

Press conference given by Prime Minister Cameroon in Washington, USA, following his meeting with President Obama, 13 May 2013.

Thank you very much, Barack, for the warm welcome.

It is good to be back here with you in the White House for the first time since the American people returned you to office. As you said, the relationship between Britain and the United States is a partnership without parallel. Day in, day out across the world our diplomats and intelligence agencies work together, our soldiers serve together, and our businesses trade with each other. In Afghanistan our armed forces are together defending the stability that will make us all safer. And in the global economic race, our businesses are doing more than \$17 billion worth of trade across the Atlantic every month. And in a changing world, our nations share a resolve to stand up for democracy, for enterprise and for freedom.

We have discussed many issues today, as the President has just said. Let me highlight three: the economy, the G8, and Syria. Our greatest challenge is to secure a sustainable economic recovery. Each of us has to find the right solutions at home. For all of us it means dealing with public debt, it means restoring stability, and getting our economy growing. When we meet for the G8 in Northern Ireland five weeks from today, I want us to agree ambitious action for economic growth. But I also want to tackle the scourge of tax evasion. We need to know who really owns a company, who profits from it, where multi-nationals make their money, whether and where they pay their taxes so we can stop those that are manipulating the system unfairly.

Finally, we discussed the brutal conflict in Syria: 80,000 dead, five million people forced from their homes. Syria's history is being written in the blood of her people, and it is happening on our watch. The world urgently needs to come together to bring the killing to an end. There is no more urgent international task than this. We have to do more for those in desperate humanitarian need, helping torture victims to recover, getting Syrian families drinking clean water, having access to food, to shelter. There is now, I believe, common ground between the US, UK, Russia and many other countries that, whatever our differences, we have the same aim: a stable and peaceful Syria, free from the scourge of extremism.

Barack, thank you once again for your warm welcome.