

And about 6 months in, President looks at me, he said: “You know, Joe, you know what surprised me? How we’ve become such good friends.” [*Laughter*] And I said, “Surprised you?” [*Laughter*]

But that is candid Obama—[*laughter*—and it’s real. And, Mr. President, you know as long as there’s a breath in me, I’ll be there for you, my whole family will be, and I know, I know it is reciprocal. I—and I want to thank you all so very, very, very much, all of you, for being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:50 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to musician Stefani J.A. “Lady Gaga” Germanotta; Pope Francis; Sen. Lindsey O. Graham; and former Secretary of

State Colin L. Powell. Vice President Biden referred to former Sens. Edward E. “Ted” Kaufman and Christopher J. Dodd; Melvyn I. Monzack, managing partner, Monzack Mersky McLaughlin and Browder, P.A.; Amy Gutmann, president, University of Pennsylvania; Sen. Christopher A. Coons; Christine P. Pelosi, chair of the women’s caucus, California Democratic Party; John J. DeGioia, president, Georgetown University; the President’s mother-in-law Marian Robinson and brother-in-law Craig M. Robinson and his children Avery and Leslie; and Dennis Assanis, president, University of Delaware. He also referred to his sister Valerie Biden Owens. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the reading of the citation.

Statement on the United States Trade Enforcement Action Against China and the Administration’s Trade Enforcement Record *January 12, 2017*

America succeeds when our workers and businesses have a fair shot to compete in the global economy. That’s why when other countries cut corners and break the rules on trade, my administration stands up for strong trade enforcement. In fact, since taking office, we’ve overhauled our trade enforcement efforts and dedicated significant new resources to holding our trading partners accountable. We’ve filed more enforcement complaints in the World Trade Organization (WTO) than any other WTO member, and we’ve won every one of those challenges that’s been decided. Today we’re building on our support for American workers and businesses by filing our latest complaint with the WTO against China’s trade practices.

China gives its aluminum industry an unfair advantage through underpriced loans and other illegal Government subsidies. These kinds of policies have disadvantaged American manufacturers and contributed to the global glut in aluminum, steel, and other sectors. We’re taking action to protect the workers—at home and around the world—who are hurt everyday by these policies. That’s what we’ve done since day one. From enhancing fair trade laws and expanding enforcement resources to preventing unfair currency practices and safeguarding intellectual property, our record of forceful and effective trade enforcement on behalf of American businesses and workers has protected American jobs. It’s simple: When the playing field is level, American workers win.

Statement on the Cuban Immigration Policy of the United States *January 12, 2017*

Today the United States is taking important steps forward to normalize relations with Cuba and to bring greater consistency to our immigration policy. The Department of Homeland

Security is ending the so-called “wet-foot/dry-foot” policy, which was put in place more than 20 years ago and was designed for a different era. Effective immediately, Cuban nationals