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the President referred to President Hu Jintao of China; President Dmitry A. Medvedev and Prime Minister Vladimir Putin of Russia; former U.S. Olympic athlete Joey Cheek; and President Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir of Sudan. He also referred to his sister, Dorothy Bush Koch; his daughter Barbara P. Bush; and his brother Marvin P. Bush. Bob Costas referred to Alan "Al" Michaels, reporter, NBC Sports; former U.S. Olympic athlete Marion Jones-Thompson; and former Major League Baseball players Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens.

Remarks on the Situation in Georgia

August 11, 2008

I just met with my national security team to discuss the situation in Georgia.

I am deeply concerned by reports that Russian troops have moved beyond the zone of conflict, attacked the Georgian town of Gori, and are threatening Georgia's capital of Tbilisi. There's evidence that Russian forces may soon begin bombing the civilian airport in the capital city.

If these reports are accurate, these Russian actions would represent a dramatic and brutal escalation of the conflict in Georgia. And these actions would be inconsistent with assurances we have received from Russia that its objectives were limited to restoring the status quo in South Ossetia that existed before fighting began on August the 6th.

It now appears that an effort may be underway to depose Russia's [Georgia's] * duly elected Government. Russia has invaded a sovereign neighboring state and threatens a democratic government elected by its people. Such an action is unacceptable in the 21st century.

The Georgian Government has accepted the elements of a peace agreement that the Russian Government previously said it would be willing to accept: an immediate cease-fire; the withdrawal of forces from the zone of conflict; a return to the military status quo as of August 6th; and a commitment to refrain from using force. There are representatives of the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe currently in Moscow seeking Russia's agreement to this peace plan.

Russia's Government must respect Georgia's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The Russian Government must reverse the course it appears to be on and accept this peace agreement as a first step toward resolving this conflict.

Russia's actions this week have raised serious questions about its intentions in Georgia and the region. These actions have substantially damaged Russia's standing in the world, and these actions jeopardize Russians' relations—Russia's relations with the United States and Europe. It is time for Russia to be true to its word and to act to end this crisis.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:21 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

* White House correction.

Remarks to the Coalition for Affordable American Energy

August 12, 2008

I want to thank members of the Coalition for Affordable American Energy for joining me today. We just had a very interesting and informative discussion. I heard from businesses, large and small. They—these folks are representing a lot of workers, people who are really concerned about the energy situation here in America, a lot of people wondering why their Government is not doing something about the supply of crude oil.

One of the things that came out in this discussion was, there's a lot of folks in our country who understand we could be doing something about the high price of gasoline, and we're not. Obviously, we need to be wise about conservation, but we've got to be wise about increasing the supply of oil here in America. If you're concerned about the price of gasoline, one way to affect that price of gasoline is to increase oil supplies.

And one of these things these workers know that I fully understand as well, I'd rather our consumers be buying gasoline made from oil here in America than gasoline from oil being made overseas. We want our dollars, to the extent possible, to be here at home, staying here at home.