

**Remarks Following Briefings at the
Central Intelligence Agency in
Langley, Virginia**

August 14, 2008

I want to thank the Director, Mike Hayden, and D.O. Steve Kappes for hosting me out here at the CIA. I get a chance to thank a lot of the folks who work out here for their service to the country.

It's really important for the people who work here to understand the significant—the significance of the contributions they're making to secure the homeland. The people here work long and hard hours. And they're smart, capable, and they deserve the Nation's thanks.

We also had a couple of briefings, one on the war on terror and the other on the situation in Georgia. Got a lot of folks, smart folks analyzing the situation on the ground, and of course, briefing us on different possibilities that could develop in the area and the region.

I sent Condi Rice, Secretary of State Rice, over there. She'll be coming back to brief me Saturday. I'm looking forward to hearing firsthand what she has seen, what she has heard. And my call, of course, is for the territorial integrity of Georgia to be respected and for the cease-fire agreement to be honored.

And we will be working this issue throughout the coming weeks, and people out here at the Agency have been incredibly helpful. And I want to thank you very much for your hospitality. Thank you, Michael. Appreciate you. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:52 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Stephen R. Kappes, Deputy Director, Central Intelligence Agency.

Remarks on the Situation in Georgia

August 15, 2008

Good morning. I've just received an update from my national security team on the situation in Georgia. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is in Tbilisi. She's conferring with President Saakashvili and expressing America's wholehearted support for Georgia's democracy.

She will be traveling to Crawford, where I will meet her, and she will bring me up to date on what she has seen and what she heard in Georgia as well as in Paris—I mean, in France; she did not go to Paris. Secretary of Defense Gates will keep me briefed on the humanitarian assistance to the people of Georgia. We're working closely with our partners in Europe and other members of the G-7 to bring a resolution to this crisis.

The United States and our allies stand with the people of Georgia and their democratically elected Government. Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected. Moscow must honor its commitment to withdraw its invading forces from all Georgian territory.

Some Americans listening today may wonder why events taking place in a small country halfway around the world matter to the United States. In the years since it's gained independence after the Soviet Union's collapse, Georgia's become a courageous democracy. Its people are making the tough choices that are required of free societies. Since the Rose Revolution in 2003, the Georgian people have held free elections, opened up their economy, and built the foundations of a successful democracy.

Georgia has sent troops to Afghanistan and Iraq to help others achieve the liberty that they struggled so hard to attain. To further strengthen their democracy, Georgia has sought to join the free institutions of the West. The people of Georgia have cast their lot with the free world, and we will not cast them aside.

Georgia's emergence as a young democracy has been part of an inspiring and hopeful new chapter in Europe's history. Europe has moved beyond the world wars that killed millions of people and the cold war that divided its citizens between two superpowers. Every administration since the end of the cold war has worked with European partners to extend the reach of liberty and prosperity. And now, for the first time in memory, Europe is becoming a continent that is whole, free, and at peace.

Unfortunately, Russia has tended to view the expansion of freedom and democracy as a threat to its interests. The opposite is true. Free and prosperous societies on Russia's