

Q. Thank you, sir.

North Korea

Q. Mr. President, on North Korea, sir?

*The President.* I'll answer one on North Korea, yes, real quick.

Q. Yes, sir. What would it take for the U.S. or any other nation to have direct talks with North Korea? And they claim to believe that the U.S. is a threat to them.

*The President.* Yes.

Q. What can you say?

*The President.* Well, first of all, I went to Korea and clearly said that the United States has no intention of invading North Korea. I said that right there in South Korea. And in Kim Chong-il's neighborhood, I spoke as clearly, as I said—and said, "We won't invade you." And I'll repeat that: We have no intention of invading North Korea.

We expect North Korea to adhere to her obligations. She's in an agreement with the United States and said that she would not develop nuclear weapons, and we expect people to keep their word. We will have dialog; we've had dialog with North Korea. The Secretary of State visited with the Deputy Foreign Minister—

*Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.* The Foreign Minister.

*The President.* —the Foreign Minister, excuse me. And talking is one thing, but we expect people to honor obligations. And for Kim Chong-il to be a credible member of the world community, he's got to understand that he's got to do what he says he's going to do.

I believe this will be resolved peacefully, and I believe it can be resolved diplomatically.

Thank you.

Q. Thank you, sir.

Q. What were you laughing at before we came in, sir? [*Laughter*]

*The President.* I'm not telling. [*Laughter*] I won't tell, but somebody will leak it. [*Laughter*]

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:11 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Treasury Secretary-designate John Snow; William Donaldson, Chairman-designate, Securities and Exchange Commission; President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; and Chairman Kim Chong-il and Foreign Minister Paek Nam-sun of North Korea. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

## Remarks to the Economic Club of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois January 7, 2003

Thank you all very much. It's a windy day out there, which is—[*laughter*]—a good day for a windy speaker. [*Laughter*] I'm honored to be your guest here at the Economic Club of Chicago. I want to thank Michael for the invitation. I like a short introduction. He didn't let me down. [*Laughter*]

For 75 years, the business leaders and the entrepreneurs in the club have helped make Chicago a prosperous and energetic

city. You understand the concerns facing American workers and employers, and you believe, as I do, that we must address those concerns honestly and aggressively.

Today in Washington, a new Congress convenes, and I will ask members of both parties to work with me to secure our economic future. We cannot be satisfied until every part of our economy is healthy and vigorous. We will not rest until every business has a chance to grow and every person