

Well, this has been an extraordinary conversation. How are we doing on time? It's—we're all done? But I'm having so much fun. [*Laughter*] Give the—give our panelists a big round of applause. Congratulations for the great work you're doing.

Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:55 a.m. in Stanford Memorial Auditorium. In his remarks, he referred to Antonio J. Gracias,

founder, managing partner, and chief investment officer, Valor Equity Partners; and William H. Gates III, founder, technology adviser, and board member, Microsoft Corp., in his capacity as founder of Breakthrough Energy Coalition's Mission Innovation initiative. Ms. Medhat referred to Nihal Fares, cofounder and chief procurement officer, Eventtus. The related Executive Order 13731 was signed on June 24 and is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Statement on the United Kingdom's European Union Membership Referendum *June 24, 2016*

The people of the United Kingdom have spoken, and we respect their decision. The special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom is enduring, and the United Kingdom's membership in NATO remains a vital cornerstone of U.S. foreign, security, and economic policy. So too is our relationship with the European Union, which has done so much to promote stability, stimulate economic growth, and foster the spread of democratic values and ideals across the conti-

nent and beyond. The United Kingdom and the European Union will remain indispensable partners of the United States even as they begin negotiating their ongoing relationship to ensure continued stability, security, and prosperity for Europe, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the world.

NOTE: The statement referred to the United Kingdom's June 23 referendum vote to leave the European Union.

Statement on the First Anniversary of the Directive on United States Nationals Taken Hostage Abroad and Personnel Recovery Efforts *June 24, 2016*

One year ago today, I reaffirmed the unwavering commitment of the United States to do everything in our power to bring home Americans held overseas and to help their families. Because we were determined to do better, we conducted a comprehensive review of our hostage policy with the help of courageous families and former hostages. I signed an Executive order to better organize Federal efforts around this mission and to improve how we work with and support the families of those held unjustly abroad.

Today, experts from across Government work together, side by side, at our Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell located at the FBI. They are focused on creating and implementing recovery strategies as well as providing increased

support for families and loved ones. At the State Department, my Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Jim O'Brien, works tirelessly with other nations to recover American citizens held abroad. And with guidance from my National Security Council staff, our Hostage Response Group—accountable to me—is ensuring that all the elements we put into place last year are working together as a team.

Thanks to these efforts, Americans held overseas have been brought home and reunited with their families this past year. I'm grateful to all the dedicated professionals across our Government whose relentless efforts have made these reunions possible. But I know our work will not be done until our fellow Ameri-

cans who are held against their will, and whose families mark their calendars by the days since they've held their loved ones, are reunited.

We will not stop until we can bring our fellow citizens back to their families. That includes Austin Tice, a journalist who went to Syria determined to shed light on some of the world's most vulnerable people, and Caitlan Coleman, who was abducted with her husband in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. And we are committed to determining the whereabouts of

Robert Levinson, a retired FBI agent who went missing in Iran over 9 years ago.

The families of Americans missing and those being held unjustly deserve to be whole again. Across our Government, people are working every day to bring their loved ones home. We will never stop, no matter how long it takes.

NOTE: The statement referred to Joshua Boyle, husband of Caitlan Coleman, who was kidnapped shortly after arriving in Ghazni, Afghanistan, in October 2012.

Remarks at a Reception for Governor Jay R. Inslee of Washington in Seattle, Washington

June 24, 2016

The President. Hello, Seattle! It's good to be back! Thank you! Thank you. It's good to see you. Thank you so much. All right, everybody, sit down. I can—thank you. Thank you so much. Please, have a seat. Have a seat.

Audience members. We love you!

The President. I love you back. I love you back. I—thank you! All right.

Audience member. Four more years! Four more years!

The President. No, I can't. There's a Constitution. I can't do that. But more importantly, Michelle will not let me do that. [Laughter]

I love coming to Seattle. [Applause] Love Seattle. You fly in; it is gorgeous. The people are warm, even when the weather is not. [Laughter] And it's true, as Jay said, I do sometimes feel the spirit of my mother here, because she went to high school here. And there's a real sense of roots when I come here.

And it's wonderful to see some great friends. I want to just mention a few of them. First of all, one of my favorite people, somebody who I believe is one of the most effective public servants that we have in this country, give it up for your Senator, Patty Murray, who is in the house. [Applause] I love Patty Murray! Now, Patty is one of these folks who is tough and has these deep, abiding convictions about the people she's working for and the community she's trying to help, and yet as tough as she is, she

can still bring both parties together when other people can't.

When Congress couldn't get a compromise on a budget, she brought Republicans and Democrats together around a way to prevent a foolish Government shutdown; worked with parents and teachers to lead bipartisan reform of No Child Left Behind; fought to open new VA clinics across this State. When Republicans were holding up the Violence Against Women Act, she didn't stop fighting until she broke through the gridlock and passed a law protecting every woman in Washington State. She is one of our best, and I'm glad you sent her to Washington.

Following in her footsteps, you've got some outstanding Members of Congress, including Suzan DelBene. Love her. Doing great work. Derek Kilmer, who wanted to be here today, but they're both working hard back in DC. And you're lucky to have them, because they're working hard on your behalf. One of the best mayors in America, your Mayor, Ed Murray, is in the house. An outstanding attorney general, Bob Ferguson, is in the house. Your County Executive, doing great work for the region, Dow Constantine, is in the house. Give him a big round of applause.

And I am here today to support a great friend of mine, one of America's outstanding Governors: your Governor, Jay Inslee. [Applause] Jay Inslee. Now, let me say this. When