

the President today. So thank you very much, Mr. President.

Japan and U.S. share an alliance which is based on fundamental values, such as freedom, democracy, basic human rights, and the rule of law. And we agreed with each other that strengthening our alliance would be a good in maintaining peace and security of not just Japan and the region surrounding Japan but the entire world.

Also concerning North Korea, as the President mentioned, we agreed that we would take a coordinated approach to reach a final resolution of the issue and also to achieve some concrete results at an early stage. We also agreed to strengthen and accelerate our cooperation concerning ballistic missile defense, and we will instruct our foreign ministers and defense ministers to conduct consideration concerning this matter.

We are faced with many difficult issues, like North Korea, the fight against terror, and also Iraq. But we agreed that we will be utilizing the alliance we have between Japan and the United States for the good of the world and the region for a long time.

And I'm looking forward to visiting the United States sometime next year and seeing the President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:47 p.m. in the Sheraton Hanoi. Prime Minister Abe spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan and President Roh Moo-hyun of South Korea in Hanoi

November 18, 2006

I want to thank the leaders of two of America's strongest allies, the President of South Korea and the Prime Minister of Japan, for joining in this trilateral discussion. It is an important dialog between three democracies, all of which are committed to peace and security. I look forward to discussing a wide range of issues with these two leaders. There is no doubt, when we work together, we can bring peace and stability and prosperity for our peoples.

And so I want to thank you all very much for joining. I appreciate your time, and I'm looking forward to our dialog. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:02 p.m. at the Sheraton Hanoi.

The President's Radio Address

November 18, 2006

Good morning. This week I'm visiting Singapore, Indonesia, and Vietnam, where I'm attending the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum. On this trip, I am carrying a message for the people of this region: America will remain engaged in Asia because our interests depend on the expansion of freedom and opportunity in this vital part of the world.

Asia is important to America because prosperity in our country depends on trade with Asia's growing economies. Today, America's trade across the Pacific is greater than our trade across the Atlantic, and we need to continue opening up markets in this part of the world to American goods and services.

My position is clear: As long as the playing field is level, America's farmers, small businesses, and workers can compete with anyone. So America will continue to pursue free and fair trade at every level with individual countries, across whole regions, and through the World Trade Organization. By opening new markets for American goods and services, we help create new customers for our products abroad and jobs and opportunities for our workers and small businesses at home.

Asia is also important to America because our nations face common challenges like energy and disease that transcend borders. Our growing economies are too dependent on oil, and we have a common interest in pursuing affordable, reliable energy alternatives. So we're working with our partners in this region to develop new energy technologies that will make us less dependent on oil, including clean coal and ethanol, biodiesel and hydrogen fuel cells.

We are also working with our partners in the region to address the threat of diseases like avian flu, which has the potential to claim many lives and inflict terrible damage on our