

behalf of others and to continually examine in ourselves whatever dark places there may be that might lead to such actions or inactions. This is our obligation: not simply to bear witness, but to act.

For us, in our time, this means confronting bigotry and hatred in all of its forms, racism, especially anti-Semitism. None of that has a place in the civilized world: not in the classrooms of children, not in the corridors of power. And let us never forget the link between the two. For our sons and daughters are not born to hate, they are taught to hate. So let us fill their young hearts with the same understanding and compassion that we hope others have for them.

Here, we hope. Because after you walk through these halls, after you pass through the darkness, there is light: a glorious view of the Jerusalem Forest, with the Sun shining over the historic homeland of the Jewish people; a fulfillment of the prophecy, "you shall live again . . . upon your own soil." Here, on your ancient land, let it be said for all the world to hear: The State of Israel does not exist because of the Holocaust. But with the survival of a

strong Jewish State of Israel, such a Holocaust will never happen again.

Here, we pray that we all can be better, that we can all grow, like the sapling near the Children's Memorial, a sapling from a chestnut tree that Anne Frank could see from her window. The last time she described it in her diary, she wrote: "Our chestnut tree is in full bloom. It's covered with leaves and is even more beautiful than last year." That's a reminder of who we can be. But we have to work for it. We have to work for it here in Israel. We have to work for it in America. We have to work for it around the world: to tend the light and the brightness as opposed to our worst instincts.

So may God bless the memory of the millions, may their souls be bound up in the bond of eternal life, and may each spring bring a full bloom even more beautiful than the last.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:22 a.m. at the Children's Memorial. In his remarks, he referred to Avner Shalev, chairman of the directorate, Yad Vashem; Yisrael Meir Lau, chief rabbi of Tel Aviv-Yaffo and former chief rabbi of Israel; and Nobel Prize winner, author, and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel.

Statement on Israel-Turkey Relations

March 22, 2013

I welcome the call today between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Prime Minister Erdogan. The United States deeply values our close partnerships with both Turkey and Israel, and we attach great importance to the restoration of positive relations between them in order to advance regional peace and security. I am hopeful that today's exchange between the two

leaders will enable them to engage in deeper cooperation on this and a range of other challenges and opportunities.

NOTE: The statement referred to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel; and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey.

Statement on the Resignation of Julius M. Genachowski as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission

March 22, 2013

I want to thank Chairman Genachowski for his dedicated service on behalf of the American people. Over the last 4 years, Julius has

brought to the Federal Communications Commission a clear focus on spurring innovation, helping our businesses compete in a global

economy, and helping our country attract the industries and jobs of tomorrow. Because of his leadership, we have expanded high-speed Internet access, fueled growth in the mobile

sector, and continued to protect the open Internet as a platform for entrepreneurship and free speech. I am grateful for his service and friendship, and I wish Julius the best of luck.

Statement on the Withdrawal of the Nomination of Caitlin J. Halligan To Be a Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit

March 22, 2013

Today I accepted Caitlin Halligan's request to withdraw as a nominee for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. I am deeply disappointed that even after nearly 2½ years, a minority of Senators continued to block a simple up-or-down vote on her nomination. This unjustified filibuster obstructed the majority of Senators from expressing their support. I am confident that

with Caitlin's impressive qualifications and reputation, she would have served with distinction.

The DC Circuit is considered the Nation's second highest court, but it now has more vacancies than any other circuit court. This is unacceptable. I remain committed to filling these vacancies to ensure equal and timely access to justice for all Americans.

The President's News Conference With King Abdullah II of Jordan in Amman, Jordan

March 22, 2013

King Abdullah. First of all, Mr. President, if you allow me, on behalf of myself and all Jordanians, to welcome you and your distinguished delegation back here in Jordan. I fondly remember your visit here several years ago when you were a Senator, and it is a great delight to welcome you back to Jordan as the President of the United States, enjoying your second term.

We are delighted with the in-depth discussions that were very, very fruitful on our strategic and historic partnership, and you have been an old friend, as has the United States, for so many decades. We are very grateful to you, sir, and the administration, as well as Congress and the American people, for the continuous support that has been shown to Jordan over so many years. And the U.S. assistance that has helped us throughout so many years has allowed us to get Jordan to where we are today and, hopefully, will continue to help us advance our shared goals of development, security, and regional peace.

We did have the opportunity to discuss Syria. And obviously, we are all horrified by the loss of life and the brutality of the conflict. We are extremely concerned of the risk of prolonged sectarian conflict that—if it continues as we're seeing—leads to the fragmentation of Syria, which obviously will have disastrous consequences on the region for generations to come. Therefore, it is immediate—it is important to have an immediate need for an inclusive political transition that ends the conflict and the threats that emanate from it.

What we are facing now, today, obviously is an urgent need for the international community to help in humanitarian assistance to catch up to the challenges that we are facing, as the countries bordering Syria. And not only do we need to look at the ability to stockpile humanitarian supplies to the Syrian people inside their country, but also to be able to assist those that have fled.

Jordan today is hosting, by far, the largest number of Syrian refugees. The numbers have