

ited. Now, I don't think that that's a question of economic calculation or cost, you see.

And therefore, I would ask our friends in the Italian press to realize that the data that we are working with in the Ukraine crisis and in the crisis with Russia aren't only based on economic considerations. And this is why the relations and our friendship with the United States of America have trade implications. And I think that during the European semester of Presidency, we have to come to an agreement. Hopefully, we'll manage to do this, and maybe it will come in 2015 if we don't manage to do it during the Italian Presidency. So I was saying, we come to an agreement on the trade agreement with the United States.

But what I'm trying to say—and this is why I wish to thank President Obama—is that there are shared values. In just a moment, President Obama will be making a private visit in some of the most beautiful places in Rome, extraordinary places. Those beautiful and extraordinary places in Rome are—well, if they had been created today, there would have been some bureaucrats saying, no, we're spending too much money, we're not creating the right thing. Those are places of beauty, you see, that have a huge impact of huge importance. And those are the places that don't make our country an economic superpower, but a cultural superpower.

So with the same kind of commitment with which we defend our past, we wish to build our future together with our allies. So I think we have to be a bit bolder, a bit more enthusiastic. And if you don't mind my saying this, we need to be a bit more ambitious, because I think that today Italy begins to—needs to start dreaming bigger than it has up to now.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 4:18 p.m. at the Villa Madama. In his remarks, the President referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini of Italy; President José Manuel Durão Barroso of the European Commission; President Herman Van Rompuy of the European Council; and former President Viktor Yanukovich of Ukraine, who left the country after being removed from office in February by a vote in Parliament. Prime Minister Renzi referred to his mother Laura Bovoli; Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; President François Hollande of France; Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom; and Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Girone, Italian Marine riflemen accused of killing two Indian fishermen during a security convoy mission to protect an oil tanker off the coast of Kerala, India, on February 15, 2012. Some reporters spoke in Italian, and their remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Statement on the National Security Agency's Section 215 Bulk Telephony Metadata Program *March 27, 2014*

Earlier this year in a speech at the Department of Justice, I announced a transition that would end the section 215 bulk telephony metadata program as it previously existed and that we would establish a mechanism to preserve the capabilities we need without the Government holding this bulk metadata. I did so to give the public greater confidence that their privacy is appropriately protected, while maintaining the tools our intelligence and law enforcement agencies need to keep us safe.

In that January 17 speech, I ordered that a transition away from the prior program would proceed in two steps. In addition to directing immediate changes to the program, I also directed the intelligence community and the Attorney General to use this transition period to develop options for a new approach to match the capabilities and fill gaps that the section 215 program was designed to address without the Government holding this metadata. I instructed them to report back to me with options for alternative approaches before the

program comes up for reauthorization on March 28th. As part of this process, we consulted with the Congress, the private sector, and privacy and civil liberties groups and developed a number of alternative approaches.

Having carefully considered the available options, I have decided that the best path forward is that the Government should not collect or hold this data in bulk. Instead, the data should remain at the telephone companies for the length of time it currently does today. The Government would obtain the data pursuant to individual orders from the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court (FISC) approving the use of specific numbers for such queries if a judge agrees based on national security concerns. Legislation will be needed to permit the Government to obtain this information with the speed and in the manner that will be required to make this approach workable.

I believe this approach will best ensure that we have the information we need to meet our intelligence needs while enhancing public confidence in the manner in which the information is collected and held. My team has been in touch with key Congressional leadership—including from the Judiciary and Intelligence Committees—and we are committed to working with them to see legislation passed as soon as possible. Given that this legislation will not be in place by March 28 and given the importance of maintaining this capability, I have directed the Department of Justice to seek a 90-day reauthorization of the existing program including the modifications I directed in January. I am confident that this approach can provide our intelligence and law enforcement professionals the information they need to keep us safe while addressing the legitimate privacy concerns that have been raised.

## Statement on Senate Confirmation of Maria Contreras-Sweet as Administrator of the Small Business Administration

*March 27, 2014*

With the bipartisan confirmation of Maria Contreras-Sweet as the next Administrator of the Small Business Administration, the American people will have a fierce champion who understands what it means to start a small business and who has a proven track record of helping other small businesses succeed.

As the founder of ProAmérica Bank, Maria helped provide loans to small businesses that needed them, especially within the Latino community. Maria also served the citizens of California as secretary of business, transportation, and housing, becoming the first Latina cabinet secretary in California history and playing a critical role in ensuring that entrepre-

neurs and small-business owners across her State had access to the capital they needed to start and grow their businesses.

As we work to keep our economy growing, Maria will be charged with looking for more ways to support small businesses. Two years ago, I elevated the role of Small Business Administrator to a Cabinet-level position to make sure small businesses have the seat at the table they deserve. I'm confident that as the newest member of my Cabinet, Maria will to do an outstanding job working with me, with America's small-business owners, and with my entire administration to increase economic growth and expand opportunity for all.

## Statement on the Death of Former Senator Jeremiah A. Denton, Jr.

*March 28, 2014*

Jeremiah Denton bravely served his country as a naval aviator in Vietnam and went on to represent the people of Alabama in the U.S. Senate. After his aircraft was shot down

by enemy fire in North Vietnam, he spent nearly 8 years as a prisoner of war. One of the highest ranking officers to be taken prisoner in Vietnam, he endured torture, starvation,