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**ILA Conference
19th International Workshop on Global Security**

Berlin

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Summary of remarks

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my brief remarks as part of the opening of the International Workshop on Global Security. It is an honor and a privilege to be with you today. Welcome to the distinguished guests including Minister Scharping, his Excellency Adamkus from Lithuania, General Joulwan, and others.

This is a time of historic change. This is a phrase that is often used but September 11 was a real turning point. Our response to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon is a defining moment of fundamental change and adaptation to a new way of thinking about our security relationships. The end of the Cold War was also such a turning point, requiring a totally new perspective on the strategic environment.

The war on terror is more complex and challenging than many of the security challenges we have faced so far. We are pitted against the results of decades of work that terrorist groups have put into the creation of networks, plans, and support groups.

President Bush said it best in the early days after the September attacks when he called for increased commitment from the U.S. and allies to deal with the consequences of the attacks over a long and difficult course. This will not be easy.

Terrorism has had an impact on our strategic thinking and security policy. As an adversary, a terrorist is difficult to identify and to counteract. There is no defined enemy or state. The potential impact of terrorist organizations on our societies is enormous. Our response therefore requires a new thought process. We must adjust and be open to new possibilities in our attempts to counter this threat.

Who thought we would embrace the President of Pakistan as a key ally in the War on Terror? Similarly, our emerging relationship with Russia was not previously anticipated or even thinkable before. There is a new need for cooperation.

In Germany this is a new era of military and strategic involvement. Today, Germany has more than 10,000 troops deployed including among others, Special Operations Forces and naval elements. German troops are far from Germany in Kabul, off the Horn of Africa, and in Macedonia. This is an historic change for Germany. The Germans have stepped up in ways previously inconceivable when Germany military power was once defined as limited strictly to defense of German borders. Germany has become a major player in world foreign affairs. This is an irreversible trend.

Take, for example, the possibility of German military involvement as part of an international force in Israel or the surrounding region. I can't say if this is probable or even possible -- don't let it be said that the U.S. Ambassador to Germany was announcing German plans to participate in such a force -- he is not. Even so, although I don't know what the possibilities of this actually are, the mere fact that it has been reported that German troop participation was at least considered by the German Government is symbolic of an entirely new paradigm.

The conference we are here for today will address incredibly important topics. This is a time to set aside old assumptions and conventional wisdom. The times demand that we approach security solutions with open minds, new perspectives, and open to the new challenges that will shape our thinking. Creativity and openness to a new thought process are of the utmost importance.

We need to step up to the plate, see new challenges, and think broadly as we look to the future. The future of our societies rests in the balance.

Thank you for your attention and I wish you the best of luck in the important work of the conference.