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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 9, 1983

ADDRESS TO AMERICAN GI FORUM OF  
THE U.S. ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

DATE August 13, 1983  
LOCATION El Paso, Texas  
TIME 1:00 p.m.

FROM: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

I. PURPOSE

To recognize the contributions of this largely supportive Hispanic organization.

II. BACKGROUND

The American GI Forum is the oldest and one of the two largest Hispanic organizations in the U.S. It is a veterans group concerned with all issues of importance to Hispanics. The organization is basically conservative and supportive. The organization was founded in 1948 and has a membership of 165,000. This is the organization's 35th annual convention. You are the first President ever to address a Hispanic organization's annual convention. You will be made an honorary member of the organization at the close of the session.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The convention attendance will include 1200 delegates and their spouses, and 400 local people.

IV. PRESS PLAN

Full press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

(To be furnished by Advance Office)

Attachment: (Remarks to be furnished by Speechwriting Office)

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

MAY 25 1983

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Nat. Conv. American  
G.I. Forum

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIPOND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VILA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROUSSELOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ BLACKWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUNDSETH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCKALEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MORECI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JACOBI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEPSEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

*Please prepare a briefing paper*

RESPONSE:

*Cathy Villepardo  
2310 Monday  
go by her office  
after 3:00 pm*

Faith Ryan Whittlesey  
Assistant to the President  
Ext. 2270

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

MAY 25 1983

May 23, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: WILLIAM HENKEL/FAITH WHITTLESEY\* (\* To prepare briefing paper)

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*

SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Address the American GI Forum of the United States  
35th Annual National Convention

DATE: August 13, 1983

TIME: Early afternoon

DURATION: To be determined

LOCATION: El Paso, Texas

REMARKS REQUIRED: YES

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY  
PARTICIPATION: No

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

cc: A. Bakshian  
R. Darman  
R. Deprospero  
K. Duberstein  
D. Fischer  
C. Fuller  
W. Henkel  
E. Hickey  
G. Hodges  
M. McManus  
J. Rosebush  
B. Shaddix  
W. Sittmann  
L. Speakes  
WHCA Audio/Visual  
WHCA Operations  
A. Wrobleski  
Nell Yates

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Hold  
revert  
Mr. Trip  
Steps up. LWS M  
Paddy*

MEMORANDUM

MARCH 19 1983  
RECEIVED

TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY  
FROM: <sup>JWR</sup>FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

APR 28 1983  
SCHEDULING  
OFFICE

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING  
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Address the American GI Forum of the United States  
35th annual national convention

DATE: August 9-13, 1983

LOCATION: El Paso, Texas

BACKGROUND: See attached

*✓ WWS*  
**APPROVED FOR**  
Date. 8/13/83  
Time. Early Afternoon  
Length. TBD  
Date 5/23/87 FJR

*Proj officers  
Handled/Whittlesey \**

*\* To do  
brief paper*

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept  Regret  Surrogate  Message  Other   
Priority   
Routine

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS: This invitation is in line with the number 1 priority in our Hispanic Strategy, taking the President to the Hispanic grassroots. The American GI Forum is the second largest Hispanic membership organization. The GI Forum is a veteran's group dealing with all issues of importance to Hispanics. The organization is basically conservative and supportive. No President has ever addressed an Hispanic membership organization's annual convention. This first ever will send dramatic positive signals to all Hispanics. The convention in Texas will assure large membership attendance and places the President in one of the priority States.  
RESPONSE DUE 3-14-83 TO Fred Ryan

February 23, 1983



*John...  
09-13  
4-13*

127198

*stuff to  
Red Carney*

**STATE OFFICERS**

- CHAIRMAN**  
Edward Bernaldez  
P.O. Box 3012  
El Paso, TX 79923  
(915) 772-1442
- VICE-CHAIRMAN**  
Jose M. Alvarado  
1309 Augusta Road  
Ft. Worth, Texas 76126  
(817) 249-0175
- STATE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
Dominga Coronado  
P.O. Box 533  
New Braunfels, TX 78130
- CHAIRPERSON**  
Betty Rose Ferniz  
P.O. Box 14191  
San Antonio, Texas 78214  
(512) 927-6903
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**  
Juan Mireles  
8622 S. Zarzamora, Lot 223  
San Antonio, TX 78207  
(512) 925-6484
- STATE YOUTH CHAIRPERSON**  
Audrey Ayala  
415 Gillette  
San Antonio, TX 78221  
(512) 924-0107
- SARGEANT AT ARMS**  
Manuel Zepeda  
3416 Main  
Ft. Worth, TX 76110  
(817) 924-7504
- CHAPLAIN**  
Rev. Msgr.  
Erwin Juraschek  
Rte. 1; P.O. Box 20  
Chestahova, TX 78113  
(512) 745-2633
- FOUNDER**  
Dr. Hector P. Garcia  
1315 Bright Street  
Corpus Christi, TX 78403  
(512) 883-1789

Ronald Reagan  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The American GI Forum of the United States will hold its 35th annual national convention, August 9-13th, 1983 in El Paso, Texas. We will have approximately twenty-five hundred members from throughout the United States in attendance. This year's convention will address areas of importance to the Hispanic community of this country. Such as the state of Hispanic America, immigration policy, civil rights, and what we as Americans can do to support our country's concerns.

To this end, on behalf of the American GI Forum, we would like to extend a cordial invitation to address our National Convention on Friday, August 12, 1983, at 7:30 p.m. On this day the American GI Forum, with cooperation from the Department of Defense, will be honoring Mexico's Esquadron 201 (please see attached). An invitation has also been extended to the Mexican President De La Madrid to be present at the ceremonies.

This could be an excellent opportunity for our country to re-establish in a friendly atmosphere our appreciation for those fighting men from Mexico who so gallantly fought along side our forces to preserve peace in this hemisphere.

Thank you for your attention to this invitation. Hispanics throughout the country are anxiously awaiting a favorable response.

With best wishes, I am,

Respectfully,

*Eduardo Bernaldez*  
Eduardo Bernaldez  
Texas State Chairman

EB:mer

Enclosure

EL PASO, TEXAS

# "AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES"

SALUTES MEXICO'S "AGUILAS AZTECAS"



## Squadron 201



VETERAN MEXICAN PILOTS OF THE 201st SQUADRON WITH REPUBLIC P-47D THUNDERBOLT FIGHTER

The sinking of Potero del Llano and Faja de Oro, unarmed tanker ships, plus United States pressure to join the conflict caused Mexico to declare war against the Axis Powers on 22 May 1943.

Later a Mexican contingent, the 201st Air Force Squadron fought alongside American forces in the liberation of the Phillipines. Commanded by General Antonio Cardenas Rodrigues, they flew infantry support and other missions in P47 fighter planes suffering several casualties. These Mexican fighter pilots engaged Imperial Japanese forces in combat from June to September 1945.

Although they trained and flew American built airplanes, the costs for one nation were borne by the Republic of Mexico. Some of the Mexican veterans, of which for their action little or no publicity was given in the United States, today and for a number of years have resided in the United States. They have on occasion attempted to avail themselves of medical and other benefits awarded to WWII veterans only to be told, that although they fought to defend the United States of America they are not eligible for benefits because Mexico did not sign the Armistice Agreement. Other countries who did sign the agreement, their WWII veterans are eligible for certain veterans privileges in the United States.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 23, 1983

RECEIVED

MAY 23 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR FRED RYAN

FROM: Jim Cicconi  
SUBJECT: American G.I. Forum Event

SCHEDULING  
OFFICE

It has been suggested that the President address the annual convention of the American G.I. Forum, which is scheduled for August 9-13 in El Paso. I would like to add my endorsement to that suggestion.

This would be an excellent event, and is in keeping with the overall thrust of our Hispanic strategy. The G.I. Forum is, for the most part, a moderate organization, and has been supportive on a number of our policies. A Presidential speech to such a group would not only be unprecedented (and thus, somewhat dramatic), but would have a ripple effect among all Hispanic groups.

I might add that Senator John Tower has phoned Jim Baker to strongly urge that the President accept the G.I. Forum's invitation.

cc: James A. Baker, III  
Lee Atwater

*→ Be sure to notify both:*  
*- Joe Cano*  
*- national head*  
*- Ed Bernaldez*  
*- Tex State Div*



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Approved by MKD  
during 8:30 Meeting  
on 5/23.

May 23, 1983

**APPROVED FOR**

Date.

Time

Length

D

FJR

MEMORANDUM FOR: MICHAEL K. DEEVER  
FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*  
SUBJ: AMERICAN G.I. FORUM AND MEXICO VISIT

I have learned from Chuck Tyson that the Mexicans have agreed to a Presidential visit on Sunday, August 14, 1983.

I suggest that the President address the American G.I. Forum which will be meeting in El Paso, Texas on August 9-13, 1983. The G.I. Forum is a supportive hispanic organization that both Ed Rollins and Faith Whittlesey have endorsed.

The suggested scenario would be as follows:

Saturday, August 13, 1983

9:00 am - Depart White House

Early Afternoon - Arrive El Paso, Texas

Afternoon - Address American G.I. Forum

Evening - Overnight El Paso

Sunday, August 14, 1983

A.M. - Depart for Chihuahua, Mexico

Late Afternoon - Depart for Santa Barbara

Evening - Overnight Ranch.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approve

\_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

DATE: MAY 27 1983 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Briefing papers for American S.S.  
Forum Annual Nat. Conv.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
WHITTLESEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIPOND	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VILA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ROUSSELOT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRAF	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
✓ BLACKWELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SUNDSETH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCKALEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MORECI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GALE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Brennan</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JACOBI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEPSEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

*Ed Bernhalder*  
*915-772-1442 - when advised*

RESPONSE:

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

REVISED

5/25/83

MEMORANDUM

TO: WILLIAM HENKEL (Coordinate with Ed Rollins and Faith Whittlesey;  
F. Whittlesey to do briefing paper)  
FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*  
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Address American GI Forum of the United States  
Annual National Convention

DATE: August 13, 1983

TIME: Early Afternoon - exact time to be determined

DURATION: To be determined

LOCATION: El Paso, Texas

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY  
PARTICIPATION: No

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

cc: A. Bakshian M. McManus J. Vipond ✓  
R. Darman J. Rosebush M. Weinberg  
R. DeProspero B. Shaddix  
K. Duberstein W. Sittmann  
D. Fischer L. Speakes  
C. Fuller WHCA Audio/Visual  
W. Henkel WHCA Operations  
E. Hickey A. Wroblewski  
G. Hodges Nell Yates