

Statement  
by  
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and

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Mr. President,

I take the floor today to mention some world events of significance that have occurred over the past ten days. Last week our Polish colleague addressed us regarding the Krakow meeting on the one-year anniversary of the Proliferation Security Initiative. More than sixty countries have united behind this practical initiative designed to stem proliferation and help prevent weapons of mass destruction from falling into the hands of terrorists. The success PSI has enjoyed in such a relatively short time demonstrates in a concrete way how dozens of countries can agree to work together toward our common security.

This week, leaders of G-8 countries are meeting in Sea Island, Georgia, to tackle some of the most difficult international problems, including proliferation and weapons of mass destruction. The G-8 Action Plan on Nonproliferation was agreed and announced yesterday. The plan, which I have asked the Secretariat to distribute, among other elements, takes new action against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including expanding PSI and the Global Partnership, strengthening the IAEA, promoting universal adherence to the Additional Protocol and making it a condition of supply of nuclear technology. The G-8 leaders committed to refraining for one year from initiating new transfers of uranium enrichment and reprocessing technology to additional states, aiming to implement permanent controls before the 2005 G-8 Summit to keep these materials out of the hands of outlaw states seeking nuclear weapons. The G-8 leaders

also urged all states to implement recently passed U.S. Security Council Resolution 1540, which calls on states to criminalize proliferation.

Mr. President, turning to other world events, this past Sunday many of us watched coverage of the D-Day commemorations on television, which were interspersed throughout the day with news of President Ronald Reagan's death. If you will allow me a few personal thoughts, I have been blessed with many great things in my life, but among the best of these happened as a consequence of my association with Ronald Reagan. I met my husband through our work for President Reagan back in the early 80's. And as part of a Presidential Delegation representing then-President Reagan when I worked for him at the White House, I first visited Normandy in 1988. It was an unforgettable experience, standing on Omaha Beach with some of the American D-Day veterans, who described what happened during those first hours on June 6, 1944.

Twenty years ago at Pointe de Hoc, Ronald Reagan said "We're here to mark that day in history when the Allied peoples joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty." And as President Bush said this week of Ronald Reagan, "through his courage and determination, he enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression."

President Reagan's unswerving vision led to some of the most far-reaching arms control and disarmament agreements and ultimately to the end of the Cold War. On behalf of the United States, I wish to deeply thank all of you who have extended condolences on President Reagan's death.