

Bush, Brown hail first meeting

by UPI

CAMP DAVID, Md. -- U.S. President George Bush Monday described his initial talks with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown at Camp David as "casual and good." Brown arrived in the United States late Saturday and the two leaders had lengthy talks Sunday, dismissing the rest of their delegations so they could speak in private. "We had a really casual and good discussion, and we'd be glad to share -- I'll be glad to share some of the insights here and then ... the notion of America and Britain sharing values is very important and that we have an obligation, it seems to me, to work for freedom and justice around the world," Bush said during a joint news conference at the presidential retreat. Their discussions ranged from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the Middle East situation and Darfur, the U.S. leader said. Bush praised Brown for his "steady and quick response" to the abortive terror plot that unfolded just days after he assumed office. Brown agreed it is in Britain's national interest to work with the United States against terrorism. "Terrorism is not a cause, it is a crime -- and it is a crime against humanity," Brown said. "And there should be no safe haven and no hiding place for those who practice terrorist violence."

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