

great challenge. And by continuing to work together, that unshakable unity of determination will be ours. Together, we confront and defeat the evil of terrorism. Together, we can secure the Almighty's gift of liberty and justice to millions who have not known it. And together, we can build a world that is freer, safer, and better for the generations who follow.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:12 a.m. in the General Assembly Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations; and Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

### Remarks Following a Meeting on Food Security in New York City

September 23, 2008

Today Laura and I and Condi and other members of the administration are really honored to be at a table with folks from the private sector and the public sector and NGOs who are all concerned about hunger.

The United States has made a very strong and powerful commitment to help those who need food. We've committed about \$5 billion of taxpayers' money over the next 2 years to make sure people don't go hungry. And it's our interest that we do that. On the other hand, it is also in our interest to promote a second Green Revolution.

And how do you do that? Well, you use good science to get farmers in sub-Saharan Africa, for example, the tools necessary to be able to deal with the conditions in which they have to farm. You use government aid to build infrastructure so farmers can get products to market. You have good trade policy so that farm goods can travel freely across national borders. You have good agricultural policy that—combined with good trade policy, which reduces the subsidies that sometimes make it hard for, you know, indigenous farming communities to take off. You have—promote value-added processing.

And so this is the strategy that's being discussed here at this table. The United States

is a compassionate nation. When citizens around the world suffer, we suffer with them. We're a strong enough nation to help people in our own country who are having trouble, but we're also strong enough to help others as well. And a cornerstone of good foreign policy and a good compassionate philosophy is making sure that people don't go hungry.

And so I thank you all very much for sharing that passion. I thank you for the leadership roles you have taken. And may the Good Lord continue to bless your work. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:57 a.m. at the Millennium U.N. Plaza Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

### Remarks Following a Lunch With Human Rights Activists in New York City

September 23, 2008

**The President.** Laura and I and Secretary Rice and members of my administration have just had a wonderful lunch with democracy leaders, human rights activists, courageous men and women who have stood strong for freedom. I assured them that this Government—or my Government, believes in the universality of freedom. We believe there's an Almighty, and a gift of that Almighty to every man, woman, and child is freedom.

They inspire us. Here in America, we have an obligation to help others realize the blessings of liberty. They have been on the frontlines of securing liberty. And so we want to thank you very much for your courage. We thank you for your set of beliefs that remain strong. Thank you for taking time to be with us today. And you might want to say something.

[At this point, First Lady Laura Bush made brief remarks, concluding with the introduction of human rights activist, U Kovida.]

**U Kovida.** Thank you very much for inviting me here. This is really a nice day and my friends—discussion with many people. In Burma, many hundred people, a lot. We all need human rights, all the world's people, because we are all human. So if—when people, there's no human rights, there's no people and there's no human. So I hope so—