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Wednesday, February 11th, 2009 at 5:01 pm

**Readout On the President's Calls to Foreign Leaders**

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release February 11, 2009

This afternoon, President Obama spoke to President Peres of Israel to extend his congratulations to the Israeli people on their general elections yesterday. The President remarked that the Israeli people should be very happy about the democratic example they have set for the world. They had a good discussion, and the President complimented President Peres on his recent op-ed in which he reaffirmed his strong commitment to achieving a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

This morning, President Obama and Italian Prime Minister Berlusconi had a friendly and productive call. The President stressed his commitment to a strong U.S.-Italian relationship. They discussed cooperation on a range of issues, including the global financial crisis, upcoming G-20 summit in London and NATO summit in Strasbourg-Kehl, G-8 summit in July, Iran, Middle East peace efforts, and energy security. President Obama also thanked Prime Minister Berlusconi for Italy's strong support in Afghanistan.

President Obama also had a productive conversation with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari this morning. President Obama expressed his support for Pakistan's democracy and his commitment to a strong partnership with Pakistan. The two leaders agreed on the importance of maintaining a strong bilateral relationship to address issues of common interest, such as counter-terrorism and economic development. And in line with Ambassador Holbrooke's mission, both leaders agreed to work together to advance peace and prosperity in Pakistan and the region.

You are Here: [Home](#) > The Briefing Room

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- The Blog
- Your Weekly Address
- Slideshows
- Press Briefings
- Official Statements
- Press Releases
- Presidential Actions
- Nominations & Appointments

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- Civil Rights
- Defense
- Disabilities
- Economy
- Education
- Energy & Environment
- Ethics
- Family
- Fiscal
- Foreign Policy
- Health Care
- Homeland Security
- Immigration

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- First Lady Michelle Obama
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- The Cabinet
- White House Staff
- Executive Office of the President

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- Presidents
- First Ladies
- Vice President's Residence & Office
- Eisenhower Executive Office Building
- The Oval Office
- Camp David
- Air Force One
- White House Fellows
- White House Internships
- White House 101

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- The Executive Branch
- The Legislative Branch
- The Judicial Branch
- The Constitution
- Federal Agencies & Commissions
- Elections & Voting
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- Resources

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