

as neighbors; and where our children know themselves to be a part of this Nation, no longer strangers, but the bedrock of this Nation, the essence of this Nation.

And that's why today is not the final step in your journey. More than 60 years ago, at a ceremony like this one, Senator John F. Kennedy said, "No form of government requires more of its citizens than does the American democracy." Our system of self-government depends on ordinary citizens doing the hard, frustrating, but always essential work of citizenship: of being informed; of understanding that the Government isn't some distant thing, but is you; of speaking out when something is not right; of helping fellow citizens when they need a hand; of coming together to shape our country's course.

And that work gives purpose to every generation. It belongs to me. It belongs to the judge. It belongs to you. It belongs to you, all of us, as citizens: to follow our laws, yes, but also to engage with your communities and to speak up for what you believe in and to vote; to not only exercise the rights that are now yours, but to stand up for the rights of others.

Birtukan Gudeya is here from Ethiopia. She said: "The joy of being an American is the joy of freedom and opportunity. We have been handed a work in progress, one that can evolve for the good of all Americans." I couldn't have said it better.

That is what makes America great, not just the words on these founding documents, as precious and valuable as they are, but the progress that they've inspired. If you ever wonder whether America is big enough to hold multi-

tudes, strong enough to withstand the forces of change, brave enough to live up to our ideals even in times of trial, then look to the generations of ordinary citizens who have proven again and again that we are worthy of that.

That's our great inheritance: what ordinary people have done to build this country and make these words live. And it's our generation's task to follow their example in this journey, to keep building an America where no matter who we are or what we look like or who we love or what we believe, we can make of our lives what we will.

You will not and should not forget your history and your past. That adds to the richness of American life. But you are now American. You've got obligations as citizens. And I'm absolutely confident you will meet them. You'll set a good example for all of us, because you know how precious this thing is. It's not something to take for granted. It's something to cherish and to fight for.

Thank you. May God bless you. May God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:56 a.m. in the Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom. In his remarks, he referred to Richard W. Roberts, Chief Judge, U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia; Leon Rodriguez, Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and Washington, DC, resident Muhanned Ibrahim Al Naib, who has changed his name to Zachary Abraham O'Brien. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

## Statement on the Designation of Adewale Adeyemo as Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics

*December 15, 2015*

For the past 4 years, I have relied on Caroline Atkinson, most recently as my Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economics, as we've navigated pressing challenges to the global economy. As my representative at the G-7 and G-20, she played a key role in co-

ordinating our response to international financial crises, worked with our allies to devise and implement targeted economic sanctions to advance our national security goals, played a vital role in our economic engagements with China, and helped to achieve breakthrough agree-

ments on climate that will strengthen our economy and our security. I've relied on, and benefited from, Caroline's knowledge and judgment, and as she concludes her tenure on my national security team, I am deeply appreciative of her service.

I am grateful that Caroline's work will be carried on by Adewale "Wally" Adeyemo, who has served in my administration since 2009. At the Treasury Department, he was part of the team that helped coordinate our response to the global recession, laying the foundation for

renewed growth at home and abroad. He helped establish the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and he's been our point person on a range of international economic issues, including negotiations on strong currency agreements around the Trans-Pacific Partnership. I will be calling on Wally's intellect, judgment, and dedication as we sustain America's global economic leadership, which reinforces our national security, and as we work with allies and partners around the world to create jobs and opportunity for all our people.

## Remarks Following a Briefing at the National Counterterrorism Center in McLean, Virginia *December 17, 2015*

As President and Commander in Chief, my highest priority is the security of the American people. And on a regular basis, I convene members of my national security team for an in-depth review of our efforts to prevent terrorist attacks against our citizens, around the world and here at home. We examine any known and emerging threats, we review our security posture, and we make sure that we're taking every necessary measure to protect our people.

Today I wanted to hold our meeting here, rather than at the—in the Situation Room at the White House. I wanted to hold it at the National Counterterrorism Center, because this is the hub of where so many of our experts and efforts come together. And I want to thank our Director of National Intelligence, Clapper—Jim Clapper—as well as NCTC Director Nick Rasmussen, and everybody at NCTC—all of you—for welcoming us here today.

Now, Nick, along with CIA Director Brennan and FBI Director Comey, provided a threat briefing. And Director Comey and Attorney General Lynch updated us on the investigation into the San Bernardino attacks. I reiterated that the investigation will continue to have the full support of the Federal Government and that we should leave no stone unturned in determining why and how these terrorists carried out that tragedy. Secretary of

Homeland Security Johnson updated us on the measures we're taking here at home to increase awareness, stay vigilant, and enhance the safety of the traveling public, especially with so many Americans traveling during the holidays.

After the terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, I know that a lot of Americans were anxious. And that's understandable. It's natural. Now, what matters most to all of us are our friends and our families and our communities and their safety. That's true of folks inside of government as well as outside of government. But here's what I want every American to know. Since 9/11, we've taken extraordinary steps to strengthen our homeland security—our borders, our ports, our airports, our aviation security, including enhanced watch lists and screening. And we've gotten much better—thanks in part to the people in this room—of preventing large, complex attacks like 9/11.

Moreover—and I think everybody here will agree—we have the very best intelligence, counterterrorism, homeland security, and law enforcement professionals in the world. Our folks are the best. Now, across our Government, these dedicated professionals, including here at NCTC, are relentless, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. At the operations center here, people from across our Government work