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front, we need to complete the work on legislation that will allow us to cooperate with India on civilian nuclear technology and pass trade legislation that will enable us to recognize Vietnam as a member of the WTO.

As the new Members of Congress and their leaders return to Washington, I've instructed my Cabinet to provide whatever briefings and information they need to be able to do their jobs. The American people expect us to rise above partisan differences, and my administration will do its part.

One of the most important challenges facing our country is the war on terror, and Iraq is the central front in this war. Our country now has more than 149,000 men and women serving bravely in that country. Whatever party we come from, we all have a responsibility to ensure that these troops have the resources and support they need to prevail. I'm open to any idea or suggestion that will help us achieve our goals of defeating the terrorists and ensuring that Iraq's democratic Government succeeds.

Yesterday I accepted the resignation of one of the original members of my Cabinet, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. He could not be with us today because he's at Kansas State University to deliver the prestigious Landon Lecture and to help dedicate the university's military science building as the General Richard B. Myers Hall.

Don has been an outstanding Secretary of Defense, a trusted adviser, and a loyal friend to me and his fellow Cabinet secretaries. I've named a good man to succeed Don Rumsfeld, former CIA Director Bob Gates. Secretary Rumsfeld has agreed to stay until Bob is confirmed, and I'm deeply grateful to Don for his service to our country.

Thank you all very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:28 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Remarks Following a Lunch With Representatives Nancy Pelosi and Steny H. Hoyer

*November 9, 2006*

***The President.*** We just had a really important lunch. First, I want to congratulate Congresswoman Pelosi for becoming the Speaker of the House, and the first woman Speaker of the House. This is historic for our country. And as a father of young women, it is—I think it's important; I really do. And I appreciate Congressman Hoyer coming as well. We've had a—I would call it a very constructive and very friendly conversation.

Both of us recognize—or all three of us recognize that when you win, you have a responsibility to do the best you can for the country. I was pleased with a wide-ranging discussion about important issues facing America. The elections are now behind us, and the Congresswoman's party won. But the challenges still remain.

And therefore, we're going to work together to address those challenges in a constructive way. We won't agree on every issue, but we do agree that we love America equally, that we're concerned about the future of this country, and that we will do our very best to address big problems.

And so I want to thank you for coming. This is the beginning of a series of meetings we'll have over the next couple of years, all aimed at solving problems and leading the country. So, welcome. Congratulations again.

[*At this point, Representative Pelosi made brief remarks.*]

***The President.*** Thank you. Steny.

[*Representative Hoyer made brief remarks.*]

***The President.*** Thank you, Steny. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:04 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Representatives Pelosi and Hoyer.

## Remarks Following Discussions With President-Elect Felipe Calderon of Mexico

*November 9, 2006*

***President Bush.*** It is my pleasure to have welcomed the President-elect of Mexico here to the Oval Office. I have had a fascinating and important conversation. This is a man who won a very good election. I'm proud of the Mexican people for conducting an election that is—was open and honest. We've spent a lot of time talking about vital issues. I have made it very clear to the President-elect that Mexico is a priority of this administration.

I know a fair amount about Mexico; after all, I was the Governor of Texas. I assured him that we will work very closely together. We talked about trade. We talked about mutual interests, fighting drugs, and we talked, of course, about migration. And I assured the President-elect that the words I said in the very Oval Office that we sit, about a comprehensive immigration vision, are words I still believe strongly.

And so I want to welcome you here. I wish you all the best as you—on your Inauguration, on your big day. And I'm looking forward to working very closely with you.

***President-elect Calderon.*** Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

[*At this point, President-elect Calderon spoke in Spanish, and no translation was provided.*]

***President Bush.*** *Si, senor. Gracias.*

Did you understand that?

***Q.*** No.

***President-elect Calderon.*** President Bush and I had a very good conversation today. And we reaffirmed the purpose that we both had, which is to strengthen the bilateral relationship between Mexico and the United States even more.

I expressed to President Bush my concern regarding the issue of migration. President Bush was very open to all the arguments that I have presented to him. And we both stressed the need to have a comprehensive vision with which we can move forward. This is, of course, an extremely important issue. It is not the only issue in our bilateral relationship.

We want to foster our trade relationship—our economic relationship even more. We both understand that the only solution to many of the problems that we have is to create well-paid jobs in Mexico. And for that, we need even more investment. We will continue to show the importance of democracy, the importance of free trade, the importance of all of these issues that will make us an even stronger nation, which will also strengthen the bilateral relationship.

And we were able to have a conversation between two people—two people who have very much in common. And we both look forward to a very constructive relationship in the future.

***President Bush.*** *Gracias.* Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:31 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. President-elect Calderon spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

### *November 4*

In the morning, in Englewood, CO, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at Mile High Coffee, he had breakfast with small-business owners. He then traveled to Greeley, CO.

Later in the morning, he traveled to Aurora, CO, where, at Buckley Air Force Base, he met with family members of a Navy serviceman who was killed in Afghanistan.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

During the day, the President met with Robert M. Gates, president, Texas A&M University.

### *November 5*

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Grand Island, NE, where, upon arrival, he