

Week Ending Friday, July 18, 2003

**Remarks Prior to Discussions With
President Olusegun Obasanjo of
Nigeria and an Exchange With
Reporters in Abuja, Nigeria**

July 12, 2003

President Obasanjo. Mr. President—
President Bush. Here, I'll stand up with
you.

President Obasanjo. Is that what you
want?

President Bush. Oh, absolutely. I want to
be over here. [*Laughter*]

President Obasanjo. It is, indeed, a mat-
ter of general honor and pleasure for me to
welcome you, Mr. President, to our country,
Nigeria. On behalf of all the people of Nige-
ria, I sincerely extend to you our warmest
greetings on this historic visit to our con-
tinent of Africa in general and to Nigeria in
particular.

President has generally acknowledged that
much has changed in the world since the end
of the cold war. There's no doubt there is
an emerging new world order, with new re-
alities of nations and people throughout the
world—their international outlooks, seek
new friends and confirm old realities in the
bid to find fresh places for global peace, har-
mony, and security.

In this imagined new world order, Mr.
President, the rest of the world acknowledges
that the United States of America will remain
a key player politically, economically, and
militarily. Thus we appreciate your visit to
our continent as indication that Africa is to
be reckoned with in the emerging world
order. We salute your visit to so many African
countries—four of them—and now Nigeria,
in particular, as an expression that Africa
should not be sidelined or even detached
from the—of the emerging world order.

We in Africa realize the extent to which
we are ultimately responsible for our own de-
velopment and that we are the architects of
our fortune or misfortune. Nevertheless, this

is also generally true that hardly any country
has transformed its fortunes without external
support from friends and well-wishers. That
is why we acknowledge with deepest appre-
ciation the role that the United States has
played and continues to play, particularly
within the G-8, in supporting the vision of
the New Partnership for African Develop-
ment, NEPAD. As you are well aware, Mr.
President, NEPAD is our vision as well as
our blueprint for making our continent great.

Through the NEPAD, African leaders
have made a commitment to the African peo-
ples and to the world to work together in
developing the continent by consolidating
democracy, good governance, and imple-
menting such general social, economic devel-
opment programs. Implicit in the NEPAD
program are all the universal values, such as
democracy, human rights, rule of law, eradica-
tion of corruption, conflict resolution, and
fight against terrorism. We are hopeful that
NEPAD will strengthen Africa's position in
the emerging world order.

Here in Nigeria, we are making bold
strides to consolidate democracy and reform
our Government structures as well as the na-
tional economy. We also have continuing and
new regional responsibilities, especially in
the area of maintaining security. These areas
require global understanding, cooperation,
and substantial financial support. You will
agree with me that sustainable national re-
forms are central to regional and global trans-
formation and for development.

Thank you, Mr. President.

President Bush. Thank you, friend.

It's my honor, Mr. President, to be here
as your guest. Gosh, we've met three or four
times already. You keep telling me to come
to your country—finally made it. And I'm
glad we're here. It's been a—it's an honor.

Listen, Nigeria is a very important country
on the continent of Africa. And because of
your forthrightness and your style and your
commitment, you're a very important leader

on this continent, and I'm honored to be here with you.

I appreciate very much your commitment to trade and markets, and we look forward to being an active trading partner with Nigeria. I appreciate your commitment to regional peace, and we will work with Nigeria and ECOWAS on issues such as Liberia. I appreciate very much your focus on education, and the United States stands ready to help.

But most of all, Mr. President, I appreciate your honesty and openness and forthrightness when it comes to battling the pandemic of AIDS. You're truly an international leader on this issue. And the United States of America, when Congress acts, will stand side by side with leaders such as yourself to fight the pandemic of AIDS to save lives.

So Mr. President, it's an honor to be here. I've been looking forward to this visit for a long time. I appreciate your leadership, and I appreciate your friendship. Thank you very much.

Director of Central Intelligence/State of the Union Address

Q. Mr. President, do you have faith in your CIA Director?

President Bush. Yes, I do, absolutely. I've got confidence in George Tenet. I've got confidence in the men and women who work at the CIA, and I continue to—I look forward to working with them and—as we win this war on terror.

Q. Mr. President—

Assistant Press Secretary Reed Dickens. Thank you all. Thank you.

Q. Is the matter over then?

Q. Mr. Bush, what about—

Q. Do you consider the matter over, sir, that—

President Bush. I do.

Liberia

Q. What about Liberia? Is America sending troops to Liberia?

President Bush. The President and I just talked about Liberia, and we are—our assessment teams are still in place. We need to know exactly what is necessary to achieve our objectives. The first objective, of course, is for Mr. Taylor to leave the country, which

he said he is—do. And I want to thank the President for his leadership on that issue. It's been a tough issue, but he's led. And the world is grateful for that.

Secondly, we've got a commitment to the cease-fire. And therefore, we need to know exactly what it means to keep the cease-fire in place. Thirdly, we got a commitment to relieve human suffering, and we need to know what that has required. And so, we're still in the process of assessing. And I told the President we would be active. And the definition of that will be made known when we're—when we understand all the parameters.

Q. See a decision next week, sir?

Assistant Press Secretary Dickens. Thank you all very much. Thank you—

President Bush. I'm not sure yet when, Randy [Randall Mikkelsen, Reuters].

Assistant Press Secretary Dickens. Pool, let's go.

Q. Thank you, sir.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:58 a.m. at Aso Presidential Villa. In his remarks, he referred to President Charles Taylor of Liberia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks at the Leon H. Sullivan Summit in Abuja

July 12, 2003

Thank you all. Thank you very much. Thanks a lot. Please be seated—please. J.C., thank you for that warm introduction. I thought you might have lost your touch—[laughter]—as a retired Member of Congress, but you didn't. I'm proud to be introduced by my friend. And I want to thank you all very much for such a warm welcome.

This the last day of our journey through Africa. And each of us is drawn to this summit by the vision of the late Leon Sullivan. And I'm so honored to be in the presence of Mrs. Grace Sullivan. It's great to see you again, Mrs. Sullivan.