

economy, both here at home and throughout the world. The threat of global terrorism and other national security challenges have caused the United States and other countries to focus more intently on the national security dimensions of foreign investment. While my administration will continue to take every necessary step to protect national security, my administration recognizes that our prosperity and security are founded on our country's openness.

As both the world's largest investor and the world's largest recipient of investment, the United States has a key stake in promoting an open investment regime. The United States unequivocally supports international investment in this country and is equally committed to securing fair, equitable, and nondiscriminatory treatment for U.S. investors abroad. Both inbound and outbound investment benefit our country by stimulating growth, creating jobs, enhancing productivity, and fostering competitiveness that allows our companies and their workers to prosper at home and in international markets. My administration is

committed to ensuring that the United States continues to be the most attractive place in the world to invest. I urge other nations to join us in supporting an open investment policy and protecting international investments.

My administration is also committed to advancing free and fair trade in multilateral, regional, and bilateral negotiations. We will work aggressively to conclude the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda negotiations and to secure congressional approval of the free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, Peru, and South Korea. The prospects for the Doha Development Agenda negotiations to produce significant new economic opportunities, particularly in developing countries, demand that we do everything possible to reach an outcome that creates new trade flows and strengthens global development.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

## Statement on the Free Trade Agreements With Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea

May 10, 2007

I am pleased that my administration and congressional leaders have concluded a bipartisan agreement that provides a clear path for advancing our proposed free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. Expanding opportunities for the sale of American goods and services is crucial to continued growth and job creation here in America. While these agreements will move forward independently, my administration is committed to working with Members of Congress and with the

governments of our free trade agreement partners to secure the approval of each agreement. I also look forward to working with the Congress to extend trade promotion authority to negotiate agreements that open markets and generate new economic opportunities.

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this statement.

## Remarks at a Republican National Committee Gala May 10, 2007

*The President.* Thank you all. Thanks for coming. Please be seated, unless, of course, you don't have a chair. [Laughter] I'm glad you're here. And I'm glad I'm here with you, and I thank you. Thanks for coming; thanks for supporting the Republican Party. Here's our mission: Our mission is to keep the White House in 2008 and retake the Senate and the House. And you're helping, and you're helping a lot, and I really appreciate it.

I appreciate my friend, Senator Mel Martinez, for being the general chairman of the Republican National Committee. You know, I believe that he is the first RNC chairman to speak English as a second language. [Laughter] Some people think I'm the first President who can make the same claim. [Laughter]

But I'm proud to be with Mel and Michael Duncan and Elliott Broidy and all the good folks who are helping make sure that we're ready to run a vibrant and active campaign in 2008.

I wish Laura were here. No, I know it, I know. I'm proud of her. She is a gracious, lovely person. And I am a lucky man to have had her by my side during this fantastic experience of being your President. She sends her love, and she sends her best. I want to—yes, I love her too. Yes, she's good. [Laughter]

*Audience member.* I love you too.

*The President.* Thank you. Well, it's one of these kind of interactive crowds. [Laughter]

I've learned something about how you win campaigns. I've been through a few, myself. I have found that if you stand for something, the people will believe in you. If you stand on principles and enunciate that which you believe, the people will follow. And so as we head into campaign season next year, it's very important for the Republican Party to enunciate that which

we believe, to stand for something, not be one of these parties that takes a focus group to tell us what to believe but to tell people what we believe and what those beliefs are, beliefs etched in our soul.

I believe that everybody has the right to be free. I believe freedom is universal. I believe this country needs a strong national defense. I believe that the best way to encourage economic vitality so that people can realize the American Dream is through less government and more entrepreneurship. I believe that the government ought to trust in the judgment of ordinary citizens. I believe that technologies can help transform the world in a better way. And I believe when we find somebody who hurts, we ought to encourage faith-based and community groups to surround them with love. That's what I believe.

These are difficult times for the United States. These are troubling times because we are a nation at war. I wish I could report that was not the case, but it is the case. And the most solemn obligation of government is to protect the American people from harm. Our most solemn duty is to use all our powers to protect you from further attack.

I must tell you that my attitude toward the world changed dramatically on September the 11th, 2001. It was a day that affected our Nation deeply, and it affected me as President. And I vowed on that day and the days following that attack that I wouldn't tire, I wouldn't weary, that I would use all my capacities to rally the American people and the assets of this country to protect you.

The enemy we face is fearless. They're mean. They know new—they know no boundaries of civilization as we know it, see. They kill to impose their will. It's hard for Americans to believe that we face such