

Memorandum on Designation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally July 7, 2012

Presidential Determination No. 2012–11

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Designation of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as a Major Non-NATO Ally

Consistent with the authority vested in me as President by section 517 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended (the “Act”), I hereby designate the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as a major Non-NATO Ally of the

United States for the purposes of the Act and the Arms Export Control Act.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: This memorandum was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 6, but was embargoed for release until 12 a.m. on July 7. The memorandum was not received for publication in the *Federal Register*.

Remarks on Tax Reform July 9, 2012

Thank you very much. Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat. Well, good afternoon, everybody. I’m glad things have cooled off a little bit. I know folks were hot. *[Laughter]*

We’re here today to talk about taxes, something that everybody obviously cares deeply about. And I’ve often said that our biggest challenge right now isn’t just to reclaim all the jobs that we lost to the recession, it’s to reclaim the security that so many middle class Americans have lost over the past decade. Our core mission as an administration and as a country has to be, yes, putting people back to work, but also rebuilding an economy where that work pays off, an economy in which everybody can have the confidence that if you work hard, you can get ahead.

Now, what’s holding us back from meeting these challenges, it’s not a lack of plans; it’s not a lack of ideas. It is a stalemate in this town, in Washington, between two very different views about which direction we should go in as a country. And nowhere is that stalemate more pronounced than on the issue of taxes.

Many members of the other party believe that prosperity comes from the top down, so that if we spend trillions more on tax cuts for

the wealthiest Americans, that that will somehow unleash jobs and economic growth.

I disagree. I think they’re wrong. I believe our prosperity has always come from an economy that’s built on a strong and growing middle class, one that can afford to buy the products that our businesses sell, a middle class that can own homes and send their kids to college and save enough to retire on. That’s why I’ve cut middle class taxes every year that I’ve been President: by \$3,600 for the typical middle class family. Let me repeat: Since I’ve been in office, we’ve cut taxes for the typical middle class family by \$3,600.

I wanted to repeat that because sometimes there’s a little misinformation out there—*[laughter]*—and folks get confused about it.

Moreover, we’ve tried it their way. It didn’t work. At the beginning of the last decade, Congress passed trillions of dollars in tax cuts that benefited the wealthiest Americans more than anybody else. And we were told that it would lead to more jobs and higher incomes for everybody and that prosperity would start at the top, but then trickle down.

And what happened? The wealthy got wealthier, but most Americans struggled. Instead of creating more jobs, we had the slowest