

What we differ in is that we differ in the ways and means we perceive that are suitable for reaching the same objective. And given the nature of the relationship between the United States and Russia, one can rest assured that whatever final solution is found, it will not threaten or put to threat the interests of both our countries and of the world. And we shall continue our discussions.

President Bush. This is the last question, and then what we're going to do is, we're going to walk around and say hello to everybody, and then we're going to go back to the ranch.

Yes, ma'am.

Student. My name is Judy Swinson, and I'm in seventh grade.

President Bush. Seventh grade. Good.

Future Visit to Russia

Student. And if you do go to Russia, are you going to be taking some kids from Crawford? [Laughter]

President Bush. No. [Laughter]

President Putin. I am extremely grateful for this question. The whole audience basically started on this note, and you finalized the whole thing with your question. [Laughter] This is not a mere coincidence, I believe. On our way here, the President invited to come here when it's plus-40 Celsius, more than 110, and he invited me to join a plus-40 club who jog when it

is 110 and more. [Laughter] Well, I'll think about it. [Laughter]

Indeed, in our country, there are regions where people live, by the way, in Siberia, where for one—last year, for 2 weeks in a row, the temperatures were about around or below minus-50 Celsius—for 2 weeks running. My promise is, I will not terrorize your President with such low temperatures—[laughter]—and would be glad to see any of you present here in Russia.

But first of all, I would like to address here at this juncture our hosts, the school-children, the young audience here. At the count of three, those who want your President to come to Russia, raise your hands and say yes. One, two—

Audience members. Yes!

President Bush. Thank you all. Very good night.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. in the gymnasium. In his remarks, he referred to President Putin's daughters, Masha and Katya; rescued humanitarian aid workers Heather Mercer and Dayna Curry; and Russian exchange students Maria Vasulkova, Timur Kurmaev, Alexander Mairin, Natalia Smirnova, Dmitri Kapitonov, Svetlana Mordasova, and Anastasia Proconich. President Putin spoke in Russian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on Congressional Action on Aviation Security Legislation November 15, 2001

I commend the House and Senate conferees for reaching an agreement that puts the Federal Government in charge of aviation security, making airline travel safer for the American people.

This agreement improves upon the Senate-passed legislation in several important ways, including putting responsibility for all

modes of transportation security at the Department of Transportation, where it belongs. Today's agreement also gives the Federal Government the flexibility to ensure a safe transition to a new aviation security system and will ultimately offer local authorities an option to employ the highest

quality workforce—public or private. In addition, the compromise will help ensure security by requiring that all screeners be U.S. citizens and by guaranteeing the screening of all checked bags.

Safety comes first. And when it comes to safety, we will set high standards and enforce them. I congratulate the conferees and look forward to signing this important legislation into law.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan *November 15, 2001*

As the new moon signals the holy month of Ramadan, I extend warm greetings to Muslims throughout the United States and around the world. The Islam that we know is a faith devoted to the worship of one God, as revealed through The Holy Qu'ran. It teaches the value and importance of charity, mercy, and peace. And it is one of the fastest growing religions in America, with millions of American believers today.

The American Muslim community is as varied as the many Muslim communities across the world. Muslims from diverse backgrounds pray together in mosques all across our great land. And American Muslims serve in every walk of life, including our armed forces.

The Holy Qu'ran says: "Piety does not lie in turning your face to the East or West. Piety lies in believing in God." (2:177). Americans now have turned to acts of charity, sending relief to the Afghan people, who have suffered for so many years. America is proud to play a leading role in the humanitarian relief efforts in Afghanistan, through airdrops and truck convoys of food, medicine, and other much-needed supplies. And today we are committed to working for the long-term reconstruction of that troubled land.

We send our sincerest wishes to Muslims in America and around the world for health, prosperity, and happiness during Ramadan and throughout the coming year.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Revision of the United States Arctic Research Plan *November 15, 2001*

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Arctic Research and Policy Act of 1984, as amended (15 U.S.C. 4108(a)), I transmit herewith

the seventh biennial revision (2002–2006) to the United States Arctic Research Plan.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
November 15, 2001.