

then we can start having political discussions.

Q. Former—

The President. The Mitchell report was a very good report, and I called former Senator Mitchell to thank him for his contributions. Our Government and our Nation supports the Mitchell report. The Mitchell report clearly says: Step one is to stop the violence. And that is where our efforts are from our Government. We are doing everything we can to make it clear to all parties

that we will work as hard as we can to stop the violence.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:08 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Senator George J. Mitchell, chairman, Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee. The committee's report was issued April 30. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on a Multilateral Initiative on Steel *June 5, 2001*

This administration is committed to free trade as an engine of growth. As part of our free trade agenda, we are committed to ensuring that American industry and American workers can compete on a level playing field. That is why today I am announcing my intent to launch an initiative to respond to the challenges facing the U.S. steel industry. This initiative will be designed to restore market forces to world steel markets and eliminate the practices that harm our steel industry and its workers.

The U.S. steel industry has been affected by a 50-year legacy of foreign government intervention in the market and direct financial support of their steel industries. The result has been significant excess capacity, inefficient production, and a glut of steel on world markets.

My decision to pursue this initiative comes after extensive consultations by members of the Cabinet with our industry, our steelworkers, and interested Members of Congress. We have discussed the challenges facing U.S. steel manufacturers, and we understand that we have a critical stake in a healthy U.S. steel industry.

Thus, I intend to take the following steps. First, I am directing the United

States Trade Representative, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of the Treasury, to initiate negotiations with our trading partners seeking the near-term elimination of inefficient excess capacity in the steel industry worldwide, in a manner consistent with applicable U.S. laws.

Second, I am directing the U.S. Trade Representative, together with the Secretaries of Commerce and the Treasury, to initiate negotiations on the rules that will govern steel trade in the future and eliminate the underlying market-distorting subsidies that led to the current conditions in the first place. Absent strict disciplines barring government support, direct or indirect, for inefficient steelmaking capacity, the problems confronting the U.S. steel industry—and the steel industry worldwide—will only recur.

We see these negotiations—and the goal of restoring market forces—as being in our interest and in the interest of our trading partners and their steel industries. That is why we would like to work cooperatively with our trading partners in pursuing this initiative.

Third, I am directing the U.S. Trade Representative to request the initiation of

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an investigation of injury to the United States industry by the International Trade Commission under section 201 of the Trade Act of 1974. This action is consistent with our WTO obligations.

This three-part strategy, coupled with further restructuring of the U.S. industry,

should help the industry meet the challenges it faces. I look forward to working together with the industry, the steelworkers, Congress, and our international trading partners in support of this important initiative.

Remarks at the Dedication of the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia

June 6, 2001

Thank you all very much. At ease, and be seated. Thank you for that warm welcome.

Governor Gilmore, thank you so very much for your friendship and your leadership here in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Lieutenant Governor Hager and Attorney General Earley, thank you, as well, for your hospitality.

I'm honored to be traveling today with Secretary Principi, Veterans Affairs Department. I'm honored to be traveling today with two fantastic United States Senators from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Senator Warner and Senator Allen. Congressmen Goode and Goodlatte are here, as well. Thank you for your presence. The Ambassador from France—it's a pleasure to see him, and thank you for your kind words. Delegate Putney, Chaplain Sessions, Bob Slaughter, Richard Burrow, distinguished guests, and my fellow Americans. I'm honored to be here today to dedicate this memorial. And this is a proud day for the people of Virginia and for the people of the United States. I'm honored to share it with you, on behalf of millions of Americans.

We have many World War II and D-day veterans with us today, and we're honored by your presence. We appreciate your example, and thank you for coming. And let it be recorded, we're joined by one of the most distinguished of them all, a man

who arrived at Normandy by glider with the 82d Airborne Division, a man who serves America to this very hour. Please welcome Maj. Gen. Strom Thurmond. [*Applause*]

You have raised a fitting memorial to D-day, and you have put it in just the right place, not on a battlefield of war but in a small Virginia town, a place like so many others that were home to the men and women who help liberate a continent.

Our presence here, 57 years removed from that event, gives testimony to how much was gained and how much was lost—what was gained that first day was a beach and then a village and then a country. And, in time, all of western Europe would be freed from fascism and its armies.

The achievement of Operation Overlord is nearly impossible to overstate, in its consequences for our own lives and the life of the world. Free societies in Europe can be traced to the first footprints on the first beach on June 6, 1944.

What was lost on D-day we can never measure and never forget. When the day was over, America and her Allies had lost at least 2,500 of the bravest men ever to wear a uniform. Many thousands more would die on the days that followed. They scaled towering cliffs, looking straight up into enemy fire. They dropped into grassy fields sown with landmines. They overran machine gun nests hidden everywhere,