

June 19 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2013

from buildings and swam across the Spree to claim their most basic right of freedom.

The wall belongs to history. But we have history to make as well. And the heroes that came before us now call to us to live up to those highest ideals: to care for the young people who can't find a job in our own countries and the girls who aren't allowed to go to school overseas; to be vigilant in safeguarding our own freedoms, but also to extend a hand to those who are reaching for freedom abroad.

This is the lesson of the ages. This is the spirit of Berlin. And the greatest tribute that we can pay to those who came before us is by carrying on their work to pursue peace and justice not only in our countries, but for all mankind.

*Vielen Dank.* God bless you. God bless the peoples of Germany. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:29 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Col. Gail S. Halvorsen, USAF (Ret.).

## Statement on Senate Confirmation of Michael B. Froman as United States Trade Representative

June 19, 2013

I am pleased that the Senate took bipartisan action today to confirm Michael Froman as the United States Trade Representative. Mike has been my closest adviser on a broad range of international economic issues and will continue to play a key role on my economic team. He's trusted and well respected by our partners around the world, and for the last several years, he's been a driving

force behind our international economic agenda.

In his new position, Mike will stay focused on our primary economic goals: promoting growth, creating jobs, and strengthening the middle class. And he will continue to help open new markets for American businesses, level the playing field for American workers, farmers, and ranchers, and fully enforce our trade rights.

## Remarks at a Dinner Hosted by Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany in Berlin, Germany

June 19, 2013

*Chancellor Merkel.* Ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome you all, also on behalf of Professor Sauer, to this dinner here at Charlottenburg Palace. And obviously, I would like to bid a very special and very warm welcome to our guest of honor, the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama, and his wife Michelle—a very warm welcome to you.

And let me say that I am personally very grateful to be able to welcome you here tonight because this affords me again to thank you for the wonderful reception, for the wonderful evening we had. And I'm able to say this also on behalf of the whole—of the Federal Republic of Germany, because I am aware obviously that this was an honor that was granted to me on behalf of my country when, 2 years

ago, you gave us this wonderful and gracious reception in the Rose Garden of the White House. And we still have very fond memories. This was indeed a very moving moment, and we greatly appreciated the warmth of your hospitality and also the friendship that you showed through this evening. Thank you, yet again.

Barack Obama, I think what was possible today also, again, was to show you how many people here in Germany feel a great sense of admiration towards you, because, in many ways, you personally embody the image of the United States as a country of unlimited possibility. And I think that that was something that also came out very strongly in your speech today that you gave at the Brandenburg Gate, and I think it is a feeling that many people not

only on the square in front of Brandenburg Gate were able to share and appreciate, but also the people who were watching the ceremony on television screens all around the country.

Mr. President, your visit shows yet again how close this friendship is and that it is a friendship that is not only close, but that is also unshakeable in its foundation, but that certainly is not something that can be taken as a matter of course. It's not a natural kind of development if you think of the past of the two terrible wars and the wars for which Germany was responsible.

If you think of the break with civilization that the Shoah had constituted, if you think of the long way that we've come together—for example, the fact that then your country stretched out a hand of friendship, the Candy Bombers; that Kennedy made this commitment to our country in saying, "I am a Berliner." All of that has not come as a matter of course. All the way to Ronald Reagan's exclamation, tear down—an appeal—"Tear down this wall."

We've come a long way. Again, it was not a matter of course, it was not natural, but it is a long way that has brought us to this place where we finally can celebrate, can meet together and celebrate our freedom together.

All the way leading up to German unity, to the unification of our country, you have demonstrated that you trust us, that the United States of America places great trust in our country. During the period of the cold war, you have demonstrated time and again that you support us, that you place trust in us, and that is something for which we are very grateful.

Some people said that when unification came about, that this constituted, in effect, the end of history. But I think current events bear me out when I say there still remains quite a lot to do for all of us—matters that we need to address together, challenges that we need to face—and that's something that you addressed also today in your speech, Mr. President. And we talked about, for example, as you did, about the regulation of financial markets, about the protection of climate, about the threat of nuclear arms and nuclear proliferation.

But the fact that there are many areas in our world today that still remain unstable, that is something that we need to address together—we, the Germans, and you, the Americans.

Cheers. The first translation. [*Laughter*]

This world of the 21st century is growing ever closer together, but it is true that in this 21st century too, as I said, I see great challenges ahead. And what's also true is, in order to master those challenges, there can possibly and arguably be no better partner for Germany, for Europe, than the United States of America, and the reverse, obviously, is also true.

So allow me to raise my glass and drink to your very good health, Mr. President, to the very good health of your wife Michelle, and to pay tribute at the same time to the friendship between the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, and to the people of America and the people of Germany, who constitute the true core of our friendship.

*President Obama. Guten abend.* Thank you to you, Angela, for your very kind words, to you and Professor Sauer for your extraordinary hospitality and all of you for the incredibly warm welcome, both literally and figuratively. [*Laughter*]

Your English is much better than our German. I was just mentioning to the Chancellor that this is an area where the United States clearly has lagged behind: making sure that all of our young people learn a second and third language. So we're going to give my interpreters a break this evening.

Fifty years ago, as this city prepared to welcome President Kennedy, Berliners were ecstatic. Mayor Willy Brandt tried to calm everybody down; he told them, don't be too emotional. It didn't work. So, after one speech, one newspaper wrote that it was one of the most emotional responses President Kennedy had ever received; it's said that more than 1,000 people fainted. We did not have 1,000 people faint today. The few who did, did so because of the weather and not because of my speech. [*Laughter*]

But like Presidents before me, and as during my previous visits, I could not be more grateful for the incredible reception that we have

received. And I recognize that this signifies the incredible friendship between our two countries. I'm especially pleased that I've been able to bring Michelle and Malia and Sasha along. And let me just say, on behalf of Michelle and myself, we're incredibly grateful that Sasha and Malia have had the privilege to see not only the beauty, but also the history of this city. And they took a number of tours, and when we were in the hotel room, Malia was reciting back to me everything that she had learned about the formation of the wall and the history of reunification. And nothing is more gratifying than when you see your children understanding not only the facts of history, but also the values that drive history.

In these stunning surroundings tonight, we're reminded of the breadth of that history and the friendship between our two peoples. About the same time this palace was being built, a band of families from along the Rhine—Mennonites—set out across the Atlantic, arrived in what is now Philadelphia, and found a new home that remains to this day: Germantown. And immigrants from Germany and German Americans have continued to shape America ever since.

For our independence, we thank von Steuben. For our prosperity, families like Chrysler and Guggenheim, Heinz and Hershey. For inspiration, Einstein, Steinway, Steinbeck, Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig. Young Americans, like our daughters, will always be grateful to Levi Strauss for their blue jeans. *[Laughter]* And Americans will always be grateful especially for some very important German immigrants: Anheuser-Busch. *[Laughter]*

Now, on a very personal level, I'm thankful to Angela. Schiller once said, "Keep true to the dreams of your youth." Angela, you've spoken often of the dreams of your youth, the freedom that you longed for. Today, as we were out on the balcony before our lunch, she pointed to the train tracks along which the wall used to run, and her memories of riding to her university and then hearing the tracks on the other side and imagining one day that she would be free. And you've not only kept to those dreams,

but you've also helped those dreams become real for millions of your countrymen.

I'm extraordinarily grateful for our partnership and our friendship. As I've said before, you're an inspiration to me and to people around the world.

Two years ago, Chancellor Merkel became only the second German leader to address our Congress; the other was Adenauer. And as you closed your speech, you mentioned the Freedom Bell that hangs in the former town hall here, which was a gift in 1950 from the American people to the people of Germany, and it was modeled after our Liberty Bell. Here in Berlin, that bell tolled after President Kennedy's speech. It rang after German unification. It rang after 9/11, which obviously meant so much to us as a symbol of the freedom and friendship that binds us together.

What you may not know is that before the bell was given to our German friends, it traveled all around the United States. Millions of Americans joined the effort, lending their support and signing their names to a declaration of freedom.

And so I want to close tonight by proposing a toast. I left my wine there, so I'll go with water. *[Laughter]*

*[At this point, President Obama was handed a glass of wine.]*

Oh, here we go. And I'm going to do so by borrowing the words that those millions of Americans once expressed to their German friends as part of this gift, the Liberty Bell. Here's what they said: "We believe in the sacredness and dignity of the individual. We believe that all men derive the right of freedom equally from God. And we are proud to join with millions of men and women throughout the world who hold the cause of freedom sacred."

*Zum wohl.*

*[President Obama offered a toast.]*

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 7:30 p.m. at Schloss Charlottenburg. In his remarks, he referred to Joachim Sauer, husband

of Chancellor Merkel. Chancellor Merkel spoke in German, and her remarks were trans-

lated by an interpreter. Her remarks could not be verified because the audio was incomplete.

## Statement on World Refugee Day *June 20, 2013*

On World Refugee Day, the United States stands with the more than 45 million people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict and political violence.

This year, I want especially to thank countries and communities working to meet the needs of those who have fled the ongoing violence in Syria. In word and deed, countries like Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt have taken on extraordinary burdens as they

host people displaced by horrific violence. We are grateful for their generosity and pleased to support their efforts in addressing this humanitarian crisis.

Today we reaffirm our commitment to working with the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and our partners and allies to protect and assist all those displaced as they work to rebuild their lives in peace and dignity.

## Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Disposition of Russian Highly Enriched Uranium *June 20, 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 emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 of June 25, 2012, with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium is to continue in effect beyond June 25, 2013.

The risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of a large volume of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13617 with respect to the disposition of Russian highly enriched uranium.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,  
June 20, 2013.

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

## Remarks on the Resignation of Robert S. Mueller III as Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Nomination of James B. Comey, Jr., To Be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation *June 21, 2013*

*The President.* Good afternoon, everybody. Please have a seat.

For more than a century, we have counted on the dedicated men and women of the FBI