

Regarding the human rights situation of North Korean people, I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts made by many in the United States, both in and out of government. And I plan to further strengthen cooperation with the United States and the international community on the basis of our North Korean Human Rights Act, which entered into force on September 4. The improvement of the human rights situation for North Korean people will be a critical stepping stone for our path toward unification, and unification will provide opportunities for North Korean people to be treated equally.

Lastly, in order for the Korea-U.S. alliance to contribute to a greater peace and broader prosperity, President and I have agreed to not only expand cooperation in new frontiers such as global health, climate change, and space,

but also expand our roles in areas such as refugees, peacekeeping operations, and development cooperation. I find it meaningful that through our discussions today, I was able to confirm yet once again that the foundations of our bilateral relationship are rock solid.

I once again express my respect for President Obama, for the vision and leadership that he has shown for our alliance.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:01 p.m. at the Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) antiballistic missile system; and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist organization. President Park spoke in Korean, and her remarks were translated by an interpreter.

## Memorandum on the Emergency Leave Transfer Program for Federal Employees Adversely Affected by the Severe Storms and Flooding in Louisiana September 6, 2016

*Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies*

*Subject:* Emergency Leave Transfer Program for Federal Employees Adversely Affected by the Severe Storms and Flooding in Louisiana

I am deeply saddened by the devastating losses caused by the severe storms and historic flooding in Louisiana. The Federal Government has mobilized its resources to support Louisiana in response to and recovery from this major disaster. While Federal departments and agencies rally their capabilities to support these efforts, many of those same Federal employees are personally impacted by the storms in Louisiana and are dealing with overwhelming personal losses.

To further assist Federal employees and their family members adversely affected by the severe storms and flooding in Louisiana of August 2016, I hereby direct the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish an emergency leave transfer program, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 6391. The program will permit employees in the executive and judicial branches, or an agency leave bank established under 5 U.S.C. 6363, to donate unused annual leave for transfer to employees of the same or other agencies (or the judicial branch) who were adversely affected by the severe storms and flooding in Louisiana and who need additional time off for recovery. I further direct OPM to provide additional guidance to agencies on the program's administration.

BARACK OBAMA