

around the world. And as the United Nations Special Envoy to Haiti, he understands intimately the daily struggles and needs of the Haitian people.

And by coming together in this way, these two leaders send an unmistakable message to the people of Haiti and to the people of the world: In these difficult hours, America stands united. We stand united with the people of Haiti, who have shown such incredible resilience, and we will help them to recover and to rebuild.

Yesterday we witnessed a small but remarkable display of that determination—some of you may have seen it—Haitians with little more than the clothes on their back marched peacefully through a ruined neighborhood, and despite all their loss and all their suffering, they sang songs of faith and songs of hope.

These are the people we're called upon to help. Those are the hopes that we're committed to answering. That's why the three of us are standing together today. And with that, I would invite each President to say a few words. I'm going to start with President Bush.

[At this point, former Presidents George W. Bush and William J. Clinton made brief remarks.]

Well, these gentlemen are going to do an extraordinary job, but really what they're going to be doing is just tapping into the incredible generosity, the ingenuity, the can-do spirit of the American people in helping our neighbors in need. So I want to thank each of them not only for being here today, but what I know is going to be an extraordinary effort.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Ordering the Selected Reserve and Certain Individual Ready Reserve Members of the Armed Forces to Active Duty January 16, 2010

Dear Madam Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Effective today, pursuant to sections 121 and 12304 of title 10, United States Code, I have authorized the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Homeland Security with respect to the

I want to make sure that everybody got that web site one more time. Obviously, we're just standing it up, but it will immediately give people a means to contact our offices: www.clinton-bushhaitifund.org.

And I just want to amplify one thing that was said—we were talking in the back. In any extraordinary catastrophe like this, the first several weeks are just going to involve getting immediate relief on the ground. And there are going to be some tough days over the next several days. People are still trying to figure out how to organize themselves. There's going to be fear, anxiety, a sense of desperation in some cases.

I've been in contact with President Preval. I've been talking to the folks on the ground. We are going to be making slow and steady progress, and the key now is to—for everybody in Haiti to understand that there is going to be sustained help on the way.

But what these gentlemen are going to be able to do is when the news media starts seeing its attention drift to other things but there's still enormous needs on the ground, these two gentlemen of extraordinary stature, I think, are going to be able to help ensure that these efforts are sustained. And that's why it's so important and that's why I'm so grateful that they agreed to do it.

Thank you, gentlemen.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:02 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of former Presidents George W. Bush and William J. Clinton. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy, to order to active duty any units, and any individual members not assigned to a unit organized to serve as a unit, of the Selected Reserve, or any member in the Individual Ready Reserve mobilization category and

designated as essential under regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, and to terminate the service of those units and members ordered to active duty. Members of the Armed Forces ordered to active duty pursuant to these authorities will augment the active forces in support of operations for Haiti. The authorities that have been invoked will ensure the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security can fully support the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development.

A copy of the Executive Order I have issued is enclosed.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 17. The Executive order of is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at a Church Service Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. January 17, 2010

The President. Good morning. Praise be to God. Let me begin by thanking the entire Vermont Avenue Baptist Church family for welcoming our family here today. It feels like a family. Thank you for making us feel that way. To Pastor Wheeler, first lady Wheeler, thank you so much for welcoming us here today. Congratulations on Jordan Denice, a.k.a. Cornelia. *[Laughter]*

Michelle and I have been blessed with a new nephew this year as well, Austin Lucas Robinson. So maybe at the appropriate time we can make introductions. *[Laughter]* Now, if you're—if Jordan's father is like me, then that will be in about 30 years. *[Laughter]* That is a great blessing.

Michelle and Malia and Sasha and I are thrilled to be here today. And I know that sometimes you have to go through a little fuss to have me as a guest speaker. *[Laughter]* So let me apologize in advance for all the fuss.

We gather here on a Sabbath during a time of profound difficulty for our Nation and for our world. In such a time, it soothes the soul to seek out the Divine in a spirit of prayer, to seek solace among a community of believers. But we are not here just to ask the Lord for His blessing. We aren't here just to interpret His Scripture. We're also here to call on the memory of one of His noble servants, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Now, it's fitting that we do so here, within the four walls of Vermont Avenue Baptist

Church, here in a church that rose like the phoenix from the ashes of the Civil War; here in a church formed by freed slaves, whose founding pastor had worn the Union blue; here in a church from whose pews congregants set out for marches and from whom choir anthems of freedom were heard, from whose sanctuary King himself would sermonize from time to time.

Now, one of those times was Thursday, December 6, 1956. Pastor, I think you said you were a little older than me, so were you around at that point? *[Laughter]*

Pastor Cornelius R. Wheeler. I was 3 years old.

The President. You were 3 years old, all right, okay. *[Laughter]* I wasn't born yet. *[Laughter]*

On Thursday, December 6, 1956, and before Dr. King had pointed us to the mountaintop, before he told us about his dream in front of the Lincoln Memorial, King came here, as a 27-year-old preacher, to speak on what he called "The Challenge of a New Age." The challenge of a new age. It was a period of triumph, but also uncertainty for Dr. King and his followers, because just weeks earlier, the Supreme Court had ordered the desegregation of Montgomery's buses, a hard-wrought, hard-fought victory that would put an end to the 381-day historic boycott down in Montgomery, Alabama.