

healthier, and more productive. Last week, I established the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, the largest single conservation area in the history of our country and the largest protected marine area in the world. Enactment of a stronger Magnuson-Stevens Act is one of the top priorities of the Ocean Action Plan, and Senate passage of this bill is an important milestone on the way to another significant bipartisan ocean policy achievement.

I urge the House of Representatives to join the Senate in passing this important initiative.

NOTE: The statement referred to S. 2012.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony in Budapest, Hungary

June 22, 2006

President Laszlo Solyom of Hungary.

Mr. President, may I welcome you to Sandor Palace. Thank you very much for coming to Budapest to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution and freedom fight.

Mr. President, your visit is a rarity and signifying prelude to the celebration later this year, which will be attended by more than 50 heads of state and government here in Budapest.

Your visit today here in Hungary underlines the importance of 1956, how important it was from the point of view of global history. At the same time, it also highlights the importance of those values for which the Hungarians and Hungary fought in 1956. These are freedom, liberty, democracy, human rights, and national self-determination.

And both the United States of America and Hungary belong to the same community of common values. This is the foundation of the fact that now we are allies. And this is also—gave a foundation to the fact that after crushing 1956, the United States of America admitted more than 35,000 Hungarian refugees. For that, Mr. President, I wish to express my sincere thanks.

These values constitute the foundation of our alliance. It also means obligation for us, and it also means that we have got to represent that in an authentic way. And that was

also the secret to Hungary's successful process of democratization and the fact that even under the extraordinary international circumstances made no such—[inaudible]—insisted while observing the Constitution and the law.

It is my firm belief that our common responsibilities, duty now is to fight terrorism. This fight against terrorism can be successful only if every step and measures taken are in line with international law. That is why it is my special pleasure to welcome the Vienna declaration.

We are aware of the fact and the various help and of the system that the United States of America contributed and helped this country and the countries of this region, that democracy should be able to take root.

There are many examples—many of these examples are not even known to the general public. In the course of our discussions, Mr. President, I would like to give you a couple of examples for that and also would like to speak about our common responsibility for the future generation and also sustainable global growth, and also mention a few words about the visa.

Thank you very much.

President Bush. Listen, I'm thrilled to be here, Mr. President. Thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for your personal contribution to your country's democracy.

I am here to celebrate the 1956 Revolution, the idea of a revolution that celebrated the notion that all men and women should be free. I'm also here to confirm the friendship between Hungary and the United States.

I bring greetings from thousands of Hungarian Americans who are very proud of their homeland and their heritage. I also bring greetings from a nation that admires your courage and your desire to continue to do the hard work necessary for democracy to take hold.

I thank you for your grand hospitality, and I too look forward to our discussions.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 9:40 a.m. in the Maria Therese Salon at the Sandor Palace. President Solyom spoke in Hungarian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following Discussions With Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany of Hungary in Budapest

June 22, 2006

Prime Minister Gyurcsany. First of all, I'd like to thank from the depth of my heart to the President of the United States for his visit today to Hungary, on the 50th anniversary of the '56 Revolution. We consider this visit to be a tribute to be a point to perseverance of the Hungarian people for freedom.

We also see this as a confirmation of our joint effort that freedom and democracy must not only be preserved but also spread around the world in every region and every country, wherever necessary. Now this work that we started must not and cannot be completed, but it must be continued, because the world is the way how you shape it.

The alliance of the United States and Hungary is based on values and interests at the same time. There are no major unsolved or painful issues, open issues in the relations of our two countries. There are challenges, and there are tasks to be solved, but that's just how it is.

As a European country, I believe that we should finally end with preconception that Europe represents morality and the United States represents efficiency. And if we are democrats, then we believe that morale and power must go hand in hand. And we are democrats on both sides of the Atlantic. Now in terms of practical matters—of course we just cannot avoid talking about the visa issue whenever we meet. We are well aware of each other's standpoints. We cannot pose much surprises to each other. But because we know that this is a long road, this is a long path that we must go down, so we must look for other areas where we can be more successful.

However, an important step on this road is that within a couple of months, finally, the building, the Tancsics was captured was kept—the building known as the Tancsics prison will return to Hungarian ownership. Let me tell you quite frankly that the President showed much more understanding for the importance and the meaning of this issue. And just within this circle I can say that he promised, and if he did that, it will happen.

So, by and large, this is what we talked about.

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, thank you. I'm honored to be here. As I recall, this trip started back when you invited me to come when you were visiting the Oval Office. I thank you for the invitation. I'm proud to be here. I'm impressed by the beauty of this city. I'm honored to be able to speak to the people of Hungary tonight when I talk about the unbelievable thirst for freedom that was exhibited in 1956. And that spirit of freedom still exists in the world today. And I thank you for your troops who are working through NATO to help Iraq and the PRT that we're working on for Afghanistan. And thank you for your commitment to help others be free.

It is also my pleasure to congratulate you on being reelected. It's not easy to win a second opportunity to serve, but you have done so. And I appreciate the courage you're showing not only in foreign policy but in domestic policy. We have a very good relationship, which means the Prime Minister is comfortable in bringing up the visa issue. Look, I understand this is a difficult issue, and we have developed a roadmap to work through this issue, so the people of your good country will understand that you're doing your best and I'm doing my best to meet U.S. laws, and you're doing your best to represent the people of Hungary to get this issue solved.

And so thank you for bringing up a lot of issues, and thank you for your leadership. And we are very proud of our friendship and alliance with Hungary. Thanks for the invitation.

Prime Minister Gyurcsany. Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 11:40 a.m. in the Parliament Building. Prime Minister Gyurcsany spoke in Hungarian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.