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that way, standing with me. I hope the leadership feels that way, and they ought to give me a bill that funds, among other things, bullets and body armor and protection against IEDs and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles. It would be irresponsible to not give our troops the resources they need to get their job done because Congress was unable to get its job done.

Again, I want to thank the Members here. I appreciate us working together for the good of the United States of America. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:27 a.m. on the North Portico at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to H.R. 3963 and H.R. 976.

Remarks Following a Meeting With President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda

October 30, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, thank you for coming. Second time we have met here in the Oval Office, and I told the President that I remember distinctly his description of what life was like in Uganda, particularly when it comes to his raising cows; he's a cattleman, and it gave us something to talk about.

But we talked about other issues as well. I am very proud that the United States taxpayer has supported this President in his efforts to deal with HIV/AIDS. And Uganda is the epitome of how one can implement a comprehensive ABC strategy to achieve concrete and specific results for the sake of humanity. And so, Mr. President, I assure you we'll continue to support you on HIV/AIDS, and equally important, we'll support you on fighting malaria.

President Museveni. Thank you.

President Bush. And I thank you for your determined efforts.

We also talked about the benefit of trade between the United States and the continent of Africa, and the President reminded me how important AGOA is to promote better lives in our respective countries. And so, Mr. President, thank you for that vision.

We talked about a lot of other subjects. We talked about the security in the region. The President has got good advice, and he's got good judgment when it comes to issues like Somalia and the Sudan. I assured him that we're committed to peace and stability. A matter of fact, I informed the President today that I spoke to the Secretary-General of the United Nations about Sudan, how I think it is important to continue putting the pressure on respective parties to come up with an agreement that will help end the genocide. And it's important for the United Nations to get moving those troops into this Darfur region as quickly as possible.

And of course we discussed about the peace between—the agreement between south and north of Sudan, and our desire is to make sure we implement that agreement.

And finally, we talked about eligibility for Millennium Challenge. And I told the President this is a very important program. I hope that Congress fully funds Millennium Challenge and that we will work with Uganda on their eligibility.

And so, Mr. President, thanks for coming. It's really good to see you again.

President Museveni. Thank you.

President Bush. I appreciate you taking time to visit with me here in the Oval Office.

President Museveni. I thank President Bush for welcoming me here. As he told you, we are most pleased with AGOA, African Growth and Opportunity Act. This is where the United States opens their market for African value-added products, or products of all other types, for 6,500 products.

Now, this is a very big opportunity. As you know, the United States market is a big market, $11 trillion market. The whole of the African market today is about half a trillion dollars, if it was integrated. Of course it will grow—it will grow. As the purchasing power of Africa grows, our whole market will also grow.

However, in the short run, exporting to the U.S. market is a very good stimulus for our economies to grow fast. So we are very, very pleased with President Bush for sustaining this AGOA arrangement, which has helped our economies. Uganda is already exporting processed fish from Lake Victoria to the U.S. This is good also for the American consumers because this fish is very good for health. There's very little pollution in our part of the world, so it's very good for the

American people also. So I thanked him for that.

I also thanked him for the Millennium Challenge Account. That money will now be used to develop infrastructure in the country of Uganda. So you have access to big markets in Africa, in the United States, in the European Union—even China has opened their market partially to us. They have offered us 440 products, tariff-free, quota-free. But you need a good infrastructure within a country like Uganda, as well as other African countries, so that you can produce goods at low cost. And because you have got low transport costs, you have got low energy costs; therefore, the cost of doing business are low, are reasonable. Therefore, you can be competitive in the expanded markets and also in the regional markets. So I thanked him again for that Millennium Challenge Account.

I thank him for the malaria and HIV fund. That one is very, very useful. We are working to get rid of the mosquito in Uganda. We are doing research to get rid of the mosquito larvae. And again, we have worked with the Center for Disease Control in the United States, whom you sent to us. There's a hope that we can get rid of the mosquito at the larvae stage because we have got some larvicide, which can kill it.

Of course we also talked about security issues, but most important, AGOA, Millennium Challenge Account, malaria, and HIV. That's what we talked about mainly.

President Bush. Sir, thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:37 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon of the United Nations.

Remarks on the Nomination of James B. Peake To Be Secretary of Veterans Affairs

October 30, 2007

The President. Thank you all. Please be seated. Welcome. Caring for our military veterans is a solemn responsibility of the Federal Government. It is our enduring pledge to every man and woman who puts on our Nation's uniform. And it is the daily work of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am pleased to announce my nomination of an Army doctor and combat veteran who will be a strong new leader for this Department, Lieutenant General James Peake.

Public service is a family commitment, and I'm especially grateful to Dr. Peake's wife, Janice—a fellow Texan—who is with us today. I appreciate you supporting Jim once again as he does the Nation's work. I'm also proud to welcome Kimberly and Thomas. Thank you all for coming. We just met in the Oval Office, and there's no question in my mind they're certainly proud of their dad.

Dr. Peake grew up in a home where service to country was a way of life. His father started out as an enlisted man in the Army and became an officer who spent most of his 30-year career in the Medical Service Corps. Doctor Peake's mom was an Army nurse. His brother was a naval aviator. And as a young man of 18, he set upon his own lifetime of service when he arrived at the United States Military Academy.

After graduating from West Point in 1966, Second Lieutenant James Peake was sent to Vietnam with the 101st Airborne. There he served as a platoon leader. He led men in combat and earned several medals for his courage, including the Silver Star. One of those who knows him best described his leadership this way: "End of a chow line officer—everyone else first."

In Vietnam, he also earned two Purple Hearts. While in the hospital recovering from his second wound, he learned that he had been accepted to medical school. After completing his medical studies at Cornell University, he devoted his career as an Army doctor to improving care for our wounded service men and women. Long before the global war on terror began, Dr. Peake was changing the way we deliver medical care to our troops. As a result of his reforms, many who once might have died on the battlefield—now they come home to be productive, and they're having fulfilling lives.

As a medical officer and combat vet who was wounded in action, Dr. Peake understands the view from both sides of the hospital bed—the doctor's and the patient's. He brought that understanding to many jobs. These include command surgeon in the Army hospitals, commanding general of the