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I want to join with my colleagues, President Bush, President Clinton and Prime Minister Blair, in congratulating you on this *World Forum on the Future of Democracy* and the year-long series of conferences that has preceded it. Your topic is most timely and a very fitting way to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown.

Sustaining freedom is never easy. The totalitarian oppressions of the 20th century and the evil fanaticisms of the beginning of this century did demonstrate that fact. In the long history of mankind, democratic societies occupy only a brief part, but the ideas and liberties which they represent are the birthright of each and every one of us down the ages. We know, too, that freedom requires sacrifice. The courageous seafarers and settlers who came to Jamestown four centuries ago had no idea of the hardships they would face. But they persevered and a tiny settlement became a great nation, a great democracy, and a great partner and defender of free peoples round the world.

In the second half of the 20th century the partnership between America and Britain, supported by other freedom loving peoples, has fought steadfastly against tyranny and has brought new hope for millions. Never in human history has freedom made such an advance, yet it is only a beginning. These conferences held over the past year here in Virginia have highlighted the enormity of the challenges ahead. Yet, they have also shown the resilience of the human spirit and the creative power of free people. To preserve and advance democracy is our greatest challenge. So have courage, hold to your principles and we will prevail. Thank you.