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(NOONAN)

~~The President has seen~~
JUNE 26, 1984

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SENIOR CITIZEN VOLUNTEER
RECOGNITION CEREMONY

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. MY GREETINGS TO
ALL OF YOU -- OCTOGENARIANS, NONAGENARIANS,
AND, OF COURSE, THE KIDS: MY FELLOW
SEPTUAGENARIANS.

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME TO THE EAST
ROOM SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF
THE AMERICAN FAMILY, THE SENIOR CITIZEN
VOLUNTEERS. I'VE BEEN TAKING A LOOK AT SOME
OF THE THINGS YOU PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DOING,
AND I CAN TELL FROM YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS
THAT YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE IS JUST LIKE
BERNARD BARUCH'S, WHO ONCE SAID, "OLD AGE IS
ALWAYS FIFTEEN YEARS OLDER THAN I AM."

I LIKE THAT ATTITUDE. I THINK THE
THING ABOUT GROWING OLDER IS THAT YOU'LL
NEVER GROW OLD AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL
INTERESTED IN THE WORLD AND STILL EAGER TO
HELP IT.

I AM AWARE OF ALL YOUR GREAT VOLUNTEER EFFORTS, NOT ONLY OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS AUDIENCE BUT OF SENIOR CITIZENS AS A WHOLE.

THERE HAS BEEN, FOR SOME TIME, A STEREOTYPE ABROAD IN THE LAND THAT SENIOR CITIZENS DON'T DO MUCH TO CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY, DON'T DO MUCH TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN LIFE.

WELL, NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. NO STEREOTYPE IS AS ILL-DESERVED AS THAT ONE.

THE TRUTH IS, VOLUNTEER WORK IS THE MOST PREVALENT OUTSIDE-THE-HOME ACTIVITY FOR AMERICANS 65 AND OVER. THE VAST MAJORITY OF OLDER PEOPLE ARE READY TO SERVE. A RECENT POLL SAYS 36 PERCENT OF THE 65 AND OLDER GROUP ARE INVOLVED IN CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES.

THEY WORK IN THE VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION GIVING ONE-TO-ONE HELP TO PATIENTS. THEY WORK FOR THE RED CROSS. THEY JOIN THE PEACE CORPS. THEY BECOME FOSTER GRANDPARENTS.

IN FACT, OVER 18,000 FOSTER GRANDPARENTS ARE NOW HELPING KIDS WHO ARE MENTALLY RETARDED, AUTISTIC AND ABUSED. THOUSANDS OF SENIOR CITIZEN COMPANIONS ARE HELPING THE ELDERLY AND THE HANDICAPPED. AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY, OVER 350,000 SENIOR CITIZENS WORK ABOUT HALF A DAY A WEEK AS MEMBERS OF THE RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS. THEY DELIVER MEALS TO THOSE WHO CAN'T LEAVE THEIR HOMES AND PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE INCAPACITATED.

THE FACT IS, MORE AND MORE SENIOR CITIZENS IN AMERICA ARE BECOMING PART OF A BIG, UNSUNG, UNKNOWN ARMY THAT IS DEDICATED TO MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR ALL OF US. AND IN DOING THIS, THEY, AND ALL OF YOU, HAVE LEARNED THE SECRET OF EVERLASTING YOUTH: STAY INVOLVED. KEEP TAKING YOUR PLACE AT THE TABLE OF LIFE, KEEP GOING OUT THERE INTO THE WORLD, MAKING NEW FRIENDS AND HELPING PEOPLE OUT.

KEEP GIVING AND KEEP TAKING.

THAT WAS THE SECRET OF SOME OF THE
GREAT MEN AND WOMEN OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION.

GRANDMA MOSES WAS DOING BRILLIANT WORK WELL
INTO HER EIGHTIES. VERDI COMPOSED

"FALSTAFF" AT 79. ADENAUER WAS GUIDING THE
GERMAN ECONOMIC MIRACLE WHEN HE WAS IN HIS

EIGHTIES. CHURCHILL WAS AT RETIREMENT AGE

WHEN HE BEGAN TO LEAD BRITAIN THROUGH WORLD
WAR II. AND OF COURSE OL' HICKORY, ANDREW

JACKSON, WAS ACTUALLY 70 YEARS OLD WHEN HE
LEFT THE WHITE HOUSE. CAN YOU IMAGINE?

AND HE FELT PRETTY TRIM AND FIT AND VIGOROUS
WHEN HE LEFT. I KNOW. HE TOLD ME.

THEY ALWAYS TALK ABOUT PRESIDENTS AGING
IN OFFICE, AND OF COURSE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

WE DO. BUT I ALSO THINK THAT IF YOU ENJOY

THIS OFFICE AND THE GREAT DEBATES OF THE

DAY, THEN YOU'LL SOMEHOW ALWAYS STAY PRETTY

YOUNG.

THAT'S THE KEY, I THINK, LOVING YOUR WORK —
EITHER THE WORK YOU DO FOR A LIVING OR THE
WORK YOU CHOOSE TO DO WHEN YOU'VE RETIRED.

AND I KNOW I HAVE NOTHING TO TELL YOU ABOUT
THAT. BECAUSE I KNOW THAT IN THIS GROUP
THERE ARE SOME GREAT CONTRIBUTORS, SOME
GREAT GIVERS TO AND TAKERS FROM LIFE.

NOW I AM AWARE THAT THE AGED IN OUR
SOCIETY HAVE SOME SPECIAL PROBLEMS.

THE WORLD MOVES SO FAST THESE DAYS AND SO
MUCH OF OUR SOCIETY IS GEARED TO THE YOUNG,
THAT THE AGED SOMETIMES CAN FEEL LEFT OUT,
AS IF THEY'RE NO LONGER IN STYLE, AS IF THEY
SHOULD FEEL A VAGUE SHAME ABOUT HAVING GROWN
OLD. AND THE GREAT SCOURGE OF OLD AGE IS
LONELINESS.

THAT IS WHY WE IN THIS ADMINISTRATION
HAVE BEEN TRYING TO WORK CLOSELY WITH
NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND LOCAL PRIVATE-SECTOR
PROGRAMS AND CIVIC AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO
HELP OUT WHERE AND WHEN WE CAN, AND TO LET
YOU KNOW YOU'RE DEEPLY APPRECIATED. *

ALL OF YOU IN THIS AUDIENCE DESERVE OUR
THANKS, OUR APPRECIATION AND OUR ATTENTION.
YOU'RE BURYING OLD STEREOTYPES AND YOU'RE
CONTRIBUTING TO THE WORLD AT A TIME IN LIFE
WHEN YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO JUST SIT
BACK AND LET SOMEONE ELSE DO IT. WELL --
YOU'RE NOT SITTING BACK, YOU'RE LEADING, AND
WE OWE YOU OUR THANKS.

AND NOW I WANT TO MENTION CLARENCE
NASH. DUCKY IS A WONDERFUL MAN. HE HAS
BEEN THE VOICE OF DONALD DUCK AT THE WALT
DISNEY STUDIOS FOR A LONG TIME.

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IN FACT, THIS IS HIS 50TH ANNIVERSARY AS
DONALD'S VOICE — AND I WANT TO CONGRATULATE
HIM AND WISH HIM MANY MORE YEARS OF GOOD
WORK. DUCKY, YOUR TALENTS HAVE DELIGHTED
MILLIONS. AND I WANT TO MARK YOUR
ANNIVERSARY BY GIVING YOU THIS AWARD FOR
50 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOU ARE
DOING. AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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(ELLIOTT) JUNE 27, 1984/2:15 P.M. The President has seen

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS

WELL, JOHN CRUZ, JIM CHANDLER, DEWEY THOMAS, RAYMOND (DOANS), AND ALL OF YOU VERY DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, GOOD AFTERNOON AND A WARM WELCOME TO YOU. BELIEVE ME, I EXTEND THAT WELCOME WITH A SPECIAL PLEASURE, BECAUSE WHEN IT COMES TO LIFTING HUMAN HEARTS WITH A SPIRIT OF HOPE AND HARD WORK; WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING PROGRESS WITH A SPIRIT OF ENTERPRISE; AND WHEN IT COMES TO BUILDING AMERICA BY SERVING THE NATION WITH PRIDE — THEN, YES, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS.

YOU UNDERSTAND SO WELL A CENTRAL TRUTH OF HUMAN PROGRESS: THE STRUGGLE BY ALL AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION MUST BE A SPIRITUAL STRUGGLE FOR BROTHERHOOD; IT MUST BE A POLITICAL STRUGGLE FOR FULL PARTICIPATION AT THE BALLOT BOX.

BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT — IT MUST BE AN ECONOMIC STRUGGLE FOR OPPORTUNITY IN A GROWTH ECONOMY THAT CREATES JOBS, NOT WELFARE/ WEALTH, NOT POVERTY/ AND, FREEDOM, NOT DEPENDENCY.

THIS IS A LESSON AMERICA HAS BEEN TAKING TOO LONG TO LEARN. WE KNOW THAT, PRIOR TO THE 1960's, IT WAS AN ACCEPTED, AND SOMETIMES LEGAL PRACTICE TO DISCRIMINATE IN HOUSING, EDUCATION, PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS, AND IN EMPLOYMENT. THEN, IN THE WAKE OF THE KENNEDY TAX CUTS, THE ECONOMY BEGAN GROWING RAPIDLY, BUT MINORITIES DID NOT BENEFIT AS FULLY AS THEY SHOULD HAVE.

YET, WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF GREAT AMERICANS WHO MANAGED TO OVERCOME SUCH DISCRIMINATION — AMERICANS LIKE ANDREW BRIMMER, THE FIRST BLACK EVER TO BE APPOINTED AS A GOVERNOR OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM, RALPH BUNCHE, FIRST AMERICAN BLACK TO WIN THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE, AND BENJAMIN BANNEKER, WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE ORIGINAL DESIGN AND GREAT BEAUTY OF OUR NATION'S CAPITAL.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 1960'S HELPED START THE REPEAL OF THE UNJUST SYSTEM OF DISCRIMINATION. BUT, BEGINNING IN 1966, ON THE VERY HEELS OF THE BREAKDOWN OF THESE LEGAL BARRIERS, THE ECONOMY ENTERED A PERIOD OF DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE THAT LASTED THROUGH THE DECADE OF THE 1970'S.

BLACK AMERICANS HAD SEEN THE ECONOMIC TRAIN MOVING, AND HAD FOUGHT FOR AND WON THE RIGHT TO PURCHASE A TICKET.

BUT AS THEY CAME ABOARD, THE TRAIN BEGAN TO SLOW DOWN, AND THEN IT STOPPED ALTOGETHER.

MANY OF THOSE BIG GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS HAD COMPASSIONATE, INDEED, NOBLE INTENTIONS; BUT THEY ALSO HAD SERIOUS, ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES; THEY MARKED A DEPARTURE FROM CREATING WEALTH TO CREATING DEPENDENCY.

I BELIEVE WHAT BLACK AMERICANS NEED MOST IS MORE OPPORTUNITY, MORE ENTERPRISE, A BIGGER CASH BOX AND ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION.

TO PARAPHRASE THOMAS WOLFE, TO EVERY MAN AND WOMAN, REGARDLESS OF THEIR BIRTH, THEIR SHINING GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY — TO LIVE, TO WORK, TO BE THEMSELVES, AND TO BECOME WHATEVER THEIR VISION CAN COMBINE TO MAKE THEM — THIS IS THE PROMISE OF AMERICA.

THIS PROMISE IS WHAT WE CAME TO WASHINGTON TO RESTORE. WHEN WE ARRIVED HERE WE FACED THE WORST ECONOMIC CRISIS SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

DOUBLE-DIGIT INFLATION WAS DESTROYING
PEOPLE'S SAVINGS AND BRUTALLY ATTACKING THE
ELDERLY AND OTHERS ON FIXED INCOMES.

OVER-REGULATION, HIGH TAXES, AND RECORD
INTEREST RATES WERE DESTROYING THE DREAM OF
MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERSHIP AND
HOMEOWNERSHIP FOR ALL BUT A SELECT FEW.

SO WE WENT TO WORK TO MAKE A FUNDAMENTAL
CHANGE IN DIRECTION -- A CHANGE FROM CONTROL
BY GOVERNMENT, TO CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT, A
CHANGE FROM TAXING YOU MORE, NO MATTER HOW
HARD YOU TRIED, TO REWARDING YOU FOR WORKING
HARDER AND PRODUCING MORE THAN BEFORE. WE
SAID WE COULD NOT CHANGE MORE THAN A DECADE
OF MISTAKES OVERNIGHT; THAT OUR PROGRESS
WOULD COME IN INCHES AND FEET, RATHER THAN
MILES; BUT THAT PROGRESS WOULD COME.

NOW I KNOW THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED ABOUT
THIS ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAMS. AND,
FRANKLY, IF I BELIEVED THE THINGS I'VE HEARD
AND READ, I'D BE CONCERNED TOO.

BUT WHEN WE LOOK AT AMERICA I THINK WE CAN SEE A MUCH DIFFERENT PICTURE.

WE CAN SEE INFLATION DOWN FROM 12.4 TO 3.6 PERCENT THE LAST 3 MONTHS, INTEREST RATES DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY AND THE GROWTH OF REGULATIONS CUT BY A THIRD — AND THAT'S PROGRESS. WE CAN SEE AN AMERICAN ECONOMIC EXPANSION, LED BY A SURGE OF PRODUCTIVITY, INNOVATION, THE FASTEST RISING RATE OF BUSINESS INVESTMENT SINCE 1949, AND A RECORD NUMBER OF BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS — AND THAT'S PROGRESS. AND, WE CAN SEE MORE JOBS CREATED IN THE LAST 18 MONTHS THAN IN ANY OTHER COUNTRY, INCLUDING MILLIONS OF JOBS FOR MINORITIES AND WOMEN — AND, YES, THAT'S PROGRESS, TOO.

THE OVERALL BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HAS FALLEN MORE SHARPLY THAN THE WHITE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, BUT IT'S STILL MUCH TOO HIGH — IT'S NEEDLESSLY HIGH.

FOR 2 YEARS, A CRUEL CHARADE HAS BEEN PERPETRATED BY SOME IN THE CONGRESS ON PEOPLE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE INCOME SCALE — THE VERY PEOPLE WHO MOST DESPERATELY NEED OPPORTUNITIES TO BETTER THEMSELVES, TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, AND TO BECOME PRODUCTIVE, SELF-RELIANT MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN MAINSTREAM.

AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE PROPOSED AN INNOVATIVE IDEA CALLED ENTERPRISE ZONES TO BEGIN PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES IN SOME OF THE MOST DESTITUTE AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. BUT TODAY, AREAS THAT COULD HAVE BECOME NEW SITES FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, AREAS THAT COULD HAVE BECOME THRIVING POCKETS OF ENTERPRISE, JOBS, AND A BRIGHT AND HOPEFUL FUTURE, REMAIN VACANT AND NEGLECTED AND IMPOVERISHED.

DESPITE MORE THAN 2 YEARS OF WAITING,
DESPITE SUPPORT FROM OVER 100 DEMOCRATS AND
THE GREAT MAJORITY OF REPUBLICANS / AND
DESPITE A TRACK-RECORD OF SUCCESS WITH MANY
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS / THE LIBERAL
LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE HAS DELIBERATELY
BLOCKED OUR ENTERPRISE ZONES PROPOSAL FROM
COMING TO A VOTE / AND I THINK THAT'S MORE
THAN A TRAGEDY — IT'S AN OUTRAGE.

SO LET ME JUST SAY TO THEM TODAY:
PLEASE, SPARE US YOUR SERMONS ON FAIRNESS
AND COMPASSION. IF YOU WANT MINORITY
AMERICANS TO HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITY, DOING
NOTHING ISN'T DOING ENOUGH — GIVE
ENTERPRISE ZONES A FAIR DEBATE AND A VOTE.

IN THE NAME OF GROWTH, LET'S STOP
TALKING BILLIONS FOR DEPENDENCY AND START
CREATING ENTERPRISE ZONES FOR OPPORTUNITY.
IN THE NAME OF AMERICA, LET'S STOP SPREADING
BONDAGE AND START SPREADING FREEDOM.

WE HOPE TO HAVE A VOTE TODAY, BUT CERTAINLY BEFORE THE CONGRESS GOES HOME, ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT ISSUE WHICH COULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES, EXPERIENCE, DISCIPLINE, AND GREATER SELF-ESTEEM FOR TEENAGERS. I'M TALKING ABOUT OUR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WAGE PROPOSAL, WHICH I KNOW YOU SUPPORT AND WE'RE VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT. WE'VE SEEN THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST BARRIERS TO MORE JOBS FOR YOUTH, ESPECIALLY FOR MINORITY YOUNG PEOPLE, IS THE SINGLE, MINIMUM WAGE SYSTEM.

THE TRUTH IS, WHILE EVERYONE MUST BE ASSURED A FAIR WAGE, THERE'S NO SENSE IN MANDATING \$3.35 AN HOUR FOR START-UP JOBS THAT SIMPLY AREN'T WORTH THAT MUCH IN THE MARKETPLACE. ALL THAT DOES IS GUARANTEE THAT FEWER JOBS FOR TEENAGERS WILL BE CREATED AND FEWER PEOPLE WILL BE HIRED.

SO IN THE TIME REMAINING, WE HOPE YOU'LL HELP PERSUADE THE CONGRESS TO PASS OUR YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY WAGE. WE CAN CREATE MORE THAN 400,000 NEW SUMMER JOBS FOR AMERICAN YOUTH; WE CAN DO IT WITHOUT DISPLACING EXISTING WORKERS; AND THAT SHOULD BE A GOAL EVERYONE SUPPORTS — REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ALIKE.

AND WHILE I'M ON THE SUBJECT OF BIPARTISANSHIP, I WANT TO URGE THE CONGRESS TO PASS THE DEFICIT DOWNPAYMENT MEASURES APPROVED BY THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFERENCE LAST WEEKEND.

AND LET'S BE CLEAR ON ONE THING. THOSE MEASURES ARE ONLY A PART OF WHAT THE CONGRESS MUST ACHIEVE IN SPENDING RESTRAINT. WE WILL BE WATCHING THE APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS WITH AN EAGLE EYE, AND I STAND READY TO USE MY VETO PEN TO MAKE SURE THAT SPENDING GROWTH CONTINUES TO COME DOWN.

IF THE DREAM OF AMERICA IS TO BE PRESERVED, WE MUST NOT WASTE THE GENIUS OF ONE MIND, THE STRENGTH OF ONE BODY, OR THE SPIRIT OF ONE SOUL. WE MUST USE EVERY ASSET WE HAVE, AND OUR GREATEST PROGRESS WILL COME BY MOBILIZING THE POWER OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

I DON'T THINK ANYTHING COULD BETTER SHOW OUR COMMITMENT TO MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT THAN THE ACTIONS WE HAVE TAKEN IN YOUR OWN AREA OF MINORITY CONTRACTING. WE PRESENTED OUR PROGRAM IN DECEMBER 1982, AND SOME OF THE RESULTS ARE BEGINNING TO SHOW. THE MAJOR POINTS OF THAT INITIATIVE WERE:

A PROGRAM TO FORM 6,000 NEW MINORITY BUSINESSES A YEAR FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS, A COMMITMENT TO EXPAND, WITH FEDERAL HELP, AT LEAST 60,000 EXISTING MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, AND A COMMITMENT BY WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO PROCURE SOME \$15 BILLION IN M.B.E. GOODS AND SERVICES OVER 3 FISCAL YEARS.

TO GET THINGS ROLLING, FEDERAL AGENCY M.B.E. PROCUREMENT OBJECTIVES WERE TO BE INCREASED BY AT LEAST 10 PERCENT OVER F.Y. 1982 LEVELS, AND I'M DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT WE SUCCEEDED. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN OUR EFFORTS TO INCREASE MINORITY VENDING BY RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, INCREASE CREDIT ASSISTANCE, AND MAINTAIN THE LEVEL OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, ON JULY 14, 1983, I SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO IMPROVE FEDERAL PLANNING FOR MINORITY BUSINESS PROGRAMS.

DEPARTMENT AND AGENCY HEADS WERE DIRECTED TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE GREATER MINORITY BUSINESS SUBCONTRACTING BY FEDERAL PRIME CONTRACTORS. I DIRECTED S.B.A. TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO EXPAND THE NUMBER OF MINORITY FIRMS PARTICIPATING IN FEDERAL PROCUREMENT PROGRAMS. AND I'M DELIGHTED TO REPORT THAT FROM MARCH OF '83 TO MARCH OF THIS YEAR, S.B.A. ADDED 588 FIRMS TO THEIR PROGRAMS.

WE ENCOURAGED AMERICAN BUSINESS LEADERS TO EXPAND THEIR BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS WITH MINORITY FIRMS. AND THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE ACT HAS RESULTED IN AN ADDITIONAL \$1 BILLION IN NEW MINORITY CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOTH THIS YEAR AND LAST YEAR.

HERE'S WHAT MEETING OUR GOAL WILL MEAN TO YOU: NEARLY \$3 BILLION MORE IN CONTRACTING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR MINORITY BUSINESSES IN 3 YEARS THAN WAS PROVIDED IN ALL THE 12 YEARS DURING THE LAST THREE ADMINISTRATIONS.

AND JUST SO NO ONE FORGETS THESE COMMITMENTS AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUED GROWTH, WE'VE STARTED A NEW TRADITION: BEGINNING LAST YEAR AND FROM NOW ON, THE FIRST FULL WEEK IN OCTOBER HAS BEEN DESIGNATED MINORITY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT WEEK.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR POLICY IN LIGHT OF EVENTS IN DADE COUNTY. WELL, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IN THAT CASE RESULTED FROM THE TECHNICAL WORDING OF THAT PARTICULAR ORDINANCE, WHICH ALLOWED BIDS BY ONLY ONE MINORITY GROUP TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHERS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO MINORITY BUSINESSES, AS EVIDENCED BY OUR ACTIVE MINORITY PROCUREMENT PROGRAM; AND I ASSURE YOU TODAY, WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES, WE KNOW THAT MINORITY FIRMS CAN PREVAIL IN FAIR AND OPEN COMPETITION. AND WE WILL KEEP SUPPORTING, AT EVERY LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT, A BROAD RANGE OF PROGRAMS TO REACH OUT TO DISADVANTAGED SECTORS OF THE COMMUNITY, AND TO INCREASE THEIR OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING.

WE ARE TRYING TO PROVIDE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE RANGE OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ALL AMERICANS — WITHOUT REGARD TO RACE, CREED, COLOR, OR SEX. AND, SOMETIMES, IT MAKES YOUR DAY WHEN YOU HEAR FROM PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND THIS AND AGREE.

I RECEIVED A LETTER FROM A 39-YEAR-OLD BLACK MAN WHO SAID, "...YOUR POLICIES ARE NOT IN THE LEAST BIT ANTI-BLACK OR ANTI-POOR, AS A MATTER OF FACT," HE SAID, "IT IS MY OPINION THAT YOUR FIGHT AGAINST INFLATION, YOUR WAR ON THE DRUG TRAFFIC, YOUR TOUGH STAND AGAINST STREET CRIME...YOUR EFFORT IN REVITALIZING THE NATION'S ECONOMY, ARE ALL OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO US POOR PEOPLE AND US BLACK PEOPLE IN AMERICA."

TO PEOPLE LIKE HIM, AND TO ALL OF YOU, I CAN ONLY SAY, THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU GIVE AMERICA; THANK YOU FOR KEEPING HER STRONG, FOR KEEPING HER FREE, AND FOR KEEPING HER DREAM ALIVE. } TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE OUR BELOVED LAND THE SOURCE OF ALL THE DREAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES SHE WAS PLACED ON THIS GOOD EARTH TO PROVIDE.

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AND I CAN'T HELP BUT BELIEVE THAT WE ARE ON
THE GOOD PATH, AND THAT IF WE CONTINUE ON
THAT PATH, OUR CHILDREN WILL WALK TOGETHER
INTO A GLORIOUS FUTURE AND PROSPERITY.
GOD BLESS YOU.

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(Elliott)
June 26, 1984
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
MINORITY CONTRACTORS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1984

Well, good afternoon and a warm welcome to you all. Believe me, I extend that welcome with a special pleasure, because when it comes to lifting human hearts with a spirit of hope and hard work; when it comes to building progress with a spirit of enterprise; and when it comes to building America by serving the Nation with pride -- then, yes, we're talking about the members of the National Association of Minority Contractors.

You understand so well a central truth of human progress: The struggle by all Americans for freedom from discrimination must be a spiritual struggle for brotherhood; it must be a political struggle for full participation at the ballot box; but just as important -- it must be an economic struggle for opportunity in a growth economy that creates jobs, not welfare; wealth, not poverty; and, freedom, not dependency.

This is a lesson America has been taking too long to learn. We know that, prior to the 1960's, it was an accepted, and sometimes legal practice to discriminate in housing, education, public accommodations, and in employment. Then, in the wake of the Kennedy tax cuts, the economy began growing rapidly, but minorities did not benefit as fully as they should have.

Yet, we will always remember the historic achievements of great Americans who managed to overcome such discrimination -- Americans like Andrew Brimmer, the first black ever to be appointed as a governor of the Federal Reserve System; Ralph

Bunche, first American black to win the Nobel Peace Prize; and Benjamin Banneker, who contributed to the original design and great beauty of our Nation's capital.

The civil rights movement of the 1960's helped bring about the repeal of the unjust system of discrimination. But, beginning in 1966, on the very heels of the breakdown of these legal barriers, the economy entered a period of disappointing performance that lasted through the decade of the 1970's.

Black Americans had seen the economic train moving, and had fought for and won the right to purchase a ticket. But as they came aboard, the train began to slow down, and then it stopped altogether. Many programs of the Great Society had compassionate, indeed, noble intentions; but they also had serious, adverse consequences; they marked a departure from creating wealth to creating dependency.

I believe what black Americans need most is more opportunity, more enterprise, a bigger cash box and economic emancipation.

To paraphrase Thomas Wolfe, to every man and woman, regardless of their birth, their shining golden opportunity -- to live, to work, to be themselves, and to become whatever their vision can combine to make them -- this is the promise of America.

This promise is what we came to Washington to restore. When we arrived here we faced the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Double-digit inflation was destroying people's savings and brutally attacking the elderly and others on fixed

incomes. Over-regulation, high taxes, and record interest rates were destroying the dream of minority business ownership and homeownership for all but a select few.

So we went to work to make a fundamental change in direction -- a change from control by Government, to control of Government; a change from taxing you more, no matter how hard you tried, to rewarding you for working harder and producing more than before. We said we could not change more than a decade of mistakes overnight; that our progress would come in inches and feet, rather than miles; but that progress would come.

Now I know the concerns expressed about this Administration's programs. And, frankly, if I believed the things I've heard and read, I'd be concerned too. But when we look at America I think we can see a much different picture.

We can see inflation down from 12.4 to ~~4.2~~^{3.6} percent, interest rates down significantly and the growth of regulations cut by a third -- and that's progress. We can see an American economic expansion, led by a surge of productivity, innovation, the fastest rising rate of business investment since 1949, and a record number of business incorporations -- and that's progress. And, we can see more jobs created in the last 18 months than in any other country, including millions of jobs for minorities and women -- and, yes, that's progress, too.

The overall black unemployment rate has fallen more sharply than the white unemployment rate, but it's still much too high -- it's needlessly high. For 2 years, a cruel charade has been perpetrated by some in the Congress on people at the bottom of

the income scale -- the very people who most desperately need opportunities to better themselves, to develop their skills, and to become productive, self-reliant members of the American mainstream.

As you know, we've proposed an innovative idea called Enterprise Zones to begin providing opportunities in some of the most destitute areas of the country. But today, areas that could have become new sites for development and economic growth, areas that could have become thriving pockets of enterprise, jobs, and a bright and hopeful future, remain vacant and neglected and impoverished.

Despite more than 2 years of waiting, despite support from over 100 Democrats and the great majority of Republicans, and despite a track-record of success from many State and local governments, the liberal leadership in the House has deliberately blocked our Enterprise Zones proposal from coming to a vote -- and I think that's more than a tragedy -- it's an outrage.

So let me just say to them today: Please, spare us your sermons on fairness and compassion. If you want minority Americans to have more opportunity, doing nothing isn't doing enough -- give Enterprise Zones a fair debate and a vote.

In the name of growth, let's stop talking billions for dependency and start creating enterprise zones for opportunity. In the name of America, let's stop spreading bondage and start spreading freedom.

We'd like a vote on another important bill which could provide opportunities, experience, discipline, and greater

self-esteem for teenagers. I'm talking about our Youth Employment Opportunity Wage bill, which I know you support and we're very grateful for your support. We've seen that one of the greatest barriers to more jobs for youth, especially for minority young people, is the single, minimum wage system.

The truth is, while everyone must be assured a fair wage, there's no sense in mandating \$3.35 an hour for start-up jobs that simply aren't worth that much in the marketplace. All that does is guarantee that fewer jobs for teenagers will be created and fewer people will be hired.

So, I hope you'll help us persuade the Congress to pass our youth opportunity wage. We can create more than 400,000 new jobs for American youth, and we can do it without displacing existing workers.

If the dream of America is to be preserved, we must not waste the genius of one mind, the strength of one body, or the spirit of one soul. We must use every asset we have, and our greatest progress will come by mobilizing the power of private enterprise.

I don't think anything could better show our commitment to minority business development than the actions we have taken in your own area of minority contracting. We presented our program in December 1982, and some of the results are beginning to show. The major points of that initiative were:

A program to form 6,000 new minority businesses a year for the next 10 years; a commitment to expand, with Federal help, at least 60,000 existing minority business enterprises; and a

commitment by which the Federal Government intends to procure some \$15 billion in MBE goods and services over 3 fiscal years.

To get things rolling, agency MBE procurement objectives were to be increased by at least 10 percent over FY 1982 levels, and I'm delighted to report that we succeeded. We have also been successful in our efforts to increase minority vending by recipients of Federal grants and cooperative agreements, increase credit assistance, and maintain the level of management and technical assistance.

About a year ago, on July 14, 1983, I signed an Executive Order to improve Federal planning for minority business programs. Department and agency heads were directed to develop and implement incentives to encourage greater minority business subcontracting by Federal prime contractors. I directed SBA to make special efforts to expand the number of minority firms participating in Federal procurement programs. And I'm delighted to report that from March of '83 to March of this year, SBA added 588 firms to their programs.

~~WE~~ encouraged American business leaders to expand their business transactions with minority firms. And I ~~signed~~ the Surface Transportation Act, ~~which~~ has resulted in an additional \$1 billion in new minority contracting opportunities for each of the past 2 years.

Here's what meeting our commitment will mean to you: Over the next 3 years, nearly \$3 billion more in contracting will be provided for minority businesses than was provided in all the 12 prior years during the last three administrations.

And just so no one forgets these commitments and the need for continued growth, we've started a new tradition: Beginning last year and from now on, the first full week in October has been designated Minority Enterprise Development Week.

I know some of you may have some questions about our policy in light of events in Dade County. Well, the Justice Department's position in that case resulted from the technical wording of that particular ordinance, which allowed bids by only one minority group to the exclusion of others. This Administration has strongly supported programs to provide special assistance to minority businesses, as evidenced by our active minority procurement program; and I assure you today, we will continue to do so.

Given these opportunities, we know that minority firms can prevail in fair and open competition. And we will keep supporting, at every level of government, a broad range of programs to reach out to disadvantaged sectors of the community, and to increase their opportunities to participate in government contracting.

We are trying to provide the broadest possible range of opportunities to all Americans -- without regard to race, creed, color, or sex. And, sometimes, it makes your day when you hear from people who understand this and agree. I received a letter from a 39-year-old black man who said, ". . . your policies are not in the least bit anti-black or anti-poor, as a matter of fact," he said, "it is my opinion that your fight against inflation, your war on the drug traffic, your tough stand against

street crime . . . your effort in revitalizing the nation's economy, are all of great importance to us poor people and us black people in America."

To people like him, and to all of you, I can only say, thank you for what you give America; thank you for keeping her strong, for keeping her free, and for keeping her dream alive. Together, we can make our beloved land the source of all the dreams and opportunities she was placed on this good Earth to provide. And I can't help but believe that we are on the good path, and that if we continue together, our children will walk together into a glorious future and prosperity.

God bless you.

(MYER)

The President has seen
JUNE 27, 1984

MEETING WITH PARTICIPANTS IN CONFERENCE
ON U.S.-SOVIET EXCHANGES

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DOCTORS BILLINGTON, HAMBURG,
ELLISON, AND JOHNSON, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING
YOUR DISTINGUISHED GROUP TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU WOULD BE MEETING AT
THE SMITHSONIAN TO DISCUSS U.S.-SOVIET
EXCHANGES, I WAS EAGER TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS
WITH YOU ON THIS TIMELY AND IMPORTANT TOPIC.

FIRST, I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE
WOODROW WILSON CENTER AND THE CARNEGIE
CORPORATION OF NEW YORK. CERTAINLY NOTHING
IS MORE WORTHY OF OUR ATTENTION THAN FINDING
WAYS TO REACH OUT AND ESTABLISH BETTER
COMMUNICATION WITH THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE SOVIET UNION.

FOR MANY MONTHS, I HAVE ENCOURAGED THE SOVIET UNION TO JOIN WITH US IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO SEE IF WE COULD MAKE PROGRESS IN THREE BROAD PROBLEM AREAS: REDUCING THE THREAT AND USE OF FORCE IN SOLVING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES, REDUCING ARMAMENTS IN THE WORLD, AND ESTABLISHING A BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH EACH OTHER.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AT THE JAPANESE DIET, AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, AND AT THE IRISH PARLIAMENT, I'VE EXPLAINED OUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE ARMS, (PARTICULARLY NUCLEAR ARMS,) AND TO ESTABLISH A USEFUL DIALOGUE ON REGIONAL ISSUES. LET ME DESCRIBE TO YOU SOME OF THE MANY EFFORTS WE'RE MAKING TO ESTABLISH A BETTER WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

WE HAVE INFORMED THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO INITIATE NEGOTIATIONS ON A NEW EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, AND WE HAVE COMPLETED OUR PREPARATIONS FOR THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

WE HAVE PROPOSED TO RESUME PREPARATIONS TO OPEN CONSULATES IN NEW YORK AND KIEV.

WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO REVIVE OUR AGREEMENTS FOR COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, HOUSING, HEALTH, AND AGRICULTURE. ACTIVITIES UNDER THESE AGREEMENTS HAVE WANED IN RECENT YEARS, BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN NO MEETINGS OF THEIR JOINT COMMITTEES TO PLAN PROJECTS. WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR SUCH MEETINGS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF ACTIVE PROJECTS.

WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF RENEWING SEVERAL BILATERAL AGREEMENTS THAT OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE EXPIRED THIS YEAR.

WE HAVE AGREED TO EXTEND OUR FISHING AGREEMENT FOR 18 MONTHS/ AND WE ARE LOOKING AT POSSIBILITIES TO INCREASE COOPERATION UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

WE HAVE PROPOSED THAT OUR AGREEMENT TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BE RENEWED FOR ANOTHER 10 YEARS/ AND THAT PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR A MEETING OF OUR JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION.

A U.S. NAVY DELEGATION HELD TALKS LAST MONTH WITH THEIR SOVIET COUNTERPARTS IN ACCORD WITH OUR AGREEMENT ON AVOIDING INCIDENTS AT SEA/ AND WE HAVE AGREED TO EXTEND THIS USEFUL AGREEMENT FOR ANOTHER 3 YEARS.

WE ARE REVIEWING THE WORLD OCEANS AGREEMENT/ WHICH HAS BEEN USEFUL IN PROMOTING JOINT OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH/ AND WE'LL GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO RENEWING THE AGREEMENT PRIOR TO ITS EXPIRATION.

AND WE'VE MADE PROPOSALS IN SEVERAL OTHER AREAS TO IMPROVE DIALOGUE, /FOSTER COOPERATION, /AND SOLVE PROBLEMS.

WE HAVE PROPOSED A FAIR AND EQUITABLE RESOLUTION OF OUR DIFFERENCES ON THE MARITIME BOUNDARY OFF ALASKA.

WE HAVE PROPOSED A JOINT SIMULATED SPACE RESCUE MISSION IN WHICH ASTRONAUTS AND COSMONAUTS WOULD CARRY OUT A COMBINED EXERCISE IN SPACE TO DEVELOP TECHNIQUES TO RESCUE PEOPLE FROM MALFUNCTIONS IN SPACE VEHICLES.

WE ARE CURRENTLY CONDUCTING ANOTHER ROUND OF TALKS ON CONSULAR MATTERS, / TRYING TO IMPROVE VISA PROCEDURES AND FACILITATE TRAVEL BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE SUGGESTED DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. COAST GUARD AND THE SOVIET MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE ON SEARCH AND RESCUE PROCEDURES TO ASSIST CITIZENS OF ALL COUNTRIES LOST AT SEA.

WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS IN OUR TALKS ON UPGRADING THE HOTLINE/ AND PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS ON POTENTIAL NUCLEAR TERRORIST INCIDENTS/ ON ESTABLISHING A JOINT MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS LINE/ AND ON UPGRADING EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

WE HAVE ALSO SUGGESTED REGULAR, HIGH-LEVEL CONTACTS BETWEEN MILITARY PERSONNEL OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

AS YOU CAN SEE, WE HAVE OFFERED COMPREHENSIVE AND SENSIBLE PROPOSALS TO IMPROVE THE U.S.-SOVIET DIALOGUE AND OUR WORKING RELATIONSHIP. AND IF THE SOVIETS DECIDE TO JOIN US, NEW AVENUES WOULD OPEN FOR YOUR EFFORTS.

IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO JUDGE THE RESULTS. A FEW PROPOSALS ARE NEAR AGREEMENT/ MANY OTHERS ARE STILL UNDER DISCUSSION/ AND SOME HAVE BEEN REJECTED, AT LEAST FOR NOW.

MEANINGFUL CONTACT WITH A CLOSED SOCIETY WILL NEVER BE EASY, AND I'M AS DISTURBED AS YOU ARE BY RECENT REPORTS OF NEW MEASURES TAKEN BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO RESTRICT CONTACTS BETWEEN SOVIET CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS. THESE RESTRICTIONS COME ON TOP OF INTENSIFIED REPRESSION OF THOSE BRAVE SOVIET CITIZENS WHO HAVE DARED TO EXPRESS VIEWS CONTRARY TO THOSE OF THE SOVIET POLITICAL ELITE.

THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION PAY A HEAVY PRICE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT. IN FACT, WE ALL PAY A PRICE. WHEN THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TAKES REPRESSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST ITS PEOPLE AND ATTEMPTS TO SEAL THEM OFF FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THEIR OWN INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL LIFE SUFFERS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE REST OF THE WORLD IS DEPRIVED OF THE CULTURAL RICHES OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE.

WHAT WOULD CLASSICAL MUSIC BE WITHOUT A
TCHAIKOVSKY, OR LITERATURE WITHOUT A
TOLSTOY, OR CHEMISTRY
WITHOUT A (MEN-DEL-YAY-EV)?

CIVILIZED PEOPLE EVERYWHERE HAVE A STAKE IN
KEEPING CONTACTS, COMMUNICATION AND
CREATIVITY AS BROAD ~~AND~~ DEEP ~~AND~~ FREE AS
POSSIBLE.

THE SOVIET INSISTENCE ON SEALING THEIR
PEOPLE OFF ~~AND~~ ON FILTERING AND CONTROLLING
CONTACTS AND THE FLOW OF INFORMATION REMAINS
THE CENTRAL PROBLEM.

WHEN SOVIET ACTIONS THREATEN THE PEACE ~~OR~~
OR VIOLATE A SOLEMN AGREEMENT ~~OR~~ TRAMPLE ON
STANDARDS FUNDAMENTAL TO A CIVILIZED WORLD ~~OR~~
WE CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE SILENT. WE CANNOT
AND WILL NOT CONDUCT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED. TO DO SO WOULD
BETRAY OUR DEEPEST VALUES ~~OR~~ VIOLATE OUR
CONSCIENCE ~~AND~~ ULTIMATELY UNDERMINE WORLD
STABILITY AND OUR ABILITY TO KEEP THE PEACE.

WE MUST HAVE WAYS SHORT OF MILITARY THREATS THAT MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT SOVIET ACTIONS DO MATTER/AND THAT SOME ACTIONS INEVITABLY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF THE RELATIONSHIP.

THESE REACTIONS DO LEAD TO A DECREASE IN CONTACTS WITH THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION. } THAT IS A DILEMMA. } HOWEVER, OUR QUARREL IS NOT WITH THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE/OR THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE/OR ANY OTHER PROUD NATIONALITY IN THAT MULTINATIONAL STATE.

SO WE MUST BE CAREFUL, IN REACTING TO ACTIONS BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT/NOT TO TAKE OUT OUR INDIGNATION ON THOSE NOT RESPONSIBLE.

THAT IS WHY I FEEL WE SHOULD BROADEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICANS AND SOVIET CITIZENS TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER. BUT, OUR PROPOSALS TO DO THAT ARE NOT A "SIGNAL" THAT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN AFGHANISTAN.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR SYMPATHY
AND STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE AFGHAN PEOPLE.

THE UNITED STATES WILL SUPPORT THEIR
STRUGGLE TO END THE SOVIET OCCUPATION/AND TO
REESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT AND NEUTRAL
AFGHANISTAN.

NOR DO OUR PROPOSALS MEAN THAT WE WILL
IGNORE VIOLATIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT/
OR THE PLIGHT OF ANDREI SAKHAROV/
YELENA BONNER,/ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY/
YURI ORLOV,/AND SO MANY OTHERS.

THE PERSECUTION OF THESE COURAGEOUS,
NOBLE PEOPLE WEIGHS HEAVILY ON OUR HEARTS.

IT WOULD BE WRONG TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR
TREATMENT AND FATE WILL NOT AFFECT OUR
ABILITY TO INCREASE COOPERATION. IT WILL
BECAUSE OUR CONSCIENCE/AND THAT OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE AND FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE,/WILL HAVE IT NO OTHER WAY.

I KNOW THESE THOUGHTS DO NOT RESOLVE
THE DILEMMA WE FACE, BUT IT IS A DILEMMA
FOR ALL OF US, AND I WILL VALUE YOUR ADVICE.

YOU KNOW, I DON'T THINK THERE IS
ANYTHING WE ARE ENCOURAGING THE SOVIET
LEADERS TO DO THAT IS NOT AS MUCH IN THEIR
INTEREST AS IT IS IN OURS AND IN THE
INTEREST OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. IF THEY ARE
AS COMMITTED TO PEACE AS THEY SAY,
THEY SHOULD JOIN US AND WORK WITH US.

IF THEY SINCERELY WANT TO REDUCE ARMS,
THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR REFUSING TO TALK.
AND IF THEY SINCERELY WANT TO DEAL WITH US
AS EQUALS, THEY SHOULDN'T TRY TO AVOID A
FRANK DISCUSSION OF REAL PROBLEMS.

SOME SAY, FOR THE SOVIET LEADERS,
PEACE IS NOT THE REAL ISSUE RATHER,
THE ISSUE IS THE ATTEMPT TO SPREAD THEIR
DOMINANCE BY USING MILITARY POWER AS A MEANS
OF INTIMIDATION. THERE IS MUCH EVIDENCE TO
SUPPORT THIS VIEW.

BUT IT SHOULD BE CLEAR BY NOW THAT SUCH A STRATEGY WILL NOT WORK. AND ONCE THEY REALIZE THIS, MAYBE THEY'LL UNDERSTAND THEY HAVE MUCH TO GAIN BY IMPROVING DIALOGUE, REDUCING ARMS, AND SOLVING PROBLEMS.

WE'RE READY, WILLING AND ABLE, AND AS LONG AS I'M PRESIDENT, I'M GOING TO KEEP TRYING.

THE WAY GOVERNMENTS CAN BEST PROMOTE CONTACTS AMONG PEOPLE IS BY NOT STANDING IN THE WAY. OUR ADMINISTRATION WILL DO ALL WE CAN TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY, AND TO PERSUADE THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO DO LIKEWISE.

WE KNOW THIS WON'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT.

BUT IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED, YOU MUST STAY INVOLVED AND GET MORE AMERICANS INTO WIDER AND MORE MEANINGFUL CONTACT WITH MANY MORE SOVIET CITIZENS.

IT MAY SEEM AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM TO
THINK THERE COULD BE A TIME WHEN AMERICANS
AND SOVIET CITIZENS OF ALL WALKS OF LIFE
TRAVEL FREELY BACK AND FORTH, VISIT EACH
OTHER'S HOMES, LOOK UP FRIENDS AND
PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES, WORK TOGETHER ON
ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS AND, IF THEY FEEL LIKE
IT, SIT UP ALL NIGHT TALKING ABOUT THE
MEANING OF LIFE AND THE DIFFERENT WAYS TO
LOOK AT THE WORLD. IN MOST COUNTRIES OF THE
WORLD, PEOPLE TAKE THESE CONTACTS FOR
GRANTED. WE SHOULD NEVER ACCEPT THE IDEA
THAT AMERICANS AND SOVIET CITIZENS CANNOT
ENJOY THE SAME CONTACTS AND COMMUNICATION.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S AN IMPOSSIBLE DREAM,
AND I KNOW YOU DON'T EITHER.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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