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what His Excellency, the President, has just said regarding our discussions, particularly focusing, obviously, on the fight against terrorism but also about the fight that has happened in Afghanistan and that the support that has been rendered by us, too.

We, as you all know, are very committed to the participation in the peace corps in Afghanistan, under the umbrella of the United Nations. Obviously, and as the President has just pointed out, we are very interested in committing ourselves to training police forces, law enforcement forces, within Afghanistan because we find it crucially important that such intra-Afghanistan proper homegrown police forces can be built up in the process. And in the more long term, obviously, a military structure will be needed here, too.

I obviously wouldn't like to forget the fact that I have congratulated the President on the economic performance that the country has obviously been able to show. We do see some positive signs here; things are being fueled again, which obviously is not just positive and good for the U.S.—American economy but also for the global economy, too.

I'm very pleased, indeed, that obviously there are now some hopeful signs here, because obviously, as soon as the economy runs smoothly again here, that is going to be good for the global economy and, therefore, good for Europe and certainly for Germany too.

President Bush. Thank you, Gerhard.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. Chancellor Schroeder spoke in German, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With King Abdullah II of Jordan and an Exchange With Reporters

February 1, 2002

President Bush. I want to welcome our close friend His Majesty, from the country of Jordan, back to the Oval Office. We have had a chance to visit several times during the course of my tenure as the President, and every visit has been very constructive and very positive.

I appreciate so very much his support on our mutual concerns about making the world more peaceful, our desire to rout out terror. And Your Majesty, thank you for your strong support.

I also look forward to having a good discussion with His Majesty about how we can work together to improve both our economies. King Abdullah is serious about his desire to improve the lot of his people and wants to make sure that whatever we do, we do together with one thing in mind, and that is to extend our mutual prosperity so people can make a living and have a better life. I appreciate so much his compassion for the people of Jordan. Every time I've talked to him, he's expressed his concern to make sure that the moms and dads of Jordan have got a capacity to provide for their children.

I look forward to also discussing his desire to make sure that we share our strategies about how to make sure both our people are educated in a way that will provide a hopeful future.

So, Your Majesty, welcome back to the Oval Office, and I'm glad to have you here, sir.

King Abdullah. Thank you very much, Mr. President. As always, it's a tremendous honor and pleasure to be back to see you.

As you've said, our meetings have been growing in strength and cooperation every

time that we have met. It is really such an important relationship between our two countries. Not only have we been able to work with you on improving the economic situation in Jordan, as you've just mentioned, but equally as important, you've been so kind to listen to our views on the area and the region, and we're very grateful for your effort. And I know, Mr. President, where your heart is on many of the regional issues to try and bring peace and stability to the area. And we're very grateful for your vision in that and for your courage and determination to really bring a better world in our part of the Middle East.

President Bush. Thank you. We'll answer a couple of questions.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, good morning. Prime Minister Sharon spoke yesterday about his sorrow not to eliminate President Arafat in Lebanon, as if it was a mistake he would like to correct now. Do you have any comment on Mr. Sharon's sorrow?

President Bush. Yes. I think the best way to peace is for us all to keep the focus on what derails peace, and what derails peace is terror. And the more quickly we eliminate terror, the more likely it is we'll have a peaceful resolution in the region. And that's all I want to comment on the situation.

Fournier [Ron Fournier, Associated Press].

Axis of Evil/Daniel Pearl

Q. Mr. President, first, real quickly, to Your Majesty. Do you think there is——

The President. You want two questions——

Q. Only one each.

The President. Okay, in that case——

*Q.*Real quickly, sir, Your Majesty, do you think there is an evil axis in the world, and is Iraq part of it?

And Mr. President, what are you doing or what can you do about the Wall Street Journal reporter who is hostage in Pakistan?

King Abdullah. Well, sir, after the September 11th tragedy, I think it's very obvious that there are those that are on the side of good, those that are on the side of bad, and there's some countries in the middle that haven't made up their minds. I think that the policy of the United States and the rest of us have been to be very clear to everybody on which side you want to choose, and that the President has been very articulate from the beginning of the 11th of September that there is a new world, there's a new expectations of how countries are supposed to react, and those countries better make up their minds pretty quickly. And I endorse tremendously that view and that position.

President Bush. I talked to the FBI Director this morning, Ron, about the American who is in Pakistan being evidently held against his will. We are working with the Pakistani Government to chase down any leads possible. For example, we're trying to follow the trail of the e-mails that have been sent, with the sole purpose of saving this man, of finding him and rescuing him.

We've been in touch with the Wall Street Journal, and obviously we're deeply concerned, as is the Pakistani Government. And we will continue to do everything we can to rescue him.

Q. You said you have talked to the Journal or your people have?

President Bush. The FBI Director did.

Q. Mr. President, have you abandoned efforts of pursuing a peaceful dialog with Iran and North Korea?

President Bush. No, of course not. My hope is—I said in my speech, I hope nations hear our call and make right decisions. A wrong decision will be to continue to export weapons of mass destruction. And I certainly hope that North Korea, for example, listens to what we suggested, and that is, they pull back some conventional weaponry to make a clear declaration of their peaceful intentions on the Peninsula and that they not export weapons. We

would be more than happy to enter a dialog with them if that would be the case.

All the three countries I mentioned now are on—are now on notice that we intend to take their development of weapons of mass destruction very seriously. It's not just "we"; I'm talking about other nations that respect the rule of law and freedom. And I look forward to having this discussion with our friend King Abdullah. He has obviously made a very clear statement about his understanding of what it takes to bring peace and order to the world.

But having said that, all options are on the table as to how to make America and our allies more secure.

Situation in the Middle East

Q. Mr. President, what are the future plans that—steps that the United States is planning to take to restore calm and enhance peace in the Middle East?

President Bush. Well, the first thing is, Mr. Arafat has to make a—has to show the world that he is willing to join our fight against terror. I felt like we were making pretty good progress, up until the time when we discovered, the world discovered, that there had been a significant shipment of arms ordered from Iran for only—it seemed like to us, only one purpose, and that is to prevent—is for terrorist purposes. And we can't let that stand. And frankly, that's in total contrast to what he assured us, not only through his decisions at Oslo but verbally, that he would help us fight against terror. Mr. Arafat must lead.

Q. Mr. President, what kind of help do you expect from Mr. Arafat if he's actually under house arrest? And second, what do you think of Mr. Sharon's policy of destroying the infrastructure of the Palestinian Authority and possibly the removal of Mr. Arafat from office? Do you really think of the post-Arafat era?

President Bush. I think what we need to do is to fight terror on all fronts in the Middle East, so that at some point we can get into the Tenet and then Mitchell accords. There is a plan for peace, but it starts with a full-focused effort to fight terror. And Mr. Arafat must do a better job. We believe he can do a better job, and he must do a better job of doing so.

Little Stretch [David Gregory, NBC News].

Daniel Pearl

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Just to follow up on the situation with the Wall Street Journal reporter, do the Pakistanis—are they familiar with the group holding him?

President Bush. No, according to the press, they're not; according to my information, they're not necessarily familiar with the group. On the other hand, we have some leads, for example, the e-mail—e-mails could provide a lead—and we're chasing them down. We're very concerned about the Wall Street Journal reporter. We are in touch with the Pakistani Government. We're in touch with the Wall Street Journal, and we've got both the—you know, our agencies in the area actively involved in trying to rescue him.

Federal Reserve/Stimulus Package

Q. Can I just follow on another point? Given the Fed's decision not to act——

The President. Given the——

Q. I'm sorry, the Fed's decision not to act on interest rates here a couple of days ago——

President Bush. Oh, the Fed—a new subject, okay, go. [*Laughter*] I'm kind of "the Feds," and we're acting—in terms of Pakistan. I got you. [*Laughter*]

Q. I'm trying a Fournier.

President Bush. But it's not quite as subtle as Fournier. See, Fournier is good about it because he actually addresses the two questions to two people. You're now going with the—it's a sole two-question, and it's a very—it's brazen, but go ahead. [*Laughter*]

Q. It is a stretch——

President Bush. I'm very impressed. It is a stretch—Little Stretch. [*Laughter*]

Q. If I could remember what I was going to ask—[*laughter*]—given what the Fed said and the growth numbers for the fourth quarter, are you as convinced that a stimulus package is still needed?

President Bush. One thing I'm—I believe we're still not out of our economic problems. We've still got problems. The economy is still soft. Too many people aren't working. There's not enough job creation. And I believe, like I said in the State of the Union, we need a stimulus package. Until Americans can find steady work, I am going to be relentless in my desire to enhance economic growth, and that means jobs. And we've got to work with Congress to figure out how to enhance economic vitality. There are some positive numbers, but not enough positive numbers to satisfy me.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:05 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; and Wall Street Journal journalist Daniel Pearl, who was kidnaped January 23 in Karachi, Pakistan. The President also referred to the June 13, 2001, Israeli-Palestinian cease-fire and security plan negotiated by CIA Director George J. Tenet; and the Report of the Sharm al-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee.

Remarks Announcing the Appointment of Harry James Towey as Director of the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
February 1, 2002

The President. Good morning. Thank you all. Please be seated. Well, welcome to the Roosevelt Room in the White House. We're honored you all came. Thanks for being here.

I know all of you are here today to be a part of a great cause, and that is how best to serve our neighbors in need and to serve our community and our country. Really, it's to help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Our goal is to rally all Americans to our cause. I mean all Americans. And I'm proud to have an outstanding man in Jim Towey to join me on this cause. First, I want to welcome the Towey family, all of them. [*Laughter*] Mary, Jamie, Joe, Max, and John, welcome, guys. And I'm glad Mom is with us. Florence, welcome; sure glad to have you here.

And I want to welcome Your Eminence, Cardinal Bevilacqua; sure good to see you, sir. I've had many a good heart-to-heart visit with His Eminence, and I've always come away a better person after having visited with him. Thank you for being here. And I want to thank everybody else for being here, as well.

A year ago this week, I announced one of the most important commitments of my administration, the Faith-Based and Community Initiative. The purpose was to apply the compassion of America to help solve the problems of our country. The purpose of this initiative recognizes the power of faith in helping heal some of our Nation's wounds. The purpose of this initiative is to rally the armies of compassion which are spread throughout the United States of America. The purpose of the initiative is to recognize our greatest strength, the hearts and souls of the American people, and apply that strength to help solve problems which afflict many of our citizens.

Since the attacks of September the 11th, it has become obvious to everyone how essential the community and faith-based groups are to the well-being of our Nation.