

going to need the help of citizens who served this country in extraordinary ways in the past and are continuing to do so in their spare time. I'm looking forward to having them as partners in order to get this done.

So thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:47 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Following a Meeting With Amir Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani of Qatar

April 14, 2011

President Obama. Well, I want to welcome the Amir of Qatar, and we have just completed a very useful conversation. I expressed to him my appreciation of the leadership that the Amir has shown when it comes to democracy in the Middle East, and in particular, the work that they have done in trying to promote a peaceful transition in Libya.

We would not have been able, I think, to shape the kind of broad-based international coalition that includes not only our NATO members, but also includes Arab States, without the Amir's leadership. He is motivated by a belief that the Libyan people should have the rights and freedoms of all people. And as a consequence, Qatar is not only supportive diplomatically, but is also supportive militarily, and we are very appreciative of the outstanding work that the Qataris have done side by side with the other international coalition members.

In addition to our efforts in Libya, we have a strong relationship between our two countries. It is an economic relationship. It is a military relationship. It is a cultural relationship. And obviously, Qatar has done very well under His Highness's leadership, but his influence extends beyond his borders. And so we've had discussions about how we can continue to promote democracy, human rights, increased freedom, and reform throughout the Middle East.

We discussed our mutual interest in seeing a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Amir provided me insights into how he sees reform evolving throughout the region.

We also discussed some of the areas where our two countries are cooperating beyond the Middle East. For example, Qatar has been a

leader internationally around the issues of food security, and so we are partnering on those issues. In North Africa, in Sudan, Qatar has helped to sponsor talks to see if we can resolve the situation in Darfur. And so what we've pledged is not only that we would continue these consultations in the short term, but that we would continue to work over the long term to deepen our relationship.

Finally, I congratulated His Highness on the fact that Qatar now has the World Cup in 2022. And so I told him that I would undoubtedly be an ex-President by that point, but that I was hoping that I could still get good seats if I traveled to Doha.

So, Your Highness, thank you for your visit. Thank you for your leadership on Libya. And we look forward to working with you for many years to come.

Amir Hamad. I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for hosting me here in the White House and for having this meeting with you.

And I would like to extend to you our deep appreciation and thanks for the position the United States has taken in support of the democratization process that has taken place in Tunisia, in Egypt, and what is attempting to take place in Libya.

And I would like to reiterate what you have mentioned, Mr. President, and that is the strength of the relationship that exists between the United States and Qatar. And of course, the most important issue for us in the region is the Palestine-Israeli conflict and how to find a way to establish a Palestinian state.

And we do understand your position, Mr. President, in supporting the existence of two states peacefully living side by side, and we

support your position. And regarding Darfur, we will exert our best effort to cooperate with you on finding the best way out. This has been a longstanding issue, but I think with our common capabilities, we will be able to achieve that goal.

[At this point, Amir Hamad spoke in English.]

And I will not forget to send your tickets for the World Cup. [Laughter]

President Obama. Thank you, my friend.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:50 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Amir Hamad spoke in Arabic, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Signing the Comprehensive 1099 Taxpayer Protection and Repayment of Exchange Subsidy Overpayments Act of 2011 April 14, 2011

Today I was pleased to take another step to relieve unnecessary burdens on small businesses by signing H.R. 4 into law. Small-business owners are the engine of our economy, and because Democrats and Republicans worked together, we can ensure they spend their time and resources creating jobs and growing their business, not filling out more paperwork. I look

forward to continuing to work with Congress to improve the tax credit policy in this legislation, and I am eager to work with anyone with ideas about how we can make health care better or more affordable.

NOTE: H.R. 4, approved April 14, was assigned Public Law No. 112-9.

Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser in Chicago, Illinois April 14, 2011

Hello, Chicago! Thank you. Thank you, everybody. It's good to be home. Thank you. All right, everybody have a seat. Everybody have a seat. You're making me blush. [Laughter]

We've got some very special guests here today. First of all, my former seatmate in the Illinois State Senate, who is doing gangbuster work all over the State, Attorney General Lisa Madigan is in the house. Where is Lisa? Where is she? There she is.

A guy who I basically follow around to see what he eats and drinks so I can look like him, somebody who never ages, always doing the right thing on behalf of communities all across the State, especially here in Chicago, Secretary of State Jesse White is in the house.

Our newly elected Cook County president, one of my earliest supporters, and also my former alderwoman—so I hope that my garbage is still being picked up—Toni Preckwinkle is in the house. She's around here somewhere.

And then I have to admit that I got a little confused. [Laughter] I walk in and there are these two guys talking, both of them very animated, both of them a little intimidating, even though they're not tall in stature. [Laughter] I was trying to figure out who I should bow to first. I decided to go with the current mayor—[laughter]—somebody who has done more to make Chicago not just a great American city, but a great world city, and his legacy is going to be deep and lasting, as deep and lasting as his father's was. We are grateful for his service, the mayor of the city of Chicago, Richard Daley.

Bill is doing okay, Rich. [Laughter] I mean, you know, there are times where he's still kind of figuring out where everything is—[laughter]—but overall he's making the grade. Of course, he had some big shoes to fill. And I could not be prouder of the job this man did on behalf of America as my Chief of Staff.

As Bill knows, there probably is not a harder job in Government than being Chief of Staff.