

May 15 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2014

The Government of Burma has made significant progress in a number of critical areas, including the release of over 1,100 political prisoners, progress towards a nationwide ceasefire, the legalization of unions, taking steps to improve the country's labor standards, and allowing greater freedom of association and expression. In addition, Burma signed an Additional Protocol to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, a significant step towards supporting the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

Despite great strides that Burma has made in its reform effort, the situation in the country continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The political opening remains nascent, and concerns persist regarding ongoing conflict and human rights abuses

in ethnic minority areas, particularly in Rakhine State, and the continued role of the military in the country's political and economic activities. Nonetheless, the United States is committed to supporting and strengthening Burma's reform efforts to ensure that the democratic transition is sustained and irreversible. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at Shake Shack Restaurant *May 16, 2014*

The President. Let me say something to these folks real quick so we can eat our burgers in peace. And excuse me, my voice is a little hoarse. I had a cold at the beginning of the week. In addition to coming to Shake Shack—which has great burgers and pays its employees over 10 bucks an hour, so we're very proud of them and the great work that they're doing—we've been talking a lot all across the country about the importance of raising the minimum wage. These four individuals just completed a project here in DC, an infrastructure project that put a lot of folks to work, is going to make the economy move better, traffic move better. And as you know, earlier this week, both Joe and I highlighted the fact that we're fast-tracking projects all across the country.

One of the things that we could do right now to put more Americans back to work is to fund our transportation more effectively and more consistently. And if Congress does not act, then by the end of this summer, we could have hundreds of thousands of projects like this all across the country stop, and people whose livelihoods depend on those projects sent home,

and businesses that need improved infrastructure suffering under downgraded infrastructure.

So it is a no-brainer for Congress to do what it's supposed to do: Pass transportation funding. We can do it without adding to the deficit simply by getting rid of some corporate tax loopholes that aren't creating jobs and are basically giveaways to folks who don't need them. And when people who—when you ask Americans from all walks of life all across the country what's their number-one priority, it's improving the economy and putting people back to work. And one of the best ways we can do it is to do something about the roads, the bridges, the ports, the airports, the sewer lines all across the country that need repair.

We know we're going to have to do it. This is like deferred maintenance on your house. If you've got to do some tuck-pointing, to fix the roof, or fix the boiler, there's no point in putting it off. Now is the time to do it, and we've got outstanding contractors and workers ready to work. So I hope Congress gets working, and

I'm prepared to work with anybody on a bipartisan basis to get it done.

Vice President Joe Biden. Mr. President, for 40 years, it's been a bipartisan notion.

The President. Right.

Vice President Biden. For 40 years. This is the first time—I've been hanging around and it's like, oh, infrastructure.

The President. This shouldn't be Democrat or Republican, this is American. We've got to rebuild America. And these are folks who are doing it.

So thank you very much, everybody. Enjoy your burgers if you guys are buying them.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:12 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Meredith C. Upchurch, storm water low impact development team leader, Aidin Rezaei Sarabi, civil engineer, and Abdullahi S. Mohamed, supervisory civil engineer, Infrastructure Project Management Administration of the District of Columbia; and Antonio Byrd, transportation specialist, Transportation Operations Administration of the District of Columbia.

Statement on the 60th Anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* May 16, 2014

Tomorrow marks 60 years since the Supreme Court handed down its landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the first major step in dismantling the “separate but equal” doctrine that justified Jim Crow. As we commemorate this historic anniversary, we recommit ourselves to the long struggle to stamp out bigotry and racism in all their forms. We reaffirm our belief that all children deserve an education worthy of their promise. And we re-

member that change did not come overnight, that it took many years and a nationwide movement to fully realize the dream of civil rights for all of God's children. We will never forget the men, women, and children who took extraordinary risks in order to make our country more fair and more free. Today, it falls on us to honor their legacy by taking our place in their march and doing our part to perfect the Union we love.

Statement on International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia May 16, 2014

Tomorrow, as we commemorate the 10th annual International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, we recommit ourselves to the fundamental belief that all people should be treated equally, that they should have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, and that no one should face violence or discrimination, no matter who they are or whom they love.

This year, the United States celebrates the 60th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights

Act, and the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. In doing so, we reflect on lessons learned from our own civil rights struggles and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the human rights of all people are universally protected.

At a time when, tragically, we are seeing increased efforts to criminalize or oppress LGBT persons, we call on partners everywhere to join us in defending the equal rights of our LGBT brothers and sisters and in ensuring they are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.