

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Vice President Xi Jinping of China in Beijing

August 10, 2008

Vice President Xi. I very much welcome you, Mr. President, and your family members to Beijing for the opening ceremony and for the different events and for this visit to Beijing. To my knowledge—that you have a quite rich and full and interesting program here in Beijing, and I hope you like the program.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Vice President Xi. I'm very familiar with you, Mr. President, because you are always in the limelight of international media. [Laughter] And I'm very happy to have this opportunity to meet you and get acquainted with you.

President Bush. Thank you.

Vice President Xi. That's why the fact that you've come to attend the opening ceremony of the Beijing Olympic games shows your support for the Chinese efforts to host this Olympiad, and it also shows your understanding and respect for the Chinese people to host these games.

The U.S. delegation is a very powerful and strong delegation, and you still have a overwhelming and very obvious edge in athletic sports. And I would like to wish American athletes every success and your good performance at the Beijing Olympic games.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

Vice President Xi. Just now you had a friendly meeting with President Hu Jintao, and I know later on you are going to have a meeting with Premier Wen Jiabao. I'm very happy to have this opportunity to learn about your views and opinions.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Well, thank you very much for your hospitality. We've just had a fabulous lunch, and I'm looking forward to this meeting as well.

I thank you for the warm hospitality. The opening day celebration was unbelievable. And I appreciate the beautiful venues, and I'm looking forward to seeing some of our teams compete.

So, we thank you very much, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. in Building 202 at the Zhongnanhai. Vice President Xi referred to President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao of China. Vice President Xi spoke in Chinese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Premier Wen Jiabao of China in Beijing

August 10, 2008

Premier Wen. Mr. President, welcome to Beijing. I also welcome your family members and other friends from the United States to the Beijing Olympic games.

I already learned that yesterday you went to see the American athletes in Beijing and you also watched a match played by the U.S. women's basketball team.

President Bush. Right.

Premier Wen. You also spent some time with the beach volleyball players. [Laughter]

I think this evening the match between the Chinese men's basketball team and the American men's basketball team will captivate the attention of people from all over the world.

President Bush. That's right.

Premier Wen. I'm very happy that you're going to watch the match.

President Bush. Yes, sir. I'm going with the Foreign Minister. [Laughter] He's going—he told me he's going to be yelling at the top of his lungs. [Laughter]

Thank you for your hospitality. It's been a wonderful experience being here. I didn't see if you were at the opening ceremonies.

Premier Wen. Yes, I was there.

President Bush. Well, it was fantastic—really well done. But thank you.

Premier Wen. Yes, the opening ceremony is spectacular.

President Bush. Unbelievable.

Premier Wen. When the U.S. team marched into the stadium, I saw that you put back your coat and your suit and then you stood up and cheered for your team.

President Bush. Yes, sir. I was proud to see them. But I bet you did the same thing when the Chinese team came. [Laughter]

Premier Wen. Yes, yes. I did the same.