

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Somalia

April 7, 2011

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its 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 to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2011.

The deterioration of the security situation and the persistence of violence in Somalia, and acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia, which have repeatedly been

the subject of United Nations Security Council resolutions, and violations of the Somalia arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in Somalia.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
April 7, 2011.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks on the Federal Budget

April 7, 2011

I just completed another meeting with Speaker Boehner and Leader Reid, and I wanted to report again to the American people that we made some additional progress this evening. I think the staffs of both the House and the Senate, as well as the White House staff, have been working very hard to try to narrow the differences. We made some progress today. Those differences have been narrowed. And so once again the staff is going to be working tonight around the clock in order to see if we can finally close a deal.

But there is still a few issues that are outstanding. They're difficult issues. They're important to both sides. And so I'm not yet prepared to express wild optimism. But I think we are further along today than we were yesterday.

I want to reiterate to people why this is so important. We're now less than 30 hours away from the Government shutting down. That

means, first of all, 800,000 families, our neighbors, our friends, who are working hard all across the country in a whole variety of functions, they suddenly are not allowed to come to work. It also means that they're not getting a paycheck. That obviously has a tremendous impact.

You then have millions more people who end up being impacted because they're not getting the services from the Federal Government that are important to them. So small businesses aren't seeing their loans processed. Folks who want to get a mortgage through the FHA may not be able to get it, and obviously, that's not good as weak as this housing market is. You've got people who are trying to get a passport for a trip that they've been planning for a long time; they may not be able to do that. So millions more people will be significantly inconvenienced; in some ways, they may end

up actually seeing money lost or opportunities lost because of a Government shutdown.

And then finally, there's going to be an effect on the economy overall. Earlier today one of our Nation's top economists said, and I'm quoting here: "The economic damage from a Government shutdown would mount very quickly, and the longer it dragged on, the greater the odds of a renewed recession."

We've been working very hard over the last 2 years to get this economy back on its feet. We've now seen 13 months of job growth; a hundred—1.8 million new jobs. We had the best report—jobs report that we'd seen in a very long time just this past Friday. For us to go backwards because Washington couldn't get its act together is unacceptable.

So again, 800,000 Federal workers and their families impacted, millions of people who are reliant on Government services not getting those services, businesses, farmers, veterans, and finally, overall impact on the economy that could end up severely hampering our recovery and our ability to put people back to work.

That's what's at stake. That's why it's important to the American people. That's why I'm

expecting that as a consequence of the good work that's done by our staffs tonight, that we can reach an agreement tomorrow.

But let me just point out one last thing. What I've said to the Speaker and what I've said to Harry Reid is because the machinery of the shutdown is necessarily starting to move, I expect an answer in the morning. And my hope is, is that I'll be able to announce to the American people sometime relatively early in the day that a shutdown has been averted, that a deal has been completed that has very meaningful cuts in a wide variety of categories that helps us move in the direction of living within our means, but preserves our investments in things like education and innovation, research, that are going to be important for our long-term competitiveness.

That's what I hope to be able to announce tomorrow. There's no certainty yet, but I expect an answer sometime early in the day.

All right. Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:33 p.m. in the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room at the White House.

Statement on the First Anniversary of the Death of President Lech Kaczynski of Poland and His Delegation

April 8, 2011

As the people of Poland mark 1 year since the tragic deaths of President Lech Kaczynski, First Lady Maria Kaczynska, and their delegation, I join with the American people, including many Polish Americans, in honoring the memory of these 96 Polish patriots. The images of the wreckage in Smolensk and the loss of so many extraordinary civilian and military leaders who guided Poland to democracy and prosperity broke our hearts. But it was the inspiring

scenes of people coming together in streets filled with candles and flowers, both in Poland and the United States, that revealed the true strength, resilience, and faith of the Polish spirit, as well as the unbreakable bonds between our two countries. Poland is one of America's strongest and closest allies, and I look forward to deepening these enduring ties and carrying on the work of those who perished 1 year ago this Sunday, when I visit Warsaw next month.

Statement on the Situation in Syria

April 8, 2011

I strongly condemn the abhorrent violence committed against peaceful protesters by the Syrian Government today and over the past

few weeks. I also condemn any use of violence by protesters. The United States extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of