

White House press briefing [via FNC's *America Reports*]

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VICE PRESIDENT JD VANCE: I will take some questions, but I wanna just — one final observation. When I was actually walking out here, somebody sent me a photo of a CNN headline about what happened in Minneapolis. And this is the headline. I will just read it: “Outrage after ICE officer kills U.S. citizen in Minneapolis.” Well, that’s one way to put it and that is the way that many people in the corporate media have put this attack over the last 24 hours. And I say attack very, very intentionally, because this was an attack on federal law enforcement. It was an attack on law and order. It was an attack on the American people. The way that the media, by and large, has reported the story has been an absolute disgrace and it puts our law enforcement officers at risk every single day. What that headline leaves out is the fact that that very ICE officer nearly had his life ended, dragged by a car six months ago, 33 stitches in his leg. So, you think he is a little bit sensitive about somebody ramming him with an automobile. What that headline leaves out is that that woman was there to interfere with a legitimate law enforcement operation in the United States of America. What that headline leaves out is that that woman is part of a broader left-wing network to attack, to dox, to assault, and to make it impossible for our officers to do their job. If the media wants to tell the truth, they ought to tell the truth that a group of left-wing radicals have been working tirelessly, sometimes using domestic terror techniques to make it impossible for the President of the United States to do what the American people elected him to do, which is enforce our immigration laws. The President stands with ICE. I stand with ICE. We stand with all of the law enforcement officers. And part of that is recognizing, you people in the media, not everybody in this room, but many people in this room have been lying about this attack. She was trying to ram this guy with her car. He shot back. He defended himself, he has already been seriously wounded in operations before and everybody who’s been repeating the lie that this is some innocent woman who was out for a drive in Minneapolis when a law enforcement officers shot at her, you should be ashamed of yourselves. Every single one of you. Questions.

MARY MARGARET OLOHAN: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. I wanted to read a quote from Tim Walz earlier today. He said: ‘When things look bleak, it was Minnesota’s 1st that held the line for the nation on July 3, 1863 and I think we may be in that moment now.’ Can you comment on his rhetoric and Mayor Jacob Frey and whether they want to see unrest in Minneapolis?

VANCE: Well, that’s very tough rhetoric from a guy who just quit because his fraudulent activities have been uncovered. Look, Tim Walz is a joke. His entire administration has been a joke. The idea that he’s some sort of freedom fighter, he’s not. He’s a guy who has enabled fraud and maybe, in fact, has participated in fraud. That’s what this new assistant attorney general position is going to find out. I don’t care what Tim Walz says. I care about getting to the bottom of this fraud for the American people. And I care about enforcing the nation’s immigration laws. That’s what we’re going to stay focused on.

RACHAEL BADE: One related question here. I mean, Democrats have accused ICE of murder. They've said they're targeting Americans. They've told ICE to get the F out of Minnesota. This is going to stoke the fire against ICE agents. And you're talking about ICE agents right now being concerned about. What, if anything, is the administration going to do to make sure these folks are protected during these protests? But also, should DHS sort of revisit their procedures here? I mean, nobody wants to see an American killed. Are there changes that need to be made to make sure something like this doesn't happen again?

VANCE: Look, first of all, of course nobody wants an American citizen to be killed. This is absolutely a tragedy, but it's a tragedy of the making of the far left. They have radicalized a very small segment of the population, taught them that ICE agents are engaging in, in wide-scale violation of people's rights. What are ICE officers are doing is deporting the millions of criminal aliens that were let in during the Biden administration. So, number one, we have to say, as a matter of leadership, and I would appreciate if the Democrats would join me on this. Let's be honest about the fact that we have way too many illegal aliens in this country. Our ICE officers should be supported in doing their job. You're trying to actually marshal the far left lunatic fringe, to engage in doxxing, to try to make it impossible for them to enforce the law, and in some cases, actually to engage in acts of domestic terrorism against our law enforcement officers. When you talk about different plans, different protocols, different policies, I forget exactly how you asked the question. Here's the simple fact. What we're going to do is make it easier for the American people's administration to enforce the American people's law, and that means that Democrats have to stop rallying the mob against legitimate law enforcement operations. And that means that we are going to get tougher, and that's what this AG position is about. We're going to get tougher at the people who are defrauding the United States by inciting violence against our law enforcement officers. That's one of the things that we're going to do. We've already started that work at the Department of Justice. We're going to keep on doing it and this new AG position is going to kick that into high gear.

PETER DOOCY: Vice President Vance, you just suggested that this woman who was killed, Renee Good, is part of a broader left wing network. Who do you think is behind this broader left wing network?

VANCE: Well, one of the things we're going to have to figure out. But here's the way that I put it. When somebody throws a brick at an ICE agent or somebody tries to run over an ICE agent, who paid for the brick and who told protesters to show up and engage in violent activity against our law enforcement officers? You see, just with this most recent terrible incident in Minneapolis, you see friends of this woman's or other people who are eyewitnesses saying basically that she was there to engage in obstruction of a legitimate law enforcement operation. How did she get there? How did she learn about this? There's an entire network, and frankly, some of the media are participating in it that is trying to incite violence against our law enforcement officers. It's ridiculous. It's preposterous, and part of our investigatory work is getting to the bottom of it. Who's funding it, who's supporting it, who's cheerleading it. And of course, if there's illegal activity related to that, we're going to get to the bottom of that and prosecute it where we can.

KELLY O'DONNELL: Mr. Vice President, thank you for taking questions today. Is there a risk with you describing her as a deranged leftist, talking about very specific facts of these events when an investigation is just beginning? Are you preempting a thorough investigation by drawing such conclusions? And have you received any information beyond the videos we've seen publicly about this individual, her specific acts that has informed your point of view?

VANCE: Well, first of all, the Department of Justice is going to investigate this. The Department of Homeland Security is already investigating this. But the simple fact is, what you see is what you get. In this case, you have a woman who is trying to obstruct a legitimate law enforcement operation. Nobody debates that. You have a woman who aimed her car at a law enforcement officer and pressed on the accelerator. Nobody debates that. I can believe that her death is a tragedy, while also recognizing that it's a tragedy of her own making and a tragedy of the far left who has marshaled an entire movement, a lunatic fringe against our law enforcement officers. I think what is clearly happening here, and it's going to keep on happening unless the Democrats wake up and say, you know what? You don't have to agree with our immigration policies. You don't have to agree with what the President or the Vice President believe about immigration enforcement. But why don't you take this to the ballot box? Why don't you vote? Why don't you organize? Instead, what some of them are doing, what some of them are doing, is encouraging people to get violent with our law enforcement officials. It's disgraceful. And it's got to stop.

RACHEL SCOTT: Just to follow up on that question. And again, thank you for taking questions. Mr. Vice President. There's a lot of emotion in Minnesota across the country over this incident, but you're calling Renee Good a deranged leftist. There's been heated rhetoric that we've also heard from officials. What responsibility do you and the President have to defuse some of the tension that we are seeing play out in Minnesota, bring down the temperature as this investigation is unfolding?

VANCE: What we have a responsibility to do is to protect the people who are enforcing the law and protect the country writ large, whether you're Democrat or Republican, you deserve to have the people's laws enforced in the United States of America. Now, again, I don't — I'm not happy that this woman lost her life. I'm not happy that this woman was there at a protest, violating the law by interfering with a law enforcement action. I think that we can all recognize that the best way to turn down the temperature is to tell people to take their concerns about immigration policy to the ballot box, stop assaulting and stop inciting violence against our law enforcement officers. That's the best way to take down the temperature. And we're not — look, we're not going to give in to terrorism on this and that's exactly what's happening. People trying to antagonize to commit acts of violence. They throw bricks at them. Sometimes, they shoot at them. Sometimes, they dox them. Sometimes they go to their place of residence and harass their families. This is classic terrorism. And we cannot say that when, when, when a far-left fringe is inciting violence against our brave law enforcement officials, that we're no longer going to enforce the law, that's rewarding the very people who are engaged in this garbage. The actual reward that they just got is a new assistant attorney general who is going to prosecute and investigate this stuff even more, even more aggressively than before. [TO BLOOMBERG SEAT] Yeah.

BLOOMBERG SEAT: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. So, the head of Minnesota's investigations agency says that the U.S. Attorney's office has essentially cut off the state investigations agencies access to the investigation. What is the precedent for that? And why shouldn't the Minnesota officials on the ground have access and evidence to work on this investigation?

VANCE: First of all, I wish the state officials in Minnesota would investigate why you have so many people who are using their vehicles and other means to actually interfere with the legitimate law enforcement operation. The precedent here is very simple. You have a federal law enforcement official engaging in federal law enforcement action. That's a federal issue. That guy is protected by absolute immunity. He was doing his job. The idea that Tim Walz and a bunch of radicals in Minneapolis are going to go after and make this guy's life miserable because he was doing the job that he was asked to do is preposterous. The unprecedented thing is the idea that a local official can actually prosecute a federal official with absolute immunity. I've never seen anything like that. It would get tossed out by a judge. So, what I'd like Minnesota to focus on is the real issue that they're encouraging people. Minneapolis officials are encouraging people to commit violence against ICE officials. It's ridiculous. It's got to stop.

ANDREW FEINBERG: Mr. Vice President, thank you. You said earlier that there's a left wing network to attack, to dox, to assault, and make it impossible for ICE officers to do their job. You told my colleague just now that there's an investigation going on into that network.

VANCE: Yep.

FEINBERG: So, if everything that you say is true, how does being part of that network justify being shot?

VANCE: Well, being part of the network doesn't justify being shot. But ramming an ICE officer with your car. That's what justifies being shot. It's not a good thing, by the way, but when you force somebody to engage in self-defense, it's almost a preposterous question. I'm not saying that funding some of this stuff justifies capital punishment. Nobody would suggest that the reason this woman is dead is because she tried to ram somebody with her car, and that guy acted in self-defense. That is why she lost her life and that is the tragedy. Now, there may be other violations of the law and other penalties that the — that are associated with those violations of the law. For example, if you are funding violence against our law enforcement officers, I'm not a prosecutor. My guess is that's not the sort of thing that earns capital punishment, but it should sure as hell earn you a few years in prison if you're funding the effort to try to insult our law enforcement officers. What is — I'm sorry, guys, what's going on here? You guys are meant to report the truth. How have you let yourself become agents of propaganda, of a radical fringe that's making it harder for us to enforce our laws. You just asked me a question that presumed that the reason why this woman died is because she was engaged in legitimate protest. She tried to run somebody over with her car, and the guy defended himself when that happened. Next question.

FEINBERG: The investigation is still ongoing.

VANCE: I said, next question.

DANNY KEMP: Mr. Vice President, you presumably watched the video yourself. There's not the slightest doubt in your mind, having viewed it, that this the victim — you still believe that she deliberately tried to ram him despite — despite seeing this video?

VANCE: Look, I don't know what it's in a person's heart or in a person's head. And obviously, we're not going to get the chance to ask this woman what was going on. What I am certain of is that she violated the law. What I am certain of is that that officer had every reason to think that he was under very serious threat for injury, or in fact, his life. What is I'm certain of that she accelerated in a way where she ran into the guy. I don't know what was in her heart and what was in her head, but I know that she violated the law, and I know that officer was acting in self-defense. That's raises an interesting point, though. Look, if people want to say that we should have a legitimate debate about, you know, what was she really doing, right? Was she panicking when she drove into this officer, or was she actually trying to ram him? That's a — that's a reasonable conversation. What's not reasonable is for so many of you to plaster all over the media that this was an innocent woman and that the ICE agent committed murder, which is what many of you have said explicitly, and some of you have said implicitly. That's what I have an objection to. The idea that this was not justified is absurd and I think everybody knows it in their heart. [TO CASTRONUOVA] [REPORTERS SHOUTING] In the green jacket.

CARA CASTRONUOVA: Mr. Vice President, [INAUDIBLE] on taking down the temperature, it seems like political violence is ratcheting up and riots could be around the corner. What steps does the administration have planned to try to unite America? Average people on both political sides are so tired of fighting with each other. And I think all the journalists in this room could agree with me that we don't want to be part of the problem. Do you have —

VANCE: I appreciate that.

CASTRONUOVA: — do any do you have any words to unite America?

VANCE: You know, I know you don't want to be a part of the problem and I think that's true of a lot of you. I'm not sure it's true for everybody, because the reporting over this has been one of the biggest scandals I've ever seen in media. I've never seen a case so misrepresented and misreported when you have a guy who is defending himself and is now being treated as some sort of federal assassin by so many of the people in this room. What I — first of all, let me say about about crime, you mentioned violence. One of the things we're proudest about is that you saw violent crime over the last year drop by 20 percent. Why is that drop by 20 percent? Is it because we're attacking our law enforcement officers? Or is it because we and the administration are empowering our law enforcement officers to enforce the law? I think that's one of the ways you take down the temperature is you make people feel more secure and safe in their person and property. That's why we care so much about protecting our law enforcement, because it accrues to the benefit of the entire community. I think that we can absolutely talk about the ways in which, you know, we can —we can try to — we can lower the temperature by discussing differences in a reasonable and rational way. Again, I'm happy to talk with any congressional

Democrat or any of you about our immigration policy, about why I think it's necessary, about why I think it's in the best interest of the country about why the President of United States was elected to actually enforce the border for the first time in at least four years. So, here's the problem. That's not the debate so many people are having. They are actively covering for people who are committing acts of violence against federal law enforcement. It is preposterous. The way to take down the temperature is to stop it. Have your debates about policy. Attack me. Attack the President of United States. Don't attack our law enforcement officers. They are trying to do the job the American people demanded that they do that, that they are not policy actors. They are enforcing the law. They should be treated with a modicum of dignity and respect. And the fact that they're not is why incidents like yesterday happen. The one final point I'll make about this is, look, there's a part of me that feels very, very sad for this woman, not just because she lost her life, but because I think she is a victim of left wing ideology. What young mother shows up and decides they're going to throw their car in front of ICE officers who are enforcing legitimate law? You've got to be a little brainwashed to get to that point, to where you're willing not — not just to protest. That's fine. Not peacefully protest, but throw your vehicle in front of legitimate law enforcement officers and drive your car into them. To get to that point, you have to be, I think, radicalized in a very, very sad way. I certainly wish that she hadn't got there. I know there's an ICE officer right now who very much wishes he was not put in the position where he had to fire a gun to defend his own life. [TO DECKER] Yeah.

JON DECKER: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. What's your message — following on that, what's your message to the leaders in Minnesota, the governor of Minnesota, the mayor of Minneapolis, to calm down the situation on the ground, on the streets? What's your message also to those protesters who saw that video in a completely different way than you saw that video?

VANCE: Well, first of all, I think if you watch every angle of that video, there's one angle where if you squint, you can maybe tell yourself that it's not clear what happened. But when you look at all angles of that video, it is very clear that her vehicle went right for the guy. She actually collided with him. And then that's of course, when he fired his shots. That's obvious, okay? So, what I'd say to the protesters is, by all means, protest peacefully, but make this about ideas. Make this about disagreement with our policy. Don't use your protest as a justification or an encouragement for people to go and incite violence and participate in violence against our law enforcement officials. To the people on the ground in Minneapolis, meaning the local officials in Minneapolis from Tim Walz on down. I'd say, look, why can't you just disagree with a given piece of immigration policy without turning law enforcement into the enemy? And what I mean, think about, for example, a criminal law where a police officer goes and arrests somebody because they violated a criminal law. If you're mad about that, go and protest the politician who passed that law. Don't attack the police officer who is just doing their job. We had a wide-open border under Joe Biden. I happen to think it's a good thing the president of United States has closed it down. If you think that's a bad idea, criticize this administration for a policy decision. Don't attack our people for enforcing the law, because I guarantee you go to ICE. There are black people and white people. There are Democrats and Republicans. They are patriotic Americans who are trying to enforce the law. Attack me. Lay off of our ICE agents. [TO UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER] Yeah, in the blue all the way. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE REPORTER #1: Thank you, Mr. President. You called on Tim Walz to resign. Can you lay out the case as to why he should step down?

VANCE: Well, look, I think Tim Walz should resign because it's very clear either that he knew about the fraud in Minneapolis, he knew about the welfare fraud, or at the very least, he looked the other way. I mean, this is not — this is not like Lex Luther, right? This is not movie villain fraud. This is the lowest IQ possible fraud. This is we're going to take kids — or sorry, we're going to take the absence of kids and set up a daycare center where there are no children. And we're going to call our early childhood education center The Quality Learning Center. By the way, if you can't spell learning, maybe you shouldn't be in early childhood education, but people got rich off of this. We know that there were schools who either had no enrollment, or at least they overstated their enrollment. Tim Walz either it was unbelievable incompetence or he was in on the fraud. That's one of the things we're going to get to the bottom of. [TO UNIDENTIFIED REPORTER] Sir.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER #1: Mr. Vice President, can you explain the difference between this Associate Attorney general and a special counsel? And do you envision this being a permanent position or having more of a limited scope?

VANCE: Well, it's going to be permanent until we get to the bottom of what's going on, so I think it's going to last for at least the remainder of the administration. What's different about it from a special counsel is, if you remember the Jack Smith case, where the special counsel was found unconstitutional, one of the big issues there is that that person was not an appointed person — completely aside from all the other issues, that the person was a lunatic and that the case had no merit. There was a fundamental constitutional issue, which is that he had not been appointed by the President, and he had not been confirmed by the United States Senate. An assistant — or, excuse me, an assistant attorney general. What that's going to allow us to do is appoint this person and have them confirmed by the Senate. That's one difference. The more substantive difference is that this person is going to be part of a very broad, interagency white House that's being led from the president of the United States on down, and that's going to give him the resources, the access to material and information to make this person more effective. I think a lot of people have asked, how are you really going to get to the heart of the fraud? We've been asking ourselves that question for the past couple of months, and we think this is the critical piece at the Department of Justice to — to really ramp this fraud investigation into high gear. [REPORTERS SHOUTING] In the red tie. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE REPORTER #2: Vice President Vance, I wanted to ask, what's your message to far leftist agitators who feel emboldened to obstruct ICE activity in Minnesota and around the country?

VANCE: Well, I think they shouldn't feel emboldened because now they have an assistant attorney general who is going to prosecute and investigate their fraud and their violence more aggressively than it has ever been investigated in the United States of America. We are doing so much to try to find the financing networks and the domestic terrorism networks that legitimate this violence, that fund this violence and that, of course, engage in the violence. These people

should not feel emboldened because they have, for the first time, maybe in American history, an administration that is not going to tolerate political violence of any kind from anywhere. [TO HOLMES] Yeah.

KRISTEN HOLMES: It's a quite clear today that the entire weight of the federal government is behind these ICE agents, and this ICE agent in particular. There is still a federal investigation happening on the ground. Does that mean that they are not looking into this ICE agent at all? They are just focused on the woman who was in the car. What — what is the investigation if the federal government has already determined that its weight is behind this ICE investigation?

VANCE: So what do you mean when you say investigation? Do you mean investigation of the shooting yesterday or of the fraud that's happening in Minneapolis?

HOLMES: Yesterday.

VANCE: Okay, look, DHS, as I understand it, has an investigation already ongoing. I know that other organs of our government are looking at this. So, yes, there's certainly an investigation that's happening right now. But — but as part of the broader fraud investigation, a lot of what we're doing with the Department of Justice has already started. We've got over 1500 subpoenas. We've got people this morning, actually, we're going door-to-door to actually knock on some of these fraudulent care centers, these fraudulent social services organizations, to get to the bottom of what's going on there. So, the investigation, in some ways, has already been ramping up into the anti-fraud element for at least a few weeks. What we're trying to do is supercharge it and make sure there's a designated person within the Department of Justice who completely controls that particular focus. [TO BOSE] Yeah.

NANDITA BOSE: Just to follow up on that, Mr. Vice President, on the agent, is he still on duty or has he been placed on leave on administrative leave? And what really was the target of the operation on Wednesday — of the ICE operation on Wednesday?

VANCE: Well, first of all, it was a legitimate law enforcement operation. We were going door to door to try to find criminal, illegal aliens and deport them from the United States of America, because if you come to our country illegally and in violation of our immigration laws, then we have the mandate. And in fact, we have the legal duty to enforce those immigration laws, whether he's been placed on administrative leave. I don't know the answer to that question. I'd refer it to the Department of Homeland Security, and they can follow up. I will say, look, I would appreciate everybody saying a prayer for that. That agent. Look, in the past six months, he has been hit twice by a motor vehicle. One time — the first time, it led to over 30 stitches and very serious injuries to his legs. This is a guy who has actually done a very, very important job for the United States of America. He's been assaulted, he's been attacked. He's been injured because of it. He deserves a debt of gratitude. And I think the media pre-judging and talking about this guy as if he's a murderer, is one of the most disgraceful things I've ever seen from the American media. [TO O'KEEFE] Yeah.

ED O'KEEFE: Mr. Vice President, what is your specific role in the future of Venezuela? And

I'm wondering, could you confirm reports that the Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard, was kept out of the planning for the operations because of her past concerns about military involvement in Venezuela?

VANCE: So I've heard a couple of things. One, that I was kept out of the planning for the Venezuela operation. That's false. And another that Tulsi was kept out of the planning for Venezuela operations. That's completely false. Look, we're all part of the same team. And one of the things that is really amazing about that operation is that we kept it very tight to the senior, cabinet level officials and related officials in our government and we kept this operation secret for a very long time, a very proud of that. [O'KEEFE INAUDIBLE] I think it suggests I think it suggests that the team works very well together. Looking ahead, what does my role — look, my role is going to be whatever the President asks me to do.

O'KEEFE: Has he asked you to do something yet?

VANCE: Well, every single or, I should say, every other day I'm chairing the meeting that we do on this among White House principals to talk about next steps, to try to ensure that Venezuela is stable. And as the President has directed us to do, to ensure that the Venezuelan government actually listens to the United States and does what the United States needs it to do under our country's best interest. So, I'm going to be as involved as the president wants me to be. So far, that's been very involved, and I'll keep on doing that so long as the President asks me to do it. [TO REPORTER] Yes. [REPORTERS SHOUTING] We'll go purple and then we'll go pink or whatever that is in front.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER #2: And then [INAUDIBLE] All right. Okay. Are there any indications — you talked about the network — are there any indications that the — the lady who was shot? I know there are different reports from there her — her wife said there were new to the area. Are there any indications she may have been a paid agitator, or maybe that there are others that were brought to the area considering everything that's going on in Minneapolis?

VANCE: I wouldn't say that she was paid. I don't have the evidence to say that one way or the other. What I do know is that she was violating the law. And if you just look at the eyewitness accounts, they were saying she was there to prevent the enforcement of the law. She was trying to obstruct a legitimate law enforcement operation. That much is obviously clear. The rest of it, of course, is part of the reason why we investigate this stuff. [TO CAI] Yeah.

SOPHIA CAI: Mr. Vice President, even beyond what the War Powers Resolution today, Congress has bucked President Trump on issues like tariffs. Are you concerned that President Trump is losing his grip on Republicans in Congress? And what are you going to do about it?

VANCE: No, I'm not concerned at all. First of all, you know, we talked to some of the senators who are going to vote the wrong way, in my view, on this resolution today. Much of their argument was based more on a legal technicality than any disagreement in policy. If you look at the people who actually voted, every single one of them have supported the administration's plan. Second of all, as the President, I believe himself has already said, every president,

Democrat or Republican, believes the War Powers Act is fundamentally a fake and unconstitutional law. It's not going to change anything about how we conduct foreign policy over the next couple of weeks, the next couple of months. And that will continue to be how we approach things. [TO REPORTER] Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER #3: So, we are seeing regarding Iran, we are seeing the protests in Iran these days. The cities are begging for help from the U.S. and Israel, naming streets in the city after President Trump. It seems there is an opportunity here that may not come again. Will the United States stand by the citizens of Iran? And if Israel decides to strike again, the nuclear sites in Iran, is the U.S. expected to take part?

VANCE: Well, look, we certainly stand by anybody who's engaged in peaceful protests, anybody who's trying to exert their rights for free association and to have their voices heard. Obviously, the Iranian regime has a lot of problems. And as the President of United States has said, the smartest thing for them to have done — it was true two months ago — it's true today — is for them to actually have a real negotiation with the United States about what we need to see when it comes to their nuclear program. I'll let the President speak to what we're going to do in the future, but we certainly stand with anybody across the world, including the Iranian people, who are advocating for their rights. I'll take just a couple more questions.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER #4: Thank you very much, Mr. President. Vice President, concerning Venezuela, how would you assure the Caribbean region that they will remain a zone of peace because some member states in the region are concerned?

VANCE: Well, look, the President had a very productive phone call with the president of Colombia yesterday and we continue to talk at all levels of government with a number of our friends in the Caribbean region. I actually think this is really good for peace in the Caribbean, because when you take away a major source of illegal cartel revenue, which is the cocaine trade, the fentanyl trade, other sources of illicit revenue, you actually remove the power of one of the main destabilizing forces in Latin America and in the Caribbean. I really do think — we say it all the time — this is the President of peace. One of the ways that you establish peace in your own hemisphere is to make it clear that the United States is going to be respected, that the United States is willing to take power away from criminal cartel organizations and give it to legitimate governments. That's how we see the future of the Western Hemisphere, and we think it's going to be much more peaceful than it was certainly under Joe Biden. I'll take one more question. [TO REPORTER] Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE REPORTER #5: Thank you. On Greenland, do you have a message for European leaders? Many in Europe reject the idea that the island could be for sale?

VANCE: Well, first of all, Secretary Rubio, I believe, is meeting with the leaders of Denmark and Greenland next week. I want to say it is, but maybe it's the week after that. We'll continue to deliver some of these messages in private, some of them in public. But I guess my advice to European leaders and anybody else would be to take the President of the United States seriously. What has he said about Greenland? Set to the side the crazy overreactions that I've seen from the

press and from certain people in Europe, what does the president said? Number one, Greenland is really important not just to America's missile defense, but to the world's missile defense. Number two, we know that there are hostile adversaries that have shown a lot of interest in that particular territory, that particular slice of the world. So, what we're asking our European friends to do is to take the security of that landmass more seriously, because if they're not, the United States is going to have to do something about it. What that is, I'll leave that to the President. As we continue to engage in diplomacy with our European friends and everybody on this particular topic. And again, thank you all for — for listening. Thanks for taking questions. And I just ask you, look, this is politics and often Republicans and you know, get — get in — get in arguments with the press about things. And I understand that. I think it's really irresponsible for you guys to go out there and imply or tell the American people that a guy who defended himself from being rammed by an automobile is guilty of murder, be a little bit more careful. We want to talk about toning down the temperature, which I know the President wants to do, and I certainly want to do. One of the ways we tone down the temperature is to have a media that tells the truth. I encourage you all to do that. God bless you. [REPORTERS SHOUTING] Happy New Year, guys!