

## Statement on the 60th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott *December 1, 2015*

Rosa Parks held no elected office. She was not born into wealth or power. Yet, 60 years ago today, Rosa Parks changed America. Refusing to give up a seat on a segregated bus was the simplest of gestures, but her grace, dignity, and refusal to tolerate injustice helped spark a civil rights movement that spread across America. Just a few days after Rosa Parks' arrest in Montgomery, Alabama, a little-known, 26-year-old pastor named Martin Luther King, Jr., stood by her side, along with thousands of her fellow citizens. Together, they began a boycott. Three-hundred and eighty-five days later, the Montgomery buses were desegregated, and

the entire foundation of Jim Crow began to crumble.

Like so many giants of her age, Rosa Parks is no longer with us. But her lifetime of activism—and her singular moment of courage—continue to inspire us today. Rosa Parks reminds us that there is always something we can do. It is always within our power to make America better. Because Rosa Parks kept her seat, thousands of ordinary commuters walked instead of rode. Because they walked, countless other quiet heroes marched. Because they marched, our Union is more perfect. Today we remember their heroism. Most of all, we recommit ourselves to continuing their march.

## Statement on the Death of Former National Security Adviser Samuel R. “Sandy” Berger *December 2, 2015*

Sandy Berger was one of our Nation's foremost national security leaders. From his service in President Carter's State Department to President Clinton's National Security Advisor, Sandy devoted himself to strengthening American leadership in an uncertain world. Today, his legacy can be seen in a peaceful Balkans, our strong alliance with Japan, our deeper relationships with India and China. Around the globe, families and children are living healthier, more secure lives because, as a private citizen, Sandy was a humanitarian who helped the world respond to crises and feed the hungry. With his trademark passion, wisdom, and good humor, he is remembered fondly within the

ranks of the National Security Council, where those he mentored carry on his work. I'm grateful to Sandy because, as President, I've benefited personally from his advice and counsel. Our thoughts are with Sandy's beloved family, including his wife Susan, his children Deborah, Alexander, and Sarah, and five cherished grandchildren. May they find some comfort in knowing that the America he loved is stronger because of his service.

NOTE: The statement referred to Deborah Berger Fox, Alexander Berger, and Sarah Berger Sandelius, children of former National Security Adviser Berger.

## Statement on Steps Taken by the United Kingdom and Germany To Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) Terrorist Organization *December 2, 2015*

I welcome the vote by the United Kingdom to join coalition partners striking ISIL targets in Syria. The special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is root-

ed in our shared values and mutual commitment to global peace, prosperity, and security. Since the beginning of the counter-ISIL campaign the United Kingdom has been one of our

most valued partners in fighting ISIL. We look forward to having British forces flying with the coalition over Syria, and will work to integrate them into our coalition air tasking orders as quickly as possible.

I also welcome yesterday's announcement from the German Cabinet that Germany will commit up to 1,200 German troops to support coalition efforts to fight ISIL, including potentially deploying reconnaissance planes, tanker aircraft, and support for the *Charles de Gaulle* aircraft carrier in the Gulf. While this still requires German parliamentary approval, this is

a clear sign of Germany's continued commitment to the counter-ISIL campaign and to working with a broad range of partners to defeat this shared threat.

ISIL is a global threat that must be defeated by a global response. The United States welcomes any partner's genuine counter-ISIL efforts in Syria and Iraq, and I applaud the steps taken by the U.K. and Germany that demonstrate our unity and resolve. I look forward to working closely with the U.K., Germany, and all our coalition partners on our ongoing shared efforts to degrade and destroy ISIL.

## Remarks Following a Meeting With Members of the National Security Team on the Shooting in San Bernardino, California

*December 3, 2015*

Yesterday a tragedy occurred in San Bernardino, and as I said in the immediate aftermath, our first order of business is to send our thoughts and prayers to the families of those who have been killed and to pray for a speedy recovery for those who were injured during this terrible attack.

I had a chance to speak with Mayor Davis of San Bernardino, and I thanked law enforcement in that city for their timely and professional response. I indicated to Mayor Davis that the entire country is thinking about that community and thanked him and his office for the way that they've been able to manage an extraordinarily difficult situation with calm and clarity and very much appreciated the coordination that's been taking place between local law enforcement and the FBI investigators.

At this stage, we do not yet know why this terrible event occurred. We do know that the two individuals who were killed were equipped with weapons and appeared to have access to additional weaponry at their homes. But we don't know why they did it. We don't know at this point the extent of their plans. We do not know their motivations.

And I just received a briefing from FBI Director Comey, as well as Attorney General Lynch, indicating the course of their investigation. At this point, this is now a FBI investiga-

tion. That's been done in cooperation and consultation with local law enforcement. It is possible that this was terrorist related, but we don't know. It's also possible that this was workplace related. And until the FBI has been able to conduct what are going to be a large number of interviews, until we understand the nature of the workplace relationship between the individual and his superiors—because he worked with the organization where this terrible shooting took place—until all the social media and electronic information has been exploited, we're just not going to be able to answer those questions.

But what I can assure the American people is, we're going to get to the bottom of this and that we are going to be vigilant, as we always are, in getting the facts before we issue any decisive judgments in terms of how this occurred.

More broadly, as I said yesterday, we see the prevalence of these kinds of mass shootings in this country, and I think so many Americans sometimes feel as if there's nothing we can do about it. We are fortunate to have an extraordinary combination of law enforcement and intelligence and military that work every single day to keep us safe. But we can't just leave it to our professionals to deal with the problem of these kinds of horrible killings. We all have a part to play.