

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

Thursday, 29th September 2022

First US & Pacific Island Country Summit (2nd day)

Your Excellency, the President of the United States of America,
Honorable Fellow Leaders of our Blue Pacific Continent and their representatives,
Mr. Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my warm thanks to you President BIDEN for convening this very first Pacific Islands – United States Summit here in Washington D.C.

As you know, we, the people of the Pacific Islands, have a deeply rooted sense of hospitality. Let me assure you that French Polynesia is particularly touched by the quality of your hosting.

The commitment of your Administration at its highest level and your presence among us testifies to your consideration towards the French Polynesian and Pacific peoples.

We are small land countries and territories but significant Oceanic ones spread across the Blue Pacific Continent. Solidarity and unity are the only means to withstand human-related or nature-related adversity such as IUU or natural disasters given the peculiarities of our Islands.

Let me take this opportunity to join in thoughts and prayers the American families who had been hit hard by Hurricane Ian. It shows one more time how universal the devastating effects of climate change are.

Your invitation to the Summit reassures us and shows that we are not alone.

For the past 48 hours, your Secretaries and the top level of your Administration have heralded your commitment to be the top partner for the Pacific Islands and their peoples and to stand shoulder-to-shoulder in addressing the challenges that we face.

In this respect, this Summit can be coined as an historical one. It, however, shall mark the beginning of a renewed and enduring partnership. Mister President, please rest assured that French Polynesia will be a committed partner dedicated to its success.

The port of Papeete, our capital will be a safe harbour for your boats, as was the case last week for the USS Jackson, as it was the case for Bora Bora in 1943 and the Operation BOBCAT.

I thank you for your attention.

SERVICE DE LA COMMUNICATION

