

given everybody a chance to pursue their own true measure of happiness. That's who we are.

We haven't just wanted success for ourselves, we want it for our neighbors. We want it for our neighborhoods. That's why we don't call it Bob's dream or Barbara's dream or Barack's dream, we call it the American Dream. It's one that we share. That's who we are: the idea that no matter who you are, what you look like, where you come from, who you love, you can make it here in America if you're trying hard.

That's what a college education can be all about. That's what inspires your President, that's what inspires the faculty. That's why when we see young people like you, we're inspired, because you're an expression of that idea. And we've got to make sure that that continues, not just for this generation, but for the next generation.

And I've got a hundred—I've got 1,267 days left in my Presidency. And I'm going to spend

every minute, every second, as long as I have the privilege of being in this office, making sure that I am doing every single thing that I can so that middle class families, working families, people who are out there struggling every single day, that they know that that work can lead them to a better place. And we're going to make sure that the American Dream is available for everybody, not just now, but in the future.

So thank you, Missouri. Thank you, UCM. Thank you, Mules. Thank you, Jennies. God bless you. God bless the United States of America. Let's get to work.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:09 p.m. in the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. In his remarks, he referred to Brian Greene, student, Systems Engineering Technology program at the Missouri Innovation Campus; David McGehee, superintendent, Lee's Summit School District; and Mark James, chancellor, Metropolitan Community College.

## Statement on Senate Passage of Student Loan Legislation July 24, 2013

A better bargain for the middle class means making a college education available to every single American willing to work for it. That's why I applaud the wide bipartisan majority of Senators who passed a bill to cut rates on nearly all new Federal student loans, rolling back a July 1 rate hike and saving undergraduates an average of more than \$1,500 on loans they take out this year.

This compromise is a major victory for our Nation's students. It meets the key principles I

laid out from the start: It locks in low rates next year, and it doesn't overcharge students to pay down the deficit. I urge the House to pass this bill so that I can sign it into law right away, and I hope both parties build on this progress by taking even more steps to bring down soaring costs and keep a good education—a cornerstone of what it means to be middle class—within reach for working families.

NOTE: The statement referred to H.R. 1911.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With President Truong Tan Sang of Vietnam July 25, 2013

*President Obama.* Well, it is my pleasure to welcome President Truong Tan Sang to the White House and to the Oval Office for his first bilateral meeting with me. This represents the steady progression and strengthening of the relationship between our two countries.

Obviously, we all recognize the extraordinarily complex history between the United States and Vietnam. But step by step, what we have been able to establish is a degree of mutual respect and trust that has allowed us now to announce a comprehensive partnership between our two countries that will allow even

greater cooperation on a whole range of issues, from trade and commerce to military-to-military cooperation, to multilateral work on issues like disaster relief, to scientific and educational exchanges.

What we've also discussed is the ways in which, through the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, both the United States and Vietnam are participating in what will be an extraordinarily ambitious effort to increase trade, commerce, and transparency in terms of commercial relationships throughout the Asia-Pacific region. And we're committed to the ambitious goal of completing this agreement before the end of the year because we know that this can create jobs and increase investment across the region and in both of our countries.

We discussed the need for continued efforts to resolve peacefully maritime issues that have surfaced in the South China Sea and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region. And we very much appreciate Vietnam's commitment to working with ASEAN and the East Asia Summit in order for us to arrive at codes of conduct that will help to resolve these issues peacefully and fairly.

We discussed the challenges that all of us face when it comes to issues of human rights, and we emphasized how the United States continues to believe that all of us have to respect issues like freedom of expression, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly. And we had a very candid conversation about both the progress that Vietnam is making and the challenges that remain.

We both reaffirmed the efforts that have been made to deal with war legacy issues. We very much appreciate Vietnam's continued cooperation as we try to recover our missing in action and those that were lost during the course of the war. And I reaffirmed the United States commitment to work with Vietnam around some of the environmental and health issues that have continued decades later because of the war.

And finally, we agreed that one of the great sources of strength between our two countries is the Vietnamese American population that is here, but obviously has continued strong ties to

Vietnam. And ultimately, it's those people-to-people relations that are the glue that can strengthen the relationship between any two countries.

So I just want to say to President Sang how much I appreciate his visit. I think it signifies the maturing and the next stage of the development between the United States and Vietnam. As we increase consultations, increase cooperation, increase trade and scientific and education exchanges, ultimately, that's going to be good for the prosperity and opportunities of the people here in the United States, as well as good for the opportunities and prosperity of the people of Vietnam.

At the conclusion of the meeting, President Sang shared with me a copy of a letter sent by Ho Chi Minh to Harry Truman. And we discussed the fact that Ho Chi Minh was actually inspired by the U.S. Declaration of Independence and Constitution and the words of Thomas Jefferson. Ho Chi Minh talks about his interest in cooperation with the United States. And President Sang indicated that, even if it's 67 years later, it's good that we're still making progress.

Thank you very much for your visit. And I look forward to continued work together. Thank you so much.

*[At this point, President Sang spoke in Vietnamese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter as follows.]*

*President Sang.* President Obama, ladies and gentlemen, once again, I would like to thank you, President Obama, for your kind invitation extended to me to visit the United States, as well as the warm hospitality that you have extended to me over the past couple of days while I'm here in the U.S.

To be frank, President Obama and I had a very candid, open, useful, and constructive discussion. Given the progress of our bilateral relationship over the past 18 years, it is time now to form a comprehensive partnership in order to further strengthen our relations in various areas.

We discussed various matters, including political relations, science and technology,

education, defense, the war—the legacy of the war issue, environment, the American—the Vietnamese American community, human rights as well. And the East Sea as well, I'm sorry.

In this—in a candid, open, and productive—constructive spirit, we have come to agree on many issues. We will strengthen high-level exchanges between the two countries. We will consider in order to continue our—to upgrade the mechanism of cooperation at the high level, as well as take the best use of the existing mechanism of cooperation. Particularly, we will continue regular dialogue at the highest level as possible. I believe that this is a way in order to build a political trust for further development of our cooperation in all areas.

Economic and trade relations continue to be important to our relations. As far as TPP is concerned, the Vietnamese side will do its utmost in order to participate in the process of negotiations for the conclusion of TPP by the end of this year.

We also discussed in detail our cooperation in science and technology, in education and training, as well as security and defense. We also touched upon the war legacy issues, including human rights, which we still remain—which we still have differences on the issue.

We also—I also expressed my appreciation for the care that the U.S. has extended to the Vietnamese who came to settle in the United States, and now they have become American citizens and contributing to the overall development of the U.S. And thanks to the support and assistance from the U.S. Government, as well as the American people, the Vietnamese community—the Vietnamese American community here in the U.S. has become more and more prosperous and successful in their life as well as work—at work.

And I also would like to take this opportunity to express a message from—to convey a message from our Government to the Vietnamese American community here in the U.S. that we would like to see you contributing more and more to the friendship between our two countries as well as further development of our relationship in the future.

We also talked—discussed in detail the issue of the East Sea. We appreciate and will welcome the U.S. support for our stance in this matter, as well as the stance of ASEAN relating to this particular matter, and we appreciate the U.S. support to solving the matter by peaceful means in accordance with international law, DOC, and moving toward to COC. We welcome the United States support, as well as other countries' support, in the matter in order to ensure the peace, stability, prosperity, not only in the East Sea, but also in the Asia-Pacific and the world at large.

Last but not least, I also, on behalf of our Government and our state, to extend to President Obama our invitation to visit Vietnam. And President Obama has accepted invitation and will try his best to pay a visit, at least by the end—before the end of his term.

[As President Sang continued his remarks in Vietnamese, the interpreter spoke as follows.]

*Interpreter.* Actually, I would like to correct my translation a little bit: And President Obama has accepted our invitation and will try his best to pay a visit to Vietnam during this term—during his term.

[The interpreter then translated President Sang's concluding remarks as follows.]

*President Sang.* And once again, I would like to thank President Obama and all of the American people for their warm hospitality extended to me during this trip to the United States. And I believe that our cooperation will continue to strengthen for the mutual interest and benefit of our people.

Thank you.

*President Obama.* Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:30 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Sang referred to the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC) and the Code of Conduct in the East Sea (COC).