

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

March 12, 2013

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, within 90 days 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 with respect to Iran that was declared on March 15, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond March 15, 2013.

The crisis between the United States and Iran resulting from the actions and policies of the Government of Iran has not been resolved.

The actions and policies of the Government of Iran are contrary to the interests of the United States in the region and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to Iran and to maintain in force comprehensive sanctions against Iran to deal with this threat.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
March 12, 2012.

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

Statement on the Election of Pope Francis

March 13, 2013

On behalf of the American people, Michelle and I offer our warm wishes to His Holiness Pope Francis as he ascends to the Chair of Saint Peter and begins his papacy. As a champion of the poor and the most vulnerable among us, he carries forth the message of love and compassion that has inspired the world for more than 2,000 years: that in each other we see the face of God. As the first Pope from the Americas, his selection also speaks to the strength and vitality of a region that is increas-

ingly shaping our world, and alongside millions of Hispanic Americans, those of us in the United States share the joy of this historic day. Just as I appreciated our work with Pope Benedict XVI, I look forward to working with His Holiness to advance peace, security, and dignity for our fellow human beings, regardless of their faith. We join with people around the world in offering our prayers for the Holy Father as he begins the sacred work of leading the Catholic Church in our modern world.

Remarks at an Organizing for Action Dinner

March 13, 2013

Hello, everybody. Hello, hello. Thank you. Everybody, have a seat. Have a seat.

Well, it's good to see all of you. I missed you. [Laughter] The—let me first of all thank Jim and Jon for organizing this. I want to thank all of you. I've got a bunch of friends in

this room: people who have supported me even before I ran for President, new friends, old friends, everybody here in it for the right reasons, folks who care deeply about this country and want to see us to continue to move forward.