

We've seen what happens when we don't. That's why this deal is online for the whole world to see. I welcome all scrutiny, fear no questions. As Commander in Chief, I make no apology for keeping this country safe and secure through the hard work of diplomacy over the easy rush to war. And on Tuesday, I will continue to press this case when I address the national convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Because nobody understands the true cost of war better than those who have actually served in this country's uniform.

We have before us a historic opportunity to pursue a safer, more secure world for our

children. It might not come around again in our lifetimes. That's why we are going to seize it today and keep America a beacon of hope, liberty, and leadership for generations to come.

Thank you, and have a great weekend.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 1:55 p.m. on July 17 in the Roosevelt Room at the White House for broadcast on July 18. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 17, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on July 18.

Statement on the Death of George E. Cooper *July 19, 2015*

Michelle and I were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. George Cooper, the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). As a native of Tallahassee, FL, George's love of education and HBCUs began as a student at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, continuing his education at Tuskegee University and receiving his Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Urbana. George spent the majority of his life ensuring that students at our Nation's HBCUs were receiving a quality education and had the necessary resources to succeed and make their communities and our country better. He served on the faculty at several universities, including Ala-

bama A&M University, Tuskegee University, and as president of South Carolina State University. His service extended beyond working with students at institutions. For 17 years, he worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, ensuring that HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions were receiving adequate resources to strengthen research and academic programs. George's passing is a great loss for my administration, the HBCU and higher education communities, and for everyone that knew him. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Diane, family, and friends during this difficult time.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With President Muhammadu Buhari of Nigeria and an Exchange With Reporters *July 20, 2015*

President Obama. Well, it's a great pleasure to welcome President Buhari and his delegation here to the Oval Office for his first visit since the historic election that took place.

Nigeria is obviously one of the important countries in the world and one of the most important countries in the African Continent. Recently, we saw an election in which a peaceful transition to a new Government took place.

And it was an affirmation of Nigeria's commitment to democracy, a recognition that although Nigeria is a big country and a diverse country with many different parts, nevertheless, the people of Nigeria understand that only through a peaceful political process can change take place.

President Buhari comes into office with a reputation for integrity and a very clear

agenda, and that is to make sure that he is being—bringing safety and security and peace to his country. He's very concerned about the spread of Boko Haram and the violence that's taken place there and the atrocities that they've carried out and has a very clear agenda in defeating Boko Haram and extremism of all sorts inside of his country. And he has a very clear agenda with respect to rooting out the corruption that too often has held back the economic growth and prosperity of his country.

On both these issues, we're looking forward to hearing more about his plans and how the United States can partner with Nigeria so that Nigeria ends up being an anchor not only of prosperity and stability in the eastern part of the continent, but can also be an outstanding role model for developing countries around the world.

And we very much look forward to talking about security issues, how we can cooperate on counterterrorism. We're looking forward to discussing how we can be helpful in addressing some of the corruption issues that have held Nigeria back and unleashing the incredible talent of the Nigerian people. We all recognize that some of the best businesspeople in the world are from Nigeria, and they thrive as they travel to other countries, but we want to make sure that they're also helping folks thrive in Nigeria.

We're also going to have an opportunity to talk about some of the other areas where Nigeria has taken leadership: in public health issues, fighting tragedies like Ebola. Nigeria has an outstanding track record of working with us to eradicate polio, and that gives us a framework and a template to continue to work on public health issues throughout the western part of Africa, as well as throughout the subcontinent.

We'll have a chance to talk about issues of climate change, electrification. As many of you know, Power Africa is one of our top priorities, making sure that we're electrifying the continent so that it can grow faster and more people have access to the power that they need.

So we've got a busy agenda, but I want to emphasize how much I appreciate President

Buhari's work so far. I'm looking forward to seeing him put together his team so that we can do everything that we can to help him succeed and help the people of Nigeria succeed. Because if they're successful and doing well, that will have a ripple effect not only in West Africa, but throughout the world.

So thank you very much.

Mr. President. Thank you.

President Buhari. Nigeria will remain ever grateful to President Obama and the United States for backing Nigeria to consolidate its gains on a democratic system. The visit of the Secretary of State, when he visited Nigeria to see the President, the former President of Nigeria, see the Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission for Nigeria, and saw the operation was very clear and a positive trend that saw us through for this credible election we had.

And the maintenance of pressure by United States, mainly, and Europe, to make sure that the elections were free, fair, and credible led us to where we are now. It would have been almost impossible if United States did not maintain the pressure on the former Nigerian Government, that they would not accept anything less constituted as far as the processes of the election are concerned. We will ever remain grateful to you because other than the—other three fundamental objectives that our party identified, the All Nigeria People's Congress, on that—security, economy, the employment especially of youth, and then fighting corruption.

We are extremely happy that United States had made it absolutely clear well before the elections that they are prepared to help Nigeria in this aspect. And this is why I am here, and I am very grateful for the invitation Mr. President extended to me.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

President Obama. Thank you so much.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action To Prevent Iran From Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon

Q. Mr. President, the Security Council approved the deal. Will that help you in Congress?

President Obama. I think it will send a clear message that the overwhelming number of countries who not only participated in the deal, the P5-plus-1, but who have observed what's happened, recognize that this is by far our strongest approach to ensuring that Iran does not get a nuclear weapon. There is broad international consensus around this issue, not just among the international community, but also among experts in nuclear proliferation. And my working assumption is, is that Congress will

pay attention to the broad-based consensus. All right?

Thank you very much, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:14 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, President Buhari referred to former President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria; and former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission for Nigeria Attahiru Muhammadu Jega.

Remarks on the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act July 20, 2015

The President. Hello, everybody! Well, welcome to the White House. And thank you so much, Haben, for that amazing introduction and for working to make sure that students with disabilities get a world-class education, just like you have. So please give Haben a big round of applause.

So, on a sunny day 25 years ago—I don't know if it was as hot as it is today—[laughter]—President George H.W. Bush stood on the South Lawn and declared a new American independence day. “With today's signing of the landmark Americans [with] Disabilities Act,” he said, “every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, freedom, and independence.”

Twenty-five years later, we come together to celebrate that groundbreaking law and all that the law has made possible. Thanks to the ADA, the places that comprise our shared American life—schools, workplaces, movie theaters, courthouses, buses, baseball stadiums, national parks—they truly belong to everyone. Millions of Americans with disabilities have had the chance to develop their talents and make their unique contributions to the world. And thanks to them, America is stronger and more vibrant; it is a better country because of the ADA. That's what this law has achieved.

So today we honor those who made the ADA the law of the land, many of whom are here today. Tom Harkin—[applause]—Tom Harkin is in the back there, and he—Tom de-

livered speeches in sign language on the Senate floor in favor of this law, in part inspired by his brother Frank.

Bob Dole is here. A war hero whose combat-related disability informed the way he advocated for all Americans with disabilities.

Tony Coelho—[applause]—told he couldn't become a priest because of his epilepsy, so he became a Congressman instead—[laughter]—and helped to pass the ADA so fewer Americans would find the word “no” being an obstacle to their dreams.

In the 1970s, Judy Heumann helped lead the longest sit-in at a Federal building in U.S. history, in support of disability rights. Today, she's at the State Department, advocating for people with disabilities worldwide. She and all the others I mentioned deserve America's thanks for their tireless efforts.

I want to thank some of the activists who are here, folks like Ricardo Thornton and Tia Nelis. In 1999, the Supreme Court ruled that institutionalizing people with disabilities—isolating them, keeping them apart from the rest of the community—is not just wrong, it is illegal. Ricardo and Tia have pushed to make sure that ruling is enforced. And I am proud of what my administration has done to ensure that people with disabilities are treated like the valuable members of the communities that they are.

And I want to thank all the Members of Congress and members of my administration who are here today, including our outstanding Secretary of Labor, Tom Perez, and the White