

NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON WITH PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA

SUBJECT: U.S.-AFRICA LEADERS SUMMIT

MODERATOR: MYRON BELKIND, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

LOCATION: NATIONAL PRESS CLUB BALLROOM, WASHINGTON, D.C.

TIME: 1:30 P.M. EDT

DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2014

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MYRON BELKIND: (Sounds gavel.) Good afternoon, and welcome. My name is Myron Belkind. I'm an adjunct professor at the George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, a former international bureau chief with the Associated Press, and the 107th President of the National Press Club. The National Press Club is the world's leading professional organization for journalists committed to our profession's future through our programming with events such as this while fostering a free press worldwide. For more information about the National Press Club, please visit our website at press.org.

On behalf of our members worldwide, I'd like to welcome our speaker and those of you attending today's event. Our head table includes guests of our speaker as well as working journalists who are Club members. If you hear applause in our audience, I'd note that members of the general public are attending and so it's not necessarily evidence of a lack of journalistic objectivity. We always put that disclaimer in because it's important to do so.

I'd also like to welcome our C-SPAN and Public Radio audiences. You can follow the action on Twitter using the hashtag NPCLunch. After our guest's speech concludes, we'll have a question and answer period. I will ask as many questions as time permits.

Now, it's time to introduce our head table guests. I'd ask each of you to stand briefly as your name is announced. From your right, Ken Yates, Senior Vice President, Jefferson Waterman International. Please hold your applause until I've finished. I know you're eager to do so. Erik Meltzer, new systems specialist, the Associated Press;

Debra Alfarone, reporter and anchor for WUSA Today 9; our friend, his Excellency Ambassador Ebrahim Rasool, the South African Ambassador to the United States; David Calloway, editor-in-chief of *USA Today*; Mrs. Nompumelelo Zuma, the First Lady of the Republic of South Africa; Jerry Zremski, the Washington bureau chief of the *Buffalo News*, chair of the National Press Club Speakers Committee, and a former president of the National Press Club.

Skipping over our guest of honor for a moment, Kasia Klimasinska, *Bloomberg News* correspondent and a Speakers Committee member who organized today's event. Thank you so much, Kasia. Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation; Paul Barber, the North America editor of AFP TV; Connie Lawn, president of Audio Visual News, and its senior White House correspondent who for many years was familiar to South Africans during the apartheid period as the voice of the South African Broadcasting Corporation from Washington. And when she met Nelson Mandela when he was here 20 years ago, he said and on the radios, they were smuggled into their cells, Connie's broadcast gave them hope. Thank you for being such an active member of the National Press Club, Connie. Tony Culley-Foster, founder and president of CFCO International, and an independent consul to the CEO of Africa Today TV, which launches today. (Applause)

At this very podium nearly 20 years ago, on October 7th, 1994, Nelson Mandela thanked the United States and international media for supporting South Africa's struggle for democracy and to fight against apartheid. He talked about South Africa's urgent need to address questions of economic growth, development and equal distribution of wealth and income. Two decades later, our guest of honor today, the current South African President, His Excellence Jacob Zuma, presides over a much improved country. Apartheid has long ended. Many more in South Africa have access to clean water and electricity. The murder rate has been cut by more than half, and the proportion of those living on less than \$2 a day has declined.

Even so, South Africa remains economically unequal. The country has one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, and the IMF lowered the country's growth forecast this year due to electricity shortages and labor conflicts. In a positive development, South Africa was invited to join Brazil, Russia, India and China in an association of large emerging market economies known as the BRICs. These nations seek more involvement in international affairs and more access to resources.

Last month, President Zuma and other BRICs leaders agreed to set up a \$50 billion new development bank, and a \$100 billion currency exchange reserve, lowering their dependence on the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. President Zuma in May secured his second term as the country's leader. This week, he is in Washington to participate in the U.S.-Africa summit. He is seeking more trade and investment, as well as President Obama's support for various African Union economic development programs plus peace and security, climate change, and environmental protection issues. Please join me, ladies and gentlemen, in welcoming to the National Press Club, Jacob Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa. (Applause)

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Thank you very much, thank you. Thank you very much indeed. The President of the National Press Club, Mr. Myron Belkind, Minister, and Deputy Ministers who are here, particularly the ones who are accompanying me to this great country, ambassadors who are with us here, particularly ambassador to South Africa representing the United States and the ambassador to the United States representing South Africa. Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor and a pleasure to be able to speak to you today from the same podium that our President Nelson Mandela spoke at 20 years ago, as you have heard, when he was thanking the United States and the media for having supported our struggle. He was South Africa's first democratically elected president.

I would like to thank the National Press Club for providing this unique opportunity for us to talk about our country's journey towards a truly nonracial, nonsexist, and prosperous South Africa. We have achieved a lot in 20 years since the dawn of freedom in 1994. We have laid a firm foundation for a thriving democracy in a short space of time. Amongst our key achievements is the manner in which we have created an open democracy and an open society.

We pride ourselves in having a progressive constitution that enshrines freedom and expression and that also the media. We are also proud of our well established democratic processes such as holding of elections successfully and transparently every five years. In May this year, we cast our ballots for the fifth time carefully, patiently, and in peace. Our democracy has come of age in a very short space of time.

We have also done well in building a new society, and an improved quality of life. We have made enormous strides in expanding access to free education, housing, electricity, clean water, and sanitation for people who did not have these basic services before.

Close to half of our people are now in the middle to higher income brackets due to progressive transformation policies by the democratic government. The number of people living in absolute poverty has been slashed by the extension of sustainable safety, safety net, to 60 million of our people who are more living in the vulnerable conditions as citizens. As well as towards an ambitious target of a five year, five percent growth by 2019, we believe we have laid a sound economic foundation.

We are also encouraged by the fact that our foreign direct investment outlook continues to be positive. Last year, 130 foreign companies entered South Africa for the first time or expanded their investments contributing to a total direct investment inflow of \$8.2 billion U.S., which is double the figure for 2012.

Anderson Young predicts that such flows into South Africa will average \$10 billion U.S. annually for the next four years. Foreign institutions and other investors also continued to seek opportunities within the continent working with South African companies. In addition, the World Economic Forum ranks South Africa among the

world's best for the strength of our banks, the independence of our courts, and the protection we afford property rights. We are also recognized for the transparency of our policymaking, the rigor of our financial auditing, and the reporting standards and the governance of world financial markets.

Another important study was done by Goldman Sachs last year entitled "Two Decades of Freedom: What South Africa is Doing With It and What Now Needs to be Done?" Investment bank found much to admire in our performance between 1994 and 2013. We took our GDP from \$136 billion U.S. to \$400 billion U.S. We tamed inflation while expanding our tax base more than sevenfold. The market capitalization of businesses under the Johannesburg Stock Exchange grew eightfold. We increased our gold and foreign exchange reserves from 3 billion to 50 billion U.S. dollars. We really have a good story to tell about 20 years of South Africa's democratic rule.

But we are also the first to admit that our work is not yet completed. We still have a long, hard road ahead of us as we confront the triple challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality. Fortunately, we have a roadmap in the form of the National development plan, Vision 2030. By 2030, we want poverty to be history, unemployment to be reduced, and growth to average an annual 5.4 percent. These are not easy targets. But with determination and hard work, nothing is impossible.

Ladies and gentlemen, earlier this morning we met with members of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. We are happy that there are about 600 U.S. companies investing in South African economy. The presence of these companies demonstrates that South Africa is a viable investment destination. We look forward to the further expansion of trade and investment opportunities with the U.S. and other key markets.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act has been a powerful instrument in achieving this goal. Over 95 percent of our exports getting to the U.S. markets through AGOA. While opening up markets for our goods, AGOA has also been opening up and helping to grow new markets for American goods and services. We look forward to a seamless, unconditional and long-term renewal of AGOA with South Africa included among the beneficiaries.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me hasten to add that South Africa will succeed not alone, but as part of the broader African success story. We are working to integrate our economies and to boost regional trade. We are promoting industrialization and the power generation. We are developing transport infrastructure to get our goods both to overseas markets and to the new internal markets that we are creating. Together, as African countries we are making progress in all these areas.

Transcontinental corridors running north to south and east to west are moving from the drawing board to reality. Plans to tap a full 40,000 megawatts hydropower potential of the Grand Inga Dam in the Democratic Republic of Congo is also becoming a reality. The free trade area uniting southern, central and east Africa into a market of 600 million consumers with a combined GDP of \$1 trillion U.S. is now a reality and a

prospect. And that indicates how much we are reorganizing the continent of Africa for the best, how much we want to be part of the economic activities of our continent. It is truly a region of great hope and promise for Africa. While challenges remain in the areas of peace and security, or poverty in parts of the continent, there is a determination to find African-led solutions to African problems.

Partnerships with the world in dealing with these challenges are important. In this regard, we welcome the opportunity that this week's U.S.-African Leaders Summit provides to engage further on Africa's economic growth, development and security. We thank President Barack Obama for the invitation to participate in this summit. We are ready to discuss partnerships that will assist in making African-led initiatives succeed. We hope that the outcomes of the summit can be achieved and be implemented through multilateral mechanisms. We also look forward to outcomes that will be co-owned, co-developed and be co-driven by the participating nations.

Ladies and gentlemen, we meet during a difficult period in the Middle East. We are outraged by the killing of civilians by Israel from United Nations shelters. We also condemn the killing of Israeli civilians by Hamas. We call upon all sides to lay down arms and work towards a negotiated solution that will lead to the internationally recognized and supported two-state solution.

We believe violence will not solve the Israeli-Palestine problem. But it is negotiations, it is compromising that people must make in the spirit of give and take for the sake of a bigger picture, for the lives of their people.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a real privilege to meet with you today. South Africa has a good story to tell. We are open for investment, open for trade, open for tourism, and open for partnerships to better enhance our drive towards a better life for all our people. Director of the program, I am with my ministers and deputy ministers who are at many of the tables. And I'm sure as we engage, they will also where they will feel necessary to come in and add or emphasize or throw light on other issues. I thank you very much for the opportunity. (Applause)

MR. BELKIND: Thank you again for a very substantive speech. And now we have the traditional question and answer session. Sir, what industries in South Africa will help the economy most to rebound this year from a weak first quarter to your promised and projected 5 percent growth?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well, we will be expecting all industries that will find an opportunity in South Africa. As you know, South Africa is one of the mining areas of the world, you are aware that there has been some strikes in that sector. But we are consoled by the fact that the relations between companies and the unions has a very good tradition in South Africa. There has been some strikes that took longer but those matters are being addressed by both government, the private sector, the companies as well as the trade union themselves. I'm mentioning it because you cannot exclude mining in the industries that South Africa will undertake for a long time to come. And it is therefore open for

investment.

But we are also looking at energy. We have taken very clear decisions about energy mix. We should include among others the wind, hydro, nuclear energy, all energies that we talk about. We've taken the decision to deal with it as one thing that we deal with exploiting each of these. But also we are aware that South Africa, I think, has developed shale gas, which the Americans will agree is an economic game changer. But also we are discovering oil and we have the abundance of coal.

And therefore, the issue of energy in particular is very important in bouncing back our economy so that we can move quicker than any other time before. I'm merely mentioning a few. Belief is endless in South Africa.

MR. BELKIND: Why should American businesses invest in South Africa?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: (Laughter) Because the opportunities are open in South Africa. I think we have a country which is democratic, which is a constitutional democracy. The democracy that does not depend on individual or political parties. It is entrenched in the constitution. It has one of the things, well organized labor force. That's why even if there are strikes, we are able to handle them because we have got rules and regulations to deal with the situation in South Africa. I think it is a country with open opportunities. That's why the American companies must come and invest.

MR. BELKIND: What do you think the BRICs bank will do that the World Bank, IMF and other development banks, are not doing today?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: I am not sure whether I could be the judge, and indicate very specifically what are the banks that have been there for a long time have not been doing. But, of course, we are dealing with the African leader who has been here for quite a while. There has been a concern from the African leaders that the existing banks that have been there before have not succeeded to produce an example country that was helped successfully and it is now thriving and doing everything. There's no country you can produce, put a finger on.

That has tended to give concern. And therefore, it makes feeling [?]. And that's why there's been a call that there must be a reform of these global financial institutions. And, of course, they are old institutions. The BRICs bank comes from among developing countries, comes from the south. It has said from the beginning it is there to help countries develop, develop the developing countries. Certainly it is going to have a different approach how it deals with struggling countries and developing countries. And that's a hope that we have, that it is going to do things differently.

No country will go to the BRICs bank and say, "I need to be rescued," and find itself not being rescued but to more problems. We believe the countries that will deal with the BRICs bank, they will be taken out of the problems and indeed to be helped so that they can stand on their own.

MR. BELKIND: We've got one more question on BRICs and then we'll move on. Not all of the BRICs are on the most solid economic ground these days. The Brazilian and Chinese economies have slowed, for example. What effect will this slowdown have on the BRICs efforts?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well, you agree with me again that there is no country that can say since the economic meltdown they've been thriving. Everybody's been struggling. So there is nothing new that the BRICs countries were also affected. But you'll also agree, and I wish we had enough time, because we'll agree that even the economic slowdown somehow the BRICs countries did stop it at some point and managed, perhaps, to address it quicker than it would have been. And we believe that with all the challenges that face some of the BRICs countries, but certainly to be able to utilize the bank, better their positions and also better positions of other countries.

MR. BELKIND: What are the major bilateral priorities between South Africa and the United States in 2014 and over the next three to five years?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: I think we have outlined the priorities in my remarks this morning and earlier. That certainly the American companies have a role to play with regard to the economy of South Africa to grow, as well as the continent. This will never go away and will never be less important. Very important given the experiences, particularly on the matters that we are handling in South Africa. The U.S. companies have the experience, and we hope they will be able, therefore, to share that experience with us. And certainly working together we'll be able to move forward.

MR. BELKIND: Barack Obama is the first American President of African descent. Has his engagement with African affairs met your expectations? And do you think his background has influenced his dealings with African issues in any way?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Yes, it has. It has influenced his dealing with Africa, partially because of what I've said; his background of the African descent. But as an individual I would say that in itself has not helped to some degree. There were many people that looked at it from that point of view, and therefore, it has made him to tread very carefully, handling this matter. And I think that's a reality. I believe he could have done more, but I think he always was aware of this fact. And therefore, he has navigated that position very well. (Applause)

MR. BELKIND: Changing topics, we like interaction, so we move on. I asked the President how he's doing, he's doing fine, he said. (Laughter) Sir, is South Africa at risk for ebola? What is your country doing to insure the epidemic does not spread? And in what way is South Africa assisting the afflicted West African nations?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: No, South Africa is at no risk so far. Ebola, I think, has been around for a long time in other parts of the continent. It has never come down to the south. Of course, South Africa is working together with all health institutions in the

continent to address the problem. But there is no imminent risk to South Africa.

MR. BELKIND: Even though you're not directly affected, I think many people here would like to hear on what you feel about what does the international community need to do to successfully eliminate the ebola virus? How much money do you think it would take and who should provide that financing?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well, firstly I think the world works together today through the World Health Organization. There is no problem that they are not tackling together. Ebola is one of those that they're not tackling together, as something that threatens humanity. As to how much you need, I can't guess, really. I think that's a matter of health practitioners who are dealing with these matters given the challenge that it poses. And I'm sure they'll be able to provide that answer.

MR. BELKIND: How does the unrest in Nigeria, Central African Republic, and other regions of Africa, impact development in South Africa? What more needs to be done in terms of security to insure Africa's continued development?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well, any insecurity in any part of the continent impacts on the continent. We've discussed this in the AU continuously. We've tried many remedies in terms of peacekeeping, peace making. In the recent past, there has been new approaches to the problems that have affected some parts in the central of Africa as well as North Africa in particular, which was, in a sense, an overflow of the Arab problems.

We have taken a decision to establish a military capacity by the AU to be able to stop these. But the discussions are taking longer. We then thought instead of going through that process, we better establish a rapid reaction force that must be established by volunteering countries in the continent who will have the capacity, the possibility to address these issues so that by the time we come to the ideal situation, but we are in a better position to deal with any matter that is going to arise.

What, therefore, we are calling upon from big countries is the support of that initiative by the African countries, that they should support our initiative. I think that's one of the points we'd be making to President Barack Obama.

MR. BELKIND: In a related question, South Africa has sponsored a very proactive peacekeeping force in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Are there plans to expand South Africa's military peacekeeping forces in the future?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well, South Africa is part of Africa. It plays a role that other African countries play. Some of the roles that it can play, some of the countries cannot play precisely because of the sizes, because of the situations. We have been in every part of the continent as making our own contribution to our peacemaking and peacekeeping. We will continue to do so as long as there is trouble in the continent.

MR. BELKIND: Sir, Islamic extremism is now a significant issue across the African continent from Boko Haram in Nigeria to Al-Shabaab in Somalia and networks everywhere in between. To what extent, if any, has this issue affected South Africa and how do you see the problem arriving in the next decade, and what part will South Africa play?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: When anything bad happens in the continent to some extent affects South Africa. The issue of these extreme kind of activities has affected South Africa. We'll not just look at it as a country, but the continent and the AU has discussed this matter. Part of the remedy I talked about earlier relates to these; that we have a quick reaction force to deal with these issues in many of the areas where it emerges.

The African countries have, in fact, completed a plan to deal with it. It is a question of how much of that is going to be supported, what we believe, if it is allowed to be rooted in some of the area, it will certainly spread to other areas. And therefore, we are coming together to insure that it is stopped. It will not take quicker given the demands to the African countries. But certainly we have taken decisions. There are some areas where we've succeeded to stop such activity. And I believe that from now on, we are going to accelerate our activities to deal with these problems.

MR. BELKIND: Corruption has often skimmed much needed development dollars from people who most need it in many countries of the region. What should African nations do to root out the worst of this corruption and safeguard development dollars?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: When countries would have their own way of how to handle it as different countries. That is an issue that we talk about, that we agree that it is not wanted in the continent of Africa. I think we have great agreement in the AU. But of course there is an issue of specific countries, what specific countries do. If we take South Africa for an example, we have got very clear remedies emanating from the laws to the institutions that have been established. In fact, we have a number of people that have been arrested that are serving in prison, we have an elaborate system of detecting corruption. We are dealing with it, but it needs people to work together and countries to work together because those who commit crimes or who are corrupt-- corruption's not a one street kind of thing. It's a two-way street.

How, then, do we work together, all of us, to address corruption, is a matter that we need to deal with. In some areas, you don't hear much of the talk about fighting corruption. And yet, it is there. But in some areas, it is talked about, it is acted upon. We are one country that has elaborate kind of structures and remedies that dreads [?] corruption.

MR. BELKIND: Amongst South Africa's biggest problems is the persistent racial and class divide of the nation. How long do you see that lasting, and what are the steps the government is implementing to make it less severe?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well, the class division in South Africa has a peculiar history. It was one of the things that different class divisions, was racism. Because in South Africa, at a given time, just by a race you are identified in a particular category of the class. Those are the matters we are dealing with, and I think we are making headway because we are attacking poverty, inequality, which we said is a problem. And a gap between the rich and the poor, which perpetuates the class divisions. It's a matter we cannot put the date, that by this date we'd have dealt with it. The matter that are going to deal with it as much as we can. But we think tackling poverty and inequality will go a long way to address the issue.

MR. BELKIND: South Africa has recently launched an ambitious nuclear program. What role will nuclear energy play in the development of South Africa's economy?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: We believe it will play a greater role. Energy is very critical to economic development. We have a great plan to utilize our energy to help develop our economy and we believe very, very, very soon there will be a clarity of what role it plays. We are not looking at energy only as a country, we are looking at it from a regional point of view as well as a continental point of view. That's why in my remarks I touched upon Inga project that we believe will go a long way to augment whatever South Africa is doing but to southern Africa and to the whole continent.

MR. BELKIND: AIDS remains a problem throughout sub Saharan Africa. Do you feel that the world health community and pharmaceutical companies are doing all they should do to make anti-AIDS drugs affordable throughout the region?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Yes, I think they are trying their best. They are trying their best and I think the awareness today is far better than what it was when the pandemic started. You know that South Africa was one of the countries that was being criticized very highly with regard to HIV and AIDS. But today, you'll agree that many countries are saying South Africa is an example because of our programs that were put in place. If that is the case, I think that gives hope that we can deal with this in a shorter time than we could realize.

MR. BELKIND: The question related to the Middle East; your party, the questioner says, called to expel the Israeli ambassador. Do you agree with that position?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well as you know, there was a demonstration in South Africa where this call was made. People were indeed worried about what was happening. I think as a free country, a country with free expression, people indicated how they were feeling and made that call. I do believe recalling an ambassador is not just a simple matter, particularly if you take the complexity of the problem of the Middle East with regard to Palestine and Israel particularly because we believe we have been an example as a country an experience that we can offer the two sides. We think in the manner in which we take our actions with regard to the Israeli issue, it must take that into account so

that they don't do something that could, in fact, prevent you to do the more good thing at the end.

We believe that, and we've offered this to both sides; that we come from a conflict that nobody else ever thought it would be resolved. The individualized races within South Africa, we resolved it. We have been an example which we believe we could offer. And if we count ourselves in that kind of level, it means whatever we do we must bear that in mind. And therefore, it cannot just be a quicker thing to say, "Call the ambassador, then recall the ambassador." We've got to say, "What will benefit both countries or the Middle East in the long end?" And as a country, we do have to take a bigger picture. (Applause)

MR. BELKIND: One last question before our final question. This is a question, the final question is generally on a more lighter note, and with this building up to that, sir this is a question that's related to many countries, but specifically what steps are being considered or implemented to protect women and girls in South Africa from violence of all kinds?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Well, that question in South Africa-- South Africa is very active on that issue in terms of taking the position of women and children, it's taken very serious. We are fighting very hard, the entire country. We have taken the position to empower women; not just to talk about them, but to give them the responsibilities in the decision making so that they are part of the process of addressing that issue. So it's an issue that we will fight continuously in South Africa, how to protect women and children. It's part of our leading programs in the country.

MR. BELKIND: Thank you, sir. And if you could just stand by for the final question. But first, we are almost out of time. But before asking the last question, we have a couple of housekeeping matters to take care of. First of all, I'd like to remind you about our upcoming events and speakers. On September 18th, there'll be John G. Stumpf, CEO of Wells Fargo will speak. And on September 19th, Larry Merlo, President and CEO of CBS Corporation. And as I said at our lunch on Friday, I know that Jerry Zremski, the Chair of our Speakers Committee, and Donna Leinwand Leger, the Vice Chair, are working hard to complete bringing you a very full program for the rest of the year.

Next, I'd like to present our guest with the traditional National Press Club mug. We are honored to do so, as we did to Nelson Mandela. (Applause)

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Thank you so much.

MR. BELKIND: And now the last question. Sir, much has been said about Nelson Mandela's profound impact on your nation and the world. That being the case, could you share any special recollections of your experiences with him that will inform us even more about the kind of man he was?

PRESIDENT ZUMA: Thank you very much for that question. And, of course, Nelson Mandela has always been a special man. We who joined the struggle that he was

leading at one point shared many things. And I don't know which one we can talk about, but his greatness was fed by us as the followers of him. When he was the volunteering chief, when I joined the NCA I was a volunteer, so he was my commander. But there are many things that he did. His appearances in court twice in 1962 and with the [00:38:14], I think summarized what we all stood for. It reminded me, and I was telling the story recently, when he left prison, he visited a hall where he had just a public meeting first or as a last public act in 1961. Among the people who were there was an old journalist and I'm remembering that because I'm among the journalists.

And he was asked to give an accounting of that day. He said he came first, then the venue changed. It was supposed to be somewhere and there were some difficulties. He came to a different-- I'm sure a smaller hall than usual. This journalist came, there was no where to come in. We were there as volunteers not wanting things to go wrong. He looked around, found a window on top. So he jumped to the window and just threw himself inside.

And where he came, people had no alternative but to allow it, because there was nowhere to push him around. Without realizing a few police who were political police in South Africa, we called them special branch, were there taking notes as he was speaking. And he said he took his notes to report the following day. When Mandela finished speaking, there was a bit of a scuffle and he did not know that the scuffle was pre-organized, pre-arranged, because it was meant to protect him as he escaped. Somebody pretended sick. He says as he finished one of the special branch turned to the other and said, "Hmm. This is like a state of the nation having been given by the President of the United States." Thank you. (Applause)

MR. BELKIND: Before concluding, I'd like to take this opportunity to give two special thank yous and acknowledgements; first to His Excellency Ebrahim Rasool, the Ambassador of South Africa. (Applause) He has worked closely with the National Press Club during his tenure here, starting with the South African Night honoring the life, legacy and values of Nelson Mandela, and for whom we are very grateful for your support and the support of all your colleagues in the embassy who put this program together, sir.

Second, I'd like to acknowledge the presence today of Washington, D. C. Mayor Vincent Gray. Mr. Mayor, could you please stand? (Applause) He signed a sister city agreement with the Executive Mayor of Sewanee, or Pretoria. Both cities, of course, are national capitals of their respective nations, and we are pleased to recognize them today as sister cities. Ladies and gentlemen, thank you again for coming today. Thank you especially to our very special guest of honor, and pleased to thank you once again and to say we are adjourned. (Sounds gavel.)

END

