

declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on

February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2011.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, 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 February 25. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

### Statement on the Anniversaries of Kuwait's Independence and Liberation by Coalition Forces *February 25, 2011*

On behalf of the people of the United States, I congratulate the Government and people of Kuwait on the 50th anniversary of their independence on February 26. Kuwait is a longstanding friend and partner of the United States, and we thank His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah for his steadfast partnership and friendship.

February 26 is also the 20th anniversary of Kuwait's liberation by U.S.-led coalition forces.

On that day, the international community, having rejected outright aggression and acted to reverse it, stood shoulder to shoulder with Kuwait in securing its freedom and sovereignty. I take this opportunity to honor all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom in that undertaking: Kuwaitis, Americans, and other coalition partners alike. I also wish to reinforce our enduring commitment to the peace and prosperity of the region.

### Statement on Sanctions Against Libya *February 25, 2011*

The Libyan Government's continued violation of human rights, brutalization of its people, and outrageous threats have rightly drawn the strong and broad condemnation of the international community. By any measure, Muammar al-Qadhafi's Government has violated international norms and common decency and must be held accountable. These sanctions therefore target the Qadhafi Government, while protecting the assets that belong to the people of Libya.

Going forward, the United States will continue to closely coordinate our actions with the international community, including our friends and allies and the United Nations. We will stand steadfastly with the Libyan people in their demand for universal rights and a government that is responsive to their aspirations. Their human dignity cannot be denied.