Case Number: 2006-0459-F

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Let me begin by saying how much the United States appreciates President Chirac’s strong leadership and the vital role France is playing around the world. This is a time when the world’s great democracies must reach out, not retreat. Many of the problems we face — like terrorism, international organized crime and drugs — have no respect for borders. And the extraordinary opportunities we enjoy to shape a safer, more prosperous future for our people can only be realized if we stay engaged and work together. France and the United States are doing just that, building on our historic alliance to meet the challenges of a new era.

NATO is a cornerstone of that alliance, and President Chirac and I spent a good deal of time discussing its present... and its future.

In Bosnia, all of us can see NATO’s critical role in ending a terrible war, helping peace take hold and restoring stability to the heart of Europe. President Chirac and I reviewed the impressive progress our troops are making. We agreed that the mission in Bosnia is moving forward steadily, surely and as safely as possible.
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The Franco-American partnership extends well beyond NATO... and beyond Europe. Both our countries have a special concern for Africa. From X to Y [TK TK], we are working to help its people realize their tremendous economic and political potential. Today, President Chirac and I agreed to better coordinate our efforts to combat a worldwide problem that has been especially devastating to African men and women -- the AIDS virus. By working more closely together, we can help check the spread of this disease -- and hasten the day when a cure is found.
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PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING
WITH PRESIDENT CHIRAC
THE WHITE HOUSE
FEBRUARY 1, 1996
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