

to have a very useful or meaningful discussion on various areas, including the political, economic, and security and climate change—all these areas. And we agreed to further strengthen the indispensable, irreplaceable alliance that we have between our two countries.

And Japan and the United States agreed to cooperate so that we can build an effective framework for addressing the problem of climate change. And we agreed the importance for the international community to be—stay united in the fight against terrorism, which is still ongoing. And we also

agreed on the importance of the Japanese-American refueling operation in the Indian Ocean.

We not only agreed to strengthen our bilateral relationship as allies, but we also agreed to cooperate closely in attacking the various issues that faces the international community.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. Prime Minister Abe spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia in Sydney September 8, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, I admire your leadership, I admire your strength of character, and I appreciate our conversation today. But first, I thank you very much for your strength in this struggle against extremism. You understand firsthand what it means to deal with radicalism, and you've done it in a very constructive way. On the one hand, you've brought people to justice who deserved it; on the other hand, you've worked to improve the human condition.

And we're proud to stand with you on matters such as education. You've got a very constructive education reform package in your country that we believe will make a difference, and I thank you for that.

Today we discussed our bilateral relations and the importance of military-to-military relationship. I think it's important that officers in the Indonesian Army and the Indonesian military come to the United States. I think it's important for our military folks to interface with your officers. After all, Mr. President, if I remember correctly, you spent some time in Kansas. And I think it's in the country's interest that we inter-

face with our friends, the Indonesians, in this way.

I want to thank you for your leadership on climate change. We had a good discussion on climate change. Interestingly enough, the President is in the lead when it comes to coral reef protection, and we want to help you. And you've also got an aggressive plan to stop deforestation. As a matter of fact, you're one of the leaders in the world when it comes to these practical applications of environmental quality and environmental progress. And the United States wants to help. We're working on a \$20 million initiative to help you on your preventing deforestation, and it's a good use of our taxpayers' money, particularly since we've got such a strong champion as you in the lead.

I also thank you very much for our discussion on Doha. Trade will help our respective nations. And your Minister and I had a discussion yesterday, and I want to thank you for your leadership on this key issue.

All in all, Mr. President, I'm proud to be with you today, and I want to thank you for your time.

President Yudhoyono. Thank you, Mr. President. We have discuss lot of things constructively and productively this morning. I have to be thankful for your roles and leaderships in fostering our bilateral friendships and cooperation.

Thank for your willingness to cooperate and assist Indonesia in managing our forests, in preserving our coral, and in other things in saving our planet with a framework of cooperation—effective cooperation. And thank for that kind of support.

Thank also for our good cooperation in the field of education, and also, military-to-military cooperation is progressing well—that benefit both for the U.S. and for Indonesia.

And thank also for your understanding on the ongoing talk on the WTO. Indonesia, with other developing countries, will play a specific role, will approach this thing constructively, finding a proper solution good for both developed nation and developing countries.

President Bush. Sure.

President Yudhoyono. And once again, thank for this cooperation with your roles, and looking forward to having other action and cooperation between our two countries.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:08 a.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Noer Hassan Wirajuda of Indonesia.

The President's Radio Address *September 8, 2007*

Good morning. Earlier this week, I traveled to Iraq's Anbar Province to visit our troops and see with my own eyes the remarkable changes they are making possible. If you want to see some photos from this trip, go to whitehouse.gov, where you can view a slideshow of my visit.

Success in Anbar is critical to the democratic future of Iraq and to the war on terror. This largely Sunni Province covers nearly a third of Iraq. It stretches from the outskirts of Baghdad to Iraq's borders with Jordan and Syria and Saudi Arabia. And until recently, Anbar was Al Qaida's chief base of operations in Iraq.

Last year at this time, Anbar was all over the news. Newspapers at the time cited a leaked intelligence report that was pessimistic about our prospects there. One columnist summed it up this way: "The war is over in Anbar Province, and the United States lost." But local citizens soon saw

what life under Al Qaida meant for them. The terrorists brutalized the people of Anbar and killed those who opposed their dark ideology. So the tribal sheikhs of Anbar came together to fight Al Qaida. They asked for support from the coalition and the Iraqi Government, and we responded.

Together, we have driven Al Qaida out of strongholds in Anbar. The level of violence is down. Local governments are meeting again. Young Sunnis are joining the police and army. And normal life is returning. The people of Anbar have seen that standing up to the terrorists and extremists leads to a better life. And Anbar has shown that improving security is the first step toward achieving economic progress and political reconciliation.

On my visit, I met with tribal sheikhs who have fought with us against Al Qaida and who are now building a better future