

to politics. I'm going to continue doing the job the American people expect, which is to safeguard America and Americans.

We've got a war on our hands. There is a terrorist network that still is interested in harming Americans, and we will hunt them down. There are countries which are developing weapons of mass destruction, and we will deal with them appropriately.

One country is Iraq. Obviously, we expect them to live up to the U.N. Security resolutions and disarm. And if they won't, we'll lead a coalition to disarm them.

Another country is North Korea. And we are working with friends and allies in the region to explain clearly to North Korea it's not in their nation's interest to develop and proliferate weapons of mass destruction. It was right here at this spot where Jiang Zemin, the leader of China, and myself got together, and we put out a joint declaration that we expect for the Korean Peninsula to be nuclear-weapons-free. That was a serious statement. I believe the situation with North Korea will be resolved peacefully. As I said, it's a diplomatic issue, not a military issue, and we're working all fronts.

#### *North Korea*

Q. Can I follow that up? You said it could be resolved diplomatically. You were quoted not long ago saying that you loathe Kim Chong-il. How can you—

*The President.* Well, what I worry about with a leader like Kim Chong-il is somebody who starves his people. The United States of America is the largest—one of the largest, if not the largest donor of food to the North Korean people. And one of the reasons why the people are starving is because the leader of North Korea hasn't seen to it that their economy is strong or that they be fed. We've got a great heart, but I have no heart for somebody who starves his folks.

#### *National Economy*

Q. Mr. President, when you look forward and think about economic stimulus—we're beginning a new year—and the stock market people nursing some losses, what are your views about that? And secondly, are you sensitive to the idea that a stimulus is too weighted toward helping the wealthiest Americans, and are you making choices based on that, to help the middle income—

*The President.* Well, what I'm worried about is job creation. And I'm worried about those who are unemployed. I am concerned about those who are looking for work but can't find work. And so next week when I talk about an economic stimulus package, I will talk about how to create jobs, how best to create jobs, as well as how to take care of those who don't have a job.

I'm concerned about all the people. And I don't view the politics of—you know, I understand the politics of economic stimulus—that some would like to turn this into class warfare. That's not how I think. I think about the overall economy and how best to help those folks who are looking for work.

Q. Do you—will you propose new tax cuts? Do you think they're necessary now for the economy?

*The President.* I'm looking at all options. And of course, if I knew the answer, I probably wouldn't tell you now, because I'd like for you to come and pay attention to the speech.

Q. I'll do that.

*The President.* I know you'll do that.

#### *North Korea*

Q. Can I go back to Korea?

*The President.* Sure.

Q. You're talking about a diplomatic solution, and you believe that there is one. How do you think you can bring some of