

I'm honored to represent the United States at this opening ceremonies of the Olympic games here in Beijing. And I'm looking forward to cheering our athletes on. Mr. Ambassador, I'm not making any predictions about medal counts, but I can tell you the U.S. athletes are ready to come and compete in the spirit of friendship.

You know, during my last visit here I had the opportunity to break in the mountain biking course. I was so proud of my efforts, I told Laura I was thinking about entering the competition myself. [Laughter] She reminded me they don't give any medals for last place. [Laughter]

Tonight the Olympic torch will light the home of an ancient civilization with a grand history. Thousands of years ago, the Chinese people developed a common language and unified a great nation. China became the center for art and literature, commerce and philosophy. China advanced the frontiers of knowledge in medicine, astronomy, navigation, engineering, and many other fields. And the Chinese are even said to have invented the parachute, something for which the 41st President is very grateful.

We share a long history. The first American ship arrived in China just after the year we won our independence. World War II, Americans and Chinese fought side by side to liberate this land from Imperial Japan. We all remember very clearly, Dr. K, when President Nixon came to Beijing to begin a new era of dialog between our nations. You might remember that yourself. [Laughter]

Today, the United States and China have built a strong relationship, rooted in common interests. China has opened its economy and begun to unleash the entrepreneurial spirit of its people. America will continue to support China on the path toward a free economy.

We're also cooperating to fight pandemic diseases and respond to natural disasters. And through the six-party talks, we're working together to ensure that the Korean Peninsula is free of nuclear weapons.

The relationship between our nations is constructive and cooperative and candid. We'll continue to be candid about our mutual global responsibilities. We must work together to protect the environment and help

people in the developing world; continue to be candid about our belief that all people should have the freedom to say what they think and worship as they choose. We strongly believe societies which allow the free expression of ideas tend to be the most prosperous and the most peaceful.

Candor is the most effective—is most effective where nations have built a relationship of respect and trust. I've worked hard to build that respect and trust. I appreciate the Chinese leadership that have worked hard to build that respect and trust. And I thank all those here at the Embassy who are doing the same thing. The people here who work made sacrifices to serve our country. Serving America is noble, and I hope you found it to be rewarding, just like I have.

I'm honored to be with you. I appreciate the honor of dedicating this new Embassy. And I'm looking forward to going to the games. [Laughter] God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:10 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Marvin Bush, brother, and Dorothy Bush Koch, sister, of President Bush; State Councilor Dai Bingguo, Minister of Finance Xie Xuren, and Ambassador to the U.S. Zhou Wenzhong of China; former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger; and entertainers Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers and the Red Poppy Ladies Percussion Ensemble. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former President George H.W. Bush. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## **Remarks to the 2008 United States Summer Olympic Team in Beijing**

**August 8, 2008**

Congratulations for representing the finest nation on the face of the Earth. The honorary captain and I are proud to be with you. We're here to wish you all the very best.

First, I want to say thanks to the U.S. Olympic Committee, chaired by Peter Ueberroth, CEO Jim Scherr, Judge Charles Lee. I wasn't exactly sure what to say to you, except to start with, God, I love our country; and I love what we stand for; and I love being with you.

Laura and I and a lot of our family are here to cheer you on. We're just a handful of a lot of folks who care about you a lot. There are going to be a lot of people pulling for you. We want you to win as many golds as you possibly can.

We appreciate all the hard work you've put in to get to this spot. It's got to be really exciting, thinking about marching in that stadium and representing our country. So I guess all I've got to say is, go for it, give it all you've got, and may God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:44 p.m. in the Fencing Hall. In his remarks, he referred to former President George H.W. Bush, honorary captain, and Charles Lee, chef de mission, 2008 U.S. summer Olympic team. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

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### Digest of Other White House Announcements

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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.

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#### **August 2**

In the morning, at the Bush family home in Kennebunkport, ME, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a telephone conversation with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil to discuss the recent World Trade Organization Doha round negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **August 3**

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Camp David, MD. Later, he welcomed and met with Ruler of Dubai and Prime Minister Muhammad Bin Rashid Al Maktum of the United Arab Emirates.

#### **August 4**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he met with Ruler

of Dubai and Prime Minister Muhammad Bin Rashid Al Maktum of the United Arab Emirates.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Andrews Air Force Base, MD, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush. They then traveled to Eielson Air Force Base, AK. While en route aboard Air Force One, he participated in an interview with Michael Abramowitz of the Washington Post.

Later in the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush greeted and participated in photo opportunities with U.S. military personnel. He then met with the family of a soldier killed in the war on terror.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Seoul, South Korea, crossing the international dateline and arriving the following evening.

#### **August 5**

In the morning, aboard Air Force One, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the evening, upon arrival at Seoul Air Base, South Korea, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in an arrival ceremony. They then traveled to the Grand Hyatt Seoul Hotel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mark V. Rosenker as Vice Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board.

#### **August 6**

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush traveled to the U.S. Embassy, where they met with Embassy staff and their families. They then traveled to the Blue House Presidential residence, where, in the Grand Garden, they participated in an arrival ceremony with President Lee Myung-bak of South Korea and his wife, Kim Yoon-ok.

Later in the morning, at the Spring House, the President and Mrs. Bush had tea and participated in a social lunch with President Lee and his wife, Kim Yoon-ok.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to U.S. Army Garrison—Yongsan. Later, they traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, arriving in the evening.

Later in the evening, the President traveled to the Government House, where he participated in a working dinner with Prime