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to the Oval Office. And I thank you for bringing your wife to have dinner tonight with Laura and me. I'm looking forward to it.

We've been through a lot together during our time in office. We strongly believe that Israel will benefit by having a Palestinian state, a democracy on her border that works for peace. And, Prime Minister, that vision is alive because of you. And I thank you for your steadfast support for peace.

And it's not easy. It's not easy to try to change the paradigm, and I understand that. But one thing is for certain: You've kept your word. And in international politics, that's important. And I want to thank you for the friendship, and thank you for your vision. And I just want you to know that I believe that vision is alive and needs to be worked on.

And again, I welcome you. Appreciate you coming.

Prime Minister Olmert. Thank you very much, Mr. President. I'm delighted to have this opportunity to express again the deep gratitude that we all have to you, personally, as a human being, as a friend, as a courageous leader who has helped Israel so much over the period since you were President of the United States of America.

We will never forget that you have removed one of the most threatening strategic dangers from Israel on the east side, in Iraq. And this is a great achievement that makes life much better for many people in our part of the world, particularly for us and for our neighbors as well.

You have set forth in motion the Annapolis process, which I was very proud to take part in.

President Bush. Yes, sir.

Prime Minister Olmert. It continues with your guidance and support and inspiration. And this is very important, because as you say, a two-state solution is the only possible way to resolve the conflict in the Middle East.

So, Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Israel, I want to thank you. The importance of your leadership is greatly appreciated in our country. And I'm sure that when the history books will be written, the contributions that you made to the safety and security of many people will be greatly appreciated.

Personally, I want to thank you for your friendship on behalf of my wife Aliza and myself. And I'm so happy and proud that I have an opportunity to bid farewell to you before you leave this great place and before I leave my office. And I'm sure that we will continue our friendship for many years to come.

Thank you very much.

The President. Sure. Thank you, sir. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:40 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Aliza Olmert, wife of Prime Minister Olmert.

Remarks to the Community at Fort Campbell, Kentucky

November 25, 2008

The President. Thank you. Please be seated; unless, of course, you don't have a seat. [*Laughter*] I am honored to be here at Fort Campbell. I'm honored to be with the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne; the Night Stalkers of the 160th; the Green Berets of the 5th Special Forces Group; all members of the Fort Campbell community. You are part of the finest military in the world. I have one word for you: Hooah!

I also bring greetings from another man named Bush, America's only skydiving President. [*Laughter*] He said, "Pass on these two words: Air assault!"

In recent weeks, this post has been the scene of heartwarming family reunions. Many of you recently finished deployments to Iraq. You performed with courage and distinction on the frontlines of the war on terror. You have returned on success. On behalf of a grateful nation, I'm proud to welcome home the Bastogne Brigade, the Strike Brigade, the Rakkasan Brigade—[*applause*]. Job well done.

I want to thank General Townsend for his service. I'm proud to be with his wife, Melissa. I thank General Schloesser's wife, Patty. I appreciate Maria McConville. I want to thank Theresa Vail. These women represent the military families who have sacrificed just

like our military has. On behalf of an incredibly grateful nation, I extend our heartfelt thanks and our respect to the military families here on Fort Campbell.

I thank Governor Beshear, who is with us, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. I want to thank the two Congress folks that represent this important base: Congressman Ed Whitfield from Kentucky, Congressman Marsha Blackburn from Tennessee. I also want to thank Congressman Zach Wamp from Tennessee, as well, for joining us.

I appreciate all the local and State officials who are here today. I particularly want to point out one person, Staff Sergeant John [Joshua] * Forbess. I had the honor of meeting John [Joshua] * at the base of Air Force One. He was severely wounded in a helicopter crash in Iraq in 2003. Yet, despite his wounds, he volunteers in the Fisher House.

I'm proud of those of you who not only serve our Nation by wearing a fabulous uniform, but serve our Nation by feeding the hungry and providing home—houses for the homeless, for loving your neighbor just like you like to be yourself, just like Sergeant Forbess has done.

I want to thank very much those who made this event work—happen. I mean, it's not easy to host the President. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming out.

You know, we're getting ready to celebrate Thanksgiving. I'm looking forward to it. The day before my first Thanksgiving as your President, guess where I was?

Audience member. Right here!

The President. Right here at Fort Campbell. For those of you who weren't here, I can only say that watching a bunch of Screaming Eagles tear into turkey is quite a sight. [*Laughter*]

That Thanksgiving came shortly after the worst terrorist attack in our Nation's history. The war in Afghanistan had just begun; the Rakkasans were the first conventional brigade to join the battle. That November day, I said, "Once again, you have a 'Rendezvous with Destiny.' " And today, there is no doubt that you have upheld this motto; you have done your duty, and you have defended the United States of America.

Over the past 7 years, folks from this base have done exactly what they were trained to do. The Screaming Eagles, the Night Stalkers, the 5th Special Forces Group have gone on the offense in the war against these killers and thugs. You have taken the battle of the terrorists overseas so we do not have to face them here in the United States. You have helped counter the hateful ideology of tyranny and terror with a more hopeful vision of justice and liberty. You're part of the great ideological struggle of our time. With the soldiers of Fort Campbell out front, the forces of freedom and liberty will prevail.

The war on terror, the war against people who would do us harm again, is being waged on two main fronts: Afghanistan and Iraq. In Afghanistan, we removed an oppressive regime that harbored the terrorists who planned the attacks that killed 3,000 folks on September the 11th, 2001. Because of our men and women in uniform, more than 25 million Afghans are free. Afghanistan is a democracy, an ally in the war on terror. And as a result of your courage, the American people are safer.

In the recent weeks, the members of the Thunder Brigade have begun deploying to Afghanistan for a new mission. You will replace the Wings of Destiny Brigade and join a powerful coalition of forces, including the Currahees, members of the LifeLiners. You'll join Major General Schloesser and his Division Headquarters. Together, you will help the people of Afghanistan defend their young democracy. Together, you will ensure that a noble goal is achieved, that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for those who want to plot and kill American citizens.

The other main front in the war on terror is Iraq. In that country, we removed a dictator who murdered his own people, paid the family of suicide bombers who threatened America's security. As the regime crumbled, the dictator's sons tried to run and hide. They could not hide from the United States military. They met their fate in Mosul at the hands of the Screaming Eagles.

Because we acted, the dictator, his sons, and their regime are no more. More than 25 million Iraqis are free. And a young democracy has taken root where a tyrant once

* White House correction.

ruled. Removing Saddam Hussein was the right decision then, and it is the right decision today.

With Saddam gone from power, our mission turned to helping the Iraqi people defend their freedom against violent extremists, including Al Qaida. In 2006, our efforts were faltering, so I reviewed our strategy and changed course. Instead of retreating, I ordered more troops into Iraq. And to lead the surge, I chose a former commanding general of the 101st Airborne, the man formerly known as Eagle Six, General David Petraeus.

Our troops conducted this surge with resolve and with valor, and nobody knows the impact better than the Screaming Eagles. When the Bastogne Brigade deployed to Salah ad Din last year, the Province was still struggling to recover from the bombing of the famous Golden Mosque. But you partnered with the Iraqis to restore security. Schools and businesses are now open. The Golden Mosque is being rebuilt. Throughout the Province, hope is returning; the terrorists are being driven out. The Iraqi people have the Screaming Eagles to thank.

Across Iraq, the surge has produced similar results. Since the surge began, violence and sectarian killings have fallen dramatically. Iraqi security forces have taken responsibility for 13 out of Iraq's 18 Provinces. Slowly but steadily, economic and political progress is taking place. Iraqis are working together for a more hopeful future.

As conditions on the ground continue to improve, we will further reduce American combat forces in Iraq; it's a strategy I call return on success. So far, we've brought home a Marine expeditionary unit, two Marine battalions, six Army brigades without replacement, including the Rakkasans. And by the end of January, we'll have brought home more than 4,000 additional troops.

As conditions on the ground continue to improve, we're also making progress toward completing a strategic framework agreement and a security agreement with the Iraqi Government. These landmark agreements will pave the way for a future of economic and diplomatic and military cooperation between our two countries. Iraqi lawmakers in Baghdad are now debating these agreements through the democratic process. It's a good sign that Iraq has become a strong and vigorous democracy, and it's a testament to the success of our men and women in uniform. The war in Iraq is not over, but we're drawing closer to the day when our troops can come home. And when they come home, they will come home in victory.

The work you have done and are going to do is historical work. See, the consequences of success in Iraq will resonate far beyond that country's borders, and will resonate when your children and grandchildren begin to study the history of peace. Success will frustrate Iran's ambitions to dominate the region. Success will show millions across the Middle East that a future of liberty and democracy is possible. Success will deny Al Qaida a safe haven for launching new attacks. Success in Iraq will mean that the American people are more secure at home.

In Iraq, Afghanistan, and beyond, our men and women in uniform have done everything we have asked of them and more. You've earned the thanks of every American.

You know, this is going to be my last Thanksgiving as President. Sometimes I am asked what I will miss most about the job. Well, above all, I'm going to miss spending time with men and women who have volunteered to serve the United States of America, the fine men and women who wear the uniform. We are blessed to have defenders of such character and courage. I'm grateful to the families who serve by your side. And I will always be thankful for the honor of having served as the Commander in Chief.

So Laura and I wish you and your families a safe and happy Thanksgiving. We join you in praying for our troops spending the holiday far from home. We pray for those who've been wounded in battle and for all who love and care for them. We hold in our thoughts and prayers the brave men and women who have given their lives and the families who mourn for them. We ask the Almighty to watch over everyone who puts on the uniform, and has volunteered to serve this great land.

It's an honor to be with you today. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:13 a.m. In his remarks, he referred to Brig. Gen. Stephen Townsend, USA, deputy commanding general (rear), 101st Airborne Division, and his wife, Melissa; Patty Schloesser, wife of Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser, USA, commanding general, 101st Airborne Division; Maria McConville, wife of Brig. Gen. James C. McConville, USA, deputy commanding general (support), 101st Airborne Division; Theresa Vail, wife of Col. Thomas Vail, chief of staff, 101st Airborne Division; S. Sgt. Joshua Forbess, USA, President's Volunteer Service Award recipient, November 25; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commander, U.S. Central Command. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Proclamation 8323—To Provide for Duty-Free Treatment Under the Earned Import Allowance Program, and for Other Purposes

November 25, 2008

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

1. Section 404 of the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act (the "CAFTA-DR Act"), as added by section 2 of Public Law 110–436, 122 Stat. 4976, provides for preferential tariff treatment of eligible apparel articles wholly assembled in an eligible country and imported directly from an eligible country, if such articles are accompanied by an earned import allowance certificate issued under a program established by the Secretary of Commerce.

2. Section 404(e)(1) of the CAFTA-DR Act, as amended, provides that the program providing this preferential treatment shall be in effect for the 10-year period beginning on the date on which the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that sections A, B, C, and D of the Annex to Presidential Proclamation 8213 of December 20, 2007, have taken effect.

3. On August 7, 2008, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published a notice in the *Federal Register* (73 *FR* 46057) announcing that August 15, 2008, would be the effective date for sections A, B, C, and D of the Annex to Presidential Proclamation 8213.

4. I have determined, and hereby certify, that the provisions of Proclamation 8213 referenced in section 404(e)(1) of the CAFTA-DR Act, as amended, have taken effect.

5. Section 6002 of the Africa Investment Incentive Act of 2006 (division D, title VI of Public Law 109–432) (the "2006 Act") amended section 112(c) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) (19 U.S.C. 3721(c)) to modify the preferential tariff treatment accorded to designated lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

6. Pursuant to section 6002 of the 2006 Act, in Proclamation 8114 of March 19, 2007, I proclaimed modifications to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) to provide the tariff treatment authorized by the 2006 Act. The HTS provisions proclaimed in Proclamation 8114 were modified by Proclamation 8157 of June 28, 2007, and Proclamation 8240 of April 17, 2008, to provide the tariff treatment authorized by the 2006 Act.

7. Section 3 of Public Law 110–436 amends section 112(c) of the AGOA to modify the tariff treatment applicable to lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, and to provide that Mauritius is to be treated as a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of the AGOA.

8. Accordingly, in order to reflect the amendments to section 112(c) of the AGOA, I have determined that it is appropriate to modify the HTS to reflect the tariff treatment provided to lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries and to provide that Mauritius is to be treated as a lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country for purposes of the AGOA.

9. Section 203(e)(1)(A)(i) of the Andean Trade Preference Act, as amended (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3202(e)(1)(A)(i)), authorizes the President to withdraw or suspend the designation of any country as a beneficiary country for purposes of the ATPA if, after such designation, the President determines that as a result of changed circumstances such country should be barred from designation as a beneficiary country.