

the fact that some felt with the closing of Subic that we would withdraw and pull way back from any possible security commitments. And I think one has to know—I can't tell you what that means in terms of keeping our security interests alive here or keeping a military presence here. It depends on events. It depends obviously on deployments of various naval groups. But all I wanted to do was reassure the people of this area that we are not, because of the closing of Subic, we are not pulling back from future security considerations. We are a Pacific power, we think. We know we're a Pacific trading power. And we are going to stay involved with the security concerns of our friends.

I can't tell you exactly what that means in terms of troops, where they'll be; vessels, where they'll be. That depends on the situation that might exist at the time. We had a very different security deployment in the Middle East a year ago than we have today. And so, things can change dramatically.

But all I'm just doing is giving proper assurances that our military as well as our economic interests are still housed in the Pacific to a large degree.

#### ANZUS

Q. —the ANZUS treaty with the countries of the region?

*The President.* Do I what?

Q. Do you still need the ANZUS treaty?

*The President.* Well, we still need the treaty that exists, that we refer to as ANZUS. As you know, there's been some difficulties with that that it's no point going into now, as much as this is the last question. But nevertheless, the concept of the ANZUS is very, very important to us.

*The Prime Minister.* Important to both of us here.

That will do it. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you, Mr. President.

*The President.* Thank you very much. Thank you, Prime Minister.

#### *Domestic Politics and Trade Policy*

Q. Mr. President, you were talking with some glee about engaging the Democrats, knocking some Democratic heads. In the last 2 days you've said—

*The President.* —in the last couple of days. That could change. That could change.

Q. The status—

*The President.* No, not totally. I think it's ridiculous to start throwing in special legislation just before a trip to kind of look like the macho trying to dictate the foreign policy of this country. It's crazy. But they have their own constituents, and I've got mine. But it's all good-spirited, and we'll do our thing, keep it on broad international principles, and then take my case to the American people.

And the American people do not want to go back into isolation, cutting off foreign markets. They want to expand them. And they remember, some of them are old enough to remember the thirties with decreasing world trade. And some of them are not old enough, but they've studied enough about it to know that protectionism begets shrunk markets and further unemployment. And so, I can understand it when a Congressman gets up and, "Well, if you don't get a commitment here in this district, why, I'll introduce legislation." That's fine. They don't have the responsibility for conducting the policy, and I do.

Q. Does Europe show signs of understanding that, though, Mr. Bush?

*The President.* They will before we're through.

*Note: The President's 115th news conference began at 2:50 p.m. in the Main Committee Room at Parliament House. In his remarks, he referred to Arthur Dunkel, Chairman of the Trade Negotiation Committee and Director General of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan.*