

when it comes to energy. We're depending too much on energy from overseas. We ought to be finding more energy here at home. If people want their gasoline prices down, let's find energy here in America. And there's plenty of energy to be had.

At any rate, thank you all for your time. I enjoy it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:48 p.m. at the Family Service Agency. In his remarks, he referred to Charles Deville, Jr., executive director, Family Service Agency; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Steven C. Preston; Carolyn Pierson, homeowner, Jacksonville, AR; Patty Couch, homeowner, Conway, AR; and Sue Pearson, budget, credit, and housing counselor, Consumer Credit Counseling Service, Family Service Agency.

Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons *July 1, 2008*

Forty years ago today, the United States joined 61 other nations in signing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Today, almost all nations are party to the treaty. The NPT represents a key legal barrier to nuclear weapons proliferation and makes a critical contribution to international security. I reaffirm the strong support of the United States for the treaty and our commitment to work diligently to strengthen it further.

NPT parties must take strong action to confront noncompliance with the treaty in order to preserve and strengthen its non-proliferation undertakings. We cannot allow nations to violate their commitments and undermine the NPT's fundamental role in advancing international security. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), through its safeguards system, plays a vital role in supporting the treaty by uncovering and reporting violations of nuclear safeguards. The United States is committed to ensuring the IAEA has the tools and access it needs to do its work, especially in support of universal adherence to the Additional Protocol.

The United States remains firmly committed to continued compliance with our

own obligations under the NPT. Our record demonstrates this commitment, including to the disarmament goals expressed in the preamble and Article VI of the treaty. Because of the nuclear reductions I have directed and the Moscow Treaty I signed with Russia, the U.S. nuclear weapon stockpile already has been reduced by half since I entered office and is at its smallest size since the 1950s.

The United States supports the global expansion of peaceful nuclear energy as a means of meeting growing energy demand and utilizing this zero-emission source of energy to help meet the challenge of climate change. This expansion of nuclear energy must be safe, secure, and not contribute to nuclear proliferation.

It is essential in these times of great challenges to the security of the international community, particularly when terrorists and state sponsors of terrorism seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction, that NPT parties work together to confront the dangers of nuclear proliferation. I call upon all parties to act promptly and effectively to meet these challenges and ensure that the treaty remains an effective instrument of global security.

The President's News Conference July 2, 2008

The President. Good morning. Next week, I'm going to travel to Japan for the eighth and final G-8 summit of my Presidency.

At recent summits, G-8 countries have made pledges to help developing nations address challenges, from health care to education to corruption. Now we need to show the world that the G-8 can be accountable for its promises and deliver results. As I said the other day, we need people who not only make promises, but write checks, for the sake of human rights and human dignity and for the sake of peace.

Accountability is really important when it comes to our work on the continent of Africa. In 2005, G-8 leaders promised to double development assistance to Africa by 2010. America is on track to meet our commitments. And in Japan, I'll urge other leaders to fulfill their commitments as well.

We must also fulfill our commitments in the battle against HIV/AIDS and malaria. I've asked Congress to reauthorize and expand the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, doubling our funding for this vital effort. It's very important that Congress reauthorize this plan, but in the meantime, we're fulfilling our promises that we made, not only to—at the G-8, but more importantly, to the people of—on the continent of Africa.

It's important that over the next 5 years that we support antiretroviral treatment for approximately 2.5 million people, that we prevent 12 million new AIDS infections, and that we care for 12 million people also affected by HIV/AIDS, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children. Last year, the G-8 agreed to meet those commitments; they agreed to match. They also agreed to help us reduce malaria in affected countries by half. And I just—I hope that these countries understand the great

promise and hope that comes when we help alleviate this suffering. And so one of my really important agenda items is going to rally our partners to make commitments and meet commitments.

We'll also discuss additional steps to confront some other challenges, such as the need to train health care workers in G-8 partner countries in Africa. It's one thing to say we're going to help people with their—deal with disease, but a lot of these countries need workers that are capable of helping, of reaching out to people in need. We should set a goal to treat at least 75 percent of the people with neglected tropical diseases in the most affected countries. We've got to work to confront higher food prices. I'm confident we'll be talking about energy and food.

On the food issue, I've announced that the United States would make available nearly \$1 billion in new resources to bolster global food security. Once again, I'll be going to the G-8 and talking about the great compassion and concern of the American people in addressing problems.

At Toyako, I'll also ask leaders of the G-8 to make other important strategic moves to alleviate hunger, such as increasing the shipments of food, fertilizers, and seeds to countries in need. It's one thing to talk about the problem; this is a practical way to help countries deal with the lack of food.

We need to help severely affected nations grow more of their own food. It's one thing to provide food; it seems like—to make sense to me to say, we're going to help you become more agriculturally self-sustaining. This has been an issue in the United States Congress, by the way. Unfortunately, we tried to get this in the farm bill. Our Members of Congress decided against this plan, this way forward. But it makes sense for the United States, if we're