

Q. I was wondering if you could comment about whether—what that says about policy—[inaudible].

President Obama. No, actually, David, they went—they spiked heavily in 2014, went down significantly in 2015, have gone back up this year, in part because there's still desperation in Central America, but are still not at the levels they were in 2014.

But I appreciate you shouting out a question, since I'm sure there are a lot of other colleagues of yours who would want to do the same. [Laughter]

Thank you very much, everybody. Appreciate it.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 11:44 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White

House. In his remarks, the President referred to Agnese Landini, wife of Prime Minister Renzi; Prime Minister Dmitriy Anatolyevich Medvedev, in his former capacity as President, and President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin of Russia; President Bashar al-Asad of Syria; Republican Vice Presidential nominee Gov. Michael R. Pence of Indiana; Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; President François Hollande of France; Mario Draghi, President, European Central Bank; Gov. Richard L. Scott of Florida; and Democratic Presidential nominee former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Prime Minister Renzi referred to Daesh, another name for the ISIL terrorist organization.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Significant Narcotics Traffickers Centered in Colombia October 18, 2016

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995, is to continue in effect beyond October 21, 2016.

The circumstances that led to the declaration on October 21, 1995, of a national emergency have not been resolved. The actions of

significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States and to cause an extreme level of violence, corruption, and harm in the United States and abroad. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12978 with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate. The notice is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Matteo Renzi of Italy October 18, 2016

President Obama. Good evening, everybody!

Audience members. Good evening!
President Obama. Buona sera!