

in this area, helping to establish agricultural universities and research institutions in India in the 1960s. I acknowledge that help with gratitude.

It was a great American, Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, who developed high-yielding varieties of wheat in Mexico which were then adapted to Indian conditions in the agricultural universities you helped us establish. This was the start of the Green Revolution in India that lifted countless millions above poverty. I am very happy to say that President Bush and I have decided to launch a second generation of India-United States collaboration in the area of agriculture.

The new initiative will focus on basic and strategic research for sustainable development of agriculture to meet the challenge of raising productivity in conditions of water stress. It seeks to take information and know-how directly to the farming community and promote technologies that minimize post-harvest wastage and improve food storage. It will also help Indian farmers to meet phytosanitary conditions and enable them to participate more fully in global agricultural trade.

Energy security is another area where our two countries have strong common interests. The world's reserves of hydrocarbons are finite and we must, therefore, tap new energy sources. India's reliance on coal and hydropower will increase. We have to invest in new oil and gas exploration and in enhanced recovery of oil and gas from available fields. We must also tap the full potential of nuclear energy. The United States can help in all these areas. I am happy to say, therefore, that we have initiated an energy dialogue with the United States to explore the scope for cooperation in each of these areas in the years that lie ahead.

The field of civil nuclear energy is a vital area for cooperation between our two countries. As a consequence of our collective efforts, our relationship in this sector is being transformed. President Bush and I have arrived at an understanding in finding ways and means to enable such cooperation to proceed.

In this context, I would also like to reiterate that India's track record in nuclear nonproliferation is impeccable. We have adhered scrupulously to every rule and canon in this area. We have done so even though we have witnessed unchecked nuclear proliferation in our own neighborhood which has directly affected our security interests. This is because India, as a responsible nuclear power, is fully conscious of the immense responsibilities that come with the possession of advanced technologies, both civilian and strategic. We have never been, and will never be, a source of proliferation of sensitive technologies.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are conscious that plans to meet our energy requirements will have implications for the environment. This is especially

so since any energy scenario for India will involve heavy dependence on coal. Clean coal technologies that can make an impact need to be developed and should be affordable for poorer countries. We need to find ways whereby sufficient resources can be devoted to ensure the development of these technologies. We must also find ways of allowing greater access for developing countries to these technologies including ways of undertaking cooperative research. We stand ready to explore new partnerships in this vital area with the United States, which will help enable a more efficient use of our hydrocarbon resources as well.

There are other areas, too, where we can collaborate effectively. Our combined effort in providing relief and succor to the millions affected by last December's tsunami is an example of what partnerships can achieve. Building on this experience, President Bush and I have launched a joint initiative to ensure that our capabilities will be readily on call for those in need in similar situations in the future.

The global challenge of HIV-AIDS is another area for India-United States active cooperation. President Bush and I have agreed on the need to provide increased international access to safe and effective anti-retroviral drugs.

Ladies and gentlemen, globalization has woven a web of interconnections all around the world. This makes it all the more necessary that we evolve a system of global governance that carries credibility and commands legitimacy. Such a system must be sufficiently participative to be able to generate a true global consensus. It must also reflect contemporary realities. The Doha Round of world trade negotiations and the reform of the United Nations are two major processes now in the international arena where we need to work together to strengthen the system of global governance and equitable management of the evolving interdependence of all nations.

India is committed to strengthening the multilateral trading system, and we will work with the U.S. and other partners for a successful outcome of the Doha Round. I am sure that we can find a reasonable and balanced outcome that is mutually beneficial. We will make every effort to do so.

On the reform of the United Nations, we believe that it is time to recognize the enormous changes that have occurred since the present structure was established. There must be comprehensive reform of the United Nations to make it more effective and also more representative. The U.N. Security Council must be restructured as part of the reform process. In this context, you would agree with me that the voice of the world's largest democracy surely cannot be left unheard on the Security Council when the United Nations is being restructured.

Mr. Speaker, sir; Mr. Vice President, sir; distinguished Senators and Members of the House of Representatives;

ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude by saying that the Indian people look forward to a bright future, full of confidence, based on a growing recognition of our economic capabilities and the readiness of our society to meet the challenges now before us. We have had some success in improving the quality of life of our own people, and we will redouble our efforts to this end. We will also work towards securing a world order in which democracy can flourish and in which developing nations can strive for greater prosperity.

As two great democracies, we are natural partners in many ways. Partnerships can be of two kinds. There are partnerships based on principle, and there are partnerships based on pragmatism. I believe, ladies and gentlemen, we are at a juncture in our history where we can embark on a partnership between India and the United States, a partnership that can draw both on principle as well as on pragmatism. We must build on this unique opportunity.

My objective on this visit to your great country was to lay the basis for transformed ties between our two great democracies. I believe that we have made a good beginning. With the support and understanding of the Congress of the United States, the full benefits of our partnership will be realized in the months and years to come. Ladies and gentlemen, India is today embarked on a journey inspired by many dreams. We welcome America. We welcome having America by our side. There is much we can accomplish together.

Thank you.

[Applause, Members rising.]

At 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m., His Excellency Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet;

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 10 o'clock and 52 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess until approximately 11:30 a.m.