Promises Under Pressure: Statements of Reassurance in U.S. Alliances
Presidential Statements Codebook

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A1 General procedures

Using two undergraduate research assistants, I coded paragraphs taken from presidential speeches in which the President mentions a foreign country.[1] The paragraphs are organized by country and year; there is a separate text file for each country in every year between 1950-2010. Included in the sample are states defined has having defense pacts with the United States by the Correlates of War's Formal Alliances Dataset (v4.1) (Gibler, 2009).[2] Taking these paragraphs, we then ascertained whether they contained a statement of reassurance, which is defined in the project as "acts that are intended to have the effect of convincing an ally that U.S. assistance will be forthcoming in the event of an attack on the ally by an external actor."

A2 Coding rules

In order to be coded as reassurance, a paragraph must contain strong emphasis on at least one of the following:

1. Strength of U.S. commitment/protection/presence
2. Strength of the relationship
3. The need to strengthen U.S. commitment or the relationship
4. U.S.'s willingness, ability, resolve to protect the ally
5. A reaffirmation of U.S. commitment/protection/presence
6. Reassurance of the U.S. commitment/protection/presence
7. Importance of the alliance or of common/mutual defense

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[1] Inter-coder reliability was quite high, with a correlation of 0.69 and Krippendorf's alpha of 0.67. RAs were given full discretion in their coding, and in borderline cases where they could not make a determination, I made a judgment.

[2] COW does not cover NATO expansion beyond the fifth wave in 2004; I include the members added in the sixth wave (Albania, Croatia in 2009).

Not included are paragraphs that are generic statements of warmness, friendship, or positive relations. Paragraphs indicating U.S. "support" for the ally are only be coded as reassurance if they take place alongside discussions of the alliance commitment or treaty.

Supplementary Appendix: References

Gibler, Douglas M. 2009. *International Military Alliances, 1648-2008*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

URL: *http://www.correlatesofwar.org/*