

Agreement on Social Security” (collectively the “Agreements”). The Agreements were signed in Washington, D.C., on June 30, 2015.

The Agreements are similar in objective to the social security agreements already in force with most European Union countries, Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, and Switzerland. Such bilateral agreements provide for limited coordination between the United States and foreign social security systems to eliminate dual social security coverage and taxation and to help prevent the lost benefit protection that can occur when workers divide their careers between two countries.

The Agreements contain all provisions mandated by section 233 of the Social Security Act and other provisions that I deem appropriate to carry out the purposes of section 233, pursuant to section 233(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

I also transmit for the information of the Congress a report required by section 233(e)(1) of the Social Security Act on the estimated number of individuals who will be affected by the Agreements and the Agreements’ estimated cost effect. The Department of State and the Social Security Administration have recommended the Agreements to me.

I commend the Agreement on Social Security between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Administrative Arrangement between the Competent Authorities of the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil for the Implementation of the Agreement on Social Security.

BARACK OBAMA

The White House,
December 8, 2016.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting an Alternative Pay Plan for Civilian Federal Employees

December 8, 2016

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

I am transmitting a revised alternative plan for locality pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2017. This revised plan supersedes the original plan issued on November 29, 2016. Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative pay plans for pay increases for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of “national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare,” I view the adjustments that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Civilian Federal employees made significant sacrifices as a result of the 3-year pay freeze that ended in January 2014. Since the pay freeze ended, annual adjustments for civilian Federal employees have also been lower than private sector pay increases and statutory for-

mulas for adjustments to the General Schedule for 2014 through 2016. However, keeping our Nation on a sustainable fiscal course requires tough choices.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 28.49 percent and costing \$26 billion would go into effect in January 2017. Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases. In my August 31, 2016, submission of an alternative plan for base pay increases, I stated that the alternative plan for locality payments would be limited so that the total combined cost of the 1.0 percent across-the-board base pay increase and the varying locality pay increases would be 1.6 percent of basic payroll, consistent with the assumption in my 2017 Budget. However, in light of the decision of Congress to provide a 2.1 percent pay increase for military personnel in 2017 and reconsideration of current and projected economic conditions, I have concluded it would be appropriate to revise my original alternative plan for locality payments so that the

total combined cost of the 1.0 percent across-the-board base pay increase and varying locality payments will be 2.1 percent of basic payroll. Thus, under the revised alternative plan, the varying locality pay increases will generate costs of 1.1 percent of basic payroll.

Accordingly, I have determined that under the authority of section 5304a of title 5, United States Code, locality-based comparability payments for the locality pay areas established by the President's Pay Agent, in the amounts set forth in the attached table, shall become effective on the first

day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2017. These decisions will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

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.

Memorandum on the Minnesota World's Fair 2023—Wellness and Well Being for All

December 9, 2016

Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce

Subject: Minnesota World's Fair 2023: Wellness and Well Being for All

I have reviewed the reports and recommendations presented to me by you and the Secretary of State that recognition be given to the "Minnesota World's Fair 2023: Wellness and Well Being for All," and find that such recognition will be in the national interest.

I approve granting Federal recognition to the Exposition.

On that basis, please advise the appropriate agencies that official recognition is hereby granted.

I would also appreciate your taking the appropriate steps to notify the Congress of this action, in accordance with section 2(c) of Public Law 91-269.

BARACK OBAMA

Memorandum on the Minnesota World's Fair 2023—Wellness and Well Being for All

December 9, 2016

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Minnesota World's Fair 2023: Wellness and Well Being for All

In accordance with Public Law 91-269, I have approved the recommendation for Federal recognition of the "Minnesota World's Fair 2023:

Wellness and Well Being for All," finding that such recognition will be in the national interest.

Accordingly, I am requesting you to notify the Bureau of International Expositions of my actions.

BARACK OBAMA

Message to the Senate Transmitting the United States-Kiribati and United States-Micronesia Maritime Boundary Treaties

December 9, 2016

To the Senate of the United States:

I transmit herewith, for the advice and con-

sent of the Senate to their ratification, two bilateral maritime boundary treaties: the Treaty between the Government of the United States