

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

to keep us safe. In that time, the FBI has been led by six Directors. And the second longest serving Director of the FBI, for the last 12 years, has been an exemplary public servant, Bob Mueller.

And by law, FBI Directors only serve for 10 years. But back in 2011, when Bob's term was up, I asked Congress to give him 2 more years. It wasn't a request I made lightly, and I know Congress didn't grant it lightly. But at a time when transitions were underway at the CIA and the Pentagon, and given the threats facing our Nation, we felt it was critical to have Bob's steady hand and strong leadership at the Bureau.

Twelve years is a long time to do anything, and I guarantee you that Bob's wife Ann agrees. So, in addition to asking Congress, I think we needed approval from Ann as well for those extra 2 years. Today, as Bob prepares to complete his service, this is a wonderful opportunity to—for all of us as a nation to say thank you to Bob and Ann, but also, it gives me a chance to announce my choice to be the next Director of the FBI, Jim Comey.

Every day, our FBI special agents, analysts, and professional staff devote—and often risk—their lives keeping us secure, from the streets of our cities to the battlefield of Afghanistan. They embody the core principles of fidelity, bravery, and integrity.

Bob Mueller has embodied those values through decades of public service and lived them every day as FBI Director during an extraordinary period in our Nation's history. Bob, some of you will recall, was sworn in just days before 9/11, and Bob not only played a key role in our response to those attacks, he began one of the biggest transformations of the FBI in history to make sure that nothing like that ever happens again.

Like the marine that he's always been, Bob never took his eyes off his mission. Under his watch, the FBI joined forces with our intelligence, military, and homeland security professionals to break up Al Qaida cells, disrupt their activities, and thwart their plots. I'll say it as clearly as I can: Countless Americans are alive today and our country is more secure because

of the FBI's outstanding work under the leadership of Bob Mueller.

All the while, Bob and the FBI have been tireless against a whole range of challenges, from preventing violent crime and reducing gang activity, including along our border, to cracking down on white-collar criminals.

Today, there are many in the FBI who've never known the Bureau without Bob at the helm. And like us, they've admired his tenacity, but also his calm under pressure, his devotion to our security, and his fidelity to the values that make us who we are. It's a trademark—a tribute to Bob's trademark humility that most Americans probably wouldn't recognize him on the street, but all of us are better because of his service.

And, Bob, I can't tell you how personally grateful I am to you and to Ann for your service. I know that everyone here joins me in saying that you will be remembered as one of the finest Directors in the history of the FBI and one of the most admired public servants of our time. And I have to say, just personally, not only has it been a pleasure to work with Bob, but I know very few people in public life who have shown more integrity, more consistently, under more pressure than Bob Mueller.

Director Mueller. Thank you.

The President. Now, I think Bob will agree with me when I say that we have the perfect person to carry on this work in Jim Comey, a man who stands up very tall for justice and the rule of law. I was saying while we were taking pictures with his gorgeous family here, that they are all what Michelle calls "normal height." [Laughter]

The grandson of a patrolman who worked his way up to lead the Yonkers Police Department, Jim has law enforcement in his blood. As a young prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan, he helped bring down the Gambino crime family. As a Federal prosecutor in Virginia, he led an aggressive effort to combat gun violence that reduced homicide rates and saved lives. He has been relentless, whether it's standing up for consumers against corporate fraud or bringing terrorists to justice.

And as Deputy Attorney General, he helped lead the Justice Department with skill and wisdom, meeting the threats we know about and staying perpetually prepared for the ones that can emerge suddenly. So Jim is exceptionally qualified to handle the full range of challenges faced by today's FBI, from traditional threats like violent and organized crime to protecting civil rights and children from exploitation, to meeting transnational challenges like terrorism and cyber threats.

Now, just as important as Jim's extraordinary experience is his character. He's talked about how, as a young boy, he and his brother nearly lost their lives. They were at home, and an intruder broke in and held them at gunpoint. So Jim understands, deeply, in his core, the anguish of victims of crime—what they go through—and he's made it his life's work to spare others that pain.

To know Jim Comey is also to know his fierce independence and his deep integrity. Like Bob, he's that rarity in Washington sometimes. He doesn't care about politics; he only cares about getting the job done. At key moments, when it's mattered most, he joined Bob in standing up for what he believed was right. He was prepared to give up a job he loved rather than be part of something he felt was fundamentally wrong. As Jim has said, "We know that the rule of law sets this Nation apart and is its foundation."

Jim understands that in time of crisis, we aren't judged solely by how many plots we disrupt or how many criminals we bring to justice, we're also judged by our commitment to the Constitution that we've sworn to defend and to the values and civil liberties that we've pledged to protect. And as we've seen in recent days, this work of striking a balance between our security, but also making sure we are maintaining fidelity to those values that we cherish, is a constant mission. That's who we are.

And it is in large part because of my confidence not only in his experience and his skill, but his integrity, that I'm confident that Jim will be a leader who understands how to keep America safe and stay true to our founding ideals, no matter what the future may bring.

So to Bob and Ann, I want to thank you again for your incredible service. I want to thank Jim, his wife Patrice, and their five children who are here today, Maurene, Kathleen—Katherine, Brien, Claire, and Abby, for supporting Jim as he takes on this important role. I know he couldn't do this without you. And he is extraordinarily proud of all of you, and I can see why.

This is a 10-year assignment. I make this nomination confident that long after I've left office, our Nation's security will be in good hands with public servants like Jim Comey. And so I assure—I urge, as usual, for the Senate to act promptly with hearings and to confirm our next FBI Director right away.

I'd like now to give both of them a chance to say a few words, starting with Bob.

Director Mueller. Thank you, Mr. President. Let me start by thanking you, Mr. President, for those kind words. And I also want to express my gratitude to both President Bush and President Obama for giving me the honor and the privilege of serving as the FBI Director during these last few years.

I particularly want to take the opportunity, though, to thank the men and women of the FBI. It's through their hard work, their dedication, their adaptability that the FBI is better able to predict and to prevent terrorism and crime both here and abroad. Of course, I want to thank my wife Ann, my family, for their support and their patience over the last 12 years.

And finally, I want to commend the President for the choice of Jim Comey as the next Director of the FBI. I have had the opportunity to work with Jim for a number of years in the Department of Justice, and I have found him to be a man of honesty, dedication, and integrity. His experience, his judgment, and his strong sense of duty will benefit not only the Bureau, but the country as a whole.

Again, Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity to serve.

Director-designate Comey. Thank you, Mr. President, for this honor and this opportunity. I'm not sure I have the words to describe how excited I am to return to the Department of Justice and especially to get to work again with

the people of the FBI. They are men and women who have devoted their lives to serving and protecting others, and I simply can't wait to be their colleague again.

Nearly everything I am and have done in my adult life is due to the great good fortune of marrying up. [Laughter] Thanks to the love and support, and occasional constructive criticism—[laughter]—of my beloved troops, of my amazing wife Patrice and Abby, Claire, Brien, Kate, and Maurene, I am a much better person than I would have been without you. I love you guys. I have a debt I cannot repay you, but thank you for that.

I must be out of my mind to be following Bob Mueller. [Laughter] I don't know whether I can fill those shoes. But I know that however I do, I will be standing truly on the shoulders

of a giant, someone who has made a remarkable difference in the life of this country. I can promise you, Mr. President and Mr. Director, that I will do my very best to honor and protect that legacy.

And I thank you again, Mr. President, for this chance to serve. Thank you. Thank you, sir.

The President. Can we give Bob Mueller and Ann one more big round of applause?

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:11 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former FBI Directors Louis J. Freeh, William H. Sessions, and William H. Webster; and Peter Comey, brother of Director-designate Comey. Director Mueller referred to former President George W. Bush.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the War Powers Resolution Report for Jordan

June 21, 2013

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

Certain U.S. forces recently deployed to Jordan solely to participate in a training exercise. This exercise ended on June 20, 2013. At the request of the Government of Jordan, a combat-equipped detachment of approximately 700 of these forces remained in Jordan after the conclusion of the exercise to join other U.S. forces already in Jordan.

This detachment that participated in the exercise and remained in Jordan includes Patriot missile systems, fighter aircraft, and related support, command, control, and communications personnel and systems. The detachment will remain in Jordan, in full coordination with the Government of Jordan, until the security situation becomes such that it is no longer needed.

The deployment of this detachment has been directed in furtherance of U.S. national

security and foreign policy interests, including the important national interests in supporting the security of Jordan and promoting regional stability, pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive.

I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress fully informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution (Public Law 93-148). I appreciate the support of the Congress in these actions.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Patrick J. Leahy, President pro tempore of the Senate.