

*Jan. 9 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2010*

House for broadcast on January 9. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 8, but was embar-

goed for release until 6 a.m. on January 9. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

## Statement on Senator Harry M. Reid *January 9, 2010*

Harry Reid called me today and apologized for an unfortunate comment reported today. I accepted Harry's apology without question because I've known him for years, I've seen the

passionate leadership he's shown on issues of social justice, and I know what's in his heart. As far as I am concerned, the book is closed.

## Statement on the Earthquake in Haiti *January 12, 2010*

My thoughts and prayers go out to those who have been affected by this earthquake.

We are closely monitoring the situation, and we stand ready to assist the people of Haiti.

## Remarks on Earthquake Relief Efforts in Haiti *January 13, 2010*

Good morning, everybody. This morning I want to extend to the people of Haiti the deep condolences and unwavering support of the American people following yesterday's terrible earthquake.

We are just now beginning to learn the extent of the devastation, but the reports and images that we've seen of collapsed hospitals, crumbled homes, and men and women carrying their injured neighbors through the streets are truly heart wrenching. Indeed, for a country and a people who are no strangers to hardship and suffering, this tragedy seems especially cruel and incomprehensible. Our thoughts and prayers are also with the many Haitian Americans around our country who do not yet know the fate of their families and loved ones back home.

I have directed my administration to respond with a swift, coordinated, and aggressive effort to save lives. The people of Haiti will have the full support of the United States in the urgent effort to rescue those trapped beneath the rubble and to deliver the humanitarian relief—the food, water, and medicine—that Haitians will need in the coming days. In that effort, our Government, especial-

ly USAID and the Departments of State and Defense, are working closely together and with our partners in Haiti, the region, and around the world.

Right now our efforts are focused on several urgent priorities. First, we're working quickly to account for U.S. Embassy personnel and their families in Port-au-Prince, as well as the many American citizens who live and work in Haiti. Americans trying to locate family members in Haiti are encouraged to contact the State Department at 888-407-4747. I'm going to repeat that: 888-407-4747.

Second, we've mobilized resources to help rescue efforts. Military overflights have assessed the damage, and by early afternoon our civilian disaster assistance team are beginning to arrive. Search and rescue teams from Florida, Virginia, and California will arrive throughout today and tomorrow, and more rescue and medical equipment and emergency personnel are being prepared. Because in disasters such as this, the first hours and days are absolutely critical to saving lives and avoiding even greater tragedy, I have directed my teams to be as forward leaning as possible in getting the help