

But what we knew was that at every juncture in our history, when our future was on the line, when our country was at a crossroads like we are now, we figured it out. We somehow managed to transform ourselves from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy and then to an information economy. We somehow managed to absorb new waves of immigrants. We managed to take on the stain of slavery. We managed to figure out how to make sure women were full participants in our democracy. We managed to move forward not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans, as one people, as one Nation.

So when you hear people say that our problems are too big, when you hear people say we aren't going to bring about the changes that we seek, I want you to think about all the progress that we've made. I want you to think about all

the unfinished business that lies ahead. And I want you to remember and remind everybody else those three simple words that we talked about in 2008 that apply right now as much as they did then: Yes, we can.

Thank you, Boston. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:41 p.m. at the Boston Center for the Arts. In his remarks, he referred to former Gov. W. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts; W. Ray Allen, guard, and William F. Russell, former center, National Basketball Association's Boston Celtics; and Osama bin Laden, leader of the Al Qaida terrorist organization, who was killed in a U.S. Navy SEALs counterterrorism operation in Abbottabad, Pakistan, on May 1.

## Letter to Congressional Leaders Reporting on the Executive Order Blocking Property of Senior Officials of the Government of Syria

May 18, 2011

*Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)*

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the "order") that takes additional steps with respect to the Government of Syria's continuous escalation of violence against the people of Syria—including through attacks on protestors, arrests and harassment of protestors and political activists, and repression of democratic change, overseen and executed by numerous elements of the Syrian government—and with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338 of May 11, 2004, relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13399 of April 25, 2006, and in Executive Order 13460 of February 13, 2008, and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13572 of April 29, 2011.

In Executive Order 13338, the President found that the actions of the Government of Syria constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy,

and economy of the United States and declared a national emergency to deal with that threat. To address that threat and to implement the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175), the President in Executive Order 13338 blocked the property of certain persons and imposed additional prohibitions on certain transactions with respect to Syria. In Executive Order 13572, I expanded the scope of that national emergency and imposed additional sanctions.

The order blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in the Annex to the order. The order also provides criteria for designations, and the resulting blocking of the property and interests in property, of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

- to be a senior official of the Government of Syria;
- to be an agency or instrumentality of the Government of Syria, or owned or con-

trolled, directly or indirectly, by the Government of Syria or by an official or officials of the Government of Syria;

- to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or
- to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly, any person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA, as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. I have also delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury, in con-

sultation with the Secretary of State, the authority to determine that circumstances no longer warrant the blocking of the property and interests in property of a person listed in the Annex to the order, and to take necessary action to give effect to that determination.

The order was effective at 1:00 p.m. eastern daylight time on May 18, 2011. All executive agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

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. The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Remarks at a Democratic National Committee Fundraiser in Brookline, Massachusetts May 18, 2011

*The President.* Thank you. All right, everybody, have a seat. That food looks too good to let it get cold. *[Laughter]*

To Frank *[John]* and Eileen, first of all, I remember that drive, and I came away just having enjoyed the conversation. And that's not always the case when you're out there on the campaign trail. You're doing work. But I couldn't think of a more wonderful couple and people who I would've wanted to have dinner with even if I weren't running for office. *[Laughter]* And for you guys to open up your homes like this is just remarkable. I do appreciate you padding the crowd. Basically, half of these folks are your children or grandchildren based on what I saw earlier. *[Laughter]* But thank you very much.

To all the other cohosts, who worked so hard, friends that I've seen, some of whom have supported me since I ran for the United States Senate and nobody could pronounce my name. And so I appreciate all of you. To my dear friend Deval, one of the finest Governors in the country, to Tom Menino, one of the finest mayors in the country, and to Speaker DeLeo for putting up with Mayor Menino and Deval Patrick—*[laughter]*—we are grateful for you.

We live in extraordinary times. And I just came back from a large event that we did, and what was especially fun about it was Bill Russell was the person who introduced me. And they're erecting a statue for Bill Russell. He had always resisted any monument here in Boston, and the reason he agreed was because

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\* White House correction.