

They're just, in an immensely difficult situation, taking a different perspective.

I think if people approach the question with that type of good will, even towards people with whom they profoundly disagree, then I think the answers are, if not easier to find, they're easier then to explain. But as I say, we took our decision here, but your decision is for the President and people in the United States.

President Bush. I was wondering if anybody has got any extra Pepsodent? [*Laughter*] Get it?

Prime Minister Blair. Okay. Thanks a lot.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 6:30 p.m. at Halton House at the Royal Air Force Halton base. In his remarks, he referred to President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

Remarks on Departure From Oxford, England July 20, 2001

Good morning. First, I'd like to thank the Prime Minister and Mrs. Blair for their gracious hospitality. I can assure you, Chequers is a—it's a good place to get a night's sleep and a good place to renew a confirmed friendship.

The Prime Minister and I had a wide-ranging discussion. We're really intent to make sure that our relationship is strong and honest and open. And I can assure the people of Great Britain, as well as my own country, that our relationship and alliance has never been stronger.

Secondly, I'm off to Genoa, where the G-7 and the G-8 will meet to discuss how to enhance the world's prosperity. It really begins with each of our own countries making sure our economic houses are in order. I will share with my fellow leaders the fact that we shepherded through a major reduction in income taxes in America so that the working people have got more money in their pockets to spend on their needs.

I'll also share the fact that our Federal Reserve is conscious of the need to make sure that the interest rates are such that we have economic vitality. As well, we will discuss ways to make sure countries less fortunate than ours will be able to sustain economic growth. It's imperative that we have a new round of global trade talks,

to make sure that all nations in the world have got opportunity within their lands.

There are some who will try to disrupt the meetings, claiming they represent the poor. To those folks I say, instead of addressing policies that represent the poor, you embrace policies that lock poor people into poverty, and that's unacceptable to the United States. Trade has been the best avenue for economic growth for all countries, and I reject the isolationism and protectionism that dominates those who will try to disrupt the meetings in Genoa.

And finally, on the homefront, I'm pleased that the United States Congress easily passed a Faith-Based Initiative sponsored by J.C. Watts of Oklahoma and Tony Hall of Ohio. It's an initiative that puts our Federal Government squarely on the side of faith-based and community-based programs, all of which exist to help a neighbor in need.

The debate has been long and arduous, and now the Congress is beginning to act. It's a positive step toward making sure the American Dream extends its reach throughout all our communities. It's a step that recognizes that Government can't cause people to love one another, but what Government can do is stand by—side by side with loving individuals who are intent upon

July 20 / Administration of George W. Bush, 2001

bringing compassion and hope to neighborhoods where there may not be any.

I congratulate the House. I urge the United States Senate to act on this measure quickly, so that the armies of compassion, which exist all across America, will be invigorated and continue their march to make sure our country is hopeful and optimistic.

Thank you very much for your hospitality. May God bless Great Britain, and may God continue to bless America.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:23 a.m. at Royal Air Force Brize Norton airfield. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie.

G7 Statement—Genova

July 20, 2001

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the G7 countries and the Representatives of the European Union, met today in Genova to address current challenges in world macroeconomic trends and to bolster efforts aimed at promoting growth and stability, and at improving the efficiency of the international financial system.

World Economy

2. While the global economy has slowed more than expected over the past year, sound economic policies and fundamentals provide a solid foundation for stronger growth. We will remain vigilant and forward looking in implementing measures, as necessary, to ensure that our economies move towards a more sustained pattern of growth, in line with their potential. We pledge to pursue policies that will contribute to global growth by enhancing strong productivity growth in a sound macroeconomic environment, through structural reform, free trade and strengthened international economic co-operation.

- In the United States, while growth has slowed sharply, long-term trends remain favourable. Markets are dynamic and flexible, and both monetary and fiscal policies are being actively employed to support recovery, while maintaining price stability. The re-

cently enacted tax cuts should bolster growth.

- In Canada, tax cuts and monetary conditions are supporting growth while structural policies should continue to be aimed at increasing productivity. In the United Kingdom, where the slowdown appears moderate, policies should continue to strengthen the foundations for sustained growth and employment over the medium term, and meet the inflation target.
- In the euro area, although economic activity has weakened, growth prospects remain favourable. Tax cuts, as well as structural reforms aimed at further increasing employment, should continue to support sustainable non-inflationary growth. The steady implementation of economic reforms will contribute to further raising the potential for growth.
- In Japan, economic activity has further weakened, and prices continue to decline. Against this background, monetary policy should keep providing ample liquidity. Vigorous implementation of financial and corporate sector reforms is needed to lay the foundation for stronger economic growth over the medium term. We welcome the recently announced reform initiatives, which will contribute to this end.