

*July 29 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2014*

in the end make President Putin see more clearly. Ultimately, that's something that President Putin has to do by—on his own. But what we can do is make sure that we've increased the costs for actions that I think are not only destructive to Ukraine, but ultimate-

ly, are going to be destructive to Russia, as well.

All right. Guys, I've got to get going.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:39 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

## Statement on Senate Confirmation of Robert A. McDonald as Secretary of Veterans Affairs

*July 29, 2014*

I applaud the overwhelming, bipartisan confirmation of Bob McDonald as our next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. As a veteran himself and a proud member of a military family, Bob is deeply committed to serving our veterans and their families. And as an executive with decades of private-sector experience, he is uniquely equipped to lead the Department of Veterans

Affairs and to help change the way the VA does business. As a country, we have a solemn duty to serve our veterans as well as they have served us. I know Bob will help us honor that commitment and make sure every veteran gets the care they deserve, the benefits they've earned, and the chance to pursue the American Dream they've risked so much to protect.

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

*July 29, 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 emergency with respect to Lebanon that was declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2014.

Certain ongoing activities, such as continuing arms transfers to Hizballah, which include

increasingly sophisticated weapons systems, undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,  
July 29, 2014.

NOTE: The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.