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terror. The attacks of September the 11th took place in the United States, but their target was freedom, itself. All of Europe and freedom-loving nations everywhere are threatened by these forces of chaos and hatred.

NATO has risen to the challenge, declaring that an attack on one of its members is an attack on all. And NATO nations have made valuable contributions to the war on terror in Afghanistan and elsewhere. NATO must prepare itself to fight and defeat terror and the other threats to freedom that we face together. And new members will help improve NATO's capabilities.

The Prague Summit will mark the beginning of a new era in Europe and in trans-Atlantic relations, defined by greater security and greater prosperity and greater freedom. We will see the great alliance of liberty grow and prepare to fulfill its old mission in a new era. And I am determined to succeed and determined that our children will record this year as a momentous turning point in their history.

I wish you success at your meeting. I have met most of you, and I look forward to seeing my good friend Aleksander in a few weeks here in Washington. We have a great opportunity ahead of us. The hopes and prayers of the American people are with you.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President's remarks were videotaped at approximately 3 p.m. on June 28 in the Blue Room at the White House, for later transmission to the meeting in Riga, Latvia. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 5. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Andris Berzins and President Vaira Vike-Freiberga of Latvia; and President Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Ted Williams
July 5, 2002

With the passing of Ted Williams, America lost a baseball legend. Whether serving the country in the Armed Forces or excelling on the baseball diamond, Ted Williams demonstrated unique talent and love of country. He inspired young ballplayers across the Nation for decades, and we will always remember his persistence on the field and his courage off the field. Ted gave baseball some of its best seasons—and he gave his own best seasons to his country. He will be greatly missed.

Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine
July 6, 2002

President's Birthday Golf Outing

The President. Good morning, everybody.

Q. Happy birthday.

The President. That's the way we like it, up and early.

Q. We do too. [*Laughter*]

The President. Up and at 'em. Feeling a little older, if you know what I mean.

David [David Gregory, NBC News], how are you, lad?

President's Upcoming Vacation

Q. All right. Sir, now that you're a little older and wiser, are you rethinking avoiding spending all of August here?

The President. No, I think—I think you'll like Crawford.

Former President Bush. It's warmer there.

Q. Do you have any words of wisdom for him on the vacation schedule?

President's Birthday Golf Outing

Former President Bush. I've got words of wisdom for Eric. He ought to get out of there.

The President. Get out of there, Eric. [*Laughter*]

[*At this point, the President continued to prepare for his golf outing.*]

Q. What does your hat say?

The President. El Jefe. That's French. [*Laughter*]

Q. I was going to sing for you in another language.

The President. Thank you, sir. That's an inside joke.

[*The President continued his preparations.*]

Former President Bush. No laughing about the ladies' tee.

Q. Sir, what do you want for your birthday?

The President. I don't know yet. I haven't thought about it. First of all, I'm glad—I'm glad my mother and wife remembered. [*Laughter*]

[*The President prepared to tee off.*]

The President. Yes, Mr. President. Nice, gentle applause rippling throughout the gallery.

See you in a couple hours—like 2.

[*The round of golf proceeded.*]

The President. I apologize.

Q. Yes, right.

The President. Miserable shot.

Q. You didn't have any idea where we were, either, did you?

The President. It's clear I didn't have any idea where the ball was going——

Q. Mr. President, it's up by the tree, sir.

The President. Who kicked it under there? [*Laughter*]

Q. David did. [*Laughter*]

The President. I was just kidding about the French thing. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The exchange began at 6:15 a.m. at the Cape Arundel Golf Course. In his remarks, the President referred to White House Director of Photography Eric Draper. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks on the Situation in Afghanistan and an Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport
July 6, 2002

Assassination of Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir of Afghanistan

The President. Today Vice President Qadir of Afghanistan was gunned down. The administration and our country mourns the loss of a man who desired freedom and stability for the country he loved. We have been in touch with Chairman Karzai, expressed our deepest condolences to the Chairman and the Government and people of Afghanistan, who lost a good and valued friend.

The Afghan Government is in the process of investigating who might have done this. And we are more resolved than ever