

and to have had your patience with me and some of our habits up there. [*Laughter*]. Very, very nice of you. I have yelled at times, I've been angry at times, but you've always been smiling and generous, and that's so nice of you.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Karzai. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom *September 26, 2008*

President Bush. Mr. Prime Minister, welcome. The United States has got a great friendship with Great Britain, and you and I have worked hard to make sure that friendship stays strong. And I appreciate you coming down from New York, and I thank you for the consultations on this current economic issue.

What the Prime Minister wants to know is, is the plan we've devised big enough to make a difference, and is it going to be passed? And I told him the plan is big enough to make a difference, and I believe it is going to be passed. And I really want to thank you very much for staying in touch during this difficult period of time, not only for us, but for people all around the world.

Secondly, we talked about trade. There's no stronger advocate for free and fair trade than Prime Minister Brown has been. And I appreciate your strong support for trade; because he knows what I know: That if—the best way to help deal with poverty and hopelessness is to give people opportunity through free and fair trade.

And so I thank your steadfast support on Doha. I told him that we are still optimistic that the Doha round can be reinvigorated, and we strategized as to how to do that. And I thank you for your advice on that.

Finally, we talked about Iraq and Afghanistan. Both our nations still have troops in those two countries. We're helping young democracies not only survive, but

grow and thrive. And I fully believe that when people look back at this period of history, they will say, thank goodness the United States and Great Britain stood strong, because we're helping to lay the foundation of peace for generations to come.

So I welcome you back to the Oval Office. Thank you for coming.

Prime Minister Brown. It's a great privilege to be here this afternoon. And I thank you for your hospitality, President Bush.

We talked about a number of issues: Iraq, Afghanistan, the trade talks, what's happening in Russia and in the—in Georgia, and about the general situation in the world economy. And we concentrated on the financial issues that are being raised in every country of the world by what's happening because of financial turbulence on the markets.

America and Britain have always stood together and as one in times of difficulty and challenge. And I said to President Bush this afternoon that facing this global turbulence, Britain supports the financial plan. And whatever the details of it, it's the right thing to do to take us through these difficult circumstances.

I was also able to tell President Bush that other countries whom I've talked to during the course of the last week in New York—every continent, all the members of the G-7, believe that America deserves the support of the rest of the world in the

action it's taking to secure stability and to deal with the turbulence in the financial markets. And we will continue to support the administration and the Government in everything that it's doing to try to restabilize the financial markets and to bring about economic growth in all our countries.

We also talked about what is the pathway forward. Our G-7 finance leaders—ministers will meet on October the 9th. The International Monetary Fund will meet on October the 10th. And the issues that have been raised by the problems in the financial system and the principles that might underlie future policy—transparency, good housekeeping, integrity, and at the same

time, of course, international cooperation for the future—these are all issues that will be discussed in detail by our finance ministers, and they will bring proposals for the future to us.

Stability is the first duty of governments, and we are determined that our continuing cooperation will enhance the stability of our economies and bring the prosperity that is what we want for every single citizen of the world.

President Bush. Thank you, Gordon. Good job.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:46 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Message to the Senate Transmitting a Report and Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels *September 26, 2008*

To the Senate of the United States:

With a view to receiving the advice and consent of the Senate to accession, I transmit herewith the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, with Annexes. In addition, I transmit for the information of the Senate the report of the Department of State, which includes a detailed analysis of the Agreement.

The Agreement, done at Canberra on June 19, 2001, and that entered into force on February 1, 2004, was adopted pursuant to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (the "Convention"), done at Bonn on June 23, 1979. Although the United States is not a Party to the Convention, the United States may nonetheless become a Party to the Agreement. The Agreement's objective

is to achieve and maintain a favorable conservation status for albatrosses and petrels.

I believe the Agreement to be fully in the U.S. interest. Its provisions advance the U.S. goals of protecting albatrosses and petrels. As the Department of State's analysis explains, the Agreement is not self-executing and thus does not by itself give rise to domestically enforceable Federal law. Implementing legislation would be required, which will be submitted separately to the Congress for its consideration.

I recommend that the Senate give early and favorable consideration to the Agreement and give its advice and consent to accession.

GEORGE W. BUSH

The White House,
September 26, 2008.