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Trump Opens World-Class Golf Course in Scotland, Reaffirms Economic Ties and Cultural Affection

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Former U.S. President Donald Trump praised the people and landscape of Scotland as he officially opened the “New Course” at Trump International Golf Links in Aberdeenshire, calling it one of the most beautiful and ambitious golf developments in the world. Trump also used the opportunity to discuss trade, security, and heritage with Scotland’s First Minister John Swinney, while avoiding political grandstanding and focusing instead on shared economic interests and cultural respect.

During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, President Trump commended the leadership of his son Eric Trump for spearheading the project's completion. "We started with a beautiful piece of land," Trump told attendees, "but we made it much more beautiful." He went on to recall how the local community's initial skepticism transformed into widespread support over time. "Now they love us, and we love them," he said, noting the evolution of public opinion since the original course opened.

Mr. Swinney, while addressing the media after his meeting with Trump, emphasized his push for Scotland's key export sectors, particularly whisky and salmon, to receive tariff exemptions on U.S. imports. These products currently face a 10% levy under existing trade policies. "There's now a window of opportunity to make the case for whisky," Swinney said. Trump appeared receptive, offering to continue the dialogue, and even extended an invitation for future discussions.

In addition to trade, the First Minister also raised concerns over geopolitical issues, including Ukraine and Israel. While these discussions veered into more sensitive territory, Trump remained diplomatic and focused largely on common economic interests and tourism development.

As expected, small protests accompanied the president's visit, but they were largely contained and did not interfere with the proceedings. Trump, who was joined by his sons Eric and Donald Jr., was welcomed to the sound of traditional bagpipes before officially opening the course. "It's going to be a special year and a special decade," he declared. "We're going to make all of our countries strong and great and really wonderful again."

The New Course, which began construction in 2023, is part of a larger vision for Trump International Scotland. The company has promoted the two courses in Aberdeenshire as the "greatest 36 holes in golf." Although some critics have questioned whether the original job creation estimates were met, the economic impact on the local tourism sector and surrounding businesses has been notable.

Trump also fondly recalled the support of late actor Sir Sean Connery, who once famously remarked, "Let the bloody bloke build his golf course," in defense of the development. "Once he said that, everything came into line," Trump noted. "John and I were talking about that last night."

Highlighting his deep personal ties to Scotland, Trump spoke of his mother's birthplace on the Isle of Lewis. "She would come back here religiously once a year during the summers," he said. "That's serious Scotland by the way, there's no doubt about that." The

Trump family's visit also included time at Trump Turnberry in South Ayrshire and discussions with British and European leaders during their stay.

Trump concluded the event by noting his return to Washington, D.C., was imminent, referencing his role in international diplomacy. "We stopped a war yesterday," he said. "We've stopped about five wars. That's much more important than playing golf. As much as I like it, it's much more important."

With the new course now open to the public, Trump International Scotland continues to draw attention as both a premier golfing destination and a symbol of ongoing cooperation between American investment and Scottish heritage.