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[& Addresses] February 1984

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WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Potus Remarks: Ceremony Honoring Black History Month -- Thursday,

February 2, 1984

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the above-referenced remarks be sent directly to Ben Elliott by 10:00 a.m. today. The remarks cite several examples of blacks who contributed in the areas of commerce, medicine, sports, entertainment, the military, and the struggle for civil rights. The President on page three refers to the signing of the King holiday bill, in a manner that I hope will not be considered disingenuous. I have no legal objections.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING OFFICE

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Potus Remarks: Ceremony Honoring

Black History Month -- Thursday, February 2, 1984

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 2/1/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WASHINGTON

February 1, 1984

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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KFMAKK2:

Please forward any edits/comments directly to Ben Elliott in room 100 by 10:00 a.m. TOMORROW, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:



PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CEREMONY HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1984

Thank you, and welcome to the White House, the home that belongs to all Americans.

Today we mark the 58th Annual Black History Month, a celebration of the part black Americans have played in building our great country.

The story of black Americans is one of valor in the face of hardship. The first blacks were brought to America against their will, kidnapped by the thousands from their homelands. When they reached our country, they encountered prejudice and servitude.

Until only a few decades ago, black Americans lived lives that were separate and unequal. Most were taught in segregated schools. Too many could find only poor jobs, toiling for low wages. Blacks were barred from hotels and restaurants, made to use separate facilities, and even forced to drink at separate water fountains. In a Nation that proclaimed liberty and justice for all, too many black Americans were living with neither.

In the 1920's, Carter G. Woodson, a great black educator, came to realize that if black Americans were to regain their dignity, they would have to begin by regaining their past. He founded the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. And in 1926, he launched the first Black History Month. In the years since, the ASALH and annual Black History Months have enriched our country by fostering a sense of pride among

black Americans, and by teaching all of us about black contributions to American life.

During this black history month, we'll celebrate black contributions to commerce -- contributions like those made by Granville Woods, who helped to engineer the first subways in our great cities.

We'll honor black physicians like Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, who performed the first open-heart surgery in the world in 1893; and physicians like Dr. Charles Drew, who discovered the blood plasma that has saved tens of thousands of lives.

This month, we'll honor the black Americans who have achieved so much in sports -- the courageous Jackie Robinson, the great Hank Aaron.

We'll celebrate the black musicians who combined elements of African and Western music to produce something completely new and distinctly American: jazz. And as we remember that Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and so many other black musicians began their careers by playing in hotels where they were forbidden to take a room, we'll promise never to allow such injustice again.

This Black History Month will remind Americans that, again and again, blacks have taken up arms to defend our country with their courage and, in thousands of cases, their lives. In the Revolutionary War, some 5,000 black Americans joined the fight for independence. The first American to die in that war was named Crispus Attucks. He was black.

In this century, thousands of black Americans fought in World War I, World War II, and Viet Nam.

I must tell you that this Black History Month brings back a personal memory. In 1944, I narrated a film about black pilots trained at Tuskegee Institute. I remember how impressed I was by the skill and bravery of those fliers.

One of those brave men was Chappie James, who went on to become a great aviator and the first black four-star general in the Air Force. Just a few moments ago in the Oval Office, I had the privilege of presenting Tuskegee officials with a grant to help build the Chappie James Memorial Library on the Tuskegee campus -- a fitting monument to a true patriot.

Hero in two wars, fighter against discrimination, champion of equal opportunity, believer in personal responsibility -Chappie wore four stars on his shoulders and fifty stars in my heart.

This month will remind us most of all of the great black struggle for equal rights. Just ten weeks ago, it was my privilege to sign into law a national holiday marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "I have a dream," Dr. King said, "that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

Dr. King spent his life combatting bigotry so that his dream might come true. And he gave his life to that noble cause. This month, let us rededicate ourselves to that great dream of brotherhood.

The theme of Black History Month this year is "Black Americans and the Struggle for Excellence in Education." Our country has come a long way since the days when men and women were jailed for teaching blacks to read. Today black Americans are in virtually every school and university in the country, and they're breaking new ground in every field of endeavor. And black Americans like astronauts Guy Bluford and Ronald McNair are teaching black children -- and all our children -- to reach for the stars.

Martin Luther King once said that black Americans must, and I quote, "assert for all to hear and see a majestic sense of worth." This Black History Month will remind all of us that the story of black Americans adds up to just that: a truly majestic sense of worth.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

TAN MERSE SOUSE

February 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Crime Prevention Week Ceremony, Wednesday, February 15, 1984

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the abovereferenced remarks be sent directly to Ben Elliott by
10:00 a.m. today. The remarks discuss the crime prevention
movement in a general way, with specific mention of several
neighborhood crime prevention programs, most prominently
"Neighborhood Watch." At two different points the President
urges House action on the Comprehensive Crime Control Act,
which has already passed the Senate.

I have no legal objections. In the second paragraph on page 2, however, the remarks state that the Kansas City Chiefs are participating in a baseball card project. This is not impossible, but unlikely. "Chiefs" should probably be "Royals," or "baseball" should be "football."

Attachment

Fairbary 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING OFFICE

FROM: FRED F. FIELDIN@rig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Crime Prevention

Week Ceremony, Wednesday, February 15, 1984

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective. In the second paragraph on page 2, however, the remarks state that the Pansas City Chiefs are participating in a baseball card project. This strikes me as odd, since the Chiefs are, of course, a football team. In the penultimate sentence of the remarks, the antecedent for "it" is obscure. We suggest deleting "and make it permanent," or at least making it more clear what "it" is.

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 2/14/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

3 truary 14, 1984

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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Please forward any comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott in room 100 by 10:00 a.m. TOMORROW, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, with an information copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Myer/BE) February 13, 1984 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CRIME PREVENTION WEEK CEREMONY WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1984

Thank you and welcome to the White House. We want you to enjoy yourselves so I hope all the police chiefs here can sit back, relax and stop worrying about what your deputies are doing back at headquarters.

Well, I'm delighted to have the opportunity to help recognize National Crime Prevention Week, and to tell you that crime prevention is a top priority on our national agenda.

Americans should have the right <u>and</u> the opportunity to walk our streets without being afraid, to feel safe in our own homes, and to be confident that when our children leave the house, they will return safely. For too many years, crime and the fear of crime eroded the strength and vitality of our neighborhoods.

Well, we're finally making some headway. In 1982, the crime rate dropped by 4.3 percent, the biggest decline since 1972. And just last week, the Senate overwhelmingly passed our Comprehensive Crime Control Act. If the House would act -- and for the life of me I don't know what they're waiting for -- we could finally put a comprehensive and long overdue anti-crime package on the books.

We know that formidable challenges remain, and meeting them is what Crime Prevention Week is all about. This year, the spotlight is on the "Neighborhood Watch." But crime prevention is much more than that -- and it's a nationwide movement.

All across the country, people are working together with law enforcement agencies to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their neighborhoods. The National Exchange Club started the movement 37 years ago, and today its nearly 1,300 service clubs nationwide are working hard to promote crime prevention activities. The American Association of Retired Persons is helping the elderly. The National Crime Prevention Council and its spokesdog "McGruff" are leading a nationwide anti-crime advertising campaign. The National Sheriffs' Association has a key role in the Neighborhood Watch program.

Even sports teams are getting into the act. The Kansas City Chiefs, supported by local businesses, distribute baseball cards to local police departments which, in turn, give them away to neighborhood children. The cards have a color action picture of a player on one side and a crime prevention tip on the other. The only way to get a card is to ask a policeman, which reinforces positive communications between the cop on the beat and the neighborhood children. In the past 5 years, 16 million cards have been given away. And now, several other teams are following suit.

And, of course, our Nation's law enforcement officers are on the front lines, performing a tough job under enormous pressure. They're expected to be administrators, social workers, public relations experts, at times philosophers and politicians, and still, somehow, always an officer of the law. And I thought dealing with the Congress was hard work.

Well, let me assure police officers everywhere of our firm support and unfailing gratitude -- if we can get our Comprehensive Crime Control Act through Congress, your job will become a bit easier.

Now, let me commend the Neighborhood Watch program. It's a program that I really like. In preparing for this ceremony, we did a little research and discovered, using conservative estimates of course, that one in six Americans live in a community with a citizen anti-crime program. Watch programs in nearly 30,000 communities involve about 10 million volunteers. The best news is they are doing a great job.

In 1983, Waynesboro, Virginia reported a 44 percent drop in residential burglary. Because of its outstanding anti-crime program, Waynesboro received the National Crime Coalition Prevention Award.

In Florida's Dade County, a youth crime watch program is credited for much of the 25 percent decline in school crime over the past 3 years.

We are seeing the same positive results with watch programs all over the country -- from Seattle, to Las Vegas, to Jackson, Mississippi.

What we're really witnessing is a reaffirmation of American values: a sense of community and fellowship, individual responsibility, caring for family and friends, and a respect for the law.

I hope we can mark our observance of National Crime
Prevention Week by redoubling our efforts. We will continue

cracking down on career criminals, organized crime, drug pushers and the pornographers. We'll continue working to protect the rights of victims. But the strongest guardian against crime is the American people and the institutions that bind us together as a free society. Together, we can turn the tide on crime and make it permanent -- and with your help we will.

Thank you for coming, and God bless you all.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments or suggestions to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office.

Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHEDULE

EVENT	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER	TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
A. SPEECHES			
ADDRESS TO THE NATION'S GOVERNORS (East Room)	02/27 Monday	Dana Kim	Economic Recovery, budget initiatives Line Item Veto, Balanced Budget Amendment
BRIEFING FOR NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENIOR CITIZENS	02/29 Wednesday	Peter Elizabeth	
ADDRESS TO AMERICAN LEGION WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION	03/01 Thursday	Tony Misty	
LUNCH WITH ELECTED GOP WOMEN OFFICIALS	03/02 Friday	Peter Elizabeth	
CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ACTION CONFERENCE DINNER	03/02 Friday	Ben Misty	
ADDRESS ANNUAL NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONFERENCE	03/05 Monday	Al Kim	Economic Recovery, Jobs and Training Partnership Act, Enterprise Zones
ADDRESS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS (Columbus, OH)	03/06 Tuesday	Peter Elizabeth	Social issues, values
REPUBLICAN FUNDRAISER (New York, NY)	03/06 Tuesday	Ben Misty	

EVENT	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER	TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA ANNIVERSARY LUNCH	03/09 Friday	Al Kim	
LUNCH WITH ELECTED GOP WOMEN OFFICIALS	03/12 ** Monday	Al Misty	
FOURTH NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE	03/13 Tuesday	Peter Elizabeth	
B. RADIO TALKS			
RADIO TALK: SCHOOL PRAYER	02/25 Saturday	Ben Elizabeth	
RADIO TALK:	03/03 Saturday	Ben	
RADIO TALK:	03/10 Saturday	Ben	
RADIO TALK:	03/17 Saturday	Ben	

EVENT C. REMARKS	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
DROPBY MEETING OF COMMISSION ON SECURITY & ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE	02/21 Tuesday	AI Misty
BRIEFING FOR ASIAN & PACIFIC AMERICAN LEADERS	02/23 Thursday	Al Kim
SIGNING CEREMONY FOR EXPENDABLE LAUNCH VEHICLE EXECUTIVE ORDER	02/24 Friday	Peter Elizabeth
DINNER FOR THE NATION'S GOVERNORS & THEIR SPOUSES	02/26 Sunday	Dana Kim
RECEPTION FOR U.S. WINTER OLYMPIC TEAM	02/29 Wednesday	Elizabeth
RECEPTION FOR VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM	03/01 Thursday	Tony Kim
BRIEFING FOR STATE AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS	03/07 Wednesday	Dana
LUNCH WITH BUSINESS EDITORS	03/07 Wednesday	Ben
RECEPTION FOR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP	03/08 Thursday	Tony Misty
DROPBY BRIEFING FOR PUERTO RICAN LEADERS	03/15 Thursday	A1 Misty

EVENT	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER	TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
DROPBY BRIEFING FOR CUBAN-AMERICAN LEADERS	03/19 Monday	Dana Misty	
D. FOREIGN VISITS			
P.M. MULDOON OF NEW ZEALAND: DEPARTURE STATEMENT	02/24 Friday	Al Misty	
STATE VISIT: PRES. KIRCHSCHLAEGER OF AUSTRIA: ARRIVAL CEREMONY STATE DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT	02/28 Tuesday	Peter Misty	
CHANC. KOHL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: DEPARTURE STATEMENT	03/05 Monday	Dana Kim	
P.M. SOARES OF PORTUGAL: DEPARTURE STATEMENT	03/14 Wednesday	Dana Julie	
LUNCHEON WITH P.M. FITZGERALD & PROMINENT IRISH AMERICANS	03/16 Friday	Tony Julie	
P.M. GARRETT FITZGERALD OF IRELAND: DEPARTURE STATEMENT	03/16 Friday	Dana Julie	

EVENT	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
E. TAPINGS		
TAPING: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MANUFACTURERS	02/27 Monday	Tony Elizabeth
TAPING: REPUBLICAN WOMENS LEADERSHIP FORUM	02/27 Monday	Al Misty
TAPING: SPECIAL TAPE ON DIXON, ILLINOIS, TRIP	02/27 Monday	Not needed Misty
TAPING: SCHOOL PRAYER	02/27 Monday	Ben Elizabeth

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHE	
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHE	EDULE (2/13/84)

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments or suggestions to Ben Elliott, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH PLANNING SCHEDULE

1994 FEB 13 1/1 10: 18

EVENT A. SPEECHES	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER	TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
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B. RADIO TALKS			
RADIO TALK:	02/18 Saturday	Ben	
RADIO TALK:	02/25 Saturday	Ben	
RADIO TALK:	03/03 Saturday	Ben	
RADIO TALK:	03/10 Saturday		

EVENT C. PENN PVC	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
C. REMARKS		
SUSAN B. ANTHONY BIRTHDAY PARTY	02/15 Wednesday	Peter- Julie
OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION WEEK	02/15 Wednesday	Al Elizabeth
BRIEFING FOR EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR AMERICAN TRADE	02/16 Thursday	Ben Misty
LUNCH WITH ELECTED GOP WOMEN OFFICIALS	02/17 Friday	Al Elizabeth
PRINCESS GRACE FOUNDATION RECEPTION	02/17 Friday	Peter Kim
PRINCESS GRACE FOUNDATION BENEFIT (halfsheets to RR on Friday)	02/18 Saturday	Peter Kim
DROPBY MEETING OF COMMISSION ON SECURITY & ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE	02/21 Tuesday	Al Julie
BRIEFING FOR ASIAN & PACIFIC AMERICAN LEADERS	02/23 Thursday	Al Julie
LUNCH WITH GROUP OF MAJOR MAGAZINE PUBLISHERS	02/23 Thursday	Tony Misty

EVENT	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER	TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
DINNER FOR THE NATION'S GOVERNORS & THEIR SPOUSES	02/26 Sunday	Dana Kim	
BRIEFING FOR NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF SENIOR CITIZENS	02/29 Wednesday	Peter Elizabeth	
LUNCH WITH ELECTED GOP WOMEN OFFICIALS	03/02 Friday	Peter	
DROPBY DINNER OF CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL ACTION CONFERENCE	03/02 Friday	Ben Misty	
DROPBY BRIEFING FOR CUBAN-AMERICAN LEADERS	03/05 Monđay	Dana Misty	
REPUBLICAN FUNDRAISER (New York, NY)	03/06 Tuesday	Ben Misty	
D. FOREIGN VISITS			
KING HUSSEIN OF JORDAN AND PRES. MUBARAK OF EGYPT: DEPARTURE STATEMENTS	02/14 Tuesday	Dana Julie	

Al Julie

02/24 Friday

P.M. MULDOON OF NEW ZEALAND: DEPARTURE STATEMENT

EVENT	DATE	WRITER RESEARCHER	TOPIC/THEME/PURPOSE
STATE VISIT: PRES. KIRCHSCHLAEGER OF AUSTRIA: ARRIVAL CEREMONY STATE DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT	02/28 Tuesday	Peter Julie	
CHANC. KOHL OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY: DEPARTURE STATEMENT	03/05 Monday	Dana Kim	
E. TAPINGS			
TAPING: CITIZENS FOR THE REPUBLIC DINNER	02/13 Monday	Tony Misty	
TAPING: AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE DINNER HONORING LILLIAN GISH	02/16 Thursday	Tony Kim	
TAPING: NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR HOSPITAL TRUSTEES AT ANNENBERG CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES	02/16 Thursday	Al Lyne	
TAPING: RADIO INFORMATION CENTER FOR THE BLIND	02/16 Thursday	Peter Lyne	
TAPING: AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION	02/16 Thursday	Peter	

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

February 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED F. FIELDING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTSO

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Dropby Briefing for Asian and Pacific American Leaders

Thursday, February 23, 1984

Richard Darman has asked that comments on the above-referenced remarks be sent directly to Ben Elliott by 5:30 p.m. today. The remarks briefly discuss the economic recovery, our heritage as a nation of immigrants, the contributions of Asian and Pacific Americans, and our relations with the nations of the Pacific basin. With respect to the last item, the President discusses our positive and expanding ties with the Peoples Republic of China, but notes that we maintain economic and cultural ties with Taiwan and "will continue to support their needs and requirements in accordance with the 1974 Taiwan Relations Act." The Taiwan Relations Act, Public Law 96-8, 22 U.S.C. §§ 3301-3316, was passed in 1979, not 1974. I have no other objections.

Attachment

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING OFFICE

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING Orig. signed by FFF

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Dropby Briefing

for Asian and Pacific American Leaders

Thursday, February 23, 1984

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced draft remarks. On page 3, line 19, "1974" should be "1979."

cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 2/20/84

bcc: FFFielding/JGRoberts/Subj/Chron

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING OFFICE

FROM:

FRED F. FIELDING

COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Dropby Briefing

for Asian and Pacific American Leaders

Thursday, February 23, 1984

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cc: Richard G. Darman

FFF:JGR:aea 2/20/84

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/21/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:30 TODAY, 2/21

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MARKS:			off by 5:30 too	

RESPONSE:

(Myer/BE) February 21, 1984 11:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR ASIAN AND PACIFIC AMERICAN LEADERS
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1984

Good morning and welcome. I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to be with you, if only for a few minutes.

Whenever I get a chance to speak to a group like yours, I'm tempted to talk about the one program that is helping every American, every ethnic group, and every nationality across our Nation -- and it's called economic recovery. For more than a year, an average of 300,000 people a month have found jobs. Inflation is staying down while factory orders are rising. All Americans can be proud of what we've accomplished together. And last week's news about the continuing surge in housing starts and rise in personal income indicates confidence that the recovery will be strong and sustained.

But today I'd also like to talk about something else -- you might call it the spirit of America. Back in the fall of 1980, I attended a rally held in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty that I will always remember. There were many nationalities and ethnic groups there, all reminding us of America's rich and diverse heritage. They reminded us that we are all descendants from immigrants, most of whom came here looking for freedom and opportunity. And while our country had its flaws -- and we still have them -- the American dream was real.

Asian and Pacific Americans have helped preserve that dream by living up to the bedrock values that make us good and worthy people. I'm talking about principles that begin with the sacred worth of human life, religious faith, community spirit, the honored place of the family, and the responsibility of parents and schools to be teachers of tolerance, hard work, fiscal responsibility, cooperation and love.

It's no wonder that the median income of Asian and Pacific American families is much higher than the American average.

After all, it's values -- not programs and policies -- that serve as our Nation's compass. They hold us on course and point the way to a promising future. And I'm pleased that Americans of Asian and Pacific ancestry are now eligible to receive business development assistance from the Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency.

And when we look towards the grand Pacific Basin, there's a promising future there as well. You may not hear much about our Pacific and Asian foreign policy, but then there's a lot of good news you don't hear about.

Our relations with our Pacific and Asian friends and allies have never been better. First of all, it's not all foreign policy. America is part of the Pacific -- there's Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the soon-to-be commonwealth status of the Northern Mariana Islands, and our special relationship with the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republics of Palau and the Marshall Islands. These countries are America's partners.

Partnership is also the starting point of our relations in the Far East. From Japan and the Republic of Korea in the north to the ASEAN countries in Southeast Asia, our partnerships are getting stronger, and mutual trust and cooperation are increasing.

I couldn't have been more pleased with the results of our trip to Japan and Korea. We're making progress on security issues, and trade and financial matters. The same is true with the ASEAN countries and I might note that Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia and I had a very useful meeting here at the White House just last month.

Our ties with the People's Republic of China are positive and expanding. Premier Zhao's visit in January points the way to increased trade, and greater exchanges and cooperation in various science and technology fields. Our trip in April will help broaden this spirit of good will and friendship. And remember, friendship gives both countries the freedom to disagree, even to criticize without fear of lessening cooperation and understanding. While we are strengthening our relationship with the People's Republic, we maintain very close economic and cultural ties with the people of Taiwan. And we will continue to support their needs and requirements in accordance with the 1974 Taiwan Relations Act.

America needs our Asian and Pacific American citizens.

You've enriched our national culture and heritage. You've upheld the beliefs that account for so much of our economic and social progress. And you've never stopped striving for excellence, despite times not long ago when you experienced terrible discrimination.

We need your values, your energy, and your hard work -- and we need them expressed at the polls, and within our political system. Those who escaped oppression have a special appreciation for America's freedom; and those who fled poverty cherish America's opportunity. So I urge you to get involved, stay involved, and run for public office. If you follow your hopes and aspirations, all of us will benefit.

Thank you and God bless you all.