

ments. And I hope that discussions will move along quickly between employers unions and employees unions, because this is a prerequisite for confidence. And that it the key word: confidence, trust. It is true of international relations, but it is also true of the economy.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 12:15 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, the President referred to President Bashar al-Asad of Syria. President Hollande referred to President Ibrahim Boub-

acar Keita of Mali; President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; former U.S. National Security Agency contractor Edward J. Snowden, who is accused of leaking classified documents to members of the news media; and Pierre Gattaz, president, Movement of the Enterprises of France (MEDEF). He also referred to his children Flora, Julien, Thomas, and Clemence Hollande. President Hollande and some reporters spoke in French, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on the Retirement of Abraham H. Foxman as National Director of the Anti-Defamation League

February 11, 2014

For decades, Abe Foxman has been a tireless voice against anti-Semitism and prejudice in all of its forms, always calling us to reject hatred and embrace our common humanity. Michelle and I wish him well as he prepares to leave the leadership of the Anti-Defamation

League, an organization that he built and led with such passion and persistence. Abe is irreplaceable, but the causes that he has dedicated his life to will continue to inspire people in the United States, Israel, and around the world.

Statement on Releasing the National Strategy for Combating Wildlife Trafficking

February 11, 2014

Like other forms of illicit trade, wildlife trafficking undermines security across nations. Well-armed, well-equipped, and well-organized networks of criminals and corrupt officials exploit porous borders and weak institutions to profit from trading in poached wildlife. Record high demand for wildlife products, coupled with inadequate preventative measures and weak institutions has resulted in an explosion of illicit trade in wildlife in recent years.

That trade is decimating iconic animal populations. Today, because of the actions of poachers, species like elephants and rhinoceroses face the risk of significant decline or even extinction. But it does not have to be that way. We can take action to stop these illicit networks and ensure that our children have the chance to grow up in a world with and experience for themselves the wildlife we know and love.

Addressing these challenges requires a U.S. strategy that is proactive, recognizes immediate imperatives, and balances our strengths and expertise to address challenges comprehensively over the long term. This is a global challenge requiring global solutions. So we will work with foreign governments, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to maximize our impacts together. Our efforts will aim to strengthen enforcement, reduce demand, and increase cooperation to address these challenges.

The entire world has a stake in protecting the world's iconic animals, and the United States is strongly committed to meeting its obligation to help preserve the Earth's natural beauty for future generations.

BARACK OBAMA