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NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and Max S. Baucus. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 3. An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With King Abdallah bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
June 3, 2009

The President's Visit to Saudi Arabia

Q. Mr. President, what's your message, sir, here?

President Obama. This is my first visit to Saudi Arabia, but I've had several conversations with His Majesty, and I've been struck by his wisdom and his graciousness. Obviously, the United States and Saudi Arabia have a long history of friendship; we have a strategic relationship. And as I take this trip, and we'll be visiting Cairo tomorrow, I thought it was very important to come to the place where Islam began and to seek His Majesty's counsel and to discuss with him many of the issues that we confront here in the Middle East.

So I just want to again thank him for his extraordinary generosity and hospitality. And I'm confident that working together the United States and Saudi Arabia can make progress on a whole host of issues and mutual interests.

King Abdallah. I thank you, Mr. President, for the kind words and the kind sentiments expressed within them. I am not surprised, given the historic and strategic ties between our two countries, I believe, that go back to the time of the meeting between the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the late King Abdul Aziz.

I also want to express my best wishes to the friendly American people who are represented by a distinguished man who deserves to be in this position.

President Obama. Shukran.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:22 p.m. at the King's Royal Farm. King Abdallah spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. Audio was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Arms Control and Nuclear Nonproliferation
June 3, 2009

I welcome Senator McCain's important statement on President Reagan's legacy and the need to move toward a world free of nuclear weapons. In my speech in Prague, I outlined my agenda for keeping the American people safe from the dangers posed by nuclear weapons, and I am grateful to John McCain for his leadership on these critical issues. I have outlined an ambitious strategy for promoting arms control and preventing nuclear terrorism and proliferation, which is already bearing fruit. I look forward to working with Senator McCain and the entire Congress to ensure that we accomplish these goals together for the American people and the security of the entire planet.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt in Cairo, Egypt
June 4, 2009

President Mubarak. I'd like to welcome President Obama to Egypt. This is his first—our first meeting together. We discussed so many issues: the Middle East issues, interests in the