

restraint as the parties work to complete implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. The United States will con-

tinue to assist the parties amid the tough challenges and historic opportunities that lie ahead.

Remarks at a Service Event at Stuart-Hobson Middle School *January 17, 2011*

This is just a outstanding program and an example of what Martin Luther King's birthday should be all about. I want to thank all the mentees and mentors who are participating.

Dr. King obviously had a dream of justice and equality in our society, but he also had a dream of service, that you could be a drum major for service; you could lead by giving back to our communities. And that's what this program is all about, and that's what these participants are all about.

Michelle and I and the girls are extraordinarily proud that each year on Martin Luther King's birthday, this is how we celebrate—is

making sure that we're giving a little something back to the community. And I hope that all the projects that are taking place all across the country on this day are getting similar attention, because this is part of what America is all about. And after a painful week where so many of us were focused on tragedy, it's good for us to remind ourselves of what this country is all about. This kind of service project is what's best in us, and we're thrilled with everybody who is participating.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:25 a.m.

Statement on the United Nations Special Tribunal for Lebanon Indictment *January 17, 2011*

I welcome the announcement by the Office of the Prosecutor for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon today that he has filed an indictment relating to the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and 22 others. This action represents an important step toward ending the era of impunity for murder in Lebanon and achieving justice for the Lebanese people. I know that this is a significant and emotional time for the Lebanese people, and we join the international community in calling on all Lebanese leaders and factions to preserve calm and exercise restraint. The United States is a strong friend of Lebanon, and we stand steadfastly with others in support of Lebanese sovereignty, independence, and stability.

The Special Tribunal for Lebanon must be allowed to continue its work, free from interference and coercion. That is the way to ad-

vance the search for the truth, the cause of justice, and the future of Lebanon. Those who have tried to manufacture a crisis and force a choice between justice or stability in Lebanon are offering a false choice, as the Lebanese people have a right to both justice and stability, and efforts to undercut the STL only legitimize its efforts and suggest its opponents have something to hide. Any attempt to fuel tensions and instability, in Lebanon or in the region, will only undermine the very freedom and aspirations that the Lebanese people seek and that so many nations support. At this critical moment, all friends of Lebanon must stand with the people of Lebanon.

NOTE: The statement referred to Daniel A. Bellemare, Prosecutor, United Nations Special Tribunal for Lebanon.