

Oct. 27 / Administration of Barack Obama, 2011

Finally, we discussed our cooperation in supporting the transition in the Middle East and North Africa and in promoting democracy, open government and human rights around the world. We agreed that the Czech experience offers a powerful and compelling example to

others struggling to build new democracies of how to conduct a peaceful and inclusive transition to a free and democratic society.

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

Statement on Europe's Economic Stabilization Efforts *October 27, 2011*

We welcome the important decisions made last night by the European Union, which lay a critical foundation for a comprehensive solution to the euro zone crisis. We look forward to the full development and rapid implementa-

tion of their plan. We will continue to support the EU and our European allies in their efforts to address this crisis as we work together to sustain the global recovery and put our people back to work.

Statement on the Selection of Prince Nayif bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud as Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia *October 28, 2011*

I congratulate King Abdallah and the Saudi people on the selection of Prince Nayif bin Abd al-Aziz Al Saud as Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Crown Prince Nayif has served his nation with dedication and distinction for more than 35 years as Minister of Interior and as Second Deputy Prime Minister since 2009. We in the

United States know and respect him for his strong commitment to combating terrorism and supporting regional peace and security. The United States looks forward to continuing our close partnership with Crown Prince Nayif in his new capacity, as we strengthen the deep and longstanding friendship between the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Statement on the United States District Court Approval of the Settlement in the *Pigford II* Class-Action Lawsuit on Discrimination by the Department of Agriculture *October 28, 2011*

The U.S. District Court's approval of the settlement between the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and plaintiffs in the *Pigford II* class-action lawsuit is another important step forward in addressing an unfortunate chapter in USDA's civil rights history. This agreement will provide overdue relief and

justice to African American farmers and bring us closer to the ideals of freedom and equality that this country was founded on. I especially want to recognize the efforts of Secretary Vilsack and Attorney General Holder, without whom this settlement would not have been reached.

Memorandum on Accelerating Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Federal Research in Support of High-Growth Businesses October 28, 2011

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Accelerating Technology Transfer and Commercialization of Federal Research in Support of High-Growth Businesses

Section 1. Policy. Innovation fuels economic growth, the creation of new industries, companies, jobs, products and services, and the global competitiveness of U.S. industries. One driver of successful innovation is technology transfer, in which the private sector adapts Federal research for use in the marketplace. One of the goals of my Administration's "Startup America" initiative, which supports high-growth entrepreneurship, is to foster innovation by increasing the rate of technology transfer and the economic and societal impact from Federal research and development (R&D) investments. This will be accomplished by committing each executive department and agency (agency) that conducts R&D to improve the results from its technology transfer and commercialization activities. The aim is to increase the successful outcomes of these activities significantly over the next 5 years, while simultaneously achieving excellence in our basic and mission-focused research activities.

I direct that the following actions be taken to establish goals and measure performance, streamline administrative processes, and facilitate local and regional partnerships in order to accelerate technology transfer and support private sector commercialization.

Sec. 2. Establish Goals and Measure Progress. Establishing performance goals, metrics, and evaluation methods, as well as implementing and tracking progress relative to those goals, is critical to improving the returns from Federal R&D investments. Therefore, I direct that:

(a) Agencies with Federal laboratories shall develop plans that establish performance goals to increase the number and pace of effective

technology transfer and commercialization activities in partnership with non-federal entities, including private firms, research organizations, and non-profit entities. These plans shall cover the 5-year period from 2013 through 2017 and shall contain goals, metrics, and methods to evaluate progress relative to the performance goals. These goals, metrics, and evaluation methods may vary by agency as appropriate to that agency's mission and types of research activities, and may include the number and quality of, among other things, invention disclosures, licenses issued on existing patents, Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs), industry partnerships, new products, and successful self-sustaining spinoff companies created for such products. Within 180 days of the date of this memorandum, these plans shall be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which, in consultation with the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Department of Commerce, shall review and monitor implementation of the plans.

(b) The Interagency Workgroup on Technology Transfer, established pursuant to Executive Order 12591 of April 10, 1987, shall recommend to the Department of Commerce opportunities for improving technology transfer from Federal laboratories, including: (i) current technology transfer programs and standards for assessing the effectiveness of these programs; (ii) new or creative approaches to technology transfer that might serve as model programs for Federal laboratories; (iii) criteria to assess the effectiveness and impact on the Nation's economy of planned or future technology transfer efforts; and (iv) an assessment of cooperative research and development venture programs.

(c) The Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with other agencies, including the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, shall improve and expand, where appropriate, its collection of metrics in the Department of