

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Zimbabwe

January 13, 2017

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 declared in Executive Order 13288 of March 6, 2003, with respect to the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2017.

The crisis constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe's democratic processes or institutions has not been resolved. These actions and policies continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue this national emergency and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

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.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Designation of Rhonda Schnare Schmidlein as Chair of the United States International Trade Commission

January 13, 2017

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

Consistent with the provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1330(c)(1), this is to notify the Congress that I have designated Rhonda Schnare Schmidlein as Chair of the United States International Trade Commission for the term expiring June 16, 2018.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this letter.

The President's Weekly Address

January 14, 2017

This week, I traveled to Chicago to deliver my final, Farewell Address to the Nation, following in the tradition of Presidents before me. It was an opportunity to say thank you. Whether we've seen eye to eye or rarely agreed at all, my conversations with you, the American people—in living rooms and

schools, at farms and on factory floors, at diners and on distant military outposts—all these conversations are what have kept me honest, kept me inspired, and kept me going. Every day, I learned from you. You made me a better President, and you made me a better man.

Over the course of these 8 years, I've seen the goodness, the resilience, and the hope of the American people. I've seen neighbors looking out for each other as we rescued our economy from the worst crisis of our lifetimes. I've hugged cancer survivors who finally know the security of affordable health care. I've seen communities like Joplin rebuild from disaster and cities like Boston show the world that no terrorist will ever break the American spirit.

I've seen the hopeful faces of young graduates and our newest military officers. I've mourned with grieving families searching for answers, and I found grace in a Charleston church. I've seen our scientists help a paralyzed man regain his sense of touch and our wounded warriors walk again. I've seen our doctors and volunteers rebuild after earthquakes and stop pandemics in their tracks. I've learned from students who are building robots and curing diseases and who will change the world in ways we can't even imagine. I've seen the youngest of children remind us of our obligations to care for our refugees, to work in peace, and above all, to look out for each other.

That's what's possible when we come together in the slow, hard, sometimes frustrating, but always vital work of self-government. But we can't take our democracy for granted. All of us, regardless of party, should throw ourselves into the work of citizenship. Not just when there's an election, not just when our own narrow interest is at stake, but over the

full span of a lifetime. If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the Internet, try to talk with one in real life. If something needs fixing, lace up your shoes and do some organizing. If you're disappointed by your elected officials, then grab a clipboard, get some signatures, and run for office yourself.

Our success depends on our participation, regardless of which way the pendulum of power swings. It falls on each of us to be guardians of our democracy, to embrace the joyous task we've been given to continually try to improve this great Nation of ours. Because for all our outward differences, we all share the same proud title: citizen.

It has been the honor of my life to serve you as President. Eight years later, I am even more optimistic about our country's promise. And I look forward to working along your side, as a citizen, for all my days that remain.

Thanks, everybody. God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

NOTE: The address was recorded at approximately 2:45 p.m. on January 13 in the Oval Office at the White House for broadcast on January 14. In the address, the President referred to Dunbar, PA, resident Nathan Copeland, a patient at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, PA. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on January 13, but was embargoed for release until 6 a.m. on January 14.

Remarks Honoring the 2016 World Series Champion Chicago Cubs January 16, 2017

The President. They said this day would never come. [Laughter] Here is something none of my predecessors ever got a chance to say: Welcome to the White House the World Series Champion Chicago Cubs!

Now, I know you guys would prefer to stand the whole time, but sit down. [Laughter]

I will say to the Cubs: It took you long enough. I mean, I've only got 4 days left. You're just making it under the wire. [Laughter]

Now, listen, I made a lot of promises in 2008. [Laughter] We've managed to fulfill a

large number of them. But even I was not crazy enough to suggest that during these 8 years we would see the Cubs win the World Series. But I did say that there's never been anything false about hope. [Laughter] Hope, the audacity of hope.

Audience member. Yes, we can!

The President. Yes, we can.

Audience members. Yes, we did!

Audience member. Yes, we will!

The President. Now, listen, for those of you from Chicago who have known me a long time,