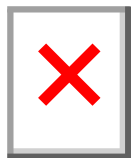


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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 16, 2022

**Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre**

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

3:08 P.M. EDT

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Good afternoon, everybody. Hello. I know that was a long two minutes. I apologize.

Okay, let's get started. So, before we start the briefing, I want to take a moment to recognize the lives lost and forever changed in Buffalo.

Former Buffalo Police Lieutenant Aaron Salter, 55, is a hero -- a security guard who engaged the suspect to save lives and was killed in the process.

Ruth Whitfield, 86, was mother of Buffalo's Retired Fire Commissioner Garnell W. Whitfield. Ruth was the rock of the family, devoting her life to taking care of her four children and husband. Ruth was visiting the former commissioner's father in a nursing home, as she did each day, and she stopped at the supermarket to buy some groceries.

Katherine Massey, 72, was a well-known community figure who wrote for her local newspapers, assisted in elections, and dressed up in costume as "Mr. Broccoli" to teach local school children to eat -- to "eat right."

Pearl Young, 77, was a substitute teacher and a "true pillar in the community," who volunteered at a church food pantry every Saturday.

Heyward Patterson, 68, a driver and church volunteer. Hayward worked as a driver who gave rides to residents to and

from the grocery store and would help with their groceries when he was killed.

Celestine Chaney, 65, a grandmother to six. Celestine had been visiting her sister, and they went to the supermarket because she wanted to get strawberries to make shortcakes, which she loved. Celestine prized her role as a grandmother, survived cancer, and was a regular churchgoer.

~~Robert~~ [Roberta] Drury, 32, a resident of the Syracuse area. She was at the supermarket to get food for dinner while in town visiting her brother. "She always was the center of attention and made [the] whole room smile and laugh," her sister said.

Geraldine Talley, 62, was doing her regular grocery shopping with her fiancé on Saturday when she was shot and killed. According to her niece Lakesha Chapman, "She was the person who always put our family reunion together...and mother of two beautiful children".

Andre Mackneil, 53. Andre was going to the supermarket to get a birthday cake for ~~her~~ [his] son when ~~she~~ [he] was killed. Jahon Smith, Mackneil's cousin, said he was a loving father and ~~grandmother~~ [grandfather] who used to check in on everyone.

Margus D. Morrison, 52. Margus was a father of three and a Buffalo resident.

We recon- -- we recognize their lives today and those lost and affected by gun violence this weekend in Houston, in southern California, Milwaukee, and communities across the country.

And we honor the bravery of those in law enforcement who responded quickly and with professionalism in Buffalo, and who risk their lives every day to protect and serve their communities.

Tomorrow, as you all know, the President and the First Lady will travel to Buffalo to meet with families of the victims, first responders, and community leaders. They will comfort the families of the 10 people whose lives were senselessly taken in this horrific shooting. And they will express gratitude for the bravery of members of law enforcement and other first responders who took immediate action to try to protect and save lives.

A couple more toppers for you here -- items for the top -- at the top.

In just under an hour, the President will host Prime Minister of Greece and a senior delegation, including their Minister for fair- -- Foreign Affairs and Minister of National Defense, for a bilateral meeting. The two leaders will discuss the U.S.-Greece bilateral relationship, which both our governments agree is at a historical high point.

The President and the Prime Minister will discuss our defense partnership, efforts to bolster energy security while also combatting climate change, our shared commitment to democratic values, and efforts to provide Ukraine with the support it needs to defend itself.

The two leaders will also discuss ways to further expand the bilateral trade relationship and U.S. investment in Greece, where several U.S. tech and renewable energy companies have made significant investments.

The President and the First Lady, Jill Biden, will then host the Prime Minister and -- and his wife for a reception honoring the conclusion of the Greece -- Greece's bicentennial year of March -- on March -- March 25th.

Also today, the administration announced an Action Plan to Ease the Burden of Housing Costs, taking a series of actions to address one of the largest items in a typical family's budget and one of the largest drivers of inflation in our economy.

As President, Biden has said tackling inflation is his top economic priority. The best thing we can do to ease the burden of housing costs is to boost the supply of quality housing, including building more new homes and preserving existing federal

support and market-rate affordable housing.

Today's action plan includes legislative and administrative actions that will help close America's housing supply shortfalls in five years, starting with the creation and preservation of hundreds of thousands of affordable housing units in the next three years.

This is the most comprehensive all-of-government effort to close the housing supply shortfall in history when aligned with other policies that the President has proposed to reduce housing costs and ensure affordability, such as rental assistance and down payment assistance. Closing the gap will mean more affordable rents and more attainable homeownership for Americans in every community.

Also today -- we have a lot -- we have a lot. Today marks six months since President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Since then, the team has hit the ground running to deliver results for communities across the country. In six months, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has already begun helping fight climate change, advancing environmental justice, boosting domestic manufacturing, strengthening critical links in our supply chain, and lowering costs for working families.

To date, the Biden-Harris administration has announced over \$110 billion to rebuild roads and bridges, modernize ports and airports, replace lead pipes to deliver clean water, and high-speed Internet.

This includes funding for over 4,300 specific projects touching over 3,200 communities across all 50 states, D.C., and Puerto Rico as well.

Fifty-three states and territories have appointed state infrastructure coordinators, responding to the call from Infrastructure Coordinator Landrieu to appoint an individual to coordinate efforts in a state -- in a state, along with serving as a single point of contact for the White House Infrastructure Implementation Team.

The President, Vice President, and Cabinet have traveled on more than 125 trips to over 40 states, as well as D.C. and Puerto Rico, to demonstrate how the President is delivering on this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

The last thing -- I promise -- and then we'll go to your questions. But before I do that, I just want to say a few words about how honored I am to be here with all of you today in this role, in this room, standing behind this podium.

I am obviously acutely aware that my presence at this podium represents a few firsts. I am a Black, gay, immigrant woman, the first of all three of those to hold this position.

I would not be here today if it were not for generations of barrier-breaking people before me. I stand on their shoulders. If it were not for generations of barrier-breaking people before me, I would not be here.

But I benefit from their sacrifices. I have learned from their excellence, and I am forever grateful to them. Representation does matter. You hear us -- you hear us say this often in this administration. And no one understands this better than President Biden, which is why his administration is not only the most diverse in history, it is filled with barrier-breaking women and men, from the Vice President, to the Cabinet Secretaries, to his Supreme Court nominee, to senior staff throughout this administration.

When I did my first briefing as Principal Deputy Press Secretary last year, almost a year ago, I said at this podium that this podium, this room, this building belong to the American people. We work for them. It's not about me. It's about them. It was true then, and it is very true indeed today.

On Jen's first briefing, she made clear that the President's and her priority was to bring truth and transparency back to this briefing room. Jen did a great job at that. And I will work every day to continue to ensure we are meeting the President's

high expectation of truth, honesty, and transparency.

I also have tremendous respect for the work that you all do, which I know it's not easy. The press plays a vital role in our democracy, and we need a strong and independent press now more than ever.

We might not see eye to eye here in this room all the time, which is okay. That give-and-take is so incredibly healthy and it's a part of our democracy. And I look forward to engaging with all of you on that.

With that, please kick us off.

Q Thanks, Karine. And congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q While you've been here before, it's your first as Press Secretary, so on that -- in that vein, I just want to ask you: Do you view your primary role here as speaking for the President and promoting his interests? Or are you -- you know, or are you committed to providing the unvarnished truth to the American people so that they know what their government is doing on their behalf?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I actually think that's hand in hand. I don't think there's -- that there is any separation to that.

As I said at the end of my opening here, the President believes in truth and transparency. That's what he expects from us. Clearly, we are here to talk about his platform and what he is doing to deliver for the American people. But he wants to make sure we're doing this trans- -- in a transparent way, in a truthful way, and an honest way.

Q And just on a housekeeping note, I know the pool has to gather at 3:30 for the event, but I'm hoping you might be able to stay here to take questions from more folks.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah. Absolutely.

Q And then, on a substantive note, this weekend's attack in Buffalo -- the shooter professed ideology, echoed in some ways the hate -- the hateful rhetoric espoused by the Charlottesville white supremacist protesters almost five years ago that motivated the President to run for this office back then, as he's often talked about.

What more does the President believe he has to do and the country has to do to combat that sort of hatred?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So let me just say we still need to learn more about the motivation for the shooting as law enforcement do -- does their work. But we don't -- we don't need anything else to stay -- to state a clear moral truth -- right? -- which is: A racially motivated hate crime is abhorrent to the very fabric of this nation. Hate must not have a safe harbor.

This is something that the President says very often, especially in these horrific incidents that we have seen time and time again. We must do everything in our power to end hate-fueled domestic terrorism. And we must reject hatred and extremism -- extremism ideologies that seek to divide Americans, whenever we find it in our society. It is antithetical to who we are as a country and fuels -- and fuels violence as well.

Q Thanks, Karine. Congratulations also.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q In that vein, there's polling that shows one in three Americans believe in some element of "replacement theory." You just spoke in very broad brushstrokes there. Are there specifics that this White House is willing to do, willing to take in

order to stop this form of thinking from further seeping out of the fringe and into the mainstream?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, you know, we're going to continue to call this out. As we have talked about many times, the President, at every chance he's had -- when we've seen a violent attack like this that is -- that is -- as we, you know, say "with hatred and racially motivated" -- he calls it out and calls it what it is.

So, one thing I do want to touch on is, like, domestic terrorism a little bit, which kind of hopefully touches on your question.

You know, we have been working to implement the government-wide national strategy to counter domestic terrorism, which President Biden directed his national [sic] -- national security team to develop on his first full day in office, recognizing that has -- that has evolved into the most urgent terrorism threat the United States faces today.

That work includes improving information sharing throughout federal, state, and local law enforcement on domestic terrorism threats and analysis; adding resources to prevent domestic terrorism's recruitment and mobilization to violence, including online by increasing information sharing with the technology sector; increasing our support for federal, state, and local law enforcement in addressing domestic terrorism nationwide; confronting long-term contributors to domestic terrorism and rooting out hate and bigotry.

This weekend's terrible events in Buffalo are just another vivid reminder of the urgency of that work and continuing to move towards that.

Q But on this notion that immigrants and others are believed to be, by some, taking over and pushing white people out of positions of authority in this country, which is at the heart of so much of this terror that is being spewed online, does the White House believe these views are being amplified by Tucker Carlson?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, you know, like I said, we are still figuring out the motivation of all of this. And we are very clear -- look, you know, as you all know, watching what happened in Charlottesville was a major factor in the President deciding to run -- right? -- and back in 2017. You know, many of those dark voices still exist today, and the President is -- is determined, as he was back then. And he is determined today to make sure that we fight back against those forces of hate and evil and of -- and violence.

So that's what we're going to keep doing. That's what we're going to continue to call out.

But we reject hatred and extremism ideologies.

Q But just in the interest of -- I apologize. In the interest of time -- I know you've got to go --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q -- but are there elected officials that this administration views as threatening in this way?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, it's the -- what we're going to continue to do -- anyone -- any one person -- right? -- doesn't matter who they are, who spews this type of hate -- hatred, we are going to -- we're going to call out. We're going to condemn that. I'm not going to speak or call out any individual names. I'm saying that this is something that we need to call out.

And so this is what the President has been doing and will continue to do that. You saw him say that in his statement over the weekend. And that's -- you know, now he's going to go to Buffalo and visit with the victims that were affected by this violence that we saw on Saturday.

Go ahead, Jeff.

Q Thanks, Karine. And congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q President Putin said today that Russia has no objections to Finland and Sweden joining NATO, which seems to be a shift in policy for them. What is the White House's reaction to that? And can you give us an update on U.S. efforts to help bridge the gap between Turkey and Finland and Sweden over NATO?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, on the Turkey part -- I'll take that first -- I know that there was a question about how they were feeling or what they -- what the Turkey government -- Turkish government said about Finland and Sweden.

The Secretary spoke to this again, as I just said, yesterday during his press conference in Berlin -- a meeting with his counterparts in NATO. And so, what he said is, we are "confident...we will reach consensus" as an Alliance on an entry process should they decide to apply. That was what Secretary Blinken said yesterday.

I cannot speak for the Kremlin. You know, this is -- this -- we believe -- when it -- we believe in NATO's open-door policies and the right of each country to decide its own future -- foreign policy and security arrangements. That's what we believe.

And so, we welcome the recent statements from governments of Finland and Sweden on their intention to seek NATO membership. We will strongly support these applications when they are formally presented in Brussels. Both Finland and Sweden are close and valued defense partners of the United States and of NATO.

Q Secondly, when and why did the President decide to have additional troops sent to Somalia?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, I know that was just announced I believe today -- earlier today.

So the President has approved a request from the Secretary of Defense to reestablish a persistent U.S. military presence in Somalia to enable a more effective fight against al-Shabaab, which has increased in strength and poses a heightened threat.

This is a repositioning of forces already in theater who have traveled in and out of Somalia on an episodic basis since the previous administration made the decision to withdraw. That was back in January of 2021, as you might recall.

As we've emphasized throughout his administration, we're approaching counterterrorism in a manner tailored to the particular terrorist threats that we see emerging from particular countries.

Today in Somalia, we face al-Qaeda's largest and wealthiest global affiliate, and one that holds substantial territorial safe haven. The decision to reintroduce a small but persistent presence was made, first and foremost, to maximize the safety and effectiveness of our force and enable them to provide better support of our partners.

Additionally, our partners can benefit from our more consistent support and engagement in addressing the threat posed by al-Shabaab by having a small but persistent U.S. military presence. And while there is risk, it is manageable. That's the way that we are seeing this approach.

DOD is working to elevate local conditions, including those following the Somalia presidential election yesterday, and is engaging partners in the region, including the Somali government, to determine the best way forward.

Go ahead, MJ.

Q Thanks, Karine. Two questions for you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q One, there are some elected officials and media figures who are publicly espousing xenophobic, racist, and extremist views that may be helping to spread white nationalism. You just told my colleague here that you don't want to call out any names. Why don't you want to do that? Does that come from the President himself?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, I think because it doesn't matter who it is. What -- if a person espouses hatred, we need to call that out. I'm not going to get into a back-and-forth on names and who said what.

We're just saying: If someone does that, if there's an individual that is espousing hate, xenophobia, you know, has -- you know, has just white supremacy-type of extremism, we need to call that out. And this President has done that. He's done that at every -- at every unfortunate -- every unfortunate, violent event that we have seen.

As we know, Charlottesville, as I just mentioned, was the reason that he decided to jump in, into this election, back in 2020 -- 2019.

Q One more thing -- I'll just wait a second.

(Press pool departs for the President's bilateral meeting with the Prime Minister of Greece.)

Q Can we just explain for people who are watching: The pool is departing.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yep. Yep. For folks who are watching, the pool is departing. They're -- the President is getting ready to have his event.

Q We don't want anybody to think they're walking out on you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Laughs.) No, no. It's okay.

Q We're not walking out on you, Karine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, you know -- you know, that would be a great -- that would be a great first day, one for the books: The press gets up and walks away. (Laughter.)

Q But they did.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: They -- well, for -- yeah. They -- they -- the President is much more important than I am, for sure.

Q And those of us who stayed will be rewarded, correct? (Laughter.)

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, I will -- you guys all deserve rewards. How about that? (Laughter.)

Go ahead, Nancy.

Q I have to leave.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, I'm so sorry. I'm sorry, MJ. I'm so sorry. Go ahead.

Q On a separate topic.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q The President told my colleague Jeremy Diamond on Friday, when he asked if the administration should have acted sooner on baby formula shortage: "If we'd been better mind readers, I guess we could have." This doesn't seem like a situation that would have required mindreading. As you know, the recalls date back to February. I believe Politico reported months ago that the FDA was first warned about the suspected bacteria issue as early as September.

Are there any specific actions that this administration took -- meetings, phone calls, briefings -- in February or any earlier to begin addressing this potential shortage?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, you've heard us talk about this. You've seen my colleagues on your networks talking about what we have done. Since -- you know, since February, we've been working around -- on this 24/7.

But I do want to give you a little bit of an update of where we are: So, getting more safe infant formula onto shelves across the country is one of the President's top priorities. Right? This is something that he is focusing on very acutely. And again, I said 24/7 we have been working on this since we have -- since we learned about this back in February.

It's important to remember this shortage exists because Abbott closed the facility -- closed a facility because of safety concerns from the FDA. The FDA is working closely with Abbott to bring the facility back online safely. That's the key here: safely. We want to make sure that this is done in a safe way.

We're very -- we are very close to having a path forward to safely reopening the facility. We can -- you can expect a -- an announcement from FDA later today on that that will go into more details.

We're also moving as quickly as possible to safely bring in additional product from other countries. As soon as today as well, we will be able to make an announcement on the expedited process to bring additional safe conduct -- product to the American stores shelves -- to American store shelves.

And throughout the weekend, we've been working closely with manufacturers and retailers to identify transportation and logistical needs to increase the amount and spread of FDA-approved formula being shipped into the country and ensure that formula is quickly moving from factories to retailers.

The President understands. He gets this. He gets how stressful it is for parents trying to feed their children, which is why we're leaving no stone unturned to make more safe formula available.

If parents need help finding formula, I encourage them to consult their pediatrician or visit [HHS.gov/formula](https://www.hhs.gov/formula). But we have been working on this from the -- from February -- our administration has been.

Q As -- we were just curious whether there are specific meetings, briefings, you know, phone calls that you can point us to.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have anything specific for you to point to. I'm -- I'm happy to go back and -- and get that -- you know, make sure that we are fully transparent on what we've been doing.

But this has been -- this is an important, you know, this is an important priority, a top priority for the President. He is -- his team has been working overtime to make sure that we get formula back on the shelves. And we want to do this in a safe way.

And again, we cannot forget how we got here. Abbott closed the facility because of safety concerns from the FDA. The FDA wanted to make sure that we -- formula was going out in a safe way. And that is the job of the FDA, and that is the job of this administration as well.

Q And just very quickly, on Abbott: Secretary Becerra said today, in terms of when things would be back to normal, that, "Abbott is the one that could tell you the timeline...We don't run their plants." Do you know if anyone from the federal



government is currently at the plant or has visited the plant to get a sense of where things stand?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have any information about if anyone is on the plant. Again, I can go back to our team and figure that out more specifically, but there are a lot of -- what I can say is there are a lot of dates floating around out there. But at the end of the day, the infant formula market is tight because the Michigan Abbott facility is offline currently, which is what we're trying to do -- this is the -- the announcement that you guys will hear from FDA later today on how we're helping them to do that.

We're taking a range of steps to get more supply onto shelves from domestic and international locations, and offering a suite -- a suite of resources to move supply onto the market.

As the Secretary said, Abbott can speak on it -- to an exact timeline for reopening, but FDA is and will be prepared to effectively and quickly certify moving out safe products onto shelf, as it is obligated to. And so that is going to be our focus. FDA is going to work closely with Abbott and make sure that we get them running again.

Go ahead, Nancy.

Q Thanks, Karine. Congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q When you talk about bringing -- importing more product imminently, what is the criteria going to be for which formula can be imported? Will the administration allow formula that was not produced in FDA-approved factories overseas to be imported or European brands, for example, that aren't currently sold in the U.S.?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Okay. So, as Dr. Califf was on -- on various networks today, the FDA have said that it will release guidance as soon as today on how major formula manufacturers can bring in product that is not currently being produced for the U.S. market, as you're alluding to there, Nancy, and to your question.

Companies will need to apply with the FDA, and FDA is prepared to review applications quickly and respond to them rapidly. FDA will prioritize review of applications that are most likely to be successful and will get the most formula to U.S. shelves as quickly as possible.

All companies will meet the FDA's gold standard for quality control, and only safe products will come to America's shelves as -- as the FDA Commissioner said and explained in detail this morning.

At the White House, what are our -- our role, what we'll be doing, is we will have alerted embassies, retailers, and manufacturers to identify potential companies that would make use of the new FDA import- -- importation process.

Once FDA has finalized its rules, we will be ready to provide information to the public on using the new system quickly and safely and bring new supply to the market.

Q And New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand says the President should be invoking the Defense Production Act to increase supply more quickly. Is the President still considering that? And if not, why not?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, we're pretty much where we were before on the DPA. We're leaving no stone unturned and every option is on the table, as we have been saying for the past several days.

I have no update on the DPA and where we are. But what we're -- what we're taking action is to make more supplies available as soon as possible, as you've been hearing me say. That is our prior- -- our priority, our main goal. That's happening by increasing imports, as I just laid out how we're going to do that process, and working closely with manufacturers to help them quickly ramp up production. And so that's going to be our focus.

Q And then finally, when you say that you're offering these retailers and producers more assistance, what kind of assistance are you talking about? What kind of assistance can the White House or the administration provide to get supply to store shelves more quickly?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, we're talking about logistical needs and -- and any technical help is what we were talking about. But since the President calls on Thursday to manufacturers and retailers, which we -- which we read out, the White House has been in close communication to follow up on those conversations.

The White House is having ongoing conversations with the four major infant formula to work with them to identify transportation, logistical, and supplier hurdles to increasing production of formula at their U.S. and FDA-approved facilities to expand the amount and speed of FDA-approved formula being shipped into the country and ensure that formula is quickly moving to retailers from factories.

We are also in ongoing communications, as we talk about retailers here as well, with Target and Amazon and Walmart and other leading retailers for baby formula to identify parts of the country that may be at risk of critically low supply of infant formula, and have offered to work with manufacturers and retailers to bring more formula to those parts of the country, including the U.S. government transportation and logistical support.

Last, we are also contacting suppliers to infant formula manufacturers to inform them that their materials are critical for boosting U.S. infant formula production and they should prioritize their production and delivery.

So, essentially, in short, we want them to know we're standing ready to provide the resources or support needed to move safely to get -- to get this to the shelves as soon as possible.

Go ahead.

Q Yeah. COVID cases are up 61 percent in the last two weeks. Hospitalizations are up almost 25 percent. Is the White House concerned that the pandemic has not moved on from us?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, you know, Dr. Jha was here not too long ago. I think he -- very, very early in his -- in his tenure, he stopped by and answered all of your questions. And he said this is a -- this is tricky -- right? -- when it comes to COVID.

And the thing that we have to remember and we keep saying from here is that people have to get vaccinated; they have to get boosted. That is the way to really start moving forward from -- from COVID. And that's been the President's focus in putting together a comprehensive strategy to make sure that that is happening. And that's why you've seen that success of more than 200 million people who have been vaccinated.

And so we're going to continue to have that message. Again, it's -- it's a -- COVID is tricky, right? This is a once-in-a-generation pandemic, you know. And so -- but what we're going to continue to do is do the job of the federal government and make sure that we -- you know, we keep the American public as safe as possible and communicating on what we need to do to move forward.

Q Just in terms of that communication, Dr. Jha did come here but it was a while ago, and the regular COVID briefings with the CDC director and other health advisors have fallen off a cliff. What is your view on whether these briefings should be happening?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, I think they will be happening. I don't have anything -- any update for you on that. Dr. Jha is happy to come back. I think he's asked to come back to the briefing to speak directly to you -- to all of you.

I'm sure that they will be having a briefing pretty soon. I don't have any -- any list in front of me to read out to you.

But yes, it is important to continue to communicate to the American public. And we're going to continue to do that.

Go ahead.

Q A couple of questions on Buffalo. We understand that the shooter did purchase his guns legally, but he did have a history of mental health issues and was held for an evaluation last year. So does the White House believe he should have been prevented from owning a gun because of that history? And how does the administration propose doing so in the future?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So just me a second, because I -- I really want to touch on this. It's really important.

Our nation is facing a mental health crisis, so it's important to call it that -- one that is worsened by acts of violence, like the one we saw in Buffalo, that can traumatize communities, especially communities of color.

And anyone seeking support in the wake of shootings like this should contact Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990. Help is available 24/7, 365 days a week -- day of the year, I should say -- for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or -- or human-caused disaster.

We are committed to expanding access to mental health for all Americans. The American Rescue Plan made historic investment in mental health and substance use -- substance use care.

And, in his first State of the Union, the President unveiled his vision for transforming mental health in the United States.

His comprehensive strategy focuses on building a system that works for everyone by increasing the supply and diversity of the mental health workforce, connecting more people to care by lowering costs and other barriers, and creating environments that help prevent mental health problems and support recovery.

While we are committed to this work, I want to also underscore that the overwhelming majority of individuals with mental health problems do not commit acts of violence.

And so, comments that make this about mental health only further stigma- -- stigmatizing mental health issues and detract from the other issues, like gun violence, that must con- -- that must be confronted in our society.

So, just want to make that clear that we are not stigmatizing.

Q But should he have been prevented from owning a gun?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, this is -- this goes back to making sure that, you know, we have gun reform. Right? This goes back to making sure that we -- we -- you know, the President is going to continue to call on Congress to make that happen.

And so, you know, when it comes -- I just wanted to make sure when we talk about mental health, we talk about it in its fullness. And like I said, not every -- it's not -- it -- you know, not every individual that has a mental health problem commits -- commits acts of violence. So, I just want to make sure that we don't stigmatize it.

Q And just a quick -- another one.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q Would the President support the death penalty for the shooter if he's eventually convicted?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, this is being -- this is being investigated by -- by the Department of Justice. I don't have -- it's not -- it's not my place from here -- this podium -- to go be- -- to go beyond that.

Go ahead.

Q Yeah. Regarding gun violence, does the President plan to use his remarks tomorrow in Buffalo to push for gun control and gun reform? And will that be a key part of what his message is tomorrow in Buffalo?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, the President, you know, is going to go -- you know, he really wanted to go to Buffalo. He made it sure that -- that he went there before he -- he went to Asia. He wants to go there and comfort the people who are -- who -- who went through this violence on Saturday, and wanted to offer -- you know, offer some comfort and listen to them, talk to them, see how they're doing. And so that is going to be his priority with the First Lady.

I don't want to get ahead of what he's going to say. I will let the President speak for himself when we get there tomorrow.

Q Does he plan to use this moment, though, to call on Congress to pass gun reform measures, or is there recognition that that's just not something that's possible right now in Congress? He's obviously pushed for these things here in the past, during his first term in office.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, I think the President, as he's done for this past year, is going to continue to call for gun reform. That is not going to -- you know, that's not going to change. That is something that -- that he has done this past year every time we have heard of this gun violence.

You know, our country is facing an epidemic on gun violence that is costing lives every day. We saw that in Buffalo, as we're talking about, and in examples every day that might not make the news but tear up families and communities. This is a top priority for the President, and it's been through- -- has been throughout his career.

I do want to say that, you know, what we saw in the country this weekend are an urgent reminder of how important it is to have confirmed leadership at ~~ATF~~ [ATF]. So I want to -- do take that moment to say ~~ATF~~ [ATF] agents are playing a key role in the investigation in Buffalo, and they are risking their lives every day to combat domestic terrorism and crack down on gun traffickers to keep our streets safe from violent crime.

If the Senate wants to get their -- get their back, and -- they should confirm Steve Dettelbach to lead the agency. Dettelbach is a career prosecutor who has confirmed -- who was confirmed uni- -- unanimously last time he was before the Senate. He was the support of former federal prosecution -- he has the support of former prosecutors from both parties, including the team that prosecuted the deadly Oklahoma City bombing domestic terrorism case. He has the backing of major law enforcement groups, including one that represents many of the rank-and-file ATF agents he's going to lead as ATF director.

So, that is something that is really important that we make sure that we get that done, and we're calling on Congress to do that.

Q All right. Thank you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q Karine, congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thanks.

Q Nice to see you up there.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q The President's Twitter account posted the other day, "You want to bring down inflation? Let's make sure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share." How does raising taxes on corporations reduce inflation?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, are you talking about a specific tweet?

Q He tweeted, "You want to bring down inflation? Let's make sure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share?"

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, you know, we have talked about -- we have talked about this this past year, about making sure that the wealthiest among us are paying their fair share. And that is important to do. And that is something that, you know, the President has been, you know, working on every day when we talk about inflation and lowering costs. And so it's very important that, you know, as we're seeing costs rise, as we're talking about how to, you know -- you know, build an America that is safe, that's equal for everyone, and doesn't leave anyone behind, that is an important part of that as well.

Q But how does raising taxes on corporations lower the cost of gas, the cost of a used car, the cost of food for everyday Americans?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, look, I think we encourage those who have done very well -- right? -- especially those who care about climate change, to support a fairer tax -- tax code that doesn't change -- that doesn't charge manufacturers' workers, cops, builders a higher percentage of their earnings; that the most fortunate people in our nation -- and not let the -- that stand in the way of reducing energy costs and fighting this existential problem, if you think about that as an example, and to support basic collective bargaining rights as well. Right? That's also important.

But look, it is -- you know, by not -- if -- without having a fairer tax code, which is what I'm talking about, then all -- every -- like manufacturing workers, cops -- you know, it's not fair for them to have to pay higher taxes than the folks that -- who are -- who are -- who are not paying taxes at all or barely have.

Q But was does that have to do with inflation? The President said, "You want to bring down inflation? Let's make sure the wealthiest corporations pay their fair share."

Jeff Bezos came out and tweeted about that. He said, "The newly created disinformation board should review this tweet." Would you be okay with that?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, it's not a huge mystery why one of the wealthiest individuals on Earth -- right? -- opposes an economic agenda that is for the middle class, that cuts some of the biggest costs families face, fights inflation for the long haul -- right? -- and that's what we're talking about; that's why we're -- we're talking about lowering inflation here -- and adds to the historic deficit reduction the President is achieving by asking the richest taxpayers and corporations to pay their fair share. That is what we're talking about.

Q Okay. And then just one on the trip tomorrow: How come the President is visiting Buffalo after a senseless tragedy there, but he couldn't visit Waukesha after 6 were killed and 61 injured in an attack on a Christmas parade there?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, he's visited many communities. Buffalo -- he was -- we -- you know, he was -- he's able to go tomorrow to Buffalo before the trip. That is something that was important for him to do. But he has visited many -- many other communities. This is not -- Buffalo is not the first community, sadly, that he has to go up to because of a violent attack. So, you know, that's not -- that's not the first one. So he's been to many others, sadly.

Q You outlined some steps that the administration has taken related to baby formula.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Do you have any sense of the timeline for the imports that the FDA is considering? Obviously, for parents, this is a hour-by-hour, day-by-day concern. And is the President expressing any worry about how quickly this can be resolved, since parents are dealing with this on an urgent basis?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah. Like I said, this is something that -- this is incredibly important to the President. We want this to happen as soon as possible, as quickly as possible. That is why we're working with manufacturers and retailers, as I just laid out. That's why FDA is working with Abbott to open up that facility.

So we want to get this done as quickly as possible. And that's why our -- we've been working 24/7 to make that happen.

Q Do you have a sense of the timeline when FDA announces? Does that mean the production will be up and running in a matter of days? Do you know when imports would be approved?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, I don't have a timeline on that. I know, again, we want to make this happen quickly. FDA, again, is going to be working with the Abbott facility. They're going to have an announcement later on how that's going to happen. They're going to work closely with them to make sure that we do it as quickly as possible. We know how urgent and important this is to parents who need to make sure that they have safe formula for their babies and infants.

Q To the back?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Go ahead.

Q Thank you, Karine. Two questions, please. Does the President see any link to the white supremacist theories that -- like the replacement theory -- and what he started calling "ultra-MAGA" or sometimes he just refers to as "extreme Republican" politics? Does he see that as part of it?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, look, I think what the President believes and has done is call it out. Right? I think, you know, this is -- this is not about politics. This is about people's lives.

What we saw on Saturday and many times -- you think about El Paso in Texas, you think about the Tree of Life in Pittsburgh, you think about the Pulse nightclub in Florida, the Mother Emanuel in South Carolina. These are events that are very -- that have been led by some dark forces that still exist today. And so, it is important to call that out.

We understand that there is still a lot of work to do. And so that is -- when you talk about people's lives in this way, it's not about politics. It's about making sure that we're doing everything that we can, you know, to uproot this evil that we're seeing, this hatred that we're seeing. And so that's what the President is going to continue to do to make sure that we're working -- we're working towards that.

Q Okay, but when he talks about "ultra-MAGA," as he has started to a lot, is he -- would he include that in the bundle of what he considers "ultra-MAGA"?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, again, this is about the lives of people who were taken in a violent way, in an abhorrent way. And so, the focus for the President is to make sure that, you know, we call this out -- we call out white supremacy, we call out hatred.

As I've said before, this is still being investigated. This is still being looked at. But the moralness -- right? -- the moral center of this should be called out.

And that's going to be the focus. That's what you're going to see the President do tomorrow. He's going to meet with the victims. He's going to have conversations. He's going to offer them comfort. He's going to listen to them and hear what it is that they want to share with him.

And he's going to continue to work with Congress and call on Congress to call for -- to work on gun reform, which is really important here as well.

Q And, sorry, I had a second question.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q A very quick one, I promise. Is there any update on whether Cuba, Nicaragua, or Venezuela will be invited to the Americas Summit? And, generally, when are you going to be announcing invitations?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I don't have any update for you on that -- on invitations or when we're going to announce invitations or who's been invited. As soon as I -- as soon as we have that, we'll promise to share.

Okay. Go ahead.

Q Hey, congratulations.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you.

Q Two questions on internal policy review or internal government reviews that have actually fallen out of the headlines. The first is on the investigation of Border Patrol agents that -- in the -- I guess it was September of last year -- who were there for the Del Rio arrival of thousands of Haitian migrants.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q It's been eight months at this point, and we don't have a conclusion of that review. The President had wanted accountability; he demanded it at the time. Secretary Mayorkas said that there would be a conclusion to that review within weeks.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q So why is it taking so long? And is there any urgency, given the fact that you're going to -- you're -- the administration is now preparing for the arrival of potentially new surges of migrants?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, it's a -- it's a very good question. I don't have an update on that. The Department of Homeland Security -- that's where -- you mentioned Secretary Mayorkas -- that's where that review sits. And as soon as we have an update, I promise to share that, or we -- or they will share that. That won't -- that would not come from here. I just don't have an update. But I -- I understand the question.

Q And the second review that hasn't concluded, it appears: The administration said that after the terrorist attack in Fort Worth at a synagogue, they were going to review how an individual that was a British-born citizen, who had been on a watchlist 10 years prior, somehow was able to enter the United States, and that they were going to look at lessons learned.

You mentioned how there are increased threats of foreign-born terrorism as well as domestic-born terrorism.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Where is that review? What lessons have been learned? And is that a priority for the administration?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I don't -- I don't have an update on that. I will have to check in with our team to see if we have something to share on -- on that particular review. And so, I'll do that; I'll check in with the team. And you should reach

out to us afterwards and see what we can do.

Go ahead. Hey, Jenny.

Q Thanks, Karine. Two on the economy. China's industrial output and consumer spending came in at the worst level since the pandemic began. Are you worried that this will cause a global recession, and including here?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Can you say that again? What -- what came back?

Q China's industrial output -- which, of course, has an impact on the global economy and the U.S. economy -- came in at the worst level since the pandemic began. And I'm worried -- wondering if you're worried about a global recession.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, you know, I -- the one thing I can tell you is that I know that there's always a question about the economic strategy around China. I can give you that update.

I have not seen that specific data that you're speaking of. But the United States has strong economic trade ties in the Indo-Pacific. And so -- but we agree it is essential for us to stop -- to step up economically in the region and to do it fast.

We need a new model of economic engagement and trade when -- as we're talking about that region specifically. The past couple of years have highlighted real gaps in global economy, like vulnerable supply chains and corruption and tax havens and lack of innovation and creative -- creativity holding us back.

The old models did nothing to address these issues that underpin our growth. And we will -- and will define the coming decades and our ability to deliver for our people.

That's why we're working intensely on develop -- developing an Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. We've gotten a lot of interest from countries in the region. We've also spent months engaging Congress and labor.

So, as it relates to our economic framework, it's going to focus on building agreements with Indo-Pacific partners and, one, developing -- one, developing a modern digital economy, including opening the door for small and medium businesses; reducing -- two, reducing supply chain vulnerabilities and diversifying our supply chains to drive investment that will create good jobs for people at home and Indo-Pacific; three, treating climate change like the economy issue it is by investing together in the green economy; and also, building a fairer economy with tax and anti-corruption practices that level in the playing field not just for workers, but also for businesses too.

And that's kind of our strategy -- economic strategy in the region. That particular data I have not seen yet, so I would need to check in with our team.

Q And then one more, overall on the economy. The dollar is very strong right now, and all indications are that it's damaging the domestic and global economy. And I'm worri- -- wondering if you share that view and if it's time for the Biden administration to address this.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Again, that -- I would just -- going to have to check with our team. I've not seen that report, but I'll check in with our team on that.

Q And quickly, the follow-up on the economic strategy in the Indo-Pacific.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Is the President expected to lay that out on his trip there?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have anything new to share or preview for you on his trip. As you know, Jake is going to be



here -- Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor -- the President's National Security Advisor is going to be here on Wednesday. And he'll talk more and give a little bit more depth on what's happening and what we're going to be doing -- the messaging and the goals in Asia.

We'll also have calls. As you know, we tend to do these background calls leading up to the trip. And those background calls will give you a little bit more information on Indo-Pacific. Kind of -- you know, what we're -- the goals and de- -- what we're delivering, I don't have anything specific on that.

Go ahead, Steven.

Q Just a quick one. Probably a good question for Jake, but I'll ask you because it's timely. Does the White House have a response to the Indian move over the weekend to block wheat exports?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have an update. I don't have anything for you on that. Yeah.

Q Karine, yes. On the -- several civil rights groups are calling for a forum, a summit on hate crimes. Is that something you all are considering?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, we've heard -- we've heard of this -- of the summit. I don't have anything for you to preview or to confirm on if we're going to have that summit here at the White House.

Clearly, we're constantly talking to organizations and leaders in the communities and having constant dialogue, but I just don't have anything new on that.

Q And one more quickly.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q This morning, the Supreme Court ruled against a man who immigrated from India. And he -- they ruled that he was deportable essentially because he checked the wrong box on his driver's license application. Is that a case that the Biden administration might try and intervene on? Or what do you think of that decision?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I -- my guess is it's going to go to -- that would be a Department of Justice for it to decide, not for us to decide on. And so, I would refer you to DOJ.

Go ahead.

Q Thank you. And congratulations. I was hoping you could offer a little more of an explanation about something you said earlier, where you said that they were -- did not want to call out by name individuals who had been espousing racist theories that could be fueling violence. I guess my question is: Why not, particularly if they're individuals who have very large platforms and theoretically carry a lot of influence? This would be -- people accused of doing so include the number three Republican in the House and the host of the number one cable news show on television. Why not call them out by name?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, what we saw on Saturday was devastating and horrific. You know, it is -- what we want to do is making sure that we send a very clear message that hate must have no safe harbor. And we must do everything in our power to end hate-fueled domestic terrorism. And we must reject hatred and extreme -- extreme ideologies that seek to divide Americans, wherever we find it in society; it is antithetical to who we are as a country. And that is what we want to make sure that we're doing.

It doesn't matter who it is. This -- this is something, like, morally -- like, mor- -- the moral truth of this is that, you know, it is a racial-motivated hate crime, and it's a -- abhorrent.

And so, that's what we need to call out. It doesn't -- it doesn't matter who that is. And that's what we're trying to make clear here. We're not -- we're not going to get into politics here about this. We want to make sure that we're calling out what we're seeing. These are people's lives.

At the top of this -- of the briefing -- I talked about 10 people -- 10 people who are doing what many of us might be doing on a Saturday -- is going shopping. You know, I know I go to the supermarket with my -- with my seven-year-old very often. If it's not on a Saturday, it's on a Sunday, before the week starts, to get the needs -- to get what we need for the week.

I mean, this is what happened to everyday people, from 20 years old to 86 years old. That's what we saw on Saturday. And so, we need to call that out and do everything that we can to really deal with this issue.

And we know we have a lot of work to do.

Q But you know it matters to some, right? It does matter to some people who it is that's calling it out. And when you don't call the -- when you don't call out the individual, they feel as if you're backing away from the issue.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, but we're not.

Q (Inaudible) to the point.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, we're not backing. How are we backing away from the issue?

Q Well, because you won't name who it is.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: But here's the thing: We're calling out what is happening. We're going to the heart of the issue, the hatred of the issue. Why -- but I guess my point is, you know, we are -- this is a President -- right? -- who decided to run because of what he saw in Charlottesville -- right? -- and he talked about the soul of the nation. And it was something that propelled him to jump into the 2020 primary -- because of what this showed, because it was, again, against who we are as a country, as he believed it to be.

And so, you know, it is something that is important to remember. And this is a President that calls it out every time we see this horrific violence.

And it's not about -- once you get into calling out people's names, then you move away from that issue, right? You move away from that issue. So, that's why I'm not going to do that from here. I'm going to focus on -- as I did when I started -- the 10 lives that were murdered. Everyday people doing everyday things. And that is why the President is going to Buffalo tomorrow.

Go ahead. Go ahead, April.

Q Karine, first of all, congratulations. Two polar opposite questions.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Laughs.)

Q I know.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, boy. (Laughs.)

Q One on the issue, Saturday. But I'm going to take it in another vein, which you just mentioned.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q The President ran on the issue of the soul of this nation.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Charlottesville. He speaks now of equity and inclusion. He has strengthened civil rights in DOJ. He's strengthened civil rights in other departments in this White House. But where are the teeth when it comes to changing this hate that has been plaguing this nation since the inception of this nation? Where s the teeth for the President people are expecting when it comes to these issues?

And on the summit issue, is the White House looking at what Bill Clinton did -- the precedent of having the Race Initiative, which brought people from all walks of life together to discuss issues of race -- the browning of America? Is the President looking at that as well?

And then I have another question.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, okay. You stopped there. Okay.

You know, now, this is a President that has been very clear about race in this country. Right?

When he walked in, he talked about the multiple crises that were facing us as a country. He talked about COVID, the economy, climate, and where we are with -- with race. And he s called it a crisis.

And he made it a point in his administration -- what he can do on the federal level -- to really deal with that in a way that we ve not seen before.

You know, one of the first things that he signed when he walked into the -- this presidency is an executive order to make sure that there s fairness, equality, and representation in -- in the federal government and federal agencies. And that is something that Susan Rice and her team, the Domestic Policy Council, has taken on, and they ve made that a priority.

Look, I know, April -- and we all know -- there s still so much work to be done. This President is committed to that work, and he has not shied away from it. He has called out the hatred that we have seen, the violence that we have seen when it comes to racially motivated attacks. He has been very, very clear on that.

Is there more work to be done? Absolutely. It is our -- is the team here looking to see what else we can do? Absolutely. And so, we re just going to continue to do that work.

But I do want to say, you know, tomorrow -- again, tomorrow, you know, the President wants to go to a community, he wants to grieve with them, and he wants to send a message to the entire country that we stand behind them and with them. And that is so important, as well as the President. He will try to bring some comfort to the community, particularly to those who lost loved ones. And, you know -- you know, we hear him discuss some of things he said Saturday about "hate must have no safe harbor." You heard me say that. It s probably the third time I ve said this in this briefing. And it really does -- it doesn t in this country.

And so any -- any racially motivated hate crime is abhorrent to the very fabric of this nation. And so that s what you re going to see him do. And that is going to be the focus tomorrow.

Q And the second other opposite of the question. You re making history --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q -- on so many levels. So many communities are so proud of you, and we're hearing it on social media everywhere. You're the first. What does that mean for the broader community, particularly Washington -- white male-dominated still, even though we had the first Black president -- and the broader society that is -- majority does not look like you?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I know.

Q What does this say? Because it's not window dressing; it's more than that.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: It's a very good question, April. I'm going to answer it in a -- in a kind of a personal way, if that's okay, since you asked it in a personal way.

So, I have not read a lot of the things that have been written about me because I wanted to focus on the work at hand. And I do believe it's not about me, it's about this place. It's about what -- the work that I have to do every day, that we all have to do as a team to make sure that we communicate with you and communicate with the broader -- the broader public.

But there was something that moved me, and I think this speaks to -- to what you're asking, which is: There was a story about my elementary school. I went to Franklin Middle School -- Elementary School in Hampstead, New York. And they did a story, and they went to the class -- I think I was in sixth grade when I went there; I went for one year -- and they talked to the students about me and this moment -- and this administration too, which is very important, because I don't think I would be here -- yes, I stand -- I stood on so many shoulders, but it does matter who sits in the Oval Office as well. That is very, very real.

And these kids wrote me a letter. And in the letter, they talked about how they can dream bigger because of me standing behind this podium. And that matters. You know, as I started out at the beginning: Representation matters. And not just for girls, but also for boys.

And so, what I hope is that young people get to dream big and dream bigger than they have before by seeing me stand here and answer all of your questions, you know, and have a healthy dialogue, as I discussed.

And so I think it is important, and so I appreciate the question. Thank you.

Q I have to follow that, unfortunately, with some questions about Somalia and Ukraine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Okay.

Q But, first, happy first day. Let me just ask you -- (laughter).

Q And now --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: And now -- (laughs). Okay. All right.

Q It's a bit of hard left, sorry.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, it's okay. That's what this is all about. It's okay. It's okay.

Q Has President Biden spoken to Somalia's new leader? Did he or does he plan to congratulate him? And has there been any leader-to-leader discussion about the new troop deployment?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Okay. So, I'll say this -- and I think I said earlier that, you know, having -- making sure that we're work- -- that we're working, we're having -- engaging with partners in the region, including the Somalia -- the Somali government. So, I did say that about the announcement about what -- what you're asking me here.

But on the election -- I want to get back to that -- we congratulate the Somali people and their new president who was sworn in last evening, as you know. Somalia now has an opportunity to focus on the political, economic, and security reforms necessary to advance the interests of the people of Somalia.

We encourage their new president and all the Somalian leaders to prioritize strengthening democratic governance and institutions, developing security forces to defeat terrorism, enacting economic reforms, and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the millions of Somalis -- Somalis suffering from devastating drought.

We look forward to the timely formation of a new government and to partnering with the Somalis -- with Somalia's leaders to achieve our shared goal to a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Somalia.

Q Before I move on to Ukraine, so have the two presidents spoken yet?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have -- I don't have a conversation or call to preview for you.

Q On Ukraine, the President has said he wants to go to Ukraine for a visit. Any movement on that issue?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I know that -- to your point, he wants to -- to visit Ukraine, clearly in the future. But there's no plans to go at that -- at all at this -- at this time, I should say.

He sent Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin to Kyiv to demonstrate an -- our unwavering commitment to Ukraine. And the First Lady, as you all know, went for Mother's Day to send an important message that the American people stand with the people of Ukraine.

You know, the President, as you -- as you guys know, because we've read out some of these calls -- speaks to President Zelenskyy and leaders around the world regularly as we organize the world's response to Russia's invasion.

Q Thanks, Karine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, okay. Thank you so much, guys.

I'll see you on Wednesday, if you -- and hopefully I'll see some folks in Buffalo, and we'll do this again.

Q Thanks, Karine.

Q Thank you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thank you all. Thank you. Thank you, everybody.

Q (Inaudible) congratulations.

Q Welcome to the soup.

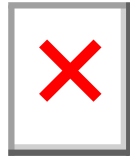
MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Laughs.) Thanks, guys.

4:12 P.M. EDT

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White House Press Office · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington DC 20500 0003 · USA · 202 456 1111

**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre En Route Buffalo, NY  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 17, 2022 12:56 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2022

**Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre**

Aboard Air Force One  
En Route Buffalo, New York

9:07 A.M. EDT

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Hello, hello, hello. Okay. I'll try and speak loudly.

Good morning. As you all know, we are headed to Buffalo, where the President and the First Lady will mourn with a grieving city. During the trip, the President and the First Lady will visit Tops Market memorial where they'll pay -- where they'll pay their respects to the lives of lost -- to the lives lost in Saturday's tragic shooting.

Afterward, the President and First Lady will meet with family members of the victims, law enforcement and first responders, and local leaders at a community center to offer their condolences and comfort to those affected by this tragedy.

After, the President will deliver remarks at the community center. The President will call this despicable act for what it is: terrorism motivated by a hateful and perverse ideology that tears at the soul -- the soul of our nation. He'll call on all Americans to give hate no safe harbor and to reject the lies of racial animus that radicalize and divide us and lead to the act of racist violence we saw on Saturday that took the lives of 10 Americans.

President Biden will call on Congress to take action to keep weapons off war -- weapons of war off our streets and keep guns out of the hands of criminals and people who have a serious mental illness that makes them a danger to themselves or others.

And the President will call on Americans to seek a more perfect union and embraces the diversity that has made us the world's strongest and most dynamic nation in history of the world.

We -- we re joined on Air Force One by Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Congressman Brian Higgins who represents Buffalo.

On the ground in Buffalo, President Biden will be joined by Governor Kathy Hochul, Buffler [sic] -- Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, and Buffalo City Council President Reverend Darius Pridgen.

In the -- in his meeting with first responders and local officials, the President will meet with the Buffalo Police Commissioner and De- -- and Buffalo Deputy Fire Commissioner among many other state and local leaders.

We will, of course, share all of the -- all of that in pool notes as we normally do.

Finally, I want to make sure you all saw that, on Thursday, President Biden will welcome the Prime Minister of Sweden and the President of Finland to the White House.

We've got a short flight, so I'm going to just get to it. And, Chris, do you want to kick us off?

Q Sure. So, the President said earlier when he took office that he wanted to boost efforts against domestic terrorism. Obviously, you know, this attack was carried out despite those efforts to refocus on white supremacy and domestic terrorism. Are there gaps in the administration's efforts? And what is being done to boost those efforts now?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, I know that -- that Congress, right now, is looking at the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act. We've been -- we've been asked about that, so I just wanted to give an answer on that. You know, we're still studying the details of the legislation, but the President has been clear in his commitment to countering domestic terrorism threats.

I talked a little bit about this yesterday, about what we have been doing in particular here in the administration. You know, we've been working to implement the government-wide National Strategy to Counter Domestic Terrorism President Biden directed his national security team to develop on his first full day in office. Recognize that that has evolved into the most urgent terrorism threat the United States faces today.

So, that works -- that work includes -- just very quickly -- improving information sharing; adding resources to prevent domestic terrorism recruitment; increase our support for federal, state, and local law enforcement in addressing domestic terrorism nationwide; confronting long-term contributor -- contributors to domestic terrorism; and rooting out hate and bigotry to fight gun crime.

As we have talked about, we are going to continue to call -- I said that at the top -- on Congress to expand background checks, renew our ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and confirm Steve Dettelbach to head ATF.

I do want to go back to -- a second -- about law enforcement. And I also said this yesterday, but the way that the law enforcement -- local law enforcement reacted and was on top of what happened in Buffalo and the other cities was -- they should be commended.

And so that's what we want to continue to do: provide them the assistance that they need; when these sad events -- these sad events happen, that they're able to react in the way that's saving lives and protecting lives the best that they can.

Q Karine, on NATO, Turkish President Erdoğan made some pretty strong comments yesterday suggesting that he would not want Finland and Sweden to join the Alliance. With those leaders coming to the White House tomorrow -- or on Thursday, excuse me -- what is the U.S. prepared to do to assuage Turkey's concerns? Have the Turkish government communicated anything they want from the U.S. in terms of concessions? And what is the U.S. prepared to offer Turkey to



reassure them about their -- the Sweden and Finland NATO campaign?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, Secretary Blinken spoke to this on Sunday. He held a press conference in Berlin -- you know, meeting with his counterparts in NATO.

Look, we -- we are confident that they will reach a consensus as an Alliance and -- on an entry process should they decide to apply. So, that -- we're confident that, again -- and Secretary Blinken -- so I'm just really re-upping what he says: that there will be a consensus as it relates to Turkey and Sweden and Finland of applications.

Q What gives you confidence in that, given that -- I mean, after Blinken's comments, Erdoğan's tone seemed to get even less optimistic or willing to allow them into the Alliance?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, as we know, there's a lot of support for Sweden and Finland to -- to join NATO. We've seen that in polling. We've seen that in voice support just across -- across the NATO Alliances. And so, we have every confidence that there will be a consensus.

There -- there's conversations happening. I cannot speak for the Turkey government as what they need or what they're looking for. But again, we feel very confident. And I'm -- that is something that the -- Secretary Blinken said himself after -- when he was in Berlin recently.

Q Karine, a question about guns. Can you give us a sense of what the administration's intelligence is or view is right now of the potential for copycat attacks and what's being done on that? And then I have a follow-up.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I don't have anything to share on any copycat attacks. I know I heard reporting that there was one in Buffalo, I think yesterday. That is something for, like, the local -- clearly, the local -- local enforcement to -- you can go to them and ask them exactly what was happening there.

I don't have anything to share on the federal government side. I laid out what we're doing, what we have done in fighting domestic terrorism, but I don't want -- I don't have more to share.

Q Further on the issue of guns: Gun prevention groups or gun violence protection groups -- prevention groups, rather -- have been pressing the White House to start an office of gun violence protection. Is that something that President Biden is considering, particularly in light of this most recent attack?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I would have to go back to the team and see if that is something that's actually on the table. I have not heard of that. I could understand why that is being requested or asked, especially what we have been seeing these past -- this past weekend. I just don't have anything more to share or preview or anything to --

Q All right. Just one last follow-up on that, sorry. It's just -- what is next then for this administration in terms of next steps on gun violence and gun reform?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, you know, we've said -- you've heard us say this: Our country is facing an epidemic on gun violence that is costing lives every day, as we've seen most recently in Buffalo and other examples. The President is using every tool he can to fight gun violence. He's done more through executive action than any President in their first history -- in their first year in office.

And I -- for example, we heard on Friday how over \$10 billion from the Rescue Plan has been spent or committed on ways to fight gun crime. The President wants cities and states to use even more. The Justice Department issued a tough new rule to stem the flow of ghost guns, which are increasingly being found at crime scenes and which are the weapons of choice for terrorists and criminals.

But there's so much more to do, and that's why we are calling on Congress to act on what I was talking about: the expanded

background checks, renew our ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazine, and confirm our ATF nominee as well.

Q Karine, you were talking about the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act. That -- it's somewhat broad in what it would do -- increasing resources, what have you. Does the President think -- does the President believe that there should be a domestic terrorism statute that allows prosecutors to charge suspects of mass shooting with domestic terrorism?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So in light of today's evolving domestic terrorism threat, we have to consider whether legislation -- legislative reforms could meaningfully and materially increase our ability to protect Americans from acts of domestic terrorism while simultaneously guarding against potential abuse and outreach.

You know, we have asked the Department of Justice as part of our strategy to counter domestic terrorism, as I just laid out, to closely examine whether new legislative authorities that balance safety -- safety and the protection of civil liberties are necessary and appropriate. And this is something they have said they are carefully considering. So, this is still in progress as something that they're looking at.

Q And also, yesterday, you were asked a couple of times about whether or not certain commentators and media, whether or not certain members of the Republican Party as well should share some blame in amplifying "replacement theory." It seems like the administration at this point is not calling out by name some of those people that have, in fact, amplified that theory.

Can you walk through the thinking of the President and the White House of why this is not a time and why it's not effective to call them out? Or do you feel that it's not effective, and will you call them out by name?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So the people who spread this filth know who they are, and they should be ashamed of themselves. But I'm not going to give them or -- give them or their obnoxious ideas they're pushing the attention that they desperately want.

So, the President has already called out this -- this poisonous, false, hateful ideology, including on Saturday and Sunday, saying, "Any act of domestic terrorism, including an act perpetrated in the name of a repugnant white nationalist ideology, is antithetical to everything we stand for in America" and that "We must all work together to address the hate that remains a stain on the soul of America."

Every leader should condemn that hate and certainly not echo it. We're going to focus on what unites us as Americans. That's going to be what we're focusing on.

Q So we should anticipate, in that case, as a follow to this, that we won't hear that from the President today either?

THE PRESIDENT: So, I mean, just to reiterate, Jonathan, I'm not going to give them a platform. So, I just want to make that very clear.

But we're going to make our case directly to the people. We have a vision for this country -- one where we combat hate, racism, and violence.

We denounce white racism and domestic terror. We hope all will join us in denouncing hate and racism, as well as the conspiracy theories that run rampant online.

For today, as I stated earlier, is I -- the President and the First Lady are going to comfort the grieving victims and the families who lost their loved ones. And he's going to listen to them, he's going to talk to them, and he's going to be there for them as their President.

Q And one more on a different topic. Over the weekend, there were a number of large demonstrations and rally in defense of abortion rights. The President, of course, has spoken that he supports that as well. Why did he not appear at

any of these?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So the President and the Vice President were energized to see the many people peacefully gathering this past weekend. The administration continues to do everything possible to protect access to women's reproductive rights, including working closely with abortion rights groups, providers, and elected officials, and more. But he was, indeed, gen- -- energized to see what -- folks coming out, peacefully protesting, and speaking out.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Go ahead, Sally.

Q Yeah, just on politics quickly. Does the President have any plans to watch the Pennsylvania returns tonight? Obviously, it's his other home state. It's a really important primary for both parties. And when can we expect to see more of him on the campaign trail heading into November?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I don't have anything on his schedule on what that's going to look like the next several months, going into November. So, as you know, I'm not going to go into politics from here.

But, obviously, Pennsylvania, as you were saying, Sally, is near and dear to the President -- to President Biden. And he spent a lot of time on the ground there as President talking about his plan to lower costs for the American people there and the need to get something done in Congress.

He's going to continue to take his plan to the people of Pennsylvania and throughout the country. And as you've heard President Biden say over and over, "Don't compare me to the Almighty. Compare me to the alternative."

Right now, the ultra-MAGA congressional Republicans want to raise taxes on the middle class, take away a woman's right to -- to right -- right to reproductive healthcare, and oppose the administration's work to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and put more cops on the beat.

The President isn't going to shy away from underscoring the contrast between congressional Republicans and the work he and his administration are doing to lower prices and make our communities safe and stronger. But I don't have anything for the -- his future role as we go up into November.

Q And just quickly on --

Q And, Karine -- and just --

Q Oh, sorry --

Q Last one, Karine --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Inaudible) follow up.

Q No, just on one other topic. Yesterday's Cuba announcement from the administration -- how closely is that related to the Summit of the Americas coming up? And when can we expect to see those formal invitations go out to the nations?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, I don't have anything new on the invites just quite yet.

But let me just give you a little bit of the announcement yesterday: The Cuban people are confronting an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, and our policy will continue to focus on empowering the Cuban people to help them create a future free from repression and economic suffering.

The President is fulfilling his commitment to the Cuban- American community and their family members in Cuba by facilitating family reunifications, strengthening fam- -- family ties and facilitating educational connections, increasing

support for independent Cuban entrepreneurs, ensuring that the remittances flow more freely to Cuban people while not enriching those who perpetrate human rights abuses.

These policy are designed to center on human rights and empowering the Cuban people to determine their own future. And so that is -- that is our focus.

I know you asked me "Why now?" So the -- following the large-scale protests in July 2021, President -- President Biden directed his national security team to take action in two primary ways. And those are -- those what -- is what I just listed out. And that s where it came from.

Q So one quick follow-up on Cuba.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Why does the Biden administration feel confident in the safety of the U.S. resources they re sending to Cuba with these new steps when these anomalous health incidents haven t been solved?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, you know, I get -- I understand the question, but at the same time, we have to make sure that we re helping the Cuban people.

To your -- to your question, that s something that we re monitoring, clearly, and just keeping a close eye on. But we also have to make sure that the Cuban people does -- do not suffer.

Q And does the U.S. have a plan?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So that's our focus there.

Q Does the U.S. have a plan if those attacks continue in Cuba?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don t have anything more to share beyond the announcement that we made yesterday. We are going to have our National Security Advisor, Jake Sullivan, with me at the podium tomorrow. So we can -- that s a question you can ask him.

Q Can I sneak in one more quick one?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q Just -- do you have an update on when the President will make a decision on student loan relief? And also, I m wondering if the administration has assessed whether or not even relief for \$10,000 -- what kind of impact that could have on inflation.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So let me start with your first question. We have no policy to announce yet.

But as a reminder, no one has been required to pay a single dime of student loans since the President took office. You know, I will note that the administration's actions have already provided more than \$18.5 billion in targeted debt relief to more than 750,000 borrows [sic] -- borrowers. This is through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness -- borrowers who have a total and permanent disability, borrowers who were misled by their college or university, and borrowers who attended ITT Technical Institutes.

Again, the policy has not been -- we haven t announced it yet.

So this is your question about inflation: And -- but I do want to state that Jared Bernstein has spoken to this before -- your

question, Zolan -- and he's mentioned that the impact on inflation by pausing federal loan repayments would be almost negligible, in his words -- something like 0.001 percent.

Q Thank you.

Q Thanks, Karine.

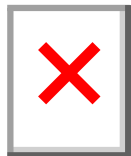
MS. JEAN-PIERRE: All right. Thanks, everybody.

9:25 A.M. EDT

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Readout from NSC Spokesperson Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Meeting with Saudi Vice Minister of Defense Khalid bin Salman  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 17, 2022 9:45 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2022

**Readout from NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Meeting with Saudi Vice Minister of Defense Khalid bin Salman**

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met today in Washington with Saudi Vice Minister of Defense Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. They underscored the longstanding partnership between our two nations, as exemplified by the U.S.-Saudi Arabia Strategic Joint Planning Committee, which the Vice Minister is co-chairing this week at the Department of Defense. Mr. Sullivan reaffirmed President Biden's commitment to help Saudi Arabia defend its territory, and expressed appreciation for Saudi Arabia's leadership in securing a UN-brokered truce in Yemen. They also discussed the importance of coordinating efforts to ensure global economic resilience.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement from NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Meeting with Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 18, 2022 7:00 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2022

**Statement from NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Meeting with Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti**

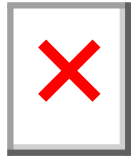
National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met yesterday with Prime Minister Albin Kurti of Kosovo. Mr. Sullivan thanked the Prime Minister for Kosovo's willingness to host Afghan evacuees. They exchanged views on Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, including Kosovo's provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine and imposition of sanctions against Russia. They also discussed stability in the Western Balkans, with Mr. Sullivan expressing U.S. support for the EU-facilitated Dialogue to reach a comprehensive normalization agreement between Kosovo and Serbia and the need for further progress on key outstanding issues. Mr. Sullivan welcomed plans by Kosovo to transition away from its dependence on lignite coal to cleaner energy and to ensure a stable supply of electricity.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Readout of National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Phone Call with Politburo Member Yang Jiechi  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 18, 2022 10:53 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2022

**Readout of National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Phone Call with Politburo Member Yang Jiechi**

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke today with Chinese Communist Party Politburo Member and Director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission Yang Jiechi by phone. This phone call, which followed their March 14 meeting in Rome, focused on regional security issues and nonproliferation. Mr. Sullivan and Director Yang also discussed Russia's war against Ukraine and specific issues in U.S.-China relations.

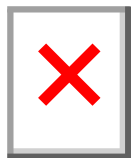
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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, May 18, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 18, 2022 7:46 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2022

**Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre**

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

2:11 P.M. EDT

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Good afternoon, everybody. Sorry we're starting a little late. We had to finish for the President to complete his remarks, and that was a request that we got from WHCA, so we wanted to make sure we adhered to it.

As you all know, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan is here. He's going to take your questions, preview Asia. And he has a hard out at 2:30, so we're going to try and get him out of here.

Okay, all yours.

MR. SULLIVAN: And I have 20 minutes of remarks, so -- (laughter) -- I hope you guys will bear with me.

I actually do have a number of things to get through because we have quite a stretch ahead here with respect to the President's foreign policy and national security priorities.

Very good to be back with you guys today.

Today, Finland and Sweden submitted their applications for NATO membership. President Biden has welcomed those applications, and he looks forward to working with NATO Allies and with Congress on a swift accession process.

(Audio playback of press briefing interrupts.)

Oh, sorry.

Q It's all happening again. (Laughter.)

Q I m sorry.

MR. SULLIVAN: Not a problem.

Q We got the audio.

MR. SULLIVAN: Small interruption of the accession process right there. But everything will be on track just fine. (Laughter.)

Tomorrow morning, the President will welcome the President of Finland and the Prime Minister of Sweden to the White House to coordinate on the path forward. And the three leaders will also have the chance to compare notes on our united efforts to support Ukraine in its defense against Russia's brutal invasion.

They will also have the opportunity to speak to the press and the public to affirm our shared vision for a peaceful and secure Euro-Atlantic region.

This is a historic event, a watershed moment in European security. Two nations with a long tradition of neutrality will be joining the world's most powerful defensive alliance. And they will bring with them strong capabilities and a proven track record as security partners. And President Biden will have the opportunity to mark just what a historic and watershed moment this is when he meets with them tomorrow.

After that meeting concludes, President Biden will board Air Force One for a trip to the Republic of Korea and Japan. This will be his first trip as President to the Indo-Pacific. And it comes at a pivotal moment.

President Biden has rallied the free world in defense of Ukraine and in opposition to Russian aggression. He remains focused on ensuring that our efforts in those missions are successful. But he also intends to seize this moment -- this pivotal moment -- to assert bold and confident American leadership in another vital region of the world: the Indo-Pacific.

That began last week with his hosting of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit here at the White House, where he welcomed nine leaders from Southeast Asia for a substantive set of meetings that covered a diverse agenda from economics and security to technology and energy.

President Biden made a series of significant announcements to show that when it comes to engagement with ASEAN, we're not just talking the talk, we're walking the walk as well.

This week, the President turns his attention to Northeast Asia. And on this trip, he'll have the opportunity to reaffirm and reinforce two vital security alliances, to deepen two vibrant economic partnerships, to work with two fellow democracies to shape the rules of the road for the 21st century, and to thank his allies in Korea and Japan for their remarkable and in some ways unexpected contributions to the effort to support Ukraine and to hold Russia accountable.

In Korea, President Biden will meet with the newly inaugurated -- excuse me -- the newly inaugurated Korean President, President Yoon, who campaigned on the platform of strengthening the U.S.-ROK alliance and on improving relations between the ROK and Japan.

President Biden will engage with technology and manufacturing leaders in Korea who are mobilizing billions of dollars in investment here in the United States to create thousands of good-paying American jobs.

He will see American and Korean troops standing shoulder to shoulder in defense of our collective security and consult on the challenge posed by the DPRK's nuclear and missile programs.

And he will highlight the truly global nature of the U.S.-ROK alliance, from climate and energy and technology to economic growth and investment.

In Japan, President Biden will meet with Prime Minister Kishida and his team. And we believe that the U.S.-Japan alliance, at this moment, under these two leaders, is at an all-time high. This visit can take us even higher.

The two leaders will consult on the broad and deep economic relationship between our two countries, as well as on a range of regional and global security issues. We'll also cover the DPRK as well as a number of other security issues both in the Indo-Pacific and more broadly around the world.

The U.S.-Japan alliance is the cornerstone of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, and Japan's contributions as a security partner are rightly growing as the regional security picture becomes more challenging and dynamic.

President Biden and Prime Minister Kishida will also be able to compare notes on the G7 agenda as the G7 Summit approaches next month in Germany.

In Japan, President Biden won't just have a bilateral program, he'll also have the opportunity to participate in the second in-person Quad Summit, following on the summit he hosted here in Washington last September.

He will do this alongside the Prime Minister of Japan, the Prime Minister of India, and the Prime Minister of Australia. And we believe that this summit will demonstrate, both in substance and in vision, that democracies can deliver and that these four nations working together will defend and uphold the principles of a free and open Indo-Pacific.

While he's in Tokyo, President Biden will also launch a new, ambitious economic initiative for the region: the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. "IPEF," as we affectionately call it, is a 21st century economic arrangement, a new model designed to tackle new economic challenges -- from setting the rules of the digital economy, to ensuring secure and resilient supply chains, to managing the energy transition, to investing in clean, modern, high-standards infrastructure.

President Biden will be joined in person by the Prime Minister of Japan for the launch of IPEF and virtually by leaders from a number of Indo-Pacific partners, from Down Under to Southeast Asia to Northeast Asia.

On security and economics, on technology and energy, on investment in infrastructure, we think this trip is going to put on full display President Biden's Indo-Pacific strategy and that it will show, in living color, that the United States can at once lead the free world in responding to Russia's war in Ukraine and at the same time chart a course for effective, principled American leadership and engagement in a region that will define much of the future of the 21st century.

And with that, I'd be happy to take your questions.

Yeah.

Q Thanks so much. Can you talk to us about Turkey and what the administration is doing and what conversations you might be having with Turkey about their plans to block Finland and Sweden's applications? Is there a deal to be struck with Turkey?

MR. SULLIVAN: We're confident that, at the end of the day, Finland and Sweden will have an effective and efficient accession process, that Turkey's concerns can be addressed.

Finland and Sweden are working directly with Turkey to do this, but we're also talking to the Turks to try to help facilitate. I spoke with my counterpart today; Secretary Blinken is meeting with his counterpart perhaps as we speak, in New York.

And we feel very good about where this will track to.

And President Biden will express that confidence as we believe the President of Finland and Prime Minister of Sweden will express that confidence tomorrow.

Yeah.

Q The Korean media is reporting that President Biden will meet with former President Moon Jae-in during his visit to Seoul. Is that accurate?

MR. SULLIVAN: We don't have a meeting scheduled with President Moon at this time.

Q Have there been any discussions between U.S. officials and Korean officials about Moon Jae-in potentially taking on a "Special Envoy to North Korea"-like role?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm not familiar with any discussions along those lines.

Yeah.

Q In the statement today welcoming Finland and Sweden's application to NATO, at the very -- or almost at the very end, it said that "While their applications for NATO membership are being considered, the [U.S.] will work with Finland and Sweden to remain vigilant against any threats to our shared security, and...deter and confront aggression..."

Does that mean that the U.S. is extending, like, the NATO security umbrella to them while their applications are in process?

MR. SULLIVAN: Article 5 only kicks in once all 30 Allies have ratified the accession protocols and they become full-fledged members of the Alliance.

But the United States is prepared to send a very clear message, as are all of our European allies, that we will not tolerate any aggression against Finland or Sweden during this process. And there are practical measures that we can take along those lines that Secretary Austin will coordinate with his counterparts in both Finland and Sweden.

Yeah.

Q Jake, two questions. One on the accession and one on your trip.

So, when the initial NATO expansion happened, of course, there was a huge debate in Washington about whether it was a good idea or not. I remember Kennan himself wrote in the New York Times that he wasn't in favor of it. Was there any similar debate that went underway here about whether or not bringing Finland and Sweden in was a good idea, or whether it would further corner Putin?

And on the trip, tell us a little bit about what you know on the evidence that North Korea may attempt either a nuclear test -- hard to imagine what they would accomplish by a seventh test, but -- the seventh test -- or a missile launch, and what your preparations are if that happens during the trip?

MR. SULLIVAN: On the first question, President Biden posed the question to his national security team, to his Cabinet principals who cover national security, as to whether they supported the accession of Finland and Sweden, and for them to consider the risks as well as the benefits of bringing Finland and Sweden into the Alliance.

Unanimously, President Biden's national security team emphatically supported the entry of Finland and Sweden into the NATO Alliance on the grounds that they have already proven themselves as highly capable security partners. In the

parlance, we say “net security contributors,” meaning they give a heck of a lot more than they take when it comes to a security partnership or an alliance. And that we believe that Russian aggression has only reinforced the argument for the kind of defensive alliance that -- that NATO presents and poses.

And finally, we have the principle of the open door. And the open door says that if countries meet the criteria of NATO membership and display that they can be net contributors to the Alliance and to overall European security, they should be admitted. That is a principle that President Biden has believed since long before he occupied the Oval Office. And Finland and Sweden are two cases that are pretty clear-cut when it comes to meeting those terms.

With respect to the issue of North Korea, we've said from this podium, we've said at the State Department, and we've indicated in quite clear terms that our intelligence does reflect the genuine possibility that there will be either a further missile tests -- including a long-range missile test or a nuclear test or, frankly, both -- in the days leading into, on, or after the President's trip to the region.

We are preparing for all contingencies, including the possibility that such a provocation would occur while we are in Korea or in Japan. We are coordinating closely with our allies in both Korea and Japan on this. We have spoken with counterparts in China. I met -- I spoke with my Chinese counterpart this morning and covered this issue of the DPRK.

And we are prepared, obviously, to make both short- and longer-term adjustments to our military posture as necessary to ensure that we are providing both defense and deterrence to our allies in the region and that we're responding to any North Korean provocation.

Yes.

Q Jake, thank you. Two questions on different topics. One, could you update us on the situation with the Russian blockade on grains?

And also, on Haiti: What happens with the Title 42 with the Haitian migrants and maybe migrants of South America as well in the Caribbean when it comes to the end of Title 42 on May 23rd, if that happens?

MR. SULLIVAN: So, first, it is Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and nothing else that is stopping tens of millions of tons of food from getting out of the breadbasket of Europe -- Ukraine -- and onto the world market to feed people in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and everywhere else.

And that is true in two critical respects: First, Russia is bombarding Odessa, which is the port from which that food departs on large cargo ships bound through the Black Sea and then on to the world market. Second, Russian ships are engaged in an effective blockade of commercial ship traffic that would -- could leave Odessa Port, were not under this bombardment, and head out to the world.

So we have publicly called upon Russia to end its attacks on Odessa and to end the blockade and to permit the traffic -- the commercial and humanitarian traffic of ships into and out of Odessa Port.

We are working closely with both Ukraine and the United Nations on this issue, as well as other allies and partners. And we are supporting efforts to facilitate the delivery of that grain to the world market so that it can alleviate food prices everywhere.

And we would like to see an outcome in which the facts -- not just the rhetoric -- the facts bear out the actual permission by Russia of large numbers of ships moving through the Black Sea and onto the world market.

Q Is Russia responding to that request? And also the question I asked you about Title 42.

MR. SULLIVAN: There are ongoing intensive diplomatic conversations. The United Nations Secretary-General is

involved in this, the Ukrainians are involved in this, some of our other partners are involved in this. I'm not going to get ahead of those discussions. I'm only going to say that the United States stands ready in any way to help facilitate and deliver on that diplomacy to try to produce an outcome in which food is getting to the world stage.

With respect to Haiti, we will have to see. Obviously, there are a number of issues bound up in the courts right now. But with the end of Title 42, the United States has put in place a process by which those individuals who claim asylum and have legitimate asylum claims can stay and those who come and don't will go through the process -- the legal process that exists and has existed for some time.

Even when Title 42 was in effect, large numbers of individuals were not subject to Title 42; they were subject to the standard legal process by which we deal with claims at our border for people who want to come and stay here.

Q Jake, on Ukraine again: U.S. intelligence chiefs recently offered assessments that Putin continues to bank on the fracturing of Western resilience to continue this war. Is Turkey's concern about Finland and Sweden joining up perhaps an example of that?

And what about the, I guess, also congressional pushback, or the growing congressional pushback, to Ukrainian aid? What are you guys doing, sort of, in both regards to make sure that that doesn't continue to happen? I know you've described some of it, but it does seem now that there are examples of these growing concern or criticism resistance.

And then I got one other on another part of the world.

MR. SULLIVAN: So, first, growing congressional pushback, to me, is a strange premise for a circumstance in which the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly not just in favor of approving what the President sent up, which was \$33 billion, but actually adding \$7 billion to it to make a \$40 billion package. And we expect a similar overwhelming bipartisan vote in the Senate once the final procedural hurdle -- hurdles are cleared over the next 24 to 48 hours.

So there are some voices against this, but the chorus of voices on both sides of the aisle, from all sides of the political spectrum, in favor of standing up in defense of Ukraine's sovereignty and freedom and independence -- it's quite powerful and, frankly, in a way, quite moving. And it sends a clear message to the world that the United States can pull together behind the brave people of Ukraine in their hour of need.

What was your other question?

Q Well, just Turkey's continued concern here and whether there might be others who are going to raise concern about NATO expansion.

MR. SULLIVAN: Look, the great thing about the free world -- about the Western alliance, about NATO -- is that you've got a raucous collection of states that all have opinions, that all have perspectives, that all have interests. But they also know how to and when to pull together and how to settle any differences. And I expect these differences will be settled.

I expect that NATO will speak with one voice in support of Finland and Sweden at the end of the day.

And I think the remarkable unity you've seen with respect to sanctions coming out of the EU, the United States, and our Indo-Pacific partners; the support that we have provided Ukraine in terms of military and humanitarian assistance -- it's only grown stronger over the course of the last 12 weeks, and we expect that that momentum will continue, and it's having a major impact on the battlefield.

Ukraine won the Battle of Kyiv. Ukraine has now beaten Russia back from Kharkiv. And Ukrainian defenders are putting the military assistance we provided to good use in defending territory in the Donbas as well.

Yes.

Q Just a little bit about the challenges of trying to focus on the Indo-Pacific -- a priority for you all to get-go -- given just - I mean, look, a bulk of the questions even here today have focused on other parts of the world.

Tomorrow, Finland and Sweden are going. Just the juxtaposition of what is going on in the world right now as you all are trying to focus (inaudible).

MR. SULLIVAN: And, you know, it's interesting, we actually don't regard this as a tension between investing time, energy, and attention in Europe and time, energy, and attention in the Indo-Pacific. We regard this as mutually reinforcing.

First, look at the Indo-Pacific partners that have stepped up to help make these sanctions and export controls as effective as they are: Korea, Japan, Australia, even Singapore.

Second, look at the extent to which European countries are increasingly invested in the Indo-Pacific, in helping ensure that our vision of a free and open Indo-Pacific is actually realized. We see that with the AUKUS partnership, where you've got the United Kingdom alongside Australia and the United States. We see it with the way the European Union has, for the first time ever, put out an Indo-Pacific strategy.

And so, actually, we think that there is something quite evocative about going from meeting with the President of Finland and the Prime Minister of Sweden to reinforce the momentum behind the NATO Alliance and the free world's response in Ukraine, and getting on a plane and flying out to the Indo-Pacific not just to deal with security issues, but to unveil a new far-reaching economic initiative, to host a Quad summit that will cover climate and cyber and emerging technologies, and to deal with Korea and Japan on issues that actually affect working people here in the United States, including major investments that will create jobs in states across the country.

So, for us, there is a certain level of integration and a symbiosis in the strategy we are pursuing in Europe and the strategy we're pursuing in the Indo-Pacific. And President Biden's unique capacity to actually stitch those two together is, I think, going to be a hallmark of his foreign policy presidency.

Q Jake?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

Q Jake, can you provide an update on when the President will visit Israel?

And secondly, can you elaborate further on the specific security guarantees that the United States has made Finland and Sweden in the interim period?

MR. SULLIVAN: So, first, on Israel, we are actively working with the Israelis to fix a date for the visit at some point in the not-too-distant future. The President is very much looking to go. But unfortunately, I don't have an announcement of a trip or a timetable for it standing here today, other than to say the President is excited to get the opportunity to go to reaffirm the strength of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

With respect to the specifics on security commitments or assurances or actions that we will take with Finland and Sweden, those are ongoing conversations that are happening at an operational and technical level between our Department of Defense and their ministries of defense, and also with other NATO Allies and partners.

And so I'll leave it in those channels for now -- only to say that the U.S. stands ready to ensure that deterrence and defense for Finland and Sweden will be there should they need it, even though they don't get the full benefits of the Article 5 Alliance until the accession process is properly complete, as is required, frankly, under our Constitution, where we need to get advice and consent from the Senate for that treaty.

Yes.

MS. JEAN-PIERE: Last question.

Q Regarding the trip, to what extent is the message on this trip going to be like a cautionary tale delivered to China to say, "Look what happened in Ukraine. Look how we've responded. Don't do anything similar"? Is that going to be part of the messaging during the President's trip?

MR. SULLIVAN: The message we're trying to send on this trip is a message of an affirmative vision of what the world can look like if the democracies and open societies of the world stand together to shape the rules of the road, to define the security architecture of the region, to reinforce strong, powerful, historic alliances.

And we think putting that on display over four days -- bilaterally with the ROK and Japan, through the Quad, through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework -- it will send a powerful message. We think that message will be heard everywhere. We think it will be heard in Beijing.

But it is not a negative message, and it's not targeted at any one country. It's targeted at an audience the world over about what American leadership, working flanked by allies and like-minded partners, can deliver for people everywhere.

And we think we go into this trip very much with the wind at our back, with a strong case to make that we have what it takes to be able to deliver against the security and economic challenges of our time.

And President Biden will head into the Indo-Pacific with a spring in his step, and we're very much looking forward to this visit.

Q Will the President visit the DMZ, Jake? Will the President visit the DMZ?

MR. SULLIVAN: You can ask Karine. (Laughter.)

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: He will not visit the DMZ.

Q He will not.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: He will not. He will not.

Q Why not? Why not visit the DMZ?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Just not on this trip. He will not. He will go to South Korea, as you know. They will have an agenda to talk about a lot of things, including North Korea. But he's not going to the DMZ.

And just to -- just to reiterate here is that, as Vice President, he has been there before. But on this trip --

Q But now he's President, and his predecessor went --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: He's just not --

Q -- former President Obama went.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: But he's just not going to go on this trip. He's going to go to South Korea. He's going to show his support for the region. And -- but he's not going to go to South Korea on this trip -- I'm sorry, the DMZ on this trip.

Okay. We all love Jake. Thank you so much for your patience. And I have one topper, and then we'll get to it.



Okay. The Senate took an important step today with the bipartisan agreement announced by Chair Tester and Ranking Member Moran to advance their vision of the Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022.

President Biden has championed legislation to deliver the benefits and healthcare services that veterans impacted by toxic exposures have earned. This historic comprehensive bill will do just that.

The PACT will not only help deliver more timely access to benefits and services for veterans and their survivors, it will also ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs can act more nimbly to add future presumptive conditions when the evidence warrants. And the legislation will help the VA provide our veterans the level of service they deserve.

President Biden believes that we have a sacred obligation to support veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors. That's why as part of this first state of the -- of his first State of the Union address, he identified supporting veterans as a key pillar of his Unity Agenda and an issue that can unite the country, Republicans and Democrats.

Passing the PACT Act would be a welcome and long-awaited achievement for the veterans who have served us well.

Darlene, you have the floor.

Q Thanks. Thank you. I wanted to ask Jake this question, but I'll ask you. It's about the Quad summit. And there is a possibility that Saturday's election in Australia will not produce a winner in time for someone to go to Tokyo to participate in the Quad summit. So what contingencies are there? Will the one meeting go ahead if Australia cannot participate?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I believe that the Quad meeting will go ahead. I don't have any more specifics than that about the -- you know, how that's going to affect any further, deeper.

But from what I understand, and even Jake said this, that there's going to be a Quad summit. It's going to happen. We can -- we can talk more about the specifics of what will -- you know, what it will look like with Australia.

Q And then, the First Lady's Office informed us that Ashley Biden, the President's daughter, is positive for COVID. Can you tell us when was the last time the President tested negative? Is he testing today in preparation for travel?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yep. So, the President tests regularly throughout the week as part of a cadence determined by his doctor. As we've -- as we've communicated, the President is not a close contact with Ashley. It's been several days that they last -- he and the First Lady last saw Ashley; I think about a week is what I've been told.

If his testing were to change because of a close contact, we'd let all of you know. But his cadence has not changed. I don't have when he last tested.

Q And then one final question on the church attack in California over the weekend. We haven't seen the President comment on that at all. Is he concerned that what happened there could somehow destabilize relations between Taiwan and China? Does he have any plans to call or reach out to Taiwan or China, or anything like that?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So I don't have any calls to preview of -- calls with Chinese and Taiwan as it relates to this particular case.

Our thoughts are with all those affected by gun violence, including the incidents -- the other incidents that at -- that happened this weekend in Houston, in Milwaukee, in Chicago, and, as we know, in Buffalo.

Federal law enforcement is supporting as needed. And the White House has been in touch with local leaders. These shootings and, of course, the one in Buffalo, as the President and the First Lady went to offer -- went to grieve with the

community yesterday, as all of you know, are a sad reminder of how important it is to redouble our effort -- our fight against gun violence and violent crime.

And as part of the President's comprehensive strategy to fight gun crime, we're putting more cops on the beat, as you've heard us say this past year and a half; as we're -- talked about a gun comprehensive approach here, cracking down on firearms trafficking, investing through the arts and community programs to prevent crime.

But I don't have any more to share on any calls that may have had occurred.

Okay, I'm going to go to people who haven't asked a question. Go ahead, Ashley.

Q Thank you. Two questions. Following up on Darlene, on Ashley Biden having COVID: She's in good company in this White House in that the Vice President had it, the Second Gentleman had it, you had it, Jen Psaki had it twice, a number of top Cabinet officials had it, a number of other aides in the West Wing. And no one so far that I can remember has been deemed a close contact of the President. Why are none of these people close contacts of the President -- and his sister, actually -- including family members?

And also, are there steps that the President is taking beyond the CDC guidelines that you could lay out? Are meetings in the Oval being kept --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q -- under 15 minutes? Is everyone masked?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, I'm glad to be -- said I was in good company. Appreciate that.

But -- so it is -- we take extra precautions, to your last question -- I'll answer that first -- here at the White House. And we've said this before: When we're in a meeting -- I was in a meeting with the President earlier today. I got tested first. I put my mask on, and we socially distanced.

Those are the extra protocols that we do take with the President and all the principals, not just him, just to make sure that we just take that extra added step there.

Look, you know, the close contact is as it's deemed by CDC. And he hasn't seen Ashley in several days. And it's also -- there's a time component to how long that person was in the room. We all wear masks.

So, yeah, I mean, the way we -- if he -- if he is -- if there was a close contact or he's a close contact of someone, we would let you know.

Q And on guns: Yesterday, when he was leaving Buffalo, the President said, "I've got to convince the Congress that we should go back to what I passed years ago." I just want to confirm that he was referring to the 1994 assault weapons ban.

And my question is: You know, when he was the point person for President Obama after Sandy Hook, Manchin-Toomey -- which went far less far than an assault weapons ban -- failed. What makes him think that he could get that through when, so far, no meaningful legislation has gone through in the past decade?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, this is what the President said yesterday. Right? He understands it's not going to be easy, but he knows that there's more to do.

You know, our country is facing an epidemic that is very real, as we have seen this past weekend, as gun violence is costing lives every single day.

And so, you know, when he was in Buffalo, we saw examples of that. He talked to the family -- talked to them in a very personal way. And this is a top priority for the President, as it's been throughout his career.

As you just mentioned, he mentioned his own legislation that he passed. Look, the President continues to urge Congress to act to pass universal background checks, to keep guns out of the wrong hands, and to renew a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines to keep weapons off our streets. It's not going to be easy. He understands that. But he's going to continue to work very hard to make that happen.

But I do want to add, Ashley, is that this administration has done more on gun violence reform via executive action than any other President in its first year in their administration. So that is the -- his commitment and what he's -- what he's done just this year and a half.

Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Karine. Jake mentioned his conversation with his Chinese counterpart. This morning, the readout you guys gave was pretty sparse, and so I was wondering if you can give any more details of that conversation, and particularly, sort of, an update on how the White House has seen China's actions towards Russia in light of Ukraine. I know that --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I -- I don't have any more to read out outside of what you -- what was put out by us earlier today. I'm just going to keep it to that readout. And -- and, you know, Jake has spoken to this before, about China and their relationship with Russia.

We haven't seen any evidence of any, like, material that has been provided to Russia. That continues to be the case. I don't have any more to add on that.

Q I wanted to ask about a pair of bills on Capitol Hill right now --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q -- both being forwarded by House Democrats. One is a Consumer Fuel Price gouging -- Gouging Prevention Act, and the other is this domestic terrorism legislation.

I haven't seen statements of administration policy on either, and I'm wondering how supportive the President is, particularly on the domestic terrorism legislation. He kind of -- on the tarmac yesterday, he seemed to say that he didn't think it was necessary.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, on the -- the price -- the gas price gouging legislation that you just mentioned: Look, the President welcomes all ideas to protect consumers and to make sure that oil companies aren't taking advantage of Putin's war and are competing fairly. He's been very clear on that.

President Biden has been also very clear that no company should be engaging in unfair practices to hike prices on American consumers.

As the President has said, President Putin's actions are what is driving the price increase at the pump. The President is focused on doing everything in his power to address the Putin price hike, including the largest-ever release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, as we've talked about here at this podium, and working around the clock diplomatically to build a coalition of countries for the largest release in foreign reserves ever.

We know that there are a number of ideas being suggested by our allies and in Congress, and look forward to engaging on this issue so we can get Americans some relief, especially as we're in this particular time right now with high prices.

Q And then one last on the Dow. It's down 1,100 points so far today. Chairman Powell did an interview with the Wall

Street Journal in which he said he'd push forward on additional rate hikes, even if it resulted in unemployment coming up. Also, presumably baked into that is that the stock market -- we've seen the stock market do poorly as the Fed hikes rates.

So, you know, do you still, I guess, stand behind Chairman Powell's vision on rate hikes?

And broadly, you guys have said that you're not following day-to-day market tribulations, but we're now getting to a point where some of the gains that defined the President's tenure are being erased. And so, is there a new level of alarm within the White House about the stock market?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, as you know -- and we say this all the time, Josh -- you know, it's -- Justin -- the Fed chair -- you know, the Federal Reserve is independent. We leave them to make their own policy decisions. We do not get involved in that. And nothing has changed on how we see the stock market. We do not -- that's not something that we keep an eye on every day. And so, I don't -- I'm not going to comment about that from here.

I do want to touch base on the domestic terrorism and what the President said yesterday about the -- about domestic terrorism. Look, it's a -- it's a growing and evolving threat and one that the Biden administration has taken very seriously.

Since our first day in office, we have said we have been studying the details of different proposals. And there are a range of ideas that have been proposed in Congress that could improve our ability to detect and respond to these threats.

What the President was specifically referring to yesterday when he was on the tarmac was the set of existing laws on the -- on the books that provide law enforcement with authorities to investigate and prosecute domestic terrorism and hold those who commit hate-filled attacks accountable.

As part of our National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, we increased our support for federal, state, and local law enforcement as they address domestic terrorism nationwide, including increasing resources and providing trainings [sic] -- trainings to thousands of law enforcement entities.

DOJ has made domestic terrorism-related investigation and prosecution a top priority at the national and local level. And plus, DOG [sic] -- DOJ, earlier this year, announced the creation of a new domestic terrorism unit with the counterterrorism section -- sec- -- section of the National Security Division that will enforce the expertise and experience on these issues available to federal prosecutors nationwide.

So, there is a commitment there. And that's what he was talking about.

Go ahead. Go ahead.

Q We're about three weeks away from the Summit of the Americas. You got Chris Dodd down in Mexico today --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q -- trying to convince President López Obrador to come. What's the President's level of optimism that Mexico will attend this Summit of the Americas? And, well, is the guest list finalized? Has the President decided who to invite?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: The guest list is not finalized. Hopefully that will happen soon. And I promise, once we have it, we will share it.

You know, the President is optimistic. You know, we don't have anything to share at this moment. Again, once we have it, we'll be happy to share it with all of you.

Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Karine. DHS said today that they'll be pausing the Disinformation Governance Board. Did the White House play a role at all in perhaps expressing frustration on how it was rolled out or expressed any -- involvement in how it -- whether or not it should be paused?

And then also, some experts have said that it was sort of set up to fail the way it was rolled out. Do you have a response to that?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, the board has never convened. It -- so that's -- it never convened, and the board is -- yes, the board is pausing in the sense that it will not convene while former Secretary Chertoff and former Deputy AG Gorelick do their assessment.

But the Department's work across several administrations to address disinformation that threatens the security of our country is critical, and that will indeed continue.

And again, neither Nina Jankowicz nor the board have anything to do with the censorship or with removing content from anywhere. Their role is to ensure that national security officials are updated on how misinformation is affecting the threat -- the threat environment.

She has strong credentials and a history of calling out misinformation from both the left and the right. And that's -- and that's our focus.

Q So did the White House -- did the White House play a role at all in whether it should be paused or what should happen with -- with the board?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No. First of all, like I said, this -- this is what's happening: There is a pause. We did not have an involvement in this at all.

Q And just another quick question. Congressman Schrader, who received a rare endorsement from the President in a Democratic primary, is on track to lose. What does that say about the power of the President's endorsement?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, I -- as it comes to -- you know, I have to be careful about what I can say here. (Laughs.) But we -- you know, the race in Oregon was focused on just how much each candidate supported the President -- supported the President. That's what we saw in this particular race.

His -- his counterpart in the race, McLeod-Skinner, ran on a -- an agenda of President Biden's priorities, including lowering the price of prescription drugs and tackling climate change and the fossil fuel pledge.

Her support for President Biden extends back to 2020 election, when she said, "He's the guy. He knows how to choose a great team." On the campaign trail, McLeod-Skinner has sought to tie herself to President Biden and paused -- and praised his presidency.

Even on day one President Biden endorsed Representative Schrader, McLeod-Skinner wrote, "I respect Biden's work to tackle COVID-19 and rebuild our economy." In February, McLeod-Skinner praised President Biden's effort at diplomacy around the situation in Ukraine. McLeod praised President Biden's plan to lower health and -- care costs, eldercare costs, childcare costs, and prescription drug costs as a transform- -- formative -- "transformative investment in the future of Oregon's families."

So, that's how we see it. We think it's both -- both sides were very much supportive of the President.

Q Thank you. Karine, just to follow up though, I mean, the question is -- this -- both of them had similar platforms, to your point.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yep.

Q And yet President Biden endorsed one of them, and that candidate is on track to lose. So are there concerns within the President -- and I know you can't speak to politics of this -- is the President concerned --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Not at all.

Q -- that he doesn't have enough juice heading into these critical midterms?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: No, not at all. Because, again, both candidates were running on a platform that supported, embraced the President's pla- -- the President's agenda.

Q Has the President reached out to any of the Democratic winners overnight, particularly John Fetterman, who is still in the hospital? Cheri Beasley?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have any calls to read out, but I do believe the one thing that I can say here is that he spoke -- last night, the President did speak to Gisele Fetterman, and wished the governor -- wished the lieutenant governor a speedy recovery.

Q Okay. And the President said of Fetterman's win and of the Republicans who were still locked in a pretty tight battle in Pennsylvania: "[W]hoever emerges will be too dangerous, too craven, and too extreme to represent Pennsylvania" and the United States. Do the Democrats run the risk of underestimating the Republican Senate nominee in Pennsylvania --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look --

Q -- and gubernatorial nominee?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: You know, the President remains really focused on delivering for the American people. And what you see from congressional Republicans and what you see from the GOP is -- the plan for American people is to raise taxes to -- in the middle class, to sunset Social Security and Medicare, and to take away a woman's right to reproductive healthcare. He's going to speak against that. He is going to continue to speak for the American public. And so, he's not going to stay quiet.

And that -- and this is something that is incredibly important to make sure that the American people and -- and what he's doing to -- for the American people is -- is -- you know, is made sure that it's -- it happens, right? What the -- what the other side is trying to do is trying to stop us from trying to lower costs for -- for folks, as we -- as I just laid out.

Q And, just very quickly, Senator Raphael Warnock is saying that he's coming to the White House to meet with the President today. Can you talk a little bit about that, about student loans? And is the President open to increasing the forgiveness rate? It seems like he's in the \$10,000 range. Senator Warnock wants it to be closer to \$50,000. Would the President come up?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, we meet with members of Congress on a variety of issues.

Q Is he going to meet with Senator Warnock today?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: (Laughs.) These are senators who have been leaders on college affordability and sent- -- and student debt. The President values their perspective and looks forward to the discussion this afternoon. So, yes. But I don't have more to read on that.

There's -- we -- you know, I've said this a couple of times: We don't -- a decision hasn't been made yet.

Q Is there timeline yet for --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have a timeline. A decision hasn't been made yet.

Yeah.

Q Thank you, Karine. A follow-up to the disinformation board. Last week, you guys said that you needed this Disinformation Governance Board at DHS to make sure that freedom of speech is protected across the country and that these platforms are not used for forms of disinformation. So what changed?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, the Department of -- of Homeland Security, they began their statement report -- repeating that the board had been intentionally mischaracterized, which is a little bit of what you were asking me, and they were explicit about what it does and doesn't -- it does not do.

It was never about censorship, poli- -- policing speech, or removing content from anywhere. Its function was to keep Homeland Security officials aware of how bad actors -- including human smugglers, transnational criminal organization, and foreign adversaries -- could use disinformation to advance their goals.

As Secretary Mayorkas said, he has asked former DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and former DO- -- DAG Jamie Gorelick to lead a thorough review -- this is the pause that I was talking about -- and assessment as members of the bipartisan Homeland Security Council -- Advisory Council.

The board will not convene during that period. But the department's work across several administrations to address disinformation that threatens the security for our country is critical and will continue. So that work is going to continue.

Q So if it's pausing because you think the board was mischaracterized, then the disinformation board is being shut down because of disinformation? Is that what's happening here?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, I mean, the -- the board was put forth for a purpose -- right? -- to make sure that we really did -- really did address what was happening across the country when it came to disinformation.

Q And it's okay to wait now at 75 days to address --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, no, it's -- it's just -- it's going to pause. There's been a mischaracterations [sic] from outside -- outside forces. And so, now what we're going to do is going to -- we're going to pause it and we're going to do an assessment. But the work does -- the work doesn't stop. We're still going to continue the work. The DHS is still going to continue the work.

Q Okay. There's a bulletin now that DHS is worried if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, there could be violence against the Supreme Court building or Supreme Court justices. Are these threats from pro-abortion activists or anti-abortion activists?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, look, the President is clear on this question. He believes the right to peace- -- to peacefully protest in this country is fundamental, but he also believes that violence, threats, and intimidation have no place in political discourse anywhere. That is true whether it is in front of a courthouse or in front of a healthcare clinic.

And that's the thing. I feel -- it seems like, to us, it is very one-sided on what we call out as -- as intimidation or as violence. So we want to make sure we're calling out on -- on ei- -- on both sides of what is happening and what we're seeing.

While protests -- but while protests have been peaceful to date, the Department of Justice has U.S. Marshals providing support to support [the Supreme] Court Marshal, and the Pres- -- and the President believes Congress should pass the

legislation to fund increased security for Court and judges as soon as possible.

Yesterday, in reference to this, the Department of Homeland Security said they are “committed to protecting Americans’ freedom of speech and other civil rights and civil liberties, including the right to peacefully protest. DHS is also committed to working with our partners across every level of government and the private sector to share timely information and intelligence, prevent all forms of violence, and to support law enforcement -- enforcement efforts to keep our communities safe.”

Q And then, final question, on gas prices: Americans are now spending \$5,000 a year on gasoline. That’s almost double what they did a year ago. Where are people supposed to go to get all that extra cash?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: To get the extra cash to pay for gas?

Q Yeah.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, I mean, one of the things that we’ve been very clear about is to do everything in our power to make sure that we lower costs. You know, it is important -- we see it. The President understands what the American people is -- are -- is going through.

And that’s why we’re doing everything that we can. We’ve made multiple announcements in the past several -- several months of what we’re doing -- whether it’s just the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, whether it’s the ethanol 15, to make sure that that -- that the American people are not feeling Putin’s price hike.

This is where this is coming from. Sixty to seventy percent of the current price hike that we have seen has come from Putin’s aggression against Ukraine.

Q So, the President announces on March 31st that he’s got all these steps to lower gas prices, and it’s still Putin’s fault, seven weeks later?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, because -- what I’m saying is, since the war -- since Putin’s war -- aggression against Ukraine started back in February -- we did see a spike. But before then, it had -- the price -- the -- the price per gallon had fallen down about 10 cents or more.

And then Putin started his aggression on Ukraine -- his violent aggression on Ukraine -- against their democracy, against their -- against their sovereignty. And we saw about -- I mean, the facts show it went up about 60 to 70 percent. So it is Putin’s tax hike. This is what we’re talking about.

Q Karine?

Q On that same subject --

Q Would you come to the back --

Q -- on inflation --

Q -- at some point?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Sure.

Q Thank you.

Q The inflation concerns are now rubbing off on quarterly earnings, reports for a lot of big companies -- Target, for



example, today says it missed its estimates because of increased costs of transportation, in gas. That's part of what's driving this at least 1,100-point drop in the Dow so far. What would you say, what does the White House say to investors and everyday Americans who are concerned that there's no end in sight to these price hikes?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, you know, I'm not -- again, I'm not going to speak to the stock market. But, you know, this is something that is very important to the President, when it comes to inflation -- inflation and making sure that we lower costs for the American people.

Last week, we announced new steps with private sector to lower the price of high-speed Internet for ten -- tens of millions of Americans.

The President traveled to Illinois to announce new actions to give farmers the tools and resources so -- they need to boost production, lower prices, and -- and feed the world.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that the deficit fell by \$1.5 trillion this year, putting us on track for the fastest deficit reduction in any year on record.

These actions build on other actions the President has taken to lower costs in recent weeks. Again, you know, this is to -- this is to address Putin's price hike at the pump.

The President, as I was saying, and allies and partners around the world -- they came together. And he was talking about the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the 1 million barrels of oil per day for the next six months, in addition to a -- to the 60 million barrels of oil from other countries' reserve. I talked about the E15 gasoline that we have allowed to happen so that it could be sold this summer.

The President also announced administrative actions to save hundreds of thousands of families hundreds of dollars per month by fixing the Affordable Care Act's family glitch. These are the things that we have been working on -- this President has been working on for the past several months, understanding that it is important to lower the cost of -- the costs for American families. And we're going to continue to do that.

I'm going to try and go to the back. Go ahead. You, sir.

Q Thank you. Oh, sorry.

Q Thank you very much. Thanks a lot, Karine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, yeah. Go ahead. (Laughs.) Go ahead.

Q Can you talk a little bit about President Biden's long-term thinking on Ukraine? There's a possibility this war could go on for months or years. And what is the President's commitment to supplying weapons to Ukraine in the long term?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, as you know, there is a -- there is a supplemental -- there is a funding -- a Ukraine funding that's in the Senate right now for about \$40 billion that we are encouraging the Senate to pass. And so, that is going to be part of helping -- continuing to help Ukraine with material, with defense material and humanitarian aid.

Look, this is something that's incredibly important to the President, but also to our partners and allies, that we make sure that Ukraine is able to defend their democracy. It is important for us as a country, as a leader in this -- in this world to make sure that we're doing everything that we can so that happens.

What happens -- what is happening in Ukraine -- defending their democracy, defending their territorial integrity, defending their sovereignty -- affects us all. So, this is something that we are going to continue to be partners with -- with our allies, our partners.

The -- Jake was talking about the NATO Alliance and how strong they are, how unified, how they're speaking in one voice in a -- in a way that we have not seen in years. And so, this is something that we need to be -- continue to be a leader on, and that's what he believes.

And it's important to make sure that we protect our country's democracy.

Q What preparations is the President making if Putin escalates after the -- after Finland and Sweden join NATO?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, I'm not going to go into hypotheticals. We're going to focus on what's happening here and now.

You know, again, I think one of the things that we have to remember: This is a war that Putin started. This is a war -- his aggression, his violent -- very violent war that we have seen.

The Ukraine -- Ukrainians and their government have fought very bravely. And we've seen that with Kharkiv. We've seen that -- what they've done in Kyiv. It is remarkable what they have been able to do in fighting back this aggression against their -- against their country.

And so that is going to be our focus, to make sure that they have everything that they need to be -- to have a -- to strengthen their -- kind of their table when it comes to hopefully having some diplomacy and getting to an end of this war.

But in the meantime, we have to support them.

Q Karine?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yep. Okay. Go ahead, Jonathan.

Q Thank you, Karine. In the wake of the Buffalo shooting, there been several civil rights groups who have expressed some unhappiness at the lack of outreach from the Biden White House and frustration about a lack of progress on hate crimes, gun violence, and so on.

I'll just read you one: The Reverend Al Sharpton, who has visited the White House several times, says, quote, "This administration has met less with civil rights and civil liberty groups than previous administrations in a formal substantive way." He goes on to say that they even asked for meeting here in the wake of this shooting, and, quote, "We've got no response from the White House."

Can you give an update on this? And will there be a meeting with civil rights groups? And can you address his frustrations?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, I don't have any meetings to read out for you or any meetings scheduled at this time. You know, we respect the Reverend. He has been here many times before, as you know.

Are you talking about the letter that the -- that the -- from gun -- gun rights groups have written? There were about 40-plus that --

Q He says --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I think it was in your --

Q Yeah, that -- that -- there's that, but --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Okay.

Q -- he says civil rights groups have also asked the White House for a meeting (inaudible).

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, we've met with civil rights groups over the last year and a half. I don't have any meetings to read out to you at this time.

Look, the one thing I do want to say is that, you know, the President agrees with these groups on the urgency of acting, and he applauds the work that they're doing to rally support around the country for a commonsense agenda to fight the epidemic of gun crime. He understands that. That's one of the reasons he went to Buffalo -- to have that conversation, to grieve with the family. And he spoke to them in a very personal way.

There's a couple of things from that letter that I do want to just -- just talk about a little bit, since it was in your publication. He agrees that innovative, neighborhood-based crime prevention programs like community violence intervention need to be at the core of our toolkit to make our ~~common~~ sense [communities] safer. That's why the President has unlocked existing money within the government to invest in community violence intervention. That's why he secured more than -- more money for that in his 2022 budget. And that's why he's calling for a significance increase in funding in his 2023 budget. He is calling for a \$5 billion investment over 10 years.

The President also is going to continue to call on Congress -- he talked about this yesterday when he was in Buffalo -- to pass commonsense gun violence legislation that would keep weapons off our streets and keep guns out of the hands of criminals. We're working closely with Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi on this and other issues, and will defer to their judgment on legislative mechanics, give them space to work on that and to do that.

And finally, on the question of a gun violence coordinator -- I was asked that yesterday; I think I was asked specifically about an office. You know, Amba- -- we have Ambassador Susan Rice here, who is the Chair of the Domestic Policy Council, as you all know. And she is coordinating the President's whole-of-government approach to reducing gun violence, leading a 12-person team that connects violence reduction to broader resources, like mental health supports, workforce development opportunities, and more.

She has decades of experience coordinating interagency process in the federal government. There's no one who is better at bringing stakeholders to the table to drive progress, and we know that's so -- that's important because tackling an issue as complex, and gun vi- -- and gun violence requis [sic] -- requires a multidisciplinary approach. And we're talking about housing, mental health, community support, all of the things -- apprenticeship -- all of the things that are so important in order to deal with this issue.

I'm trying to --

(Cross-talk by reporters.)

Oh, my gosh. I'm trying to call on people I haven't gotten yet.

Q Karine.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, we have to go? All right, guys, I'm so sorry. We have to go. But we will -- we will -- hopefully I'll see some of you in Asia. All right.

Q Have a good trip.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Bye.

Q We're all the way back here in Siberia. You can visit anytime. (Laughter.)

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I know. I -- next time. Next time, I promise. I did call somebody back there.

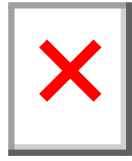
Q Thank you.

3:08 P.M. EDT

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White House Press Office · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington DC 20500 0003 · USA · 202 456 1111

**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FACT SHEET: In First Stop on Asia Travel, President Biden Tours Model for Samsung's New Texas Semiconductor Facility  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 20, 2022 5:00 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2022

**FACT SHEET: In First Stop on Asia Travel, President Biden Tours Model for Samsung's New Texas Semiconductor Facility**

***New Plant in Texas will Create 3,000 New Good-Paying Jobs; Biden to Call on Congress to Pass Bipartisan Innovation Act to Supercharge New Investments in Innovation***

Today, President Biden and the President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Yoon Seok-young will tour the Samsung Electronics Pyeongtaek Campus – a model for the new Samsung plant being built in Taylor, Texas. The stop will demonstrate how our alliances deliver for the American middle class, investing in manufacturing in the United States, creating good paying jobs and strengthening our supply chains. The United States and the ROK are among each other's largest trading and investment partners, with more than \$62 billion of foreign direct investment by Korean firms in the United States as of 2020 – supporting over 94,000 American and bringing our governments, businesses, and people closer together.

At the plant, President Biden will also make the case for quickly passing the Bipartisan Innovation Act which will deliver historic federal investments in U.S. research and development, supply chains, and domestic manufacturing – including funding for the CHIPS Act to provide \$52 billion to catalyze more private-sector investments and advance American technological leadership. As the President has said, tackling inflation is his top economic priority, and making these investments will help lower costs by making our supply chains more resilient in the long term, protecting us against costly disruptions and higher prices for consumers.

The Biden-Harris Administration has been working around the clock with Congress, our allies and partners, and the private sector to generate additional semiconductor manufacturing capacity with strong labor protections, address key bottlenecks and lower costs for families, and cement American leadership in the industries of the future. In President Biden's first year

in office, the U.S. economy created a historic 6.6 million new jobs. The economy has added 545,000 manufacturing jobs since President Biden took office – more manufacturing jobs on average per month than any other President in the last 50 years and 2021 seeing the highest increase in U.S. manufacturing jobs in nearly 30 years.

As a result of sustained engagement with Samsung and the Republic of Korea, Samsung is investing \$17 billion to build a new semiconductor facility, adding to the 20,000 jobs Samsung already supports in the United States. Under President Biden, semiconductor manufacturing is coming back to America:

- Since the beginning of 2021, the semiconductor industry has announced nearly \$80 billion in new investments in the United States through 2025, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association. This includes [Intel's \\$20 billion](#) fab outside Columbus, Ohio; Texas Instruments investing up to \$30 billion in Texas; Wolfspeed's \$1 billion expansion in North Carolina; and expansions by Global Foundries and SK Group.
- In June, the Commerce Department issued a set of recommendations on how to secure the U.S. semiconductor supply chain. Since that time, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, and National Economic Council Director Brian Deese have held regular follow-up engagements with industry leaders and diplomatic partners and allies to advance practical solutions to strengthen the global semiconductor supply chain.
- The U.S. Department of Defense has used Defense Production Act authorities to strengthen supply chains for key defense-related semiconductors.
- In October of last year, President Biden hosted a global summit on supply chains with the heads of state from 14 countries and the European Union on the margins of the G20 in Italy to discuss supply chain disruptions, with a focus on semiconductors. This year, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Secretary of State Antony Blinken will hold a follow-on ministerial-level convening of international partners, members of the private sector, and other stakeholders to discuss next steps in securing global supply chain resilience including for semiconductors.
- The President also focused on semiconductor supply chain resilience in his bilateral meetings with foreign leaders and directed the Administration to cooperate with Europe on strengthening global supply chains through the U.S.-E.U. Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and through the Quad's focus on critical technologies. At the TTC last week, the U.S. and EU announced [an early warning system](#) to better predict and address potential semiconductor supply chain disruptions as well as establish a Transatlantic approach to semiconductor investment aimed at ensuring security of supply and avoiding subsidy races.
- President Biden hosted a virtual summit with leading firms that produce chips and those that use chips to identify practical ways to discuss actions they could take to address the disruptions resulting from the global chip shortage. By the end of the year, the participants had [announced new partnerships](#) between semiconductor companies and U.S. automakers to strengthen the resiliency of the automotive chip supply chain.

##

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan En Route Anchorage, AK  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 20, 2022 5:41 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2022

**Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan**

Aboard Air Force One  
En Route Anchorage, Alaska

(May 19, 2022)

3:35 P.M. EDT

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: All right. Hey, everybody. Hello, hello. Well, heading to Asia. Okay, I have Jake Sullivan, our National Security Advisor. He's going to just take a few questions, and then we'll let him go.

MR. SULLIVAN: Sure.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: All right.

MR. SULLIVAN: So, do you guys want to jump in, or do you want me to give a little bit of a laydown on where we're going the next couple days? I can do it either way.

Q Can you talk a little louder though, please.

MR. SULLIVAN: Sorry. I was just saying: Happy to give a little laydown of where we're going, what we're doing the next couple days, or happy just to take your questions. Whatever you prefer.

Q Jake, can I try one?

MR. SULLIVAN: Sure.

Q How concerned are you about a possible nuclear missile or nuclear test by the North Koreans while -- while we're there? And what -- what would it mean for the visit?

MR. SULLIVAN: So, first, we've been forthcoming in downgrading and releasing our intelligence and our analysis that there is a genuine possibility, a real risk of some kind of provocation while we're in the region, whether in South Korea or in Japan. That could take the form of a nuclear test -- the seventh nuclear test that North Korea has conducted. It could take the form of a missile test.

There have been a number of missile tests this year and, of course, North Korea has a long history -- going back decades, at this point -- of missile tests, both to advance their capabilities and to cause provocations.

We are prepared for those eventualities. We are coordinated closely with both the ROK and Japan. We know what we will do to respond to that. We have communicated with not just our allies but also with China that this would cause the United States only to increase our fortitude, in terms of defending our allies, and cause adjustments to the way that our military is postured in the region.

Q Jake, what -- sorry, go ahead.

MR. SULLIVAN: Just as far as the trip is concerned, I think all it would do what underscore -- it would underscore one of the main messages we are sending on this trip, which is that the United States is here for our allies and partners, we are here to help provide deterrence and defense for the ROK and Japan, we will respond to any threats and any aggression decisively, and our cooperation with these two countries bilaterally and the U.S.-Japan-ROK cooperation trilaterally will only strengthen in the face of any further provocations by North Korea.

And if something does occur, it will only serve to reinforce and highlight the fact that the United States is going to be engaged in the Indo-Pacific, is going to be a stalwart ally, and is going to stand up to and not shrink from any acts of aggression.

Q Can you say what the administration is doing to get North Korea to the table for any sort of talks right now?

MR. SULLIVAN: We've made no bones about the fact that since the very beginning of this administration, we have reached out to North Korea to say that we are prepared to sit down and talk, without preconditions, to discuss a pathway forward to make progress toward the ultimate goal of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. And we have proposed to do that on an action-for-action basis -- that we are prepared to take steps if they are prepared to take steps in service to that ultimate goal.

We've communicated that directly to the North Koreans through multiple channels. We've communicated that to our -- in coordination with our allies and partners. And we've also spoken with the PRC about our willingness to do that.

Thus far, North Korea has not displayed any indication of willingness to engage in meaningful or constructive diplomacy. And as long as they continue to refuse to do so, we'll continue to stay on the course we're on, which is to impose pressure, to coordinate closely with our allies, and to respond to provocations with clarity and decisiveness.

Q Have they indicated anything like a meeting between Kim Jong Un and President Biden as one of the things that they desire for this communication?

MR. SULLIVAN: We've not gotten any indication to that effect.

Q I just want to go back to the historic stuff that was announced, in terms of NATO this morning.



MR. SULLIVAN: What?

Q The historic announcement with NATO this morning.

So, if Turkey decides that they're going to block Finland and Sweden from joining NATO, do you think that an F-16 deal should go through?

MR. SULLIVAN: Well, I don't want to answer a hypothetical question, because our view is that we believe that the Turkish concerns about the accession of Sweden and Finland that have been expressed by President Erdoğan and others can be addressed and can be resolved.

And today, when the President met with President Niinistö and Prime Minister Andersson, the President of Finland and the Prime Minister of Sweden indicated that they're both intending to speak directly to President Erdoğan and their teams are going to engage directly with senior Turkish officials.

We're prepared to support that effort in any way, but we think they can work through, and that ultimately Finland and Sweden will be admitted as members of NATO.

Q Have they been addressed yet, do you know? Have any of the checklist items that Turkey wants -- have they been addressed yet, to date?

MR. SULLIVAN: Two NATO aspirants have had initial conversations with the Turks. They will have further very high-level consultations with them over the course of the next days. And they will work through this between them.

I don't want to speak for the Finns and the Swedes. This is something that, you know, they feel they want to do as part of their effort to bring Turkey to a place where they support their membership. President Biden was very clear: We're prepared to support that.

Also, I've spoken with my Turkish counterpart, Secretary Blinken has spoken with his Turkish counterpart, and we've indicated if there's anything we can do to be supportive, we will do it.

But fundamentally, this is an issue about concerns that Turkey has raised vis-à-vis Finland and Sweden. This is not a U.S. issue, other than it being a U.S. issue in that we want to see it resolved in a way that brings these two members in the Alliance. And we're confident that is going to happen.

So, I don't think we're going to get to the point where we have to think about the kinds of hypothetical --

Q On the -- about the security guarantees and what that means, that -- in the interim of this accession, what does that mean? How do you guarantee Sweden and Finland's security?

MR. SULLIVAN: Well, we are going to work very closely with Finland and Sweden to deter any aggression against either of them. And of course, we would be prepared to work with Finland and Sweden to respond to any aggression that occurred. And that's on the basis of the very deep existing partnership that we already have with these two countries.

Our militaries are interoperable. We exercise together. We train together. And we would be prepared to work with the Turk- -- with the Finns and Swedes and other NATO Allies to respond to any contingency.

But I'm not going to get into specifics of what that looks like. I'll leave that to our respective militaries to work through. Just to say, on both the deterrence and the response side, the United States will be there for Finland and Sweden, if anything were to occur between now and the time that they are fully admitted as members of NATO and have the full Article 5 protection.

Q Can I just clarify that point? Because, yesterday, you were still saying that Article -- Article 5 does not kick in until they're fully members. Can you --

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah. And I just said, before you started asking your questions before I finished my statement, which is: This is in the period between now and when they are full members of NATO, where Article 5 applies. We are prepared to work with them to deter aggression and to respond.

And that is different from the legally binding, in our view, security guarantee provided by Article 5. But as a practical matter, any would-be aggressor should be on notice that the United States will be there for Finland and Sweden in the event that they are attacked.

Q Are there any plans for the President to engage directly with President Erdoğan?

MR. SULLIVAN: Not at the moment, but the President made clear that the United States is prepared to do whatever we're asked to do to be supportive in resolving this issue. And if that were requested of him, he would, of course, be happy to do it.

Q On a slightly different note, CNN reported today that Biden will be meeting with MBS soon. Can you confirm that and give us any details?

MR. SULLIVAN: I cannot confirm that. No.

Q Can I ask something about South Korea? Will you -- will the President be addressing the issue of the \$7 billion of Iranian funds -- the unfreezing of that funding during his trip in South Korea?

MR. SULLIVAN: You know, on technical and expert levels, we discuss that issue with the South Koreans on a regular basis. This is bound up in the sanctions imposed on Iran's nuclear program. I don't know that it will be on the agenda of the two presidents.

Q Can you just clarify the U.S. position on the freezing of those funds, though?

MR. SULLIVAN: Our view is that the sanctions should be enforced, and that as long as Iran continues to advance its nuclear program, we should be working with our allies and partners to ensure that we are maintaining the form of economic pressure on them to sharpen the choice to get them to ultimately to agree to what is a perfectly fair and reasonable deal on the table for them in Vienna.

Q Jake --

Q On Ukraine aid.

Q Sorry.

Q Go ahead, Betsy.

Q On Ukraine aid, presuming that the bill passes the Senate today, are there plans for the President to sign it while he's abroad?

And he had said in a statement that there could be -- the funding would run out as soon as today. Is there any contingency for if there were a gap? Are there any consequences in any -- even a short gap in funding?

MR. SULLIVAN: So, since we've been on the plane, I haven't actually seen if the final vote has gone through. Maybe you

all have. Has it --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: It has.

MR. SULLIVAN: It's passed?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: It's passed, yeah.

MR. SULLIVAN: So, the President does intend to sign the bill while he's on the road so that he can sign it expeditiously. The modalities of that are being worked right now so that he can get it and sign it.

There won't be a gap for that very reason. We, today, authorized the 10th Presidential Drawdown -- the remaining \$100 million -- on May 19, just as we said we were going to do.

That money will be converted into capabilities. Those capabilities will flow in the coming days. And then the next Presidential Drawdown will be teed up shortly following his signature. So, we will have the kind of continuity of support that we asked for. And for that, we are grateful to the bipartisan backing that we've gotten from the Congress, who stepped up and did this in a timely fashion.

Q On China -- Jake, can you share your reaction to China saying that this is becoming a "dangerous situation" with the stance towards Taiwan?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm sorry?

Q China was saying that they gave you a warning about how the situation with Taiwan is becoming a, quote, "dangerous situation" because of the closeness. Is that accurate? Are you aware of that report -- that they issued that warning? They say that they told you it was becoming dangerous.

MR. SULLIVAN: I did not see the specific phraseology of "dangerous," but they've offered formulas of that sort for months now. There's not, I don't think, anything particularly new in that statement.

Our view, as we've expressed many times, is that we are concerned about peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and the ratcheting up of tensions. And we believe that China is contributing to the ratcheting up of those tensions through provocative military activities around Taiwan and around the Strait.

But we've been equally clear that our policy towards Taiwan has not changed. We support the One China policy, the Three Joint Communiqués, the Taiwan Relations Act, the Six Assurances. And we remain committed to supporting peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and to ensuring that there are no unilateral changes to the status quo.

So, from -- from our perspective, our position has been clear and consistent. And we believe that it would help if the PRC also dialed down the actions and activities that we think are contributing to tensions there.

Q Follow-up on China. So, there was a report this morning that China is replenishing its -- or going to replenish its strategic oil reserves with oil from Russia. Does that cross the red lines that you've laid down for them in terms of cooperating with Russia on evading sanctions?

MR. SULLIVAN: We have banned Russian oil to the United States, but we have not imposed sanctions on the sale of Russian oil elsewhere. And, therefore, other countries purchasing Russian oil are not contravening the sanctions that we have laid out.

Now, of course, the Europeans are contemplating their own Russian oil ban, which we support. But President Biden made clear, when he issued the ban that we did, that we are in a particular position given that we're an energy producer and so

forth, and Europe is in a different position.

Q And to your knowledge, is that accurate, though, that that -- that that's what China is doing with Russia?

MR. SULLIVAN: So, we have seen the statements about it, but we have not yet seen the action taken to that effect.

Q Two more on China, if you're willing.

Q On Ukraine: After overreaching initially, clearly the Russians -- seems to be signs that are settling into more of a stalemate over in eastern Ukraine. What -- do you think there's a -- there's a danger that time -- people have assumed that Russia is the one suffering economically from the sanctions and so on, and even militarily. But if it says there's a stalemate militarily, the West is also suffering from the sanctions -- clearly, right? -- it's having a lot of spillover.

So is there a fear that time could actually end up being on the Russian side if they just want to settle for a grinding, you know, semi-frozen conflict in eastern Ukraine, just destabilizing Ukraine, and this goes on for months and months and months and months?

MR. SULLIVAN: You know, there -- I certainly understand the question. There is something tragic in the logic of time being on the side of a country that is losing young men in large numbers by the day, as Russia is, and suffering -- the people of the country, the economy of the country -- under the weight of these sanctions.

So it's -- it's hard for me -- I can see a certain cynical kind of element to that logic. My view is: Time is not on their side because of just the sheer cost that is being imposed on them in human terms and in economic terms.

Moreover, Vladimir Putin bet that Western unity would crack. I think he has been surprised by the clarity and resolve of the response of the free world.

And one thing that every leader that Joe Biden talks to reinforces is that we're prepared for the long haul. And we've been saying now for weeks and months this could go on for a long time. And our allies and partners understand that very well -- our allies and partners in Europe and the allies we're going to see right now -- the Republic of Korea and Japan. And, in fact, the Republic of Korea and Japan have stepped up in really significant ways to support this effort.

And I expect that he will walk out of those meetings over the next three days with a sense of reaffirmation that we're committed to this for as long as it takes.

So we feel that this significant asset we have, of unity in the face of this aggression, is an asset that's durable.

Q (Inaudible.)

Q Can I ask one more question?

Q Go ahead.

Q Two different things. One, if you could lay down a little bit of tonight -- or I guess, tomorrow -- on the Samsung visit and what we should expect on that engagement.

And then, separately, President López Obrador, I guess early this morning, made some comments suggesting an answer should be coming very soon on his concerns about exclusion of certain countries. Can you give us an update about where things stand there? Has the President made a decision? Do you -- are you guys ready to put out an invite list? And will you meet his concerns?

MR. SULLIVAN: We're having constructive conversations with President López Obrador. Senator Dodd, our special

representative for this summit, spent two hours with him on Zoom yesterday. It was a good exchange of views. Ambassador Salazar will be engaged, even today. I'm not going to get into the details of what are candid and constructive conversations back and forth. And when we have something more to say on this, we'll say it. I don't have anything to announce today.

In terms of the event tonight, the President will be met by President Yoon at this Samsung facility, along with leadership of Samsung.

The facility is actually a very similar model to what Samsung will build in the United States. And that significant multibillion-dollar investment that they will be making in the U.S. will mean good-paying jobs for Americans and, very importantly, it will mean more supply chain resilience, because it will mean that the United States will be manufacturing significant quantities of semiconductors necessary as inputs for a lot of our key industries.

So the President will get a tour and then have the opportunity to speak to the public and to the press about the investments that Samsung is making in that semiconductor manufacturing facility, other investments Samsung is making as well that will help create American jobs and advance our competitive position.

And then the final thing that he will reinforce is that this ecosystem of high technology among democracies and free societies is one that needs to be protected against predation by other countries. And so he will have the opportunity also to say: Just as we're promoting this kind of investment in advancement, we also need to protect these technologies from intellectual property theft.

Q Jake, to follow up on that: On export controls on high tech, are you expecting any outcomes with South Korea and Japan on this trip, on export controls on high tech?

MR. SULLIVAN: I think we're going to have some very robust discussions on export controls, as well as investment parameters.

I don't expect that we're going to have specific announcements, because what we're looking to do is align our approach around a set of principles and then on a case-by-case basis, as opposed to some new initiative or some new formula. And we actually believe that there has been substantial convergence, which will be on display on this trip, on this issue in both Korea and Japan.

Q Jake, can I follow up on China? You recently -- or, a couple of days ago, you met with Yang Jiechi. I think you mentioned that --

MR. SULLIVAN: Spoke by phone, yeah.

Q Oh, you spoke by phone. Yes, correct. And then you mentioned that you discussed DPRK. I think you hit on Taiwan too, a little bit. Is there anything more that you can share from that meeting? Essentially, what kind of message are you conveying to the Chinese ahead of the President's trip to Asia?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm not going to say too much because I actually value the opportunity to engage with Yang in a way that allows for the free exchange of perspectives back and forth without it all being played out in the press.

But I will say that, you know, I was quite direct with him about our concerns about North Korea's nuclear and missile activities and our view that this is not in China's interests, it's not in America's interests, and that China can -- you know, should contemplate taking whatever steps it can to reduce the possibility of a provocative North Korean act.

And, you know, it was a -- we had a good back-and-forth on that subject. He shared his perspective, which I won't characterize. And, yes, we covered Taiwan, and we covered some other issues as well.

Q Can I just follow up on another meeting, Jake? Did -- can you confirm reports that you also met with a Pakistani spy agency chief and whether you discussed the issues of counterterrorism in Afghanistan?

MR. SULLIVAN: Met with him when?

Q Recently in Washington, D.C.

MR. SULLIVAN: I did not.

Q Well, did you have any communications with him recently?

MR. SULLIVAN: No, no -- I'm not -- I'm not being cute. (Laughter.) I met with the head of the ISI a year ago -- the previous head -- on a visit to Washington. But I didn't -- I have not met the current ISI chief nor spoken with him.

Q On the Yang call, just to go back to that, was that partially to set up another call between Biden and Xi?

MR. SULLIVAN: It was not. Although, I -- I wouldn't be surprised if, in the coming weeks, President Biden and President Xi speak again. But this was not specifically laying the groundwork for a call that is contemplated.

Q How come we haven't -- how come the administration hasn't been talking to its Chinese counterparts very frequently, especially with Ukraine and the invasion? I think it had been two months since you had talked to Yang. Can you say maybe why -- why isn't there more communication with the Chinese?

MR. SULLIVAN: I mean, I'd have to go back and look at what the rhythm was in terms of National Security Advisor engagement with their kind of rough counterpart, like Yang. But I actually think the cadence is not unusual.

You know, we spent a whole day together in Rome. And then, you know, seven, eight weeks later, we had a good, long conversation yesterday. We'll speak again when necessary.

So -- and Secretary Blinken speaks with the foreign minister, I think, on a fairly similar cadence to what we've seen previously.

We're certainly not intending to present any notion that we are slowing or we're somehow constraining our high-level diplomatic engagement with China. We have said all along that we think intense competition requires intense diplomacy. And we should stay in close contact.

Q And just one more on China. Is the U.S. prepared to levy secondary sanctions on China for Chinese companies and banks helping North Korea -- just as prepared to levy secondary sanctions on -- for that as you are for China helping Russia?

And then also on that: Do you feel pretty satisfied that China isn't helping Russia and that they have heeded your warnings?

MR. SULLIVAN: We have not seen evidence thus far of China supplying military equipment to Russia for its brutal war in Ukraine, nor have we seen evidence that China has systematically worked to undermine Western sanctions. But that's something we continue to track very closely, week by week.

I'm not going to make any threats about secondary sanctions in public. We have had conversations with China in private about our sanctions regime vis-à-vis North Korea. And, you know, the fact is that an overwhelming majority of North Korea's economic activity runs through China. And so, in the past, there have been instances where Chinese entities have been part of the sanctions effort.

And beyond that, I don't have anything to add.

And beyond that, I don't have anything to add.

Q Secretary Yellen said yesterday that some of the Trump-era tariffs imposed on China -- that they've done more harm on businesses and U.S. consumers than good. Is there -- if that's really the case, why not lift them?

MR. SULLIVAN: The President has asked his economic team and his foreign policy team to engage in a consistent review of our trade policy towards China. There are discussions now about how best to move forward to deal with the challenges that China poses to our economy and our national security with their non-market economic practices, and how to move beyond the trade approach of the previous administration.

He will ultimately make a series of decisions on that, following his -- the opportunity to get advice from his team. And I'm not going to say anything else in public on that because I don't want to prejudge what he ultimately decides.

Q Jake, could you talk about why the decision was made to skip the DMZ on this trip? Is it just too dangerous?

MR. SULLIVAN: The President has been to the DMZ before. It's not that it's too dangerous, no. In fact, we have -- senior U.S. government officials go there on a regular basis.

But one of those U.S. government officials was then-Vice President Joe Biden in 2013. In fact, I was on the trip with him then as his national security advisor. And the head of U.S. Forces Korea -- the Commander of U.S. Forces Korea, Scaparrotti, took us by Black Hawk up to the DMZ. He had the chance to see the whole thing, do the whole thing.

And he felt on this trip, rather than repeat that, he wanted an opportunity actually to see where the rubber hits the road in terms of U.S. and ROK forces sitting side by side or managing the theater.

And so, we will do that at the airbase. It will give him an opportunity to get briefed on the larger strategic picture in a way that actually will show him more than going and standing at the DMZ. It'll give him a much larger domain awareness for the security threats to the Peninsula and the wider region.

Q Can I ask a non-security aspect of the Quad, Jake? So, in the March meeting, I believe, they announced -- the Quad announced 1 billion doses of vaccines, mostly for Indo-Pacific, Southeast Asia.

Now it seems like that's not going to be met -- that target. I understand that the Indian manufacturer has run into trouble; they haven't been given the WHO approval. But also, I think we're hearing that experts are saying that it's not a question of not enough vaccines, but not enough funding to get them into -- shots in arms.

So, does the Quad see that reality? And is there -- can we expect a pivot in strategy from the Quad on vaccines?

MR. SULLIVAN: We are working assiduously to get the necessary approvals because we think there still is the need for supply.

But in addition, we haven't just been standing still waiting for that. Okay? Over the past several months, all of the Quad partners have worked together to get hundreds of millions of vaccines out into the world, many of them into Southeast Asia, and have put forward initiatives to help fund shots in arms. The United States has been on the leading edge of that.

And so, the particular effort to get an Indian manufacturer to be able to produce and disseminate these vaccines has been constrained by regulatory efforts, but that has not slowed the four Quad partners from having a very robust COVID response.

I do think that coming out of this last COVID-19 Summit, where we got \$3 billion in new commitments, that the emphasis on testing, treatment, and shots in arms, in addition to actual vaccine supply -- that that is something you will see reflected in the collective efforts of the Quad going forward as well.

Q Have you had any (inaudible) pandemic funding from the U.S., though? We don't have any global pandemic response funding.

MR. SULLIVAN: I mean, first of all, we've -- I can't give you the exact dollar figure, but it is more than any other country has provided in terms of COVID-19 global funding. And we are continuing to pursue efforts, including major initiatives to get shots in arms, with the funding that has already been allocated.

Q Jake, going back to your earlier point about Samsung and the opportunity to talk about semiconductors and jobs, Hyundai is also expected tomorrow, in Georgia, to announce a big plant.

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

Q Is the President going to get a chance to engage on that?

And if I could also -- just a second question on Yoon and on Prime Minister Kishida: This is the first really big opportunity for the President to just spend some time with these two very new leaders. Can you just talk to us a little bit of, you know, what he wants to get out of that and just, you know, sort of finding out who these -- who these two people are and how he can work with them going forward?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah, I mean, you've heard the President say before that -- he refers to this Tip O'Neill expression that "All politics is local." He says, "All politics is personal. All foreign policy is personal." It's fundamentally about these personal relationships with leaders.

And so, in both cases, he's looking for the opportunity to just spend time to get to know these leaders so that they have a feel for one another and that then, when they need to pick up the phone in a crisis or to respond to a major world event, there's a baseline of trust, understanding, and almost like a common operating language as they go forward.

He's already built that, to a certain extent, with Prime Minister Kishida. They did meet in Glasgow last year. They have had the chance to do extended video conversations. He has spoken only briefly on the phone with President Yoon after his election, and he's only extremely recently been inaugurated. So this will be an opportunity to build that relationship, you know, from -- from the ground up.

In Korea, President Yoon will be there today. So not just in the formal bilateral context, but they'll go through the Samsung tour together. He'll come with the President to Osan Air Base for -- for the briefing event with the U.S. and ROK militaries. And then they will have a very small meeting, in addition to the expanded meeting, to be able to get to know one another.

And then, with Prime Minister Kishida, not only will they have the opportunity for one-on-one time, but the Prime Minister will host him for a very small dinner as well that will give them the chance to just, you know, talk as humans, as opposed to as world leaders.

Yes, he will meet with the CEO of Hyundai in Seoul -- that will be before he leaves on Sunday -- and will have the opportunity to say thank you for this significant investment that will occur in the United States.

And, you know, we like to think that, in part, having this trip and having this emphasis on the relationship between the U.S.-ROK and investments in the United States has helped give it momentum and boost to these announcements you're now seeing -- seeing come out.

Q Jake, there was some language in the readout of your call with the Saudi Deputy Defense Minister that suggested that you talked about the economic recovery, which is not normally a topic with defense ministers. Just curious how oil was discussed on that call, whether you discussed getting them more and more engaged in helping the economic recovery by getting more barrels of oil out



getting more parties on board.

MR. SULLIVAN: I actually saw him in person. He was in town -- is still in town for a series of defense dialogues. And he's an important advisor across a range of issues, despite his formal title being Deputy Defense Minister. We did talk about economics, we did talk about energy, and I'll leave it at that.

Q Can you talk about IPEF a little bit? Just --

Q On that, can I just follow up? I know you said you can't confirm --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: We're going to need to wrap it up, guys.

Q -- that the President is going to the Middle East. But is it possible that if he did go to the Middle East, he would meet with MBS? Would he meet with the Crown Prince?

MR. SULLIVAN: I really don't have any announcements or even speculation on travel to the Middle East. And if and when we have any speculation, informed or otherwise, I will speculate.

Q Can you talk about IPEF real quick?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

Q Because this is something that you're going to launch, right?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah.

Q So without any kind of free trade component, I think many are saying, "Yeah, countries will sign on because this is an important relationship with the U.S., but it's really not an attractive package to many countries in the region." Can you respond to -- respond to the criticism?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah, I'll respond to that. I think you're going to see a really impressive display of energy and enthusiasm by a significant number of countries in the Indo-Pacific for the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

It is going to be a wide-ranging and comprehensive set of countries from across the region, a mix of different kinds of economies. And that diversity and breadth of participation, in our view, actually vindicates the basic theory behind IPEF, which is -- you're right -- it is not a traditional free trade agreement. And that's a good thing. It is a modern negotiation designed to deal with modern challenges.

So, we're going to cover supply chains, the digital economy, the clean energy transformation, significant investments in infrastructure.

And we think that, at the end of the day, what you're going to see is a response to the real-world challenges facing these economies and really meaningful progress on substance.

So, I think what's interesting when you hear some of the "Well, we don't quite know. We're not sure because it doesn't look like things have looked before" -- I say, "Just you wait." Because I think this is going to be the new model of economic arrangement that will set the terms and rules of the road for trade and technology and supply chains for the 21st century.

And, you know, we're planting a stake in the ground that we want to be at the center of that. And we see a lot of countries signing on with us to make that a reality, and it's going to give huge thrust and momentum to our economic initiatives in the Indo-Pacific.

The other thing is that there's a certain lagging indicator here. I would say, two months ago, there was a lot of, like, "Well, is this real? Is it not real? Is it something that's meaningful or not meaningful?" Week by week, as we've built out the substance working with these countries, they've not only come on board, but they've gotten increasingly invested in and motivated by the elements of it.

So, we think this event on Monday is going to be a big deal and is going to be a significant milestone in U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific. And at the end of the President's first term, I think we will look back and say this was a moment where the U.S. engagement in the Indo-Pacific got kicked into a different gear.

Q (Inaudible) is there any kind of capacity building or trade (inaudible)?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes, absolutely. I mean, there'll be significant resources around infrastructure, around trade facilitation. There will be the opportunity to set -- to organize regulatory approaches that will make trade significantly easier. And there'll be the opportunity for us to set the rules of the digital economy for the 21st century.

There's a lot in this that people are going to want to be at the table at. And the reason we know people are going to want to be at table -- at it -- is they're going to be there. We're going to have a significant roster of countries signing up to this thing and joining us there for -- to be in at the takeoff of this effort.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: We're going to just take two more. Two more, guys. That's it.

MR. SULLIVAN: There was some intelligence that was declassified yesterday about -- in Mariupol -- what sounded like almost torture of city officials and residents. But a concern -- it sounded like the intelligence was finding that Russian officials were concerned that the treatment could backfire. One, can you confirm that this -- that these reports are correct? And -- and, two, who are these Russian officials, and what is the sort of broader concern that is going on there?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm not going to speak beyond the four corners of the information that was released yesterday, other than to say that we warned, before the conflict began, that we were likely to see brutality and repression by Russia in occupied areas. And we are seeing that in cities and towns across the areas that Russian forces are currently holding.

What we're also seeing, increasingly, is the reality of the Ukrainian populace pushing back against this in these areas and the concern in Moscow that, in fact, what they had hoped for at the beginning, which is the Ukrainians would welcome them as liberators or as brothers, is not bearing out in the first instance. And the level of antipathy and animosity will only grow as Russia's brutality and repression unfolds in these places.

And we think that's a dynamic well worth watching, even as so many -- so much of the attention is focused on the fighting on the frontline in the Donbas. Because what's happening in these occupied areas is brave Ukrainian saying, "We don't want to live this way." And we think that that is going to impose its own form of pressure on the long-term Russian effort to occupy these areas.

And this comes back to the question you were asking at the beginning about whether time is on Russia's side. We've seen before that military advances can give way to grinding occupations that bleed a country dry. And this is -- this is not going to be a circumstance where Russia is just going to be able to sit on any territory it takes and have these courageous and brave Ukrainians just say, "Yeah, we're fine with that." They will not be.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Last question.

Q Jake, thank you. Have the North Koreans actually ever responded to any of the overtures from the Biden administration?

MR. SULLIVAN: I guess all I will say is that we've gotten no indications from them that they are prepared to sit down and talk. And that's true from the opening weeks of the administration all the way through to today.

Q Do you know if they're still -- if Kim is still in touch with the former President? There has been reporting that says as such.

MR. SULLIVAN: I do not know that. Thank you, guys.

Q Thanks, Jake.

Q Karine, can you give us a sense of what's going to be happening in Anchorage? We're going to be stopping for an hour and a half.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, just a gas -- gas refuel.

Q Will the President get off the plane for any kind of --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't expect him to get off the plane. Yeah, we're just refueling. That's it. If there's more, I'll share that with you, but I don't know of any more than that.

Okay. President Biden knows that parents across the country are worried about finding enough infant formula to feed their babies, which is why he has directed his administration to do everything possible to ensure that there is enough safe infant formula in the country available for families that need it.

Yesterday, we announced two important actions. As you all know, the President invoked the Defense Production Act to ensure that manufacturers have the necessary ingredients to make safe, healthy infant formula here at home.

Just to give some background on how the DPA works, I thought I'd dive in with some specific details here, since we've gotten so much inquiry about this.

The DPA is an authority that empowers the government to require companies to direct their resources to support the national defense. That includes supporting critical infrastructure and public health.

Yesterday, as well, the President gave HHS the authority to order suppliers to direct needed resources to infant formula manufacturers before any other customer who may have ordered that good. So, with this authority, we can direct firms to prioritize and allocate the production of key infant formula inputs as needed. This can and will help increase production and speed up supply chains.

Just an example of how this works: There are a range of things needed to make formula, from oils and fat blends to labels and cans.

The company that makes one of those items, like a label, has a lot of customers, one of which happens to be infant formula manufacturers. And they are likely a very small share of the overall market for that good.

By having DPA authority available for infant formula, we make sure formula manufacturers are at the top of the list for that item and can maintain the higher levels of production that the companies put in place in February to address the shortage caused by the Abbott plant being shut down.

Second, the President also announced Operation Fly Formula to speed up the important -- the important -- the import of FDA-approved infant formula and start getting more formula to stores as soon as possible.

By using DOD-contracted aircraft, we can bypass regular air freighting [sic] -- freighting routes and speed up the importation and distribution of safe infant formula.

This is the same type of action we took to get critical COVID materials, such as testing supplies.

These announcements build on previous administration actions that have increased manufacturing production and are getting more safe infant formula onto shelves.

Sorry, my throat is a little dry. (Clears throat.) I apologize.

Q Need some water?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Probably. I apologize, guys.

Okay, Amer, you want to kick us off?

Q On infant formula, does the President agree with criticism from Senator Wyden and others that Abbott fell short of its corporate responsibility with its failure to keep up with sanitation upgrades at its Michigan plant?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, the President's -- the President's goal right now is to make sure he understands how difficult it is for families to find, in this -- in this particular time, to find baby formula. And so he wants to do everything in his power, use every lever in his power to get that -- to get that situation taken care of and to get us in a better place.

When it comes to Abbott -- look, we have told this story. You guys have heard us say this. The FDA stepped in, and Abbott had -- had a safety issue that the FDA flagged for them, and they voluntarily shut down that facility in Sturgis, in Michigan.

And so that is -- the number one thing that's important to us is safety -- safety and health first.

And so, just -- I just want to add to -- so what we announced yesterday just builds on what we're trying to do in order to get things back -- to get things going again.

So there's an agreement by the FDA and Abbott Nutrition detailing next steps to reopen Abbott Sturgis plant and make sure we do it in a safe way. FDA guidance is that that will allow major formula manufacturers to safely import formula that is not currently being produced for the U.S. market; efforts to cut the red tape and provide consumers flexibility on types of formula they can buy; and calling on Federal Trade Commission and State Attorney General -- and State Attorneys General to crack down on price gouging or unfair market practice.

So this is a top priority not just for the President, but clearly for his administration. And so we're going to continue working overtime, working 24/7. And that's -- that's what we're going to be focused on.

Q I mean, I get that the FDA was coming in to do the thing -- it was working on safety. But does the President understand just the outrage that some people have? This is while Abbott was doing stock buybacks and they weren't keeping up their plant.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Oh, we understand the outrage, right? We -- we see how mothers and parents are dealing right now in this situation. As a mom, who had to deal with getting formula for my child when she was a little -- a little one and was allergic to certain formula, I know how this feels -- trying to make sure your baby is eating healthy and safely.

You know, clearly, I'm not dealing with this in this current form and what's happening, which is -- which is -- you know, which is something that we're trying to deal with.

So that's the focus. Our focus right now is how do we -- how do we do this safely; how do we make sure that we're doing everything in our power, which we have been for the past several months, to get to a place where families are not struggling to feed their child -- their children.

Q Do you have any sense of how many weeks, after you do all of these, before it actually makes a difference for parents?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, you know -- so, by invoking -- (clears throat) -- excuse me. Wow, I really have a tickle in my throat. I m so sorry.

By invoking -- invoking the DPA. So the President, again, knows how important this is for families across the country. That s why he has directed his administration to do everything possible to ensure that there is enough safe infant formula in the country available for families that are in need.

So, you know, again, this is going to cut the red tape and implement W-I-C -- WIC flexibility so that parents can get any formula when they walk into stores. So that s what we re building off of: increased supply on the -- market supply is higher than it was before the recall, so we have seen an increase out there before the recall; fighting against bad actors -- as I mentioned before, with FTC -- that may possibly be hoarding and selling product in unacceptable way -- prices.

So work is so far from over, but with every action we take, we are making serious progress and elevating the shortage.

But when it comes to -- I know folks were asking about picking up formula from other countries and when that s going to happen and where that s going to happen. You know, we re working with manufacturers right now to identify existing stockpiles of FDA-approved formula overseas, to arrange pick up by DOD commercial flight. And we ll have more details to share, and we re hoping that happens soon.

Q Karine --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I m going to take a little bit of water guys, but go ahead, Nancy.

Q The Abbott plant -- it shut down in February. Why did it take so long for the White House to act on the DPA? And why couldn t those actions have been taken months ago? Like, how long is it going to take for results to --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, as I said -- as I just laid out, we ve been doing this for months with the -- our -- the administration. We ve been working on this for several months now. And the DPA was always on the table. We are always examining, trying to figure out the best way to do this.

But there are other actions, as I just listed, that we have been doing. This is a -- building on the DPA. And the -- and the Operation Fly Over [Formula] is just an added addition to the -- to items that we ve announced just a couple of days ago.

So, we have not been sitting on this. We ve been doing everything in our power to move forward as quickly as possible to really respond to what s happening currently, right now, with the baby formula.

I m just going to take one (inaudible). (Take a drink of water.) Excuse me.

Q On gas prices.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yes, ma am.

Q Today, we saw another record high on gas prices. Do you have any -- anything you can share with us on what the administration can do about that? And is there anything you can share on what the administration is discussing as you help Europe try to block Russian oil but that would lead to even more higher prices and -- or -- for U.S. consumers?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So, look, this is something that s been also a priority for the President: making sure that we re lowering cost for the American people. We ve announced several steps just in general, as we talk about lowering cost, the past several weeks -- whether it s the high-speed Internet for tens of millions of Americans or when he went to Illinois

recently to give farmers the tools and resources they need to boost production and lower prices and feed the world.

You know, the nonpartisan ~~CBC~~ [CBO] found that the deficit fell by \$1.5 trillion this year, putting us on track for the fastest deficit reduction in any year on record. And one of the things -- the two items that we did take on recently to address Putin's price hike at the pump is the -- is rallying our allies and partners around the world and release that 1 million barrels of oil per day from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for the -- for the next six months, as you've heard us talk about. And that's an additional 60 million barrels of oil from over the country's reserve.

And also, we did -- we allowed E15 gasoline, which is homegrown biofuels, to be sold this summer.

So, we have -- we are doing everything in -- that we can as an administration to make sure we address the high prices at the pump, with food, with other things that -- with other items that the American public is feeling. And so, we're going to continue to do that and make sure that we focus on what can we do for -- from this administration to lower those costs -- price. It is a priority. It is also a priority for this President.

Q (Inaudible) price caps?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I don't have anything to share on any further -- kind of any further items to preview on what we're doing next.

Q And does the President have any issues with price caps that are being talked about in Europe?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I -- I don't have anything to share on that.

Q Karine, just -- not to beat a dead horse, but --

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah.

Q -- you don't have anything to share right now, but are there -- are there other tools in the famous toolbox here? Because it's -- you've used up a lot of tools, and there's been no noticeable effect for Americans.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, look, I -- you know, again, what we're seeing right now, currently, as we're looking at the gas prices -- because, JJ, that's -- that's just the question that she started off asking me -- it's because of Putin's price hike. It's because of what Putin is doing in Ukraine -- his aggression and his war on Ukraine.

And so, we saw a jump in prices once that happened -- about 60 to 70 percent. So we are doing -- that's why we did the last two things. The E15 was one of the most recent items that we pushed forward to try and help the American public and get the gases -- the gas prices to come down.

So, I don't have anything to preview, but the President has, as I laid out, a bunch of steps, has taken this very seriously, and understands the pain of the American public and what they're feeling -- American families -- and what they're feeling at the ~~price~~ [gas] pump and with high prices in general.

Q You and other officials have mentioned Putin's price hike very often lately. Do you believe that this will be an effective message going into the midterms?

And in addition to that, I think the President also hits really hard on other cultural issues. Like, I think during the AAPI event, he mentioned -- or he condemned people who filled the shooters with crazy ideas. He also does a lot of the ultra-MAGA kind of sentiment.

So, I guess I'm -- I'm trying to get a feel of what's the messaging that's coming out of the White House ahead of the midterms.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, let me get back to the -- you're talking about the "Great Replacement Theory," which is a conspiracy theory that's incredibly dangerous. And what the President said when he was in Buffalo in particular, when he was visiting with the families of victims and the families who lost their loved ones, he was -- spoke very clearly and said that you have to call this out. It is important to call out the hatred. It's important to call out this very dangerous theory. And -- and white supremacy is poison. He said this.

And it's important for the leader -- the leader of this country, of our country; the leader of -- one of the leaders of the -- around the globe to make sure that he sa- -- he says that in a very forceful way.

And so, that is what you saw the President do, and that is important -- and critically important -- especially how dangerous that conspiracy theory is.

Look, when we talk about Putin's price hike, it is a fact. It is a fact that we want to make sure that we're communicating very clearly with the American public as what they are seeing at the -- at the pumps and why we're in this situation.

So, you know, you asked me about -- about the contrast of what we've been doing with Republicans. I mean, it is true, when you think about what we're seeing with, you know, a woman's right to choose and to decide what to do with their body, you know, that -- that is something that the President has spoken about and the Republicans are against; when we talk about the leaked document that we saw from SCOTUS; when we talk about, you know, what we're trying to do with the middle class and inflation. You know, that is the number one challenge for families, as we've been just discussing.

There are two potential paths forward. President Biden's plan is to tackle inflation and lower costs for families. And congressional Republicans -- MAGA -- plan to raise taxes on middle class.

And so, we have to ask the question: Who has -- who has their back?

And so, the President's plans lowers everyday costs, lowers the deficit, and ask large corporations and billionaires to pay -- pay for their fair share. The congressional Republican plan is to increase taxes on middle-class families and let billionaires and large companies off the hook as they raise prices and reap record profit.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So this is important that we are able to say, "This is our plan, and this is what the other side is trying to do." And we want to make very clear and -- and speak to the American people about those things.

Q Karine, let me stay on gas prices -- because now we are going into the summer traveling season, when demand usually shoots up. Is there a role for conservation here? And should the American public be thinking about driving less or planning different kinds of vacations to deal with the higher prices?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: So it's not our place to tell the American public, you know, how they should spend their summers and what they should do.

We are doing everything that we can to make sure that we lower the prices. This is, again, Putin's price hike -- why we made the announcement on the E15 gasoline, which is going to, you know, have some long-term effects. And we'll see that down the line.

And so -- so we're going to -- again, we're going to continue to do what we can, because this is a priority. This is incredibly important to the President. He understands what it means for the -- American families, the American people to -- when they see increased prices and how they're -- we're trying to make sure that we alleviate that.

Q Karine, does the President have any reaction or concern about former President Trump telling Dr. Oz that he should simply declare victory in Pennsylvania before all the ballots are counted?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I mean, I ca- -- I don't -- I can't get into politics from here, so I'm not going to dive into that at all. I - you know, I mu- - I understand my role. And I actually have not spoken to the President about that, so I can't even speak to the question.

Q Is he following the (inaudible) counting of these returns since it might be a close race? And, you know, obviously, I assume he's for the Democrat, Fetterman, in that race.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah -- well, yeah, absolutely. I spoke to that yesterday -- or I can't even remember; I lost my days. But when I was asked about that at the podium. But I -- I'm not going to dive in into the politics of the midterms or the primary.

Q Karine, shifting back to formula, Senator Patty Murray says she gives everyone involved in the response to the formula crisis an "F" grade. Does the President share that view?

And Murray is also calling on the White House to appoint a formula coordinator going forward. Is that something you would consider?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Yeah, the -- the coordinator, I -- you know, we appreciate Senator Patty Murray. We work with her closely on so -- on many issues. I do not have anything on the coordinator.

I -- you know, I -- look, we understand the frustration of, you know, the American public. We appreciate -- the American public and the members. We appreciate members that have led on solutions to address the shortage. And so, we're going to continue working closely with them.

Again, this is a priority for the President. He understands how difficult this is for working -- for families who have children and trying to make sure that they are, you know, being fed safely. And that is our priority as well, which is how we got here. Right? We have to remember how we got here: FDA, you know, told Abbott facility that there was some safety issues, and they voluntarily shut down.

And so, safety is key here. We want to make sure that we're doing this in a safe and healthy way.

Q Can I have one more foreign policy question, Karine? Can you give a reaction to the report -- recent report by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction that decisions by both President Trump and President Biden to pull all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan were the key factors that led to the collapse of the Afghan military, leading to the Taliban takeover?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: When -- when was that reported?

Q This report came out, like, maybe a week or two weeks ago. And I actually sent the NSC about -- an email about this.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I have not seen the report, so I would need to see it in more detail to respond.

You know how we've spoken about the Afghanistan and the operation and how it was just a non-ending war that we spent billions of dollars on.

And so, you know, this is something that the President had talked about -- the strategy there and wanting to make sure that we got our troops out of there. And so, I don't have anything more to add without really seeing -- diving into the report.

Okay. Thanks, everybody. Thank you.

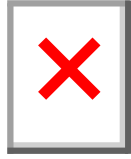
4:34 P.M. EDT



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White House Press Office · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington DC 20500 0003 · USA · 202 456 1111

**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] President Biden Announces John Kirby as NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 20, 2022 7:45 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, May 20, 2022

**President Biden Announces John Kirby as NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications**

Today, President Biden announced that John Kirby, who is currently the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, will be the new National Security Council Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the White House. In this role, Kirby will coordinate interagency efforts to explain United States policy and will serve as a senior administration voice on related matters, including as appropriate at the White House podium. This position will be housed at the NSC and report to the National Security Advisor.

**Statement from President Biden:**

“John Kirby is uniquely qualified for this position, and I look forward to bringing his background, knowledge, and experience to the White House. From his work as the Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson at the State Department to his work at the Pentagon, most recently as Assistant to the Secretary for Public Affairs and Press Secretary, John understands the complexities of U.S. foreign and defense policy, and he will ably represent the Administration on important national security issues.”

**Statement from National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan:**

“I am proud to welcome John to the team. I’m excited to see him get to work on behalf of the president and the entire national security enterprise.”

**Statement from John Kirby:**

“I am incredibly honored to be given this opportunity to continue serving my country and this Administration. I am very grateful to President Biden for his confidence in me and to Secretary Austin for his tremendous support and leadership these last 18 months. Secretary Austin has been more than just my boss; he’s been a mentor and a confidante, and he has helped make me a better communicator. He has trusted me to speak for the Department, and he has trusted me to speak for him. Those are precious responsibilities, the weight of which I felt and respected every day. I thank him for that. I also thank my entire team at OSD Public Affairs. When I messed up, they fixed it. When I did well, they made it so. I’ve never known a better team of professionals. I am excited to start this next assignment very soon, but I will surely miss each and every one of them.”

**John Kirby, NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications**

John Kirby is currently the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. In this role, he advises Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Deputy Secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks and serves as the Department’s chief spokesperson. Kirby previously served at the Department of State, as the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Public Affairs from December 2015 to January 2017 and as the State Department’s spokesperson from May 2015 to January 2017. Prior to the State Department, Kirby served as the Pentagon Press Secretary under Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.

Kirby commissioned in the U.S. Navy in September 1986 and served in uniform for more than 28 years, before retiring in 2015 at the rank of Rear Admiral. He is a 1985 graduate of the University of South Florida and holds a Master of Science degree in International Relations from Troy State University and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Background Press Call by a Senior Administration Official a Pre-viewing President Biden's Second Day in the Republic of Korea  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 20, 2022 11:36 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2022

BACKGROUND PRESS CALL  
BY A SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL A  
PREVIEWING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S SECOND DAY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Via Teleconference

9:12 A.M. KST

MODERATOR: Good morning, everybody. I hope you all had a restful night in Seoul. Apologies for the delay.

Thanks so much for joining us today on this background call. As mentioned on the invite, this call will be on background, attributable to "senior administration officials," and embargoed until the call's conclusion.

Not for reporting for just for everyone's knowledge, joining us on this call is [senior administration official].

[Senior administration official] has some remarks to make off the top, and then we will take some questions before our speaker has to run into another commitment.

So, with that, I will turn it over to [senior administration official].

SENIOR ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL A: Good morning, everyone. And thanks for joining both the trip and then joining us this morning. I'll try and keep this as short as

possible and take some questions.

So, as I'm sure all of you know, today the President has a packed day. But before get into it, I do want to very quickly highlight yesterday's tour of the Samsung Pyeongtaek facility by the President, President Yoon, and Secretary Raimondo.

I think as you all are aware, this is essentially the model of the facility that Samsung has -- is starting to build in Taylor, Texas, that will create 3,000 new good-paying jobs. And it's also an example of the strong partnership between the United States and the ROK, as well as the value of the relationship in terms of generating investment in the United States. And it's an example of how the Biden administration is deepening our economic ties with the region to deliver for U.S. workers, businesses, consumers, and of course for people everywhere, including in the ROK.

You'll see us continue to deepen our economic ties on this trip, including with the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. We firmly believe that much of what happens in the coming decades will depend on how well governments harness innovation -- and especially the transformations afoot in clean energy and digital and tech sectors -- while fortifying our economies from a range of vulnerabilities that we've seen, in particular, driven home by the impacts of the pandemic. And this ranges from fragile supply chains, to the vulnerabilities to disruption, to corruption, to tax havens.

And from our view, this requires a new model that we can move on quickly, and that's what PEF will do. We are pleased to see the very strong interests in the region for PEF and for our economic engagement in the region, which we think reflects the continuing importance of an affirmative U.S. vision for the region, which we highlight in our Indo-Pacific strategy, as well as the desire in the region for continued U.S. economic leadership.

So, very quickly, to walk over today's schedule.

We'll start on -- the first event will be: The President will participate in a wreath-laying ceremony to pay his respects to those who died to defend the Republic of Korea, many of whom died -- many of those who died fought alongside U.S. forces in the Korean War. And I think this reflects the deep commitment to our joint security and to our alliance, and the President's deep respect for those who paid the ultimate price to defend our freedoms.

I think that this also reflects what we see as one of the major things from the visit -- or outcomes from the visit, which is continued collaboration in strengthening our alliance to deal with today's challenges.

The President will then participate in a bilateral meeting with President Yoon Suk-yeol. They will have extensive discussions on a range of issues, as I'm sure you'd expect. We expect that there will be a joint statement.

And we expect that, you know, really, what we're doing in this, as much as anything else, is building on the strong alliance -- to expand it; to take it to deal with global issues and the issues and challenges of today; and, I think, also to take advantage of the visit, which comes so early in President Yoon's time in office -- mean, this is unprecedented, as you all know -- to really build a strong personal

relationship between the two leaders that we think will help propel the relationship going forward.

And as you all know, the relationship between the U.S. and the ROK is something that is extraordinarily important to both countries but, we believe, is increasingly important for the region and to promote peace and stability and prosperity throughout the Indo-Pacific, as well as around the world.

So, you know, I think some of the key things that we expect the presidents to discuss will be the ROK's role and the U.S.-ROK alliance's role as a lynchpin for peace and security.

I think that we expect that there will be some discussions on how to deal with some of the most recent threats and developments that have occurred.

We also believe that there will be discussion on how we can find ways to further expand our cooperation to make sure that we're ready and -- as ready as possible to deal with the threats of today.

I think that, you know, as you would expect, the presidents will discuss DPRK and, you know, reaffirm the continuing commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

We believe that there will be discussion on how we can manage and address the most recent threats, particularly posed by the nuclear program, as well as the ongoing missile program. And very confident the leaders will stress the importance and agree on the importance of all countries fully enforcing U.N. Security Council resolutions. And also, we're going to call on the DPRK to abide by its obligations under the U.N. Security Council resolutions.

I think they will discuss ways forward in -- on a variety of issues associated with DPRK. And, you know, I don't want to prejudge and get ahead of the discussions, but we're very confident it will be very thorough, it will be very wide-ranging, and very detailed.

The presidents will also recognize the future of the alliance. It's not just going to be defined by security, as has been the case in the past, but it's also going to be defined by creating a strategic economic and technology partnership that really will reflect the importance of innovation and technology to both countries and to our work in the region going forward.

I think that they -- we expect that there will be some work on how we can better support innovation, how we can support partnership on critical emerging technologies, and, you know, find ways to strengthen cooperation on defense industry issues.

I think that there will be work on -- there'll be discussion of secure supply chains and their importance. And I think that we're very confident that we will have a discussion about the impact on global economic issues -- on the global economy of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. And that we know that there is great interest in both countries on how we can better make ourselves more resilient in the face of disruptions in global energy as well as other economic issues linked to Russia's invasion.

think that you can expect some discussion of both nuclear cooperation as well as other technology-related issues. And think that you can also expect that there will be discussion of the importance of our own economic relationship bilaterally and how we can work together to bring prosperity to the region through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

think that we also recognize that, you know, as said before, part of this visit is about turning a bilateral alliance into something that was traditionally very much focused on peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and then immediately in Northeast Asia, to something that really looks to the region -- to the Indo-Pacific region -- and to the world.

think that there's -- there'll be discussion about the threats posed by climate change, by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the importance of promoting democracy and shared values.

think that we recognize that we also need to better work together to deal not just with the current pandemic but prepare for future ones. And so, think that we'll be looking for ways in which we can better cooperate, and think the presidents will discuss that.

think that we will have some discussion on other technology issues, including the importance of a free, open, secure internet. think that there'll be some discussion about cyber. And think that we will stress the importance of all countries standing together against efforts to destabilize the -- or threaten the rules-based international order and, first and foremost, Ukraine. And we expect some pretty extensive discussions on Ukraine.

And think the U.S. and the President will highlight the great U.S. appreciation for the Republic of Korea's strong stance on Ukraine, both in terms of imposition of sanctions and taking of economic steps, and we'll look for ways to expand that.

think the ROK has been particularly strong on this, because think they recognize that, because of their own history and our shared history together, the importance of a strong international reaction to invasions of this kind.

think the presidents are going to discuss the importance of promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, look for areas in which we can expand cooperation with both Southeast Asia as well as on the Pacific islands, and look for ways in which we can better integrate our efforts across the entire range of Indo-Pacific issues.

think that there will be some discussions about other issues involving regional security. And don't want to prejudge those, but think that you will see that there -- there is a great commonality in terms of our vision of the importance of a strong response to threats to the international order, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.

And think that we strongly believe that this visit will highlight both what -- how strong our alliance is today. But really, this is about building for the future, building a much stronger bilateral alliance and one that deals with strategic and issues globally, but also building a strong personal relationship with the leaders



that will propel this going forward.

So, with that, 'll take a few questions.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much, [senior administration official]. If you have a question, please use the "raise hand" function of the Zoom interface. And we'll try to get through as many questions as we can.

Why don't we start with Aamer Madhani from the Associated Press?

Q Hello. 'm sorry, was having trouble with the mute button there. But so -- hopefully, you can hear me.

Is there going to be an explicit message to Kim Jong Un today in what the President says in his public comments? And was also wondering what, if any, assurances Jake Sullivan got from Yang Jiechi about addressing the North Korean issue in their talk?

And finally, do you -- [senior administration official], do you believe there is any connection between the rise in COVID rates inside North Korea and Kim's seemingly increased saber-rattling? Thank you.

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Thanks very much. And 'm very sympathetic to problems with muting and unmuting.

So let me address a couple of things. I think, first of all, you know, don't want to get ahead of the discussions between the leaders. But I think you can expect that there will be extensive discussion about DPRK issues.

I think that we are very concerned about the COVID situation in the DPRK. We're very sensitive to the fact that they're -- they appear to be facing a quite serious situation. And I think you've seen we are -- we stand ready to work with others in the international community as needed to provide assistance. And that includes, obviously, the ROK, but it includes others and using the existing international mechanisms, but this is something that is of deep concern to us.

I think that in terms of, you know, your characterization of the increased saber-rattling, what we've seen is a fair amount of saber-rattling throughout the year. There have obviously been quite a few tests of ballistic missiles, some of which have been successful.

And I think that, you know, from our standpoint, we are ready. We -- you know, we, at the same time, it is very much our desire that we find ways to have a diplomatic approach with the DPRK. We have made very clear we're prepared to talk to them and with no preconditions, and we're also prepared to take steps to address their domestic challenges, including COVID.

I think that in terms of the discussion with Yang Jiechi, as you'd expect, there was discussion about the challenges of the DPRK, including their domestic situation, the COVID issue.

I think that, you know, we're looking for ways in which we and others in the international community can work together to provide assistance as needed.

And think that the key thing is that we recognize that the DPRK has to make decisions about what they're willing to do. It is our hope that they will make decisions that will allow for the maximum amount of support in this time of great need and great crisis.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much, [senior administration official]. Next, let's go to Trevor Hunnicutt with Reuters.

Q Hey, thanks so much for doing this. So, just wanted to follow up on what Aamer asked about a little bit there -- was just if there was any level of commitment from China to help on the North Korea situation.

And also, do you expect this joint statement to deal with what you've described as China's destabilizing policies towards Taiwan, its human rights issues?

And also, if you could talk a little bit about what the President is doing this morning.

Thank you.

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Yeah. So, you know, think, first, with regard to the joint statement, don't want to prejudge the discussions, but think that, you know, we expect extensive discussions about regional security issues. And the fact that, in our view, both leaders of both countries strongly support preserving peace and stability in the region.

think that with re- -- don't want to get into the specifics of the discussions between Jake Sullivan and Yang Jiechi, but just to say that, of course, we are looking for ways in which it is possible to provide assistance and support to the DPRK as they deal with this COV D outbreak.

think that, in terms of the broader issues that you raised, think that we want to find ways to work with the international community to provide support to the DPRK. think we also want to make clear that the international community stands united in opposition to their violations of U.N. Security Council resolutions and their destabilizing and threatening behavior.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. Next, why don't we go to Esther Oh with NHK.

Q Hi, thank you so much for doing this. Just two questions. know previously the administration says it has no plans to share vaccines with North Korea directly, but is the President planning to discuss with President Yoon ways that the U.S. and South Korea can work together to provide any sort of direct COV D aid to North Korea?

And my second question is: Will the President directly address the immediate need for South Korea and Japan to improve their bilateral ties? Because the relationship between the two countries -- it's deteriorated significantly in the last several years.

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Thank you very much. Those are both, obviously, very good and very important questions. think that you could expect that the leaders

will discuss the COV D situation. think that it's -- it's very clear that we have a common interest in doing whatever we can to address this challenge and working through the international -- with the international communities through whatever mechanism is appropriate.

don't want to get ahead of those discussions, but think that you can expect that this is something that's very topical and we recognize that this is of great importance to the DPRK's neighbors, as well as to us.

think that with regard to the ROK-Japan relations, think, you know, we strongly support improved ROK-Japan relations. At the same time, we recognize this is something that both countries are -- it's sensitive and important for both countries. And think the President will make clear his support while also making clear his understanding of the need for this to be done in a way that's mutually acceptable and agreeable to both countries.

However, it's very clear that from the U.S. perspective -- and we've been clear about this in the past -- it is not in our interest for the relationship between the two of our closest and most political allies to not be strong. And so we want -- we very much hope and support efforts by either sides, by both sides to take steps to improve the relationship.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. think we have time for just a couple more questions before our speaker has to hop. Why don't we go to Paris Huang with the Voice of America next.

Q Hello. Hi, thank you for doing this. So, earlier you mentioned about the -- part of this visit is for us to ensure the peace and stability in East Asia. just would like to clarify: s that specifically means Taiwan? And what is your assessment on President Yoon's attitude toward issues around China and Taiwan? And will the language be clearly written in a joint statement? So, that's the first question.

The second, on the Quad: s the Biden administration -- on the expansion of "Quad Plus" -- or is South Korea directly involved with the Quad summit on this time? Thank you.

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Okay, great. So, let me take the first question.

ook, when we talk about maintaining peace and stability in the ndo-Pacific region, we're clearly talking about the entire ndo-Pacific region. There are a number of areas where there are challenges, and would note that, you know, very clearly the leaders will be talking about one that is closer to where we are now.

But think that it's clear that, you know, both countries have a very strong interest in preserving peace and stability. think you can expect the leaders to talk about that and to look for ways in which we can work more effectively together to do that.

think, on the issue of the Quad, don't want to get ahead of the discussions. Obviously, you know, think that this is a topic of great interest. think that we don't want to get ahead of the discussion with the leaders, but, also, think that we have to recognize that the Quad is still developing, and so we're looking for ways in which we can reinforce and strengthen what we've done so far. But at the same time,

think that we we come any support for the Quad.

But think that the issue of participation is one that we will still be working on.

think that you can expect -- you know, am biased, but think you can expect that a joint statement will be clear. And think we look forward to being able to, you know, really highlight how much we have in common, how similar our viewpoints are on a very wide range of issues, how close the two countries are, and how much we expect them to come closer on a very wide range of issues dealing with the challenges of today, but also challenges that we have (inaudible) to working on.

think one of the things that, you know, for us -- and this is not just a visit in Seoul today; this is about the entire trip -- this is about demonstrating the unity and resolve and strengthening the coordination between our closest allies and -- or two of our closest allies, and also strengthening our alliances to deal with problems that we are all dealing with today.

So, think that we're very optimistic that we are -- you know, we've done a great deal of groundwork.

think we have to really recognize -- and 'd ask everyone to just be very sensitive to this -- this is day 11 for the Yoon administration. This is the earliest that we've ever had an American President visit an ROK President in an ROK President's time in office. t is normal that in -- you know, in 11 days, it takes a while for an administration to come up to speed. We're very impressed with what the Yoon administration has done.

We're very happy with the work we've been able to do together, but think it's also important to recognize that it is unrealistic to expect any administration to have fully settled in only 11 days.

So we think that we've done quite well. And we're very, very impressed by what's been done and by the spirit of partnership, the spirit of tru- -- of really genuine allies who are used to being together when times are bad, as well as when times are good. And we're confident that that's going to continue, and that we'll be able to highlight the way forward for the alliance.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. And think we've got time for one last question. So last question. et's go to MJ ee with CNN.

Q Thank you. Given that this bilateral meeting comes, as you just said, 11 days into President Yoon's presidency and particularly given that he doesn't have much of a foreign policy background: Are there areas you can point to where you all think, you know, there are serious question marks in terms of President Yoon's positions on major foreign policy issues and where just the President -- President Biden is keen on trying to draw him out today and gain a better understanding of where he stands?

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : ook, would push back very hard against the premise of that. think we are very impressed with the cohesion, the coherence, and the clarity of the Yoon administration's vision for its -- for the ROK, for the ROK-U.S. relationship and the ROK role in the world.

think that what -- in our discussions with them -- and look, 've done -- 've been doing this for a long time think we've been very, very impressed with how focused

doing this is a long time. I think we've seen very, very impressive work now focused and how clear they've been, how decisive they've been. And I think that reflects, in our view, a great deal of potential to really strengthen the alliance going forward.

I think that, in terms of the President's engagement with President Yoon, I think that, clearly, they're going to -- this -- part of the purpose here is two leaders of countries who have a very, very vital relationship, a close alliance getting to know each other. I think you all know: There is no substitute for that kind of direct engagement.

And I think we got off to a very good start last night at the Samsung plant. I think that their interaction was very positive. And I think that, you know, it went very well.

I know that the President was quite satisfied and quite impressed. We're looking forward to more of that.

I think that part of this is obviously getting to understand each other -- I think to understand each other's worldviews. I think that the President has -- looks forward to doing that and getting to know President Yoon.

But I think that this is done in the context of tremendous confidence in the Yoon administration's commitment to the alliance and clarity of their vision on foreign policies issues. And I think that, you know, from our standpoint, this is about building on a very strong foundation, rather than trying to lay any groundwork.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. And thanks so much everybody for joining this morning.

As a reminder, this call was on background, attributable to "senior administration officials," and embargoed until the call concludes, which will be shortly.

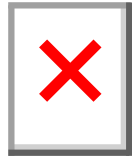
Thanks so much for joining. And we, of course, will be in touch throughout the rest of the trip.

9:36 A.M. KST

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan En Route Tokyo, Japan  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 22, 2022 6:30 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 22, 2022

**Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan**

Aboard Air Force One  
En Route Tokyo, Japan

4:33 P.M. JST

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Hi, everybody. Okay, I just have a quick topper, and then we'll have Jake Sullivan for you guys.

Okay, just wanted to give a quick update on our administration's work to speed up the import of infant formula and get more formula to stores.

Under Operation Fly Formula, the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services are authorized to use Department of Defense contracted commercial aircraft to pick up overseas infant formula that meets U.S. health and safety standards so it can get to stores -- store shelves faster.

On Sunday morning -- or later today -- a military plane will arrive in Indiana with 78,000 pounds of specialty infant formula, enough for over half a million bottles. This formula was manufactured in an FDA-approved facility and will be inspected on arrival like all food imports.

We prioritize this for the first shipment because this formula type -- type serves a critical medical purpose and is in short supply in the United States as the result of the Abbott Sturgis plant closure.

We are working with USDA and HHS to ensure this formula goes to those who need it the most. Due to the urgency of the situation, the Secretary of Defense approved U.S. military aircraft for this mission on Friday evening.

Typically, the process to transport this product from Europe to U.S. would take two weeks. Thanks to Operation Fly Formula, we cut that down to approximately three days.

This is a testament of the President's commitment to pulling every lever to get more infant formula onto the market. And Operation Fly Formula is one tool that we are using to do so.

Okay, I have Jake Sullivan, as you all can see -- National Security Advisor.

Q Jake, can we have you step in just a little bit? Thanks.

MR. SULLIVAN: Hey, guys, just very briefly, you all know we're on our way to Tokyo. And the President will spend tomorrow with Prime Minister Kishida and will also join a number of other leaders, some in person but largely virtually, to launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

And then, of course, on Tuesday, he'll join the Quad leaders for the second Quad Summit and also have the opportunity to meet with Prime Minister Modi and to meet with a Prime Minister who will then -- right now, Prime Minister-Designate; as of tomorrow, actual Prime Minister Albanese, who is flying up tomorrow to be able to join in person for the Quad on Tuesday, which we think is a real testament to Australia's investment in the Quad as a critical vehicle for the Indo-Pacific and this new Prime Minister's investment in hitting the ground running as a leader in the region and a close ally of the United States.

So, I'm happy to get into details on any and all things, but why don't I just stop there and let you guys fire away.

Q Are those meetings with Modi and Albanese one on one?

MR. SULLIVAN: What do you mean by "one on one"?

Q Is he meeting with them separately?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

Q Okay.

MR. SULLIVAN: I mean, there'll be other people in the room --

Q I'm talking about like -- other than the Quad is what I meant.

MR. SULLIVAN: Will have distinct -- in addition to the Quad, he'll have a distinct bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi and a distinct bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Albanese.

Q A question about the Quad meeting. On Taiwan: To what extent do you think that you guys will be talking with the Quad and other allies in Asia about a concrete action plan on how to respond if China were to invade Taiwan? And do you think that that action plan could include both military response and an economic response? So can you share a little bit about how much he'll talk about that with the --

MR. SULLIVAN: It won't be part of the formal agenda of the Quad. But, of course, significant security issues in the Indo-Pacific will come up, and all of the Quad members share an interest in peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

More broadly, the Biden administration is invested in working with allies and partners to send a clear message of deterrence and to support the basic policy of the Biden administration, which is a One China policy, the Three Joint Communiqués, and the Taiwan Relations Act, that we do not want to see unilateral changes to the status quo and we

certainly don't want to see military aggression.

And we do want that message coming not just from us, but from a range of allies and partners, both in the region and beyond. And we're working with allies and partners accordingly.

Q Jake, just to follow up on Taiwan, two questions. One, do you think it will appear in the Quad statement? And two, why is it not in the IPEF, given how important it is to global supply chains?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm not going to get ahead of the Quad statement. So, when we do the backgrounder tomorrow laying down the main components of Quad outcomes, you can pose that question at that point.

And then, in terms of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, I don't think we have yet actually announced who is in and who is not in. That will be unveiled hopefully in a very dramatic fashion. No, I'm just kidding. That will be unveiled tomorrow.

Q Is the list finalized?

MR. SULLIVAN: The list is finalized.

Q Is Taiwan invited?

MR. SULLIVAN: Taiwan won't be part of the launch --

Q You said will or will not?

MR. SULLIVAN: It will not be part of the launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

Ambassador Tai met with her counterpart from Taiwan just a couple of days ago. You can find a readout of that conversation.

But we are looking to deepen our economic partnership with Taiwan, including on high-technology issues, including on semiconductors and supply chains.

But we're pursuing that, in the first instance, on a bilateral basis while we work with a range of other countries through the framework.

Q And just one more follow-up on IPEF: China was out with some statements of Liu, the gentleman who is -- deals with their policy on the Korean Peninsula. Said it's basically closed -- a closed club; there's no reason to be doing that; things should be open and allow everybody in the Asia Pacific, including China, to join. What would you say in response to that?

MR. SULLIVAN: It's not a surprise to me that China has concerns about the number of countries, the diversity of countries who have expressed interest in and enthusiasm for IPEF.

And so, you know, it's natural that they're going to try to find ways to raise questions. In this particular case, it's just flatly untrue to call IPEF closed. It is by design and definition an open platform. And we do expect, in addition to the countries that join for the launch tomorrow, others will come along in the months and years ahead.

That being said, the breadth of participation tomorrow was such that it will very much show that it's anything but a closed club. It is a -- it is a very wide-ranging membership.

Q Will South Korea be one of those countries?



MR. SULLIVAN: Well, now you're putting me in a funny spot, because I directly answered on Taiwan. If we start going down country by country, then I'll be announcing the membership of the Quad just stand- -- I mean, of the -- of IPEF standing here right now.

So, I'm going to leave the announcement of the participation to whatever Karine and the press team want to -- want to do with that.

But anyway -- yeah, so I'll leave it there.

Q Is IPEF strictly just mostly economic policies at this point?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yes.

Q Or does it also include addressing maritime security, when you talk about countering China's --

MR. SULLIVAN: No, it's not -- it's not a security arrangement. It is an economic arrangement focused around the further integration of Indo-Pacific economies, setting of standards and rules, particularly in new areas like the digital economy, and also trying to ensure that there are secure and resilient supply chains.

In that sense, maritime security is a relevant issue. But IPEF will not be negotiating out maritime security arrangements.

Q Jake, a quick follow, too. So, the administration -- you, as well -- have often framed foreign policy strategy as a global battle between autocracies -- democracies and autocracies.

I'm wondering how you balance trying to engage economically with someone like Prime Minister Modi, who himself has been accused, under the guise of democracy, of human rights abuses and maligning Muslim minorities.

How do you balance accountability, approaching a bilateral like that, while also the desire to have an economic collaboration?

MR. SULLIVAN: President Biden has been clear from the beginning of this administration that we'll speak out when we see any form of departure from or deviation from basic principles, fundamental freedoms, human rights, the values of democratic institutions, and the rule of law. That's true for a range of countries. And, you know, we don't single India out.

And we have found a way both to pursue practical cooperation with countries that are democratic and non-democratic, while at the same time being clear and consistent of where our values lie.

Q Are you going to push him on wheat exports?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm sorry?

Q Are you going to push Modi -- is the President going to push Modi on wheat exports?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'll just say that food security will be a topic of conversation at the Quad.

Q What about Russia? What about Russia and the invasion at large? What is he going to say to Modi about that?

MR. SULLIVAN: Well, they've already had the opportunity to engage on that. And the President had an extended discussion with Prime Minister Modi when they did a virtual Quad Summit back in April. I think it was back in April, maybe even March. I think it was in March.

And they also got to speak about it when they had a short video bilateral meeting at the top of the 2+2 when the Indian

ministers came to Washington.

So it won't be a new conversation. It will be a continuation of the conversation they've already had about how we see the picture in Ukraine and the impacts of Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine on a wider set of concerns in the world, including this food security concern.

So, they'll talk all of that through. And I will leave the specifics of it to what has been a set of private and constructive exchanges, and I expect that this will similarly be constructive and straightforward.

Q Jake, you've written a lot and talked a lot about there being a domestic angle to foreign policy. This weekend, you guys sent \$40 billion to Ukraine. You're going to announce IPEF. How does this fit into the domestic angle? What's your message to people who are struggling with inflation back home about why these things are important to them?

MR. SULLIVAN: Well, first, also this weekend, the President announced and held up major -- or lifted up major new investments in the United States, job-creating investments that will help power the industries of the future, help the communities where those investments take place, employ thousands of workers. And that was true when he went to Samsung on Friday night, and it was true with the announcement with Hyundai this morning.

So this trip has, in part, been about not just talking the talk when it comes to delivering for American workers and American families when the President is engaged in foreign policy, but actually walking the walk and backing it up with real numbers that begin with a "B."

Now, when it comes to the war in Ukraine, the President has been very straightforward that if -- that if we, the United States, do not work with likeminded allies to stand up to aggression, we will pay a greater cost tomorrow. So he actually believes that this investment in the Ukrainian people's fight to defend their country and in support of our allies who live under the shadow of Russian aggression is a worthy investment in terms of the long-term contribution it makes to peace, security, and stability.

That will benefit American families and American workers. And we actually think that the American people understand that and, more than understand that, they very much support it. And we see that on a bipartisan basis with the overwhelming votes in both the House and the Senate for that funding.

With IPEF, IPEF is designed to put workers at the center -- American workers. It's designed to create the kinds of high-standard approaches to the digital economy, to the clean energy transition, to diverse and resilient supply chains, to open and transparent economic governance that will ultimately benefit American workers, American families. And you'll hear that from the President tomorrow.

Q Okay, Jake, I want to take a step back. The President, on this trip, has highlighted China's economic slowdown.

In the past, building alliances like IPEF sometimes had been frustrated by China's economic ascendancy and its rising power. What impact do you think the slowdown is having on the U.S.'s ability to build alliances in Asia?

MR. SULLIVAN: I think that, also taking a step back, that all of the traditional expectations about trajectories of countries that have been baked in over the course of several years in the press narrative and, you know, in the public conversation, including in this region, are due for review and reconsideration. And the fact that the United States will grow faster than China this year, for the first time since 1976, is a quite striking example of how countries in this region should be looking at the question of trends and trajectories.

And -- and so, what the President said yesterday in his remarks at the press conference was something he said repeatedly over the course of his career, which is: It's never a good bet to bet against the United States. And actually, we think a lot of countries in this region are recognizing that fact.

And when you see the breadth of participation in IPEF tomorrow, we believe that that will be strong evidence that countries do want to bet on the United States, do want to be part of an economic arrangement with the United States where we're setting rules together, we're building diverse and resilient supply chains together, that American innovation is at the heart and American infrastructure investment is at the heart of the economic strategy of a lot of these countries.

So our view is that this is not about a zero-sum game with China. It's not about forcing countries to choose. But it is about offering a value proposition that we think countries are taking extremely seriously. And we think that'll be on display tomorrow.

Q So, on -- I was going to say, on China tariffs, is the administration close to deciding whether you're going to ease those tariffs that the last administration put in place?

And then on inflation, do you think that lowering or easing some of those tariffs really would help with the inflation problem by helping reduce some prices for U.S. consumers?

MR. SULLIVAN: So the President has asked his international economic team to run the analysis on the relationship between tariffs and inflation, both top-line inflation and, just frankly, the way that families experience inflation, which is: When they go to the store to buy everyday products, are the prices higher? Would removing tariffs lead price -- those -- those prices on those goods to be lower?

So he's asked for that analysis, and he has also asked for the perspectives of the range of voices in his economic team for how to proceed when it comes to the overall approach to China trade. And he will make a decision, you know, as soon as he feels that he's got the inputs he needs to do so.

So I won't put a timetable on it. But, you know, he's considering his options when it comes to moving beyond the Trump trade strategy as we look to chart a new way forward.

Q Hey, Jake, how long --

Q Has he -- sorry, just to follow up -- has he gotten the analysis back from those teams yet, or is he still waiting on that?

MR. SULLIVAN: He has gotten analysis. He's received detailed written work on this question, but he's asked further questions and is looking for more input.

Q What can you tell us about the President's briefing so far on monkeypox? And what's your current understanding of whether there is a national stockpile of vaccine the President referred to?

MR. SULLIVAN: So there -- there is a vaccine that is relevant to treating monkeypox. We have vaccine available to be deployed for that purpose.

The -- your question was about him being briefed?

Q Yeah. And how often and by whom.

MR. SULLIVAN: So, he has been briefed. I've been out on the road, giving him updates based on the written inputs we are getting from our health and medical team and, you know, walking through with him what the -- what the current state of play looks like and, as we learn about cases both in the United States and elsewhere, making sure that he's tracking the picture.

So he's being apprised on this on a very regular basis and getting inputs from the key members of his health team.

On Korea, you've talked about the risk of a ballistic missile test, or something like that, during the President's visit. What

does it say that, so far, such an incident hasn't occurred?

MR. SULLIVAN: It's hard to speculate, honestly. And anytime people start speculating on what North Korea might or might not do, they tend to have their expectations confounded one way or another.

So, all we can do is control our policy and our approach. So, we were prepared for any contingency while we were in Korea, we're prepared for any contingency while we're in Japan, and we will stay very closely lashed up with the ROK and Japan on this.

And if North Korea acts, we'll be prepared to respond. If North Korea doesn't act, North Korea has the opportunity, as we've said repeatedly, to come to the table and start negotiating (inaudible).

Q Quick follow-up on that.

Q (Inaudible) still saying that they could do a test?

MR. SULLIVAN: Oh, yes. Yes.

Q So how are you going to measure the seriousness, the sincerity that the President talked about yesterday? How are you --

Q Does the intelligence still say that there could still be a test?

MR. SULLIVAN: There could be a test.

Q Oh, thank you.

Q So how are you going to measure the seriousness and sincerity?

MR. SULLIVAN: The first step would be for North Korea to come forward and be prepared to actually engage in a dialogue. And thus far, they've not shown that they're willing to do so.

From there, it -- you can determine through the substance of those initial conversations whether you're on a serious pathway or not. But we're not even at step one yet.

Q Why do you think they haven't?

Q Are there preconditions for them getting vaccines from you?

MR. SULLIVAN: I'm sorry?

Q Are there preconditions for them getting vaccines from you?

MR. SULLIVAN: No.

Q Why do you think they haven't engaged while they were engaged so much with the Trump administration?

MR. SULLIVAN: They go through cycles where they respond and cycles where they don't. We're in a cycle where they're not. That's been true across multiple administrations. And I just can't speculate as to the rationale for them not (inaudible).

Q You don't think it's about this president versus that president? You think it's just sort of a cycle that's outside of that?

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah. I mean, every previous president going back to Bush -- so Bush, Obama, Trump -- faced a nuclear test. We haven't yet. We anticipate we may.

Each one of them faced missile tests; each one of them worked on a diplomatic approach. And at various points during each of those presidencies, the North Koreans were forthcoming, and at various points during each of those presidencies, they weren't.

And so you could ask the question: Why hasn't there been a nuclear test -- why wasn't there a nuclear test in the first year when there was for these other presidents? And I don't think it has so much to do with who's in the Oval Office as their own rhythms and cadences.

But I just violated my own rule and started speculating about their motives -- (laughter) -- so I'll stop.

Q On Ukraine, can you talk about when the first shipments of weapons from this new package will arrive, or when you're expecting them to go out? What's going to be in there? Anything new? And do you have anything on these --

MR. SULLIVAN: When you're saying "this new package," do you mean the next --

Q The one he just signed yesterday.

MR. SULLIVAN: Oh, the \$40 billion.

Q The 40.

MR. SULLIVAN: So we expect him -- so the way that it works is a portion of that \$40 billion is drawdown authority. So Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State have to make a recommendation to the President of a drawdown package. They are actively working through that now. We expect it'll come up to the President in the next couple of days for him to then be able to move out on. But we are on the receiving end of that based on the law and the process. So I would also go to the Pentagon and State to ask them, okay, you know, when -- when are they going to push it forward.

Q And what's the latest, you guys believe, on what's happening on the ground in Ukraine? And do you have anything on the high-ranking commanders being fired in the Russian forces?

MR. SULLIVAN: No.

Q And then what about that allegation from the Russian Defense Ministry that they destroyed a large batch of Western weapons from the U.S. and -- and the Europeans? Is that -- is that true? Do we think that they really did destroy a lot of weapons? I saw Ukraine was confirming it, but anything you can share?

MR. SULLIVAN: I have nothing to validate it and haven't had the opportunity to consult with the Ukrainians on it. What I can say is that, you know, we have what we believe to be a diverse and resilient supply chain for these weapons into Ukraine. So even if there is a circumstance where the Russians are able to target and hit some shipment on the ground in Ukraine, that's not going to fundamentally, from a strategic perspective, disrupt the military assistance we're providing.

Q What can you tell us about how John Kirby is coming over? How did that all come together? And can you describe what his role will be and how often we'll see him in the briefing room?

MR. SULLIVAN: So, John Kirby, as you all know, is a very effective national security voice and advocate for the President's policies. Actually, you know, I think a good partner to you all. So we're excited to have him at the White House.

And I'm particularly excited to have him at the NSC because having a senior voice who can come do these people instead

And I'm particularly excited to have him at the NSC, because having a senior voice who can come do these gaggles instead of me will just be awesome. (Laughter.) No, I'm joking. I'm joking.

No, but -- but otherwise, we'll work out how it's all going to play out in practice. The key thing is that John, at a moment when we're dealing with a series of really critical national security issues, is just going to bring a great wealth of experience. And he's going to be fun to work with for me; he'll be fun to work with for the entire press team as well.

Q There was reporting that he would basically fill the same role that Ben Rhodes did near the end of the Obama administration. Is that sort of how you guys are seeing the role, or is it going to be different?

MR. SULLIVAN: The thing about describing models like that -- the "Ben Rhodes model" -- they tend to be unique to an individual. And Ben, who is a very good friend of mine, is a unique individual and served in a unique capacity to President Obama.

John Kirby will have the "John Kirby model" of the role of Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the NSC. And he'll shape it based on his own, kind of, capabilities, the relationship he builds with the President and the rest of the team. And so I -- I think the comparisons tend -- tend not to illuminate.

Q All right. Thank you. Appreciate it.

Q Thank you so much.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: We're landing, guys.

Q Thank you.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Thanks, guys. Thanks, guys.

Q Karine, is there a reason why Biden didn't sign the aid bill on camera -- the Ukraine aid package?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: I think he just wanted to sign it very quickly. And that was the -- that was just the -- we've always said: Once he got the bills, he would sign it quickly. And once the -- once he was done with his event yesterday, he was able to do that.

Q There's been some questions about whether or not it had to be flown over. What's your understanding of why it was flown over to sign?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Well, so that we can actually have the -- the original copy for him to sign it. So, what happened was -- and I think we've shared this with all of you -- there was a -- a staffer who was already scheduled to be here. And so, it came -- it came with that staffer and was delivered to the President to sign. Yeah, there's nothing -- you know, there's nothing really more to it.

Q Karine, now that the DPA has been invoked and the actions that you listed at the top for baby formula, can you say when parents in the U.S. who are trying to get baby formula will be able to readily, you know, get baby formula?

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Look, you know, the President -- you know, you've heard us say this: The President understands the struggle of moms and dads and parents and caregivers and making sure that -- you know, making sure that we get -- a child has, you know, a healthy -- a healthy -- a healthy way of eating. A healthy formula is -- and safe -- and safe formula -- is our number one priority, which is why we're -- you know, which is why we have been very, very acutely aware of -- of the process that we've initiated with the flyover and also the DPA.

I don't have a timeline for you yet. We want to exp -- you know, make sure it goes very quickly, because it's so critical. And we know what -- what families are going through. I -- but I don't have an exact timeline. Clear -- clearly, we want

And we know what what families are going through. I -- but I don't have an exact timeline. Clear -- clearly, we want this to happen as fast as possible, as quickly as possible.

Q Is there a reason, also, that the administration isn't seeking a stay in the Title 42 case? I know that you're appealing.

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: We're appealing. I mean, I don't have much more than -- than what the DOJ is doing is appealing Title 42.

You know, we continue to believe Title 42 is a health authority. It is an authority that CDC is -- has that was given to them by Congress. And so that is kind of what we also agree with, which is the authority that Congress gave them.

Yep.

Q Let's let you get to your seat.

Q Thanks, Karine. Appreciate it. Thanks a lot.

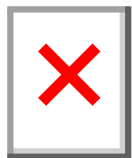
Q Thank you.

5:02 P.M. JST

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White House Press Office · 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW · Washington DC 20500 0003 · USA · 202 456 1111

**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] On-the-Record Press Call on the Launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 23, 2022 3:15 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 23, 2022

ON-THE-RECORD PRESS CALL  
BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR JAKE SULLIVAN,  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE GINA RAIMONDO,  
AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE KATHERINE TAI  
ON THE LAUNCH OF THE INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Via Teleconference

7:09 P.M. JST

MR. PATE : Good evening, everybody. Thanks so much for joining. This call will be on the record and embargoed until 4:15 Japan Standard Time tomorrow, May 23rd.

Joining us for this briefing, we have National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

We, of course, will have some time for questions at the end, but I will turn it over to Jake to kick us off.

MR. SULLIVAN: Thanks. And thanks, everybody, for joining this evening. And thanks to my colleagues and partners, Secretary Raimondo and Ambassador Tai.

I wanted to just start with some broad comments about the thrust and purpose of PEF, and then - and then turn it over to the Secretary and the Ambassador to dive into some more detail on the key substantive elements of the framework.



The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, or PEF, is part of President Biden's commitment to putting American families and workers at the center of our economic and foreign policy, while strengthening our ties with allies and partners for the purpose of increasing shared prosperity and for the purpose of defining the coming decades for technological innovation in the global economy -- especially in the most vital region for the coming decades, the Indo-Pacific.

The President will launch PEF in Tokyo, Japan, on Monday. And joining him for that launch will be the initial PEF partner countries. They are as follows: Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Alongside the United States, that's 13 countries launching this -- a baker's dozen.

But, of course, as we've also indicated from the start, this is an open platform. So there are other countries that could conceivably join us as we move forward.

Together, this very diverse set of economies represent around 40 percent of global GDP. And the fact that we have such a range and a significant number of partner countries in on the ground floor for the launch reflects the far-reaching ambition of the framework and also indicates that there's deep interest across the region in it. You've got major economies, emerging economies, economies with which we have free trade agreements, and others for which this will be the United States' first economic negotiation.

And that diversity of members is consistent with both the vision of PEF and consonant with the fact that the four-pillar structure that we've built has flexibility and creativity designed into it so that we can, in fact, accommodate this diverse range of countries.

One more thing, just to say on the membership: We believe that we're heading into this launch with a really significant amount of momentum, really, especially coming out of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit that the President hosted just a few days ago. It was at that summit that he had the opportunity to really share his vision for this framework with key leaders in ASEAN. And we are proud that seven ASEAN countries have joined with many of our other close partners in the region as part of PEF.

PEF is a 21st century economic arrangement designed to tackle 21st century economic challenges, ranging from setting the rules of the road for the digital economy, to ensuring secure and resilient supply chains, to helping make the kinds of major investments necessary in clean energy infrastructure and the clean energy transition, to raising standards for transparency, fair taxation, and anti-corruption.

We believe that expanding U.S. economic leadership in the Indo-Pacific through vehicles like PEF is good for America -- American workers and businesses as well as for the people in the region.

With 60 percent of the world's population, the Indo-Pacific is projected to be the largest contributor to global growth over the next 30 years. And trade with the Indo-Pacific supports more than 3 million American jobs, as well as being the source of nearly \$900 billion in foreign direct investment in the United States -- (inaudible) global economic growth.

And the United States, for our part, is an Indo-Pacific economic power. Foreign direct investment in the region from the United States totaled more than \$969 billion in 2020 and has nearly doubled in the last decade.

And the United States is the primary exporter of services to the region, which in turn not only fuels regional growth and prosperity and greater security, but it also supports American jobs at home.

That being said, we and our partners in the region agree that much in the coming decades will depend on how well governments harness innovation, especially the transformations underway in clean energy and the digital and technology sectors, while at the same time fortifying our economies from a range of threats from fragile supply chains, to corruption, to tax havens.

The fact is that past models did not address these challenges -- or did not address them fully and take them head on -- leaving our workers, businesses, and consumers more vulnerable. So we believe that we need a new model that we can move on quickly to, in fact, take these challenges head on, and that's what PEF will do.

We've spent months engaging with major partners in the region. And the broad participation is a reflection of that investment of time and effort and energy, as well as with organized labor, the business community, bipartisan members of Congress and other key stakeholders to chart the way forward.

Just a couple of more points before I turned to my colleagues -- in terms of diving into the four pillars of PEF.

One, the fact that this is not a traditional free trade agreement is a feature of PEF not a bug. There are free trade traditionalists who have raised questions about it. Our fundamental view is that the new landscape and the new challenges we face need a new approach, and we will shape the substance of this effort together with our partners.

Second is that PEF should be seen both as a coherent whole; it is a vision of the modern economy and the way to get -- it's a way to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of that economy. But it also -- it should also be seen as an opportunity to drive initiatives, in part.

So, for example, if we can rapidly develop an early warning system for critical supply chains, we will not wait until all of PEF is complete to roll that out and move forward on it. So different elements of this could end up moving at different speeds, even as all of the pieces will end up fitting into a larger integrated framework.

Finally -- and I think this is really critical -- this is a foundational element of our overall strategy towards the Indo-Pacific. We believe that PEF brings shape and coherence to the economic pillar of our Indo-Pacific strategy. We think it sets us up for success in helping to shape the future of the region in a way that produces a region that is free, open, connected, resilient, and secure.

We all know that economics is a critical part of succeeding with any strategy in the Indo-Pacific region. And we see PEF as a vital platform for our engagement and a

chance, alongside all of the other ways in which we have elevated our engagement in the Indo-Pacific, to put our stamp on this critical region for decades to come, and to ensure that American leadership delivers good outcomes for our people and for all the people in the region.

So, with those opening framing comments, let me turn it over to Secretary Raimondo. Thanks.

SECRETARY RA MONDO: Thank you, Jake. And thank you, everybody, for joining us on the call this evening. So I will add on with a few more points to what Jake said.

But I'll begin by saying just how excited we are for the launch tomorrow of this Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. As Jake said, it consists of 13 countries, which account for 40 percent of global GDP. And on top of that, it includes some of the world's fastest-growing, most dynamic economies.

It is -- it is, by any account, the most significant international economic engagement that the United States has ever had in this region. And the launch of it tomorrow, here in Tokyo, marks an important turning point in restoring U.S. economic leadership in the region and presenting Indo-Pacific countries an alternative to China's approach to these critical issues.

Since I've been Commerce Secretary, I have heard over and over again from the U.S. business community that they will benefit from -- they and their employees will benefit from the U.S. restoring and re-exerting economic leadership in the region -- an increasingly important region to U.S. businesses.

And there is also a strong demand signal coming from the region. We hear over and over again in the Indo-Pacific region that there is a desire for U.S. economic leadership and for the U.S. to have a proactive economic vision and economic agenda.

As Jake said, this framework is intentionally designed not to be a "same old, same old" traditional trade agreement. But it's designed as a more innovative and flexible approach, designed to reflect the fact that our economies have changed. The most pressing issues that we need to tackle with our allies have changed, and we need a new approach going forward if we're going to meet the needs of our citizens.

So, by focusing on economic priorities that affect all of our economies, this framework is designed to reflect the shared realities we face, which is climate change; the opportunity and challenges presented by moving, meeting the need of climate change and the opportunity of clean tech jobs; supply chain disruptions; and the need for a better-coordinated, high-tech manufacturing economy.

As Jake said, there are four pillars in the framework. The Department of Commerce will be leading three of the four pillars, which is: the supply chain resiliency pillar, clean energy and decarbonization pillar, and tax and anti-corruption.

Just very quickly on each one. On supply chains, I think we all have seen how -- the cost of supply chains that aren't resilient. And COVID exposes incredible economic costs of insufficient supply chain resilience.

We saw -- frankly, we continue to say all the ways that bottlenecks and lack of

transparency in the Indo-Pacific cause ripple effects throughout the United States economy, hurting workers and driving inflation. And, you know, we've learned that "just in time" leaves much to be desired.

I would say if we had had this Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and the agreement therein in place before COVID, I think we could have experienced much less disruption.

For example, during COVID, we saw semiconductor packaging operations in Malaysia be closed on account of COVID outbreaks. The result of that was thousands of workers were put out of work in Michigan auto-manufacturing plants. And if we had had more transparency, more communication, more data-sharing, and an early alert system, that may not have happened. And the workers who were furloughed in a Michigan plant would not have experienced that.

So, in PEF, we are seeking to develop a first-of-its-kind supply chain agreement that better anticipates, predicts, and, importantly, prevents disruptions in supply chains.

On the clean energy and infrastructure pillar, we all know jobs of the future are going to be in clean tech manufacturing and innovation, and so we want to work with partners in this agreement to view clean energy as a driver of job creation and economic growth. And to support this pillar, we will be signing agreements to pursue concrete, high-ambition commitments such as renewable energy targets, carbon removal purchasing commitments, energy efficiency standards, and new measures to combat methane emissions.

And finally, the third pillar Commerce is leading on is the tax and anti-corruption. And we're going to be working to ensure everybody plays by the same set of rules, because corruption is a huge drag on everyone's economy. And we're going to be seeking commitments to enact and enforce effective tax, anti-money laundering, anti-bribery schemes in line with our values.

So, I guess I'll just close by saying: This is an exciting time. I want to thank all of our partner countries for working with us. I'm looking forward -- tomorrow is the beginning; I'm anxious to begin and get to work and discuss the next steps ahead as we negotiate the specific terms and develop the details of this framework and, you know, establishing a new approach to regional economic engagement.

This has never been done before, in terms of the ambition and inclusivity across a broad range of regional partners. And I'm confident that there'll be benefits for U.S. businesses.

And I would say, especially as businesses are beginning to increasingly look for alternatives to China, the countries in the Indo-Pacific Framework will be more reliable partners for U.S. businesses.

So we're excited to get going and develop a framework that will be durable and beneficial for American businesses and workers.

And with that, I will turn it over to my partner in this endeavor, Ambassador Katherine Tai.

AMBASSADOR TA : Thank you so much, Gina. will spend some time to talk about the trade pillar. From day one of his administration, President Biden has been clear that we have to rethink what trade policy can be in the 21st century and that it must benefit more people.

For decades, trade policy was often reduced to a zero-sum game that left many of our workers behind. And that is why we are designing trade policies that aim to deliver real economic prosperity and advance our global priorities, like combating climate change, protecting labor rights, and building resilient supply chains. These issues are not mutually exclusive; we can and must do both.

Over the last several months, USTR, the NSC, and the Department of Commerce have worked with our trading partners, members of Congress, and a diverse range of stakeholders on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework that the President will launch tomorrow.

At its core, the Economic Framework will link major economies and emerging ones to tackle 21st century challenges and promote fair and resilient trade for years to come. At the same time, it will be designed to adapt to address barriers and obstacles that may arise in the future as well.

You heard Gina describe three of the pillars. And I'll walk through the details of the trade pillar that USTR will lead in order to create a more connected and resilient economy.

We will work with our PEF partners on a wide range of trade issues, including the digital economy and emerging technology, labor commitments, the environment, trade facilitation, transparency and good regulatory practices, and corporate accountability.

The digital economy in particular best represents an area where we need to work with our PEF partners, given the prominent role it plays in today's global marketplace and how it affects our workers, our consumers, and our businesses. And that's why we will address issues in the digital economy that will help build connectivity and trust between key markets, including standards on cross-border data flows and data localizations.

We will also work with our partners to address other digital concerns such as online privacy, discriminatory and unethical use of artificial intelligence.

Collectively, the trade pillar will unlock enormous economic value, including for small- and medium-sized businesses that historically have not benefited from trade agreements as much as their large counterparts have.

We also intend to pursue an accelerated implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement, which will also address and improve the movement of goods across borders. We will see commitments with PEF partners that facilitate agricultural trade through science-based decision making and the adoption of sound, transparent regulatory practices. This will help our farmers, our ranchers, and our fishers gain certainty for getting their products to the region.

While these provisions will help promote inclusive economic prosperity, we also want

this framework be part of our broader strategy to make trade a race to the top. And that is why the PEF will pursue an agenda for setting strong labor and environmental standards and corporate accountability provisions.

In raising regional standards, we can set an example for the rest of the world to follow, which in turn helps all of our workers and communities. Our aim is for the PEF to address the challenges in the 21st century global economy.

Tomorrow begins the next chapter of our collaboration with our key partners in the region.

I look forward to convening our partners in the months ahead in a range of forms. We will continue to work with stakeholders, as we have done for the last several months, to ensure a diverse range of interests and concerns are represented.

We will work with members of Congress in both parties.

And, of course, we will make frequent trips to the Indo-Pacific to engage leaders in this region and continue our discussions to create a fairer, more resilient economy for families, workers, and business in the United States and here in the Indo-Pacific.

This is truly a team effort. And I'm grateful to Jake Sullivan and Secretary Raimondo for their work in bringing this framework to life. We believe it will deliver on the President's vision of trade policy that promotes widespread economic growth and advances our shared global priorities. And I'm excited to continue to keep all of you updated on our progress as we move forward.

Thank you.

MR. PATE : Thanks so much. We will move into taking some folks' questions. As a reminder, this call is on the record, but it is embargoed until 4:15 Japan Standard Time tomorrow, May 23th.

So with that, why don't we start with Nancy Cook at Bloomberg.

Q Hi, thank you so much for doing the call. I appreciate it. Just an overview question. You know, you talked a lot in the call about the commitments that you're going to seek for these -- for countries to join this agreement. Are there any requirements? Like, are you requiring participants to do anything? Or is it really, like, suggestions and recommendations and commitments that you're seeking?

Really, I'm asking: Are there binding things or non-binding things?

SECRETARY RA MONDO: So, this is Secretary Raimondo. I would say there will certainly be -- like any other agreement, it will be a negotiation at which will -- which will, you know, begin post-launch. So after tomorrow, we'll spend the next -- you know, the weeks ahead, scoping out each pillar.

But, yes, there will be firm commitments. There will be signed agreements. And like any agreement, you know, we plan to have high-standard commitments that will be enforceable.

Now, also, like any agreement, I would say the greatest enforcement is that if you don't hold up your end of the bargain, you don't receive the benefits. And so there will be incentives to go ahead and live up to the commitments that will be part of the agreement.

Q Just to follow up, Secretary Raimondo: But tomorrow -- like, what you're unveiling tomorrow, there are not commitments in place at this point. There are not, like, binding things. Those are going to be negotiated moving forward. Is that right?

SECRETARY RA MONDO: Yep. Yes, exactly. Tomorrow is the beginning. Tomorrow -- tomorrow is the starting gate.

It's incredible that we have, you know, a dozen countries signed up to this. But, yes, tomorrow we begin the negotiations. And we will, in the weeks and months ahead, define precisely the details -- exactly what's in each pillar and what each country will be committing to and signing up for.

MR. PATE : Great, thanks so much.

Next, let's go to Peter Baker with the New York Times.

Q Hi there. Thanks for doing the call, especially for doing it on the record. Could you just outline for us a little bit more about what was wrong with the TPP negotiated by the Obama-Biden administration, that we're not getting back into it and that you're trying to distinguish this from? In other words, what's the big difference?

And what is the incentive for countries in the region that want market access and tariff reductions but don't seem to be getting it as part of this agreement?

AMBASSADOR TA : Hi, Peter. This is Katherine Tai. So let me take your question first and see if the others want to join in after.

With respect to TPP, I think that the biggest problem with it was that we did not have the support at home to get it through. If you look back at the years 2015 and 2016, and despite Herculean efforts, it could not be gotten through Congress. And then, in 2017, it was President Trump who took the United States out of it.

I think that there's a very, very strong lesson there: that TPP, as it was envisioned, ultimately was something that was quite fragile and that the United States was not able to deliver on. And that informs very much our thinking about bringing the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, as it's designed here, to the region -- which is that trade is an important component of this, but not the only component. So that we are bringing in more robust and comprehensive approach to our partners in this region.

There has been a lot of swirl about the fact that there is not tariff liberalization incorporated into the scope of what we are engaging on here. And I think that also goes to the fact that the kinds of trade agreements, the traditional ones that we've done before, are very much a part of the practice that has brought us to where we are, both in terms of the fragility of where that trajectory has taken us.

But also, if you look at the world economy today, just as I -- have arrived in Tokyo from the APEC meetings in Bangkok. And of all of the counterparts that I had the chance to speak with in depth, each one of them reiterated for me that their priorities in their economic policymaking, including in trade, are to promote an economic recovery that advances resilience, sustainability, and inclusion for their economies.

And they're looking for engagement, especially from us, around a vision for trade and economic engagement that will reinforce those priorities, given where we are in the global economy and a couple of very, very turbulent years that we're all still working to recover from.

Q And then, just to be clear then, the thing that made it -- TPP -- no good was it wasn't able to be delivered, you couldn't get it through Congress. Are these agreements that will come out of this process agreements that will go to Congress at some point?

AMBASSADOR TA : Peter, on that, let me say this: I think that the robust stakeholder engagement that you are hearing all of us talk about -- stakeholders throughout our economy, expanding the table for engagement with our stakeholders, engaging with our traditional stakeholders -- we can't -- they have to be part of the solution and part of our engagement.

But bringing to the table and ensuring that other stakeholders, like our workers, like our environmental organizations, the ones who are the smartest about climate and the policy solutions that we need, that they have premier seats at the table and that they will be influencing and shaping the policies that we create.

Our trading partners, our members of Congress -- along the way, this engagement is designed for maximum supportability and durability because, ultimately, we know that this engagement is something that we need to stick for our partners and for our stakeholders at home in this region.

Q All right, I'm confused. Does Congress vote on these agreements or not?

AMBASSADOR TA : Let's see where these negotiations take us, and let's see where the discussions go. But along the way, we have to keep -- regardless, we have to keep Congress close, and Congress needs to be a part of shaping what we do with our partners here.

MR. PATE : Thanks so much. Let's try to limit our follow-ups so we can get through as many of our colleagues as we can.

Next, let's go to Asma Khalid from NPR.

Q Hey, thank you guys for doing this. I had two quick questions. And one, I know, Jake, you touched on, actually, earlier a bit about Taiwan. But if I could just get clarity here on the record about why Taiwan was not a part of this initial grouping of countries or self-governed democracies -- whatever you want to call Taiwan -- given its role in supply chains.

And then the follow-up question is something that I also wanted to get clarity on --



And then the follow up question is something that I also wanted to get clarity on -- believe Nancy touched on -- around the incentives for countries to join. Can you articulate at all what those incentives are? Or have they not been, I guess, decided upon yet since negotiations haven't begun with various countries?

MR. SUZUKI: I'll make a couple of comments but then invite both Secretary Raimondo and Ambassador Tai, particularly on the second question. And Ambassador Tai should speak to the first one as well because she just met with her counterpart.

But I would just say that we intend to pursue a deeper bilateral engagement with Taiwan on trade and economic matters in the coming days and weeks. And we think that that track can help strengthen both of our economies while we're also pursuing PEF with the countries that we listed. And we think it puts us in the best position for us to be able to enhance our economic partnership with Taiwan and also to carry PEF forward with this diverse range of countries.

Just briefly on what the U.S. has to bring to the table: I'd just start by saying that, you know, the premise of the question is that without market access, you know, countries wouldn't be really interested. Well, we've got an incredible range of countries who've signed up to this, including some with whom we haven't had meaningful economic negotiations before.

So why is that? One reason is because having the opportunity to work closely with the United States on rules and standards; on greater clarity and transparency and coordination on supply chains; on innovation, as it applies to the digital economy and the decarbonization; on technical expertise; on anti-corruption matters and taxation; on investment in infrastructure and in growing businesses, both foreign direct investment in the U.S. where we have a huge market to offer people for that and the enormous investment we're making in the region -- the United States is going to be a partner of choice on all of the elements of this framework, even setting aside the question of traditional tariff liberalization.

And so we think we bring a huge amount to the table. And we think that proposition has been validated by the fact that we've gotten such an overwhelming and broad-scale response from, you know, the Indian subcontinent, to Down Under, to Southeast Asia, to Northeast Asia.

And let me stop there and see if Katherine or Gina has anything they want to add.

SECRETARY RAIMONDO: No, I think that's exactly right. You know, I would just offer additionally, having spent time in the region, the demand to have the United States increasingly present economically is so strong, which is why, as Jake said, you know, a dozen countries have decided to join us tomorrow for the launch.

You know, so, broadly, there is a strong desire to have U.S. businesses, the United States government engaged in the region.

Now, if you're asking for kind of a list of specific issues, you know, it's everything from trade facilitation -- which, by the way, you know, we talk about there are non-tariff barriers, which often can be, you know, more expensive than tariffs, which -- so, one, you know, we'll have trade facilitation, as Katherine mentioned earlier; we'll work together on technology standards to promote interoperable internet and other kinds of standards.

mean, the Commerce Department sets standards in technology. If you're -- if you don't set standards in a way that allows your company to participate, you're out of -- out of business, you know? So that's a binary.

Decarbonization of key industries.

Capital. You know, we expect that for the infrastructure pillar, there will be sources of public and private capital flowing from the United States into the region; you know, into infrastructure projects in countries in the region.

So, anyway, the list is long. But think that there will be, you know, a very concrete benefit to countries in the region.

By the way, just today, you know, you see reporting that Apple is looking to boost production outside of China. And many companies -- many U.S. companies are looking to diversify away from China. Well, countries -- Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia -- that are actually signed up and in the Indo-Pacific Framework will obviously have an advantage to get that business from American companies, because they will have signed up to be the high-standard agreement that we plan to sign pursuant to the PEF.

So think once we get underway, the concrete benefits are going to become pretty clear.

AMBASSADOR TA : This is Katherine Tai. Let me just say very, very quickly -- on the Taiwan question, I did just meet Minister John Deng in Bangkok. And we had a great conversation. It was a really, really encouraging and really dynamic meeting that we had.

And coming out of the conversation we had -- think this was just two days ago -- both Minister Deng and I have committed that our teams would be in touch and that we'd be in touch in the next couple of weeks. So please stay tuned for that.

In terms of the tariff question -- again, the tariff liberalization, let me just put an additional point, add on to what -- all of the great examples that Gina has just provided, which is: You know, in our trade policies, our trade experiences and trade relationships, we have so many examples of situations where there are no tariffs between us and another country. And yet, you know, we have farmers who can't get, for example, a single potato across the border and into the other market.

And so, I just want to reinforce Secretary Raimondo's point that, in terms of economic value, we're looking at connectivity and we're offering a program relating to connectivity for our stakeholders. And that goes beyond tariffs.

In fact, average bound tariff MFN for the United States right now is 2.4 percent. That's very low. In terms of where the value is that is left to be unlocked in the global economy right now, it is in the areas where we are engaging through this framework.

MR. PATE : Thanks so much. I think we have time for one last question before our speakers have to head to another commitment.

Why don't we go next to Trevor Hunnicutt with Reuters.

O Thank you for taking the question. That's a quick one. Jake said that this is an

open architecture arrangement. Does that mean that it's open to all countries in the region, regardless of how they perform on indices of economic freedom and democracy? And what role do you see China potentially playing in this in the future?

MR. SU VAN: So think one of the things we will do on a going-forward basis with addi- -- in terms of additional members is work with the other countries that are now in -- with the founding partners, so to speak -- to determine both the process and criteria by which to add additional members.

And it won't just be if you raise your hand, you're automatically in. But we also want to maintain a proposition of inclusivity and diversity of economies.

So the short answer is that we will not dictate, just as the United States, who comes in going forward, but we'll have to work that with our partners. And that will be part of those initial discussions that Secretary Raimondo referred to. But that will immediately follow from the launch event tomorrow.

Oh, and on China, just broadly speaking, those -- the -- what just said would apply to that case.

MR. PATE : Thank you so much. As a reminder to everybody, this call was on the record, but it is under embargo until tomorrow at 4:15 Japan Standard Time. Again, until 4:15 tomorrow, May 23rd, Japan Standard Time.

Thanks so much, everyone, for joining and a special thanks to our speakers. And we'll all be in touch again over the course of this trip.

7:49 P.M. JST

8:39 A.M. KST

MODERATOR: Good morning, everybody. hope you all had a very restful second night in Seoul. Thanks again for joining us on this background press briefing this morning.

As mentioned on the invite, this call is on background, attributable to "senior administration officials," and embargoed until the call's conclusion.

Just as yesterday, joining us this morning we have [senior administration official]. We'll, of course, have some time for questions at the end, but will turn it over to [senior administration official] right now.

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Great. Thank you very much, [Moderator]. And want to thank all of you for joining. hope that you're all having a good trip.

We'll very quickly go over today's schedule and then take some questions.

So think -- you know, to start off with, think you've seen throughout the trip how our foreign policy and the work that has been done through -- to strengthen and revitalize our alliances delivers for the American people.

think, building on that, today President Biden and the Executive Chairman of Hyundai Motor Group will discuss Hyundai's decision to invest in a new electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility in Savannah, Georgia.

They will announce more than \$11 billion in new investment in American manufacturing. And it will be a new commitment of \$5.7 billion for advanced automotive technology and the \$5.5 billion investment to open a new factory near Savannah that will create more than 8,000 new jobs.

I expect that you'll see the President highlight how clean energy investments like this will help us reach our climate goals as well as create good-paying jobs and benefit American workers and businesses.

He will also thank Senators Warnock and Ossoff for their outstanding work on this effort and their other efforts to bring these jobs to Georgia.

After this, the President will head to the area near here where he will greet the Chargé d'Affaires of U.S. Embassy Seoul, Chris Del Corso, and the Embassy staff.

He will then go to Osan Air Base, where he will visit the Air Operations Center's Combat Operations Floor. This is in Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea, and where the President landed on Friday evening.

The President will be joined there by President Yoon, where they will both engage with U.S. and Korean military personnel while working side-by-side to secure the Korean Peninsula's airspace. It will reflect the close integration of the U.S. and ROK militaries and demonstrate the strength of our almost 70-year-old alliance.

I think this is something that really does reflect the truly integrated nature of the U.S.-ROK relationship. And I think that people will be impressed at how closely they work together -- our personnel and the Korean personnel work together.

After that, the President will greet U.S. service members and military families at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea.

And then the President and the delegation will take off to go to Japan.

We're looking forward to a very good day. I think something that both highlights the linkages between the U.S. and the ROK economies, that focuses on the commitment to the future and to bringing the benefits of both cleaner climate -- or for better climate and cleaner energy to American workers and families, and, at the same time, creates benefits here in Korea.

So, with that, let me take your questions.

MODERATOR: Thank you so much, [senior administration official].

If anybody has a question, please use the "raise hand" function on the Zoom interface, and we'll try to get through as many questions as we can.

Again, this call is on background, attributable to "senior administration officials," and embargoed until it concludes.

Why don't we start with Aamer Madhani from the Associated Press.

Q Hey, thank you. just wanted to ask -- you know, the President on Friday, in his remarks at Samsung, made a point about encouraging Samsung and others that are going to be investing in the United States to hire union workers.

This new EV plant in Georgia is in a "Right to Work" state. t seems unlikely that the union presence will be as great as it may be in other places. And was just wanting to know: What is the President's thinking, what is the administration's thinking on the balance of pulling in this foreign investment in the U.S., but also his strong belief that union shops are best for business and best for American workers?

And then secondly, was just wondering: Coming out of this trip, is it time -- has a conclusion been made that Korea should be joining the Quad and the Quad should be expanding?

Thank you.

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Those are both very good questions, Aamer. And let me start off with the first ones.

So think that the President is very, very focused on bringing investment to the United States -- investment that creates jobs, that creates well-paying jobs, and, at the same time, that brings technology and brings capacity to the United States.

Obviously, you heard his remarks about his views on the importance and value of union workforce. At the same time, think the President rec- -- you know, think it's clear the President believes that very strong. At the same time, the President believes that it is really important to do whatever he can and whatever the administration can to bring investment and bring jobs to the United States. So, don't think there's any contradiction there.

Obviously, his views on unions are clear, and the value of union labor. But at the same time, it's very, very important to do whatever is possible -- and think you heard his words: He's encouraging any investor in the United States to look to have -- to look to partner and work closely with unions.

On your question about the Quad, think that it's important not to get ahead of ourselves. mean, you know, as much as it's significant that we're now looking at the fourth leader-level meeting of the Quad -- you know, two have been virtual; one has been in person -- and it's pretty significant that only 16 months in the administration that you're looking at the second in-person summit.

think it shows the commitment that the President has and the other Quad leaders have to building out the Quad. think it's important to recognize this is still a relatively new organization -- or it's not even -- a relatively new grouping that is still figuring out how to best work together.

t's a group of likeminded democracies and, in that sense, it's natural that -- you know, to think about ways in which you can work with other likeminded democracies.

But think it's also important to recognize that the goal right now is to develop and build out what has already been laid out, rather than to think about new members.

And think that down the road, there may be some of that. But think that we have to wait and see what happens as the grouping itself finds its legs, finds more things to do, finds more ways to bring public goods to the region, and finds more ways to harmonize the existing efforts, which are quite significant, of these four countries to make sure that they're promoting a free and open Indo-Pacific, promoting resilience, promoting the ability to work with other countries, and helping other countries advance their own interests.

So think that, you know, we'll wait and see. And, you know, very clearly, we're going to wait and make sure that we have a successful Quad Summit on Tuesday and then move forward to build things out.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. Next, let's go to Andrew Restuccia with the Wall Street Journal.

Q Thanks for doing this. Just two quick ones. Since the President is going to Japan today, was hoping you could kind of look ahead to the PEF signing and what that might look like. And we're just wondering if you have a sense of which countries might sign on to that and if the text has been finalized at this point.

And then could you just update us on the situation on Australia with the new Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, and whether that will -- whether he's for sure attending the Quad Summit and, you know, if that -- if the timing of all of that will get sort of turned upside down because of the dynamics there in Australia?

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : So, look, I'm going to try and hold off previewing too much of the Japan stop. Our focus today is making sure that we execute a successful Korea stop, obviously. And we've got a very full program in Japan, both with bilateral engagements as well as, as you pointed out, the PEF launch and then the Quad.

think that our view is that it's a little premature to be talking about which countries. And -- but will say that think that we're very satisfied with the very strong interest throughout the region in participating in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework.

And, you know, as you know, think these things -- there's all -- it will bring very, very bad luck if we say that anything has been finalized at this stage. But we're very confident that we have everything in place for tomorrow.

think that -- on Australia, think, first of all, you know, obviously, we -- we look forward to working with Prime Minister-Designate Anthony Albanese and his government.

You know, the U.S.-Australia alliance is extraordinarily strong, and we work together on an extremely wide range of issues. There's been partnership and, you know, shared sacrifice going back to World War One. think, as you know, U.S. and Australian troops have fought together in every conflict since 1918.

And think that the -- we're very confident that the alliance is in very, very strong shape, and look forward to working with the Prime Minister-Designate to further strengthen it.

At the same time, think it's important that, you know, as much as this is significant, it's always great to see a democracy go through a successful election, and -- it's also important to note that we send our very best wishes to Prime Minister Morrison, who was a very, very strong and able partner. And the -- we're grateful for the work that he and his government did to both strengthening the alliance, expand the relationship, invest in the Quad, and, you know, commend his efforts.

think we look forward to working closely with the new Prime Minister. don't want to get ahead of ourselves. As you know, there is some process issues in Australia. But at the same time, think it's significant that Prime Minister Morrison, in his concession remarks, noted that one of the issues for his conceding was the importance of making sure that Australia was able to participate in the Quad.

And look, we're confident that they're going to participate in the Quad.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. Next, let's go to Geoff Earle.

Q Hi there. Thanks for doing this. just want to do a Ukraine question because South Korea has a pretty substantial defense industry. Did the President do anything to encourage, you know, this government to provide lethal support?

And then, as he heads to Japan -- know it's a different situation given their constitution, but they've been doing what think we see as pretty impressive amounts of security -- 'm sorry -- non-security aid and economic aid plus, think, some other stuff. But does he have an ask for them to try to get everybody moving in the same direction with more?

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Oh, that's a great question. And let me start off by saying that the President and President Yoon obviously talked about threats to the rules-based international order. And first and foremost is Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine.

The President commended the ROK for what they have done. And think you will not be surprised to know the President feels very strongly that we need to work with likeminded partners around the world to try and do more.

don't want to get ahead -- and, look, don't want to get too much into (inaudible) details. But think that the key thing is that the President made very clear how impressed he is by what the ROK has done and the fact that the ROK's actions, think, have further reinforced the degree to which key allies in Asia are supporting our efforts and the efforts of the international community in Europe, in the same way that in recent years, European countries have (inaudible) much more attention, shown much more interest in ensuring peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific.

So for, think, the President, there's -- the idea that these are two different theaters think doesn't make sense anymore. These are -- there's very strong linkages between both. think in Japan, think that you can expect -- and don't want to get ahead of our discussion with him -- but think you can expect that at

each stop the President is going to focus on his concerns about Ukraine and the importance he places on providing assistance to Ukraine.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. Next let's go to Kevin Iptak with CNN.

Q Hey, thanks. I wanted to ask about the line in the joint statement about potentially expanding the joint military exercises. Do you have a timeline for how those discussions would proceed? And do you have an expectation of when you think those expanded joint drills might take place?

And as you were coming up with that joint statement, was there any concern that restarting the full-scale joint military exercises might forestall the diplomacy that you say you're looking for with North Korea?

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : So those are great questions. I think -- first and foremost, I think that you saw the line in the joint statement, obviously. I think that the view from both the -- from the administration and, I think, from the Yoon administration is we're going to leave this to the militaries to work out. I think that the important thing is that this is something where there's clear signals being given to them that they need to figure out what it takes to best ensure military readiness and best ensure our ability to work closely together.

I think that in terms of working on the joint statement, I think that -- you know, I would just call your attention to the fact that President Yoon, during his campaign, was very clear about his views, about the importance of strengthening the alliance and of ensuring that our militaries are best able to deter and respond to provocations, as well as work together to support broader peace and security in the region.

I think that the -- you know, from our standpoint, the key things here is this is part and parcel of a broader effort to step up our ability to work together, both in the military sphere, but also many others. And we're very satisfied with -- and very pleased with the progress that was made, and, you know, we believe that it was a joint statement that is particularly impressive, given that it was done in the first 11 days of a new administration.

And I think all of you know it is a challenge for a new administration to come to office and then immediately start engaging in a visit of this kind to have an extensive and substantive joint statement that covers a significant number of issues. This isn't something that is easy to do.

And so we're very grateful to our ROK partners. I think it reflects President Yoon's very, very clear guidance and great determination to strengthen the alliance. And we're very satisfied with the outcome.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much. I think we've got time for one last question. Why don't we go to Sebastian Smith with AFP.

Q Oh, thank you so much. Thank you for taking my question. So, on North Korea again: Is there any movement on the sense of whether a nuclear test could be in the offing? Because coming into this trip, both from South Korea and from the U.S., of course, you know, there was a lot of -- it was rather -- you know, sounded like it was being built up into something that could happen pretty much any -- any moment. And



now the President is leaving. So is that moment of danger passed?

And my other question. More -- just zooming out, the President, again, talked yesterday about, you know, he'd be ready to meet -- even meet Kim, you know, under some kind of circumstances. You've said many times you're ready to talk without any preconditions. But are the North Koreans really in a place where they can be engaged in that kind of initiative? Because this has been going on for decades. And is the President considering -- has he ever talked about making any kind of outreach, something a little more dramatic, something to break this sort of stalemate or paralysis that seems to go on for almost forever?

Yeah, not necessarily what Donald Trump did, but something different, in other words. Or is it just going to be more of the same?

Thank you.

SEN OR ADM N STRAT ON OFF C A : Well, thanks. Thanks for that question. I think that, you know, let's just look more broadly at the issue. I mean, obviously, North Korea, the DPRK, is a very significant challenge in many ways, both in terms of being a threat to the ROK as well as its destabilizing activities.

I think that the President, first of all, was very clear about his views on North Korea and on the DPRK and on what he believes needs to be done. I think that the policy has been very clear. I would say that it is worth keeping in mind the challenges of COVID. And I think that from our standpoint, we believe that one of the challenges for the DPRK is that there have been very significant movement restrictions. And I think that there's no question that that has had a big impact inside the country. And now the outbreak probably makes it even more significant.

And so that may be a factor in their lack of response to our very, very repeated approaches on a variety of levels to try and engage and to make clear our willingness to talk and to talk about a very wide range of issues.

The President has said he is seeking serious and sustained diplomacy. He's been clear about -- that we stand ready -- that we're deeply concerned about the COVID outbreak and that we stand ready to work with the international community to provide assistance.

But I think we have to acknowledge: Ultimately, these decisions are up to the DPRK to make. And I think that our view is that we strongly encourage them to choose a path of diplomacy. We believe that our offers are very -- you know, are a sign of how committed we are.

In terms of dramatic gestures, I think that what the President was clear on is that we're not looking for gestures, we're looking for very serious engagement. And this is a decision that only the DPRK can make.

I think that we are -- we're very conscious of the fact that they're facing significant domestic challenges. We believe that engagement could possibly help address those challenges -- with us, with others in the international community -- but that this is their decision to make.

MODERATOR: Thanks so much, everybody. Thanks so much for joining. As said, this call is on background, attributable to "senior administration officials," and embargoed until the call concludes, which will be momentarily. And we'll of course be in touch for other calls over the course of the trip.

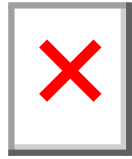
Have a great day, everyone.

9:00 A.M. KST

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] CORRECTION: On-the-Record Press Call on the Launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 23, 2022 8:03 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 23, 2022

ON-THE-RECORD PRESS CALL  
BY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR JAKE SULLIVAN,  
SECRETARY OF COMMERCE GINA RAIMONDO,  
AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE KATHERINE TAI  
ON THE LAUNCH OF THE INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Via Teleconference

7:09 P.M. JST

MR. PATE : Good evening, everybody. Thanks so much for joining. This call will be on the record and embargoed until 4:15 Japan Standard Time tomorrow, May 23rd.

Joining us for this briefing, we have National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai.

We, of course, will have some time for questions at the end, but will turn it over to Jake to kick us off.

MR. SULLIVAN: Thanks. And thanks, everybody, for joining this evening. And thanks to my colleagues and partners, Secretary Raimondo and Ambassador Tai.

I wanted to just start with some broad comments about the thrust and purpose of PEF, and then - and then turn it over to the Secretary and the Ambassador to dive into some more detail on the key substantive elements of the framework.

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, or PEF, is part of President Biden's commitment to putting American families and workers at the center of our economic and foreign policy, while strengthening our ties with allies and partners for the purpose of increasing shared prosperity and for the purpose of defining the coming decades for technological innovation in the global economy -- especially in the most vital region for the coming decades, the Indo-Pacific.

The President will launch PEF in Tokyo, Japan, on Monday. And joining him for that launch will be the initial PEF partner countries. They are as follows: Australia, Brunei, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Alongside the United States, that's 13 countries launching this -- a baker's dozen.

But, of course, as we've also indicated from the start, this is an open platform. So there are other countries that could conceivably join us as we move forward.

Together, this very diverse set of economies represent around 40 percent of global GDP. And the fact that we have such a range and a significant number of partner countries in on the ground floor for the launch reflects the far-reaching ambition of the framework and also indicates that there's deep interest across the region in it. You've got major economies, emerging economies, economies with which we have free trade agreements, and others for which this will be the United States' first economic negotiation.

And that diversity of members is consistent with both the vision of PEF and consonant with the fact that the four-pillar structure that we've built has flexibility and creativity designed into it so that we can, in fact, accommodate this diverse range of countries.

One more thing, just to say on the membership: We believe that we're heading into this launch with a really significant amount of momentum, really, especially coming out of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit that the President hosted just a few days ago. It was at that summit that he had the opportunity to really share his vision for this framework with key leaders in ASEAN. And we are proud that seven ASEAN countries have joined with many of our other close partners in the region as part of PEF.

PEF is a 21st century economic arrangement designed to tackle 21st century economic challenges, ranging from setting the rules of the road for the digital economy, to ensuring secure and resilient supply chains, to helping make the kinds of major investments necessary in clean energy infrastructure and the clean energy transition, to raising standards for transparency, fair taxation, and anti-corruption.

We believe that expanding U.S. economic leadership in the Indo-Pacific through vehicles like PEF is good for America -- American workers and businesses as well as for the people in the region.

With 60 percent of the world's population, the Indo-Pacific is projected to be the largest contributor to global growth over the next 30 years. And trade with the Indo-Pacific supports more than 3 million American jobs, as well as being the source of nearly \$900 billion in foreign direct investment in the United States -- (inaudible) global economic growth.

And the United States, for our part, is an Indo-Pacific economic power. Foreign direct investment in the region from the United States totaled more than \$969 billion in 2020 and has nearly doubled in the last decade.

And the United States is the primary exporter of services to the region, which in turn not only fuels regional growth and prosperity and greater security, but it also supports American jobs at home.

That being said, we and our partners in the region agree that much in the coming decades will depend on how well governments harness innovation, especially the transformations underway in clean energy and the digital and technology sectors, while at the same time fortifying our economies from a range of threats from fragile supply chains, to corruption, to tax havens.

The fact is that past models did not address these challenges -- or did not address them fully and take them head on -- leaving our workers, businesses, and consumers more vulnerable. So we believe that we need a new model that we can move on quickly to, in fact, take these challenges head on, and that's what PEF will do.

We've spent months engaging with major partners in the region. And the broad participation is a reflection of that investment of time and effort and energy, as well as with organized labor, the business community, bipartisan members of Congress and other key stakeholders to chart the way forward.

Just a couple of more points before I turned to my colleagues -- in terms of diving into the four pillars of PEF.

One, the fact that this is not a traditional free trade agreement is a feature of PEF not a bug. There are free trade traditionalists who have raised questions about it. Our fundamental view is that the new landscape and the new challenges we face need a new approach, and we will shape the substance of this effort together with our partners.

Second is that PEF should be seen both as a coherent whole; it is a vision of the modern economy and the way to get -- it's a way to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of that economy. But it also -- it should also be seen as an opportunity to drive initiatives, in part.

So, for example, if we can rapidly develop an early warning system for critical supply chains, we will not wait until all of PEF is complete to roll that out and move forward on it. So different elements of this could end up moving at different speeds, even as all of the pieces will end up fitting into a larger integrated framework.

Finally -- and I think this is really critical -- this is a foundational element of our overall strategy towards the Indo-Pacific. We believe that PEF brings shape and coherence to the economic pillar of our Indo-Pacific strategy. We think it sets us up for success in helping to shape the future of the region in a way that produces a region that is free, open, connected, resilient, and secure.

We all know that economics is a critical part of succeeding with any strategy in the Indo-Pacific region. And we see PEF as a vital platform for our engagement and a

chance, alongside all of the other ways in which we have elevated our engagement in the Indo-Pacific, to put our stamp on this critical region for decades to come, and to ensure that American leadership delivers good outcomes for our people and for all the people in the region.

So, with those opening framing comments, let me turn it over to Secretary Raimondo. Thanks.

SECRETARY RA MONDO: Thank you, Jake. And thank you, everybody, for joining us on the call this evening. So I will add on with a few more points to what Jake said.

But I'll begin by saying just how excited we are for the launch tomorrow of this Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. As Jake said, it consists of 13 countries, which account for 40 percent of global GDP. And on top of that, it includes some of the world's fastest-growing, most dynamic economies.

It is -- it is, by any account, the most significant international economic engagement that the United States has ever had in this region. And the launch of it tomorrow, here in Tokyo, marks an important turning point in restoring U.S. economic leadership in the region and presenting Indo-Pacific countries an alternative to China's approach to these critical issues.

Since I've been Commerce Secretary, I have heard over and over again from the U.S. business community that they will benefit from -- they and their employees will benefit from the U.S. restoring and re-exerting economic leadership in the region -- an increasingly important region to U.S. businesses.

And there is also a strong demand signal coming from the region. We hear over and over again in the Indo-Pacific region that there is a desire for U.S. economic leadership and for the U.S. to have a proactive economic vision and economic agenda.

As Jake said, this framework is intentionally designed not to be a "same old, same old" traditional trade agreement. But it's designed as a more innovative and flexible approach, designed to reflect the fact that our economies have changed. The most pressing issues that we need to tackle with our allies have changed, and we need a new approach going forward if we're going to meet the needs of our citizens.

So, by focusing on economic priorities that affect all of our economies, this framework is designed to reflect the shared realities we face, which is climate change; the opportunity and challenges presented by moving, meeting the need of climate change and the opportunity of clean tech jobs; supply chain disruptions; and the need for a better-coordinated, high-tech manufacturing economy.

As Jake said, there are four pillars in the framework. The Department of Commerce will be leading three of the four pillars, which is: the supply chain resiliency pillar, clean energy and decarbonization pillar, and tax and anti-corruption.

Just very quickly on each one. On supply chains, I think we all have seen how -- the cost of supply chains that aren't resilient. And COVID exposes incredible economic costs of insufficient supply chain resilience.

We saw -- frankly, we continue to say all the ways that bottlenecks and lack of

transparency in the Indo-Pacific cause ripple effects throughout the United States economy, hurting workers and driving inflation. And, you know, we've learned that "just in time" leaves much to be desired.

I would say if we had had this Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and the agreement therein in place before COVID, I think we could have experienced much less disruption.

For example, during COVID, we saw semiconductor packaging operations in Malaysia be closed on account of COVID outbreaks. The result of that was thousands of workers were put out of work in Michigan auto-manufacturing plants. And if we had had more transparency, more communication, more data-sharing, and an early alert system, that may not have happened. And the workers who were furloughed in a Michigan plant would not have experienced that.

So, in PEF, we are seeking to develop a first-of-its-kind supply chain agreement that better anticipates, predicts, and, importantly, prevents disruptions in supply chains.

On the clean energy and infrastructure pillar, we all know jobs of the future are going to be in clean tech manufacturing and innovation, and so we want to work with partners in this agreement to view clean energy as a driver of job creation and economic growth. And to support this pillar, we will be signing agreements to pursue concrete, high-ambition commitments such as renewable energy targets, carbon removal purchasing commitments, energy efficiency standards, and new measures to combat methane emissions.

And finally, the third pillar Commerce is leading on is the tax and anti-corruption. And we're going to be working to ensure everybody plays by the same set of rules, because corruption is a huge drag on everyone's economy. And we're going to be seeking commitments to enact and enforce effective tax, anti-money laundering, anti-bribery schemes in line with our values.

So, I guess I'll just close by saying: This is an exciting time. I want to thank all of our partner countries for working with us. I'm looking forward -- tomorrow is the beginning; I'm anxious to begin and get to work and discuss the next steps ahead as we negotiate the specific terms and develop the details of this framework and, you know, establishing a new approach to regional economic engagement.

This has never been done before, in terms of the ambition and inclusivity across a broad range of regional partners. And I'm confident that there'll be benefits for U.S. businesses.

And I would say, especially as businesses are beginning to increasingly look for alternatives to China, the countries in the Indo-Pacific Framework will be more reliable partners for U.S. businesses.

So we're excited to get going and develop a framework that will be durable and beneficial for American businesses and workers.

And with that, I will turn it over to my partner in this endeavor, Ambassador Katherine Tai.

AMBASSADOR TA : Thank you so much, Gina. I will spend some time to talk about the trade pillar. From day one of his administration, President Biden has been clear that we have to rethink what trade policy can be in the 21st century and that it must benefit more people.

For decades, trade policy was often reduced to a zero-sum game that left many of our workers behind. And that is why we are designing trade policies that aim to deliver real economic prosperity and advance our global priorities, like combating climate change, protecting labor rights, and building resilient supply chains. These issues are not mutually exclusive; we can and must do both.

Over the last several months, USTR, the NSC, and the Department of Commerce have worked with our trading partners, members of Congress, and a diverse range of stakeholders on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework that the President will launch tomorrow.

At its core, the Economic Framework will link major economies and emerging ones to tackle 21st century challenges and promote fair and resilient trade for years to come. At the same time, it will be designed to adapt to address barriers and obstacles that may arise in the future as well.

You heard Gina describe three of the pillars. And I'll walk through the details of the trade pillar that USTR will lead in order to create a more connected and resilient economy.

We will work with our PEF partners on a wide range of trade issues, including the digital economy and emerging technology, labor commitments, the environment, trade facilitation, transparency and good regulatory practices, and corporate accountability.

The digital economy in particular best represents an area where we need to work with our PEF partners, given the prominent role it plays in today's global marketplace and how it affects our workers, our consumers, and our businesses. And that's why we will address issues in the digital economy that will help build connectivity and trust between key markets, including standards on cross-border data flows and data localizations.

We will also work with our partners to address other digital concerns such as online privacy, discriminatory and unethical use of artificial intelligence.

Collectively, the trade pillar will unlock enormous economic value, including for small- and medium-sized businesses that historically have not benefited from trade agreements as much as their large counterparts have.

We also intend to pursue an accelerated implementation of the World Trade Organization's Trade Facilitation Agreement, which will also address and improve the movement of goods across borders. We will see commitments with PEF partners that facilitate agricultural trade through science-based decision making and the adoption of sound, transparent regulatory practices. This will help our farmers, our ranchers, and our fishers gain certainty for getting their products to the region.

While these provisions will help promote inclusive economic prosperity, we also want



this framework be part of our broader strategy to make trade a race to the top. And that is why the PEF will pursue an agenda for setting strong labor and environmental standards and corporate accountability provisions.

In raising regional standards, we can set an example for the rest of the world to follow, which in turn helps all of our workers and communities. Our aim is for the PEF to address the challenges in the 21st century global economy.

Tomorrow begins the next chapter of our collaboration with our key partners in the region.

I look forward to convening our partners in the months ahead in a range of forms. We will continue to work with stakeholders, as we have done for the last several months, to ensure a diverse range of interests and concerns are represented.

We will work with members of Congress in both parties.

And, of course, we will make frequent trips to the Indo-Pacific to engage leaders in this region and continue our discussions to create a fairer, more resilient economy for families, workers, and business in the United States and here in the Indo-Pacific.

This is truly a team effort. And I'm grateful to Jake Sullivan and Secretary Raimondo for their work in bringing this framework to life. We believe it will deliver on the President's vision of trade policy that promotes widespread economic growth and advances our shared global priorities. And I'm excited to continue to keep all of you updated on our progress as we move forward.

Thank you.

MR. PATE : Thanks so much. We will move into taking some folks' questions. As a reminder, this call is on the record, but it is embargoed until 4:15 Japan Standard Time tomorrow, May 23th.

So with that, why don't we start with Nancy Cook at Bloomberg.

Q Hi, thank you so much for doing the call. I appreciate it. Just an overview question. You know, you talked a lot in the call about the commitments that you're going to seek for these -- for countries to join this agreement. Are there any requirements? Like, are you requiring participants to do anything? Or is it really, like, suggestions and recommendations and commitments that you're seeking?

Really, I'm asking: Are there binding things or non-binding things?

SECRETARY RA MONDO: So, this is Secretary Raimondo. I would say there will certainly be -- like any other agreement, it will be a negotiation at which will -- which will, you know, begin post-launch. So after tomorrow, we'll spend the next -- you know, the weeks ahead, scoping out each pillar.

But, yes, there will be firm commitments. There will be signed agreements. And like any agreement, you know, we plan to have high-standard commitments that will be enforceable.

Now, also, like any agreement, I would say the greatest enforcement is that if you don't hold up your end of the bargain, you don't receive the benefits. And so there will be incentives to go ahead and live up to the commitments that will be part of the agreement.

Q Just to follow up, Secretary Raimondo: But tomorrow -- like, what you're unveiling tomorrow, there are not commitments in place at this point. There are not, like, binding things. Those are going to be negotiated moving forward. Is that right?

SECRETARY RA MONDO: Yep. Yes, exactly. Tomorrow is the beginning. Tomorrow -- tomorrow is the starting gate.

It's incredible that we have, you know, a dozen countries signed up to this. But, yes, tomorrow we begin the negotiations. And we will, in the weeks and months ahead, define precisely the details -- exactly what's in each pillar and what each country will be committing to and signing up for.

MR. PATE : Great, thanks so much.

Next, let's go to Peter Baker with the New York Times.

Q Hi there. Thanks for doing the call, especially for doing it on the record. Could you just outline for us a little bit more about what was wrong with the TPP negotiated by the Obama-Biden administration, that we're not getting back into it and that you're trying to distinguish this from? In other words, what's the big difference?

And what is the incentive for countries in the region that want market access and tariff reductions but don't seem to be getting it as part of this agreement?

AMBASSADOR TA : Hi, Peter. This is Katherine Tai. So let me take your question first and see if the others want to join in after.

With respect to TPP, I think that the biggest problem with it was that we did not have the support at home to get it through. If you look back at the years 2015 and 2016, and despite Herculean efforts, it could not be gotten through Congress. And then, in 2017, it was President Trump who took the United States out of it.

I think that there's a very, very strong lesson there: that TPP, as it was envisioned, ultimately was something that was quite fragile and that the United States was not able to deliver on. And that informs very much our thinking about bringing the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, as it's designed here, to the region -- which is that trade is an important component of this, but not the only component. So that we are bringing in more robust and comprehensive approach to our partners in this region.

There has been a lot of swirl about the fact that there is not tariff liberalization incorporated into the scope of what we are engaging on here. And I think that also goes to the fact that the kinds of trade agreements, the traditional ones that we've done before, are very much a part of the practice that has brought us to where we are, both in terms of the fragility of where that trajectory has taken us.

But also, if you look at the world economy today, just as I -- have arrived in Tokyo from the APEC meetings in Bangkok. And of all of the counterparts that I had the chance to speak with in depth, each one of them reiterated for me that their priorities in their economic policymaking, including in trade, are to promote an economic recovery that advances resilience, sustainability, and inclusion for their economies.

And they're looking for engagement, especially from us, around a vision for trade and economic engagement that will reinforce those priorities, given where we are in the global economy and a couple of very, very turbulent years that we're all still working to recover from.

Q And then, just to be clear then, the thing that made it -- TPP -- no good was it wasn't able to be delivered, you couldn't get it through Congress. Are these agreements that will come out of this process agreements that will go to Congress at some point?

AMBASSADOR TA : Peter, on that, let me say this: I think that the robust stakeholder engagement that you are hearing all of us talk about -- stakeholders throughout our economy, expanding the table for engagement with our stakeholders, engaging with our traditional stakeholders -- we can't -- they have to be part of the solution and part of our engagement.

But bringing to the table and ensuring that other stakeholders, like our workers, like our environmental organizations, the ones who are the smartest about climate and the policy solutions that we need, that they have premier seats at the table and that they will be influencing and shaping the policies that we create.

Our trading partners, our members of Congress -- along the way, this engagement is designed for maximum supportability and durability because, ultimately, we know that this engagement is something that we need to stick for our partners and for our stakeholders at home in this region.

Q All right, I'm confused. Does Congress vote on these agreements or not?

AMBASSADOR TA : Let's see where these negotiations take us, and let's see where the discussions go. But along the way, we have to keep -- regardless, we have to keep Congress close, and Congress needs to be a part of shaping what we do with our partners here.

MR. PATE : Thanks so much. Let's try to limit our follow-ups so we can get through as many of our colleagues as we can.

Next, let's go to Asma Khalid from NPR.

Q Hey, thank you guys for doing this. I had two quick questions. And one, I know, Jake, you touched on, actually, earlier a bit about Taiwan. But if I could just get clarity here on the record about why Taiwan was not a part of this initial grouping of countries or self-governed democracies -- whatever you want to call Taiwan -- given its role in supply chains.

And then the follow-up question is something that I also wanted to get clarity on --

And then the follow up question is something that I also wanted to get clarity on -- believe Nancy touched on -- around the incentives for countries to join. Can you articulate at all what those incentives are? Or have they not been, I guess, decided upon yet since negotiations haven't begun with various countries?

MR. SUZUKI: I'll make a couple of comments but then invite both Secretary Raimondo and Ambassador Tai, particularly on the second question. And Ambassador Tai should speak to the first one as well because she just met with her counterpart.

But I would just say that we intend to pursue a deeper bilateral engagement with Taiwan on trade and economic matters in the coming days and weeks. And we think that that track can help strengthen both of our economies while we're also pursuing PEF with the countries that we listed. And we think it puts us in the best position for us to be able to enhance our economic partnership with Taiwan and also to carry PEF forward with this diverse range of countries.

Just briefly on what the U.S. has to bring to the table: I'd just start by saying that, you know, the premise of the question is that without market access, you know, countries wouldn't be really interested. Well, we've got an incredible range of countries who've signed up to this, including some with whom we haven't had meaningful economic negotiations before.

So why is that? One reason is because having the opportunity to work closely with the United States on rules and standards; on greater clarity and transparency and coordination on supply chains; on innovation, as it applies to the digital economy and the decarbonization; on technical expertise; on anti-corruption matters and taxation; on investment in infrastructure and in growing businesses, both foreign direct investment in the U.S. where we have a huge market to offer people for that and the enormous investment we're making in the region -- the United States is going to be a partner of choice on all of the elements of this framework, even setting aside the question of traditional tariff liberalization.

And so we think we bring a huge amount to the table. And we think that proposition has been validated by the fact that we've gotten such an overwhelming and broad-scale response from, you know, the Indian subcontinent, to Down Under, to Southeast Asia, to Northeast Asia.

And let me stop there and see if Katherine or Gina has anything they want to add.

SECRETARY RAIMONDO: No, I think that's exactly right. You know, I would just offer additionally, having spent time in the region, the demand to have the United States increasingly present economically is so strong, which is why, as Jake said, you know, a dozen countries have decided to join us tomorrow for the launch.

You know, so, broadly, there is a strong desire to have U.S. businesses, the United States government engaged in the region.

Now, if you're asking for kind of a list of specific issues, you know, it's everything from trade facilitation -- which, by the way, you know, we talk about there are non-tariff barriers, which often can be, you know, more expensive than tariffs, which -- so, one, you know, we'll have trade facilitation, as Katherine mentioned earlier; we'll work together on technology standards to promote interoperable internet and other kinds of standards.

mean, the Commerce Department sets standards in technology. If you're -- if you don't set standards in a way that allows your company to participate, you're out of -- out of business, you know? So that's a binary.

Decarbonization of key industries.

Capital. You know, we expect that for the infrastructure pillar, there will be sources of public and private capital flowing from the United States into the region; you know, into infrastructure projects in countries in the region.

So, anyway, the list is long. But think that there will be, you know, a very concrete benefit to countries in the region.

By the way, just today, you know, you see reporting that Apple is looking to boost production outside of China. And many companies -- many U.S. companies are looking to diversify away from China. Well, countries -- Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia -- that are actually signed up and in the Indo-Pacific Framework will obviously have an advantage to get that business from American companies, because they will have signed up to be the high-standard agreement that we plan to sign pursuant to the PEF.

So think once we get underway, the concrete benefits are going to become pretty clear.

AMBASSADOR TA : This is Katherine Tai. Let me just say very, very quickly -- on the Taiwan question, I did just meet Minister John Deng in Bangkok. And we had a great conversation. It was a really, really encouraging and really dynamic meeting that we had.

And coming out of the conversation we had -- think this was just two days ago -- both Minister Deng and I have committed that our teams would be in touch and that we'd be in touch in the next couple of weeks. So please stay tuned for that.

In terms of the tariff question -- again, the tariff liberalization, let me just put an additional point, add on to what -- all of the great examples that Gina has just provided, which is: You know, in our trade policies, our trade experiences and trade relationships, we have so many examples of situations where there are no tariffs between us and another country. And yet, you know, we have farmers who can't get, for example, a single potato across the border and into the other market.

And so, I just want to reinforce Secretary Raimondo's point that, in terms of economic value, we're looking at connectivity and we're offering a program relating to connectivity for our stakeholders. And that goes beyond tariffs.

In fact, average bound tariff MFN for the United States right now is 2.4 percent. That's very low. In terms of where the value is that is left to be unlocked in the global economy right now, it is in the areas where we are engaging through this framework.

MR. PATE : Thanks so much. I think we have time for one last question before our speakers have to head to another commitment.

Why don't we go next to Trevor Hunnicutt with Reuters.

O Thank you for taking the question. That's a quick one. Jake said that this is an

open architecture arrangement. Does that mean that it's open to all countries in the region, regardless of how they perform on indices of economic freedom and democracy? And what role do you see China potentially playing in this in the future?

MR. SU VAN: So think one of the things we will do on a going-forward basis with addi- -- in terms of additional members is work with the other countries that are now in -- with the founding partners, so to speak -- to determine both the process and criteria by which to add additional members.

And it won't just be if you raise your hand, you're automatically in. But we also want to maintain a proposition of inclusivity and diversity of economies.

So the short answer is that we will not dictate, just as the United States, who comes in going forward, but we'll have to work that with our partners. And that will be part of those initial discussions that Secretary Raimondo referred to. But that will immediately follow from the launch event tomorrow.

Oh, and on China, just broadly speaking, those -- the -- what just said would apply to that case.

MR. PATE : Thank you so much. As a reminder to everybody, this call was on the record, but it is under embargo until tomorrow at 4:15 Japan Standard Time. Again, until 4:15 tomorrow, May 23rd, Japan Standard Time.

Thanks so much, everyone, for joining and a special thanks to our speakers. And we'll all be in touch again over the course of this trip.

7:49 P.M. JST

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Readout of National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Call with National Security Advisor Kim Sung-han of the Republic of Korea  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 24, 2022 11:12 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 24, 2022

**Readout of National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Call with National Security Advisor Kim Sung-han of the Republic of Korea**

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke by phone today with Republic of Korea (ROK) National Security Advisor Kim Sung-han to discuss the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) recent launch of three ballistic missiles. They both condemned the DPRK's destabilizing ballistic missile tests and committed to continue building on their close coordination. Mr. Sullivan also reaffirmed the United States' steadfast commitment to the defense of the ROK.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NSC Press Statement on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Phone Call with Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 26, 2022 4:07 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 26, 2022

**NSC Press Statement on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Phone Call with Croatian Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic**

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke by phone today with Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic of Croatia. They underscored their strong commitment to continue supporting Ukraine in response to Russia's unprovoked military aggression. Mr. Sullivan conveyed U.S. support for Croatia's efforts to help neighboring countries diversify their energy supplies away from Russian sources, including via the expansion of the liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at Krk. They also exchanged views on stability in the Western Balkans.

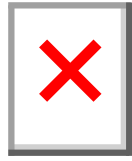
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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Fiji Joining the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 26, 2022 10:44 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 26, 2022

**Statement by National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on Fiji Joining the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity**

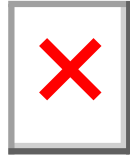
President Biden welcomes Fiji's decision to join the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) as a founding member, the 14<sup>th</sup> nation and first in the Pacific Islands to do so. IPEF now reflects the full regional diversity of the Indo-Pacific, with members from Northeast and Southeast Asia, South Asia, Oceania, and the Pacific Islands. Across geography, we are united in our commitment to a free, open, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. A close partner to the United States and a leader in the region, Fiji will add vital value and perspective to IPEF, including on our efforts to tackle the climate crisis and build a clean economy that creates good paying jobs. The future of the 21st century economy is going to be largely written in the Indo-Pacific, and IPEF will help to drive sustainable growth for all our economies. The United States thanks Prime Minister Bainimarama, and we look forward to deepening our partnership for the benefit of our countries, the Pacific Islands, and the Indo-Pacific.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Call with Ibrahim Kalin, Spokesperson and Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 30, 2022 5:16 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 30, 2022

**Statement by NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Call with Ibrahim Kalin, Spokesperson and Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey**

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke by phone today with Dr. Ibrahim Kalin, Spokesperson and Chief Advisor to the President of Turkey. They discussed their ongoing support for Ukraine in the face of Russia's continued aggression, as well as their respective efforts to enable Ukrainian agricultural exports to reach global markets. Mr. Sullivan expressed support for Turkey's continued direct talks with Sweden and Finland to resolve concerns over their applications for NATO membership, which the U.S. strongly supports. He also reiterated the importance of refraining from escalation in Syria to preserve existing ceasefire lines and avoid any further destabilization. Finally, Mr. Sullivan urged continued dialogue and diplomacy to resolve any disagreements in the eastern Mediterranean region.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Joint Statement on the Meeting of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Consultative Group  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 1, 2022 3:31 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 1, 2022

**Joint Statement on the Meeting of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Consultative Group**

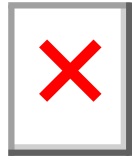
On May 31, 2022, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Israeli National Security Advisor Dr. Eyal Hulata convened a meeting at the White House of the U.S.-Israel Strategic Consultative Group (SCG). They were joined by senior representatives from their respective foreign policy, defense, and intelligence agencies. The officials committed to coordinate on efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and toward deterring Iran's aggressive regional activities. They also discussed economic and diplomatic steps to achieve these goals and reviewed ongoing cooperation between the U.S. and Israeli militaries. The U.S. and Israeli officials committed that, working toward the same goal, they will remain in close coordination on the full range of issues of mutual interest and to remain united against all threats to their national security.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement by NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Call with Baltic Allies  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 1, 2022 5:53 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 1, 2022

**Statement by NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Call with Baltic Allies**

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan spoke by phone today with counterparts from our Baltic Allies to discuss European security in light of Russia's war in Ukraine. Mr. Sullivan underscored the ironclad U.S. commitment to NATO's Article 5. Participants discussed joint efforts to strengthen our collective defense and security, as well as preparations for the June 29-30 NATO Summit in Madrid.

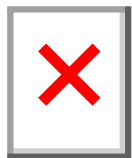
Participants in today's call included Kęstutis Budrys, Chief Security Advisor to the Lithuanian President; Asta Skaisgirytė, Chief Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Lithuanian President; Māris Ceperītis, National Security Advisor to the Latvian Prime Minister; Jānis Kapociņš, National Security Advisor to the Latvian President; and Indrek Sirp, Director for National Security and Defense for the Estonian Prime Minister.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, June 1, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 2, 2022 11:40 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 2, 2022

PRESS BRIEFING  
BY PRESS SECRETARY KARINE JEAN-PIERRE

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

(June 1, 2022)

4:09 P.M. EDT

MS. JEAN-PIERRE: Hello. Good afternoon. Oh my, it's four o'clock. Oh my. So, no BTS today, but you do have KJP. (laughter.) Thank you. Thanks, Peter. worked on that.

Okay, let me see. Yes, okay. So there are two graphs behind me. What -- basically, what they show is more supplies being sold on the market compared to a year ago. So -- and this is without Abbott being in the market right now, clearly. And we've seen a lot of progress happening, as you can see, in 2022 compared to 2021, and as you can see up here as well.

And so -- and that's due to our actions here at the White House and just across the administration. So, obviously, we admit that there is still a lot more work to be done, but you do see some progress -- some significant progress.

So, today, the President hosted a roundtable with infant formula manufacturers -- including ByHeart, Bubs Australia, Reckitt, Perrigo, and Gerber -- to receive updates on their progress in increasing the supply of formula.

Additionally, the President announced two new Operation Fly Formula missions. Beginning June 9th, United Airlines will air -- will airship the equivalent of approximately 3.7 million eight-ounces bottles of Kendamil infant formula. This is the first Operation Fly Formula flight donated by an airline carrier.

Also starting June 9th, Bubs Australia will transport the equivalent of 4.6 million eight-ounce bottles of formula. This is the first shipment of 27.5 million bottles that Bubs Australia plans to export to the U.S.

These shipments are not -- are on top of the 1.5 ~~trillion~~ [million] bottles of formula transported in the first two Operation Fly Formula flights.

These actions build on other important actions to ensure there is enough safe infant formula for families. And the President has been clear he will pull every lever to get more safe infant formula to American families.

Tomorrow, the President will join a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Stoltenberg and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan at the White House. They will discuss preparations for the NATO Summit in Madrid at the end of June and the strength of our transatlantic alliance.

We will have a readout after the meeting for tomorrow.

And also, this is June 1st. As we all know, it is the first day of Pride Month. This month, the Biden administra- -- Biden-Harris administration will be spotlighting the voices of LGBTQ + people across America, especially children and families.

The President had made clear that the proliferation of hateful and discriminatory bills targeting kids in classrooms and families in their homes are simply bullying.

So, this Pride Month, we will be focused on protecting, uplifting, and supporting LGBTQ + kids and families.

This month, you can expect to see the President and his administration reiterating calls on Congress to pass the Equality Act, agencies across the administration and embassies around the world raising Pride flags to celebrate our commitment to equality, Cabinet members meeting with LGBTQ + families and community leaders, the White House fighting back against the onslaught of anti- LGBTQ + legislation we're seeing just across the country.

President Biden has always been a champion for families, and that includes LGBTQ + families. We are proud of the historic progress this administration has taken to ensure everyone, no matter who they are or whom they love, has an equal place in our country. And we are excited to keep building on those actions this Pride Month and beyond.

One final thing, which is very hard to say but 'm very excited about this as well for

our friend here, Vedant: would be remiss not to mention that it is our very own Assistant Press Secretary Vedant Patel's last day here at the White House.

I'm sure many of you know and have had the pleasure of working with Vedant, but for those who haven't: He has been with us since day one of the Biden campaign and also the Biden-Harris administration. While -- while here, he has worked in very -- on very important issues -- areas including climate, immigration, and education.

I cannot stress enough how integral Vedant has been to our team. He's been a rockstar. He's going to be incredibly missed. He is a true talent, an excellent communicator, a gifted writer, and a wonderful coworker and friend.

and the rest of the press team will miss him dearly, but we know that he's on to better and bigger things as he moves over to the State Department -- so he's not going very far -- as the Principal Deputy Spokesperson.

We are so proud of you, Vedant. We will miss you terribly, and we cannot wait to see you at State. And congratulations to you, my friend.

MR. PATE : Thank you.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Okay, with that, go ahead, Zeke.

Q Thanks, Karine. After U.S. intelligence assessed that Mohammed bin Salman, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, was behind the killing of U.S. journalist Jamal Khashoggi, the President said he'd -- came out and said he'd make Saudi Arabia pay a price and a pariah. There's a report today that the President plans to visit Saudi Arabia, including having a meeting with that Crown Prince. How is that consistent with making Saudi Arabia pay a price or turning it to a pariah?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Let me just say first: His -- his words still stand.

The President's words -- what you just laid out is -- still stands today. I don't have a visit to preview. I don't have a trip to announce, so there's nothing for me to just lay out for you at this time.

Q I'm just wondering, though, what price did Saudi -- has Saudi Arabia paid already for the killing of that journalist that the President -- that would then turn around -- the President would reward them with a visit to that country?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I hear you, Zeke, but I don't have -- I don't even have a visit to announce or to preview at this time. So there's really no discussion to have because I don't have a visit to even talk through at this time.

Q But, right now, the President believes Saudi Arabia should be a pariah. That -- those -- his words from then still stand, given its actions?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I'm saying that that has not changed. The President's words still stand. But you're also asking me if there's a trip being announced or a trip to preview; I just don't have one at this time.

Q And changing gears to the --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, sure.

Q -- event that was just held in the South Court and the meeting with formula executives. One after another executive said they knew immediately, within hours or days of the shutdown of that Abbott plant, the magnitude of the crisis facing the U.S. baby infant formula industry was going to face -- that supply crunch that we all saw play out over the last several months.

The President, though, said he didn't -- wasn't informed about that until April --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So --

Q -- and then waited a full month to invoke the Defense Production Act and begin Operation Fly Formula, which we're starting to see affect the marketplace now. So what this -- the reason for the disconnect there? And is he going to hold anyone accountable?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So let me just lay a timeline for you of what we have talked about before, but 'm happy to reiterate at this time.

So, we have been working on this issue since day one of the recall. The recall happened on February 17th. On February 18th, USDA issued detailed guidance to states on how to seek waivers in their W- -C -- W C programs. We know directly from companies this is one of the most important areas for action to be taken from the government.

And this month, we are building on that work, with last week's announcement urging states to cut all W C red tape. So, that actually happened -- this is June 1st, so that happened in May.

Also, importantly, agencies have been working closely with manufacturers to help them optimize process and boost production, which just showed on these graphics that were behind me just a second ago. Because of quick action and it is not to -- it is not by accident, today there is more infant formula coming off factory production lines in the U.S. than before the Abbott factory recall. That wouldn't happen without -- without the work that we have done.

For the last three months, the FDA has also been working with retailers to impose purchasing limits to prevent the possibility of hoarding.

And just to take a step back, so we -- so just to remind folks how we got here: You know, we are in this position because there were safety concerns at an Abbott facility. The scientists and the experts at FDA have been working around the clock, 24/7, to come to an agreement, but, ultimately, have to ensure its facility meets their standards for the American people.

And as Califf said last week, the FDA has been clear they need to look into how we got here, how this all happened. So, he is calling for an after-action report. And so, that is something that the FDA has said last week during their oversight hearings.

Q You said -- and, sorry, know it's a lot from me -- but does the President want



to see an after-action report about how this building responded to that? Because he wasn't informed until April.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, look, let me just say that the President is frustrated, himself, about the situation, about the issue that we have on beha- -- and he's frustrated on behalf of the American families.

And so, we are doing -- he is doing everything that he can to make sure that we take action. And we have been doing that 24/7 to make sure that we --

He gets what families are going through, how hard it is right now for many families to feed their infant, to feed their child. And so, this is something that he's not taking very lightly. You heard from him, you saw him meeting with the manufacturers. And so, we're going to continue to work around the clock to get this done.

Go ahead.

Q So you -- February 17th was the recall. February 18th, FDA issued instructions to states. et's -- let's -- can we continue that through April? When did somebody call the White House to say, "This is a problem; you guys may need to get involved"?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, could say that, again, the recall happened on the -- day -- day one of the recall, we took action as a whole-of-government approach -- right? -- with FDA, USDA, as just laid out.

And the President understands -- again, he understands how difficult this is. He understands how challenging this is, and we have acknowledged that. He understands that this is the job of the President to be able to multitask, to get things done, especially when it comes to making sure that your child gets healthy -- healthy food.

Q Okay, but, again --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: And so, that is what --

Q Mid-February, April --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: That is what we've been doing.

Q When was someone called here at the White House to say, "This could be an issue that requires presidential involvement"?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, don't have the timeline on that. All can tell you, as a whole-of-government approach, we have been working on this since the recall in February.

Q The independent regulatory agency, the FDA, the one that questions have been referred to in the past, is now being embraced as "whole-of-government." et's point that out here.

The other thing: Why wasn't Abbott invited today?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Oh, well, because Abbott, as we know, they agreed on a path to

safely reopen the Sturgis facility after safety concerns that FDA called -- called them out on.

So look, we understand Abbott is working hard to get back to safely making infant formula. That process is ongoing and should remain between them. And we are encouraged by the progress they've made. Today is about progress and action we can take to ramp up right now.

But want to -- you know, do -- need to say this, and want to lay this out: look, this meeting was focused on ramping up production and availability of safe infant formula to American families. That is what matters.

We have to remember what FDA did was to make sure that families were getting food that was safe for -- for their kids. That is important. And that's what matters. That's why we showed the chart, to show where we are today compared to a year ago.

So, increasing production here at home and importing high-quality formula from abroad. We are working with many manufacturers. The companies joining today represent a sub- -- a subset of companies working with the administration to increase on supply, whether it be through the DPA, which is something that we know that the President called on; Operation Fly Formula; and FDA's ~~importance~~ [importation] guidance.

And so, the actions are making a difference. And so, just want to make sure that we see what this administration has done -- this whole-of-government approach.

Q But you all can understand that -- you're doing this now on June 1. If he knew about --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, we have been do- --

Q -- this in April --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, no, no. We have been doing this -- a whole-of-government approach since -- since the recall.

Q Yeah, but the Defense Production Act --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: That is what -- and it's not.

Q -- wasn't invoked until last month.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Because we had to make sure --

Q That's what got things moving.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: We had to make sure and really look into what would work and what was the best direction to move forward. That's what -- we have talked about, we have talked to you all every day -- every day that we can about each step that we're taking, whether it's the Defense Production Act or whether it's the Operation Fly Formula.

So, every step of the way, we've explained why we've taken these steps. We've explained what the process has been to take -- to take on these certain items. And so, this is -- this is what we've been doing. And we have been working on this 24/7. And we have seen an increase of production.

The President met with manufacturers today. He met with manufacturers two weeks ago. And so, we have been working very hard to make sure that American families out there who have children are getting what they need. Whether it's a mom, a dad, whether it's a caregiver -- are getting safe -- safe and healthy products, food to their children.

Go ahead.

Q Just to put a finer point on that: is it my understanding that what you're saying is that even if the President had known sooner, before April, that your response would have been exactly the same?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I'm not saying when the President knew or didn't know. He spoke --

Q But he -- but he said --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I know. He spoke to that himself, so I'm going to let that stand. I am saying that we have been working on this -- we, as a whole-of-government approach, have been working on this since the recall, which was in February. That is what I'm saying.

I'm talking about internally, not just the agencies, not just FDA, USDA, but also internally. We have been working on this for months -- for months. And we have taken this incredibly seriously and have been in this briefing room and the President has spoke to this on -- on his own about the different steps that we have taken. And we've also laid out a timeline for you all so that you know what -- the steps that we have done.

Q It sounds like you're saying, though, even if the President had known sooner, would that have made a difference?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, that's not what I'm saying. I'm saying that we have been working on this since we have found out -- we found out about the recall, since day one. That is what I'm laying out to all of you as a timeline. That is what it's important here to know -- that, as a whole-of-government approach, we have taken this on since the first day that we learned about the recall.

Q Okay. On another topic here again, can you explain just a little bit more the President's role in these ongoing negotiations over gun reform legislation? Because, yesterday, you said the President would get involved "when helpful." A short while ago, he told us that he has been involved. So can you just sort of explain --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, I mean --

Q -- kind of, how does he view his role as these talks are ongoing?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, I mean, a couple of things: He has been involved. He has been involved since day one of his administration, since calling on Congress to take

action.

Just this past two weeks, he went to -- he went to Buffalo to grieve with the family, to make sure that he listened, and they had a conversation with the family -- right? -- because it was so important to him to do that, to console them, to hear from them. He went to Texas on Sunday to do the same.

He's spoken about this from his -- the first -- the first joint -- his first joint address to Congress. That was last year. He spoke about this in -- in the Rose Garden when he talked about his comprehensive gun reform -- the executive actions that he's ta- -- he was ta- -- he was going to do.

He talked about this at a State of the Union.

So this is something that the President has been doing since day one. And not only that, you know, he worked on this in the Senate. You know, he knows how to get this done, and he's done it before. As a senator, he helped pass our ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, as well as enacted legislation that made the federal gun background check -- check we use today.

So, this is something that he has been doing for a long time. And he understands -- what we were talking about yesterday -- he understands how these negotiations work. Sometimes, you have to give it a little space so it has that quiet so that congressional members, senators can work on the issue.

But he has been involved from -- from, would say, from day one, since he walked into this administration.

Q But on these negotiations, on any possible legislation now, is he -- is he involved right now? Or is he giving them that space?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: He's giving them space to do the work, to have that conversation. But -- but since the -- since the shootings, since Buffalo, our -- our teams here -- the Office of eg Affairs has had more than a dozen calls with the negotia- -- with the negotiators and senators and congressional members on the Hill. They have been having active conversation and working -- working with them or talking through -- to them about what -- what actions and steps need to be taken and where they are with the process.

Go ahead.

Q Just very quickly on Abbott. They've said that they can get the Sturgis plant restarted by Saturday. The FDA has said other things. What -- what is your assessment of the credibility of that claim from Abbott?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: When did they say this?

Q This week.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: This week? Okay. don't have a -- you know, we're going to -- like said, we've been working very closely with Abbott -- not "we," but the FDA has been working very closely with Abbott to get Sturgis facility up and running.

So that is something that they've been, you know, in touch with FDA about. don't -- cannot speak to their timeline. That's for Abbott to speak to. Clearly, this is something that we want to get done as soon as possible. But it also has to be done in a safe way.

Q Okay. And then on the President's New York Times op-ed about Ukraine, he said that the policy here is to see a "democratic, independent, sovereign, and prosperous Ukraine." But he did not say, "within its internationally recognized borders." And so, we're wondering if that was a deliberate omission, intended to signal that Zelenskyy, that Ukraine is going to have to give up some territory in its negotiations with Russia?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, wouldn't -- wouldn't read into that in that way. But -- the President just put out a statement that do want to iterate just two lines from it:

"The people of Ukraine continue to inspire the world with their courage and resolve as they fight bravely to defend their country and their democracy against Russian aggression. The United States will stand with our Ukrainian partners and continue to provide Ukraine with weapons and equipment to defend itself." The "new package will arm them with new capabilities and advanced weaponry, including H MARS with battlefield munitions, to defend their territory [and] Russian advances. We continue to lead the world in advo- -- in providing historic assistance to support Ukraine's fight for freedom."

And that is going to continue to be our focus.

Q But is your assessment that they're going to have to give up territory as part of these negotiations?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: That's not something that 'm going to talk about this from -- from the podium, from here.

Q Okay. And then just one last thing: The Bolsonaro meeting that's happening at the Summit of the Americas. Do you guys have a date on that? And are you going to raise concerns with Bolsonaro about his questioning of the voting system?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: don't have anything -- don't have anything to preview at this time on the Summit of Americas for you.

Go ahead.

Q Karine, just to follow up on the baby formula meeting.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Sure. Sure.

Q So, if the President is saying the baby formula manufacturers knew that things would be really bad as soon the Abbott recalls happened, the shutdown of the plant happened, but he did not, guess, can you help us understand why they knew but he didn't? Who failed to inform him? Why didn't he know if they knew?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, again, what will tell you is that we have been working on this issue from day one since the recall.

You know, what you hear from the President is -- is his frustration with the issue itself -- with American families having to deal with and what they're going through because this market -- because this more -- this concentrated market and the problems of the Sturgis facility.

We have to remember how we got here. We got here because FDA learned that the Sturgis facility was not operating in a safe way. And so, we -- they've -- FDA wanted to make sure that families were getting healthy -- healthy food to their babies. So, this is a responsibility that FDA has and that FDA did.

From our part, we did everything that we can from the moment that we learned about the recall to -- to work 24/7 to make sure that the production went up.

Q I guess that just doesn't address the question of why it was that the President didn't know, when the manufacturers are saying that they knew -- as soon as the recalls happened, as soon as the plant was shut down -- that this would be a very serious problem. Was there a breakdown in the process here? Did somebody fail to inform him?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I look, I have not spoken to the President. I know that he just said that a few moments ago, so I would have to -- I would have to talk to him about the April date.

But what I can tell you is what he has seen -- and this I know for certain -- is that seeing the empty shelves is unacceptable, seeing what families are going through is unacceptable. This is why we have been working 24/7 to make sure that we are using every lever at our disposal to deliver for the American people.

That is what I know for sure that I can share with you at this moment. And -- and that's how we're going to, you know, going to continue to move to make sure that we're doing everything that we can and beyond.

Q Yeah. Could you help us understand then -- you know, you've said that the administration has been working 24/7 around the clock since February to try to address this issue. The President says he didn't understand how bad the issue was until April.

So is it that you were working around the clock since February to address this serious problem, but the -- but the President didn't know? I just want to be clear about that.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, the actions across the government began day one and -- of the recall, as I've said. The White House has been in close regular contact with agencies responsible for addressing this issue since then.

While these action made serious progress, including by ensuring there was more infant formula coming off factory lines than before, the recall -- it's clear there is more work to be done and more levers to be pulled, which is why you've seen higher-profile actions this month. And we're going to continue to do everything that we can.

So, to your question, the White House has been working with -- across government to make sure, since day one of the recall, to do everything that we can.

Q So then perhaps the President wasn't aware of the work that was going on around the clock since February to address the issue?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, look, mean, the President has multiple -- multiple issues -- crises at the moment.

You know, when he walked into the administration, he talked about the multiple crises that we needed to deal with as a country.

And so -- and so -- so, that's number one to remember. But the most important thing is that as a -- as a White House, as the -- working with the inter-agencies, we have been working on this since day one since the recall.

Q Okay.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah.

Q And actually --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: And this is his White -- this is his White Hou- -- his White House.

Q actually had a follow-up to a question that we asked in here over two weeks ago, very much related to what we've been talking about. We had asked if there were specific actions that the administration took -- including meetings, phone calls, briefings -- either in February or earlier to begin addressing the shortage. You had said at the time that you didn't have any specifics then, but you'd be happy to go back and get that information and be fully transparent.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, but --

Q But it doesn't sound like you have that update for us today.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, don't have that information. But, again, can say to you, since the recall in February, we have been working around the clock on this issue. t is an important issue. We understand how frustrating it is for parents. And so, this is something that the White House, across -- across the agencies have made a priority.

Q So do you plan on getting us that information that you said you would check --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, for sure. mean, feel free to reach out to me directly. You have my e-mail. You have my number. Feel free to reach out to me, and we will do everything that we can.

Q Can just do one follow-up on a separate topic?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, mean -- (laughs) -- MJ, we -- got to move on. got to move on. Yeah.

Q That's fine.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Go ahead.

Q So, think the question here is: We all understand that government operates at many levels. The President is not read in on every issue. Why this one seems to stand out is that these executives talked about it as a crisis. The President talks about it as one of the most personal crises that he has experienced.

And you're now sort of saying that the White House was operating on this without the President being aware of or directing those actions. And so, there will be future crises and so think we're all trying to understand the information flow and the decision making when there is a crisis that rises to the White House's involvement and is the President involved in that.

And so, the question really is -- it sounds like you're questioning the April date that the President just gave us.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, am not questioning the President at all. 'm just saying have not spoken to the President. know he just mentioned that date.

Q But you're saying White House officials were involved in and engaged on this issue prior to the President being briefed on it himself?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Right, which is not an unusual thing, as you know, Kelly O. This is a -- this is a very common way of operation, way of moving. Nothing unusual about this.

You're asking me to confirm something -- and -- was in my office. did not actually hear what the President said. do not like to speak on something without --

Q Understood. Understood.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: -- without commen- -- having a conversation with the President first. And so -- so that's number one.

Number two, what 'm trying to say is that his team on very high levels, who run his policy offices, who runs his department, have been working on this since day one. And that is --

Q So they can act without the President's direct involvement and make decisions before he's even briefed on a subject that's become one of the biggest issues for American families today?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: mean, it's not uncommon. mean, what -- it's not -- mean, it's not an uncommon thing to do to offer assistance, to offer help, to offer guidance to an agency when they need it. That is not an uncommon -- an uncommon thing to do.

Yeah.

Q So, just to follow up on the rest of the front row. Who decided, after six or eight weeks, that --



MS. JEAN-P ERRE: You said that. Hopefully, the back row here hears. (laughter.)

Q Well, who decided -- who is the person in the West Wing who decided, after six or eight weeks, that this baby formula shortage was finally something that somebody should tell the President about?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Look, again, I'd have to go back and talk to the President. I did not hear him take questions or answer any questions to all of you. And so, this is -- I want to do my due diligence -- right? -- as his spokesperson to make sure that I have a conversation.

What I can tell you is what we have been doing as an administration since day one of a recall.

And -- and just -- let me -- let me just say this, because I want to make sure -- since, you know, we have folks watching -- that the actions that we're taking -- that we took actually made a difference here.

DPA is allowing manufacturers to reliably plan for scaling production. In the case of Abbott and their suppliers, an increase of 25 percent, [so] they have -- they can be manufacturing at 100 percent capacity.

likewise, Reckitt plans to expand production by 40 percent. Operation Fly Formula has cut three- to four-week timelines for Nest- -- for Nestlé product to move -- the Europe -- Europe to 72-hour periods.

Through FDA's enforcement discretion, we will get 27.5 million bottles from Bubs Australia.

So, these, are all important actions, including the graphs that I just showed how high production -- production is higher than it was a year ago. So, this is also important. We want to make sure that the American people, the American families know that we have been working on this 24/7.

The President has done everything that he is able to do or has been able to do. And we'll continue to do more work, because we understand there's more work to be done.

Q Okay. Another big topic. When are you guys going to admit that you were wrong about inflation?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: (laughs.) No easy questions today, huh?

Q The Treasury Secretary says that she was wrong, so why doesn't anybody here at the White House?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Okay. Okay. So, look, what -- what the Secretary was pointing out -- this was talking about yesterday, when she was doing her hit with -- her TV hit with CNN -- is that there have been shocks to the economy that have exacerbated inflationary pressures, which couldn't have been foreseen 18 months ago, including --

Q Why not?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, let me -- 'm -- 'm trying to answer your question.

Q t's a big problem.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: -- -- hold on. was just getting to the "Why not?" including Russia's decision to invade Ukraine, multiple successive variants of COV D, and lockdowns in China.

As she also noted during that interview, there has been historic growth and record job creation. And our goal is now to transition to steady and stable growth as inflation is brought down, as Brian Deese said yesterday to all of you when he was standing behind this podium.

So, the President's economic plan, as we see it, is working. Just today, we learned that the manufacturing was up in May, building on the 545,000 manufacturing jobs that have been created since he took office -- further proof that companies are investing in America, we are on a path to stable growth, and we are addressing supply chain problems.

Our plan to tackle inflation, lower costs reduces the deficit and respects the FDA's [Fed's] independence. t's the best way for us to achieve sustainable and durable economic growth. So that's how we're -- we're doing -- what -- the work that we're doing every day to make sure that we (inaudible) lower costs -- well, higher costs.

Q And just so that under- -- just that understand: The Treasury Secretary says that she was wrong, but the White House was not wrong about inflation.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So here's the thing: We have -- we have achieved a -- first of all, explained to you what she was trying to say. So, just laid that out. So those are your words, not my words. just laid out what she was trying to say and try to explain in full- -- in fullness her part and her answer.

We have achieved an historic recovery through an extraordinarily unprecedented economic moment. The President has consistently noted that the primary drivers of inflation are the pandemic and Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

The twists and turns of both these monumental events have affected energy prices and also food prices that we have seen these past several months. This is Putin's price hike, which the President refers to, and that is what Secretary Yellen was referring to if you -- if you read the entire transcript. And that's what 'm -- 'm trying to say to you, hopefully. Hopefully that lands.

Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Karine. You say legislative Affairs has had more than a dozen calls --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah.

Q -- with lawmakers on guns recently. Which ones?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Oh, don't have a list. And we are -- we are always -- you know,

we are always very clear about not sharing who -- you know, not saying who we talked to and keeping -- keeping conversations private.

We're just trying to give you a number so you see our efforts and what we've been trying to do. But don't -- don't have a list. won't list our list to you right this time.

Q Right. just ask because, often, the White House Press Office hasn't given any level of specificity as a policy about conversations like that.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, did say -- mean, look, did say we're talking to negotiators. So, think that could give you a sense of who we're talking to.

Q Sure. And then a question -- a couple questions briefly --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, sure.

Q -- on baby formula. Would the President support the FDA continuing to allow more foreign imports of baby formula permanently, more than just a temporary solution, given that we're seeing that this crisis -- this can become a crisis very quickly, given that we have just a few manufacturers who have a corner on the market.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, we understand that we need to look at this further and figure out what needs to be done so that this doesn't happen again. don't have anything new to share on if this is going to be a long-term way of doing -- of moving forward with baby formula. don't have a policy update on that. But 'd note, to tell you now, as 've been saying, we are doing everything that we can possibly to make sure that the American families are getting their children healthy and safe formula.

Q And then just a real brief follow-up.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, sure.

Q We talked -- when the President spoke earlier, it was di- -- came up in one of the questions that was asked -- just the timeline of the FDA's response when it came to investigating this Abbott facility. There are questions about what communications there were between the FDA and the White House. mean, is the President satisfied with the FDA's response in this crisis?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yes, he satisfied. But last week, the over- -- during their oversight committee, he talked -- Califf said that there needs to be an after- -- he called for an after-action report. He appointed -- he appointed Woods- -- Woodcock to doing that after-action report. He wants to get down to the bottom of what happened, and so that is important.

don't know if you're asking me does he still have confidence in the FDA. He does. And we're going to -- we're going to -- the FDA themselves are going to try and figure out what exactly happened and how do we avoid what happened these past several months with Abbott and their facility shutting down. And so, that is an important thing as well.

Q Thanks, Karine. On this baby formula issue, you said that the whole-of-

government approach began in February -- right afterwards. And think a root of this sort of questions and -- or that folks are having is that it, in fact, doesn't seem like this extended beyond the FDA until, certainly, the President found out in April, but especially when this became really an acute issue in May, when the Defense Department was brought in, the Agriculture Department was brought in.

So can you -- other than the FDA, who was part of this whole-of-government response, especially in this kind crucial February-to-April timeline where the President wasn't aware of what was going on?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Right. mean, mentioned the FDA. mentioned the USDA. 've mentioned, you know, policy departments here within the -- within the White House.

Q What did USDA do during the February --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: The USDA issued detailed guidance to states. This is the -- when the recall happened on February 17th. On -- the next day, on February 18th, USDA issued detailed guidance to states on how to seek waivers in their W C programs, which we learned was a very important element, which was red tape --

Q So, no- -- not producing more formula?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: -- well, which was a red tape as we've learned that needed to be -- needed to be cut.

So -- and we know directly from companies that this is one of the most important areas for action to be taken from the government. And -- and we're building on that work with -- with that -- with the announcement that we made as it's related to the USDA urging states to cut all of W C red tape. So that was -- that was that role in that particular component.

Q What -- were there any efforts outside the FDA about encouraging either the import or production of additional formula? t would seem like --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah.

Q -- from an outsider that if a plant goes down, you know that it's going to be a crisis, that you would immediately start looking for other sources of supply.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: mean, can't speak to, specifically, what the FDA was doing at that moment. All can speak to is when -- what happened at the recall, when it comes to production. can talk to what we have done these last several months, meeting with manufacturers.

Again, the graphs that showed showed how the production has even increased from last year -- think 8 million more in one of the graphs that showed. And so, we're going to continue the work. We know that there's more work to be done. And we're going to make sure that we get to the other side of this.

Q One other on a different topic.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, sure.

Q About a month ago, the Supreme Court decision or draft decision leaked on abortion rights. A lot of folks, including the President, at the time talked about how that really, you know, reframed the fate and the stakes for the midterm elections.

But since then, the President hasn't publicly met with any abortion rights groups. He hasn't spoken about it in weeks, given a speech on it. I know that you've and the Vice President have kind of occasionally mentioned it from the podium, but there's been no sort of presidential action on it.

So, I'm wondering: Does that signal that the President's understanding of the politics of this issue have changed in any way? Or is there an event with the President that is going to happen before the Summit of the Americas or before he travels to Europe? I mean, it just seems to have fallen completely off his schedule.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, I mean, I don't have anything to preview on his schedule. But the President is clear on this. You know, he believes the right to peace -- he believes the right that a woman has -- has the right to make their own decisions when it comes to their own healthcare and their own health and their own reproductive rights. I mean, that's something that he has said. That is something that he believes.

You know, our teams here are in constant communication and having regular meetings with groups out there who are -- you know, who are focused on making sure that that continues -- the rights of women to choose continues. But I don't have anything to lay out.

Q Do you know why it -- the President just hasn't made this -- I mean, he kind of -

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah.

Q -- laid the stakes out as, you know, this should be something at the front of voters' minds.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, I mean, let me -- if we step back for a second, it is -- it was a draft, it was a SCOTUS draft. We spoke to it. We were very forceful about it. The President put out a statement. You've heard from the Vice President. You've heard from other members of our team. So it's not like we didn't take this seriously and we don't continue to take this seriously. So, this is an important issue for the President. We know that. We know that for the American people.

I just don't have anything to share with you on -- on his schedule.

Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Karine. On Ukraine, the U.S. has been really clear that it would not engage Russia directly because it did not want to escalate the conflict. But General Paul Nakasone -- and I apologize if I mispronounced that -- but -- who heads the U.S. Cyber Command, he reportedly told Sky News that the United States is engaged in offensive -- offensive cyberactivity against Russia. Can you talk about that? Why

disclose that? That seems -- that seems contrary to what the administration's position is.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Look, you know, as it -- as it relates to the Kremlin, to President Putin, you know, we don't negotiate our security assistance packages to Ukraine with the Kremlin. They have been -- they have not been pleased by the amount of security assistance we've been providing to the Ukrainians since far before this most recent phase of conflict began.

But we are doing what exactly the President said he would do, which is -- and he told President Putin directly -- we would do -- what we would do if he -- if he attacked Ukraine, back in December, which is provide security assistance to the Ukrainians that is above and beyond what we are -- what we were already providing to help Ukrainians defend their country.

So that's exactly what we've done and will continue to do. You know, remember, and we say this all the time: This is Russia that chose to launch a brutal war, that chose to attack Ukraine's sovereignty and its territorial integrity. And so, this is -- this is Russia's war. And so, they started this conflict, and we could -- they could choose to end it at any time, and they have not. But we continue to maintain that de- -- deconfliction channels with the Russians for -- for when necessary.

Q But just speaking specifically about the offensive cyber action being taken from the United States against Russia, is that not contrary to what the President has said in the past about not wanting to engage directly --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, it's not.

Q -- with Russia?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: It's -- we don't -- we don't see it as such.

Q Can you -- can you talk about why offensive cyber activity against Russia is not?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: We -- mean, it's just -- we just don't see it as such. We have talked about this before. We've had our cyber experts, here at the podium, lay out what our plan is. That has not changed. So, the answer is just simply: No.

Go ahead, Tyler.

Q Just following up on inflation question. I understand you walked through what Secretary Yellen was -- was talking about, but she still said that she was wrong then about the path inflation would take. President Biden made similar statements saying that inflation would be temporary. Brian Deese was here yesterday; I asked him the same question. Does anyone in the White House have regrets about how they talked about inflation, given that it has turned out to do exactly what they said it would not do?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I mean, look, I laid out from -- from -- if you look at the whole transcript, what it is that Secretary Yellen was trying to lay out when she was asked that question.

She was pointing out that there have been shocks in the economy that have, again, exacerbated inflationary pressures, which could have been -- who -- which could not have been foreseen 18 months ago. mean, that is --

Q But whether or not the --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: -- that is -- that is just a reality that we're -- we're working with.

Q Whether or not it could have been foreseen -- what the President said and what all of his top aides said turned out not to be true and turned out not to happen. So, 'm wondering if there's any sense within the White House that that was a mistake to say so, given that it turned out to occur very differently?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Again, there were -- there were certain shocks to the economy that exacerbated the inflation pressures, right? So that includes Russia's decision to invade Ukraine; multiple successive variants of COV D, as 've mentioned already; and the lockdowns in in China.

The President has consis- -- consistently noted that the primary drivers of inflation are the pandemic and Putin's invasion of Ukraine. The twists and turns, again, as 've talked about, have been monumental events. And so, as the Secretary Yellen has also noted, there has been historic growth and record economic creation. And our goal is to now -- to do the transition, which is what -- which is what Brian Deese was talking about to make sure that it is steady and stable growth as inflation is brought down.

So that -- there are things that have occurred that has been unprecedented in this past year or two -- or, actually three years. And that's what we're speaking to.

Q hear you on that. But that still doesn't necessarily answer the question about whether inside the White House there is a feeling that there should be a concession, like Janet Yellen made yesterday on TV, that the way that the administration talked about inflation was not best suited to -- to describe to the American people the economic pain that they would eventually be feeling as we continue to see prices rise.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: mean, look, the President is working -- has said this and -- over and over again, we have said this: We understand what the American people are going through. We understand the high costs that they're dealing with. We understand what inflation is doing to gas and to food prices.

We have done -- we have done -- you know, we have taken multiple actions, which the President explains himself in his own voice in the Wall Street Journal, just a day or -- a day ago. And so that has been our focus as well. And we have -- we're coming out of a very strong economic -- economic period. And so, now we're going into a transition.

There are things when -- as it relates to inflation, there are things that were not predictable 18 months ago, that were not predictable from day one. So we were speaking to them as we saw it at the time. And so that is also important to note.

mean, know you're asking me that -- the question of did we speak about it wrong, or did we, you know, say -- you know, did we misspeak or not -- or not have it right at the time.

mean, this is what -- what I'm trying to lay out, is that there are things that happened -- COV D variants; Russia -- Russia's war in Ukraine -- that was not predicted at the time.

And so what we're trying to do, what the President is trying to do is do everything that he can to make sure that we deal and attack and fight inflation. So that is our focus at the time.

Q hear you. Just one last one on this. understand that you guys did not -- understand that you did not predict that, but there were many economists -- Larry Summers, among others -- who were very clear in warning about the risks of inflation.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Okay, so if we have learned anything the past two years, it's that our globalized economy is tied to the world around us. Right? That's the number one. You know, again, the variants of COV D; lockdowns, and shut- -- and slowdowns in foreign countries due to the pandemic; Putin's unprovoked invasion Ukraine -- each of these events impact prices here at home and abroad.

It impacts the cost of food here at home, the supply of food abroad, the cost of gas here at home, and supply of oil around the world. Inflation is also a global issue. Inflation in Europe increased a record 8.1 percent in May, compared to last year. So that is how we're looking at this. And this is also a global challenge.

Okay. Go ahead.

Q Karine, just two questions. First, on baby formula, all of my colleagues' questions have basically gotten to the same point, which is: People want to know who in this building knew what when in the leadup to the formula shortage. You've said that -- that folks internally were on this since day one. You said that senior leadership in the administration was on it. But you also said that you don't have that timeframe.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No, said don't -- you were -- they were asking me specifically about the President. And just don't have that timeframe to share. What can say is the White House began working on this from the first day of -- of the recall, from day one of the recall, which was back in February.

Q Are you able to provide or commit to providing a timeline of who knew what when in this building?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: mean, that's the same question that MJ just asked me and answered that question to her. have laid down what has happened since the recall, which was on February 17th. 've laid that down. talked about on February 18 with the USDA. talked about W C programs. 've laid out -- 've laid down what happened -- reminding folks what happened with Abbott and the factory, why we got here.

And 've also talked about what the FDA has said that they're going to do -- and they talked about that last week -- which is look into this, make sure that we get to a



place that we get to the bottom of what happened, do an after-action report. When that after-action report, we will have a lot more and that will come directly from them, and what they did and what they see could be done better.

So that's the thing that's really important. There will be an after-action report. We will be able to see exactly what happened from then -- from their standpoint.

Again, we have been working on this since the first day of the recall on February 17th. That is our involvement here with the White House and -- and FDA and what we've been trying to do.

Q And then, just lastly, on the Summit of the Americas, obviously this administration has been preparing for this for months. We've had many conversations about invitations to heads of state for months. We are now less than a week out of this, and there are still several significant, outstanding potential invitations. How did that happen that we've gotten so close to the 11th hour and you still haven't decided whether to invite anyone from Venezuela, including the opposition leader who you recognize as the interim President?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I think, if you've been following this administration for the past year and a half, one week is not the 11th hour when it comes to -- when it comes to, you know, how things move.

And so, that is that is a lifetime away for us as a -- as a White House. I think any White House would say that. And so, look, we still have some final considerations. And as soon as we have the final list, we will share that.

Look, you know, we're gathering people together to focus on our collective responsibility to forge a more inclusive and prosperous future for the hemisphere. And that's something also to note. I know, there's always questions about the invite. There's always question about who's coming and who's not. But we also should talk about and focus on what the -- what the purpose of this meeting is. And that's also critical and important.

But I have to tell you: A week away, that's a lifetime. That's a lifetime. And I think any administration would share that.

I'm going to try and go in the back. Go ahead.

Q Thanks, Karine. Yesterday, there were leaders from Airlines for America and the U.S. Travel Association here at the White House for meeting staff, and they urged the administration to end the pre-departure COVID testing requirements for vaccinated travelers who are coming to the U.S. from overseas.

(A cellphone disrupts the briefing.)

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: What was that? (laughs.) Was that BTS? (laughter.)

Q That was not my phone.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Okay. That's what she says, folks. (laughter.)

Q Is the administration considering ending that requirement for COVID testing for international travelers?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, we're constantly evaluating our policy. The pre-departure testing requirement remains in place, as we have it today. And any decision on pre-departure testing requirement would be made by our health and medical experts.

Q Is there a sense of how long that could and should remain in place at this point and what purpose it's serving right now? The people in the United States can travel freely without any sort of testing.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I mean, I don't. It's in constant -- constant evaluation, as I just laid out. I don't have anything more to share from here.

I'm trying to see who to go to. Go ahead. I don't think I've called on you in a while. Go ahead.

Q Yeah. Oh, thanks, Karine. A question for you about this report out of California on reparations. I was wondering if the President has seen it, and if he would use it to guide any sort of executive action since the last thing he did on reparations was say that he supported study that Congress is potentially wanting.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, his stance on reparations and supporting the study hasn't changed. I have not seen the California report. But his personal -- his stance -- policy stance has not changed on reparations.

Q Also, one more quick one. Deb Haaland has tested positive for COVID. Do you know when the -- when the President and First lady were last tested? Because they were with her on Monday. And would they be considered close contacts?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, I do not know when she last saw the President or the First lady -- Secretary Deb Haaland.

Q They were together on Memorial Day.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Oh, were they? Okay.

Q There are pictures of them.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Okay, great. Well, thank you for that reminder.

I know that -- and we've said this multiple times: The President has a regular weekly cadence on testing that -- that has been, you know, approved and talked with his doctor.

I don't have when the last time he was tested.

Q And you weren't aware about her positive test?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: No. This is -- I'm just learning about this now.

Okay. I'm trying to see who else. Okay. You, sir, way in the back.

Q Thank you, Karine. Just one question. A few weeks ago, the State Department said that the U.S. did not look favorably on the construction of the EastMed oil pipeline from Israel to Cyprus to Greece, and then presumably to Europe. Has any of this changed as so many European countries try to wean themselves off Russian oil?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I don't have any more to share on that. I would have to check with our -- with our policy folks at NSC. I do not know if that position has changed from what we've heard from the White House, but I would just have to check with the NSC to make sure.

Q From the State --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I'm so sorry, from the State Department?

Q Yeah.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Okay, yeah I would -- I would refer you to the State Department and check in with -- with that -- with them on that piece.

Q And not the NSC?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, because you said it was the State Department. I think I misheard. But I think you said that it was the State Department that had put out that announcement.

Okay. Oh, my goodness.

Q A question from the back --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Go ahead.

Q A question from the back --

Q Me?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I --

Q Yeah, sure. Thanks, Karine.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: If you have a question.

Q I do. I do. But you're -- your finger is waving around a lot, so --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I know. I'm trying to pick people I haven't called on in a while --

Q No, you're right. You're absolutely right.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: -- so it's fulsome -- so people are getting a question.

Q I think (inaudible) --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah.

Q 'll ask just one question. The -- something the President mentioned when were in there now when he was talking about inflation -- the wheat supplies or the food supplies. Can you talk specifically about -- guess he was referring to Ukrainian -- the inability to export Ukrainian wheat.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Mm-hmm.

Q And that something had to be done about that.

Well, what the Ukrainian foreign ministers have been talking about this week about supposedly they're in talks with other countries about navies going into the Black Sea and creating a corridor to get that wheat out. s this something that is being discussed on any level in the White House?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: That is something that would actually have to go check on as well. That is not -- just don't have an update on that as far as the wheat. That's clearly something that we've been monitoring.

And we have said: Russia's aggression on Ukraine has -- has certainly raised prices, as we've talked about, on gases and food.

Wheat, believe, is about a good percentage of -- in Ukraine, a good percentage of the -- of the kind of the global -- the global market, and so we have seen prices go up.

don't have any update on that. would have to check with -- this time, would have to check with NSC.

Q Can ask you a question from the back?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Oh my gosh.

Q Can ask you a question from the back, Karine?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Go -- go ahead, Phil.

Q Thank you. have a question about the President's Wall Street Journal op-ed, but wanted to ask a more general question first. And my more general question, which is, think at the heart of a lot of things that you've been asked is: How serious does an issue have to be before it's brought to the President's attention?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: So, let me just lay this out because think this is really important, and 've said this multiple times: The reason that we are where we are with Abbott and this facility, with the baby formula, in this current situation -- and we have seen production go up -- again, the graphs that showed -- and are -- and that has happened because of our involvement in what we were able to do.

ook, the market -- there are four -- four manufacturing facili- -- companies. Just four. And that is something that we also have to address down the line. And this is something, as we talk about competition, the per- -- the President has been very

focused on.

But FDA, as -- as we've said, called out a safety hazard -- a safety issue with Abbott, and they had to shut down one of their facilities. When that happens, they do all the things that happens when -- when a -- when a safety issue comes up, and Ab- -- Abbott had to shut down that facility.

So that's the thing. That's why we got to where we got to. From the moment that we heard of the recall in February -- on February 17th, as 've laid out, we took action. We took action, and we moved forward. And we did everything that we can. And 've laid out the -- cut the red tapes.

And now we -- the DPA -- the Defense Production Act and other things that we're -- the flying in formula from across the board -- all of those things -- from abroad -- all of those things were actions that we took to make sure that we dealt with this crisis.

But the government, the White House has been involved since they -- we first learned about the recall. And so that is important to know.

The President deals with multiple crises. His administration deals with multiple crises.

When we walked in, a little bit over than a year ago, we talked about the economy; we talked about COV D; you know, we talked about climate change. All of the things that the President attacked and dealt with -- and his White House dealt with on -- all at once.

And we have seen his comprehensive plan when it comes to COV D and what we've been able to do in getting people vaccinated and boosted. We see where the economy is currently; now we're in this transition.

All of those things are important to note -- that there are always multiple crises happening that we are dealing with all at once.

Q Okay. And then on the Wall Street Journal op-ed. n that essay, the President reiterated that he supports the independence of the Federal Reserve. He called on Congress to pass tax credits. And he also called, again, for changes to the tax code to bring in more revenue, to drive down deficits. Correct me if 'm wrong, but these proposals aren't exactly new. mean, we're coming up on a 40-year high of inflation. Does he have anything else in the pipeline?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, 'm happy -- and 'm happy to lay that out -- lay that out as how he's fighting inflation. ook, as you -- as you just said --

Q But anything new that wasn't reiterated in that op-ed?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah, well, mean, let me -- let me just -- let me just tell you what we have been doing and what we will continue to do and what we know is important in order to fight inflation.

So, you mentioned it -- giving the Fed the independence it needs to take the steps to

bring down -- to bring inflation down; pushing Congress to lower costs on things families rely on like prescription drugs, which we -- you've heard us talk about, that eat up too much of Americans' budgets; taking steps to stabilize the energy markets -- for example, coordinating a historic release from the Strategic Petroleum Reserves here in the United States and from countries around the world -- all of these things matter.

And the lowering the deficit -- this is a place where we have made notable progress, as we've talked about. More than \$1.5 trillion in reduction in the deficit this year alone. And we want to keep making that progress, so that's not going to end there.

And there's more -- other ways too. The lowering cost of high-speed internet for 50 million families; building more than 1 million new affordable homes to help bring housing and rent prices down; helping America's farmers increase crop yields to help bring down food prices; and fixing our supply chains to reduce the cost of moving goods to shelves and to families and homes. And we're always looking at other things that we can do.

But these are actually action items that we have taken that are not small. That are -- that shows the work that this President has done to really attack inflation.

We understand that there's more work to be done. We understand what families are feeling right now. But we are doing the work to try and address this.

Q Karine, can you ask something that the administration launched today, please?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Let me see who else.

Go ahead.

Q Thank you. So, today, the VP announced the launch of the Global Water Security Action Plan --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Yeah.

Q -- which seems important because it essentially says that now the U.S. foreign policy will consider global water security as one of its core issues. Right? So, I guess I wanted some explanation from you as to why this was -- will this be another element of the VP's portfolio or is she just launching it? I mean, how do you -- how are you guys dividing this up?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: I mean, look, the First Lady had -- I mean -- "the First Lady," my goodness.

The Vice President has, clearly, her own portfolio and things that she wants to attack that helps -- that helps families; that helps, you know -- that helps make sure that we're -- we're delivering for the American people. And so, she has multiple things that she does. Clearly, that is something that's going to be critical to foreign policy, critical to how it -- how it tracks back here to the American public.

I can't speak to -- you know, I can't speak to what -- what her portfolio looks like and what things that she'll be focusing on. There are so -- there's an array of

issues to focus on.        would reach out to her office directly.

Q     And then     have a follow-up on China.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE:    Yeah.

Q     China has called for the United Nations Human Rights Commissioner to investigate mass shootings and gun violence in the U.S.    So, can we get a reaction from you?    So, this is, again, China requesting the U.N. Human Rights Commissioner to investigate mass shootings and gun violence in the U.S.    Can we get a reaction?

And specifically, does the President consider gun violence as -- you know, protection from gun violence as a part of human rights and a right to live?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE:    Well, he definitely has said that it is a -- it is an epidemic. He's called a public health -- he called it a "public health epidemic."    So, he has taken this issue very seriously.    He has laid out a comprehensive gun reform plan through executive actions.    He has the most executive actions than any President at this time in this adminis- -- administration.

He's calling -- he's calling for Congress to act, and to continue the work that needs to be done on the legislative -- on the federal side, whether it is a -- whether it is expanding background checks; red-flag laws, as we're hearing Congress talking about right now; making sure that we are keeping our children safe; we're keeping, you know, churches and places where people go to -- go to, like grocery stores or any public facility or even your home, safe.

And it is really important to this President.    He's made this a priority since he was a senator and a Vice President and now as President.

So this is something that he's take --

Q     But any specific comment on China?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE:    'm --    don't have a --    don't have --    'm not responding to -- that.

Q     Thanks, Karine.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE:    Okay.

(Cross-talk by reporters.)

MS. JEAN-P ERRE:    We're done.    Thank you so much, guys.    See you tomorrow.

Q     Thank you.

Q     Thank you, Karine.

Q     Can you take questions from across the room next time?

MS. JEAN-P ERRE:    did.     did.     took five questions --

Q mean, you spent 30 minutes on the first and second row.

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: But took Phil. took your question.

Q And it seems like you don't --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: took your question from your colleague right here.

Q -- you don't -- you don't respond to my e-mail. You don't allow me to --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: have not -- have not gotten an e-mail from you, Simon.

Q 've sent you e-mail that you haven't seen. And you don't even follow up after the briefing --

MS. JEAN-P ERRE: Well, maybe you have my wrong e-mail.

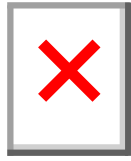
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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Readout of President Biden and Vice President Harris's Meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 2, 2022 3:18 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 2, 2022

**Readout of President Biden and Vice President Harris's Meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg**

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. and Vice President Kamala Harris met today with Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to prepare for the June 29-30 NATO Summit in Madrid. The leaders discussed the implications of Russia's war on Ukraine for Transatlantic security and the importance of strengthening NATO's deterrence and defense, in addition to ensuring NATO is properly resourced to address a wide range of challenges, from cyber to climate change. They also welcomed the applications by Finland and Sweden for NATO membership, and President Biden conveyed his strong support for efforts by Secretary General Stoltenberg to facilitate a rapid accession process that addresses the security concerns of all Allies. Additionally, National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met separately with Secretary General Stoltenberg.

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Statement on APNSA Sullivan's Meeting with Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Hikmat Hajiyev  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 6, 2022 8:28 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 6, 2022

**Statement by NSC Spokesperson Adrienne Watson on National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan's Meeting with Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan Hikmat Hajiyev**

National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met today with Hikmat Hajiyev, Head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Presidential Administration of Azerbaijan. They welcomed the 30-year anniversary of relations between the United States and Azerbaijan and underscored their readiness to further deepen bilateral ties. They discussed their shared commitment to helping the people of Ukraine in response to Russia's unprovoked aggression. Mr. Sullivan commended Azerbaijan for its long-standing commitment to European energy security and discussed efforts to further diversify regional energy supplies. The two shared their perspectives on the implications of the conflict in Ukraine for the broader region. Mr. Sullivan conveyed the commitment of the United States to peace, security, and prosperity in the South Caucasus region. He praised the significant and historic diplomatic efforts between Azerbaijan and Armenia toward a lasting peace. Mr. Sullivan expressed support for talks hosted by President of the European Council Charles Michel. He conveyed the readiness of the U.S. to engage closely and support progress through a variety of means, including in our capacity as a Co-Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group.

###

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Poo Report 3 -- Ova office  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 16, 2022 4:18 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** David Sanger  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2022 4:06 PM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Pool Report 3 -- Oval office

Your pool was escorted into the Oval around 3:30 pm for a spray with the prime minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis. As we faced the fireplace, POTUS was in his usual chair on the right, and PM Mitsotakis was in the left-side chair.

POTUS, reading from notes on his lap, talked about celebrating 201 years of Greek independence and discussed the "shared democratic values" between the two countries.

"Sadly, Russia's attack on Ukraine was an attack on democracy by autocrats" was a threat to a "rules-tested order." [As usual, check against transcript; it was a noisy environment.] He thanks the PM for "moral leadership," and said he would discuss defense partnerships, energy security, climate change and other topics.

PM Mitsotakis said "we are now facing the challenge of a Russian invasion" and talked about the need for unity.

He said relations between Greece and the US were at "an all-time high" and said he wants to discuss energy security. (He made no reference to the 182-km pipeline from Greece to Bulgaria that should help relieve dependence on Russian gas).

Your poolers attempted to ask questions, but were shouted down, and escorted out, by the wranglers. POTUS looked like he might want to entertain a question, but then turned to the PM for chit-chat until our unruly crew was out the Rose Garden doors.

David E. Sanger  
New York Times

#### From the White House: Attendees.

##### U.S. Manifest

###### The President

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Steve Ricchetti, Assistant to the President and Counselor to the President

T.H. Wendy Sherman, Deputy Secretary of State

T.H. George Tsunis, Ambassador of the United States to Greece

T.H. Eric Green, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia and Central Asia, National Security Council

Mr. Amos Hochstein, Senior Advisor for Energy Security

Mr. Kevin Boyd, Director for Europe and Eurasia, National Security Council

##### Greece Manifest

H.E. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

H.E. Nikolaos Georgios Dendias, Minister for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Nikolaos Panagiotopoulos, Minister of National Defense

H.E. Niki Kerameus, Minister of Education and Religious Affairs

H.E. Konstantinos Fragkogiannis, Deputy Minister for Economic Diplomacy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Ioannis Oikonomou, Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister and Government Spokesperson

H.E. Alexandra Papadopoulou, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to the United States  
H.E. Anna Maria Eleni Boura, Director of the Diplomatic Cabinet of the Prime Minister

--

David E. Sanger  
White House and National Security Correspondent



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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 17, 2022 11:03 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 17, 2022

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2022**

In the morning, the President will receive the President's Daily Brief. This meeting will be closed press.

In the afternoon, the President will receive a briefing from his senior leadership team on interagency efforts to prepare for and respond to hurricanes this season at Joint Base Andrews. The departure from the South Lawn will be open press and pooled for TV. The arrival at Joint Base Andrews, briefing, and departure from Joint Base Andrews will be pooled press. The arrival on the South Lawn will be open press and pooled for TV.

**In-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg  
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT  
TV Corr & Crew: ABC  
Print: Daily Caller  
Radio: ABC

**Supplemental Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg  
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT  
TV Corr & Crew: ABC  
Print: The New Republic

Radio: SRN

**EDT**

**10:15 AM THE PRESIDENT receives the President's Daily Brief**  
*Closed Press*

**11:50 AM In-Town Pool Call Time**  
*Stakeout Location*

**1:00 PM Supplemental Pool Call Time**

**1:15 PM THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY depart the White House en route Joint Base Andrews**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press and Pooled for TV (Gather 1:05 PM — Palm Room Doors)*

**1:25 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives at Joint Base Andrews**  
*Joint Base Andrews*  
*In-Town Travel Pool*

**1:45 PM THE PRESIDENT receives a briefing from his senior leadership team on interagency efforts to prepare for and respond to hurricanes this season**  
*Joint Base Andrews*  
*In-Town Travel Pool*

**2:50 PM THE PRESIDENT departs Joint Base Andrews en route the White House**  
*Joint Base Andrews*  
*In-Town Travel Pool*

**3:00 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives at the White House**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press and Pooled for TV (Gather 2:50 PM — Palm Room Doors)*

**Briefing Schedule**

**10:45 AM Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and public health officials**

**1:30 PM Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan**

###

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In-Town Pool Report #1: Checking In  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 18, 2022 12:19 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Shelby Talcott (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 18, 2022 11:53 AM  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In-Town Pool Report #1: Checking In

Good afternoon. I'll be your pooler today. No changes to the schedule as of now.

Your pooler was COVID tested, and we are gathering at the stakeout location and heading to JBA shortly, before POTUS. Supplemental pool will be covering POTUS departure back at the White House (at 1:15pm).

Copying the schedule below:

**EDT**

- 10:15 AM**      **THE PRESIDENT receives the President's Daily Brief**  
*Closed Press*
- 11:50 AM**      **In-Town Pool Call Time**  
*Stakeout Location*
- 1:00 PM**      **Supplemental Pool Call Time**
- 1:15 PM**      **THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY depart the White House en route Joint Base Andrews**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press and Pooled for TV (Gather 1:05 PM Palm Room Doors)*
- 1:25 PM**      **THE PRESIDENT arrives at Joint Base Andrews**  
*Joint Base Andrews*  
*In-Town Travel Pool*
- 1:45 PM**      **THE PRESIDENT receives a briefing from his senior leadership team on interagency efforts to prepare for and respond to hurricanes this season**  
*Joint Base Andrews*  
*In-Town Travel Pool*
- 2:50 PM**      **THE PRESIDENT departs Joint Base Andrews en route the White House**  
*Joint Base Andrews*  
*In-Town Travel Pool*
- 3:00 PM**      **THE PRESIDENT arrives at the White House**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press and Pooled for TV (Gather 2:50 PM Palm Room Doors)*

**Briefing Schedule**

- 10:45 AM**      **Press Briefing by White House COVID-19 Response Team and public health officials**
- 1:30 PM**      **Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan**



--

*Shelby Talcott*

*Senior White House Correspondent*

*The Daily Caller*

(b) (6)

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*Shelby Talcott*

*Senior White House Correspondent*

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 18, 2022 10:48 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2022

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR  
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2022**

In the morning, the President will receive the President's Daily Brief. This meeting will be closed press.

Then, the President and the Vice President will welcome Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and President Sauli Niinistö of Finland to the White House. The leaders will discuss Finland's and Sweden's NATO applications and European security, as well as strengthening our close partnerships across a range of global issues and support for Ukraine. The arrival at the South Portico will be pooled press. The trilateral meeting in the Cabinet Room will be closed press.

After their meeting, the President, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden, and President Sauli Niinistö of Finland will deliver brief remarks. The Vice President will attend. These remarks in the Rose Garden will be open press. [[RSVP here](#) by 7:00 AM]

Later, the President will depart for Seoul, Republic of Korea for his first trip to Asia as President. The President will visit the Republic of Korea and Japan to further deepen ties between our governments and economies to deliver for people at home and in the region. The departure from the South Grounds will be covered by the in-town travel pool. The departure from Joint Base Andrews will be covered by the out-of-town pool. The arrival and departure at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, where Air Force One will refuel, will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

**In-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: CBS

Print: Detroit News

Radio: SRN

### **Out-of-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: CNN

Print: Daily Mail

Radio: VOA

### **EDT**

**8:30 AM THE PRESIDENT receives the President's Daily Brief**

*Closed Press*

**8:45 AM In-Town Pool Call Time**

**9:00 AM Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden and President Sauli Niinistö of Finland arrive at the White House**

*South Portico*

*In-House Pool (Gather 8:50 – Palm Room Doors)*

**9:15 AM THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden, and President Sauli Niinistö of Finland meet to discuss Finland's and Sweden's NATO applications and European security, as well as strengthening our close partnerships across a range of global issues and support for Ukraine**

*Cabinet Room*

*Closed Press*

**9:45 AM Out-of-Town Pool Call Time**

*Joint Base Andrews Visitor Center Overhang*

**10:30 AM THE PRESIDENT, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden, and President Sauli Niinistö of Finland deliver brief remarks; THE VICE PRESIDENT attends**

*Rose Garden*

*Open Press (Final Gather 10:15 – Palm Room Doors) [[RSVP here](#) by 7:00 AM]*

**11:30 AM THE PRESIDENT departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews**

*South Grounds*

*In-Town Travel Pool (Gather 11:10 – Stakeout Location)*

**12:00 PM THE PRESIDENT departs Joint Base Andrews en route Anchorage, Alaska**

*Joint Base Andrews*

*Out-of-Town Pool*

### **AKDT**

**3:00 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Anchorage, Alaska**

*Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson*

*Out-of-Town Pool*

**4:30 PM**      **THE PRESIDENT departs Anchorage, Alaska en route Seoul, South Korea**  
*Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson*  
*Out-of-Town Pool*

**Briefing Schedule**

**Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan will gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Anchorage, Alaska**

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign pool report #1 - background  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 19, 2022 9:10 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 19, 2022 at 8:38:06 AM EDT  
**To:** White House (b) (6) >, Wranglers <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign pool report #1 - background

Good morning,

I'm your foreign pooler for Prime Minister of Sweden Magdalena Andersson's and President of Finland Sauli Niinistö's visit to the White House.

POTUS welcomes the leaders of Sweden and Finland after both nations began formal process of applying for NATO membership. On Wednesday, Finnish and Swedish ambassadors submitted written applications to join the alliance to Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan called Finland and Sweden's decisions to join NATO "a historic event, a watershed moment in European security."

Announcing the visit the White House said that the leaders would discuss Finland's and Sweden's NATO applications, European security, strengthening partnerships on global issues and support for Ukraine.

In a very similar announcements President Niinistö's and PM Andersson's offices said that besides NATO accession and the Russian aggression against Ukraine, the leaders will discuss transatlantic relations in the new security environment.

The in-person meeting follows President Biden's Call with Prime Minister Andersson and President Niinistö on May 13.

President Niinistö flew to Washington D.C. from Stockholm after two day state visit to Sweden. Queen Silvia and King Carl XVI Gustaf hosted the Finnish President and First Lady in a royal show of unity.

#### **Schedule:**

9:00 AM - Arrival at the South Portico (In-house pool)  
9:15 AM - The trilateral meeting in the Cabinet Room, VP joins (Closed press)  
10:30 AM - POTUS, PM Andersson, and President Niinistö deliver brief remarks at the Rose Garden, the VP attends (Open press, deadline to RSVP has passed).

**Sauli Niinistö**, 73, a pro-European conservative, the 12th President of the Republic of Finland.

Niinistö started his public service as a police chief, an assistant judge and a member of a city council. First elected to parliament in 1987, he was later appointed Minister of Justice, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, and the Speaker of Parliament. He was active in Swedish and European conservative parties. Niinistö was inaugurated as the President of Finland in March 2012, and re-elected for the second six-year term in January 2018.

President Niinistö is married to Jenni Haukio and they have a son, Aaro (born February 2018). He also has two adult sons from his previous marriage with Marja-Leena Niinistö, who died in a car crash in 1995. Sauli Niinistö survived the Asian tsunami of 2004 in Thailand by climbing up a tree to escape the waves. He is keen roller-blader. In 2015 BBC reported that he rollerbladed in more than 30 countries during his travels around the world. Politico once called Niinistö a "Roller-blading pragmatist" (not sure if he still skates).

Niinistö visited the United States eight times as President. In 2012 and 2016 he met with President Barack Obama, and in 2017 and 2019 with President Donald Trump. President Niinistö and President Biden last met on 4 March 2022 in Washington D.C.

**Magdalena Andersson**, 54, a Swedish economist and politician, chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Workers' Party and Sweden's first woman Prime Minister.

Her interest in politics started early. At the age of 16 she joined the Swedish Social Democratic Youth League. In 1992, she earned a master's degree in economics from the Stockholm School of Economics. Since 1996 she served numerous government positions: a political adviser, director of planning, state secretary, director of the Swedish Tax Agency and the minister of finance. In November 2021, Andersson was elected as the prime minister of Sweden by the Riksdag. Andersson has built a reputation for being straightforward and blunt.

Andersson is married to Richard Friberg, a professor in economics at the Stockholm School of Economics; they have two children. They like to spend time outdoors hiking, kayaking and camping.

Marek Walkuski  
Chief U.S. Correspondent  
White House Correspondent  
Polskie Radio S.A.  
Tel. (b) (6)  
Twitter: @marekwalkuski

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In-town poo report 3: Rose Garden remarks starting  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 19, 2022 11:28 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Burke, Melissa  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 10:47 AM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In-town pool report 3: Rose Garden remarks starting

Your pool was escorted to the Rose Garden around 9:45 a.m. for remarks by POTUS with the Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Finland President Sauli Niinistö.

The speakers' platform is set up with U.S., Finnish and Swedish flags and three rows of chairs for the audience.

POTUS walked out with the two leaders at 10:44. He took the stage at 10:45 and remarks are beginning with him calling it a "momentous day," with the US supporting the applications of both countries to join NATO.

Remarks are open press and you can listen or follow along here: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=fiQMOKG6jqU>

The Vice President is here, as well as Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, senior adviser Neera Tanden and others.

Melissa Nann Burke  
Detroit News Washington Bureau  
(b) (6)

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign pool report #4 - delegations  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 19, 2022 11:31 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** (b) (6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 19, 2022 11:14 AM  
**To:** White House ; Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign pool report #4 - delegations

From the White House:

In attendance for the trilateral meeting in the Cabinet Room with the President, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson of Sweden, and President Sauli Niinistö of Finland:

-  
U.S. Manifest:

The President  
The Vice President  
T.H. Lloyd Austin, Secretary of Defense  
T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
T.H. Erik Ramanathan, Ambassador of the United States to Sweden  
T.H. Eric Green, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Russia and Central Asia  
Mr. David Fabrycky Director for NATO and European Affairs, National Security Council

Finland Manifest:

H.E. Sauli Niinistö, President of Finland  
H.E. Mikko Hautala, Ambassador of Finland to the United States  
Dr. Hiski Haukkala, Secretary General and Chief of Cabinet  
Ms. Aliisa Tornberg, International Affairs Adviser

Sweden Manifest:

Her Excellency Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister of Sweden  
Her Excellency Karin Olofsdotter, Ambassador of Sweden to the United States  
Mr. Oscar Stenström, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs to the Prime Minister of Sweden  
Mr. Robert Rydberg, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Marek Walkuski  
Washington / White House Correspondent  
Polskie Radio S.A.  
Tel. (b) (6)  
Twitter: @marekwalkuski



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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign Pool Report No. 12 - Seoul/RON arrival/lid  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 20, 2022 9:18 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Nikki Schwab  
**Date:** May 20, 2022 at 9:29:44 PM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign Pool Report No. 12 - Seoul/RON arrival/lid

Pool was loaded onto an Osprey and didn't have a clear view of Marine One lifting off. We lifted at 8:38 p.m. We were treated to spectacular views of Seoul flying in.

Marine One landed before the pool. We landed in what essentially looked like a field in the middle of an urban area. We didn't set eyes on POTUS.

Motorcade departed the airfield 9:08 p.m.

It pulled into the RON at TK. 9:22 p.m.

There are crushes of people gathered at different entrances, unclear if any are protesters but I see a lot of selfie sticks. And at least one large welcome sign. Several people are waving American flags.

We have a travel/photo lid at 9:25 p.m.

Flying with the President on Marine One to Seoul:

Secretary Gina Raimondo, Department of Commerce  
Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President & Deputy Chief of Staff  
Annie Tomasini, Assistant to the President & Director of Oval Office Operations  
Stephen Goepfert, Special Assistant to the President & Personal Aide to the President

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel pool 5 — expanded bilateral spray  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 21, 2022 2:30 AM (UTC-04:00)

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**From:** Bierman, Noah  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 21, 2022 3:22 PM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel pool 5 — expanded bilateral spray

Yoon led Biden in at 3:09 and ushered him around the Korean side of the table where Biden shook hands with people and asked "where do we start?"  
They then walked around the American side and Yoon shook hands with the delegation.

"We settled everything," Biden joked, apparently referring to the earlier meeting the two had.

They then sat down across from each other in the middle of the table and Yoon spoke in Korean. He said we are living in an era of economy security and said the ROK-US alliance needs to evolve to the moment. He then talked about the factory from yesterday as a model. He said today they would discuss how to meet global challenges.

Biden thanked him and congratulated him.

"Our alliances between our countries is built upon shared sacrifice."  
Today with this visit we're taking the cooperation between our two countries to new heights..."

He said the alliance for decades has been a lynchpin of security and remains essential, mentioning the North Korea threat.

"Today our cooperation is essential... on the global stage as well."

Two nations working on Covid, supply chain, climate and security. And "writing the rules of the road" for Indo Pacific.

He said he enjoyed the time and noted how long they spent together making others wait.

Pool ushered out at 3:17 as shouted questions on North Korea were ignored.

Here's some extra color gathered during a lengthy wait for the principals.

The room has a long wood table with 10 seats on each side. Three flags from each country -- alternating -- are on the back of the room.

Each seat has a name card, a glass of water and a notebook. (Biden the only US official without name place card.) The president had a notebook and note pad in front of him.

Some staffers including Kate Bedingfield and Secretary Raimondo came in early and chatted with other staffers.

At 2:04, some staffers including Yohannes Abraham, chief of staff for NSC and incoming ASEAN ambassador, walked to the other side of the room to speak with South Korean officials, breaching a divide in the room between the two delegations. Someone appeared to congratulate him on his ambassadorship, which he seemed to appreciate.

More staffers piled in later, including Jake Sullivan, seen laughing and talking about where his office is located, with the Korean official seated across from him at 2:50 pm. The Korean official was overheard saying to him that "I've met the Japanese prime minister... he's a great guy."

The banter continued for some time. The Korean official began relaying historic facts, the year 1882 and other topics. Jake Sullivan at one point exclaimed "Genius!"

The restricted bilateral began earlier -- 1:32 pm per staff.

Note: @jenniferjjacobs tweeted a picture of the note POTUS wrote at the cemetery.

Noteb: the People's House where the meeting is being held is technically within the South Korean Defense Ministry, part of a recent office move initiated by Yoon.

Participating in the President's bilateral meeting with President Yoon:

U.S. Manifest:

The President

Mr. Chris Del Corso, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy Seoul

T.H. Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff

T.H. Kate Bedingfield, Assistant to the President and Director of Communications

T.H. Karine Jean-Pierre, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary

T.H. Yohannes Abraham, Deputy Assistant to the President and National Security Council Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary

T.H. Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia

Ms. Mira Rapp-Hooper, Director for Indo-Pacific Affairs, National Security Council

Mr. Henry Haggard, Minister Counselor for Political Affairs

Republic of Korea Manifest:

H.E. Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Chu Gyeong-ho, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance

H.E. Park Jin, Minister of Foreign Affairs

His Excellency Lee Chang-yang, Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy

Mr. Kim Sung-han, National Security Advisor

Mr. Cho Tae-yong, Member of the National Assembly

Mr. Kim Tae-hyo, First Deputy National Security Advisor

Mr. Choi Sang-mok, Senior Economic Secretary

Mr. Lee Moon-hee, Secretary to the President for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Wang Yun-jong, Secretary to the President for Economic Security

Ms. Kang In-sun, Presidential Spokesperson

Mr. Lim Sang-woo, Director-General for North American Affairs

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel pool 13 — entrance and toasts  
**To:** Goodander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 21, 2022 7:15 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** "Bierman, Noah" <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** May 21, 2022 at 7:54:22 PM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers <(b) (6)>  
**Subject:** Travel pool 13 — entrance and toasts

Biden and Yoon walked down a long red carpet through the museum's atrium. The museum is a monolithic building made of off-white stone, with open corridors and a very high ceiling.

The colorfully dressed honor guard stood along the sides of the carpet. The first group of guards wore flowing blue and yellow garments and held matching flags to form an arch over the welcome path. The second group, toward the end of their walk, wore red tops with green or yellow bottoms. They all wore hats with wide brims and big red tassels.

They played festive music and held swords in a salute. Both Biden and Yoon wore dark suits.

As they entered the hall, a string quartet played Pomp and Circumstance.

They sat at a round head table in a wide open room. There were about 15-20 other tables, each with 7-8 people. The walls were lined with alternating flags, 7 from each country.

After a moderator welcomed everyone, the string quartet played both countries' national anthems.

Then the leaders gave toasts from a podium at the rear of the room.

"It is a pleasure to welcome you here tonight," Yoon said, celebrating the alliance and referring back to the meetings of the day where they promised to strengthen the alliance. He spoke about the communist invasion of 1950.

"The ROK-US Alliance was forged in blood on the battlefield of the Korean War. Since then, the alliance has been a strong foundation which buttresses Korea's economy, growth and prosperity based on free democracy and market economy."

"Our alliance will go beyond security to a cutting edge technology Alliance, and to a global comprehensive strategic alliance, I will draw and design a new future vision of our alliance with you Mr President."

He then quoted Yeats, "one of your favorite poets," prompting a laugh and a nod from Biden.

Everyone stood for the toast and the band played briefly before Biden spoke.

He said the two spent a long time getting to know each other and laughed.

"We shared a lot of stories from our early beginnings and I think maybe we told each other too much I don't know."

"The idea you would quote William Butler Yeats, I appreciate it very much," he said. He then joked that it would not happen in London, drawing only scattered laughs.

He spoke a few more lines about the strength of the alliance before concluding.

"So I like to raise a glass Be the alliance between our two great nations continue to flourish For all the decades ahead. And as our combined forces say we go together."

#### Background:

U.S. Delegation attending the dinner hosted by President Yoon:

The President

Mr. Chris Del Corso, Charge d'Affaires, U.S. Embassy Seoul

T.H. Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

T.H. Kate Bedingfield, Assistant to the President and Director of Communications

T.H. Karine Jean-Pierre, Assistant to the President and Press Secretary

T.H. Annie Tomasini, Assistant to the President and Director of Oval Office Operations

T.H. Rufus Gifford, Chief of Protocol of the United States

T.H. Yohannes Abraham, Deputy Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary of the National Security Council

T.H. Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia

T.H. Carlyn Reichel, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Speechwriting and Strategic Initiatives

T.H. Adrienne Watson, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Press and National Security Council Spokesperson

General Paul LaCamera, Commander, U.S. Forces Korea

Mr. Andrew Herrup, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy

#### Run of show:

President Biden and President Yoon enter the Atrium and proceed to their seats at the head table

The U.S. National Anthem plays

The Republic of Korea National Anthem plays

President Yoon delivers brief remarks and gives a toast

President Biden delivers brief remarks and gives a toast

Press departs

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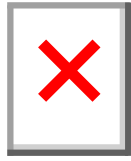
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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] COMPREHENSIVE TRIP GUIDANCE FOR SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022 – TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 21, 2022 10:34 AM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 21, 2022

**COMPREHENSIVE TRIP GUIDANCE FOR  
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2022 – TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022**

**Sunday, May 22, 2022**

In the morning, the President will deliver remarks with the Chairman of Hyundai Motor Group on Hyundai's decision to invest in a new electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility in Savannah, Georgia. The President will highlight how his economic agenda is resulting in clean energy investments, which are bolstering domestic manufacturing and creating good-paying jobs. These remarks at the Grand Hyatt Seoul in Seoul, Republic of Korea will be pooled press.

In the afternoon, the President will greet with staff of U.S. Embassy Seoul at Dragon Hill Lodge in Seoul, Republic of Korea. This greet will be closed press and the out-of-town pool will accompany.

After, the President will travel to Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea. The departure from Seoul, Republic of Korea and arrival at Osan Air Base will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

Then, the President will visit and deliver brief remarks at the Air Operations Center's Combat Operations Floor on Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea. This visit will have a pool spray.

After, the President will greet with service members and military families at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea. This greet will have a pool spray.

Later, the President will travel to Tokyo, Japan. The departure from Osan Air Base and the arrival at Yokota Air Base will be open to pre-registered media. The arrival in Tokyo, Japan will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

**Out-of-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg  
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT  
TV Corr & Crew: CNN  
Print: Los Angeles Times  
Radio: NPR

**KST**

**8:45 AM Out-of-Town Pool Call Time**

**11:15 AM THE PRESIDENT delivers remarks with the Chairman of Hyundai Motor Group on Hyundai's decision to invest in a new electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility in Savannah, Georgia**

*Grand Hyatt Seoul, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Out-of-Town Pool*

**12:05 PM THE PRESIDENT greets with staff of U.S. Embassy Seoul**

*Dragon Hill Lodge, Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Closed Press; Out-of-Town Pool Accompanies*

**12:55 PM THE PRESIDENT departs Seoul, Republic of Korea en route Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea**

*Seoul, Republic of Korea  
Out-of-Town Pool*

**1:15 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea**

*Osan Air Base  
Out-of-Town Pool*

**1:40 PM THE PRESIDENT visits and delivers brief remarks at the Air Operations Center's Combat Operations Floor**

*Osan Air Base  
Out-of-Town Pool Spray*

**2:20 PM THE PRESIDENT greets with service members and military families**

*Osan Air Base  
Out-of-Town Pool Spray*

**3:15 PM THE PRESIDENT departs Pyeongtaek, Republic of Korea en route Fussa, Tokyo, Japan**

*Osan Air Base  
Open to Pre-Registered Media*

**5:00 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Fussa, Tokyo, Japan**

*Yokota Air Base  
Open to Pre-Registered Media*

**5:35 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Tokyo, Japan**

*Tokyo, Japan  
Out-of-Town Pool*

## **Briefing Schedule**

### **Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan will gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Fussa, Tokyo, Japan**

#### **Monday, May 23, 2022**

The President will meet with Emperor Naruhito of Japan at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

The President will participate in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan at the Akasaka Palace in Tokyo, Japan. The President will highlight the strength of the U.S.-Japan Alliance, advance our shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, and continue our close cooperation on critical issues like combatting COVID-19, addressing the climate crisis, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear and missile programs, and advancing economic prosperity at home and in the region.

The President will hold a press conference with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan at the Akasaka Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

The President and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan will meet with families of Japanese citizens abducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea several decades ago. This meeting will take place at the Akasaka Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

The President will launch the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity.

The President will attend a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan at Kochûan in Tokyo, Japan.

#### **Tuesday, May 24, 2022**

The President will participate in the second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit at the Kantei Palace in Tokyo, Japan.

The President will greet with staff of U.S. Embassy Tokyo at the Okura Tokyo in Tokyo, Japan.

The President will return to Washington, DC.

###

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel pool #7 — marine one  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 22, 2022 12:23 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Zolan Kanno-Youngs (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 22, 2022 at 1:07:56 PM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Travel pool #7 — marine one

At roughly 1:05 PM, Marine One departed for Osan Air Base.

Passing along from the White House:

Traveling with the President on Marine One to Osan Air Base:

Secretary Gina Raimondo, Department of Commerce

Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President & Deputy Chief of Staff

Annie Tomasini, Assistant to the President & Director of Oval Office Operations

Stephen Goepfert, Special Assistant to the President & Personal Aide to the President

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Zolan Kanno-Youngs  
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@KannoYoungs

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel report # 12 correction / AF1 gaggle  
**To:** Goodander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 22, 2022 4:19 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Zolan Kanno-Youngs (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 22, 2022 at 5:16:24 PM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** Travel pool report # 12 correction / AF1 gaggle

Apologies. Your pooler meant to write monkeypox not “monkey paws” in the last pool report. I blame autocorrect but you can blame me.

AF1 landed at 5:04 PM. While in the air national security adviser Jake Sullivan gaggled. You can find the audio at White House live.

He was asked about on IPEF, Taiwan, Biden meeting with Modi and human rights abuses in India. He also said Biden would meet with the newly elected prime minister of Australia. He was asked about the US approach to North Korea and John Kirby’s new role.

He said US intelligence still says North Korea could do a nuclear or missile test.

He was asked about the economic framework for this region would benefit Americans feeling the pain of inflation.

Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre also summarized the latest efforts on the baby formula shortage (she could not give a timeline on when parents can readily get baby formula). She was also asked about the administration not seeking a stay on title 42.

Also here’s some background from the Hyundai announcement earlier:

#### Creating a Domestic Electric Vehicle (EV) Industry

The President’s commitment to the electrification of the transportation sector, particularly on-road vehicles, has spurred a renaissance in the American auto industry, and his Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is now supercharging America’s efforts to lead the electric future with historic investments in charging infrastructure, battery manufacturing, and clean transit. Together, the President’s catalyzing actions include:

- *Generational Investment in Charging Infrastructure:* BIL invests \$7.5 billion in grants to states and project developers to build out the first-ever national network of EV chargers in the United States. Federal funding will have a particular focus on rural, disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach communities.
- *Historic Funding for Domestic Battery Supply Chain:* BIL invests more than \$7 billion in grants to companies to accelerate innovations and facilities across the battery supply chain, including battery material processing, manufacturing, and recycling.

To date, the President’s climate leadership has spurred tens of billions in private investments across the EV supply chain, including:

- General Motors announcing \$8 billion in additional investment in EVs and battery manufacturing through 2025, including a \$2.5 billion joint venture with Korean company LG Energy; and
- Ford announcing two new large battery and electric vehicle production lines as part of \$13.6 billion in EV investment, including an \$11.6 billion joint venture with Korean company SK Innovation.

### Hyundai Electric Vehicle Plant Announcement

Chairman Chung will announce Hyundai's \$5.7 billion investment in a new EV manufacturing plant in Savannah, Georgia. This plant will produce electric vehicles across all three of its major vehicle divisions Hyundai, Kia, and Genesis and will include on-site battery production. In total, this plant is expected to employ 8,000 people and construction is expected to begin in January 2023 with the first vehicle produced at the plant in January of 2026.

### Hyundai Motor Company

Last month, Hyundai Motor Group announced an investment of \$7.4 billion in the United States by 2025. Hyundai and Kia will both build American-made battery electric vehicles and Hyundai Motor Company's U.S. facility is slated to begin EV production in 2022. HMG will continue to work with the U.S. Department of Energy to advance the hydrogen ecosystem in the United States.

Thanks,

Zolan

(b) (6)

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Zolan Kanno-Youngs

The New York Times

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trave report #5  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 22, 2022 10:23 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Alex Thompson (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 23, 2022 at 10:52:02 AM GMT 9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel report #5

The WH passes along the following background.

Upon arrival at Akasaka Palace, the President will be greeted by:  
H.E. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan  
Mr. Fukui Hitoshi, Director of the Guest House, Akasaka Palace

Members of the U.S. Delegation in attendance:

T.H. Rahm Emanuel, Ambassador of the United States to Japan  
T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State  
T.H. Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce  
T.H. Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative  
T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
T.H. Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff  
T.H. Yohannes Abraham, Deputy Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary of the National Security Council  
T.H. Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs  
T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council  
Mr. Christopher Johnstone, Director for East Asia, National Security Council  
Ms. Mira Rapp-Hooper, Director for Indo-Pacific Affairs, National Security Council

Members of the Japan Delegation in attendance:

H.E. Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs  
H.E. Meti Hagiuda, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry  
H.E. Matsuno Hirokazu, Chief Cabinet Secretary  
H.E. Kihara Seiji, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary  
H.E. Akiba Takeo, Secretary General of Japan's National Security Secretariat  
H.E. Tomita Koji, Ambassador of Japan to The United States  
Mr. Yamada Shigeo, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Suzuki Hiroshi, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Mr. Shimada Takashi, Executive Secretary to The Prime Minister  
Mr. Nakagome, Executive Secretary to The Prime Minister  
Mr. Ichikawa Keiichi, Director-General, North American Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Run of show:

The President greets Prime Minister Kishida and Mr. Fukui Hitoshi  
Honor Guard Ceremony  
The U.S. and Japan national anthems  
Guards of Honor inspection and salute: The President and Prime Minister Kishida will be escorted by Major Ogawa Kazunori, Guard Commander

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trave report 8  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 22, 2022 10:29 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Alex Thompson (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 23, 2022 at 11:16:25 AM GMT 9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6) >  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel report 8

The White House passes the following along:

Participating in the President's bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Kishida:

**U.S. Manifest**

The President

T.H. Rahm Emanuel, Ambassador of the United States to Japan

T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

T.H. Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce

T.H. Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

T.H. Yohannes Abraham, Deputy Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff and Executive Secretary of the National Security Council

T.H. Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council

Mr. Christopher Johnstone, Director for East Asia, National Security Council

Ms. Mira Rapp-Hooper, Director for Indo-Pacific Affairs, National Security Council

**Japan Manifest**

H.E. Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan

H.E. Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Hagiuda Koichi, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry

H.E. Matsuno Hirokazu, Chief Cabinet Secretary

H.E. Kihara Seiji, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary

H.E. Akiba Takeo, Secretary General of the National Security Secretariat

H.E. Tomita Koji, Ambassador of Japan to the United States

Mr. Okano Masataka, Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy

Mr. Suzuki Hiroshi, Senior Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Shimada Takashi, Executive Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Nakagome Masashi, Executive Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Ichikawa Keiichi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General, North American Affairs Bureau

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trave report 13  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 23, 2022 1:28 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Alex Thompson (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 23, 2022 at 2:18:29 PM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel report 13

The presser begins. It will be live-streamed but here is some color:

The Biden delegation is seated stage right. The front row is Raimondo, Blinken, Emanuel.

Katherine Tai is in the next row back with Jake Sullivan and a third seat that was empty at the beginning of the press conference.

The row after that is Kate Bedingfield, Karine Jean-Pierre, and Jen OMalley Dillon.

Your pooler's near-sightedness failed him for the next rows.

Raimondo and Tai were conferring about something before the presser began.

The Japanese delegation is stage left.

There are teleprompters set up for each world leader. The teleprompters are different models.

If you are in the room looking at POTUS and the PM. American reporters are seated on the left side of the room and the Japanese reporters are in the right side of the room. There are many more Japanese reporters than American reporters.

Everyone is masked.

Some info about the room per the Japanese govt. website.

[https://www.geihinkan.go.jp/en/akasaka/hagoromo\\_no\\_ma/](https://www.geihinkan.go.jp/en/akasaka/hagoromo_no_ma/)

Situated on the west side of the State Guest House, Hagoromo no Ma is so called for the large ceiling painting inspired by a passage from the Noh play *Hagoromo* ("Robe of Heaven"). A grand space in shades of gold and scarlet, adorned with mirrors, it was formerly referred to as the ballroom. It also hosts ceremonial welcomes in inclement weather, or serves pre-dinner drinks for guests.

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**From:** BUKER KIYOMI  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Invitation: June 16th Ambassador's Dinner  
**To:** (b) (6) Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 23, 2022 11:58 AM (UTC-04:00)



*The Ambassador of Japan*  
*with Dinner Chair Yoshiyuki Uemura, President of Daikin U.S. Corporation*  
*in collaboration with the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Inc.*

*request the pleasure of the company of*

***Mr. Jacob Sullivan and Ms. Margaret Goodlander***

*to*

***2022 National Cherry Blossom Festival***  
***Ambassador's Dinner***

*Celebrating the 110 years of the gift of the trees*

*featuring a duo performance by*

***Violinist, Miray Ito***  
***&***  
***Pianist, Ryo Yanagitani***

*on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>*  
*from 6:30pm to 9:30pm*

*at the Residence of the Ambassador of Japan*  
*4000 Nebraska Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.*



Dress Code: **Business Attire  
Seated Dinner**

**Gates open at 6:00pm**

**Please advise of any dietary requirements or allergies.** And for those who require special assistance, please let us know.

Please make sure to bring a **copy of this invitation** and **photo ID** to be presented upon arrival.

**\*Please RSVP ASAP as space is limited and cannot exceed capacity due to the current COVID19 situation.**

This invitation is non-transferable



#### **Miray Ito**

19-year-old American violinist, Miray Ito, made her Carnegie Hall debut at the age of 12 and a few months later, was awarded first prize at the 2014 Kocian International Violin Competition in the Czech Republic. Since then she has been named as a laureate of the 2017 Koster Schönta International Violin Competition and awarded as the "2018 Young Artist of the Year" by the Ruth Laredo Memorial Foundation. She has won multiple prestigious awards, including the Joan Graham Award and Irene Kinsey Stare Award, both from the Tuesday Musicale of Detroit. Miray has performed as a soloist with orchestras such as the Toledo Symphony, Orchestre du Conservatoire de Musique de Geneve, and Coburn Music Academy Virtuosi String Orchestra, among others.

She was a featured artist on NPR's "From the Top" with Peter Dugan, and has performed at prestigious venues including the "Wiener Saal" hall in Salzburg, Austria, Conservatoire de Musique de Geneve in Geneva, Switzerland, and Jordan Hall in Boston, Massachusetts. Her previous summer studies include the Aspen Music Festival as a New Horizons Fellow, Mozarteum Summer Academy in Salzburg, Austria, and Morningside Music Bridge Program as a full scholarship student. In 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, she was the featured musician of the *Japanese Medical Society of America's* concert for frontline workers. Formerly under the tutelage of Robert Lipsett at the Coburn Music Academy in Los Angeles, Miray was accepted to The Juilliard School at just sixteen and is currently in her third year of studies under Professor Li Lin. Miray plays a 1734 Pietro Guarneri violin on a generous loan from the RJ Fund.



### Ryo Yanagitani

Hailed by the Washington Post as “A pianist’s pianist”, Ryo established himself as one of Canada’s shining artists after winning the gold medal at the 10<sup>th</sup> San Antonio International Piano Competition. He has made concerto appearances with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, and the Tokyo Kioi Symphonietta, and his performances have taken him to such venues as the Kennedy Center, the Library of Congress, Carnegie Hall, Suntory Hall, and Salle Cortot among others.

Ryo Yanagitani received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the Yale School of Music, and was a visiting Assistant Professor of Piano at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He directed the highly acclaimed Evermay Concert Series in Georgetown, and held the position of Artistic Director at the Ryuji Ueno Foundation in Washington, D.C., an organization that supports highly talented individuals in the field of the performing arts. Starting 2023, Ryo will be taking the helm as Artistic Director of the Cactus Pear Music Festival in San Antonio, Texas.



- Body temperature of all guests will be measured before entry into the Ambassador's Residence.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at check-in and throughout the Residence.
- Guests will be asked to maintain social distancing to the maximum extent possible.
- We will continue to monitor the situation for your safety and update you if there are any changes to the precautionary measures being taken.
- Please note that all Residence staff will be wearing masks and gloves and will wash their hands frequently.

If you have any questions about this event or protocol measures,  
please contact the Public Affairs Office at [publicaffairs@ws.mofa.go.jp](mailto:publicaffairs@ws.mofa.go.jp).

## **PARKING INFORMATION**

### **Parking Location**

Ambassador's Residence

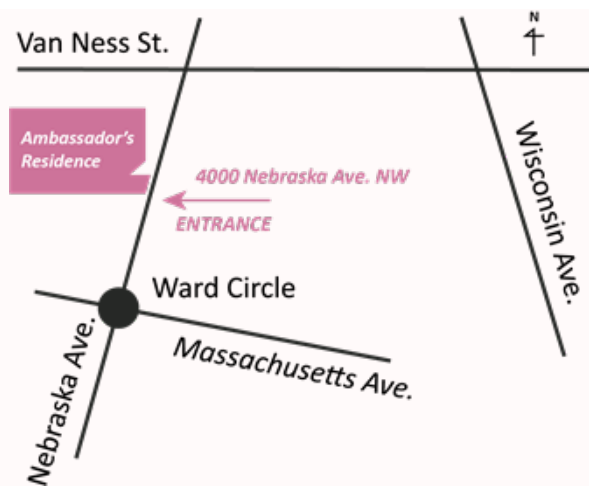
Address: 4000 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.

\*Entrance is on Nebraska Avenue

### **Chauffeured Vehicle**

Guests arriving by chauffeured car should arrange for drop-off and pick-up at the Ambassador's residence.

Safety of our guests is our priority. We seek your understanding for the security measures in place to ensure an enjoyable time for all the participants. They include checks on cars at the Residence gate if you are parking at the Residence, checks on your person using metal detectors, and checks on your personal belongings. The Embassy of Japan apologizes in advance for any inconvenience and thanks you for your cooperation.



Please note that parking spaces are limited, so we strongly recommend carpooling or using public transportation. If the parking lots are full, we may ask you to use other public parking spaces.



EMBASSY OF JAPAN



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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #5 - Quad Meeting  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 23, 2022 10:25 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** "Thomas, Ken" <(b) (6)>  
**Date:** May 24, 2022 at 11:18:24 AM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #5 - Quad Meeting

The Quad meeting opened at 10:35 am.

The four leaders were seated at separate white tables with members of their staff seated behind them in a high-ceiling, modern wood-paneled ballroom.

President Biden is joined by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, USTR Amb. Katherine Tai, National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Amb. Kurt Campbell.

Japanese Prime Minister Kishida opened the meeting by welcoming the participants and thanking new Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for coming to the meeting so soon after his election.

Mr. Kishida said it was important for the leaders to get together to make a "firm commitment" to "a free and open Indo-Pacific" and spoke about some of the topics of the meeting, including climate change countermeasures, maritime issues and technology.

Mr. Albanese said it was an honor that one of his first acts as prime minister was to attend the Quad meetings

"We are committed to the Quad," he said, adding that Australia would be taking ambitious action on climate change, including a new target to reduce emissions by 43 percent by 2030.

Prime Minister Modi then spoke, congratulating Mr. Albanese on his victory and described his country's work on Covid-19 and other issues and praised the work of the Quad. "This is ensuring peace, prosperity and stability in the Indo-Pacific region," Mr. Modi said, saying the group was a "force for good."

Mr. Biden said the participants were gathering at "this transformative moment in the world - we are at a transformative moment." He thanked Prime Minister Kishida for hosting and said it was good to see Prime Minister Modi in person and thanked him "for your continued commitment to making sure democracies deliver." He joked with Prime Minister Albanese: "If you fall asleep while you're here, that's OK," noting that he had just been elected.

Mr. Biden then spoke about the importance of the Quad in responding to Covid-19, partnering on 5G supply chains and launching the Quad fellowship program. But much of his remarks focused on the war in Ukraine.

"At the same time we are navigating a dark hour in our shared history," Mr. Biden said. "Russia's brutal and unprovoked war against Ukraine has triggered a humanitarian catastrophe. And innocent civilians are put into the streets and millions of refugees are internally displaced as well as exiled."

Mr. Biden continued:

"This is more than just a European issue. It's a global issue. The fact is that when you turn on the television and see what Russia's doing now, it appears to me that Putin is trying to extinguish a culture. He's not trying to hit military targets any more, he's taking out every school, every culture, every natural history museum."

"As long as Russia continues this war we are going to be partners and lead a global response," Mr. Biden said.

Pool and other media ushered out at 10:51 am.

h/t Cleve Wootson and Asma Khalid.

Ken Thomas

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #6 - Quad Participants  
**To:** Goodander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 23, 2022 10:48 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** "Thomas, Ken" (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 24, 2022 at 11:25:38 AM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #6 - Quad Participants

Passing along the participants in the Quad Leaders Summit, per White House:

The President is participating in the second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit with Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia.

U.S. Delegation:

T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

T.H. Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, National Security Council

T.H. Sumona Guha, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for South Asia, National Security Council

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council

Ms. Mira Rapp-Hooper, Director for Indo-Pacific Affairs, National Security Council

Scott Nathan, CEO, US International Development Finance Corporation

Japan Delegation:

H.E. Hayashi Yoshimasa, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Kihara Seiji, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary

Mr. Isozaki Yoshihiko, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary

Mr. Akiba Takeo, Secretary General of National Security

Mr. Shimada Takashi, Executive Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Nakagome Masahi, Executive Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Okano Masataka, Deputy Minister for Foreign Policy

India Delegation:

Dr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser

Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Security

Ms. Vani Roa, Additional Secretary (AMS), MEA

Mr. Rudra Gaurav Shresth, Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Vivek Kumar, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Abhishek Shukla, Director of the Prime Minister's Office

Australia Delegation:

Senator the Hon Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Tim Gartrell, Chief of Staff, Office of the Prime Minister

Ms. Ashlee Brady, Senior Adviser, Office of the Foreign Minister

H.E. Jan Adams AO PSM, Australian Ambassador to Japan

Mr. Scott Dewar, Deputy Secretary, National Security and International Policy and Quad Sherpa, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Mr. Justin Hayhurst, Deputy Secretary, Geostrategic Group, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr. Mathew Fox

Ken Thomas

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trave Poo #9a Modi  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 24, 2022 3:38 AM (UTC-04:00)

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**From:** Thomas, Ken  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 3:40 PM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #9a Modi

President Biden's bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Modi began at 2:35 p.m. and ended at 3:11 p.m., per the White House.

Here's the full quote from Mr. Biden when he raised the war in Ukraine with Mr. Modi, h/t Seung Min Kim of the Washington Post:

“We’ll also discuss the ongoing effects of Russia’s brutal and unjustified invasion of Ukraine and the effect it has on the entire global world order,” Mr. Biden said. “The U.S. and India are going to continue consulting closely on how to mitigate these negative effects.”

The White House also passes along the participants:

U.S. Delegation:

The President

T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, National Security Council

T.H. Sumona Guha, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for South Asia, National Security Council

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council

Ms. Mira Rapp-Hooper, Director for Indo-Pacific Affairs, National Security Council

India Delegation:

H.E. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India

Dr. S Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister

Mr. Ajit Doval, National Security Adviser

Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Foreign Security

Ms. Vani Roa, Additional Secretary (AMS), MEA

Mr. Rudra Gaurav Shresth, Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Vivek Kumar, Private Secretary to the Prime Minister

Mr. Abhishek Shukla, Director of the Prime Minister’s Office

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #10 - Albanese  
**To:** Goodander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 24, 2022 3:39 AM (UTC-04:00)

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**From:** Thomas, Ken  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 4:07 PM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #10 - Albanese

The pool was brought into the same meeting room at 2:35 p.m. for President Biden's first bilateral meeting with new Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese.

Mr. Biden opened with a joke for Mr. Albanese. "I know you've been on the job a long time," Mr. Biden said, and then expressed appreciation for Mr. Albanese traveling to Tokyo for the Quad summit so soon after his election last weekend. Mr. Biden said it showed that Australia was "all-in" on the relationship and it was important for them to demonstrate, as democracies, that they can deliver for their people.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know you a bit on the personal," Mr. Biden said. "I was always kidded by Barack Obama when I would say, 'all politics is personal.'"

Mr. Biden said the U.S.-Australian alliance had long been an anchor in the Indo-Pacific and he expressed optimism for their alliance and offered his congratulations to Mr. Albanese.

Mr. Albanese said it had been an honor to start his role as prime minister with his meetings in Tokyo with members of the Quad. Then Mr. Albanese told a story about spending time in the United States.

He said that "many years ago, as a young fellow," when he was in his 20s, he was a guest of the U.S. State Department for a 5-week program to learn about the interaction of groups with the U.S. government.

Mr. Albanese said he spent time with an array of organizations, "everything from the National Rifle Association, to the Sierra Club, to Planned Parenthood to the full kit-and-caboodle."

"You're a brave man!" Mr. Biden exclaimed, standing up from his chair to shake hands with Mr. Albanese. The members of their staffs broke into laughter.

Mr. Albanese also drew laughs when he said the State Department "was good enough as well to manage to justify a trip to Vegas as well." He said it was a good trip for him.

Mr. Albanese then spoke about the durability of the two nation's alliance and was looking forward to strengthening it.

Mr. Albanese noted that he was part of the Australian government that brought the U.S. Marines to the northern Australian city of Darwin (beginning in 2012 during the Obama administration when Mr. Biden served as vice president).

"I remember that," Mr. Biden said.

He concluded his remarks by saying he looked forward to holding the Quad Leaders meeting next year in Australia and Mr. Biden invited him to visit him in Washington, "when you have the time, sooner than later."

The pool was ushered out at 3:27 p.m. Mr. Biden did not respond to a shouted question on North Korea. The bilateral meeting concluded at 4 p.m., according to the White House.

Here is the list of participants:

## Delegations for the President's bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Albanese of Australia:

### U.S. Delegation:

The President

T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, National Security Council

T.H. Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council

Mr. Chris Johnstone, Director for East Asia, National Security Council

### Australia Delegation:

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP, Prime Minister of Australia

Senator the Hon. Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr. Tim Gartrell, Chief of Staff, Office of the Prime Minister

Mr. Greg Moriarty, Secretary of the Department of Defence

Mr. Andrew Shearer, Director-General of the Office of National Intelligence

H.E. Jan Adams, Australian Ambassador to Japan

Mr. Roderick Brazier, First Assistant Secretary, International Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Ken Thomas

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**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 24, 2022 3:41 AM (UTC-04:00)

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**From:** Thomas, Ken  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 4:29 PM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #9b Modi

Please note, the full U.S. delegation for the meeting with Prime Minister Modi, which included Scott Nathan of the U.S International Development Finance Corp.

U.S. Delegation:

The President

T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Scott Nathan, Chief Executive Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)

T.H. Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, National Security Council

T.H. Sumona Guha, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for South Asia, National Security Council

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council

Ms. Mira Rapp-Hooper, Director for Indo-Pacific Affairs, National Security Council

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**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 24, 2022 5:21 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** "Thomas, Ken" (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 24, 2022 at 5:55:45 PM GMT -9  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #15

White House passes this along:

Traveling with the President on Marine One from Hardy Barracks to Yokota Air Base:  
Ambassador Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative  
Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President & Deputy Chief of Staff  
Annie Tomasini, Assistant to the President & Director of Oval Office Operations  
Stephen Goepfert, Special Assistant to the President & Personal Aide to the President

Greeting the President upon arrival at Yokota Air Base:  
Mr. Odawara Kiyoshi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs  
T.H. Rahm Emanuel, U.S. Ambassador to Japan  
H.E. Tomita Koji, Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.  
Lt. General Ricky Rupp, Base Commander, Yokota Air Base.

--

Ken Thomas

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<https://www.wsj.com/news/author/ken-thomas>

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**E:** (b) (6) | **Twitter:** @KThomasDC  
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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #18 - Departing Alaska  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 24, 2022 1:03 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** "Thomas, Ken" (b) (6)  
**Date:** May 24, 2022 at 8:50:25 AM AKDT  
**To:** Wranglers (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #18 - Departing Alaska

Air Force One began rolling at roughly 8:48 a.m. local time after a roughly one-hour refueling stop.

The pool did not see President Biden on the ground during the Anchorage re-fuel but several members of his staff, including WH National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Communications Director Kate Bedingfield, got out to take a walk along the Tarmac at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

We are wheels up shortly. Next stop: Joint Base Andrews.

--

Ken Thomas

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #20 - Boarding Marine One  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 24, 2022 7:12 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Thomas, Ken  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2022 7:03 PM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Travel Pool #20 - Boarding Marine One

President Biden, dressed in a dark suit and tie, exited Air Force One at 6:58 p.m. ET and walked down the staircase of the aircraft. He did not respond to shouted questions about the school shooting in Texas.

Mr. Biden saluted and shook hands with Col. Matthew E. Jones, Commander, 89th Airlift Wing and then they walked toward Marine One. Mr. Biden boarded the aircraft, followed by staff members.

Mr. Biden will be addressing the nation on the shooting at 8:15 p.m. ET from the Roosevelt Room.

The White House passes along the travelers with President Biden on Marine One back to the White House:

Traveling with the President on Marine One to the White House:  
Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Kate Bedingfield, Assistant to the President & Director of Communications  
Jen O'Malley Dillon, Assistant to the President & Deputy Chief of Staff  
Annie Tomasini, Assistant to the President & Director of Oval Office Operations  
Karine Jean-Pierre, Assistant to the President & Press Secretary  
Stephen Goepfert, Special Assistant to the President & Personal Aide to the President

Marine One will be wheels up shortly.

Handing this over to the in-town travel pool. Thank you.

Ken Thomas  
**WHITE HOUSE REPORTER**

▣

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Out-of-town pool report #3: Annapolis arrival  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 27, 2022 10:09 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Collins, Michael  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2022 9:52 AM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Out-of-town pool report #3: Annapolis arrival

Motorcade arrived at the Naval Academy at 9:48 am after an uneventful ride.

Crowds along the route in Annapolis waved to the motorcade and took photos with their cellphones. A couple of men held up a huge banner that read: "Don't blame me. I voted for Trump ."

From the White House:

Traveling with the President to Annapolis:

Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs  
Mike Donilon, Assistant to the President & Senior Advisor to the President  
Karine Jean-Pierre, Assistant to the President & Press Secretary  
Annie Tomasini, Assistant to the President & Director of Oval Office Operations  
Stephen Goepfert, Special Assistant to the President & Personal Aide to the President  
Carlyn Reichel, Special Assistant to the President & Senior Director for Speechwriting & Strategic Initiatives  
Travis Dredd, Special Assistant to the President & Trip Director  
Marc Gustafson, Senior Director for the White House Situation Room

**Michael Collins**

White House Correspondent

USA TODAY

Email: (b) (6)

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign Pool Report #3 ---Participants in the President's bilateral meeting with PM Ardern  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 31, 2022 11:58 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Mineko Tokito  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:48 AM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Cc:** Perez, Angela D. EOP/WHO ; (b) (6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Foreign Pool Report #3 ---Participants in the President's bilateral meeting with PM Ardern

From a White House official:

Participating in the President's bilateral meeting with The Right Honorable Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand:

U.S. Manifest

The President

T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

T.H. Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Liz Sherwood-Randall, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Deputy National Security Advisor

T.H. Thomas Udall, Ambassador of the United States to New Zealand

T.H. Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, National Security Council

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council

New Zealand Manifest

T.R.H. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand

H.E. Rosemary Banks, Ambassador of New Zealand to the United States

Mr. Rajesh Nahna, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister

Dr. John Subritzky, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of New Zealand

Ms. Catherine Graham, Americas Divisional Manager, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

--

Mineko Tokito Abe  
Washington Reporter  
The Yomiuri Shimbun  
[www.yomiuri.co.jp](http://www.yomiuri.co.jp)



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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In-town pool report #5: Some more from spray with New Zea and PM  
**To:** Good ander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** May 31, 2022 12:08 PM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Puzzanghera, Jim  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 11:56 AM  
**To:** Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In-town pool report #5: Some more from spray with New Zealand PM

POTUS and New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern both spoke about the importance of climate change. POTUS said Ardern's leadership has been "galvanizing action on climate change." Noting that climate change is "one of the greatest threats we face," Ardern said there was an opportunity for both nations to work together on "this incredibly difficult issue that will only be resolved if we work together."

POTUS said he wanted to emphasize working together. "We are not coming to dictate or lay down the law." "I think there's a lot of opportunity to make the world safer, and deal with the environment," POTUS said.

The White House also passes this along:

Participating in the President's bilateral meeting with The Right Honorable Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand:

U.S. Manifest

The President

T.H. Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

T.H. Avril Haines, Director of National Intelligence

T.H. Jake Sullivan, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

T.H. Liz Sherwood-Randall, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Deputy National Security Advisor

T.H. Thomas Udall, Ambassador of the United States to New Zealand

T.H. Kurt Campbell, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific, National Security Council

T.H. Edgard Kagan, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for East Asia and Southeast Asia, National Security Council

New Zealand Manifest

T.R.H. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand

H.E. Rosemary Banks, Ambassador of New Zealand to the United States

Mr. Rajesh Nahna, Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister

Dr. John Subritzky, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of New Zealand

Ms. Catherine Graham, Americas Divisional Manager, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

--

Jim Puzzanghera  
Washington Bureau  
The Boston Globe  
M: (b) (6)

@JimPuzzanghera

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 1, 2022 9:48 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 1, 2022

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR  
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022**

In the morning, the President and the Vice President will receive the President's Daily Brief in the Oval Office. This meeting will be closed press.

Then, the President will join a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and National Security Advisory Jake Sullivan to discuss preparations for the NATO Summit in Madrid at the end of June and the strength of our transatlantic Alliance. This meeting in the Roosevelt Room will be closed press.

In the evening, the President will travel to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where they will remain over the weekend. The departure from the South Lawn will be open press and pooled for TV. The arrival in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

**In-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg  
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT  
TV Corr & Crew: ABC  
Print: Christian Science Monitor  
Radio: NPR

**Out-of-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg  
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT  
TV Corr & Crew: ABC  
Print: WSJ

### **Supplemental Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg  
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT  
TV Corr & Crew: ABC  
Print: The Telegraph

### **EDT**

**10:15 AM THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT receive the President's Daily Brief**  
*Oval Office*  
*Closed Press*

**10:00 AM Out-of-Town Pool Call Time**  
*Stakeout Location*

**11:15 AM THE PRESIDENT joins a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg National Security Advisory Jake Sullivan to discuss preparations for the NATO Summit in Madrid at the end of June and the strength of our transatlantic Alliance**  
*Roosevelt Room*  
*Closed Press*

**2:45 PM In-Town Pool Call Time**

**3:30 PM Supplemental Pool Call Time**  
*Stakeout Location*

**5:30 PM THE PRESIDENT departs the White House en route Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press and Pooled for TV*

**6:30 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**  
*Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*  
*Out-of-Town Pool*

### **Briefing Schedule**

**3:00 PM Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response Dr. Ashish Jha**

###

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Town Pool Report #1 | Schedule & New Briefing Time  
**To:** Goodander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 2, 2022 10:25 AM (UTC-04:00)

**From:** Noah Robertson  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 2, 2022 9:48 AM  
**To:** May, Lewis L. EOP/WHO ; Wranglers  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Town Pool Report #1 | Schedule & New Briefing Time

Good Morning,

I'm today's pooler on this balmy and soon to be rainy day in Washington. Below is today's schedule, copied again for everyone with one update: [Press briefing is now at 2:30 p.m.](#)

Send me a note if you have any questions!

**10:15 AM THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT receive the President's Daily Brief**  
*Oval Office*  
*Closed Press*

**11:15 AM THE PRESIDENT joins a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg National Security Advisory Jake Sullivan to discuss preparations for the NATO Summit in Madrid at the end of June and the strength of our transatlantic Alliance**  
*Roosevelt Room*  
*Closed Press*

**5:30 PM THE PRESIDENT departs the White House en route Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press and Pooled for TV*

**6:30 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**  
*Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*  
*Out-of-Town Pool*

--

Noah Robertson  
The Christian Science Monitor

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] UPDATE: DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 2, 2022 12:24 PM (UTC-04:00)



**UPDATE:**

In the evening, the President will deliver remarks on the recent tragic mass shootings, and the need for Congress to act to pass commonsense laws to combat the epidemic of gun violence that is taking lives every day. These remarks in the Cross Hall will be open to pre-credentialed media. [[RSVP here](#) by 3:00 PM]

After, the President will travel to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where they will remain over the weekend. The departure from the South Lawn will be open press. The arrival in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

**EDT**

**10:15 AM THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT receive the President's Daily Brief**

*Oval Office*

*Closed Press*

**10:00 AM Out-of-Town Pool Call Time**

*Stakeout Location*

**11:15 AM THE PRESIDENT joins a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg National Security Advisory Jake Sullivan to discuss preparations for the NATO Summit in Madrid at the end of June and the strength of our transatlantic Alliance**

*Roosevelt Room*

*Closed Press*

**2:30 PM In-Town Pool Call Time**

**3:30 PM Supplemental Pool Call Time**

*Stakeout Location*

**7:30 PM** THE PRESIDENT delivers remarks on deliver remarks on the recent tragic mass shootings, and the need for Congress to act to pass commonsense laws to combat the epidemic of gun violence that is taking lives every day

*Cross Hall*

*Open to Pre-Credentialed Media (Gather 7:20 – Palm Room Doors) [[RSVP here](#) by 3:00 PM]*

**8:10 PM** THE PRESIDENT departs the White House en route Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

*South Lawn*

*Open Press (Gather 8:00 PM – Palm Room Doors)*

**9:15 PM** THE PRESIDENT arrives in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware

*Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*

*Out-of-Town Pool*

**Briefing Schedule**

**2:30 PM** Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response Dr. Ashish Jha

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 1, 2022

**DAILY GUIDANCE AND PRESS SCHEDULE FOR  
THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022**

In the morning, the President and the Vice President will receive the President's Daily Brief in the Oval Office. This meeting will be closed press.

Then, the President will join a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and National Security Advisory Jake Sullivan to discuss preparations for the NATO Summit in Madrid at the end of June and the strength of our transatlantic Alliance. This meeting in the Roosevelt Room will be closed press.

In the evening, the President will travel to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, where they will remain over the weekend. The departure from the South Lawn will be open press and pooled for TV. The arrival in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

**In-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: ABC

Print: Christian Science Monitor

Radio: NPR

**Out-of-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: ABC

Print: WSJ

## **Supplemental Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: ABC

Print: The Telegraph

## **EDT**

**10:15 AM THE PRESIDENT and THE VICE PRESIDENT receive the President's Daily Brief**  
*Oval Office*  
*Closed Press*

**10:00 AM Out-of-Town Pool Call Time**  
*Stakeout Location*

**11:15 AM THE PRESIDENT joins a meeting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg National Security Advisory Jake Sullivan to discuss preparations for the NATO Summit in Madrid at the end of June and the strength of our transatlantic Alliance**  
*Roosevelt Room*  
*Closed Press*

**2:45 PM In-Town Pool Call Time**

**3:30 PM Supplemental Pool Call Time**  
*Stakeout Location*

**5:30 PM THE PRESIDENT departs the White House en route Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press and Pooled for TV*

**6:30 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware**  
*Rehoboth Beach, Delaware*  
*Out-of-Town Pool*

## **Briefing Schedule**

**3:00 PM Press Briefing by Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response Dr. Ashish Jha**

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**From:** White House Press Office  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] COMPREHENSIVE TRIP GUIDANCE FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2022 – SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022  
**To:** Goodlander, Margaret V. (OAG)  
**Sent:** June 7, 2022 10:19 PM (UTC-04:00)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 7, 2022

**COMPREHENSIVE TRIP GUIDANCE FOR  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 2022 – SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022**

**Wednesday, June 8, 2022**

In the morning, the President will travel to Los Angeles, California to host the Ninth Summit of the Americas. The Summit will bring together governments from across our hemisphere to focus on pressing challenges, including economic prosperity, climate change, the migration crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The departure from the South Lawn will be open press. The departure from Joint Base Andrews will be covered by the out-of-town pool. The arrival at Los Angeles International Airport will be open press.

In the afternoon, the President will tape an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live! This event at the El Capitan Entertainment Centre in Los Angeles, California will be closed press and the out-of-town pool will accompany.

After, the President will greet with heads of delegations at the Ninth Summit of the Americas. This event at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

Then, the President and the First Lady will participate in the inaugural ceremony of the Ninth Summit of the Americas. The President will deliver remarks. These remarks at the Microsoft Theater will be covered by the out-of-town pool.

**In-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg

Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT

TV Corr & Crew: CBS  
Print: New York Post  
Radio: BBC

**Out-of-Town Pool**

Wires: AP, Reuters, Bloomberg  
Wire Photos: AP, Reuters, AFP, NYT  
TV Corr & Crew: CBS  
Print: Washington Examiner  
Radio: NPR

**EDT**

**9:45 AM Out-of-Town Travel Pool Call Time**  
*Joint Base Andrews Visitor Control Center Overhang*

**10:45 AM In-Town Pool Call Time**

**11:15 AM THE PRESIDENT departs the White House en route Joint Base Andrews**  
*South Lawn*  
*Open Press (Gather 11:05 AM – Palm Room Doors)*

**11:45 AM THE PRESIDENT departs Joint Base Andrews en route Los Angeles, California**  
*Joint Base Andrews*  
*Out-of-Town Pool*

**PDT**

**1:30 PM THE PRESIDENT arrives in Los Angeles, California**  
*Los Angeles International Airport*  
*Open Press*

**2:40 PM THE PRESIDENT tapes an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live!**  
*El Capitan Entertainment Centre, Los Angeles, California*  
*Out-of-Town Pool Accompanies; Program Embargoed*

**4:00 PM THE PRESIDENT greets with heads of delegations at the Ninth Summit of the Americas**  
*Microsoft Theater, Los Angeles, California*  
*Out-of-Town Pool*

**5:15 PM THE PRESIDENT and THE FIRST LADY participate in the inaugural ceremony of the Ninth Summit of the Americas; THE PRESIDENT delivers remarks**  
*Microsoft Theater, Los Angeles, California*  
*Out-of-Town Pool*

**Briefing Schedule**

**Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre and National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan will gaggle aboard Air Force One en route Los Angeles, California**

**Thursday, June 9, 2022**

The President will attend and deliver remarks at the opening plenary of the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

The President and the First Lady will welcome heads of state and government and their spouses for a dinner as part of the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

**Friday, June 10, 2022**

The President will deliver remarks at the Port of Los Angeles.

The President will host a leaders retreat and working luncheon with heads of state and government as part of the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

The President will participate in two fundraising receptions for the Democratic National Committee.

**Saturday, June 11, 2022**

The President will travel to Santa Fe, Mexico and meet with New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, State and local officials, first responders, and response and recovery personnel from FEMA and other agencies to receive a briefing on the New Mexico wildfires at the New Mexico Emergency Operations Center.

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