

The trumpet of freedom has been sounded, and that trumpet never calls retreat.

Before history is written in books, it is written in courage, the courage of honorable soldiers, the courage of oppressed peoples, the courage of free nations in difficult tasks. Our generation is fortunate to live in a time of courage, and we are proud to serve in freedom's cause.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. at the National Defense University at Fort Lesley J. McNair. In his remarks, he referred to former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell; Lt. Gen. Michael M. Dunn, USAF, president, National Defense University; President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; President Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority; and Col. Mark McKnight, USA, commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3d Infantry Division. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Former President George Bush and Former President William J. Clinton

March 8, 2005

Tsunami Relief Efforts

President Bush. Listen, I want to thank former Presidents Clinton and Bush for representing our country and showing the best heart of America when it came to helping those who suffered from the tsunami natural disaster.

The Presidents presented me with a report. This report basically says America cares deeply about suffering people around the world. I can't think of two better Ambassadors to carry our message of compassion. They reported that progress is being made. Nearly a billion dollars of private-sector money has gone to help. Our Government requested 950 million additional dollars to help.

And I want to thank both leaders for really showing the world how much we care. I think the world is beginning to see a different impression of America. One of the things the Presidents reported to me is there was an outpouring of great kindness everywhere they went. I'm heartened that the good folks

of Indonesia, for example, see a different America now when they think about our country. They see a country which of course will defend our security but a country which also cares deeply about suffering people, regardless of their religion, that when we find a Muslim child suffering, we weep just as equally as when we find another child that suffers.

And so I want to thank you all for doing the best. I'd like to ask both Presidents to maybe say a comment. They'll be willing to take questions after this in the Roosevelt Room.

Former President Bush. My comment is President Clinton was a joy to work with. I was pleased that the President asked me to be a part of this. And the only other thing I'd say is that when you see the children out there, you count your own blessings, because the devastation was real and the generosity of the American people will go a long way to making things better in all the four countries we visited.

Former President Clinton. I'd like to thank the President for giving me a chance to work with former President Bush. We had a very good experience, I think, on this trip and before and after raising funds. We're going down to Florida to raise some more money tomorrow.

The report basically says that these people have done an unbelievable job dealing with their losses and cleaning up but that there's a lot of work yet to be done, particularly in the hardest hit countries, to restore them to normal life, and that we want America and the world to be a part of this all the way through to the end.

They are very grateful for what the American military did, for what USAID did, for what these hundreds of nongovernmental organizations have done. But there's a lot of work left to be done, and we want to see it through to the end.

President Bush. By the way, let me—one other point. President Clinton and President Bush are going to play golf tomorrow to raise money for the tsunami victims—which goes to show how sick he is. [*Laughter*]

Former President Clinton. We are. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:45 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on the United Nations General Assembly Vote To Ban Human Cloning

March 8, 2005

I applaud the strong vote of the United Nations General Assembly today urging countries to ban all forms of human cloning. I am also grateful for the strong statement against practices that exploit women.

Human life must not be created for the purpose of destroying it. The United States and the international community have now spoken clearly that human cloning is an affront to human dignity and that we must work together to protect human life. I look forward to working with Members of Congress to enact legislation to ban all human cloning in the United States.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Traian Basescu of Romania and an Exchange With Reporters

March 9, 2005

President Bush. We'll have brief opening statements. The President and I will take two questions per side.

Mr. President, welcome.

President Basescu. Thank you very much.

President Bush. I am impressed by your leadership. I am grateful for your friendship. Romania has been a steadfast ally of freedom. And Mr. President, I can't thank you enough for coming to discuss a wide range of subjects.

We discussed the neighborhood, and he gave me very good advice about Moldova. We discussed the Black Sea. And the President has got a clear vision as to how to make sure the world is more peaceful. We discussed the fact that freedom is spreading throughout the Middle East. We discussed our bilateral relations.

I told the President I'm most impressed by his campaign to rid the Government of

corruption in Romania, a steadfast, strong commitment. He believes in transparency and rule of law, and that is very important for American companies looking for a place to invest to hear from the leader of the country. But the thing about this President, he's more than words; he's action.

And so, Mr. President, I welcome you to the Oval Office. I thank you for your friendship, and I'm proud to call you friend.

President Basescu. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm happy being here in my first visit over the ocean from when I was elected as President of Romania. I'm happy to discuss with our ally, the President Bush, with the United States—I am happy to pass our message regarding democracy, regarding freedom, regarding development of our strategic partnership, regarding the problems which the Black Sea have in this moment, and regarding the solutions which we can find together in order to make a peaceful and secure area on the Black Sea.

At same time, I was happy to discuss with Mr. President the future evolutions of our access on the United States. Romania considers that we can be included on the program of allowing Romanians to circulate without a visa on the United States. And I thank you very much, to President Bush, for the open approach regarding this subject.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Bush. Welcome. A couple of questions. Terry [Terence Hunt, Associated Press].

Iran

Q. Mr. President, how credible do you think U.S. intelligence is about Iran's nuclear program? Do you think it's solid enough to make judgments about whether Iran is trying to develop nuclear weapons?

President Bush. I think it's very important for the United States to continue to work with our friends and allies which believe that the Iranians want a nuclear weapon and which know that Iran possessing a nuclear weapon would be very destabilizing.

In my trip to Europe, I discovered common ground with a lot of European nations, which believe and are worried about Iranian intention. And one reason there needs to be