

cal businesses gave donations and charities opened their doors to families who didn't have a place to celebrate Thanksgiving. In times of war, our military has gone through great lengths to give our men and women on the frontlines a turkey dinner and a taste of home.

So in America, we come together when times are hard. We don't give up, we don't complain, and we don't turn our backs on one another. Instead, we look out for another and we pitch in and we give what we can. And in the process, we reveal to the world what we love so much about this country.

That's who we are. And that's who Thanksgiving reminds us to be. So I hope everyone takes some time during this holiday season to give back and serve their community in some way. And I also want to take a moment to say how grateful I am to the men and women who are serving this country bravely and selflessly in places far away from home right now. You and your families are in our thoughts and in our prayers, and you make me so very proud to be your Commander in Chief.

So on behalf of Michelle, Sasha, Malia, and myself, I want to wish everybody a wonderful and happy and safe Thanksgiving. And now it is my great honor as well to give Apple and Cider a new lease on life. So as President of the United States, you are hereby pardoned from the Thanksgiving dinner table. [Laughter] May you have a wonderful and joyful life at Mount Vernon.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America. All right.

[At this point, the President and his daughters Sasha and Malia left the podium to approach the turkey. As they approached, the turkey gobbled.]

The President. You see? He made a little noise to thank me. [Laughter] Let's go take a closer look at him.

National Turkey Federation Chairman Yubert Envia. Mr. President, I'd like to introduce Apple.

The President. That's some kind of waddle. All right, you have my blessing. [Laughter] You want to touch him on the back of the head? You want to touch him? Not really?

[The President began to pet the turkey.]

The President. Yeah, buddy.

Mr. Envia. You keep doing that, he's going to fall asleep.

The President. Now, can somebody explain to me what the whole waddle thing is about?

Mr. Envia. The whole waddle, that's how they dissipate heat.

The President. That's how they dissipate heat?

Mr. Envia. They don't have sweat glands, so all the blood rushes to the waddle, and that's how they dissipate heat in the wild.

The President. Interesting. I guess we're glad we have sweat glands. [Laughter] Otherwise, we'd be carrying these around.

This feels pretty good, do you want to try it? No? No.

All right, thank you very much.

Mr. Envia. Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Thank you.

The President. All right. Have a good life, man. [Laughter]

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:40 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Memorandum on Review of Human Subjects Protection November 24, 2010

Memorandum for Dr. Amy Gutmann, Chair,
Presidential Commission for the Study of Bio-
ethical Issues

Subject: Review of Human Subjects Protection

Recently, we discovered that the U.S. Public Health Service conducted research on sexually transmitted diseases in Guatemala from 1946 to 1948 involving the intentional infection of vulnerable human populations. The research was

clearly unethical. In light of this revelation, I want to be assured that current rules for research participants protect people from harm or unethical treatment, domestically as well as internationally.

I ask you, as the Chair of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, to convene a panel to conduct, beginning in January 2011, a thorough review of human subjects protection to determine if Federal regulations and international standards adequately guard the health and well-being of participants in scientific studies supported by the Federal Government. I also request that the Commission oversee a thorough fact-finding investigation into the specifics of the U.S. Public Health Service Sexually Transmitted Diseases Inoculation Study.

In fulfilling this charge, the Commission should seek the insights and perspective of in-

ternational experts, including from Guatemala; consult with its counterparts in the global community; and convene at least one meeting outside the United States. I expect the Commission to complete its work within 9 months and provide me with a report of its findings and recommendations.

While I believe the research community has made tremendous progress in the area of human subjects protection, what took place in Guatemala is a sobering reminder of past abuses. It is especially important for the Commission to use its vast expertise spanning the fields of science, policy, ethics, and religious values to carry out this mission. We owe it to the people of Guatemala and future generations of volunteers who participate in medical research.

BARACK OBAMA

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the “Strategy to Support the Disarmament of the Lord’s Resistance Army”

November 24, 2010

Dear _____:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, consistent with section 4 of the Lord’s Resistance Army Disarmament and Northern Uganda Recovery Act of 2009 (Public Law 111–172), the enclosed strategic plan entitled, “Strategy to Support the Disarmament of the Lord’s Resistance Army.”

The strategy guides U.S. support across the region to mitigate and eliminate the threat to civilians and regional stability posed by the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). It has four objectives that support regional and multilateral efforts: (a) increase protection of civilians; (b) apprehend or remove from the battlefield Joseph Kony and senior commanders; (c) promote the defection, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of remaining LRA fighters; and (d) increase humanitarian access and provide continued relief to affected communities.

The strategy identifies priority actions related to protecting civilians and eliminating the threat

posed by the LRA. It also provides a framework for the coordination of U.S. efforts and a description of broader efforts in the region. Given the necessity of bringing political, economic, military, and intelligence support to bear in addressing the threat posed by the LRA, the development of the strategy relied on the significant involvement of the Department of State, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Intelligence Community. All will remain engaged throughout implementation.

My Administration looks forward to working closely with the Congress on this important issue.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Daniel K. Inouye, chairman, and W. Thad Cochran, vice chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations; John F. Kerry, chairman, and Richard G. Lugar, ranking member, Senate Committee on