trump has restored the credibility of American power and has demonstrated that America is once again willing to step onto the world stage, put our interests first -- as every President of every nation should put their people first -- but then bring together nations of common interests -- free nations around the world -- to pursue our common objectives.

President Trump, in a very real sense, I believe has brought the kind of broad-shouldered leadership to the world stage that has been lacking for too long, and the world welcomes it. And it's my great honor to be able to represent him around the world.

And the progress that we are seeing, the strengthening of our relationships and alliances, and, frankly, the result of the strengthening of an American economy -- more confidence among our businesses than it's been for some 20 years; one million new jobs created in the first seven months of this administration; and a world community once again understanding that America is embracing our role and our responsibility as leader of the free world -- I think is all evidence of what strong and resolute American leadership means. And that's the kind of leadership that President Donald Trump will continue to provide.

PRESIDENT MACRI: (As interpreted.) Thank you very much.

END

Remarks by Vice President Pence to the Argentine and Latin American Business Community

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 15, 2017

Remarks by Vice President Pence to the Argentine and Latin American Business Community

La Bolsa de Comercio de Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, Argentina

3:41 P.M. Local ET

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you, Chargé Cooney, Minister Faurie, Hector Orlando, elected officials, distinguished leaders in the business community, and honored guests. It is my great honor -- and a great honor to my wife and I -- to be here today at the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange. Thank you for such a warm welcome, for both of us.

In fact, with that rousing round of applause, would you mind welcoming my wife of 32 years, the Second Lady of the United States of America? (Applause.) My wife Karen will be joining your First Lady later today, and she's already been enjoying the extraordinary experience of healthcare for children here in Buenos Aires, earlier today.

This is a historic moment of progress in Argentina and in freedom-loving countries across Latin America. And I'm grateful that each of you would take time to be with us today. And I bring greetings from the leader of the free world, the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump.

The President personally sent me here as the first member of our administration to visit South America, as a sign of our commitment to Latin America.

Our Western Hemisphere is a key priority for our administration. Our values are the same, our interests are intertwined, and our futures are forever linked. And today, together, we have a historic opportunity for progress, from South America to Central America, all across North America, and I'm here to speak about that today. (Applause.)

Over the course of this week, I'm visiting many of the United States' strongest allies and partners in South and Central America, including Colombia, Argentina, Chile, and Panama. And as I've already seen, the Americas are filled with diverse cultures, distinctive traditions, unique identities beyond number. But we are, all of us, bound by geography, by history, and we are bound together by the enduring aspiration for freedom.

Freedom is more than just the heritage of the people of my country. It is the birthright and the legacy of all the peoples of this new world. (Applause.) We descend from the same pioneer spirit that moved our forebears to leave their families and homes and sail across the sea, all for the chance to build new lives in this new world.

Our similar struggles for independence weave our different threads together in the same tapestry of freedom. In the long annals of liberty, names like San Martín, Martí, and Bolívar stand with Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln -- great leaders in the cause of freedom.

It was more than 240 years ago that the founders of the United States pledged to each other their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor to advance their God-given right to liberty. And it was only a few decades later that the forefathers of this country banded together to claim their inalienable right to freedom.

My nation's Declaration of Independence was followed only 40 years later, almost to the day, by Argentina's Acta de Independencia. And today, allow me to congratulate the Argentinian people as you, last year, celebrated 200 years of independence. (Applause.)

Ever since that day, the people of this nation, and this hemisphere, have strived for freedom and seized the chance to chart their own future. And that future is what I came here today to discuss.

As President Trump has said, the United States of America seeks, in his words, a future in our hemisphere where the people of each country can live out their dreams -- a future of freedom, security, and prosperity for us all. The United States has always cared deeply about the progress of our neighbors across the Americas.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States will always put the security and prosperity of America first. But as I hope my presence here today demonstrates, America first does not mean America alone. A secure Latin America means a more secure United States of America. A prosperous Latin America means a more prosperous United States of America. And the advance of freedom and democracy in Latin America benefits the cause of freedom everywhere. (Applause.) Because when free peoples stand together, there's nothing we can't accomplish.

And today, the winds of progress are at our back. From Mexico to Argentina, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, and in essentially every nation in between, the leaders of this region are taking historic action to improve the lives of their citizens and realize the hopes and dreams of generations past and present.

And under President Trump, the United States is proud to work with you -- shoulder-to-shoulder and hand-in-hand -- for the benefit of our people, of this region, and the benefit of the world.

The tasks before us today are perhaps summarized in three ways:

First, we must build on the bold steps taken by leaders across this region to open new pathways to prosperity for all of our citizens and a greater opportunity for commerce.

Second, we must continue to strengthen our collective security, by confronting those who threaten our people and our very way of life.

And finally, we must jealously protect the time-honored values that unite us, and stand together to reject all who would discard freedom and democracy for tyranny and dictatorship.

But everything begins with prosperity. Economic growth is the essential ingredient for success in the United States, as well as Latin America. As President Trump often says, "It's all about growth."

A growing economy raises living standards of living and allows anyone who wants to strive and climb the ladder of success. A growing economy inspires innovators and entrepreneurs to move a society forward. A growing economy strengthens communities and gives families a reason to put down roots that over time will blossom and bear fruit for generations to come. And a growing economy empowers those in poverty to lift themselves upward toward prosperity.

Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, the American economy is growing again. Under this President's leadership, we've been rolling back excessive regulation, unleashing American energy, and laying the groundwork for historic tax relief -- all of which has renewed American confidence, higher than it's been in decades. It spurred the creation of more than one

million new jobs this year alone, and seen the wealth of Americans on our stock market rise by trillions of dollars.

Under President Donald Trump, the American economy is back. And our trade is booming. Last year, the United States' two-way trade within the Western Hemisphere totaled \$1.6 trillion, and the United States is the largest trading partner for nearly two-thirds of the hemisphere. In fact, we trade twice as much with the countries of North, Central, and South America as we do with China, and we export more to our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere than we do to all of Asia combined.

Our flourishing trade relationship is the result of many factors, but one of the most important is the large number of U.S. free-trade agreements that facilitate commerce across this region.

The United States has free trade agreements with 12 countries in the Americas, and they've enhanced our commercial ties with the region, integrated our economies, and aligned our standards and regulatory practices in ways that have created growth.

But, as President Trump often says, every deal can be improved. And under his leadership, the United States is reviewing our existing trade agreements and negotiating new bilateral trade agreements to ensure a level playing field for the American people.

President Trump has made it clear: In his words, "We will uphold our values, we will defend our workers, and we will protect the innovations, creations, and inventions that power our magnificent country."

The United States wants more trade with Latin America and with the wider world. But under President Donald Trump, we'll not only have free trade, but we'll have fair trade.

To this end, yesterday President Trump directed the U.S. Trade Representative to determine whether to investigate China regarding the theft of American intellectual property. And that investigation has already begun. And just tomorrow, the United States will join with Canada and Mexico to formally begin the process of modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement for the 21st Century.

But for commerce to expand, the United States needs to share our tradition of entrepreneurship, innovation, and transparency with Latin America -- because we know, when Latin America embraces economic reforms, Latin America succeeds, and so does the United States. And Latin America is succeeding, because the citizens of Latin America are choosing the same path that has made America prosperous.

Never before in the history of our hemisphere have we seen such a concerted effort to enact the market-based reforms that open up opportunity, unleash prosperity, and empower the region's citizens to chart their own futures.

Simply look here in Argentina. President Macri's leadership has brought a bold reform agenda to Argentina -- an agenda that is transforming Argentina's economy at home and restoring its reputation around the world.

As President Trump said to President Macri in their meeting in Washington, D.C., the United States of America applauds the political and economic reforms that President Macri and his government have brought here to Argentina. (Applause.)

Over the past 18 months, President Macri has taken important steps to break down barriers to growth, eased currency controls, reentered global capital markets, cut import and export tariffs, modernized labor rules, and invested in much-needed infrastructure.

And today, President Macri and I continued discussions on expanding agricultural trade between the United States and Argentina. And I can tell you, we are very close to completing an agreement that will benefit American pork producers and Argentinian consumers to strengthen the trade relationship between both our countries. (Applause.)

The truth is, Argentina has reemerged as a leading example of the productive and positive future that Latin America is building for itself. Furthermore, under President Macri's leadership, Argentina is once again a leader on the global stage.

Later this year, Argentina will host the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, and next year Argentina will assume the G-20's presidency.

In a very real sense, when it comes to Latin America, the model of Argentina is the future. But, fortunately, Argentina is not alone in pursuing pro-growth reforms across this region. The good news is that similar efforts are underway across Latin America, and the people of the region are choosing the path of progress and economic reform.

In Colombia, where I was yesterday, the government is leveraging peace to bring economic opportunity to the areas that have lacked it for decades.

In Brazil, structural reforms to the labor, fiscal, and pension systems are building a more open, integrated, and competitive economy.

And when I met with leaders of the Northern Triangle nations of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in June, at the inaugural Conference on Prosperity and Security, those leaders all committed to improve the economic climate through historic regulatory and tax reforms.

Latin America is on the move. And as all these nations continue to break down barriers, root out corruption, and unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of their citizens, the progress will be a win-win for the United States of America and all our neighbors in Latin America. (Applause.)

The truth is, U.S. businesses, like many of those gathered here, are already responding to these actions with renewed confidence and investment, supporting jobs in the United States and across Latin America.

Here in Argentina, Viacom recently acquired the major broadcaster, Telefe -- one of the first major deals inked under President Macri's leadership. In the Vaca Muerta unconventional gas field, American companies, like Exxon and Chevron, are working together with their Argentinian counterparts to unleash affordable and abundant energy that will drive a growing economy.

And beyond Argentina, U.S. companies are investing in Latin America like never before. Cargill recently announced major investments in Colombia, where it now employs some 5,000 people. In Panama, Caterpillar helped cut the new channel for the Panama Canal -- that great artery of commerce, so central to the prosperity of our hemisphere and the world.

Such investments, in a multitude of industries, will only grow as Argentina and Latin America continue to enact competitive, growth-oriented reforms. And this will further strengthen the economies of all of our nations, and it will strengthen the commerce and the significant trade relationships that we already enjoy.

Our administration welcomes these economic reforms and we welcome the economic progress of Latin America. But we must never forget that security is the foundation of our prosperity, and here, too, the United States will not waver in our efforts to ensure the safety and security of the American people and the Western Hemisphere as a whole.

From North Korea to Iran, the threats to our global security are numerous and growing. And no threat is more widespread than that of global terrorism.

Argentina is no stranger to this enemy. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the bombing at the Israeli Embassy, which was followed two years later by the AMIA bombing -- the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of Argentina.

These two attacks claimed the lives of 114 innocents. And earlier today, it was my great honor to visit a memorial to these victims in the Metropolitan chapel, and breathe a prayer and read a verse in their memory.

The threat of terror still looms across our hemisphere, and we will stand together to confront it and protect our people from it. (Applause.)

And so, too, must we stand together to confront the most immediate threat to Latin America's security and prosperity -- the menace of transnational crime.

The human cost of crime is incalculable in destroyed lives and in violence, but the economic cost is well-known. By some estimates, transnational crime now consumes up to 3 percent of the

gross domestic product of South America and the Caribbean. In some Central American countries, the damage is more than double.

The cancer of crime and corruption will continue to stifle Latin America's progress so long as it exists. So every nation must redouble our efforts to end the scourge of corruption and transnational crime. And the United States of America will continue to partner with our neighbors in the region to achieve it. (Applause.)

The newly launched Argentina-United States Dialogue on Illicit Finance and Cyber Policy Working Group is helping us achieve this goal. And the United States is proud to assist President Macri in his campaign to crack down on drug trafficking and strengthen border controls.

The United States will also continue to work with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay to improve our intelligence-sharing cooperation to disrupt security threats.

And to the north, in Colombia, the Caribbean, and Central America, the United States is continuing to coordinate with our partners to staunch the flow of illegal drugs, dismantle trafficking networks, and remove the cocaine fields that are the source of so much misery in our country and in countries across this region.

Latin America has come so far in prosperity and security -- because today you share with the United States, in so many ways, in so many places, a renewed commitment to freedom, to democracy, and to the rule of law. These values are the foundation of a brighter future that we all seek, and so they will always be the foundation.

But while so much of Latin America has traveled the road to economic freedom and growth, in Venezuela, sadly, we're seeing tragedy. We're seeing the tragedy of tyranny play out before our eyes in our own hemisphere.

As President Trump has said, "The [Venezuelan] people are suffering and they are dying." They're experiencing grinding poverty; families can't find the food and medicine they need to survive; innocent children are literally perishing every day from starvation and deprivation.

Just yesterday, my wife and I spent time with refugees of this crisis in a small church in Cartagena. We prayed with these families that are fleeing violence, and poverty, and starvation.

We spoke to a grandmother who, just last week, reclaimed her grandchildren from Venezuela. And with tears in her eyes, she told us of how children would have to rise at four in the morning in Venezuela to get a ticket, and then wait all day to use that ticket in the afternoon to buy one piece of bread. It's extraordinary to think, in a nation that should well be one of the wealthiest nations in Latin America, to hear of such deprivation and poverty. It just broke our hearts.

Today, the once-free people of Venezuela are being forced to endure that fate by the brutality of the Maduro regime. No free people has ever chosen to walk the path from prosperity to poverty. No free people has ever chosen to turn what was once, and should still be, one of South America's richest nations into one of its poorest and most corrupt.

The Maduro regime has ignored and undermined their National Assembly. They've stifled the voices of a free press and the people alike. They've imprisoned countless political opponents. And more than 130 brave Venezuelans have died in a desperate fight to restore their freedom.

Venezuela is sliding into dictatorship. And as President Donald Trump has said, the United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles. (Applause.) We will continue to stand with free nations across our hemisphere until democracy is restored for the Venezuelan people.

A failed state knows no boundaries. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal drug trafficking with its murderous criminal consequences radiating outward across Latin America and into the United States. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal migration, compromising our borders, and damaging our economies. And ultimately, a failed state in Venezuela will endanger the security, prosperity, and wellbeing of all of us who call the Western Hemisphere home.

President Trump and I are grateful. We're grateful for Argentina's leadership in condemning the Maduro regime. We applaud the measures President Macri has taken to track down corrupt Venezuelan officials.

We're also grateful that Argentina voted with Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay to suspend Venezuela from Mercosur until democracy is restored.

And we gratefully recognize Argentina for joining 11 other countries to sign the Lima Declaration just last week -- sending a powerful message that the free peoples of the Americas will stand with the Venezuelan people and we will stand up to their oppressors. (Applause.)

President Trump and the United States calls on all of our neighbors across Latin America to do more. And you all can be assured: The United States of America will continue to bring the full measure of American economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy is restored in Venezuela.

As President Trump said just a few days ago, "We have many options for Venezuela." But the President also remains confident that, working with all of our allies across Latin America and across the wider world, that we can achieve a peaceable solution restoring democracy and ending the crisis facing the people of Venezuela. But it will take all of us to do it.

And be assured: What we do to see democracy restored in Venezuela, we will do together. The United States of America has already issued three rounds of targeted sanctions, including new sanctions just last week, against Maduro and his inner circle. We will continue to act until the Maduro regime restores democracy, holds free and fair elections, releases all of its political prisoners, and ends the repression of the Venezuelan people.

We do this because it's right. The Venezuelan people deserve democracy. We do this because, as President Trump has said, a "stable and peaceful Venezuela is in the best interest of our entire hemisphere."

We all live in the same neighborhood. We succeed when our neighbors succeed. We struggle when our neighbors struggle. And so we will continue to act, together, to support the people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom.

And today, I say with confidence: The Venezuelan people will be free once more, for here in the new world, freedom always wins. (Applause.)

As Argentina knows, freedom is a precious gift that demands constant protection, steady vigilance. And today, as in ages past, the United States will be unwavering in our resolve to uphold freedom in this hemisphere.

Freedom has always been and will always be the source of our strength, the summit of the national life of our country, the countries across this region. And it's the very heart of who we are. And as freedom continues its advance across this hemisphere, President Trump and I know it will bring us to new heights of security and prosperity for all our people, and new heights of accomplishment that will continue to be the marvel of the world.

We stand here today at the dawn of a new era in the new world, and the people of this hemisphere have a choice to make. It's the same choice that has faced us every day since two centuries and more ago of this nation's birth, and more than that, of my nation's birth. It's a choice that always demands our action and always commands our future.

And so I say to our neighbors and friends across this hemisphere: Let us here, in the Western Hemisphere, always choose freedom. Let us always choose democracy. Let us always stand with those who stand with these timeless values.

Choose the path that America has taken throughout our history. Choose the path that Argentina is now taking with renewed vigor once again. It's bringing this country and other Latin American countries to all new heights.

We need only remember the words of San Martín, whose mausoleum I had the privilege of visiting earlier today. As the great hero of liberty in this land tells us, "Let us be free -- for the rest matters not."

My friends, the future of freedom beckons us all. And with confidence in the good people of the United States, of Argentina, and freedom-loving people all across Latin America, with firm reliance on the deep wellspring of faith in almighty God, with such a rich tradition in all the nations across this new world -- I know we will meet that glorious future of freedom together, as partners and as friends.

Thank you. May God bless you. May God bless all of Latin America. And may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

4:10 P.M. Local ET

Remarks by the Vice President and President Bachelet of Chile in a Joint Press Conference

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and President Bachelet of Chile in a Joint Press Conference

La Moneda Palace

Santiago, Chile

PRESIDENT BACHELET: (As interpreted.) Mr. Vice President of the United States of America, Mr. Michael Richard Pence, and distinguished delegation, Mr. Foreign Minister Hernando Muñoz, representatives of the diplomatic corps of the U.S., and dear friends, today, we received the Vice President of the United States, Michael Pence, in our country, and his visit is an example of the strength of our ties. It's an expression of interest of working with Chile in a broad agenda -- regional, multilateral, and national issues.

The relationship with the United States is strategic -- politically and economically. We share views on democracy, human rights, and opening of markets. And today, we've approached different issues of interest. Among them, the program related to visa waiver U.S. And Chile the only country of Latin America -- of the 38 states -- beneficiary of the program. And this has involved that. After three years of coming into force, more than 400,000 tourists of Chile have gone to the United States.

With the Vice President, Mike Pence, we have discussed our sound trade and economic relationship within the FTA, as subscribed by both countries. And this agreement has more than one decade. One hundred percent of the products is tariff-free. Likewise, the agreement provides access to services guaranteeing intellectual property rights and incentivizes investments of the U.S. in different sectors of our economy.

In addition to that, we discuss our very fruitful political relationship, underlining our ties, not only federally and with different states. In areas like energy, science, technology, and renewable energies, we are discussing with (inaudible) and researchers. And also, we have reaffirmed our interest and commitment to work jointly with countries of the Northern Triangle of Central America and Haiti in order to cooperate for institutional strengthening and governance.

Likewise, we have spoken about the peace process of Colombia, a country that has received Vice President Pence. Chile has been fully committed to support Colombia in all of its projects to create peace and well-being for its citizens.

And also, in Latin America, allow me to refer to Venezuela -- something that we have also discussed. Chile, like 11 countries of the region, subscribed the Declaration of Lima a week ago, and this explains our ways to contribute to restore democracy in Venezuela through a peaceful and negotiated way out. There is high concern for the levels of violence and humanitarian crises experienced by Venezuela, generating a tremendous wave of migration to neighboring countries.

Chile will do its utmost to support Venezuela to find a peaceful way out. But Chile will not support military interventions, nor coup d'état. As to sanctions, we'll support all those adopted by the Security Council of the U.N.

As to sensitive issues, Chile has expressed in the General Assembly, Security Council, and OAS, its concern for the nuclear weapons program of Northern Korea. It calls to renew all the diplomatic efforts and conversations -- tripartite -- to the North, South Korea, China, the Russian Federation -- in order to have nuclear Korea -- rather, a Korean Peninsula without nuclear weapons.

And also, in our energy and climate partnership of the Americas, ECPA, that will be held in Chile in September next. And Chile will be the venue of the next meeting of APEC 2019. And on that occasion, we hope to have all the collaboration of the United States.

Thank you very much.

Now we invite and recognize His Excellency, Vice President of the United States of America, Mr. Michael Pence.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: President Bachelet, thank you for your words and for your warm hospitality that you have shown to me and my wife on our very first visit to Chile. It's a great honor to join you here at the historic La Moneda Palace. So thank you again.

I'm here today on behalf of the President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump, to reaffirm to you and the people of Chile the strategic partnership and valued friendship between the United States and Chile.

Madam President, Chile is a beacon of freedom in the Western Hemisphere, and the United States of America is proud to call you our partner in prosperity and security, and we are proud to call Chile our friend.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States will always put the security and prosperity of America first. But as I hope my presence today demonstrates, America First does not mean America alone.

As President Bachelet and I discussed today, the security and prosperity of our two countries are deeply intertwined and have been so for generations.

Just over four decades ago, Chile reoriented its economy on a free-market foundation. The result was nothing short of extraordinary -- "The Miracle of Chile."

Millions rose out of poverty. Living standards soared for the Chilean people, and Chile's embrace of free markets ultimately gave rise to a free society overall. And today Chile is a flourishing democracy with a flourishing free-market economy.

Chile's continued success is inspiring. And, Madam President, your country's excellent example has moved your neighbors across Latin America to enact their own market-based reforms to spur growth and generate prosperity for their citizens. Your example shines for all in the Western Hemisphere to see. And it's an honor to be with you today.

And Chile's embrace of freedom has brought this country into a closer relationship with the United States. In fact, Chile is the only Latin American nation to participate in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, a sign of the high standards that define Chile today.

Madam President, as we discussed, under your leadership and that of President Trump, we will continue to strengthen the bonds between our nations, especially in terms of commerce.

Today, our two-way trade in goods and services totals nearly \$30 billion, with a \$4.1 billion surplus for the United States, and the United States has been Chile's largest source of foreign direct investment for years, while Chileans have invested \$414 million in our country in recent years -- in mining, forestry, banking. And U.S. exports to Chile support some 93,000 jobs in the United States.

This is a remarkable story of success, and it stems in large part from our free trade agreement that you just mentioned, signed in 2003. It's caused trade between the United States and Chile to soar by more than 350 percent.

In many ways, the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement is a model of a mutually beneficial agreement between two nations. But as I discussed today with President Bachelet, we believe it would be important for Chile to take steps to comply with the agreement's intellectual property rights chapter to ensure a fair and level playing field for U.S. companies. We also believe such actions will bring renewed economic benefits to both our countries.

Now, tonight, I will address two institutions that epitomize the deep and longstanding commercial ties connecting our two nations -- the American Chamber of Commerce in Chile, which is kicking off its centennial celebration this year, and the Association of American Chambers of Latin America, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary. There, I'll speak to businesses that are already and are ready to invest even more in Chile and across the wider region.

But as Chile well knows, security is the foundation of our prosperity, and, Madam President, you know that the United States is truly grateful -- truly grateful for Chile's leadership in promoting regional security in partnership with our country.

Today I thanked your President for her strong leadership and consistent statements about the provocative behavior by the regime in North Korea. The United States is grateful for Chile's support to promote peace and stability and a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.

As President Trump has made clear, the era of strategic patience is over. With regard to North Korea, all options are on the table, and the United States will continue to bring the full range of American power -- economic and diplomatic -- until North Korea abandons its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

With the strong leadership of President Donald Trump, our administration has been marshalling the support of nations around the world, and as the President acknowledged this morning, we are beginning to see progress in dealing with North Korea's provocations and pursuit of a nuclear and ballistic missile program.

But more must still be done, much more.

As President Bachelet and I discussed today, the United States places great importance on the ongoing diplomatic isolation of the Kim regime. And we strongly urge Chile today, and we urge Brazil, Mexico, and Peru to break all diplomatic and commercial ties to North Korea.

We would especially welcome Chile reclassifying exports of Chilean wine, as the President and I discussed -- reclassifying the wine as a luxury good under current U.S. [sic] sanctions to prevent North Korea from obtaining these commodities and converting them into hard currency that support the regime.

Closer to home, here in our hemisphere, there is another rogue regime. And a tragedy of tyranny is playing out before our eyes in Venezuela.

As President Trump has said, in his words, the Venezuelan people "are suffering and they are dying."

I saw firsthand talking with refugees during my visit to Colombia, refugees from Venezuela. I heard about the grinding poverty, how families cannot find the food and medicine they need to survive, how innocent children are literally perishing every day from starvation and deprivation.

Let me be clear: The once-free people of Venezuela are being forced to endure that fate by the brutality of the Maduro regime.

Venezuela is sliding into dictatorship, and as President Trump has said "the United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles."

President Trump has said that a stable and peaceful Venezuela is in the best interest of our entire hemisphere. And, Madam President, I know that you agree with that strongly. Be assured that we will continue to stand with free nations across our hemisphere until democracy is restored for the Venezuelan people.

Madam President, President Trump and I are grateful for Chile's leadership in condemning the Maduro regime, and we recognize Chile and 11 other countries for signing the Lima Declaration

just last week, sending a powerful message that the free peoples of the Americas will stand with the Venezuelan people and stand up to their oppressors.

But President Trump and I call on Latin America to do more. And know this: The United States will continue to bring the full measure of our economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy is restored in Venezuela.

As President Trump has said just a few days ago, the United States has “many options for Venezuela.” But the President also remains confident that working with all our allies across Latin America we can achieve a peaceable solution to the crisis facing the Venezuelan people.

Madam President, as I assured you today in our meeting, I assure you now: What we do for Venezuela, we will do together.

We all live in the same neighborhood. We succeed when our neighbors succeed. We struggle when our neighbors struggle, and so we will continue to act, together, to support the people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom. And I believe with all of my heart, the Venezuelan people will be free once more and their democracy restored.

The people of the United States and the people of Chile know that freedom is the source of our prosperity and security. And, Madam President, I am confident that Chile will continue to be a model of freedom that shines throughout the Western Hemisphere and the wider world.

And know that the United States cherishes our friendship with the Chilean people. And even now, our bond is growing, and our security and prosperity are advancing hand-in-hand. And I have faith that together, the United States and Chile will continue to achieve great progress for our people and our hemisphere.

So, President Bachelet, I thank you again for your hospitality. It is an honor to be with you today, and I look forward to our continued discussions.

(Applause.)

PRESIDENT BACHELET: (As interpreted.) I’m going to leave you know for a couple of moments -- and we will meet again -- so you can speak to your press.

Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Thank you.

Louise Radnofsky.

Q (Inaudible.)

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Would you come again? I’m sorry. Thank you.

Q Mr. Vice President, on North Korea, do you believe that other countries including China should take the same steps as the Latin American countries that you urged to do so today?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: President Trump sent me to the Asian Pacific earlier this year, and he sent other representatives of our administration to send one clear message to North Korea, and that is that the era of strategic patience is over.

Literally for decades, the world community has practiced a patience with North Korea in the hopes that they would someday abandon their nuclear and ballistic missile ambitions. And all along the way, North Korea has simply used delay and used feigned negotiations to continue to -- in their headlong rush to obtain usable nuclear weapons and a ballistic missile program.

And the President has made it clear that those days are over. We truly believe that it’s imperative that the regime in Pyongyang understand that all options are on the table. The United States of America will simply not permit a rogue regime in North Korea to possess usable nuclear weapons that can reach the continental United States and threaten our people.

But that being said, we believe that the ongoing economic and diplomatic pressure that’s being brought to bear by our allies in the region, by allies here in Latin America, and renewed pressure by China itself is resulting in what we believe represent glimmers of hope that we can achieve by peaceful means that which nations around the world have sought on the Korean Peninsula now for decades.

My call today here in Chile and our efforts with regard to Brazil, Mexico, and Peru is simply to call on our friends in this hemisphere and call on nations around the world to continue to use the economic and diplomatic tools that they have to further isolate North Korea.

We truly do believe that we are seeing progress, which I mentioned the President acknowledged this morning. But more needs to be done, and it is our hope that Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru will join us in breaking all diplomatic and commercial ties with North Korea. And as that isolation -- economically and diplomatically -- continues, the hope for a peaceable solution and a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula we believe becomes more attainable.

Q Just to be clear, by cutting diplomatic ties, do you mean that there shouldn't be embassies within North Korea or ambassadors to North Korea? And are you concerned that given that the threat to Guam was withdrawn, essentially yesterday, your comments today could ratchet the situation up again?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: The policy of the United States is that we are working with nations around the world to isolate North Korea economically and diplomatically. At present, Chile essentially has -- if I describe it correctly, they essentially have a joint arrangement of their diplomatic relations with China and with North Korea. But to the credit of Chile, they have not presented credentials for the last four years, and I requested President Bachelet today simply to terminate that relationship formally.

We believe that that will facilitate a peaceable outcome. We want North Korea to understand there is a cost among the family of nations to their ongoing provocations. As the President did today, we welcome the statements of the Kim regime this week with regard to Guam. But our objective is clear: It is a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. We want the regime in Pyongyang to permanently abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and ambitions. And we'll continue to bring pressure to bear till we achieve that goal.

Phil.

Q Mr. Vice President, we appreciate you taking a couple questions, sir. Thank you.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: Sure.

Q The remarks made by President Trump yesterday about the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia alarmed many Americans, including Republican supporters. Do you agree with the President that there were good people among the white supremacist protesters and that there was blame to be had on both sides? And more broadly, sir, do you believe that Confederate statues should be removed as is happening in many cities across the South? Or do you agree with the President that the Confederate General Robert E. Lee should be considered in the same pantheon as George Washington?

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE: What happened in Charlottesville was a tragedy, and the President has been clear on this tragedy and so have I. I spoke at length about this heart-breaking situation on Sunday night in Colombia, and I stand with the President, and I stand by those words.

But today while I'm here in Chile, our hearts are in Charlottesville because just a few short hours ago, family and friends gathered to say farewell to a remarkable young woman, Heather Heyer. And we've been praying. We've been praying for God's peace and comfort for her family and her friends and her loved ones.

And we're also praying that in America that we will not allow the few to divide the many. The strength of the United States of America is always strongest, as the President has said so eloquently, when we are united around our shared values, and so it will always be.

But let me say it's about the strength of the United States of America that the President sent me here to Latin America. And as we prepared to end our trip a little bit early tomorrow, after we stop in Panama, I leave here greatly encouraged that across South America and Central America and with the United States and Canada, that there is -- this is a new era here in the New World. Chile is a shining example of a nation that first chose economic freedom decades ago, and now is

experiencing a vibrant, democracy. And it's inspiring nations across Latin America who have followed Chile's lead.

And I return from this trip more encouraged than ever that not only will our commerce grow - strengthening jobs and opportunities in America; strengthening the prosperity across Latin America; but I truly do believe that the unity that I have experienced in our determination to ensure that we will not permit a failed state in Venezuela in this hemisphere is more true than ever.

The determination, Phil, that I have heard among the nations that I visited about ensuring that we stand with the Venezuelan people, that we bring the full measure of economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy is restored has truly been inspiring.

I've made it clear that -- as the President has, that the United States of America has many options. We reserve those options to advance the security of the United States with regard to Venezuela. But I will return home tomorrow more confident than ever that freedom-loving countries across Latin America, along with the United States can continue bring pressure to bear; the kind of pressure that President Bachelet and I discussed today in increasing measure onto Venezuela and create the kind of conditions where we see democracy restored.

Phil, thank you very much.

Thank you, all.

END

Remarks by the Vice President on Advancing Prosperity and Economic Growth in the Western Hemisphere

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 16, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President on Advancing Prosperity and Economic Growth in the Western Hemisphere

Intercontinental Santiago

Santiago, Chile

7:40 P.M. (Local)

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you, Tom, Guillermo Carey, Kathy Barclay, Minister Muñoz, Minister Rebolledo, Minister Cespedes, Minister Krauss, Ambassador Valdez, elected officials, distinguished members of the U.S. and Chilean business community, and honored guests.

It is my great honor to be with you today in Santiago to celebrate 50 years of the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America and 100 years of the American Chamber in Chile. (Applause.)

It is such an honor to be here in this historic year, and I bring greetings and congratulations on this milestone from a champion of a stronger economic partnership between the United States and Latin America, the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

Under President Donald Trump, the United States will always put the security and prosperity of America first. But I hope as my presence here today demonstrates, America First does not mean America alone.

The President personally sent me here to Chile, to "el fin de terra" -- (applause) -- because the United States seeks to draw this nation and all the free nations of Latin America ever closer to ourselves in friendship and in commerce -- so that we may partner together, profit together, and prosper together like never before in this great hemisphere of freedom.

It's a truth borne out by history that Latin America's prosperity directly impacts the prosperity of the United States. And the American Chamber of Commerce will continue to be essential to our

shared prosperity in the years ahead, and we're building on a strong foundation that all of you here helped to build.

In this year of celebration, let me just say thank you. Let me just say that AmCham has done an extraordinary job building the relationship between our two nations. Ever since its founding, AmCham Chile has brought together American and Chilean businesses to foster investment and opportunity in both our nations. Today you boast more than 550 members and employ more than 430,000 people in those enterprises.

And the Association of American Chambers represents more than 20,000 companies that operate in essentially every corner of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

In fact, your members account for more than 80 percent of U.S. investment in these regions, and every day, you bring Latin America closer to the United States of America. So why don't you give yourselves a round of applause on a job well done? (Applause.)

Thanks in large part to the companies represented here, and to the dedicated work of the AmCham team, trade between the United States and Latin America is soaring.

The United States is the largest trading partner for nearly two-thirds of the hemisphere. And last year, our two-way trade in the Western Hemisphere totaled a stunning \$1.6 trillion.

We trade twice as much with the countries of our hemisphere as we do with China. And we export more to the Americas than we do to all of Asia combined.

Today, more than two of every five dollars in American exports comes to this region, supporting nearly 4 million, good-paying jobs in the United States. And companies across America have invested nearly \$850 billion in Latin America.

So let me assure you: Under President Donald Trump, the United States of America wants to trade even more with Latin America. We want to invest even more in Latin America. We want to bring even more of our business culture of entrepreneurship and innovation all across Latin America so that your prosperity and our prosperity will continue to expand together. (Applause.)

I am here tonight because the United States sees tremendous promise and tremendous potential, as well, in Latin America.

In all of our interactions with Latin American leaders, almost without exception, the President and I have made clear we want to see their nations continue to take decisive steps to unleash their economies and empower their citizens because these actions will inaugurate we believe a gold rush of growth just like they already are all across this region.

Simply look at what President Trump has accomplished in our country since he took office just over seven short months ago.

In America, our administration has been rolling back excessive regulation, unleashing American energy, laying the groundwork for historic tax relief -- all of which has already renewed American confidence, spurred the creation of more than 1 million new jobs this year alone, and seen the wealth of Americans on our stock market rise by trillions of dollars.

Under President Donald Trump, the American economy is back, and we're just getting started. (Applause.)

And when it comes to international trade, President Trump has been fighting to break down barriers to American exports and create a level playing field for American workers.

President Trump has made it clear that the United States seeks trade that is both free and fair. And as we speak, our administration is reviewing our existing trade agreements and exploring new bilateral agreements.

In many ways, the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement is a model agreement. Signed in 2003, this agreement eliminated tariffs and expanded market access, while creating new protections for intellectual property and increasing regulatory transparency. And the result has been a dramatic expansion of trade, investment, and opportunity for the people of the United States and of Chile.

Trade between our countries since the signing of that agreement has spiked by more than 350 percent in the last 13 years. Today, our two-way trade in goods and services totaled nearly \$30 billion, with a \$4.1 billion goods surplus for the United States.

And the United States has been Chile's largest source of foreign direct investment for years, while Chileans have invested \$2.1 billion in our country in industries -- mining, forestry, banking, and all across our economy. Today, our exports to Chile support an estimated 93,000 jobs in the United States.

Before I go further: Thank you to all of you who are here tonight who have made this agreement work. You've brought this framework to life. You've created jobs and wealth for the people of the United States and the people of Chile. And you have our thanks. (Applause.)

As we celebrate this important agreement, it's important still that we ensure that we live up to the promises that we've made to one another in terms in full.

As I discussed today with President Bachelet, it would be important for Chile to comply with the intellectual property rights chapter of our free-trade agreement, to ensure a fair and level playing field for U.S. companies. Specifically, we spoke of the need to have Chile make television piracy a criminal offense and apply regulatory policies in a transparent manner. And I'm grateful for the President's openness to considering just those measures.

Beyond Chile, the United States has free-trade agreements with 11 other countries in the Western Hemisphere. And just today, the United States, Mexico, and Canada officially began to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

What we do with NAFTA will be emblematic of how we deal with trade across the wider region. In fact, our prioritization of NAFTA indicates the importance of our hemisphere to this administration.

In the more than 20 years since it was first negotiated, NAFTA has frankly fallen behind the times, and too often U.S. workers have paid the price.

As we begin this renegotiation, you may be assured the United States will work with our allies to the north and the south to update these provisions in line with the original spirit of NAFTA. And both Canada and Mexico already agree that NAFTA has significant room for improvement to ensure a truly level playing field.

As I told Prime Minister Trudeau last month, we will work together, and we will achieve a renegotiation of NAFTA that will be a win-win-win outcome in this hemisphere. And I'm confident under President Trump's leadership, we'll modernize NAFTA and bring it into the 21st century.

But trade is only one part of the equation. To deliver on the aspirations of the people of Latin America, we believe its leaders must continue to enact market-based reforms that will create strong and growing economies on an increasing basis.

History attests that economic freedom is the foundation for prosperity, and we need look no further than Chile for proof of that.

Four decades ago, Chile embraced free-market principles --implementing tax reform, tackling regulations, breaking down trade barriers, and confronting corruption head-on even as you strengthened the rule of law. And Chile created an open and integrated economy the likes of which Latin America had never seen in its time.

And Chile has reaped the rewards ever since. Growth has averaged more than 5 percent for more than 30 years. Millions have risen out of poverty in your country. Living standards have soared across the board for Chilean people. And a free economy has ultimately led Chile to a free society, and a vibrant democracy is flourishing and is a hallmark of your success. (Applause.)

So let me take this opportunity simply to congratulate President Bachelet, all the leaders of all the political parties of this country, and the people of Chile for your example to the world advancing economic and political freedom in our hemisphere.

And today, countries around Latin America are following in Chile's footsteps, and it's remarkable to watch. Yesterday, I was in Argentina, where President Macri is pursuing a bold agenda of reform and revitalization in the economy of his country.

Two days ago, I was in Colombia, where President Santos is working to bring economic reform and opportunity to areas where poverty and crime have long reigned.

In Brazil, labor, pension, and fiscal reforms are turning the country toward greater economic freedom, integration, and competitiveness.

Further north in Central America, the three nations of the Northern Triangle have committed to improve their economic climates with sweeping reforms in taxes and regulation.

We are literally witnessing the unfolding of a new era of economic growth in this New World, and President Trump and I are grateful for the commitment to economic freedom that is spreading across this hemisphere.

But today, like you might expect from your neighbor to the north, we're calling on countries across Latin America for all that you have done to do more -- to do much more to expand opportunities for investment through economic freedom across this region.

Every nation in our hemisphere must continue be bold -- bold in reducing the burden of excessive taxation, reducing regulation; bold in breaking down barriers to trade and investment. And yes, every nation in Latin America must continue to be bold in confronting the scourge of corruption.

The government of the United States and our business community will strongly support Latin America as you advance judicial reforms and you strengthen the rule of law in countries across this region.

American companies, as you know, bring a culture of compliance and transparency that perhaps is maybe their greatest legacy in Latin America. But all of us want to see even more actions from the region's governments to ensure the long-term stability of investments.

Make no mistake about it, more progress, more reform, more transparency will earn more investment and more opportunities all across Latin America. This very gathering is a testament to the extraordinary optimism of U.S. companies in the region. You see an opening for untold progress, and obviously you're ready, willing, and able to seize it.

As we speak, U.S. firms are growing existing investments and preparing new ones in countries all across our hemisphere. Thanks to Chile's strong support for the rule of law, major companies like Abbot Laboratories, Metlife, and others have already invested billions of dollars here over the years.

And in countries like Argentina, Colombia, and in the Northern Triangle of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, U.S. firms are making significant investments and commitments, inspired by the progress that's underway supporting good-paying jobs back in the United States.

There's no limit to what we can achieve if the nations of Latin America embrace this opportunity with renewed vigor. And I have confidence and President Trump has confidence that you will.

And Latin America's progress will mean more jobs and growth in the United States of America. We're growing together, and we will grow even more.

A secure Latin America means a more secure United States of America. A prosperous Latin America means a more prosperous United States of America. And make no mistake about it, President and I hold the view that the advance of freedom in Latin America benefits the cause of freedom everywhere because when free peoples stand together, there's nothing and no limit to what we can accomplish.

It is truly remarkable to think how far so much of Latin America has come in the last several decades. But as we continue to walk this path to economic and political freedom together, the sad truth is that not all of our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere walk with us.

To the north, in Venezuela, the tragedy of tyranny is playing out before our eyes. As President Trump has said, in his words, the Venezuelan people are suffering, the Venezuelan people are dying.

I saw firsthand just a few days ago Venezuelan people experiencing the grinding poverty that's being wrought by the Maduro regime. I met with refugees in Colombia who had fled their own home country with their families. They told me of how families cannot find the food and medicine that they need to survive, and how innocent children are literally perishing every day from deprivation and hunger.

Today, the once-free people of Venezuela are being forced to endure this fate by the brutality of the Maduro regime. Venezuela is sliding into dictatorship, and as President Donald Trump has said "the United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles." (Applause.)

We will continue to stand with free nations across our hemisphere until democracy is restored for the Venezuelan people.

Let me take this opportunity to praise Chile and all the other free nations in our hemisphere who have spoken out with one voice to condemn the actions of the Maduro regime. Their actions and the words they've expressed have been an inspiration to the wider world.

And for our part, The United States will continue to bring the full measure of American economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy in Venezuela is restored.

As President Trump said just a few days ago, "we have many options for Venezuela." But the President and I truly believe that working with all our allies across Latin America, that we can achieve a peaceable solution to the crisis facing the Venezuelan people. But we much achieve that goal together. (Applause.)

And be assured what we do, we will do together. We do this because it's right. The Venezuelan people deserve freedom. And we do this because, as President Trump has said, a "stable and peaceful Venezuela is in the best interest of the entire hemisphere."

The truth we all know is a failed state knows no boundaries. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal drug trafficking with its murderous criminal consequences radiating outward and destroying families in your countries and in ours. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal migration, compromising our borders and burdening our economies. And ultimately, a failed state in Venezuela will endanger the security, prosperity, and well-being of all who call our Western Hemisphere home.

My friends, we all live in the same neighborhood. We succeed when our neighbors succeed. We struggle when our neighbors struggle. And so we will continue to act together to support the people of Venezuela until freedom once again dawns in that nation. (Applause.)

Freedom always has been and always will be the surest pathway to prosperity. The people of Chile know that. The continued embrace of liberty across Latin America will propel us even further down this path of progress that we find ourselves on.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States will work without ceasing to strengthen our bonds of friendship and commerce with the nations of Latin America. We'll stand with all the free peoples of these great countries as they and their leaders take action to unleash their full potential.

We are building on a strong foundation, established in no small part by the actions of AmCham and all those gathered here. And together I believe we will reach new heights of prosperity and opportunity in this still new century, and the world will once again marvel at the New World.

And I'm confident. I have faith. I have faith in the free enterprise and in the political freedom and shared values that bring us together here tonight. I have faith in the good people of this hemisphere, in their reliance and determination and aspirations. I have faith in President Trump's vision for a hemisphere growing together. And lastly, I have faith in Him who has ever guided our forbearers when they first found this New World, faced hardships and trials, and carved

out a vision for liberty. And by His grace, I know the best days for the United States of America, the best days for Latin America, and the best days for this New World are yet to come.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless you for all your success and may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

8:01 P.M. (Local)

Remarks by the Vice President at the Panama Canal

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President at the Panama Canal

REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE

AT THE PANAMA CANAL

Cocoli Locks

Panama City, Panama

2:48 P.M. UTC

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, thank you. Thank you, Madame Vice President, for those gracious words, and for this warm welcome to Panama for me and my wonderful wife, Karen.

Before I begin, I'd like to address the horrific terror attack that occurred just a few hours ago in Barcelona, Spain. The latest scenes of carnage and mayhem sicken us all, and as the President said earlier today, the United States condemns this terror attack, and we will do whatever is necessary to help.

Whatever inspired today's terror attack, the United States stands ready to assist the people of Spain and find and punish those responsible. On this dark day, our prayers and the prayers of all the American people are with the victims, their families, and the good people of Spain. Thank you.

Vice President Saint Malo, Administrator Quihano, Minister Roy, Ambassador Gonzalez-Revilla, Ambassador Feeley, members of the Panamanian government, distinguished business leaders, outstanding students, and honored guests, it is a privilege for me and my wife, Karen, to be here today at this great pathway to prosperity -- the Panama Canal. Thank you for this very warm welcome. (Applause.)

And I bring greetings from the 45th President of the United States of America, and a great supporter of the U.S.-Panamanian relationship -- President Donald Trump. (Applause.) And I'm here today on the President's behalf because the Western Hemisphere and our great ally here in Panama are a key priority for our administration.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States will always put the security and prosperity of America first. But as I hope our presence here today demonstrates, America First does not mean America alone. Today, as in ages past, the interests of the United States and Latin America are intertwined, our security and prosperity will rise in tandem, and our futures are forever linked.

As President Trump has said, we will seek, in his words, a future in the Western Hemisphere where the people of each country can live out their dreams. And so I say to all of you: The United States of America stands with Latin America to realize those dreams and achieve the historic progress that will benefit us all.

Over the past week, I've traveled across the wider region to deepen our friendships and strengthen our partnerships, and there is no better place to conclude my trip than here in Panama. The bond between our nations was forged in the fires of liberty. Ever since the sailors of the USS Nashville helped bring life to Justo Arosemena's dream of Panamanian independence, the American and Panamanian people have been linked.

The United States was the first country in the world to recognize Panama as an independent nation. And just as we stood with Panama then, we stand with Panama today as your partner in commerce and your friend in freedom.

And the Panama Canal itself is a manifestation of our bond -- forged with Panamanian grit and American know-how and Pittsburgh steel. It's amazing, as I stand here today beside its newest lock, I cannot help but be humbled by this magnificent monument to our partnership.

The story of the Panama Canal is an inspiration and it can never be told enough. For nearly 400 years, kings and traders and travelers alike dreamed of building a water link here, between the Atlantic and the Pacific. They drew their maps. They charted their paths. They surveyed the land around us, but none could figure out how to begin, much less complete, this herculean task.

None, that is, until the United States and Panama began to work together, guided by the vision and determination of President Theodore Roosevelt. Where others saw obstacles, we saw opportunity. Where others saw challenges, we saw a chance to change the world. Where others saw the impossible, we saw the inevitable, and we rushed in to meet our destiny.

Building the Panama Canal was a challenge of magnitude, not miracles, and it brought out the best of the American spirit -- our boundless energy, our matchless ingenuity. While the barriers we faced grew more and more, our determination to break them down grew even faster. President Roosevelt declared that we would "make the dirt fly". And so we did, together.

In the months that followed, more than 50,000 laborers here in Panama cut a great channel across this isthmus. They moved one million cubic yards of solid earth every day at their peak, and poured 3.4 million cubic meters of concrete. And after a decade of ceaseless, back-breaking, grinding toil, 103 years ago this very week the first ship officially sailed through the Miraflores Locks, and the world marveled at the wonder we had wrought together. (Applause.)

The Panama Canal changed the face of the Earth. It united the Atlantic and Pacific, and it took not only Panama but the Western Hemisphere from the margins of global commerce to the very center of the world.

But just as remarkable is what Panama itself has achieved since you took on the stewardship of this canal just two decades ago. Panama initiated the largest expansion of the canal since its construction more than a century ago, and we stand, right now, at the new Cocoli Locks -- the crowning achievement of this historic project.

This expansion was nearly as audacious and momentous as the original construction. It required the excavation of a huge new channel; the expansion of the originals, moving three-quarters as much earth as we did more than a century ago. It put enough steel into the ground to build 29 Eiffel Towers. Yours was an accomplishment of great consequence, and the reverberations can already be felt in the United States and across the wider world.

The Panama Canal expansion has resulted in billions of dollars of investment in the United States, creating good-paying jobs for our people in manufacturing and transportation and agriculture. And ports across America are growing to accommodate the new Neopanamax ships in Savannah, Charleston, and many more. In fact, the port of Miami just completed a \$2 billion expansion.

These expansions prove once again that our prosperity is intertwined. So let me -- with the Vice President here and so many responsible, let me just say congratulations Panama on one more great and extraordinary achievement. (Applause.)

But I didn't just come here today to talk about the Panama Canal. More important than this monument to human strength is the spirit that made it possible -- the spirit of optimism, confidence, and the unwavering belief that we can accomplish anything when we steel our minds and embrace our futures together.

The challenges and opportunities we face today are different than the ones we faced more than a century ago, but the United States and Panama's drive to achieve them remains just the same.

And in President Donald Trump, I think the United States once again has a President whose vision, energy, and can-do spirit is reminiscent of President Teddy Roosevelt. Think about it. Then, as now, we have a builder of boundless optimism, who seeks to usher in a new era of shared prosperity all across this new world. Then, as now, we have a leader who sees things not just as they are, but for what they could be. And then, as now, we have a President who understands, in his words, "A nation is only living as long as it is striving."

And just as President Roosevelt exhorted his fellow Americans to "dare to be great," President Donald Trump has dared our nation to make America great again, and we'll do it with all of our friends in the world.

And so I say to all of you: Under President Trump, the United States will break new ground and break new records. We'll recapture the spirit and rekindle the vision of our forebears in partnership with the free nations and free peoples across this hemisphere. We will once again awe the world with all that we accomplish together.

Today, I believe that one of the greatest opportunities before us is to build on the legacy of trade that made the last 100 years so historic for this hemisphere. The Panama Canal is an enduring testament to the power of commerce to transform fortunes and shape the future of nations.

In just over a century, more than 1 million ships have traversed these locks. As many as 15,000 ships sail through here every year, and two of every three either began or will conclude their journey in the United States.

Our prosperity depends on this 48-mile path, and this is even more true following the Panama Canal's expansion and the locks that stand beside me today.

Today, thanks in no small part to the Panama Canal, the United States is the largest trading partner for nearly two-thirds of the hemisphere, with a total two-way trade of \$1.6 trillion.

We trade twice as much with our neighbors in this hemisphere as we do with China, and we export more to the Americas than we do to all of Asia combined.

But despite this progress, the untapped potential, we believe, is still vast. Global trade is more important than ever before. And the task before us today is how we'll be able to unleash the flow of commerce in new and renewed ways for the benefit of all our nations in this hemisphere.

As we speak, countries across this hemisphere are enacting bold reforms to unshackle their economies and empower their citizens to claim their futures. These efforts are important and laudable, and the United States urges continued action by Latin America's leaders to break down barriers to opportunity and success.

But so, too, we must together inaugurate a new era of free and fair trade based on the principle of mutual benefit.

Make no mistake about it: The United States of America wants to trade even more with our neighbors in Latin America. The United States wants to invest more in Latin America. The United States wants to share our business culture of entrepreneurship, innovation, and transparency on an increasing basis with Latin America because your prosperity and our prosperity are inextricably linked.

President Trump has taken decisive action to ensure that our prosperity continues to advance together.

In fact, President Trump is already getting results, and thanks to his leadership, this has been a good week for American workers.

Earlier this week in Colombia, I was pleased to announce that the United States has reached an agreement to allow Colombian Hass avocados into the U.S. market. And Colombia has expanded access for U.S. rough rice -- a deal that will benefit American agriculture for decades to come.

And following my visit to Argentina this week, just moments ago, President Trump announced that after 25 years of barriers, American pork will once again be able to be exported to Argentina, and American farmers and ranchers will reap the reward.

And to keep up this progress, at this very moment, our administration is reviewing all of our existing trade agreements and exploring new bilateral agreements. And in all that we do, President Trump will be fighting to ensure that our trade agreements are free and fair and create jobs and opportunities for workers in the United States and in the nations that partner with us.

The United States has free-trade agreements with 12 countries in this hemisphere, including Panama. These deals have been beneficial, but however good our agreements may be, they can all, invariably, be made much better.

That's why just yesterday, the United States, Mexico, and Canada officially began to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Simply put, we seek a deal in the original spirit of NAFTA -- one that holds to our highest ideals of free and fair trade and brings tangible benefits to American workers. And Canada and Mexico agree that NAFTA has significant room for improvement to ensure a level playing field for all.

And as I told Prime Minister Trudeau last month, we will work together for a win-win-win outcome as we renegotiate NAFTA. And I'm confident that under President Trump's leadership, we will modernize NAFTA and bring it into the 21st century.

The President and I are committed to bring this vision of mutually beneficial trade to all of the United States' commercial relationships, in the Western Hemisphere, and all over the world. And the closer we come to creating a trade system that's free and fair, the more we will unlock the vast untapped prosperity that will enrich our citizens for generations to come.

The opportunity is ours, and so is the obligation. And we will seize it, together.

Today, I believe our future is bright -- brighter than ever before. But as I close, let me simply say that I believe it could be brighter still -- if this new world finally and fully embraces our heritage of freedom.

The past half-century has seen so much of Latin America travel the road to liberty. It's been inspiring to watch. Yet sadly, Venezuela has gone in the opposite direction -- toward dictatorship, not democracy; toward oppression, not freedom; toward the past, and not the future.

In Venezuela, we are seeing the tragedy of tyranny play out before our very eyes. As President Trump has said, the Venezuelan people are suffering and they are dying.

I saw it myself earlier this week in Colombia when Karen and I visited with families who had fled from the horrors of their homeland in Venezuela. They told me of the grinding poverty, of the crime and violence ripping apart their communities. They told me how their families couldn't find food and medicine, and how innocent children are literally perishing every day because of deprivation and starvation.

Today, the once-free people of Venezuela are being forced to endure that fate by the brutality of the Maduro regime. No free people has ever chosen to walk the path from prosperity to poverty. No free people has ever chosen to turn what was once, and should still be, one of South America's richest nations into its poorest and most corrupt.

President Donald Trump has made it clear: "The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles."

And I can assure you we will continue to stand with free nations across the hemisphere until democracy is restored for the Venezuelan people.

President Trump and I are truly grateful for President Varela's strong leadership in condemning the Maduro regime. We commend Panama in particular for joining 11 other countries to sign the Lima Declaration just last week, which sends a powerful message that free peoples of the Americas will stand with the Venezuelan people and stand up to their oppressors.

But President Trump and I call on Latin America to do more. And be confident of this: The United States will continue to bring the full measure of American economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy is restored in Venezuela.

As President Trump said just a few days ago, “We have many options for Venezuela.” But the President and I remain confident that working together with all our allies across Latin America, we will achieve a peaceable solution to the crisis facing the Venezuelan people.

Now we do this because it’s right. The Venezuelan people deserve freedom. And we do this as President Trump has said -- because in his words, a “stable and peaceful Venezuela is in the best interest of the entire hemisphere.”

Failed states have no borders. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal drug trafficking, with its murderous criminal consequences, radiating outward through Colombia and Panama and north to our country. A failed state in Venezuela will drive more illegal migration, corroding our borders, burdening our economies. And ultimately, a failed state in Venezuela will endanger the well-being of all who call the Western Hemisphere home.

The truth is we all live in the same neighborhood. We succeed when our neighbors succeed. We struggle when our neighbors struggle. And so we will continue to act together to support the people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom. And I believe with all of my heart that Venezuela will be free once more. (Applause.)

The truth is freedom is the birthright and legacy of all the peoples of this New World. And just as freedom gave our nations birth and our peoples purpose, it is freedom that will guide us as we embark upon this new era in this New World. And together we will show, in the words of President Roosevelt, the power of devotion to this lofty ideal of liberty.

The task before us will require renewed determination and courage and commitment. But as the Good Book says, if we are diligent in our efforts, we will see progress for us all.

And so I have faith -- faith that the winds of progress are at our back, that we will catch those winds. And I have faith that they will carry us forward together to a future of freedom for the people of Panama, the people of the United States, and for the people of this New World.

Thank you. God bless you. God bless Panama and God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

3:08 P.M. UTC

Remarks by the Vice President on Latin America

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

August 23, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President on Latin America

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church

Miami, Florida

4:56 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Governor Scott, Senator Rubio, Congressman Diaz-Balart, thank you for those stirring words. These are three great leaders and three great champions of freedom. (Applause.)

To Miami-Dade County Mayor Gimenez, Mayor Bermudez, distinguished guests, it is my great honor to join you here today in this beautiful place of worship, the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I’m deeply humbled to be here at this church which is a model of Christian ministry and charity and a beacon of hope for so many of our Venezuelan brothers and sisters.

Would you join me in thanking Archbishop Wenski and Father Mago for their leadership in this community and for being the hands and feet of Christ? (Applause.)

And to all of you: I bring greetings from a champion for freedom in the Western Hemisphere, across the wider world, and for all the good people of Venezuela, the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

The President sent me here as he sent me to Latin America last week with a very simple message for all of you and for the people of Venezuela: We are with you and we will stand with you until democracy is restored in Venezuela. (Applause.)

Now the last time I was here I joined President Trump when he took another decisive step to keep his promise to the American people when he canceled the last administration's one-sided deal with Cuba. (Applause.)

The President announced a new policy to support the Cuban people's nearly six-decade struggle for liberty that will ensure that U.S. dollars will no longer prop up a military monopoly that exploits and abuses them.

Under President Donald Trump, it will always be "Kay viva Cuba libre!" (Applause.)

And as President Trump said that day, under his administration, we know it is best for America and best for our hemisphere to have freedom for all of our people and a future where all the people of this hemisphere in each our countries can live out our dreams.

This is the spirit that we bring to our partnerships across the Western Hemisphere.

Last week, President Trump sent me to Central and South America, as the first member of our administration to visit the region, to deliver a message -- under President Donald Trump, the United States will always put the security and prosperity of America first. But America First does not mean America alone. (Applause.)

And as the President has said, in his words, "America stands with all of the people in our great hemisphere yearning to be free" -- and our administration is working hand-in-hand with free nations across Latin America to make this vision a reality.

The United States stands with our neighbors in the Western Hemisphere because our security and our prosperity are inextricably linked. Our interests are aligned. Our values are the same, and the birthright of freedom belongs to all of our people in this New World.

A prosperous Latin America means a prosperous United States. A secure Latin America means a more secure United States.

And the advance of freedom and democracy in Latin America benefits the cause of freedom everywhere. (Applause.) Because when free peoples stand together, there's nothing that we can't accomplish. And today as we look across Latin America, the winds of progress are at our back.

Last week, I saw an opening all across Latin America of new pathways to prosperity creating new opportunities for progress. And we welcome this. We're confident that our nations' leaders can go even further in the days ahead.

In Colombia, I challenged President Santos to consolidate peace in that great country and offered America's support as they walk this road.

In Argentina, I praised President Macri for his bold reform, which is restoring Argentina's economy and renewing their leadership around the world.

In Chile, I met with President Bachelet, and I thanked her and her country for their continued example of free-market reforms.

And I concluded my trip in Panama, where I visited that great pathway of prosperity, the Panama Canal and thanked them for all of their cooperation in security and commerce. (Applause.)

But for all the progress in our economies, we must never forget that security is the foundation of our prosperity. And here, too, Latin America has made important strides to ensure the safety of the region's citizens.

As so many in this room know, the most immediate threat to Latin America's security is the menace of transnational crime and the drug trade that sustains it.

The drug trade is a wellspring of violence, crime, and corruption -- victimizing people of all walks of life in every corner of our hemisphere. It carries not only illegal drugs; it also spurs illegal migration as families flee the chaos in search for a better life.

The people of South and Central America live with its consequences every day, and here in the United States, illegal drugs have poisoned our children, torn apart our families, and devastated too many communities.

The cancer of crime, corruption, and drugs will continue to stifle Latin America's progress as long as it exists. But as I saw on my trip, the nations and the people of the region are committed to action. And even now governments across the region are taking important steps to protect their people and provide them with real opportunities that will benefit the security of us all. (Applause.)

And let me assure you, the United States is firmly committed to Latin America's security. And working with our allies in the region, we'll confront and overcome all who dare to threaten our well-being, and together, we will bring about a new era of safety and security for our people and all who call our hemisphere home.

As I told each of these leaders I met with last week, under President Donald Trump, the United States will continue to take decisive steps to address our nation's demand for illegal drugs. We'll continue to strengthen our borders, step up internal enforcement, and renew our effort to remove dangerous criminals, gang members, and drug dealers off the streets of America. (Applause.)

And to protect the people of the United States, we'll also continue to work with all the nations across our region to combat drug production and transnational criminal syndicates. We'll support efforts to strengthen judicial systems to deal with traffickers more effectively.

My friends, my trip to Latin America strengthened my confidence that our future is bright. But it also convinced me that our future could and should be brighter still if every nation in the Western Hemisphere fully shared our heritage of freedom.

The past half-century has seen so much of Latin America follow down the road to freedom and progress. Yet as we speak, Venezuela has gone in the opposite direction toward dictatorship, not democracy; toward oppression, not freedom; toward the past, not the future.

As everyone here knows all too well, in Venezuela we are seeing the tragedy of tyranny play out before our very eyes.

Just last week, in Cartagena, Colombia, my wife, Karen, and I met with brave Venezuelans who had fled the horrors of their homeland. At Calvary Chapel there, we breathed a prayer with them, and we listened to the heartbreaking stories of families.

I spoke to a grandmother who had just rescued her grandchildren from Venezuela a week earlier. She told me with tears in her eyes how the children would have to rise at 4:00 in the morning in Venezuela in her hometown just to get a ticket that they could wait all day to use to buy one piece of bread.

Everyone we talked to told us the same heartbreaking story of grinding poverty, families unable to find the food and medicine they need, and innocent children who are literally perishing every day from starvation and deprivation.

This is not the fate the Venezuelan people would have chosen for themselves. No free people has ever chosen to walk the path from prosperity to poverty. No free people has ever chosen to turn what was once and still should be one of South America's richest countries into its poorest and most corrupt.

But such is the plight of the Venezuelan people today. They've been brought to this point by the brutality and the barbarism of the Maduro regime.

Just a few moments ago, I spoke with some of those who are here today who've either suffered themselves or seen their families suffer at the hands of the Maduro regime.

I met with Daniela Schadendorf, whose stepfather, Antonio Ledezma, the mayor of Caracas, was thrown into prison just a few weeks ago for courageously opposing Maduro's regime to undermine democracy. (Applause.)

I spoke with Alejandro Rebolledo and Antonio Marval Jimenez, two Venezuelan judges who've been driven into exile for supporting the rule of law, and others who've fled their homeland and faced detainment for their beliefs.

Would those who I met with today mind standing briefly? Would you join me in thanking these heroes of freedom in Venezuela who have sacrificed much but will continue to fight for freedom in their homeland? (Applause.)

The stories will never leave me. I listened to the tragic story of Maria Eugenia Tovar, who brought a picture of her daughter, Genesis Carmona, who was murdered by the Maduro regime.

This mother grieves for her every day. And all of us who cherish freedom grieve with you, Maria. (Applause.) We grieve for the more than 130 brave Venezuelans who died in the fight to restore democracy in their homeland -- these men and women are heroes. They are martyrs in the cause of freedom, and we will never forget them. (Applause.)

The Venezuelan people are suffering every day. But as I told the men and women I met with today, they can know with confidence that under President Donald Trump, we hear you, we stand with you. (Applause.)

And as the President said we "will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles." (Applause.)

The United States will continue to stand with free nations across the hemisphere until democracy is restored for the Venezuelan people.

Allow me to take a moment to thank Governor Rick Scott for his strong leadership for the people of Venezuela and the actions that he took just last week here in Florida. (Applause.)

And let me also thank Senator Marco Rubio for being such a -- and eloquent champion for freedom in our hemisphere and around the world. (Applause.)

As I saw firsthand on my trip, Latin America is essentially united in condemning the Maduro regime and calling for the restoration of democracy for the Venezuelan people. But there's more work to be done.

Country after country has taken concrete steps to isolate and punish the Maduro regime. The four members of Mercosur unanimously voted to suspend Venezuela from their trade organization.

And no fewer than 12 nations from across the Western Hemisphere joined together to sign the Lima Declaration, sending a powerful message that the free peoples of the Americas will stand with the Venezuelan people and stand up to their oppressors. (Applause.)

And just yesterday, Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela announced a new policy in support of our efforts to require Venezuelans to obtain a visa before entering Panama. This is a strong step by Panama to further isolate the Maduro regime for its brutal tactics to undermine democracy, by denying safe haven to its corrupt and criminal inner circle.

The President and I are grateful for Latin America's strong stand for liberty, but we urge the countries of the region to do more -- much more. (Applause.)

And you may be assured: Under the leadership of President Donald Trump, the United States of America will continue to bring the full measure of American economic and diplomatic power to bear until democracy is restored in Venezuela. (Applause.)

At President Trump's direction, the United States has already issued three rounds of targeted sanctions against Maduro and his inner circle. And there's more to come. (Applause.) And we'll continue to act until the Maduro regime holds free and fair elections, releases all political prisoners, and ends the repression of the Venezuelan people. (Applause.)

Our resolve is unwavering; our conviction is clear. And while President Trump has said that "we have many options for Venezuela," we remain confident that working together with all of our allies across Latin America we can achieve a peaceable solution to the crisis facing the Venezuelan people.

We do this because it's right. The birthright of the Venezuelan people has always been and will always be libertad! (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Libertad! Libertad! Libertad!

THE VICE PRESIDENT: We do this because, as President Trump has said, a "stable and peaceful Venezuela is in the best interest of our entire hemisphere."

We share the same value. We share the same heritage of liberty. We share the same future. The collapse of Venezuela will affect us all.

It will drive more illegal drug trafficking, with its murderous criminal consequences radiating outward. The collapse of Venezuela into dictatorship will drive more illegal migration, corroding our borders, burdening our economies. And the collapse of Venezuela will ultimately endanger the well-being of all who call the Western Hemisphere home.

We cannot let that happen. We will not let that happen. (Applause.) Because the people of Venezuela are our brothers and sisters in liberty, their plight burns in our minds and in our hearts.

We all live in the same neighborhood. We succeed when our neighbors succeed. We struggle when our neighbors struggle, and so we will continue to act together with our partners and allies across this region in the fight for liberty for Venezuela. And I believe with all my heart that Venezuela will once again be free. (Applause.)

AUDIENCE: Libertad! Libertad! Libertad!

THE VICE PRESIDENT: As Simon Bolivar himself declared for all the ages, "A people that loves freedom will in the end be free." (Applause.)

My friends, freedom is the heritage and the legacy of all the peoples of this New World. In the long annals of liberty, names like Bolivar, San Martin, Marti stand with Washington, Jefferson, and Lincoln.

They each held high the torch of freedom in their time. And now it has been passed to us, to carry, to keep lit in this hemisphere and to kindle to new brightness that it might illuminate and comfort all in its glow and inspire the world.

This, then, is our task, and under the leadership of President Donald Trump, I know we will succeed because I have faith. (Applause.) I have faith in the good peoples of Central and South America. I have faith in the timeless principles that bind us together. And I have faith in God -- (applause) -- whose word promised long ago that, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (Applause.)

I felt that spirit as we prayed with those courageous Venezuelans in the Calvary Chapel just one week ago. In that moment I witnessed the power of faith to bring hope to the hopeless, to bring joy to the downtrodden. I saw men and women who by rights should be despairing but instead were confidently holding to the belief that there are better days for their families and their people.

And as we stood holding hands and offering petitions from our hearts, I can only think of another promise, in that Old Book that reads: "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope, and a future."

The people of Venezuela have a hope, and the people of Venezuela have a future of freedom. (Applause.)

So I close with a prayer that God would bless all of you, many of whom are far from home but have never forgotten those who are struggling behind; a prayer for the American people who cherish and uphold freedom not just for ourselves but for all of our neighbors, and we inspire the world.

May God bless the people of Venezuela. May God bless the people Latin America. May God grant us the wisdom and the resolve to see our way to freedom in this New World and may God bless the United States of America. (Applause.)

END

5:21 P.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President to the UN Security Council

The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

September 20, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President to the UN Security Council

Security Council Chamber

11:16 A.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. President, Chairperson Faki, President Ramos-Horta, distinguished members of the Security Council, it's a great honor to be with you today in the midst of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly.

As we gather at this historic assembly, I know all of our hearts are with the people of Puerto Rico as they face Hurricane Maria and its aftermath -- and with the people of Mexico City, even now as first responders and families seek to save the lost and find those that are injured in the midst of the earthquake that's now claimed more than 200 lives. Our hearts and our prayers are with the people of Puerto Rico and the people of Mexico, as we gather.

We are here today to discuss what I believe is the most important mission of the United Nations: keeping the peace.

Let me begin by thanking Ethiopia for introducing today's resolution on peacekeeping reform. It was my honor, as Vice President of the United States, to cast a vote in favor of this resolution.

As President Trump said yesterday in his historic address to this General Assembly, just as each of you, in his words, "should always put your country first, we will always put America first."

But as his words and I hope our presence here attest, America First does not mean America alone. As the President said, we "will forever be a great friend to the world."

And it's because of that commitment that he sent me here today to this Security Council, to reiterate our call for fundamental reforms of U.N. peacekeeping and our determination to see this institution do even more to keep the peace across the wider world.

President Trump and I firmly believe that the U.N. must act to make its peacekeeping operations more efficient, more effective, more accountable, and more credible.

Ambassador Haley has previously laid out the United States' principles for peacekeeping reform and we're all familiar with them.

Peacekeeping missions must support a political solution; have the consent of the host country; its mandates must be realistic and achievable; every mission must have an exit strategy; and the United Nations peacekeeping missions must adjust to progress and failure.

In short, when a mission succeeds, we should not prolong it. When a mission underperforms, we should restructure it. And when a mission consistently fails to fulfill the mandates of this council, we should end it.

We urge the United Nations to analyze all peacekeeping operations in light of these principles, so that these missions most effectively advance peace across the wider world.

After all, keeping the peace is at the heart of the United Nations' mission. The very first words of the U.N.'s charter are "to maintain international peace." And just yesterday, President Trump challenged this great body to rededicate itself to this noble goal, and I do so today on behalf of our nation before this Security Council.

History records that the United Nations was forged in the fading embers of the Second World War; the most destructive conflict in the history of the world.

The United States of America, with our allies, emerged victorious. But in that victory, we vowed to come together to prevent dictators and demagogues from ever threatening the peace that we had won through our shared sacrifice.

As President Harry Truman told us then, it was not sufficient to, in his words, “merely check madmen who would plan world domination,” but rather to bring together again, and I quote, “a mighty combination of nations founded upon justice and peace.” And so we founded this great body -- the United Nations.

That was the rallying cry of the United Nations in the 20th century, and so must it be again in the 21st century.

But keeping the peace requires more than peacekeeping, it requires action and the unwavering resolve of every country gathered here today.

For as President Trump observed yesterday, we are once again confronted, in his words, by those who threaten us with chaos, with turmoil, and terror, who seek to undermine the sovereignty, prosperity, and security -- all of which the President called the “pillars of peace.”

In Eastern Europe, Russia continues to compromise the sovereignty of its neighbors as it seeks to redraw international borders by force.

Radical Islamic terrorism continues to beset nations with barbarous attacks in Barcelona, Paris, London.

In the Middle East, the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism continues to flout the spirit of the Iran Deal, destabilizing the region and brazenly threatening the security of sovereign nations.

And as the world has seen in just the past few days, a depraved regime in North Korea is relentlessly pursuing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. And now, as the President said, “threatens the entire world with unthinkable loss of human life.”

The United States is grateful to see this Security Council unanimously adopt two resolutions imposing tough new sanctions on the North Korean regime.

But to be clear: The United States of America will continue to bring the full range of American power to bear on the regime in Pyongyang. We will continue to marshal economic and diplomatic pressure -- ours and from countries across the world -- to demand that North Korea abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs.

As the President said yesterday, the United States has “great strength and patience,” but all options are on the table. And if we are forced to defend ourselves and our allies, we will do so with military power that is effective and overwhelming.

We call on the United Nations and this Security Council to do more to keep the peace -- much more -- to confront the threat posed by North Korea.

Finally, to keep the peace most effectively, this body must have the credibility to pursue peace by advancing the cause of human rights.

It’s no coincidence that some of the most dangerous regimes in the world are also some of the worst abusers of human rights.

In Iran, North Korea, and other despotic regimes, we see a truth of history borne out once again -- those who subvert freedom of their people at home undermine sovereignty and security abroad.

The United Nations is bound by its charter to foster “International cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all.”

That was the purpose under which the U.N. Human Rights Council was formed. But the truth is, the Human Rights Council doesn’t deserve its name.

As we look at the membership of the council today, we see nations that betray these timeless principles upon which this institution was founded. Today, the United Nations Human Rights Council actually attracts and welcomes many of the worst human rights violators in the world. A clear majority of the Human Rights Council’s members fail to meet even the most basic human rights standards.

Cuba sits on the Human Rights Council, an oppressive regime that has repressed its people and jailed political opponents for more than half a century.

Venezuela sits on the Human Rights Council, a dictatorship that undermines democracy at every turn, imprisons political opponents, and as we speak is advancing policies that worsen deprivation and poverty that's costing the lives of innocent men, women, and children.

This body must reform the Human Rights Council's membership and its operation. As to its operation, I think of what President John F. Kennedy warned more than 50 years ago, that the United Nations must not become in his words a "forum for invective." Unfortunately, today, the Human Rights Council has become exactly that, and particularly the Human Rights Council has become a forum for anti-Semitism and invective against Israel.

The council's agenda item seven actually singles out Israel for discussion at every single meeting, something no other country must endure. As evidence, the Human Rights Council has passed more than 70 resolutions condemning Israel, while largely ignoring the world's worst human rights abusers.

It is, as President Trump said yesterday, "a massive source of embarrassment." And we call on the Security Council and this entire body to immediately embrace reforms of the membership and practices of the Human Rights Council and end the Human Rights Council's blatant bias against our cherished ally Israel.

Under President Trump, the United States of America is firmly committed to the cause of human rights -- because we are committed to keeping the peace.

Keeping the peace requires more than peacekeeping. It requires action, reform. And lastly, it also requires a willingness to call out senseless attacks on innocent people around the world.

At this very moment in Southeast Asia, we see heartbreak and assaults on human rights and innocent civilians that's ultimately endangering the sovereignty and security of the entire region.

In recent weeks, the people of my country and the wider world have witnessed a great tragedy unfolding in Burma with the Rohingya people.

Recently, Burmese security forces responded to militant attacks on government outposts with terrible savagery -- burning villages, driving the Rohingya from their homes. The images of the violence and its victims have shocked the American people and decent people all over the world.

And now we're witnessing a historic exodus. Over 400,000 Rohingya -- including tens of thousands of children -- have now been forced to flee from Burma to Bangladesh, with more following every day.

Yesterday, Secretary of State Tillerson discussed Rohingya refugees with Aung San Suu Kyi and urged the Burmese government and military to facilitate humanitarian aid and confront the allegations of human rights abuses.

And while we welcome Suu Kyi's comments that returning refugees have nothing to fear, the United States renews our call on Burma's security forces to end their violence immediately and support diplomatic efforts for a long-term solution.

President Trump and I also call on this Security Council and the United Nations to take strong and swift action to bring this crisis to an end and give hope and help to the Rohingya people in their hour of need.

Unless this violence is stopped, which justice demands, it will only get worse. And it will sow seeds of hatred and chaos that may well consume the region for generations to come and threaten the peace of us all.

As I said, keeping the peace requires more than peacekeeping -- it requires action, courage, conviction. And so the United Nations must be prepared to do more.

For as President Trump said yesterday, "If the righteous many do not confront the wicked few, then evil will triumph. When decent people and nations become bystanders to history, the forces of destruction only gather power and strength."

So let us rededicate ourselves to the mission upon which this body was founded -- the first words of the U.N. Charter, "to maintain international peace," must again be our lodestar, our ideal, and our aspiration.

Through reform of our efforts and reform of this institution, through renewed courage to speak and act whenever and wherever the unalienable rights of innocent people, or the peace of the world, is at risk we will create, as our President said, a more safe and peaceful future for all mankind.

As the world witnessed yesterday, our President is a man of deep conviction and faith -- faith in God and faith in the boundless capacity of peoples and nations founded on peace and justice to improve the world.

My prayer today is that this institution might mirror that conviction in renewed ways -- with the faith that as we "make every effort to pursue peace," that the God of peace will guide us and bless us -- today, tomorrow, and always -- for this generation and our posterity.

Thank you, Mr. President, for the honor of addressing today and may God bless you all.

END 11:30 A.M. EDT

Remarks by the Vice President and Canadian Ambassador Craft at a Swearing-in Ceremony

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

September 26, 2017

Remarks by the Vice President and Canadian Ambassador Craft at a Swearing-in Ceremony

Indian Treaty Room

5:20 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, good afternoon. I'm Vice President Mike Pence, and on behalf of the First Family, welcome to the White House. (Applause.)

And as important, welcome to the swearing-in of the 24th Ambassador for the United States to Canada -- Kelly Craft. (Applause.)

We're delighted today to be joined by many distinguished guests, but none more distinguished than Kelly's wonderful family -- her husband, Joe, four of their children and their families, five of their grandchildren, and so many other members of this wonderful extended family. Would you give all of them a round of applause? We're so glad you're here. (Applause.)

It's also an honor to have with us four of Kelly's predecessors in the role of the United States Ambassador to Canada, and to all the ambassadors present here today, you honor us by your presence, and we're grateful for your service.

We also have with us many very distinguished guests, members of our Cabinet. Administrator of the EPA Scott Pruitt is with us today. (Applause.) General Lori Robinson from NORAD is with us today. And NORAD is a great and extraordinary collaboration between the United States and Canada. And, General, thank you for making the trip. (Applause.)

We're also here joined by so many distinguished fellow Kentuckians, some of whom play a prominent role in the life of the nation here in Washington, D.C. and others who play a prominent role. We're very honored to be joined today by Governor Matt Bevin and First Lady Glenna Bevin who are with us today. Thank you, Governor, Glenna. (Applause.)

And we're especially honored to be joined by two distinguished public servants, both who call Kentucky home, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, Senator Mitch McConnell, and the Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao. Thank you both for being with us today and for your service. (Applause.)

We're also I'm pleased to report joined by many distinguished members of the House of Representatives from the state of Kentucky -- Hal Rogers, James Comer, Andy Barr, Brett Guthrie, and Jimmy Duncan. Join me in thanking all of these great members of Congress who are with us

today. (Applause.) Jimmy Duncan is from Tennessee. (Laughter.) But I know he appreciates the association. (Laughter.)

At a gathering of this many Kentuckians, it actually wouldn't be complete without somebody who knew something about basketball, and so this dedicated Hoosier nevertheless is honored by the presence of the University of Kentucky basketball coach, Wildcat Coach John Calipari. John, thank you so much for being here with us today. (Applause.)

To the serious business of the day. Under President Donald Trump, the United States is firmly committed to strengthen our relationship with our treasured ally, friend, and neighbor to the north, Canada. One of the clearest signs of that commitment is the President Trump's choice of Kelly Craft as America's new Ambassador to Canada. (Applause.)

The United States and Canada share the longest border in the world; it stretches 5,525 miles. But as President Trump has said, "Our two nations share much more than a border. We share the same values." We have a shared history and truly a great love of freedom and its collective defense.

Kelly is well-prepared to support this strong and historic alliance and build on the foundation of shared security and prosperity between the United States and Canada.

Now, Kelly is no stranger to foreign policy and diplomatic negotiations. Those of you who know her, know that in 2007, President George W. Bush appointed her to be a member of the United States delegation to the United Nations General Assembly.

She has a distinguished record of leadership in the private sector, as well; has founded a successful marketing advisory firm and, as a third generation Kentuckian, she has spent much of her career giving back to her home state. She has helped lead many Kentucky-based non-profit groups, including the Salvation Army of Lexington, the Center for Rural Development, just to name a few.

Kelly, this is also a fitting year for us to send you north because America is celebrating 150 years of our diplomatic relationship with Canada. This is also a momentous time in our relationship with our neighbor, as we work with Canada and with Mexico to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement. And we know, as ambassador, that you'll play a critical role in facilitating those negotiations and discussions as they go forward.

Kelly, President Trump and I are confident that with your experience, with your character, with your leadership skills, that you will during your season of service as our ambassador to Canada strengthen this vital relationship and make the historic and steadfast friendship between the United States and Canada even stronger still.

And so, on behalf of President Trump, it will be my great privilege to administer to you the oath of office.

(The oath is administered.)

Ladies and gentlemen, it's my privilege to introduce to you the United States Ambassador to Canada, Ambassador Kelly Craft. (Applause.)

AMBASSADOR CRAFT: Vice President Pence and Mrs. Pence, thank you for your leadership, your friendship, and for honoring me today by administering the oath. Thank you so much, Karen, for being here. It means the world to me.

I am grateful to President Trump for his confidence in me and grateful for your and the President's service to this country.

Leader McConnell, thank you so much for the support in the United States and your distinguished service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and our nation.

Secretary Chao, thank you for a long-time friendship and support and for serving as a tremendous role model of dignity, leadership for women to emulate.

Governor and Mrs. Bevin and the 11 -- or the nine over here, I am so honored that you all would be here today. And I admire your hard work and leadership on behalf of our great state of Kentucky.

I could literally acknowledge everyone in this room because each person is very important to me, but we all have a party to go to afterwards, though.

So distinguished guests, friends, and family, thank you for joining on this special occasion, but mostly thank you for walking beside me on this remarkable journey. We gather in this historic space for a ministerial ceremony that marks the act of confidence bestowed on me as the ambassador to Canada.

It is a promise, if you will, to serve, to put aside self-interests and put the interests of our nation first -- in my case, to leave my home, my family, my neighbors, and my community to represent the interest of our country to our closest ally and friend, Canada.

If you think about it, that is our story -- the American experience is one of men and women of every walk of life saying, yes to a nation's call. It is the founders who left their farms and families to craft a new nation. It is the men and women who have shed blood both home and abroad when called to defend our nation. It is the thousands of acts of civic duty performed at school boards, town hall meetings. It is a citizen that sits on a jury and casts a vote.

Together, we hold in trust the greatest experiment in representative democracy the world has ever known. For me, it is a profound honor.

Having been blessed in so many ways, this is an opportunity for me to give back to our great nation, to contribute in a small way to an unfolding chapter of our history. I can't promise every day is going to be perfect. Friends don't always agree. That is also true of allies and trading partners. The world is complicated and unpredictable. But I can promise each of you this: I will lead every day with a servant's heart.

Too often leadership is mistaken as an act of personal will. It is viewed as a platform for pursuing an individual agenda. But our greatest leaders have always understood that the strength of putting aside ego and putting aside self-interest to serve others in support of a common goal.

So in a few weeks, Joe and I will depart for Ottawa on a mission of service, service on behalf of professionals in our embassy and our consulates that work tirelessly to promote a strong partnership with our northern neighbor; service on behalf of many business relationships that make Canada such an important part of our economy; service on behalf all of you who deserve effective representation of our interest in the capitals of this world; and in accepting this call as old as the Gospel, a call, when answered, has made us a great and good nation -- to simply honor the blessings of this life and of citizenship in this remarkable country by serving.

I know this day feels very official, but please allow me just this personal moment. Gathered with us today at last count are 28 members of our family. I can't recall an occasion that has drawn together our family. There is nothing more important to us than family, and I am so grateful that you are here.

This journey is made immeasurably better because I get to share it with my husband, Joe. But that's true of any trip -- whether we're going to a basketball game or we're going around the world. I am so grateful to have you in my life, Joe. You are a patriot and a difference-maker. Your career in so many ways has embodied the American Dream. I love you and I love this opportunity that we're going to have to serve our great nation together, one of our dreams.

And you know what, I have to tell you that he was voted the number one spouse in spousal school. (Laughter.) So he really was. He's going to count the silver. He's going to be the best host. (Laughter.)

Thank you all for surrounding us today with your support and prayers. And as our story continues to unfold here and around the world, God bless the United States of America. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

5:34 P.M. EDT

Remarks to the Troops by Vice President Pence in Afghanistan

Remarks to the Troops by Vice President Pence in Afghanistan

Issued on: December 21, 2017

Bagram Airfield

Bagram, Afghanistan

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you, General Quintas. To General Nicholson, Ambassador Bass, to all the members of the United States Armed Forces, our allies, and partners, it is my great honor to join you here at Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan with the men and women of Resolute Support. (Applause.)

It is humbling for me to address this force for freedom in this ancient land. And to each and every one of you, I bring greetings from your Commander-in-Chief, the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump. (Applause.)

Before I left the Oval Office yesterday, I asked the President if he had a message for our troops here in Afghanistan. And he looked at me without hesitation from behind the Resolute Desk, and he said, tell them I love them.

And during this special season, I know that President Trump was speaking for every American.

The Old Book says that if you owe debts, pay debts; if honor, then honor; if respect, then respect. And I'm here on behalf of your Commander-in-Chief and all of the American people to pay a debt of honor and respect and gratitude to each and every one of you for your service and your sacrifice. Give yourselves a round of applause. We couldn't be more proud of every one of you. (Applause.)

I know it must be hard to be so far from home, away from your families and friends, especially this time of year. So in this season, I just want you all to know that you're on the hearts of the American people. In gatherings large and small all across this country, in communities from which you come, I know there will be a place saved at the dinner table for every one of you. And I also want you to know that millions of Americans will breathe a prayer of thanks for your service and for your safety as you stand for our freedom in this distant land.

But whether you wear the uniform, or you're here as a civilian, each one of you have stood up and stepped forward to defend our nation, our people, and our very way of life. And your leadership and your service speak louder than any words I could say here tonight. You're patriots. You are heroes. You did not, as that Old Book says, love your lives so much as to shrink from this calling to serve and defend our nation.

And while you come from the rest of us, you are the best of us. Every day you prove a truth of history anew: The Armed Forces of the United States are the world's greatest force for good, and you are a part of those armed forces here in Afghanistan.

It's because of all of you that we're safe. It's because of you that we're free. It's because of you that freedom has a future in Afghanistan and America and all across the wider world. And today, let me assure you, President Donald Trump is the best friend the Armed Forces of the United States will ever have. (Applause.)

From the first day of our administration the President has fought tirelessly to make this strongest fighting force in the history of the world stronger still.

Earlier this year, the President signed the largest increase in military spending in nearly 10 years. And just last week, President Trump signed one of the largest investments in our national defense since the days of Ronald Reagan, including the largest pay increase for military members in eight years. (Applause.)

And in case you didn't hear about it from back home, yesterday we cut your taxes. (Applause.) In fact, the average American family, including yours, will see a tax cut of more than \$2,000 in the coming year, because of the action the President and Congress took yesterday.

And I want to make you a promise, under President Donald Trump we're rebuilding the military; we're restoring the arsenal of democracy; and we are once again, giving our soldiers,

sailors, airmen, Marines, and Coast Guard the resources and training you need to accomplish your mission and come home safe. That's our pledge to each and every one of you. (Applause.)

And never doubt that your mission — your mission here in Afghanistan is vital to the safety and security of the American people. Sixteen years ago, the forces of radical Islamic terror plotted and perpetrated the deadliest attack on Americans' homeland in the history of our nation. From the safe haven of Afghanistan, the terrorists of al Qaeda — aided and abetted by the Taliban — struck the United States on September 11, 2001. We all remember the day — a day where we saw 2,977 innocent men and women, mothers and fathers, sons and daughter lose their lives.

The American people understood this for what it was; it was an act of war. And as one nation and one people, we vowed to win this war on our terms, on this soil. And together with our allies, we came here to Afghanistan to liberate its people and prevent the terrorist from every threatening our homeland again. And we are staying in that fight and we will see it through to the end. (Applause.)

This very base, Bagram Airfield, has been at the heart of our campaign from the very beginning. It's a bastion of strength and a beacon of freedom in this corner of the world. And as President Trump has said, "It's thanks to you, and those who stood on this ground before you," that, in his words, "the horrors on the scale of September 11th have not been repeated on our shores."

Let me assure you, you inspire the world with your courage and your unconquerable spirit. You've crushed the enemy in the field and continue to do so. You've driven them into hiding and struck fear into their hearts. You've given the Afghan people the hope of freedom; the freedom to determine their own destiny and chart their own future. But as we all know well, these great achievements have come at a great cost. More than 3,500 members of our allied forces have lost their lives over the past 16 years, including 2,308 Americans.

The Old book says, "No greater love is a man than this, that he should lay down his life for his friends." Today and every day, we honor the memory of our fallen and let their families know that we will never forget their service or sacrifice in Afghanistan. (Applause.)

But as President Trump has said, we also honor the fallen by achieving, in his words, "an enduring outcome, worthy of their tremendous sacrifice." Earlier this year, President Trump laid out a bold new strategy to achieve victory in Afghanistan, and you are the instruments of that strategy. You're the instruments of American power, who are implementing that strategy on the ground.

It begins by giving our men and women in uniform, as the President said, "the tools you need and the trust you've earned to fight and win." And we are doing just that. (Applause.)

First, your Commander-in-Chief has made it clear to our allies, our partners, and our enemies that the United States of America will no longer be bound by arbitrary timetables in Afghanistan. (Applause.)

As the President has said, America's enemies must never know our plans. They must never believe they can wait us out. Instead, our decisions will be based on an objective assessment of conditions on the ground. Reality and facts and a relentless pursuit of victory will guide us and nothing else. (Applause.)

Second, President Trump has unleashed the full range of American military might. We've lifted the restrictions that limited the effectiveness of our armed forces, so you can, as the President has said, fully and swiftly wage battle against the enemy.

We've given you new authorities to directly target the terrorists and militants no matter where they hide. And this Commander-in-Chief has empowered our battlefield commanders with the freedom and flexibility you need to win. Bureaucrats don't win battles — soldiers do. And under this President, we will never allow bureaucracy to stand in the way of victory. (Applause.)

President Trump and I are proud to see that this new strategy is already bearing fruit all across Afghanistan. And the American people deserve to know that with the courage of everyone gathered here, we're making real progress in this fight for freedom in Afghanistan. We've dramatically increased American air strikes. And together with our Afghan partners, we've put the Taliban on

the defensive. We've prevented them from launching a major campaign against a provincial capital for the first time in three years. We've targeted the Taliban's funding as never before through renewed attacks on its drug trafficking networks.

And thanks to the leadership of your Commander-in-Chief and the courage of all of you, in another field of battle, ISIS is on the run. Their capital has fallen, their so-called caliphate has crumbled from Iraq to Afghanistan and everywhere in between. (Applause.)

And all across this country we've won new victories against the terrorists, no matter what they call themselves or where they try to hide. And our enemies will have no time to recover or rebuild because we will continue to bring overwhelming force to defeat them every day, every time.

The road before you is promising, but it's perilous. And this Commander-in-Chief is clear-eyed about the threats you face and the challenges that lie ahead. But today, let me assure you: President Trump has your back. (Applause.)

And this President will always be unwavering in his commitment to give you the tools you need to fight and win. Thanks to our new strategy, our allies have stepped up as never before. This very gathering is proof. Resolute Support has already brought together the United States with 38 other countries from NATO, across the wider world. They're sending their best and their bravest to this coalition. Today you stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them in defense of freedom.

And under President Trump, we'll continue to forge an ever-closer amount of cooperation with our allies and our partners. And we will never ignore the dangers you face, even when they emerge from beyond the borders of Afghanistan.

For too long Pakistan has provided safe haven to the Taliban and many terrorist organizations, but those days are over. (Applause.) President Trump has put Pakistan on notice. As the President said, so I say now: Pakistan has much to gain from partnering with the United States, and Pakistan has much to lose by continuing to harbor criminals and terrorists.

Beyond the battlefield, this Commander-in-Chief has ordered the integration of every facet of American power, as well — diplomatic and economic measures — to achieve a just and lasting peace here in Afghanistan. And until that day comes, you can be assured, we will be relentless in our campaign to destroy our enemies. Because as history attests, weakness arouses evil, and peace only comes through strength. So be strong and courageous, and do the work of freedom. (Applause.)

The Afghan people are a proud and noble people who have suffered long — in the 1980s, during their long war with the former Soviet Union; in the 1990s, under the brutal rule of the Taliban; and in recent years, from the terrorists and militants who continue to threaten their homes and their families, and who have claimed the lives of more than 35,000 brave Afghan soldiers, security forces, along with countless civilians.

But through all the strife, through all their struggle, the Afghan people — those you serve alongside in their armed forces today — have never lost their love of freedom, never lost their courage or their yearning to live in a land free of terror and war. And let the people of Afghanistan know: The United States of America stands with them. (Applause.)

I just came from a meeting with President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah. We discussed the progress that we've made in this country and America's commitment to the Afghan government and the commitment of the Afghans to their own freedom in this land. I said to them what I say to you now: Under President Donald Trump, the Armed Forces of the United States will remain engaged in Afghanistan until we eliminate the terrorist threat to our homeland, our people once and for all. (Applause.)

It really is humbling for me to stand before you today. My father was a combat veteran, served in Korea. And I'm the proud father of a United States Marine. But my life never took me into the uniform of the United States. But every time I'm with men and women of our armed forces, I'm inspired. I'm inspired by your courage, by your selflessness, by your love of country and your patriotism.

You stand here on a frontier of freedom. You stand tall and proud in defense of our families, our citizens, and our most cherished values. Your mission is vital.

And today, on behalf of your Commander-in-Chief, I say to all of you: In the days ahead, mind your mission, take care of one another, respect the unified chain of command, and never doubt that every day, every operation, and every decision that you make matters to the United States of America more than you may ever know.

Many people live their entire lives wondering if they've made a difference. But you won't have that problem. Everyone standing before me today and around me today, stepped forward to join this all-volunteer military. You chose to be a part of something larger than yourselves. You've made a difference in the world. You've done a world of good, and so keep it up.

Keep lit the flame of freedom to hand to the next generation. Keep defending America in this ancient land, as you stand courageously with our partners as they reach for freedom. And I say with confidence, because of all of you and all those that have gone before and our allies and partners, I believe victory is closer than ever before. (Applause.)

I believe with all my heart that Afghanistan will be free and America will be safe, and we'll win this fight.

Now, as I close, let me just say again what a special honor it is for me to be with all of you, especially at this special time of the year. It was a few months ago when President Trump said to me he wanted me to get there — he wanted me to get there before a special holiday for the American people or I, just to make sure you knew that he was thinking of you and that millions of the American people have you on our hearts.

Now, I know there's many faith traditions represented here. And no matter your background and belief, I hope you find renewal and renewed strength in this season. And for all of you who, like my family, in the coming days will look to a manger, and who will once again in your hearts claim the promise announced on a Holy Night — of peace on Earth and good will toward men — let me say, from the First Family and my family, from families all across America: Merry Christmas. (Applause.)

And to all of you, may God bless you. May God bless all who wear the uniform of the United States here in Afghanistan and across the wider world. May God bless the good people of Afghanistan and may God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

ИНФОРМАЦИЯ О ТЕЛЕФОННЫХ РАЗГОВОРАХ

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
January 26, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

Today, Vice President Mike Pence spoke with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. Foreign Minister Bishop congratulated the Vice President on the inauguration. The Vice President thanked Foreign Minister Bishop for Australia's steadfast partnership and contributions around the globe. The two reaffirmed the importance of continuing to strengthen the U.S.-Australia alliance to maintain peace and security in the region.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

Vice President Mike Pence spoke by telephone today with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia. The two leaders discussed the important bilateral relationship between the United States and Colombia that has existed for many years, and they pledged to maintain and deepen their cooperation on security issues. The Vice President congratulated President Santos for the initial steps in implementing the Colombian peace accord. The two leaders vowed to remain in close communication on bilateral and regional priorities.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

Vice President Mike Pence spoke by telephone today with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina. The two leaders agreed that the United States and Argentina need to redouble their efforts to enhance job creation and economic growth in both countries. The Vice President underscored that Argentina's decision to host the G-20 Summit in 2018 provides a key opportunity to enhance Argentina's role in the global economy. The two leaders committed to maintaining an ongoing conversation on bilateral and hemispheric issues, and the Vice President noted that the President looks forward to speaking with President Macri soon.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Michel Temer of Brazil

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 13, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with President Michel Temer of Brazil

The Vice President spoke by telephone today with President Michel Temer of Brazil to discuss ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the United States and Brazil. The two leaders underscored the importance of shared values between the United States and Brazil, including respect for democratic institutions and the rule of law, commitment to hemispheric security, and their common interests in creating jobs and stimulating economic growth. The Vice President and President Temer agreed to remain in close communication in order to advance their shared vision for a stable and prosperous hemisphere.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Turkish Cypriot Leader Mustafa Akinci

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 21, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Turkish Cypriot Leader Mustafa Akinci

The Vice President spoke by telephone today with Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci. The Vice President underscored U.S. support for the resumption of UN-facilitated talks in Switzerland and expressed hope that the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders will agree to a settlement that would reunify Cyprus as a bizonal, bicomunal federation to the benefit of all Cypriots.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras

The Vice President spoke by phone today with Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras. The leaders reaffirmed the enduring ties between Greece and the United States. The Vice President congratulated the Prime Minister on Greece's progress toward recovering from the economic crisis and thanked him for Greece's role as a pillar of stability in the region, its NATO contributions, and its military cooperation with the United States. The leaders expressed regret that the Conference on

Cyprus closed last week without a settlement agreement, and the Vice President underscored continued U.S. support for a comprehensive settlement to reunify the island as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. The Vice President extended to Tsipras an invitation to visit Washington, and the leaders agreed to meet in the near future.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Prime Minister of Macedonia Zoran Zaev

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Prime Minister of Macedonia Zoran Zaev

The Vice President called Prime Minister of Macedonia Zoran Zaev today. On behalf of President Trump, the Vice President congratulated Zaev on his May 31 assumption of the role of Prime Minister. The Vice President underscored continued U.S. support for Macedonia's Euro-Atlantic aspirations and encouraged Zaev to prioritize reforms that will advance Macedonia on its chosen path. The Vice President noted that he looks forward to meeting Zaev and leaders from across the Western Balkans region at the Adriatic Charter Summit that will take place on August 2 in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Venezuelan Political Prisoner Leopoldo Lopez

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 28, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Venezuelan Political Prisoner Leopoldo Lopez
VP Speaking with Leopoldo Lopez

Vice President Mike Pence spoke today with Venezuelan political prisoner and political activist Leopoldo López to address the dire situation in Venezuela. On behalf of President Trump, the Vice President firmly stated that the United States stands with the Venezuelan people, and praised Mr. López for his courage and outspoken defense of Venezuelan democracy despite his current detention under house arrest. Vice President Pence once again called for the full and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Venezuela, free and fair elections, restoration of the National Assembly, and respect for human rights in Venezuela. The Vice President also reiterated President Trump's pledge that if the Maduro regime imposes its Constituent Assembly on Sunday, July 30, the United States will respond with strong and swift economic actions.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with High Representatives of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
September 13, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with High Representatives of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini

Vice President Mike Pence spoke via telephone today with High Representative of the European Union Federica Mogherini to discuss the Western Balkans and North Korea. The Vice President thanked Mogherini for her leadership on the Western Balkans and expressed the United States' desire to work with the EU to advance the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the countries in the region. The Vice President welcomed the EU's support on North Korea and expressed the U.S. desire to coordinate next steps with allies and partners. The leaders highlighted the enduring strength of the U.S.-EU relationship and looked forward to future cooperation on these and other shared challenges.

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
November 07, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Call with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani

Vice President Mike Pence spoke with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan by phone today. The Vice President discussed the security situation in Afghanistan and the impact of President Trump's South Asia strategy on the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces' morale, as well as the Taliban's view of their battlefield capabilities. Vice President Pence also commended the Afghans for their bravery and sacrifices in fighting the insurgency and international terrorists, such as ISIS and al-Qaida. The Vice President highlighted Kabul's continued engagement and progress on necessary reforms, political inclusion, and preparations for forthcoming elections, all of which are critical to providing greater stability and opportunities for Afghanistan. Vice President Pence and President Ghani reaffirmed the enduring partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

Background Conference Call on the Vice President's Trip to Egypt, Israel, and Germany

Background Conference Call on the Vice President's Trip to Egypt, Israel, and Germany
Issued on: December 15, 2017
Via Telephone

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So a quick few points just that I would like to make. Obviously, the last couple weeks in the region have been a reaction to the Jerusalem decision. We've seen a lot of the emotions that have been kind of displayed on that. I think that this trip is part of kind of the ending of that chapter, and the beginning of what I will say is the next chapter.

I think that a lot of people in the region, they really respect the President. They really like this administration. We're working well together. They know what our big priorities are. Number one priority there is countering Iran; defeating ISIS and terror; and then combating the extremist ideology, which we continue to have very active and strong relations with, with a lot of the countries in that region.

So they know after this that the President will keep his word. He's not going to be doing things like the past administration. They know that he is very serious and focused on his objectives, and we will continue to pursue it.

And so I think that just the great relationships we've built in the region is strong. I think that the Vice President, obviously, is the President's best emissary that he is sending. So sending him to show the strong support and relationship with Israel is important, but also sending them to Egypt, where they're such a great partner in countering terror, I think that's just a very strong statement as well.

So I think that this will just refocus a lot of people on the region that, obviously, we still continue to be focused on a peace process. And how we ultimately bring that situation to a conclusion, but Iran, ISIS, terrorists, and countering the extremist ideology are still the big priorities in the region, which we continue to work with all of the Muslim countries there very closely on achieving those objectives.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Do you just want to just give a little thought on heading to Egypt and for the press?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure, can you hear me?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Okay. So as my colleagues — Egypt plays a central role in the region. Egypt is the most populace Arab nation in the world. The United States-Egyptian alliance has been strong for decades, and they remain an important and critical partner for regional security.

We've obviously been working very closely with Egypt as they fight ISIS, especially in the Sinai, and as they fight terrorism broadly.

Historically, Egypt has also played a very important role in peace efforts. In fact, this month marks the 40-year anniversary of President Anwar Sadat's trip to Jerusalem. His courageous leadership has led to 40 years of sustained peace with Israel.

President Trump and President el-Sisi have developed a very strong relationship over the several bilateral meetings and working visits they've had this year.

President el-Sisi joined President Trump at the historic summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, earlier this year as one of 54 Arab and Muslim leaders, and he strongly affirmed his support for working with all of those countries and us — not only in defeating terrorism, but ensuring that we tackled the funding of terrorist organizations.

I think the Vice President is going to be bringing a very strong message from President Trump. This is going to be the Vice President's first trip as Vice President to an Arab nation. I think it's particularly important that he's choosing Egypt as that first nation. And he's sending a very strong signal that Egypt is an incredibly important partner and that we have many issues to discuss with Egypt that we work on together and I think that they will have a really open dialogue about concerns on both sides. And I think President el-Sisi — at least as I've talked to his team — is very much looking forward to welcoming Vice President Pence for a very substantive bilateral meeting.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Great, thanks. How about Israel? Colleagues, you want to talk high level about the specific Israel visit?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Just before my colleague gets into it, I just want to say the President said last week, we remain as committed as peace as ever. And as we said, since the President's Jerusalem announcement, we anticipated reactions like the ones going on in the region, but are going to remain hard at work on our plan.

So to that end, my colleague will be traveling to Israel next week for meetings related to the peace effort. He's going early in the week, before the Vice President.

In addition, he will meet with Fernando Gentilini, who's the European Union Representative on the Quartet. And given the timing, my colleague will stay on for the Vice President's visit to provide any relevant support. And I'll turn it over to my colleague.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure, good morning everybody. I look forward to seeing you on the Israel portion of the trip.

So the Vice President is going to reinforce the President's bold, courageous, and historic announcement regarding Jerusalem. As the President said, we remain dedicated to the peace process. We understand that the Palestinians may need a bit of a cooling-off period, but that's fine. We remain very hard at work, which is why I'm going back there. There's a lot of dedication, both from the team here and the missions on the ground to getting this deal done. I think everybody realizes that a U.S.-led peace process is the only way forward. So we will be ready when the Palestinians are ready to reengage, but in the meantime, there's plenty to do. Thank you.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Great. Thanks. So we've got a few minutes left here. I know a lot of you are working on stories, so let me open it up to some questions.

Q This is Jeff Mason. I'll kick it off. Thanks, everybody.

My question is for any of you about how you proceed with the Palestinians and whether the Vice President will encourage, during his visit to Egypt, al-Sisi and the Egyptians to put some pressure on the Palestinians to come back to the table. And how will you actually message the fact that you're serious about the peace process when the Arab partners that you've worked so hard to develop these relationships that your colleague mentioned are really upset about the Jerusalem designation?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Look, we don't believe pressure works. The President has said he's not going to impose a deal on either side. We think it's appropriate for the Palestinians to digest what has happened. And once they review the President's remarks clearly, they will realize that nothing has changed in terms of being able to reach an historic peace agreement.

So we think that the Egyptians and others, of course, can encourage them, but this visit may not be the right time to stress any kind of pressure from either side.

As far as the Arab countries with whom we have developed a trust, they may disagree with the decision, but I think the relationship goes well beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And I think they are still eager to help us get through this, based on all of our conversations with them both before and since the announcement.

Q This is Jenna Johnson, with the Washington Post. I'll jump in next. When the Vice President first announced this trip, he was planning on talking a lot about the persecution of Christians in the Middle East. I'm just curious if that's still going to be part of his messaging. Does he have any plans to meet with any Christian groups while he's there? And why was the trip to Bethlehem scrapped?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure, I can cover that. Yes, he will address it on the trip. Right now, I think the meetings are as I read off. It's mostly just the leaders — el-Sisi, Netanyahu, the President of Israel, and then the speech at the Knesset.

We are not planning to travel to Bethlehem, but it will be a topic that will be addressed both in private meetings and then in his interaction — I think. And when we talk to the press while we're over there, he will talk about improvements and the changes to the process on getting relief to groups that are fighting the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities in the region.

Q Hi, this is Margaret Brennan, from CBS.

So two questions: When do you expect to have a proposal? I know you're saying there's no pressure, but I want to know the timeline on your peace proposal. And if you could talk a little bit about what the ask is of el-Sisi regarding the Americans who remain in prison there, and whether he's going to talk about the upcoming election and allowing it to be an open one.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Sure, I'll jump in first to answer your questions about a timeline. It's probably the most-favorite question of every reporter. We aren't setting any kind of deadlines or timeframes. There's one thing I'm sure of in this job, is that any deadline we set, we will blow past. So I know everybody wants to know it, but unfortunately I can't give it to you. When it's ready, we will air it, I promise.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Hey, Margaret. So I don't want to get ahead of specifics that the Vice President may raise, but I think as you know, we have always made this a priority issue. We've talked about this with our counterparts in the Egyptian government, and we continue to do so. And we, as you know, in the past, have had success in working with the Egyptian government to release American citizens that have been detained.

Q And what about the election? Sorry, and the election and the question about Shafik running.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Again, I'm not going to get ahead of what the Vice President might talk about. But we always encourage the Egyptian government to work on having open elections. And this is something that we've commented on many times with them, and it came up in just recent discussions that we've had in setting up the trip.

Q Hey, it's Jeremy Diamond. Hey, guys. So first of all, a two-parter here. First of all, on the peace process. With the Vice President now no longer going to the West Bank and with his speeches in Israel focused on the Knesset and emphasizing the Jerusalem decision, how is the Vice President going to address Palestinian concerns? And in what way will he tailor any of his messages to their concerns and the unrest in the region in the wake of the Jerusalem decision?

And a question with regards to Egypt, if you could talk about how the Vice President is going to address North Korea and that discussion with Egypt during his trip there. Thanks.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yeah, sure. So the Vice President will reiterate what the President said in his remarks, which is that he is fully committed and dedicated to peace, which is the concern of the Palestinians.

I don't think there's anything more that needs to be said about that. We consistently message that we are here to reach an historic peace agreement, and we have lots of people working really hard here to reach that goal.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I think that one of the things that we have seen in the last several months is an unprecedented level of international cooperation on the isolation of North Korea.

Many, many, many countries around the world have either degraded their diplomatic relations or completely cut them off. And I think this is something that, frankly, is said in almost every bilateral with countries that have diplomatic relations with the North Korean or are doing any business with the North Koreans.

And so we absolutely raised this issue. President Trump raised this directly with President el-Sisi in the bilats that he has had with him. And I do believe this will be an issue that we'll speak to the Egyptians about. And we are seeing the beginning of cooperation, not just from the Egyptians, but from many countries around the world.

Q Just quick follow-up. Is the administration currently satisfied with the level of Egyptian cooperation, with regards to North Korea? Or do you believe that there's more that can and must still be done?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I don't want to get ahead of what might be raised in the meeting.

Q Hey guys, it's Margaret on the call — the other Margaret.

Hi, guys. So can you talk about a couple of things? At one point, you thought there might be some tech-related announcement. I don't think that's on the schedule anymore. Is that off for now? And can you talk a little bit about, kind of, the surprise factor or the political calculus, in terms of whether the overall reaction is essentially what you guys had expected once you realized that President Trump was going to make the announcement prior to this trip. And is this what you planned for, or are you having to kind of react and reshuffle the approach as you go?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So on the tech side, there wasn't a planned announcement. He was going to have a reception with some tech leaders and business leaders while we were in Israel. That won't happen simply because of the kind of shorter schedule that we have. So there wasn't going to be any kind of formal announcement coming out of it. It was just a chance

for him to get some feedback and ideas while he was in the region because of his position in the Space Council.

But we'll probably end up just setting up some sort of either follow-up call in the future or maybe a meeting here in the states if people are in town. But it's definitely still something he wants to do in the future.

I can tackle the other one, unless my colleague wants to do it first. I would say that we anticipated this following the President's announcement. I would say that we remained hopeful that meetings would still happen, and we're pleased that the meeting with el-Sisi is happening. And I think that's an important meeting. And as my colleague mentioned before, going to Cairo first — that being the first trip that the Vice President takes following the announcement — to Egypt, to the most-populous Arab nation, I think does send a message.

I would say that, as far as the meetings with the Palestinians, we put out a statement on that over the weekend that we felt it's a missed opportunity. It's again, them walking away from a chance to discuss the future of the region.

But I think my colleague can cover it more and has already talked about we are still committed to peace, and he will be there for meetings himself.

Q I just had a two-parter. Will the Vice President be visiting the Western Wall on an official visit? Or will he be visiting as a private citizen? And then does the Trump administration now consider the Old City to be part of Israel's capital, given the recognition of Jerusalem? And then just separately, for your colleagues, does the Vice President plan to talk about foreign aid with these leaders in both Egypt and Israel? And does the administration see foreign aid — future foreign aid tied at all to participation in the peace initiative?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: So as far as the visit to the wall, he is going to the wall as Vice President.

And then on the other question.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes, I think we can't envision a scenario under which the Western Wall would not be part of Israel.

Q That wasn't clear. Sorry — can or can't?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: We cannot envision any situation under which the Western Wall would not part of Israel. But as the President said, the specific boundaries of sovereignty of Israel are going to be part of the final status agreement.

Q And so you consider — just to be clear on his visit, you consider that to be an official visit to the Western Wall since he'll be going as Vice President?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Yes. Ken, I'm sorry, did you have a question at the end there that we didn't cover?

Q Yes, just separately for your colleagues on foreign aid. Does the Vice President plan to talk about foreign aid with the leaders? And does the administration view foreign aid as something that could be tied contingent to the peace process?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Hey, Ken. I'm not going to, again, talk about what the Vice President may or not speak — or they discuss — after he meets with President el-Sisi and the other leaders.

I think that what we try to do with partners is work on the issues that we very much need to have an alliance on, including security and other issues. And of course, we're talking with each of the leaders about peace in the region because it's central to the future and central to American security, as well.

And we also have tough conversations about areas we may disagree and areas that have been covered in the past regarding military aid. I don't think we like to talk about in the way the — in a demanding way, I guess is the way to put it. I think we have really honest conversations. We also have members of Congress who are watching closely what countries do when it comes to these

different issues. And of course, we work closely with Congress on aid budgets, and these issues definitely come up and have come up, as you know, in the past in many of these meetings.

Q A question on Egypt, does the administration take a view on some of the security discussions going on between Russia and Egypt regarding basing rights and nuclear energy and so on?

Senior administration official, a question for you: Are the Palestinians still meeting you? They haven't like cut ties completely, right?

And, senior administration official, I don't know if off the record you can comment or just tell us whether there was any consideration given to going to Iraq or Afghanistan on the way home?

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I couldn't hear you. I'm so sorry. Could you just repeat that first part?

Q Sure, of course. I was just asking whether you take a view, the administration takes a view on the security discussions going on between Russia and Egypt regarding basing rights and nuclear energy and so on.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: Well, I think you saw the — obviously, that Putin visited Egypt last week. They did discuss cooperation around nuclear energy. And I don't want to get ahead of next week, but we certainly believe that we work incredibly closely and well with Egypt in the military partnership.

And Secretary Mattis had just been there two weeks ago, and they had a very good discussion about these issues.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And to my question, we have not met the Palestinians since the announcement. Of course, we continue to meet others in the region and Europe and elsewhere who are involved in the discussions, but we've not met the Palestinians since.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: And we're going to Germany on the way home.

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: All right, I think we got everybody. Certainly, if there's any further questions, we'll be around, but I'm going to release my colleagues. I think if there's any kind of final logistical questions, my colleague and I will stay on and —

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL: I just want to say one, maybe, just closing thing, as many of the questions were how you balance working closely with an important security partner and a central partner in the region with many issues of concern around human rights, transparent elections, security partnerships with other countries, and how we think about that in the context of our support through aid and other things, I think Egypt, frankly, has been a country where we have really, I think, done a good job in balancing that — being very frank with our partners, being very honest, but also — and demanding certain things before we do continue to work with them in many areas.

But I also think we've tried to do this in a way that isn't one that is not recognizing the important role that they play and how we work together.

And so I think that you've seen they've have been cooperating, certainly on the release of the detainee in Egypt — the American citizen in other areas. But we're going to continue to press, while we work with them as a central partner.

END

ИНФОРМАЦИЯ О ВСТРЕЧАХ

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with King Abdullah II of Jordan

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
January 30, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with King Abdullah II of Jordan

The Vice President hosted His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan for a working breakfast at the Vice President's Residence at the Naval Observatory this morning. King Abdullah is the first foreign leader that the Vice President has hosted at his personal residence. The Vice President thanked the King for his efforts to advance peace and stability in the Middle East and reaffirmed the United States' commitment to Jordan's security and economic development. The two leaders discussed events in the region, including ways to accelerate the Coalition's efforts to defeat ISIS and promote a political solution to the Syrian conflict. They also discussed the King's views on potential changes involving the U.S. Embassy in Israel and how best to make progress towards a comprehensive agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. The Vice President and King Abdullah agreed on the importance of continuing to strengthen the US-Jordan partnership, and pledged to stay in close touch on events in the region.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sigmar Gabriel

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 02, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sigmar Gabriel

Vice President Mike Pence and German Vice Chancellor and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sigmar Gabriel met today in the Vice President's West Wing Office to discuss a range of issues. Both leaders affirmed the importance of close German-American cooperation and expressed their desire to strengthen already close German-American ties in the coming years. The Vice President and Minister Gabriel also agreed on NATO's centrality in ensuring the security and stability of North America and Europe. Both leaders reaffirmed that all NATO allies must meet their obligations and contribute their fair share to our collective security. They also underscored that NATO must adapt to confront threats to our countries such as violent extremism and terrorism. The Vice President informed Minister Gabriel that he plans to attend the Munich Security Conference and visit Brussels later this month, where he will engage with European Allies and partners about how to deepen and strengthen the Transatlantic alliance.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Canadian Ministers

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release February 13, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Canadian Ministers

The Vice President met this afternoon with a team of Canadian ministers and their U.S. counterparts in conjunction with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visit to Washington. The participants in the meeting from Canada included Minister of Public Safety Ralph Goodale, Minister of Finance William Morneau, Minister of Transport Marc Garneau, and Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan. The Vice President was joined by Secretary of Defense James Mattis, Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly, Acting Deputy Secretary of State Tom Shannon, and members of the Vice President's staff. The Vice President emphasized the importance of the U.S. bilateral relationship with Canada and underscored the need to deepen our cooperation on issues related to trade and investment, border security, and the fight against global terrorism, including the counter-ISIS campaign. The Vice President also discussed the U.S. government's continuing commitment to NATO, and he and the Canadian ministers discussed their expectations for the Munich Security Conference later this week, where he will be traveling to engage with a wide range of NATO allies on issues related to European security. Following their private discussion, the Vice President and the Canadian ministers joined the President and other members of the U.S. and Canadian delegations for a working lunch hosted by the President in the State Dining Room at the White House.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 16, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel

This morning, Vice President Mike Pence hosted Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for breakfast at the Vice President's Residence at the Naval Observatory. The two leaders reaffirmed the special relationship between the United States and Israel and underscored the unbreakable bond between our two countries. The Vice President reiterated the United States' unwavering commitment to Israel's security and pledged to work with Prime Minister Netanyahu to address the shared challenges we face throughout the Middle East, including the threats posed by Iran and its proxies as well as ISIS and other radical Islamic terrorist organizations. The two leaders discussed ways that the United States and Israel can work more closely together on critical issues such as cyber security, intelligence cooperation, and energy. They also agreed to work together against one-sided actions against Israel at the United Nations and other international forums, as well as boycotts that target Israel. The Vice President and the Prime Minister agreed that peace between Israel and the Palestinians can only be negotiated directly between the two parties, and that the United States will work closely with Israel and the Palestinians to make progress towards that goal.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel

Today in Munich, the Vice President met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. The leaders reaffirmed the lasting partnership between the United States and Germany and committed to continued close cooperation on a wide range of global challenges. The leaders discussed the need for NATO Allies to meet their burdensharing commitments and agreed that the Alliance must continue to transform itself to meet 21st century threats. The Vice President thanked the Chancellor for her leadership on Ukraine via the Normandy Format negotiations to implement the Minsk agreements. The Vice President also expressed appreciation for Germany's contributions in Afghanistan and to NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence initiative and the Global Counter-ISIS coalition. The leaders discussed next steps in the fight against ISIS and other terrorist organizations.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Ghani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

February 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Ghani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Vice President Pence met in Munich today with President Ashraf Ghani of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Vice President expressed support for the National Unity Government. The leaders discussed opportunities to strengthen the bilateral relationship and advance mutual interests, particularly in the areas of counterterrorism cooperation and economic development. Both leaders also affirmed the continued importance of the strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Abadi of Iraq

The White House

Office of the Vice President

February 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Abadi of Iraq

In Munich today, Vice President Pence met with Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi of Iraq. He also commended Iraqi Security Forces for their battlefield successes and thanked Prime Minister Abadi for the sacrifices of the Iraqi people in our shared fight against ISIS. The Vice President also stressed that we will not allow Iran to threaten the stability of our partners in the region, including Iraq. Both leaders underscored the urgency of continued progress in the fight against ISIS, Iraq's economic recovery, and cooperation to liberate Mosul. The Vice President lauded the close ongoing cooperation between the Iraqi Security Forces and Kurdish Peshmerga. Both leaders discussed opportunities to strengthen the bilateral relationship and advance mutual interests, including through closer economic cooperation. Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to the long-term partnership between the United States and Iraq grounded in the U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework Agreement.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Masoud Barzani

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Masoud Barzani

The Vice President met briefly today with the President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Masoud Barzani. The Vice President thanked President Barzani for his leadership and Kurdish commitment in the fight against ISIS. The Vice President conveyed continued U.S. support for a unified, federal, and democratic Iraq, and encouraged close cooperation between the Government of Iraq and the Kurdistan Regional Government. The leaders underscored the urgency of continued progress in the fight against ISIS and cooperation to liberate Mosul.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with the Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with the Presidents of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia

The Vice President met today with Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, Latvian President Raimonds Vējonis, and Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid. The Vice President reaffirmed the enduring U.S. commitment to the security of the Baltic states and to the collective defense of NATO Allies under Article 5. The leaders agreed that NATO must continue to transform to counter threats such as terrorism and hybrid warfare, and the Vice President applauded the Baltic states' concrete plans to meet or exceed defense spending at 2 percent of GDP. The leaders expressed concern over the ongoing violence in eastern Ukraine and underscored the need for progress toward the full implementation of the Minsk agreements to bring a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Yildirim of Turkey

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Yildirim of Turkey

Vice President Pence met with Prime Minister Binali Yildirim of Turkey in Munich today. The Vice President expressed condolences for the brutal and senseless terrorist attack that occurred yesterday in southeast Turkey. The Vice President reiterated the United States' commitment to Turkey as a strategic partner and NATO ally. The two leaders also discussed an array of regional issues and reaffirmed their shared commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms. The Vice President thanked Prime Minister Yildirim for Turkey's significant contributions to the counter-ISIS campaign, and expressed his condolences for Turkish loss of life in the fight against terrorism. Both

leaders agreed that they would not allow Iran to undermine stability in the region. The two leaders also discussed ways to accelerate our joint efforts to defeat ISIS.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko

The Vice President met today in Munich with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko. The Vice President expressed concern about the recent surge in violence in eastern Ukraine, and the leaders agreed on the need for an immediate comprehensive ceasefire. The Vice President underscored U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and self-determination and underlined that the United States does not recognize Russia's occupation and attempted annexation of the Crimean peninsula. The Vice President expressed U.S. support for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements to bring peace to eastern Ukraine, and the leaders discussed how the United States can support negotiations. The Vice President commended Ukraine's progress on reforms, and the leaders affirmed the importance of further reforms to transform Ukraine into a secure, prosperous, European country for all its citizens.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 19, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel

Today in Brussels, the Vice President attended a working dinner hosted by Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel. The leaders discussed steps to deepen the robust partnership between the United States and Belgium. The leaders agreed on the need to grow jobs, reduce the regulatory burden, and maintain strong borders. They also exchanged views on global challenges including Ukraine, Libya, Iran, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Vice President emphasized the enduring U.S. commitment to NATO, and the leaders discussed the need for greater burden sharing to ensure NATO has the capabilities to meet 21st century threats. The Vice President expressed his condolences for those lost in the March 2016 terrorist attacks in Brussels, and the leaders agreed on the need to continue cooperating on counterterrorism.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
February 21, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

Vice President Mike Pence met today with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop at the White House. The two reaffirmed the strong alliance between the United States and Australia and committed to maintaining the close ties of friendship between our two countries. The Vice President thanked the Foreign Minister for Australia's multifaceted partnership with the United States around the globe. The Vice President and Foreign Minister exchanged views on shared concerns, including growing threats to peace and security from North Korea and ISIS.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Luis Guillermo Solís of Costa Rica

The White House
Office of the Vice President
March 17, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Luis Guillermo Solís of Costa Rica

The Vice President met today with President Luis Guillermo Solís of Costa Rica at the White House. The Vice President praised Costa Rica's role as a key partner of the United States in promoting regional economic prosperity, security, and good governance throughout the hemisphere. The two leaders discussed ways to deepen their cooperation on combating the illicit drug trade and reducing illegal immigration through Central America to the United States. The Vice President expressed his appreciation for Costa Rica's constructive stance in favor of the constitutional order and respect for human rights in Venezuela. The two leaders pledged to continue their dialogue on bilateral issues and maintain strong relations between the United States and Costa Rica.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
March 21, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq

The Vice President and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq built upon their productive meeting last month at the Munich Security Conference during a working breakfast at the Vice President's Residence at the Naval Observatory this morning. The Vice President commended Iraqi Security Forces for their progress in western Mosul and thanked Prime Minister Abadi for the sacrifices of the Iraqi people in our shared fight against ISIS. The Vice President also thanked the Prime Minister for his leadership in protecting religious and ethnic minorities, including Christians, Yezidis, and others, and urged the Prime Minister to continue efforts to ensure inclusive governance. The leaders also discussed opportunities to strengthen the bilateral relationship and advance mutual interests, including through closer economic cooperation. The Vice President emphasized that, as the United States and Iraq align in countering terrorism, neither will allow any country to destabilize Iraq or its democratic institutions. Both leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to the long-term partnership between the United States and Iraq grounded in the U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework Agreement.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini

The White House

Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
March 22, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini

The Vice President met today with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini. The Vice President reaffirmed the United States' partnership with the European Union. The leaders underscored their commitment to work together to address transnational threats and discussed issues of mutual concern including Syria, Iraq, Libya, Iran, and North Korea. Building on the dialogue that began last month in Brussels, Belgium, the Vice President and High Representative and Vice President Mogherini agreed to remain in close contact as the United States and the European Union consider the way forward on these and other shared challenges.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with U.K. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
March 22, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with U.K. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson

The Vice President met today with Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson. The Vice President expressed condolences on behalf of President Trump and the American people for the loss of life in the terrorist attack that occurred today in London. He noted that the American people stand in solidarity with the people of the United Kingdom and offered the United States' assistance in the aftermath of the attack. The Vice President and Foreign Secretary Johnson reaffirmed the critical importance of the special relationship and expressed the desire to strengthen U.S.-U.K. cooperation across a wide range of bilateral and global issues.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Juan Orlando Hernandez of Honduras

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
March 23, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Juan Orlando Hernandez of Honduras

The Vice President met today with President Juan Orlando Hernandez of Honduras at the White House. The Vice President recognized the important progress that Honduras has made over the past two years in fighting violent crime and corruption and strengthening citizen security, including through its police reform efforts. President Hernandez emphasized that Honduras is focused on improving the economy and creating jobs through its Alliance for Prosperity Plan, which will address the root causes that drive illegal immigration. The Vice President pledged to maintain close relations with Honduras as part of the Administration's overall engagement with the Northern Triangle of Central America.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

Today, Vice President Mike Pence met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in Tokyo, Japan. The Vice President reaffirmed the Administration's steadfast commitment to the U.S.-Japan Alliance and underscored its role as the cornerstone of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Vice President Pence and Prime Minister Abe discussed the importance of maintaining close coordination, including trilaterally with the Republic of Korea, regarding the growing North Korean threat. They also consulted on ways to enhance cooperation on regional and global security issues of mutual concern.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Speaker of the National Assembly Chung Sye-Kyun

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

April 17, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Speaker of the National Assembly Chung Sye-Kyun

Today, Vice President Mike Pence met with Speaker of the National Assembly, Chung Sye-kyun, in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The Vice President reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to our ironclad U.S.-ROK alliance and underscored the important role the alliance plays in upholding peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. Vice President Pence and Speaker Chung discussed the importance of coordination and consultation to address the North Korean threat and underscored commitment to our ongoing bilateral efforts to deploy THAAD. The Vice President emphasized that whatever the outcome of the upcoming presidential election in the ROK, U.S. support will remain unchanged and unwavering.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Vice President Jusuf Kalla and Indonesian Cabinet Ministers

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release April 20, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Vice President Jusuf Kalla and Indonesian Cabinet Ministers

Today, Vice President Mike Pence met with Vice President Jusuf Kalla and Indonesian Cabinet Ministers in Jakarta, Indonesia. The Vice President reaffirmed the United States' strong, enduring commitment to the Asia-Pacific region and the Strategic Partnership with Indonesia. Vice President Pence expressed appreciation to the Government of Indonesia for its commitment to tolerance and peace. The two agreed to strengthen cooperation across a range of bilateral and regional issues, including bilateral trade and investment.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
May 08, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili

The Vice President met today with Georgian Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili at the White House. The two leaders affirmed the strength of the U.S.-Georgia strategic partnership that has continued to grow stronger for 25 years and emphasized the importance of Georgia's significant contributions to global security. In particular, the Vice President expressed his deep gratitude for the sacrifices of the Georgian people to include 31 Georgian service members who have given their lives fighting alongside NATO forces in Afghanistan. The Vice President reiterated the Administration's steadfast commitment to Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The Vice President praised the Prime Minister's leadership on political and economic reforms and reaffirmed U.S. support for Georgia's decision to pursue integration into Euro-Atlantic institutions, including NATO. The leaders also pledged to explore ways to continue to enhance their economic and trade relations.

Readout of Vice President Mike Pence's Meeting with Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin of Ukraine

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
May 10, 2017

Readout of Vice President Mike Pence's Meeting with Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin of Ukraine

Vice President Pence with Foreign Minister Klimin of Ukraine

Vice President Mike Pence met with Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin of Ukraine today. The Vice President emphasized unwavering U.S. support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He underscored that the Minsk agreements remain the most viable path towards peace. Following that meeting, the President spoke with the Foreign Minister and reaffirmed U.S. support for Ukraine and his desire to work with our Ukrainian partners to peacefully resolve the conflict.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
May 19, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia
VP Meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos

The Vice President hosted President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia for a working breakfast at the Vice President's Residence at the Naval Observatory this morning, building on productive discussions begun yesterday with President Trump, members of the Cabinet and key advisors. The Vice President commended President Santos on his leadership in achieving an historic peace accord

that ended the longest-lasting armed conflict in the hemisphere. The Vice President acknowledged that Colombia still faces challenges on the road ahead, including a recent surge in drug production and implementation of the peace accord, and pledged the support of the United States to address these issues together. The leaders also discussed the on-going crisis in Venezuela, and expressed particular concern for the Venezuelan people who suffer most. The Vice President expressed his hope to visit Colombia, and together with President Santos, reiterated a shared commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship and advancing mutual interests, including through closer economic cooperation.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister of Montenegro Dusko Markovic

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 05, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister of Montenegro Dusko Markovic

Today at the White House, the Vice President met Prime Minister of Montenegro Dusko Markovic. The Vice President congratulated the Prime Minister on Montenegro's accession to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and expressed the United States' steadfast commitment to the Alliance and our collective defense obligations. The Prime Minister highlighted Montenegro's plans to reach defense spending at 2 percent of GDP by 2024, and the leaders agreed on the need for increased burden sharing in order to ensure the Alliance has the capabilities it needs to address the threats we face, including terrorism. The Vice President expressed the United States' strong support for the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the countries of the Western Balkans and beyond, and emphasized that all countries should be free to choose their allies without interference from third countries.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Republic of Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 08, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Republic of Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades

The Vice President met today at the White House with Republic of Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades. The Vice President underscored U.S. support for the resumption of UN-facilitated talks in Geneva and expressed hope that the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders will agree to a settlement that would reunify Cyprus as a bizonal, bicomunal federation to the benefit of all Cypriots. The Vice President and President Anastasiades reaffirmed the strong partnership between the United States and the Republic of Cyprus and discussed areas for further cooperation. The Vice President also expressed gratitude for the Republic of Cyprus' contributions to the Global Coalition to Counter ISIS and its commitment to support the Middle East peace process.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 15, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez
VP and Honduran President Juan Orlando+Hernandez

The Vice President met with Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez at the inaugural Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America in Miami, FL. On behalf of President Trump, the Vice President commended President Hernandez for his leadership in addressing security and governance challenges, and offered the strong partnership of the United States to maintain this commitment. While acknowledging that much remains to be done, the Vice President recognized Honduras for its progress in combating corruption and enhancing border security. The leaders discussed opportunities for economic and business development, as well as strategies for enhancing competitiveness. They also shared concerns regarding the on-going crisis in Venezuela, and expressed particular concern for the Venezuelan people who suffer most. The Vice President and President Hernandez together reiterated their shared commitment to strengthening the bilateral relationship and advancing mutual interests.

Readout of Vice President Pence's Meeting with Vice President of El Salvador Oscar Ortiz

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 15, 2017

Readout of Vice President Pence's Meeting with Vice President of El Salvador Oscar Ortiz

The Vice President met with the Vice President of El Salvador, Oscar Ortiz, at the inaugural Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America in Miami, Florida. On behalf of President Trump, the Vice President recognized El Salvador for taking strong steps to reduce crime and violence, and offered the continued partnership of the United States in this effort. The two leaders highlighted opportunities to expand security cooperation, discussed strategies for improving the business climate through economic reform and regional cooperation, and shared their views on the current political crisis in Venezuela. The Vice President, together with Vice President Ortiz, reiterated a shared commitment to maintaining strong bilateral ties, and to continuing the mutual effort to improve security and prosperity.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release June 15, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales

The Vice President met with Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales in Miami, Florida at the inaugural Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America. On behalf of President Trump, the Vice President recognized Guatemala for its strong commitment to the Alliance for

Prosperity, and steadfast support in the fight against illegal drug trafficking. The Vice President emphasized the importance of redoubling the fight against corruption and impunity, including support for the Attorney General and UN Commission Against Impunity and Corruption, and acknowledged President Morales' personal dedication to this cause. The leaders discussed the ongoing crisis in Venezuela, and expressed their concern for the Venezuelan people who suffer most. The Vice President, together with President Morales, reiterated a shared commitment to building the already strong bilateral relationship, and advancing shared goals of advancing security and prosperity.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Jovenel Moise of Haiti

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
June 15, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Jovenel Moise of Haiti
Vice President Pence with President Jovenel Moise of Haiti

The Vice President today met with President Jovenel Moise of Haiti in Miami, Florida. On behalf of President Trump, the Vice President congratulated President Moise for his election earlier this year, and recognized Haiti for filling key government leadership positions. The two leaders stressed the importance of pursuing an economic reform agenda to attract investment and generate growth. The Vice President and President Moise reiterated their common commitment to building on strong bilateral ties, and working together to pursue issues of mutual interest.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
June 20, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko
VP with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko

The Vice President met today with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to reaffirm the United States' support for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and for President Petro Poroshenko's implementation of the reforms necessary to transform Ukraine into a peaceful, prosperous, and secure European country. The Vice President highlighted continuing U.S. support for the Normandy Format negotiations to implement the Minsk agreements and stressed the importance of continued reforms to fight corruption, improve the business climate, and keep Ukraine's International Monetary Fund program on track.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Youssef Chahed

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 10, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Youssef Chahed

The Vice President met today with the Tunisian Prime Minister to reaffirm the United States' support for Tunisia as it works to strengthen its security capacity, implement essential economic

reforms, and continue developing its democratic institutions. The Vice President applauded the Prime Minister's recent efforts to combat corruption, and encouraged the Prime Minister to continue making sustainable reforms that will attract investment and create jobs for Tunisians. The two leaders highlighted the strong cooperation between their countries, whose relationship dates to 1797.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 14, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau
Vice President Mike Pence with the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau

Vice President Mike Pence met with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau today after both leaders addressed the National Governors Association in Providence, Rhode Island. On behalf of President Trump, the Vice President recognized the importance of the beneficial US trade and investment relationship with Canada, while expressing the need to work together to address lingering trade disagreements. The two leaders also expressed their shared commitment to update and modernize NAFTA through constructive renegotiation. The Vice President and Prime Minister discussed the two countries' extensive cooperation on national security and defense issues, including concern over the escalating situation in North Korea, and Vice President Pence recognized the Prime Minister for increasing national defense spending.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
July 17, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic

Vice President Mike Pence met today with President of Serbia Aleksandar Vučić. The leaders agreed on the importance of the bilateral relationship and expressed the desire to deepen the partnership between the United States and Serbia. The Vice President expressed U.S. support for Serbia's efforts to join the European Union, the need for continued reforms, and further progress in normalizing the relationship with Kosovo. The leaders discussed the Vice President's upcoming trip to Podgorica, Montenegro, where he will participate in an Adriatic Charter Summit with leaders from across the Western Balkans region. The Vice President also announced that the United States will provide an additional \$10 million contribution to the Regional Housing Program, an internationally funded, joint initiative by Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro that provides housing to those displaced during the conflicts in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister of Estonia Juri Ratas

The White House
Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

July 30, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister of Estonia Juri Ratas

The Vice President met Prime Minister of Estonia Juri Ratas today in Tallinn, Estonia. The leaders discussed Estonia's presidency of the Council of the European Union, and the Vice President thanked the Prime Minister for prioritizing stronger transatlantic ties, enhanced EU-NATO cooperation, and increased defense spending as part of the agenda for the Estonian presidency. The Vice President highlighted the United States' unwavering commitment to the security of the Baltic states and to our collective defense obligations under NATO's Article 5. He also expressed appreciation for Estonia's contributions to international security - including in Afghanistan and Iraq - and for Estonia's leadership as one of only six NATO Allies that has reached the 2 percent of GDP Wales commitment.

Readout of the Vice President's Listening Session with Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid on Cyber and Innovation

The White House

Office of the Vice President

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Listening Session with Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid on Cyber and Innovation

Today in Tallinn, Estonia, the Vice President and Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid participated in a listening session with Estonian experts on innovation and cyber issues. The leaders heard from experts about Estonia's pioneering implementation of e-governance, its leadership in the field of cyber security and defense, and its prioritization of the digital economy as part of Estonia's agenda for its EU presidency. The Vice President praised Estonia as a model for innovation and the use of technology to develop solutions to global economic, security, and social challenges, and he thanked Estonia for hosting the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence in Tallinn. The Vice President expressed the U.S. desire to enhance cooperation in the fields of innovation and cyber security and defense to benefit the U.S. and Estonian economies, the security of the American and Estonian people, and that of our NATO Allies.

Readout of Second Lady Karen Pence's Visit to Tallinn, Estonia

The White House

Office of the Second Lady

For Immediate Release

July 31, 2017

Readout of Second Lady Karen Pence's Visit to Tallinn, Estonia

Today, Second Lady Karen Pence visited the North Estonia Medical Center Psychiatric Clinic to meet with art therapists and observe an art therapy session. During the visit, she also met with the Head of the Arts Therapies Master Program at Tallinn University, Dr. Eha Rüütel, and the Director of North Estonian Medical Center Psychiatry Clinic, Dr. Kaire Adamsoo. Art therapy is a relatively new discipline in Estonia. In the 1990's, the Tallinn Psychiatric Hospital, now the Psychiatric Clinic of the North Estonia Medical Center, implemented art therapy techniques in treatment and trained new art therapists. After the art therapy program visit, Mrs. Pence enjoyed a walking tour of Old Town Estonia. After the tour, the Second Lady had a lovely lunch with Mrs. Joanna Melville, the wife of United States Ambassador to Estonia, James Melville, at the Restaurant Rataskaevu 16. Then, she headed to the airport to depart to Tbilisi, Georgia. Upon

arrival in Tbilisi, the Second Lady joined the Vice President for an official dinner hosted by Prime Minister Giorgi Kvrikashvili of Georgia.

“Art therapy is a relatively new discipline in Estonia with about 45 practicing therapists in the country,” said Second Lady Karen Pence. “I was encouraged by the art therapists during the roundtable discussion as they shared valuable insight on their profession and the difference they’re making with their patients. They’re doing good work.”

Tomorrow, Tuesday, August 1st, Mrs. Pence will participate in activities in Tbilisi, Georgia. To stay updated on Mrs. Pence’s events, follow her on Twitter at, @SecondLady.

Readout of Second Lady Karen Pence’s Visit to Tbilisi, Georgia

The White House
Office of the Second Lady
For Immediate Release
August 01, 2017

Readout of Second Lady Karen Pence’s Visit to Tbilisi, Georgia

Second Lady Karen Pence started her day with the Vice President where they participated in a meet-and-greet with U.S. embassy employees and their families. Mrs. Pence continued her day to the National Parliamentary Library where she joined art therapists and patients from Kamara, a pscho-social rehabilitation center and leading provider of art therapy in Georgia. The Second Lady observed the patient’s art therapy work before participating in a roundtable discussion with Kamara co-founders and art therapists, Natia Panjikidze and Nino Komakhidze, and art therapist Salome Panjikidze. After the art therapy program visit, the Second Lady enjoyed lunch at the Vinotel Restaurant with United States Marines who represented both the Marine Security Guard Detachment and Marines from the Georgia Deployment Program. After lunch, Mrs. Pence met with Georgian artist, Olesya Tavadze, who works in easel paintings and graphics. Mrs. Tavadze is passionate about American literature, in particular Robert Frost. Mrs. Pence viewed Mrs. Tavadze’s exhibit of paintings inspired by Robert Frost’s poems at the Tbilisi History Museum Karvasla. Following the museum visit, Mrs. Pence joined the Vice President to tour the Sioni Cathedral of the Dormition. After the tour, Mrs. Pence listened to the Vice President deliver remarks to U.S. and Georgian Noble Partner Participants at the Tbilisi Airport before departing to Podgorica, Montenegro.

“Art therapy is an emerging profession in Georgia with only a few professionally trained art therapists in the country,” said Second Lady Karen Pence. “I will cherish my opportunity to meet with the leading art therapists in Georgia who are breaking new ground in the country by offering art therapy as an option for therapeutic treatment. They are doing great work and making a positive difference in Georgia.”

Tomorrow, Wednesday, August 2nd, Mrs. Pence will wrap up her Eastern Europe visit with activities in Podgorica, Montenegro. To stay updated on Mrs. Pence’s events, follow her on Twitter at, @SecondLady.

Readout of the Vice President's Working Dinner with Montenegro President Filip Vujanovic and Prime Minister Dusko Markovic

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 01, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Working Dinner with Montenegro President Filip Vujanovic and Prime Minister Dusko Markovic

President of Montenegro Filip Vujanovic and Prime Minister of Montenegro Dusko Markovic hosted a working dinner with the Vice President this evening in Podgorica, Montenegro. The leaders toasted the strong ties between the United States and Montenegro and discussed areas for increased cooperation. The Vice President expressed the United States' steadfast support for Montenegro, our newest NATO Ally, and admiration for Montenegro's resolve in the face of Russian attempts to divert Montenegro from its Euro-Atlantic path. The leaders looked forward to the August 2 Adriatic Charter Summit, which Montenegro and Macedonia will co-host, and which will include participation by leaders from across the Western Balkans.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Dusko Markovic of Montenegro

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 02, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Dusko Markovic of Montenegro

The Vice President met today with Prime Minister of Montenegro Dusko Markovic. The leaders agreed that the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans is critical to build a more secure and prosperous future for the region, and the Vice President thanked the Prime Minister for Montenegro's leadership in promoting regional stability. The Vice President emphasized the importance of the democratic process and expressed hope that the opposition will return to Parliament and fulfill their legislative responsibilities. The leaders agreed on the importance of continued reforms to strengthen Montenegro's institutions and advance the rule of law, in order to attract investment and generate economic growth. The Vice President expressed the United States' commitment to partner with Montenegro as it pursues those reforms, which will advance its chosen European path.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Opposition Members of the Montenegrin Parliament

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 02, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Opposition Members of the Montenegrin Parliament

In Podgorica, today, the Vice President met opposition members of the Montenegrin Parliament. The Vice President urged the opposition to return to Parliament to carry out their responsibilities as legislators and represent the voters who elected them. The Vice President emphasized the importance of cooperation among political parties to advance the reforms that will lead to a more secure and prosperous future for all Montenegrins.

Readout of Second Lady Karen Pence's Visit to Podgorica, Montenegro

The White House
Office of the Second Lady
For Immediate Release
August 02, 2017

Readout of Second Lady Karen Pence's Visit to Podgorica, Montenegro

Second Lady Karen Pence started the day with the Vice President and participated in a meet-and-greet with U.S. embassy employees and their families. Then, the Second Lady and Vice President took photos with the United State Marines Detachment Unit. The Second Lady continued her day to the Martinovic Honey Farm in Dubovik Village. There, Mrs. Pence joined the Prime Minister's wife, Mrs. Nata Marković, to tour the farm; observe the beehives; and learn about the process of honey producing. After the honey farm visit, the Second Lady and Mrs. Marković headed to Rijeka Crnojevica to participate in a scenic boat tour of Lake Skadar. The tour is well known for its calm waters, stunning nature views, and excellent bird watching. After the tour, Mrs. Pence had an enjoyable lunch with Mrs. Marković at family-owned Poslednja Luka Restaurant. After lunch, Mrs. Pence joined the Vice President for departure to Washington, DC.

To stay updated on Mrs. Pence's events, follow her on Twitter at, @SecondLady.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 13, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos

Vice President Mike Pence met today with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia at the Presidential Guest House in Cartagena. The leaders discussed a range of issues central to the bilateral relationship, including cooperation on counternarcotics, implementation of Colombia's historic peace accord, and building the trade and economic relationship. Vice President Pence expressed concerns about the continuing rise of coca production, and reiterated US support for Colombia's counternarcotics and eradication efforts. The two leaders discussed progress implementing the Peace Accords, including recent disarmament actions, and spoke frankly about the challenges that lie ahead. Highlighting the economic relationship and successful free trade agreement, Vice President Pence announced new market access for Colombian Hass avocados into the United States, and President Santos released measures to expand US exports of rough rice to Colombia. The Vice President also expressed support for Colombia's effort to meet the OECD's high standards, and pledged up to \$2 million to improve labor practices. The two leaders also discussed their deep, mutual concern over the erosion of democracy in Venezuela, and Vice President Pence reiterated the President's commitment to bring the full weight of US diplomatic and economic weight to bear to restore its democracy.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 15, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina

Vice President Mike Pence met today with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina at the Quinta de Olivos Presidential Office in Buenos Aires. On behalf of President Trump, Vice President Pence recognized President Macri for pursuing a bold reform agenda and improving the investment climate as a model for the region. The two leaders discussed bilateral trade issues, expressing their desire to finalize resolution of key agricultural priorities, and reiterated their commitment to

deepening commercial ties. Vice President Pence highlighted Argentina's emerging global leadership role in forums like the G20 and WTO, and reiterated support for the country's bid to start the accession process for the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Vice President Pence and President Macri reviewed the strong and growing bilateral security relationship, and recommitted both countries to cooperation on counternarcotics, anti-corruption and the fight against terrorism and transnational crime. The two leaders shared their deep, personal concern for the deteriorating situation in Venezuela. Vice President Pence recognized Argentina for the concrete actions it has taken, and reiterated President Trump's commitment to work with regional and global partners to bring the full weight of US diplomatic and economic weight to bear to restore democracy and the rule of law.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Michelle Bachelet of Chile

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
August 16, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Michelle Bachelet of Chile

Vice President Mike Pence met today with the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, at the La Moneda Presidential Palace in Santiago. The two leaders celebrated the strong commercial ties, diplomatic engagement and regional security cooperation that define the positive bilateral relationship between the United States and Chile. Vice President Pence recognized Chile for its strong institutions and economic leadership that have served as an influential example throughout the region. The two leaders praised the US-Chile Free Trade Agreement, which has increased bilateral trade by more than 350% since it was signed in 2004, and Vice President Pence also indicated the need for additional improvements on intellectual property rights protection and regulatory transparency to further amplify its benefits. The Vice President highlighted Chile's participation in the Visa Waiver Program as an indication of the country's high standards, and thanked Chile for its active support for regional security initiatives, notably in Central America. Clearly stating US resolve to ensure a peaceful and denuclearized Korean Peninsula, Vice President Pence called on President Bachelet to consider taking additional diplomatic and economic steps to maintain pressure on the Kim regime. The two leaders also shared their deep, personal concern for the erosion of democracy and emerging humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Vice President Pence thanked Chile for its public condemnation and diplomatic support, reiterating President Trump's commitment to work with regional and global partners to use all available diplomatic and economic tools to restore democracy and the rule of law in Venezuela.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Secretary Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
September 19, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Secretary Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini

Vice President Mike Pence met today at the United Nations Headquarters in New York with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini. The leaders agreed to work together to increase pressure on North Korea to halt its aggressive actions, and the Vice President emphasized the United States' desire to work with allies and partners to end Iran's destabilizing activities. The leaders highlighted the importance of supporting the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the countries of the Western Balkans and agreed to work in concert to promote a peaceful, prosperous, European future for the people of the region. The Vice President thanked Mogherini for the European Union's partnership in addressing shared challenges, and the leaders looked forward to future cooperation.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi of the People's Republic of China

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 20, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi of the People's Republic of China

Today, Vice President Mike Pence met with Foreign Minister Wang Yi of the People's Republic of China to discuss the increasing threat posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and its repeated provocative and destabilizing actions. Vice President Pence conveyed U.S. resolve to pressure DPRK to change its dangerous path. The Vice President and Foreign Minister Wang reaffirmed the importance of robust enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolutions, and taking additional steps in response to North Korea's defiant behavior. The two also discussed the need to create a level playing field for trade and investment.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Hashim Thaci of Kosovo

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
September 29, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with President Hashim Thaci of Kosovo

Vice President Mike Pence welcomed President of Kosovo Hashim Thaci to the White House today to reaffirm the United States' support for a sovereign, democratic, and prosperous Kosovo. The Vice President expressed appreciation for Thaci's leadership, along with Serbian President Vucic, to advance the EU-facilitated dialogue to normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia. The leaders agreed on the importance of advancing reforms to strengthen the rule of law, fight corruption, and boost economic growth. The Vice President expressed support for the transformation of the Kosovo Security Forces via constitutional means and encouraged Kosovo to ratify the border demarcation agreement with Montenegro to resolve this longstanding issue.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
October 18, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece

Vice President Mike Pence hosted Prime Minister of Greece Alexis Tsipras for a meeting at the White House today. The leaders highlighted the strong and enduring ties between the United States and Greece. The Vice President congratulated Prime Minister Tsipras on Greece's return to economic growth and financial markets, encouraged further reforms to spur investment, and reiterated U.S. support for credible debt relief. The leaders expressed their desire to deepen cooperation in the economic and security spheres, including the visit of a high-level delegation to the 2018 Thessaloniki International Fair, where the United States will be the honored country. The Vice President expressed appreciation for Greece's role as a pillar of stability in the region, and the leaders reaffirmed their support for the Euro-Atlantic integration of Turkey and the countries of the Western Balkans. The Vice President underscored continued U.S. support for a comprehensive settlement to reunify Cyprus as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation and welcomed Greece's increasing cooperation with Israel, Cyprus, and Egypt in the eastern Mediterranean.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
November 09, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim

Today at the White House, Vice President Mike Pence met with Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim to reaffirm the enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Turkey. The leaders expressed hope that their meeting would help to usher in a new chapter in U.S.-Turkey relations and agreed on the need for constructive dialogue, as friends and Allies, on bilateral challenges. They highlighted the United States' and Turkey's mutual interest in stability and security in the Middle East and agreed to further intergovernmental consultations toward that end. The Vice President also thanked the Prime Minister for Turkey's contributions to global security and the fight to defeat ISIS, and he underscored the U.S. commitment to stand with Turkey against the PKK and other terrorist threats. The Vice President expressed deep concern over the arrests of American citizens, Mission Turkey local staff, journalists, and members of civil society under the state of emergency and urged transparency and due process in the resolution of their cases.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
November 13, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin

Today, Vice President Mike Pence welcomed to the White House Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin to reaffirm the strong and enduring cooperation between the United States and the Holy See. The leaders underscored the fundamental values shared by the United States and the Holy See and their mutual commitment to engage globally to promote human rights, combat human suffering, and protect religious freedom. The Vice President expressed gratitude for the Holy See's efforts to restore democracy in Venezuela and looked forward to Pope Francis' upcoming visit to Burma and Bangladesh. The leaders agreed on the need to address humanitarian and stabilization

needs across Iraq and Syria, including for Christians and other vulnerable minority communities. The Vice President also commended the Holy See's efforts to counter trafficking in persons and expressed the desire to expand cooperation between the United States and the Holy See on this issue, which is a priority for the Administration.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
November 13, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Holy See Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin

Today, Vice President Mike Pence welcomed to the White House Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin to reaffirm the strong and enduring cooperation between the United States and the Holy See. The leaders underscored the fundamental values shared by the United States and the Holy See and their mutual commitment to engage globally to promote human rights, combat human suffering, and protect religious freedom. The Vice President expressed gratitude for the Holy See's efforts to restore democracy in Venezuela and looked forward to Pope Francis' upcoming visit to Burma and Bangladesh. The leaders agreed on the need to address humanitarian and stabilization needs across Iraq and Syria, including for Christians and other vulnerable minority communities. The Vice President also commended the Holy See's efforts to counter trafficking in persons and expressed the desire to expand cooperation between the United States and the Holy See on this issue, which is a priority for the Administration.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Afghan Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
November 17, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Afghan Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah
Vice President Mike Pence met with Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah of Afghanistan at the White House today. The Vice President and Dr. Abdullah discussed the political environment in Afghanistan, and Pence highlighted Abdullah's invaluable role and partnership with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. They also focused on President Trump's South Asia strategy and its beneficial impact on the security situation in Afghanistan. Vice President Pence commended the Afghan security forces for their bravery and sacrifices in fighting the insurgency and international terrorists, such as ISIS and al-Qaida. The Vice President stressed the need for Kabul's continued engagement and progress on necessary reforms, political inclusion, and preparations for forthcoming elections, all of which are critical to providing greater stability and opportunities for Afghanistan. Vice President Pence and Dr. Abdullah reaffirmed the enduring partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Colombian Vice President Oscar Naranjo

The White House
Office of the Vice President
For Immediate Release
November 17, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Colombian Vice President Oscar Naranjo

Today at the White House, Vice President Mike Pence met with Colombian Vice President Oscar Naranjo to reaffirm the strong and enduring partnership between the United States and Colombia, and address a range of issues including the critical fight against illegal drugs, implementation of the Colombian Peace Accords, and opportunities to stimulate economic growth. Vice President Pence underscored the essential importance of Colombia's counternarcotics efforts, commending Vice President Naranjo for recent progress, while noting the need to deploy more effective eradication techniques to bring down cultivation and production levels. The leaders also discussed opportunities to amplify interdiction operations that can halt existing drug shipments from reaching US shores. On the economic front, Vice President Pence reiterated the United States' strong support for Colombia's ambition to join the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), encouraging Colombia to make progress on remaining labor and trade concerns, particularly related to pharmaceuticals and trucking, to ensure a successful outcome. The two leaders discussed the on-going crisis in Venezuela, expressing deep concern for deteriorating situation and reiterating their steadfast commitment to support the restoration of the country's democracy.

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with his Majesty King Abdullah II

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
November 27, 2017

Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with his Majesty King Abdullah II

The Vice President had a productive meeting with his Majesty King Abdullah II this morning. The meeting provided the Vice President the opportunity to thank the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan for its steadfast leadership in the region, and its efforts in defeating ISIS and countering Iranian influence. Other important topics the two leaders discussed included the strengthening of the bi-lateral relationship and how to best move forward to ensure a stable and safe Middle East.

ДОКУМЕНТЫ ПРОГРАММНОГО ХАРАКТЕРА

An America First Energy Plan

Energy is an essential part of American life and a staple of the world economy. The Trump Administration is committed to energy policies that lower costs for hardworking Americans and maximize the use of American resources, freeing us from dependence on foreign oil.

For too long, we've been held back by burdensome regulations on our energy industry. President Trump is committed to eliminating harmful and unnecessary policies such as the Climate Action Plan and the Waters of the U.S. rule. Lifting these restrictions will greatly help American workers, increasing wages by more than \$30 billion over the next 7 years.

Sound energy policy begins with the recognition that we have vast untapped domestic energy reserves right here in America. The Trump Administration will embrace the shale oil and gas revolution to bring jobs and prosperity to millions of Americans. We must take advantage of the estimated \$50 trillion in untapped shale, oil, and natural gas reserves, especially those on federal lands that the American people own. We will use the revenues from energy production to rebuild our roads, schools, bridges and public infrastructure. Less expensive energy will be a big boost to American agriculture, as well.

The Trump Administration is also committed to clean coal technology, and to reviving America's coal industry, which has been hurting for too long.

In addition to being good for our economy, boosting domestic energy production is in America's national security interest. President Trump is committed to achieving energy independence from the OPEC cartel and any nations hostile to our interests. At the same time, we will work with our Gulf allies to develop a positive energy relationship as part of our anti-terrorism strategy.

Lastly, our need for energy must go hand-in-hand with responsible stewardship of the environment. Protecting clean air and clean water, conserving our natural habitats, and preserving our natural reserves and resources will remain a high priority. President Trump will refocus the EPA on its essential mission of protecting our air and water.

A brighter future depends on energy policies that stimulate our economy, ensure our security, and protect our health. Under the Trump Administration's energy policies, that future can become a reality.

America First Foreign Policy

The Trump Administration is committed to a foreign policy focused on American interests and American national security.

Peace through strength will be at the center of that foreign policy. This principle will make possible a stable, more peaceful world with less conflict and more common ground.

Defeating ISIS and other radical Islamic terror groups will be our highest priority. To defeat and destroy these groups, we will pursue aggressive joint and coalition military operations when necessary. In addition, the Trump Administration will work with international partners to cut off

funding for terrorist groups, to expand intelligence sharing, and to engage in cyberwarfare to disrupt and disable propaganda and recruiting.

Next, we will rebuild the American military. Our Navy has shrunk from more than 500 ships in 1991 to 275 in 2016. Our Air Force is roughly one third smaller than in 1991. President Trump is committed to reversing this trend, because he knows that our military dominance must be unquestioned.

Finally, in pursuing a foreign policy based on American interests, we will embrace diplomacy. The world must know that we do not go abroad in search of enemies, that we are always happy when old enemies become friends, and when old friends become allies.

The world will be more peaceful and more prosperous with a stronger and more respected America.

Trade Deals Working For All Americans

For too long, Americans have been forced to accept trade deals that put the interests of insiders and the Washington elite over the hard-working men and women of this country. As a result, blue-collar towns and cities have watched their factories close and good-paying jobs move overseas, while Americans face a mounting trade deficit and a devastated manufacturing base.

With a lifetime of negotiating experience, the President understands how critical it is to put American workers and businesses first when it comes to trade. With tough and fair agreements, international trade can be used to grow our economy, return millions of jobs to America's shores, and revitalize our nation's suffering communities.

This strategy starts by withdrawing from the Trans-Pacific Partnership and making certain that any new trade deals are in the interests of American workers. President Trump is committed to renegotiating NAFTA. If our partners refuse a renegotiation that gives American workers a fair deal, then the President will give notice of the United States' intent to withdraw from NAFTA.

In addition to rejecting and reworking failed trade deals, the United States will crack down on those nations that violate trade agreements and harm American workers in the process. The President will direct the Commerce Secretary to identify all trade violations and to use every tool at the federal government's disposal to end these abuses.

To carry out his strategy, the President is appointing the toughest and smartest to his trade team, ensuring that Americans have the best negotiators possible. For too long, trade deals have been negotiated by, and for, members of the Washington establishment. President Trump will ensure that on his watch, trade policies will be implemented by and for the people, and will put America first.

By fighting for fair but tough trade deals, we can bring jobs back to America's shores, increase wages, and support U.S. manufacturing.

Bringing Back Jobs And Growth

Since the recession of 2008, American workers and businesses have suffered through the slowest economic recovery since World War II. The U.S. lost nearly 300,000 manufacturing jobs during this period, while the share of Americans in the work force plummeted to lows not seen since the 1970s, the national debt doubled, and middle class got smaller. To get the economy back on track, President Trump has outlined a bold plan to create 25 million new American jobs in the next decade and return to 4 percent annual economic growth.

The plan starts with pro-growth tax reform to help American workers and businesses keep more of their hard-earned dollars. The President's plan will lower rates for Americans in every tax bracket, simplify the tax code, and reduce the U.S. corporate tax rate, which is one of the highest in the world. Fixing a tax code that is outdated, overly complex, and too onerous will unleash America's economy, creating millions of new jobs and boosting economic growth.

As a lifelong job-creator and businessman, the President also knows how important it is to get Washington out of the way of America's small businesses, entrepreneurs, and workers. In 2015 alone, federal regulations cost the American economy more than \$2 trillion. That is why the President has proposed a moratorium on new federal regulations and is ordering the heads of federal agencies and departments to identify job-killing regulations that should be repealed.

With decades of deal-making experience, the President also understands how critical it is to negotiate the best possible trade deals for the United States. By renegotiating existing trade deals, and taking a tough stance on future ones, we will ensure that trade agreements bring good-paying jobs to our shores and support American manufacturing, the backbone of our economy. The President plans to show America's trading partners that we mean business by ensuring consequences for countries that engage in illegal or unfair trade practices that hurt American workers.

By standing side-by-side with America's workers and businesses, the President's policies will unleash economic growth, create 25 million new jobs, and help Make America Great Again.

Making Our Military Strong Again

Our men and women in uniform are the greatest fighting force in the world and the guardians of American freedom. That's why the Trump Administration will rebuild our military and do everything it can to make sure our veterans get the care they deserve.

Our military needs every asset at its disposal to defend America. We cannot allow other nations to surpass our military capability. The Trump Administration will pursue the highest level of military readiness.

President Trump will end the defense sequester and submit a new budget to Congress outlining a plan to rebuild our military. We will provide our military leaders with the means to plan for our future defense needs.

We will also develop a state-of-the-art missile defense system to protect against missile-based attacks from states like Iran and North Korea.

Cyberwarfare is an emerging battlefield, and we must take every measure to safeguard our national security secrets and systems. We will make it a priority to develop defensive and offensive cyber capabilities at our U.S. Cyber Command, and recruit the best and brightest Americans to serve in this crucial area.

Let us never forget that our military is comprised of heroic people. We must also ensure that we have the best medical care, education and support for our military service members and their families – both when they serve, and when they return to civilian life.

We will get our veterans the care they need wherever and whenever they need it. There should be no more long drives. No more wait lists or scheduling backlogs. No more excessive red tape. Just the care and support our veterans have earned through sacrifice and service to our country. The Trump Administration will transform the Department of Veterans Affairs to meet the needs of 21st century service members and of our female veterans. Our reforms will begin with firing the corrupt and incompetent VA executives who let our veterans down, modernizing the bureaucracy, and empowering the doctors and nurses to ensure our veterans receive the best care available in a timely manner.

Under the Trump Administration, America will meet its commitments to our veterans.

Standing Up For Our Law Enforcement Community

One of the fundamental rights of every American is to live in a safe community. A Trump Administration will empower our law enforcement officers to do their jobs and keep our streets free of crime and violence. The Trump Administration will be a law and order administration. President

Trump will honor our men and women in uniform and will support their mission of protecting the public. The dangerous anti-police atmosphere in America is wrong. The Trump Administration will end it.

The Trump Administration is committed to reducing violent crime. In 2015, homicides increased by 17% in America's fifty largest cities. That's the largest increase in 25 years. In our nation's capital, killings rose by 50 percent over the past four years. There were thousands of shootings in Chicago last year alone.

Our country needs more law enforcement, more community engagement, and more effective policing.

Our job is not to make life more comfortable for the rioter, the looter, or the violent disrupter. Our job is to make life more comfortable for parents who want their kids to be able to walk the streets safely. Or the senior citizen waiting for a bus. Or the young child walking home from school.

Supporting law enforcement means supporting our citizens' ability to protect themselves. We will uphold Americans' Second Amendment rights at every level of our judicial system.

President Trump is committed to building a border wall to stop illegal immigration, to stop the gangs and the violence, and to stop the drugs from pouring into our communities. He is dedicated to enforcing our border laws, ending sanctuary cities, and stemming the tide of lawlessness associated with illegal immigration.

Supporting law enforcement also means deporting illegal aliens with violent criminal records who have remained within our borders.

It is the first duty of government to keep the innocent safe, and President Donald Trump will fight for the safety of every American, and especially those Americans who have not known safe neighborhoods for a very long time.

Trade Deals That Work For All Americans

For too long, Americans have been forced to accept trade deals that put the interests of insiders and the Washington elite over the hard-working men and women of this country. As a result, blue-collar towns and cities have watched their factories close and good-paying jobs move overseas, while Americans face a mounting trade deficit and a devastated manufacturing base.

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СТРАТЕГИЯ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ США

President Donald J. Trump Announces a National Security Strategy to Advance America's Interests

President Donald J. Trump Announces a National Security Strategy to Advance America's Interests

Issued on: December 18, 2017

QUOTE

Our government's first duty is to its people, to our citizens — to serve their needs, to ensure their safety, to preserve their rights, and to defend their values.

President Donald J. Trump

A NEW NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY FOR A NEW ERA: Less than a year after taking office, President Donald J. Trump is unveiling a new National Security Strategy that sets a positive strategic direction for the United States that will restore America's advantages in the world and build upon our country's great strengths.

The 2017 National Security Strategy (Strategy) builds on the 11 months of Presidential action to restore respect for the United States abroad and renew American confidence at home.

Strategic confidence enables the United States to protect its vital national interests. The Strategy identifies four vital national interests, or "four pillars" as:

- I. Protect the homeland, the American people, and American way of life;
- II. Promote American prosperity;
- III. Preserve peace through strength;
- IV. Advance American influence.

The Strategy addresses key challenges and trends that affect our standing in the world, including:

Revisionist powers, such as China and Russia, that use technology, propaganda, and coercion to shape a world antithetical to our interests and values;

Regional dictators that spread terror, threaten their neighbors, and pursue weapons of mass destruction;

Jihadist terrorists that foment hatred to incite violence against innocents in the name of a wicked ideology, and transnational criminal organizations that spill drugs and violence into our communities.

The Strategy articulates and advances the President's concept of principled realism.

It is realist because it acknowledges the central role of power in international politics, affirms that strong and sovereign states are the best hope for a peaceful world, and clearly defines our national interests.

It is principled because it is grounded in advancing American principles, which spreads peace and prosperity around the globe.

I. PROTECT THE HOMELAND: President Trump's fundamental responsibility is to protect the American people, the homeland, and the American way of life.

We will strengthen control of our borders and reform our immigration system to protect the homeland and restore our sovereignty.

The greatest transnational threats to the homeland are:

Jihadist terrorists, using barbaric cruelty to commit murder, repression, and slavery, and virtual networks to exploit vulnerable populations and inspire and direct plots.

Transnational criminal organizations, tearing apart our communities with drugs and violence and weakening our allies and partners by corrupting democratic institutions.

America will target threats at their source: we will confront threats before they ever reach our borders or cause harm to our people.

We will redouble our efforts to protect our critical infrastructure and digital networks, because new technology and new adversaries create new vulnerabilities.

We are deploying a layered missile defense system to defend America against missile attacks.

II. PROMOTE AMERICAN PROSPERITY: A strong economy protects the American people, supports our way of life, and sustains American power.

We will rejuvenate the American economy for the benefit of American workers and companies, which is necessary to restore our national power.

America will no longer tolerate chronic trade abuses and will pursue free, fair, and reciprocal economic relationships.

To succeed in this 21st century geopolitical competition, America must lead in research, technology, and innovation. We will protect our national security innovation base from those who steal our intellectual property and unfairly exploit the innovation of free societies.

America will use its energy dominance to ensure international markets remain open, and that the benefits of diversification and energy access promote economic and national security.

III. PRESERVE PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH: An America strengthened, renewed, and rejuvenated will ensure peace and deter hostility.

We will rebuild America's military strength to ensure it remains second to none.

America will use all of the tools of statecraft in a new era of strategic competition—diplomatic, information, military, and economic—to protect our interests.

America will strengthen its capabilities across numerous domains — including space and cyber — and revitalize capabilities that have been neglected.

America's allies and partners magnify our power and protect our shared interests. We expect them to take greater responsibility for addressing common threats.

We will ensure the balance of power remains in America's favor in key regions of the world: the Indo-Pacific, Europe, and the Middle East.

IV. ADVANCE AMERICAN INFLUENCE: As a force for good throughout its history, America will use its influence to advance our interests and benefit humanity.

We must continue to enhance our influence overseas to protect the American people and promote our prosperity.

America's diplomatic and development efforts will compete to achieve better outcomes in all arenas—bilateral, multilateral, and in the information realm—to protect our interests, find new economic opportunities for Americans, and challenge our competitors.

America will seek partnerships with like-minded states to promote free market economies, private sector growth, political stability, and peace.

We champion our values — including the rule of law and individual rights — that promote strong, stable, prosperous, and sovereign states.

Our America First foreign policy celebrates America's influence in the world as a positive force that can help set the conditions for peace, prosperity, and the development of successful societies.

A New National Security Strategy for a New Era

A New National Security Strategy for a New Era

December 18, 2017 2 minute read

Our government's first duty is to its people, to our citizens—to serve their needs, to ensure their safety, to preserve their rights, and to defend their values.

President Donald J. Trump

The publication of the National Security Strategy (NSS) is a milestone for any presidency. A statutorily mandated document, the NSS explains to the American people, U.S. allies and partners, and federal agencies how the President intends to put his national security vision into practice on behalf of fellow citizens.

First and foremost, President Donald J. Trump's NSS is a reflection of his belief that putting America first is the duty of our government and the foundation for effective U.S. leadership in the world. It builds on the 11 months of Presidential action thus far to renew confidence in America both at home and abroad.

Four vital, national interests—organized as the strategy's four pillars—form the backbone of this commitment:

- Protect the homeland, the American people, and the American way of life

- Promote American prosperity

- Preserve peace through strength

- Advance American influence

This NSS and its four themes are guided by a return to principled realism.

The strategy is realist because it is clear-eyed about global competition: It acknowledges the central role of power in world affairs, affirms that sovereign states are the best hope for a peaceful world, and clearly defines our national interests. It is principled because it is grounded in the knowledge that promoting American values is key to spreading peace and prosperity around the globe.

President Trump's ultimate goal is to leave our children and grandchildren a Nation that is stronger, better, freer, prouder, and greater than ever before.

[Read a summary of the President's National Security Strategy here.](#)

[The full NSS report is available for download here.](#)

Remarks by the Vice President Introducing the President for Remarks on the Administration's National Security Strategy

Remarks by the Vice President Introducing the President for Remarks on the Administration's National Security Strategy

Issued on: December 18, 2017

The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

Washington, D.C.

2:00 P.M. EST

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you. Secretary Mattis, Secretary Tillerson, members of the Cabinet, members of Congress, members of the armed forces and law enforcement community from across this country, good afternoon and thank you all for being here as President Donald Trump articulates his vision to put the national security of America first.

President Trump has no higher priority than the safety and security of the American people. Since the outset of our administration, he's worked tirelessly to make America stronger and safer than ever before.

President Trump knows that American strength and security depends on a vibrant and growing economy. That's why this President has championed free and fair trade. He's rolled back federal red tape in record numbers. He's unleashed American energy. And under President Trump's leadership, this week, Congress will pass the largest tax cut in American history. (Applause.)

But to ensure the safety and security of the American people, our President has been working tirelessly from the first day of this administration — defending our borders, enforcing our laws,

removing dangerous illegal criminals from our streets. And illegal crossings at our southern border are already down by more than 50 percent.

Under President Trump's leadership, we're also rebuilding our military and making the strongest fighting force in history stronger still. The President has already signed the largest increase in defense spending in nearly a decade. And just last week, President Donald Trump signed into law one of the largest investments in our national defense since the days of Ronald Reagan. (Applause.)

With renewed American leadership, we're achieving real results on the international stage. Our NATO allies are paying more toward our common defense. North Korea is isolated as never before. This President has put Iran on notice, and he's put the war in Afghanistan on a path to victory. And thanks to the leadership of our Commander-in-Chief and the courage of our armed forces, ISIS is on the run. Their capital has fallen, and their so-called caliphate has crumbled across Syria and Iraq. (Applause.)

In less than a year, President Trump has made enormous progress to promote peace through American strength. And today, President Trump will take another crucial step to ensure the safety and security of our country far into the future as he announces to the American people and to our allies and adversaries across the wider world a national security strategy that puts America first.

So with gratitude for his unwavering commitment to make America safe again, it is now my high honor and distinct privilege to introduce to you the 45th President of the United States of America, President Donald Trump.

END

2:03 P.M. EST

Remarks by President Trump on the Administration's National Security Strategy

Remarks by President Trump on the Administration's National Security Strategy

Issued on: December 18, 2017

Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center

Washington, D.C.

2:03 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you. Please. I want to thank Vice President Pence, along with the many members of my Cabinet here with us today.

I also want to thank all of the dedicated professionals — military, civilian, and law enforcement — who devote their lives to serving our nation. In particular, I want to recognize General Dunford and the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Thank you, thank you, thank you. (Applause.)

In addition, we are honored to be joined by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Homeland Security Chairman Mike McCaul, and Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn. Thank you very much. Thank you for being here. Thank you. Thank you. (Applause.)

Let me begin by expressing our deepest sympathies and most heartfelt prayers for the victims of the train derailment in Washington State. We are closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with local authorities. It is all the more reason why we must start immediately fixing the infrastructure of the United States.

We're here today to discuss matters of vital importance to us all: America's security, prosperity, and standing in the world. I want to talk about where we've been, where we are now, and, finally, our strategy for where we are going in the years ahead.

Over the past 11 months, I have traveled tens of thousands of miles to visit 13 countries. I have met with more than 100 world leaders. I have carried America's message to a grand hall in Saudi Arabia, a great square in Warsaw, to the General Assembly of the United Nations, and to the

seat of democracy on the Korean Peninsula. Everywhere I traveled, it was my highest privilege and greatest honor to represent the American people.

Throughout our history, the American people have always been the true source of American greatness. Our people have promoted our culture and promoted our values. Americans have fought and sacrificed on the battlefields all over the world. We have liberated captive nations, transformed former enemies into the best of friends, and lifted entire regions of the planet from poverty to prosperity.

Because of our people, America has been among the greatest forces for peace and justice in the history of the world. The American people are generous. You are determined, you are brave, you are strong, and you are wise.

When the American people speak, all of us should listen. And just over one year ago, you spoke loud and you spoke clear. On November 8, 2016, you voted to make America great again. (Applause.) You embraced new leadership and very new strategies, and also a glorious new hope. That is why we are here today.

But to seize the opportunities of the future, we must first understand the failures of the past. For many years, our citizens watched as Washington politicians presided over one disappointment after another. To many of our leaders — so many who forgot whose voices they were to respect and whose interests they were supposed to defend — our leaders in Washington negotiated disastrous trade deals that brought massive profits to many foreign nations, but sent thousands of American factories, and millions of American jobs, to those other countries.

Our leaders engaged in nation-building abroad, while they failed to build up and replenish our nation at home. They undercut and shortchanged our men and women in uniform with inadequate resources, unstable funding, and unclear missions. They failed to insist that our often very wealthy allies pay their fair share for defense, putting a massive and unfair burden on the U.S. taxpayer and our great U.S. military.

They neglected a nuclear menace in North Korea; made a disastrous, weak, and incomprehensibly bad deal with Iran; and allowed terrorists such as ISIS to gain control of vast parts of territory all across the Middle East.

They put American energy under lock and key. They imposed punishing regulations and crippling taxes. They surrendered our sovereignty to foreign bureaucrats in faraway and distant capitals.

And over the profound objections of the American people, our politicians left our borders wide open. Millions of immigrants entered illegally. Millions more were admitted into our country without the proper vetting needed to protect our security and our economy. Leaders in Washington imposed on the country an immigration policy that Americans never voted for, never asked for, and never approved — a policy where the wrong people are allowed into our country and the right people are rejected. American citizens, as usual, have been left to bear the cost and to pick up the tab.

On top of everything else, our leaders drifted from American principles. They lost sight of America's destiny. And they lost their belief in American greatness. As a result, our citizens lost something as well. The people lost confidence in their government and, eventually, even lost confidence in their future.

But last year, all of that began to change. The American people rejected the failures of the past. You rediscovered your voice and reclaimed ownership of this nation and its destiny.

On January 20th, 2017, I stood on the steps of the Capitol to herald the day the people became the rulers of their nation again. (Applause.) Thank you. Now, less than one year later, I am proud to report that the entire world has heard the news and has already seen the signs. America is coming back, and America is coming back strong.

Upon my inauguration, I announced that the United States would return to a simple principle: The first duty of our government is to serve its citizens, many of whom have been forgotten. But

they are not forgotten anymore. With every decision and every action, we are now putting America first.

We are rebuilding our nation, our confidence, and our standing in the world. We have moved swiftly to confront our challenges, and we have confronted them head-on.

We are once again investing in our defense — almost \$700 billion, a record, this coming year. We are demanding extraordinary strength, which will hopefully lead to long and extraordinary peace. We are giving our courageous military men and women the support they need and so dearly deserve.

We have withdrawn the United States from job-killing deals such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the very expensive and unfair Paris Climate Accord. And on our trip to Asia last month, I announced that we will no longer tolerate trading abuse.

We have established strict new vetting procedures to keep terrorists out of the United States, and our vetting is getting tougher each month.

To counter Iran and block its path to a nuclear weapon, I sanctioned the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for its support of terrorism, and I declined to certify the Iran Deal to Congress.

Following my trip to the Middle East, the Gulf states and other Muslim-majority nations joined together to fight radical Islamist ideology and terrorist financing. We have dealt ISIS one devastating defeat after another. The coalition to defeat ISIS has now recaptured almost 100 percent of the land once held by these terrorists in Iraq and Syria. Great job. (Applause.) Great job. Really good. Thank you. Thank you. We have a great military. We're now chasing them wherever they flee, and we will not let them into the United States.

In Afghanistan, our troops are no longer undermined by artificial timelines, and we no longer tell our enemies of our plans. We are beginning to see results on the battlefield. And we have made clear to Pakistan that while we desire continued partnership, we must see decisive action against terrorist groups operating on their territory. And we make massive payments every year to Pakistan. They have to help.

Our efforts to strengthen the NATO Alliance set the stage for significant increases in member contributions, with tens of billions of dollars more pouring in because I would not allow member states to be delinquent in the payment while we guarantee their safety and are willing to fight wars for them. We have made clear that countries that are immensely wealthy should reimburse the United States for the cost of defending them. This is a major departure from the past, but a fair and necessary one — necessary for our country, necessary for our taxpayer, necessary for our own thought process.

Our campaign of maximum pressure on the North Korean regime has resulted in the toughest-ever sanctions. We have united our allies in an unprecedented effort to isolate North Korea. However, there is much more work to do. America and its allies will take all necessary steps to achieve a denuclearization and ensure that this regime cannot threaten the world. (Applause.) Thank you. This situation should have been taken care of long before I got into office, when it was much easier to handle. But it will be taken care of. We have no choice.

At home, we are keeping our promises and liberating the American economy. We have created more than 2 million jobs since the election. Unemployment is at a 17-year-low. The stock market is at an all-time high and, just a little while ago, hit yet another all-time high — the 85th time since my election. (Applause.)

We have cut 22 regulations for every one new regulation, the most in the history of our country. We have unlocked America's vast energy resources.

As the world watches — and the world is indeed watching — we are days away from passing historic tax cuts for American families and businesses. It will be the biggest tax cut and tax reform in the history of our country. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

And we are seeing the response we fully expected. Economic growth has topped 3 percent for two quarters in a row. GDP growth, which is way ahead of schedule under my administration, will be one of America's truly greatest weapons.

Optimism has surged. Confidence has returned. With this new confidence, we are also bringing back clarity to our thinking. We are reasserting these fundamental truths:

A nation without borders is not a nation. (Applause.)

A nation that does not protect prosperity at home cannot protect its interests abroad.

A nation that is not prepared to win a war is a nation not capable of preventing a war.

A nation that is not proud of its history cannot be confident in its future.

And a nation that is not certain of its values cannot summon the will to defend them.

Today, grounded in these truths, we are presenting to the world our new National Security Strategy. Based on my direction, this document has been in development for over a year. It has the endorsement of my entire Cabinet.

Our new strategy is based on a principled realism, guided by our vital national interests, and rooted in our timeless values.

This strategy recognizes that, whether we like it or not, we are engaged in a new era of competition. We accept that vigorous military, economic, and political contests are now playing out all around the world.

We face rogue regimes that threaten the United States and our allies. We face terrorist organizations, transnational criminal networks, and others who spread violence and evil around the globe.

We also face rival powers, Russia and China, that seek to challenge American influence, values, and wealth. We will attempt to build a great partnership with those and other countries, but in a manner that always protects our national interest.

As an example, yesterday I received a call from President Putin of Russia thanking our country for the intelligence that our CIA was able to provide them concerning a major terrorist attack planned in St. Petersburg, where many people, perhaps in the thousands, could have been killed. They were able to apprehend these terrorists before the event, with no loss of life. And that's a great thing, and the way it's supposed to work. That is the way it's supposed to work.

But while we seek such opportunities of cooperation, we will stand up for ourselves, and we will stand up for our country like we have never stood up before. (Applause.) Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

We know that American success is not a forgone conclusion. It must be earned and it must be won. Our rivals are tough, they're tenacious, and committed to the long term. But so are we.

To succeed, we must integrate every dimension of our national strength, and we must compete with every instrument of our national power.

Under the Trump administration, America is gaining wealth, leading to enhanced power — faster than anyone thought — with \$6 trillion more in the stock market alone since the election — \$6 trillion.

With the strategy I am announcing today, we are declaring that America is in the game and America is going to win. (Applause.) Thank you.

Our strategy advances four vital national interests. First, we must protect the American people, the homeland, and our great American way of life. This strategy recognizes that we cannot secure our nation if we do not secure our borders. So for the first time ever, American strategy now includes a serious plan to defend our homeland. It calls for the construction of a wall on our southern border; ending chain migration and the horrible visa and lottery programs; closing loopholes that undermine enforcement; and strongly supporting our Border Patrol agents, ICE officers, and Homeland Security personnel. (Applause.)

In addition, our strategy calls for us to confront, discredit, and defeat radical Islamic terrorism and ideology and to prevent it from spreading into the United States. And we will develop new

ways to counter those who use new domains, such as cyber and social media, to attack our nation or threaten our society.

The second pillar of our strategy is to promote American prosperity. For the first time, American strategy recognizes that economic security is national security. Economic vitality, growth, and prosperity at home is absolutely necessary for American power and influence abroad. Any nation that trades away its prosperity for security will end up losing both.

That is why this National Security Strategy emphasizes, more than any before, the critical steps we must take to ensure the prosperity of our nation for a long, long time to come.

It calls for cutting taxes and rolling back unnecessary regulations. It calls for trade based on the principles of fairness and reciprocity. It calls for firm action against unfair trade practices and intellectual property theft. And it calls for new steps to protect our national security industrial and innovation base.

The strategy proposes a complete rebuilding of American infrastructure — our roads, bridges, airports, waterways, and communications infrastructure. And it embraces a future of American energy dominance and self-sufficiency.

The third pillar of our strategy is to preserve peace through strength. (Applause.) We recognize that weakness is the surest path to conflict, and unrivaled power is the most certain means of defense. For this reason, our strategy breaks from the damaging defense sequester. We're going to get rid of that. (Applause.)

It calls for a total modernization of our military, and reversing previous decisions to shrink our armed forces — even as threats to national security grew. It calls for streamlining acquisition, eliminating bloated bureaucracy, and massively building up our military, which has the fundamental side benefit of creating millions and millions of jobs.

This strategy includes plans to counter modern threats, such as cyber and electromagnetic attacks. It recognizes space as a competitive domain and calls for multi-layered missile defense. (Applause.) This strategy outlines important steps to address new forms of conflict such as economic and political aggression.

And our strategy emphasizes strengthening alliances to cope with these threats. It recognizes that our strength is magnified by allies who share principles — and our principles — and shoulder their fair share of responsibility for our common security.

Fourth and finally, our strategy is to advance American influence in the world, but this begins with building up our wealth and power at home.

America will lead again. We do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone, but we will champion the values without apology. We want strong alliances and partnerships based on cooperation and reciprocity. We will make new partnerships with those who share our goals, and make common interests into a common cause. We will not allow inflexible ideology to become an obsolete and obstacle to peace.

We will pursue the vision we have carried around the world over this past year — a vision of strong, sovereign, and independent nations that respect their citizens and respect their neighbors; nations that thrive in commerce and cooperation, rooted in their histories and branching out toward their destinies.

That is the future we wish for this world, and that is the future we seek in America. (Applause.)

With this strategy, we are calling for a great reawakening of America, a resurgence of confidence, and a rebirth of patriotism, prosperity, and pride.

And we are returning to the wisdom of our founders. In America, the people govern, the people rule, and the people are sovereign. What we have built here in America is precious and unique. In all of history, never before has freedom reigned, the rule of law prevailed, and the people thrived as we have here for nearly 250 years.

We must love and defend it. We must guard it with vigilance and spirit, and, if necessary, like so many before us, with our very lives. And we declare that our will is renewed, our future is regained, and our dreams are restored.

Every American has a role to play in this grand national effort. And today, I invite every citizen to take their part in our vital mission. Together, our task is to strengthen our families, to build up our communities, to serve our citizens, and to celebrate American greatness as a shining example to the world.

As long as we are proud — and very proud — of who we are, how we got here, and what we are fighting for to preserve, we will not fail.

If we do all of this, if we rediscover our resolve and commit ourselves to compete and win again, then together we will leave our children and our grandchildren a nation that is stronger, better, freer, prouder, and, yes, an America that is greater than ever before.

God Bless You. Thank you very much. Thank you. (Applause.)

END

2:32 P.M. EST

ИСТОЧНИКИ получения информации

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2. Государственный департамент США. URL: <http://www.state.gov/>.
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