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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT  
(As Prepared)

The Political Declaration released today celebrates the historic advance of democracy since the Seven met last summer in Paris. In the Declaration, we reiterate our support for the peaceful democratic movement that is bringing freedom to Central and Eastern Europe and uniting Germany. But the great events in Europe should not lead us to overlook other opportunities and other needs.

During our discussion, we cited Namibia as a positive model for democratic evolution elsewhere on the African continent. Most of the leaders here have met recently with Nelson Mandela and some with South African President de Klerk. We believe the focus of our efforts should be on encouraging negotiations to bring about a non-racial democracy in South Africa.

In Central and South America, we welcome the return of democracy to Chile and Panama and free and fair elections in Nicaragua. And the winds of freedom have not bypassed Asia, where we are witnessing important changes taking place in Nepal and Mongolia.

We acknowledge some recent actions taken by the Chinese government, but for now the measures put in place at last year's Summit remain. We will explore, however, whether there are World Bank loans that would contribute to reform of the Chinese economy, especially to meet environmental concerns.

We also devoted considerable discussion to the evolution of events in the Soviet Union and how a reforming Soviet Union can play an important role in addressing both old and new challenges facing the international community. President Bush will review that discussion for you in more detail tomorrow.

The Declaration closes by suggesting actions Western nations can take to help secure and promote democracy's advance in all regions of the world. The Declaration notes that political freedom and economic liberty are mutually reinforcing and cannot flourish in an environment of intolerance.

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