



# G8 Summit in Kananaskis, Canada

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America

For Immediate Release  
Office of the Press Secretary  
June 27, 2002

## U.S., Russia Continue Joint Efforts to Fight Terrorism

Remarks by President Bush and Russian President Putin in Photo Opportunity - Calgary  
Kananaskis, Canada  
7:54 A.M. (Local)

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PRESIDENT BUSH: First --

Q Okay, President Bush --

PRESIDENT BUSH: Wait a minute, please. I first want to say how pleased I am to meet with Vladimir Putin again. Every time we meet we have a very constructive dialogue, and we have a very important dialogue. And I appreciate so very much his leadership and his continued willingness to find a new common ground in this most important relationship.

Yesterday a court in America made a ruling that I want to comment on. America is a nation that is -- a nation that values our relationship with an Almighty. Declaration of God in the Pledge of Allegiance doesn't violate rights. As a matter of fact, it's a confirmation of the fact that we received our rights from God, as proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence.

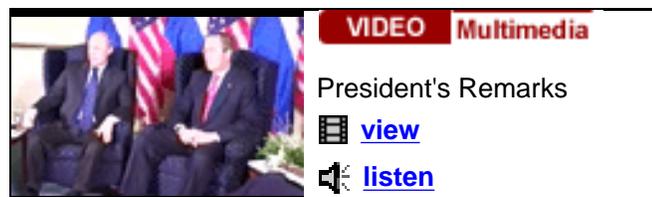
I -- I believe that it points up the fact that we need common-sense judges who understand that our rights were derived from God. And those are the kind of judges I intend to put on the bench.

Mr. President. Do you want to make a comment or just answer questions?

(President Putin begins speaking.)

PRESIDENT BUSH: Do you want to interpret this for the American press?

PRESIDENT PUTIN: I want to say that I'm also very glad to meet with President Bush. And moreover, I'd



like to emphasize that the President and I are having very good personal relations and our colleagues in our capitals also note that interaction between our countries is becoming very efficient, not only from the viewpoint of bilateral relations and solving bilateral issues, but also as regards to resolution of major international problems.

And there is one subject that is of particular importance and responsibility the U.S. and Russia undertook; that is the promotion of international security. And during the time since the signature of our international treaties on stability, international stability between our countries, we have had an opportunity to evaluate these documents, and pass them to the parliament for further ratification -- I mean the treaty between the United States and Russia on cutting strategic offenses.

And I'm simply very glad to meet George again, and have a chat with him and discuss all the problems that are of concern for both our nations.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you.

Patience, please. Terry.

Q Mr. President, there are some Democrats who think they can make some political hay out of the WorldCom failure and other business scandals by, first, noting that polls show a lot of Americans think you're too close to big business, and second, arguing that because of that, your reform proposals aren't tough enough. What do you think the political impact of WorldCom will be? Are you concerned about it?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I'm concerned about the economic impact of the fact that there are some corporate leaders who have not upheld their responsibility. If you are a responsible citizen, and you run a corporation in America, you must fully disclose all assets and liabilities, and you must treat your shareholders and employees with respect.

PRESIDENT PUTIN: During the general discussion at the G-8 meeting, the President paid attention to this issue. And for me and my other colleagues, it was very important to listen to the President's opinion, because under the circumstances of the globalized community and world, a lot depends on the state of the U.S. economy these days. And therefore, the willingness of the President of the United States to secure the Stock Market and market of the securities is very important, as well as the notion of transparency in the U. S. business, and is a very good signal.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Do you want to call on a Russian media?

Q President Bush, were you astonished by the European reaction towards your proposal in regards to Arafat?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I'm very pleased with my -- the response to my proposal in the Middle East. The response has been very positive. And the reason why is most European leaders understand something has to change in order for there to be peace. And that starts with free elections, a new constitution, transparency, rule of law amongst the Palestinians. And that's the hopeful way to get to where we need to get, which is two states living side by side in peace. The response has been very positive, and for that I'm grateful.

Q And one question to you, Mr. Bush.

MR. FLEISCHER: A question from the American reporters.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Martha.

Q Thank you, sir. In light of the comments you just made about the Pledge of Allegiance, I'm wondering if you could talk about how your personal faith has helped you as President.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Well, I appreciate you saying that, Martha. I -- you know, yesterday when I went to see the -- or two days ago when I was -- or yesterday -- (laughter.) Two days ago. I went --

Q Mr. President --

PRESIDENT BUSH: Please, let me at least finish the answers.

I was amongst people whose lives were hurting a lot. And I was trying to figure out how to bring a sense of hope, and I thought that the best thing I could say was that there is a God who loves them. And I believe that's the case. And as a result, I feel comfortable in my life because I have that belief and that understanding.

You know, it's interesting, there is a universal God, in my opinion, and the first conversation I ever had with Vladimir Putin was about God -- in Slovenia. It was a way that we -- we'd never met each other, and the first discussion we had was about our personal beliefs.

I appreciate you hear me say that I appreciate the fact that our country prays for me and Laura. And I do. I do, I feel the prayers of the people. And so there is a -- I think that the Almighty is important -- obviously, important part of my life, but very important part of the life of our country. And that's why the ruling of the courts was out of step with the traditions and history of America.

MR. FLEISCHER: Final question from a Russian reporter.

Q Mr. Bush, the G-8 was supposed to carry out the six points having to do with terrorism. What is the relationship of the United States and Russia vis-a-vis this battle against terrorism, jointly? I only ask the Russian translation when you're speaking. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BUSH: It sounds like you speak better English than some of us. (Laughter.)

Q Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BUSH: Fournier included. (Laughter.)

First of all, President Putin has been a stalwart in the fight against terror. He understands the threat of terror, because he has lived through terror. He's seen terror firsthand and he knows the threat of terrorism. One of the first -- go ahead, do you want to translate?

He understands what I understand, that there won't be peace if terrorists are allowed to kill and take innocent life. And, therefore, I view President Putin as an ally, strong ally in the war against terror. And his actions are more than -- speak louder than his words. He has been a man of action when it comes to fighting terror, and I appreciate that very much.

Thank you all. We've got to have our bilateral. Thank you.

Q (Asked in Russian, not translated.)

PRESIDENT PUTIN: What I would like to say that the military of our nations and special services of our countries are built up in a way so that they carry this global nature. And, unfortunately, terrorism is of a global nature, as well, today. And, therefore, we have repeatedly mentioned that joint efforts are essential if you want to be a success in this fight.

Therefore, we welcome the firm position of the U.S. President in this regard. And, therefore, we welcome his courage and consistency with which he persists his policies, in spite of any elements that interfere with that. And we expect that our interaction will have -- will make a significant and decisive contribution to the elimination of terrorism worldwide.

END 8:07 A.M. (Local)

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