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can stop it. And moral discernment and decency and tolerance—these can never be assured in any time or in any society. They must always be taught.

Yesterday I had the honor of visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, surrounded by the familiar buildings and symbols of our democratic Government. Outside the museum are expressions of the best of mankind's earthly aspirations; inside are images realized of the worst possibilities of the human mind, the attempted elimination of a people and the millions more targeted for destruction. The pictures, the clothes, the toys, all tell of genocide, our word for 6 million acts of murder.

This Day of Remembrance marks more than a single historic tragedy, but 6 million important lives—all the possibilities, all the dreams, and all the innocence that died with them.

The Holocaust is defined as much by the courage of the lost as by the cruelty of the guilty. As Viktor Frankl observed, man is that being who invented the gas chambers of Auschwitz. However, he's also the being who entered those chambers upright, with the Lord's Prayer or Shema Israel on his lips. When all the crimes are finished, the fears realized, and the cries silenced, that was the hope that remained—to be remembered by the living and raised up by the living God.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. in the Rotunda at the United States Capitol. In his remarks, he referred to Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. David Ivry; Nobel Prize winner and author Elie Wiesel, former chair, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, chair, Ruth B. Mandel, vice chair, and Benjamin Meed, member, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council; and Holocaust survivor, author, and human rights activist Simon Wiesenthal.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Fernando de la Rua of Argentina and an Exchange With Reporters

April 19, 2001

President Bush. I want to thank the President from Argentina for coming here. It is my honor to welcome a friend of America. This is a country that has been our friend for a long period of time, and I intend to keep our friendship strong, Mr. President. I appreciate so very much your working hard to work through the economic difficulties that you've had. You're making a very strong effort to recover. I know it's been difficult, but you've been a very strong leader.

I appreciate, also, your willingness at times to commit troops as peacekeepers. Your country has been a very strong supporter of keeping the peace around the world.

I look forward to telling the President that one of the main strategies of our foreign policy is to have strong relations in our hemisphere. It begins with remembering our friends. The President represents a country that is a close friend of the United States.

So welcome, Mr. President. *Bienvenidos a los Estados Unidos.*

President de la Rua. *Muchas gracias, Señor Presidente.* Thank you very much, Mr. President.

[*At this point, President de la Rua spoke in Spanish, and a translation was not provided.*]

President Bush. Thank you, Mr. President.

Well, I have a couple of questions from—the United States will alternate to the Argentinean press, and back and forth for two rounds.

Ron Fournier [Associated Press].

U.S. Troop Deployment

Q. Thank you, sir. Mr. President, as part of your—this is a little off topic—as part of your broader review of troop deployments, are you considering pulling out of the Sinai? And if so, why?

President Bush. We are looking at all troop deployments around the world. Where we can reduce troops without creating instability, we will do so. One of the things I said during the course of the campaign and right after my inauguration is that we would be reviewing and looking at and analyzing our troop deployments.

I've always felt that we're overextended, which creates morale problems within our military. On the other hand, I understand we've made commitments, and we just won't simply walk away from our commitments.

We'll consult with our allies. We'll lay the groundwork for reductions if, in fact, we think it is in our Nation's best interest and the world's interest to keep reductions.

So to answer your question, we're reviewing all opportunities to reduce the amount of troops around the world.

Q. And that includes the Sinai as part of that review?

President Bush. We're reviewing every place we have troops deployed.

Argentina

Q. President Bush, are you ready to support Argentina to solve economic and social problems they're facing now?

President Bush. We are. Our Treasury Department is working closely with their counterparts in the Argentinean Government. We want our friend to do well economically. It is in our interest that a trading partner of ours be strong economically. We're working closely with the new Minister of Finance. We're listening to what he's doing. We believe the country is making progress. I'm aware of what the country and the leadership wants to do with the IMF, and we believe we're making good progress toward a stabilization plan.

That's the short-term solution, of course, is, IMF help that now exists and whether or not the IMF is going to provide some kind of latitude toward the Government as it makes strides toward reforms. But longer term is what the President talked about, and that is to promote free trade, free trade all throughout our hemisphere. In one day's time, we'll both be in Quebec City talking about trade. And I'm going to be very aggressive about pushing a free trade agenda for the hemisphere, and I'm so pleased to hear the President say the same words.

Q. Mr. President, should you look at some——

President Bush. Let me say one thing. I think it may make sense, Mr. President, if you speak a little bit, and then let the translator translate. Unfortunately, not many people here speak Spanish, like I do. [*Laughter*]

President de la Rua. Thank you very much for your words of support and trust in our country. But please, I wouldn't like anyone to think I have come here to ask Mr. Bush money. [*Laughter*] We do have relations with the international lending institutions, and our financing is already insured.

What we would want is more freedom in trade. And I very much value the support expressed by Mr. Bush for Argentina, where there are so many U.S. investments, and definitely, we would like this to increase.

President Bush. Grandfather [Bill Plante, CBS News]. [*Laughter*]

Sanctions and Energy Supplies

Q. Mr. President, should the U.S. look at easing some of the economic sanctions on Iran, Iraq, and Libya in the interest of getting more oil into this country?

President Bush. You know, we're looking at—in our energy review, we're looking at all opportunities to create more energy supply, to take the pressure off of price. At the same time, I think it's important for the country to review all sanction policies to make sure they are effective. And—but I have no intention as of this moment for taking sanctions off of countries like Iran or Libya.

We've made it clear to the Libyans that the sanctions will remain until such time as they not only compensate for the bombing of the aircraft but also admit their guilt and express remorse.

And as far as Iran goes, it's too early at this time in our relationships to really—it's one thing to consider; it's another thing to act on sanctions. I don't intend to do that anytime soon.

Uno mas.

Free Trade Area of the Americas

Q. Mr. President de la Rua, President Bush wanted the free trade agreement by the year 2003, but I think Brazil is not too keen on that idea. So now, we're talking about 2005, which was the original date at the Summit of the Americas in 1994. Is that a real possibility, or will that date also pass by?

President de la Rua. The important thing is that agreement has been reached on that date in Buenos Aires. I celebrate the generosity and flexibility of Mr. Zoellick, who represented the President. An agreement was reached by all countries. In addition to the date, it is important for us to make

progress in terms of the contents, in terms of the way to build a common market to benefit and integrate all countries.

President Bush. Let me say something about that. First of all, I don't want to dispute, of course, the supposition of your question. But I was asked—I think you asked me at a press conference, would I be pleased to see the date moved up, and the answer is, of course; the sooner we get a free trade agreement for the Americas in place, the better off the continent will be.

However, I recognize reality, and it looks like we're going to be aiming for the date 2005. But big progress has been made. And Ambassador Zoellick went down and met with other leaders in our hemisphere, and we've got the framework for an agreement. And not only that, after the Summit of the Americas, we'll be putting out the agreement, itself, or the framework of the agreement for people to review, so that citizens from all countries—this is the first time this has ever happened—where the citizens will be able to review the contents of the trade agreement.

But I appreciate so very much the President's commitment to free trade. He understands the power of trade, and he understands the promise of free trade. And I believe you're going to hear a strong statement at Quebec City that nations of our hemisphere are bound together by the concept of a free trade agreement. And it will be good for our people.

Thank you all for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:02 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Economy Domingo Cavallo of Argentina. President de la Rua spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Flooding in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

April 19, 2001

I know that all Americans share my concern for the displaced families and residents of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. Yesterday the Mississippi River engulfed homes and businesses. Even more flooding is predicted in the upcoming days.

Those who live and work along the upper Mississippi are not strangers to the threat of spring floods. Since the 1993 floods, many communities and residents have taken measures to protect themselves and their property. They are to be commended for this preventative work.

At my direction, FEMA Director Joe Allbaugh and his staff are working closely with State and local officials throughout the impacted and threatens areas to closely track the flooding and any further damage. As I travel to Canada for the Summit of the Americas, I will continue to monitor the situation.

Remarks on Departure for Quebec, Canada

April 20, 2001

Summit of the Americas

Good morning. In a few moments Laura and I will depart for Quebec City in Canada to attend the Summit of the Americas. This meeting will bring together leaders from all 34 democratic nations in our hemisphere.

Together we will put forward an agenda to strengthen our democracies, to tackle common challenges, and we will seek to expand our prosperity by expanding our trade. This is an important meeting for the United States. The future of our Nation is closely tied to the future of our hemisphere.

Many Americans trace their heritage to other parts of the Americas, which enriches our culture. Many American businesses are finding growth and trade in the Americas, which expands our economy. And all Americans have an interest in the peace and stability of our closest neighbors.

Our goal in Quebec is to build a hemisphere of liberty. We must approach this goal in a spirit of civility, mutual respect, and appreciation for our shared values. And we must make real progress.

Progress in this hemisphere requires an explicit commitment to human freedom. Only democratic nations can attend the Summit of the Americas. And every nation in our hemisphere, except one, will be there. This is an extraordinary achievement, one that