

And this is a direction in which we're trying to encourage them to move, so that they create this political basis where everybody is comfortable that you've got a stable, democratic system in the country, which is critically fundamental to addressing these other major challenges of ensuring the recovery of the economy of Zimbabwe and really improving the lives of the people. So that's the direction we're taking.

President Bush. Well, thank you all for coming. I owe the President a lunch.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:03 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada; W. Mark Felt, Deputy Director of the FBI during the Nixon administration whose identity as the informer known as "Deep Throat" during the Watergate scandal was revealed on May 31; Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom; and President Hosni Mubarak and Attorney General Maher Abdel Wahed of Egypt. The President also referred to the African Union (AU) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Remarks Following Discussions With Secretary General Jakob Gijssbert "Jaap" de Hoop Scheffer of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

June 1, 2005

President Bush. Mr. Secretary General, welcome. Thank you for coming.

It's been my pleasure to work with this good man. The Secretary General is a visionary leader of a very important Alliance, and that is NATO. America is a proud member of NATO. We view NATO as our link—our transatlantic link to Europe. NATO is a place where not only do we work to—work on defensive measures to protect our respective people, but it's a place where we are proud to strategize as to how to promote values of—universal values of democracy and freedom and human rights and human dignity.

Under the Secretary General's leadership, NATO has been active in places like Afghanistan and training the troops in NATO. And today we discussed the NATO mission in Darfur, to help deal with human suffering in that part of the world.

So, Mr. Secretary General, I am proud to call you friend and proud to work with you as the President of a contributing member of NATO. Welcome.

Secretary General de Hoop Scheffer. Mr. President, thank you very much, indeed. I can echo the words you said. NATO has always been and still is a value-driven organization; it's about values. The same values we have defended in the cold war, we are now defending in Afghanistan, at the Hindu Kush mountains. We are training the Iraqi security forces so that that country can stand on its own feet as soon as possible. We are staying the course in Kosovo. We'll have, as the President mentioned, support for the African Union in Darfur. We're having an antiterrorist operation in the Mediterranean. We'll stay the course—we'll stay the course. We do that with the 26 NATO Allies—of course first and foremost with the United States of America—and we do it with our partners as well with important partner countries of NATO, like the Ukraine, like our partners in the Balkans.

So we'll stay the course, and I'm sure that NATO will also, in the coming time, will be an important political, military organization. Enhancing political dialog within NATO, that's what it's all about—staying the course militarily and staying the course politically.

Mr. President, thank you very much.

President Bush. Welcome. Thank you for coming. I appreciate it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:57 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Statement on the Resignation of William H. Donaldson as Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission

June 1, 2005

Bill Donaldson took on a tough job at a tough time, and he delivered for the American people. He vigorously and fairly enforced our Nation's securities laws and helped rebuild the public trust in corporate