

welcome when they come. And although New Zealand obviously is a small country with a small Armed Forces, the cooperation that we have on intelligence issues, New Zealand's excellent efforts when it comes to training and participating in peacekeeping operations makes it an invaluable partner. So we're very appreciative of that.

So overall, it was wonderful to see John and his delegation. And I indicated to him that I would love to come to New Zealand because I hear it's really nice. [Laughter] And I know the people are nice, because I've had a chance to meet them. So we're going to be working with my scheduler to see what I can come up with if not this year, certainly before the end of my Presidency. So, welcome. Thank you.

*Prime Minister Key.* Well, let me be brief. Mr. President, firstly, thank you for the opportunity to be in the White House. Look, I think the relationship between New Zealand and the United States continues to go from strength to strength, and that's in large part because of your leadership and your commitment to the New Zealand-U.S. relationship.

New Zealand and the United States have been the two partners, I think, in the Trans-Pacific Partnership that have always believed in a high-quality, comprehensive deal. And I think that that can be achieved. And I think there's more work to be done, but the prize at the end

of those negotiations is one that's worth it for both of our economies and for the other 10 partners that would join us. So I think that's a great objective.

We appreciate all the things you do, the leadership you show around the world. We know that's it's never an easy day in the office here in the Oval Office.

And lastly, I think we had a very good discussion about maritime security. And certainly, New Zealand holds very strongly to the view that everyone has to observe the rule of international law, the law of the sea. And peace and stability in every region of the world is important. And it's important to our two countries. So that's probably enough for me. But thank you very much for having us here again.

*The President.* Excellent. Thank you very much, everybody.

#### *New Zealand-U.S. Relations*

*Q.* [Inaudible]

*The President.* We just love having New Zealand as a partner in general on a whole range of issues.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:51 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. The transcript was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 23.

## Statement on World Refugee Day *June 20, 2014*

Today I join people around the world in commemorating World Refugee Day. It is an opportunity to honor the resilience of those who flee violence and persecution and the dedication of those who help them.

The forces that shatter communities and uproot their residents are difficult to tame. This year we mark a grim milestone. Over 51 million people are now refugees, asylum seekers, or internally displaced persons, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. That is more than at any time since World War II.

Nearly half of all Syrians—45 percent—have been driven from their homes. A quarter of them—more than 2.8 million—have become refugees in neighboring countries. Conflicts in the Central African Republic and South Sudan have each forced over a million people to flee. In just the past few days, turmoil gripping Iraq has displaced hundreds of thousands and threatens many more.

Refugee crises reveal what is worst and best about us. The huts set on fire, the apartment buildings flattened, the bullets sprayed at innocent civilians show the depths of our capacity for hatred and callousness. But those who aid

and protect refugees demonstrate the opposite: our potential for valor and compassion.

The United States provides more humanitarian assistance to refugees than any other nation. In the last year alone, the generosity of the American people and the dedication of those who deliver food, medicine, shelter, and other emergency assistance have helped to save hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions of lives.

Our commitment does not end overseas. Some refugees simply cannot return home because the risk of violence and persecution is too great. The U.S. admits more refugees for

permanent resettlement than any other nation. Last year, nearly 70,000 came to the United States, and we expect to bring in the same number this year.

The ordeals refugees survive and the aspirations they hold resonate with us as Americans. This country was built by people who fled oppression and war, leapt at opportunity, and worked day and night to remake themselves in this new land. The refugees who arrive in the United States today continue this tradition, bringing fresh dreams and energy and renewing the qualities that help forge our national identity and make our country strong.

## Statement on the Establishment of the United States Conference of Mayors My Brother's Keeper Task Force

June 20, 2014

I thank Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and the U.S. Conference of Mayors for their action today to establish a Mayors Task Force dedicated to the “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative. “My Brother’s Keeper” is an all-hands-on-deck effort to make sure every young person—especially boys and young men of color—can reach their potential. Through this Task Force, mayors will work to expand universal early childhood programs, promote public-private

partnerships that help create more summer jobs, increase and build on existing mentorship programs, and eliminate suspensions and expulsions in preschool and other early learning settings. I commend these mayors, representing cities across the Nation, for making these issues a priority in their communities, and I look forward to working with them to expand opportunity and improve the odds for every child in America.

## Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to North Korea

June 20, 2014

*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 national emer-

gency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in E.O. 13551 of August 30, 2010, and addressed further in E.O. 13570 of April 18, 2011, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2014.

The existence and risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula, and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil U.S. Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in