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Remarks Following Discussions With President-Elect Felipe Calderon of Mexico

November 9, 2006

President Bush. It is my pleasure to have welcomed the President-elect of Mexico here to the Oval Office. I have had a fascinating and important conversation. This is a man who won a very good election. I'm proud of the Mexican people for conducting an election that is—was open and honest. We've spent a lot of time talking about vital issues. I have made it very clear to the President-elect that Mexico is a priority of this administration.

I know a fair amount about Mexico; after all, I was the Governor of Texas. I assured him that we will work very closely together. We talked about trade. We talked about mutual interests, fighting drugs, and we talked, of course, about migration. And I assured the President-elect that the words I said in the very Oval Office that we sit, about a comprehensive immigration vision, are words I still believe strongly.

And so I want to welcome you here. I wish you all the best as you—on your Inauguration, on your big day. And I'm looking forward to working very closely with you.

President-elect Calderon. Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

[*At this point, President-elect Calderon spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

President Bush. *Si, senor. Gracias.*

Did you understand that?

Q. No.

President-elect Calderon. President Bush and I had a very good conversation today. And we reaffirmed the purpose that we both had, which is to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States even more.

I expressed to President Bush my concern regarding the issue of migration. President Bush was very open to all the arguments that I have presented to him. And we both stressed the need to have a comprehensive vision with which we can move forward. This is, of course, an extremely important issue. It is not the only issue in our bilateral relationship.

We want to foster our trade relationship—our economic relationship even more. We both understand that the only solution to many of the problems that we have is to create well-paid jobs in Mexico. And for that, we need even more investment. We will continue to show the importance of democracy, the importance of free trade, the importance of all of these issues that will make us an even stronger nation, which will also strengthen the bilateral relationship.

And we were able to have a conversation between two people—two people who have very much in common. And we both look forward to a very constructive relationship in the future.

President Bush. *Gracias.* Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President-elect Calderon spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 4

In the morning, in Englewood, CO, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at Mile High Coffee, he had breakfast with small-business owners. He then traveled to Greeley, CO.

Later in the morning, he traveled to Aurora, CO, where, at Buckley Air Force Base, he met with family members of a Navy serviceman who was killed in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

During the day, the President met with Robert M. Gates, president, Texas A&M University.

November 5

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Grand Island, NE, where, upon arrival, he

met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Holly Theis. Later, he traveled to Topeka, KS, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Sharon Meissner.

In the evening, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to Pensacola, FL, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Honor Bell.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Bentonville, AR. Later, they traveled to Dallas, TX, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Lori Whitlow.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of Israel to the White House on November 13.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anthony W. Ryan to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury (Financial Markets).

The President announced his intention to nominate Leon R. Sequeira to be Assistant Secretary of Labor (Policy).

November 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Crawford Fire Station, he and Mrs. Bush voted.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, in the Oval Office, the President met with Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld.

November 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

November 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in his private dining room, he had a breakfast meeting with Republican congressional leaders. Then, in the Oval Office, he and Mrs. Bush presented the 2006 National Medals of Arts and National Humanitarian Medals.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew G. Biggs to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security.

The President announced his intention to nominate Terry L. Cline to be Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard Allan Hill to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Diane Humetewa to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to Ankara, Turkey, to attend the funeral of former Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit of Turkey on November 11: Jeffrey Clay Sell (head of delegation); Ross Wilson; and W. Robert Pearson.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted November 9

John Robert Bolton,
of Maryland, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations.

John Robert Bolton,
of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations