

Middle East. But its leaders have threatened America and our allies. And if left unchecked, they could pose a growing threat to the United States.

So, last month, I gave the order for our military to begin taking targeted action against ISIL. Since then, American pilots have flown more than 170 airstrikes against these terrorists in Iraq. And France has now joined us in these airstrikes.

And going forward, we won't hesitate to take action against these terrorists in Iraq or in Syria. But this is not America's fight alone. I won't commit our troops to fighting another ground war in Iraq or in Syria. It's more effective to use our capabilities to help partners on the ground secure their own countries' futures. We will use our air power. We will train and equip our partners. We will advise, and we will assist. And we'll lead a broad coalition of nations who have a stake in this fight. This isn't America versus ISIL, this is the people of that region versus ISIL. It's the world versus ISIL.

We've been working to secure bipartisan support for this strategy here at home, because I believe that we are strongest as a nation when the President and Congress work together. We've been consulting closely with Congress. And last week, Secretary of State Kerry, Secretary of Defense Hagel, and military leaders worked to gain their support for our strategy.

A majority of Democrats and a majority of Republicans in both the House and the Senate have now approved a first, key part of our strategy by wide margins. They've given our troops the authority they need to train Syrian opposition fighters so that they can fight ISIL in Syria. Those votes sent a powerful signal to the world: Ameri-

cans are united in confronting this danger. And I hope Congress continues to make sure our troops get what they need to get the job done.

Meanwhile, because we're leading the right way, more nations are joining our coalition. Over 40 countries have offered to help the broad campaign against ISIL so far, from training and equipment to humanitarian relief, to flying combat missions. And this week, at the United Nations, I'll continue to rally the world against this threat.

This is an effort that America has the unique ability to lead. When the world is threatened, when the world needs help, it calls on America. And we call on our troops. Whether it's to degrade and ultimately destroy a group of terrorists or to contain and combat a threat like the Ebola epidemic in Africa, we ask a lot of our troops. But while our politics may be divided at times, the American people stand united around supporting our troops and their families. This is a moment of American leadership. And thanks to them, it is a moment that we will meet.

Thanks.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:05 p.m. on September 19 in the Map Room at the White House for broadcast on September 20. In the address, the President referred to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization. H.J. Res. 124, Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2015, was approved September 19 and assigned Public Law No. 113-164. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 19, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on September 20.

Remarks on Signing the Presidents' Declaration To Fulfill the Promise of America and an Exchange With Reporters *September 22, 2014*

The President. Hello, everybody. All right, don't knock anything over. [*Laughter*] It's always a little hazardous.

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome the leadership and some of the key participants in America's Promise. I think as many of you

know, this is something that the Powell family and others helped to initiate and a number of Presidents have participated in.

The concept is simple: that our greatest asset are our children. And it is absolutely critical for us as a nation to continually find ways in

which we can make sure that they are safe, that they are getting the kind of education they need to succeed in the 21st century, that they're healthy, that they are on the track not only to be successful, but also to be good citizens. And the companies and organizations and non-for-profits that are represented by—behind me, under Alma's leadership, have contributed in so many ways, but this is just a small sampling of the hundreds of organizations around the country that are doing great work every single day and are learning from each other and creating a network of concern and nurturing for our children in every walk of life.

And so I'm very proud to be the latest President to sign on to America's Promise. It is consistent with a number of the initiatives that we've been putting forward in the administration, whether it's through our efforts in Race to the Top and the Department of Education, more recently, the work that we're trying to do around "My Brother's Keeper" and making sure that every young person in America gets a chance at success.

And so, in addition to the symbolic act of signing on to this declaration, this also gives us an opportunity to collaborate and learn more about some of the great work that's being done out there and figuring out how Government,

private sector, and nonprofits can all work together to achieve the same goal.

So thank you very much for your outstanding work, all of you. And I will now—

Former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell.
Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. —affix my name to this.

[At this point, the President signed the declaration.]

The President. There you go.

Thank you, guys.

[Several reporters began speaking at once.]

U.S. Secret Service

Q. Do you still have confidence in the Secret Service?

The President. The Secret Service does a great job, and I'm grateful for the sacrifices that they make on my behalf and my family's behalf.

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:35 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Alma J. Powell, chair of the board of directors, America's Promise Alliance.

Statement on Corporate Inversions September 22, 2014

America's businesses have created 10 million jobs over the last 54 months, the longest stretch of uninterrupted private sector job growth in our Nation's history, and we should do everything we can as a country to build on that progress. That's why I've called on Congress to lower our corporate tax rate, close wasteful loopholes, and simplify the Tax Code for everyone.

While there's no substitute for Congressional action, my administration will act wherever we can to protect the progress the American people have worked so hard to bring about. As part of this effort, Secretary Lew briefed me

today on the first steps the Treasury Department is taking to discourage companies from taking advantage of corporate inversions: moving their tax residence overseas on paper to avoid paying their fair share in taxes here at home. We've recently seen a few large corporations announce plans to exploit this loophole, undercutting businesses that act responsibly and leaving the middle class to pay the bill, and I'm glad that Secretary Lew is exploring additional actions to help reverse this trend.

I believe America does better when hard work pays off, responsibility is rewarded, and everyone plays by the same set of rules. In the