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APRIL 14, 1986

PRESIDENT'S BACKUP COPY
ADDRESS TO THE NATION

MY FELLOW AMERICANS,

AT 7:00 THIS EVENING, EASTERN TIME, AIR AND NAVAL FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED A SERIES OF STRIKES AGAINST THE HEADQUARTERS, TERRORIST FACILITIES AND MILITARY ASSETS THAT SUPPORT MUAMMAR KHADAFI'S SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. THE ATTACKS WERE CONCENTRATED, AND CAREFULLY TARGETED TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES AMONG THE LIBYAN PEOPLE -- WITH WHOM WE HAVE NO QUARREL.

FROM INITIAL REPORTS, OUR FORCES HAVE SUCCEEDED IN THEIR MISSION -- ~~(AND ALL HAVE RETURNED SAFELY.)~~

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, IN NEW ORLEANS, I WARNED COLONEL KHADAFI WE WOULD HOLD HIS REGIME ACCOUNTABLE FOR ANY NEW TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS.

MORE RECENTLY, I MADE IT CLEAR WE WOULD RESPOND -- AS SOON AS WE DETERMINED, CONCLUSIVELY, WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH ATTACKS.

ON APRIL 5TH, IN WEST BERLIN, A TERRORIST BOMB EXPLODED IN A NIGHT CLUB FREQUENTED BY AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. SERGEANT KENNETH FORD AND A YOUNG TURKISH WOMAN WERE KILLED, AND 230 OTHERS WERE WOUNDED, AMONG THEM SOME 50 AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. THIS MONSTROUS BRUTALITY IS BUT THE LATEST ACT IN COLONEL KHADAFI'S REIGN OF TERROR.

THE EVIDENCE IS NOW CONCLUSIVE THAT THE TERRORIST BOMBING OF LA BELLE DISCOTHEQUE WAS PLANNED AND EXECUTED UNDER THE DIRECT ORDERS OF THE LIBYAN REGIME.

ON MARCH 25TH, MORE THAN A WEEK BEFORE THE ATTACK, ORDERS WERE SENT FROM TRIPOLI TO THE LIBYAN PEOPLE'S BUREAU IN EAST BERLIN, TO CONDUCT A TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST AMERICANS -- TO CAUSE MAXIMUM AND INDISCRIMINATE CASUALTIES. LIBYA'S AGENTS THEN PLANTED THE BOMB. ON APRIL 4TH, THE PEOPLE'S BUREAU ALERTED TRIPOLI THAT THE ATTACK WOULD BE CARRIED OUT THE FOLLOWING MORNING. THE NEXT DAY, THEY REPORTED BACK TO TRIPOLI ON THE GREAT SUCCESS OF THEIR MISSION. OUR EVIDENCE IS DIRECT; IT IS PRECISE; IT IS IRREFUTABLE.

WE HAVE SOLID EVIDENCE ABOUT OTHER ATTACKS KHADAFI HAS PLANNED AGAINST U.S. INSTALLATIONS AND DIPLOMATS AND EVEN AMERICAN TOURISTS. THANKS TO CLOSE COOPERATION WITH OUR FRIENDS, SOME OF THESE HAVE BEEN PREVENTED. WITH THE HELP OF FRENCH AUTHORITIES, WE RECENTLY ABORTED ONE SUCH ATTACK: A PLANNED MASSACRE -- USING GRENADES AND SMALL ARMS -- OF CIVILIANS WAITING IN LINE FOR VISAS AT AN AMERICAN EMBASSY.

COLONEL KHADAFI IS NOT ONLY AN ENEMY OF THE UNITED STATES; HIS RECORD OF SUBVERSION AND AGGRESSION AGAINST THE NEIGHBORING STATES IN AFRICA IS WELL-DOCUMENTED AND WELL-KNOWN. HE HAS ORDERED THE MURDER OF FELLOW LIBYANS IN COUNTLESS COUNTRIES; HE HAS SANCTIONED ACTS OF TERROR IN AFRICA, EUROPE, AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

TODAY, WE HAVE DONE WHAT WE HAD TO DO. IF NECESSARY, WE SHALL DO IT AGAIN.

IT GIVES ME NO PLEASURE TO SAY THAT, AND I WISH IT WERE OTHERWISE. BEFORE KHADAFI SEIZED POWER IN 1969, THE PEOPLE OF LIBYA HAD BEEN FRIENDS OF THE UNITED STATES. AND I AM SURE THAT, TODAY, MOST LIBYANS ARE ASHAMED AND DISGUSTED THAT THIS MAN HAS MADE THEIR COUNTRY A SYNONYM FOR BARBARISM AROUND THE WORLD. THE LIBYAN PEOPLE ARE A DECENT PEOPLE CAUGHT IN THE GRIP OF A TYRANT.

TO OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN EUROPE, WHO CO-OPERATED IN TODAY'S MISSION, I WOULD ONLY SAY: YOU HAVE THE PERMANENT GRATITUDE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

EUROPEANS WHO REMEMBER HISTORY UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN MOST THAT THERE IS NO SECURITY, NO SAFETY, IN THE APPEASEMENT OF EVIL. IT MUST BE THE CORE OF WESTERN POLICY THAT THERE BE NO SANCTUARY FOR TERROR; AND, TO SUSTAIN SUCH A POLICY, FREE MEN AND FREE NATIONS MUST UNITE AND WORK TOGETHER.

SOMETIMES, IT IS SAID THAT BY IMPOSING SANCTIONS AGAINST COLONEL KHADAFI, OR BY STRIKING AT HIS TERRORIST INSTALLATIONS, WE ONLY MAGNIFY THE MAN'S IMPORTANCE. THAT THE PROPER WAY TO DEAL WITH HIM IS TO IGNORE HIM.

I DO NOT AGREE.

LONG BEFORE I CAME INTO THIS OFFICE, COLONEL KHADAFI HAD ENGAGED IN ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERROR, ACTS THAT PUT HIM OUTSIDE THE COMPANY OF CIVILIZED MEN. FOR YEARS, HOWEVER, HE SUFFERED NO ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL OR MILITARY SANCTION. AND THE ATROCITIES MOUNTED IN NUMBER -- AS DID THE INNOCENT DEAD AND WOUNDED.

AND FOR US TO IGNORE, BY INACTION, THE SLAUGHTER OF AMERICAN CIVILIANS AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS, WHETHER IN NIGHT CLUBS OR AIRLINE TERMINALS, IS SIMPLY NOT IN THE AMERICAN TRADITION.

WHEN OUR CITIZENS ARE ABUSED OR ATTACKED, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, ON THE DIRECT ORDERS OF A HOSTILE REGIME -- WE WILL RESPOND, SO LONG AS I AM IN THE OVAL OFFICE.

SELF-DEFENSE IS NOT ONLY OUR RIGHT; IT IS OUR DUTY. IT IS THE PURPOSE BEHIND THE MISSION UNDERTAKEN TONIGHT, A MISSION FULLY CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE 51 OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION AGAINST HIS TERRORIST INSTALLATIONS WILL NOT ONLY DIMINISH COLONEL KHADAFI'S CAPACITY TO EXPORT TERROR; IT WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH INCENTIVES AND REASONS TO ALTER HIS CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR. I HAVE NO ILLUSIONS THAT TONIGHT'S ACTION WILL RING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON KHADAFI'S REIGN OF TERROR. BUT THIS MISSION, VIOLENT THOUGH IT WAS, CAN BRING CLOSER A SAFER AND MORE SECURE WORLD FOR DECENT MEN AND WOMEN. WE WILL PERSEVERE.

THIS AFTERNOON, WE CONSULTED WITH THE LEADERS OF CONGRESS REGARDING WHAT WE WERE ABOUT TO DO, AND WHY. TONIGHT, I SALUTE THE SKILL AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES WHO CARRIED OUT THIS MISSION. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE YOUR COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

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DESPITE OUR REPEATED WARNINGS, KHADAFI CONTINUED HIS RECKLESS POLICY OF INTIMIDATION, HIS RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF TERROR. HE COUNTED ON AMERICA TO BE PASSIVE. HE COUNTED WRONG.

I WARNED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PLACE ON EARTH WHERE TERRORISTS CAN REST AND TRAIN AND PRACTICE THEIR DEADLY SKILLS. I MEANT IT.

I SAID THAT WE WOULD ACT WITH OTHERS IF POSSIBLE, AND ALONE IF NECESSARY, TO ENSURE THAT TERRORISTS HAVE NO SANCTUARY ANYWHERE. TONIGHT, WE HAVE.

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THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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(Buchanan)
April 14, 1986
8:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT: SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1986

My fellow Americans.

At 7:00 this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities and military assets that support Muammar Khadafi's subversive activities. The attacks were concentrated, and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people -- with whom we have no quarrel.

From initial reports, our forces have succeeded in their mission, ~~and all have returned safely.~~

Several weeks ago, in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Khadafi we would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against American citizens.

More recently, I made it clear we would respond -- as soon as we determined, conclusively, who was responsible for such attacks.

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Khadafi's reign of terror.

The evidence is now conclusive that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime.

On March 25, more than a week before the attack, orders were sent from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin,

to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans -- to cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libya's agents then planted the bomb. On April 4th, the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the following morning. The next day, they reported back to Tripoli on the great success of their mission. Our evidence is direct; it is precise; it is irrefutable.

We have solid evidence about other attacks Khadafi has planned against U.S. installations and diplomats and even American tourists. Thanks to close co-operation with our friends, some of these have been prevented. With the help of French authorities, we recently aborted one such attack: a planned massacre -- using grenades and small arms -- of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American embassy.

Colonel Khadafi is not only an enemy of the United States; his record of subversion and aggression against the neighboring states in Africa is well-documented and well-known. He has ordered the murder of fellow Libyans in countless countries; he has sanctioned acts of terror in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as the Western Hemisphere.

Today, we have done what we had to do. If necessary, we shall do it again.

It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. Before Khadafi seized power in 1969, the people of Libya had been friends of the United States. And I am sure that, today, most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world. The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant.

To our friends and allies in Europe, who co-operated in today's mission, I would only say: You have the permanent gratitude of the American people.

Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of Western policy that there be no sanctuary for terror; and, to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together.

Sometimes, it is said that by imposing sanctions against Colonel Khadafi, or by striking at his terrorist installations, we only magnify the man's importance. That the proper way to deal with him is to ignore him.

I do not agree.

Long before I came into this office, Colonel Khadafi had engaged in acts of international terror, acts that put him outside the company of civilized men. For years, however, he suffered no economic or political or military sanction. And the atrocities mounted in number -- as did the innocent dead and wounded.

And for us to ignore, by inaction, the slaughter of American civilians and American soldiers, whether in night clubs or airline terminals, is simply not in the American tradition.

When our citizens are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world, on the direct orders of a hostile regime -- we will respond, so long as I am in the Oval Office.

Self-defense is not only our right; it is our duty. It is the purpose behind the mission undertaken tonight, a mission fully consistent with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. We believe that this pre-emptive action against his terrorist

installations will not only diminish Colonel Khadafi's capacity to export terror; it will provide him with incentives and reasons to alter his criminal behavior. I have no illusions that tonight's action will ring down the curtain on Khadafi's reign of terror. But this mission, violent though it was, can bring closer a safer and more secure world for decent men and women. We will persevere.

This afternoon, we ~~explained to the~~ ^{consulted with} leaders of Congress ^{about} what we were about to do, and why. Tonight, I salute the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our armed forces who carried out this mission. It is an honor to be your Commander in Chief.

We Americans are slow to anger: We always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, public condemnation, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded.

Despite our repeated warnings, Khadafi continued his reckless policy of intimidation, his relentless pursuit of terror. He counted on America to be passive. He counted wrong.

I warned that there should be no place on Earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills. I meant it.

I said that we would act with others if possible, and alone if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. Tonight, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

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On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Khadafi's reign of terror.

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Self-defense is not only our right; it is our duty. It is the purpose behind the mission undertaken tonight, a mission fully consistent with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. We believe that this pre-emptive action against his terrorist X X

installations will not only diminish Colonel Khadafi's capacity to export terror; it will provide him with incentives and reasons to alter his criminal behavior. I have no illusions that tonight's action will ring down the curtain on Khadafi's reign of terror. But this mission, violent though it was, can bring closer a safer and more secure world for decent men and women. We will persevere.

This afternoon, we explained to the leaders of Congress what we were about to do, and why. Tonight, I salute the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our armed forces who carried out this mission. It is an honor to be your Commander in Chief.

We Americans are slow to anger: We always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, public condemnations, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded.

Despite our repeated warnings, Khadafi continued his reckless policies of intimidation, his relentless pursuit of terror. He counted on America to be passive. He counted wrong.

I warned that there should be no place on Earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills. I meant it.

I said that we would act with others if possible, and alone if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. Tonight, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

(Buchanan)
April 14, 1986
6:00 p.m.

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM

My fellow Americans.

At ~~10:00~~^{7:00} this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities and the military assets of Muammar Khadafi⁷⁵ that support ~~his~~ subversive activities. The attacks were concentrated, and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people -- with whom we have no quarrel.

From initial reports, our forces have succeeded in their mission -- and ~~returned~~^{ALL HAVE} safely.

Several weeks ago, in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Khadafi we would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against American citizens.

More recently, I made it clear we would respond -- as soon as we determined, conclusively, who was responsible for such attacks.

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Khadafi's reign of terror.

The evidence is now conclusive that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime.

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We have other solid evidence about attacks Khadafi has planned against U.S. installations and diplomats and even American tourists. Thanks to close co-operation with our friends, some of these have been prevented. With the help of French authorities, we recently aborted one such attack: a planned massacre -- using grenades and small arms -- of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American embassy.

Colonel Khadafi is not only an enemy of the United States: his record of subversion and aggression against the neighboring states in Africa is well-documented and well-known. He has ordered the murder of fellow Libyans in countless countries; he has sanctioned acts of terror in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as the Western Hemisphere.

Today, we have done what we had to do. If necessary, we shall do it again.

It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. The people of Libya -- before Khadafi seized power in 1969 -- were for many years friends of the United States.

And I am sure that, today, most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world. The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant.

To our friends and allies in Europe, who co-operated in today's mission, I would only say: You have the permanent gratitude of the American people.

Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of the West's policy that there be no sanctuary for terror; and, to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together.

Sometimes, it is said that by imposing sanctions against Colonel Khadafi, or by striking at his terrorist installations, we only magnify the man's importance. That the proper way to deal with him is to ignore him.

I do not agree.

Long before I came into this office, Colonel Khadafi had engaged in acts of international terror, acts that put him outside the company of civilized men. For years, however, he suffered no economic or political or military sanction. And the atrocities mounted in number -- as did the innocent dead and wounded.

And for us to ignore, by inaction, the slaughter of American civilians and American soldiers, whether in night clubs or airline terminals, is simply not in the American tradition.

When our citizens are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world, on the direct orders of a hostile regime -- we will respond, so long as I am in the Oval Office.

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[To the families of the airmen missing in Libya, let me state clearly: I hold Colonel Khadafi personally accountable for their well-being. Professional military men, they are entitled to be treated as such. To harm these men, or any of the other Westerners remaining in Libya, would entail grave consequences for that regime.]

We Americans are slow to anger: We always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, public condemnations, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded.

Despite our repeated warnings, Khadafi continued his reckless policies of intimidation, his relentless pursuit of terror. He counted on America to be passive. He counted wrong.

I warned that there should be no place on Earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills. I meant it.

I said that we would act with others if possible, and alone, if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. Tonight, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

(Buchanan)
April 14, 1986
5:00 p.m.

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM

My fellow Americans.

At [] this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities and the military assets of Muammar Khadafi that support his subversive activities. The attacks were concentrated, and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people -- with whom we have no quarrel.

From initial reports, our forces have succeeded in their mission -- and returned safely.

Several weeks ago, in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Khadafi we would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against American citizens.

More recently, I made it clear we would respond -- as soon as we determined, conclusively, who was responsible for such attacks.

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Khadafi's ¹⁰ reign of terror.

The evidence is now conclusive that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime.

On March 25, more than a week before the attack, orders were sent from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin, to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans, that would cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libya's agents then planted the bomb at La Belle discotheque. On April 4th, the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the following morning. The next day, they reported back to Tripoli on the great success of their mission. Our evidence is direct; it is precise; it is irrefutable.

We have other solid evidence about attacks Khadafi has planned against U.S. installations and diplomats and even American tourists. Thanks to close co-operation with our friends, some of these have been prevented. With the help of French authorities, we recently aborted one such attack: a planned massacre -- using grenades and small arms -- of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American embassy.

Colonel Khadafi is not only an enemy of the United States; his record of subversion and aggression against the neighboring states in Africa is well-documented and well-known. He has ordered the murder of fellow Libyans in countless countries; he has sanctioned acts of terror in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as the Western Hemisphere.

Today, we have done what we had to do. If necessary, we shall do it again.

It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. The people of Libya -- before Khadafi seized power in 1969 -- were for many years friends of the United States.

And I am sure that, today, most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world. The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant, and, tonight, I want to pay special tribute to those brave and patriotic Libyans who risk their lives to provide us with the vital information we need to confirm Khadafi's role in these terrorist attacks.

To our friends and allies in Europe, who co-operated in today's mission, I would only say: You have the permanent gratitude of the American people.

Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of the West's policy that there be no sanctuary for terror; and, to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together.

Sometimes, it is said that by imposing sanctions against Colonel Khadafi, or by striking at his terrorist installations, we only magnify the man's importance. That the proper way to deal with him is to ignore him.

I do not agree.

Long before I came into this office, Colonel Khadafi had engaged in acts of international terror, acts that put him outside the company of civilized men. For years, however, he suffered no economic or political or military sanction. And the atrocities mounted in number -- as did the innocent dead and wounded.

And for us to ignore, by inaction, the slaughter of American civilians and American soldiers, whether in night clubs or airline terminals, is simply not in the American tradition.

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Tonight, I salute the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our armed forces who carried out this mission: It is an honor to be your Commander in Chief. [Nancy and I join all Americans -- and all civilized people -- in grieving for those who made the supreme sacrifice.]

[To the families of the airmen missing in Libya, let me state clearly: I hold Colonel Khadafi personally accountable for their well-being. Professional military men, they are entitled to be treated as such. To harm these men, or any of the other Westerners remaining in Libya, would entail grave consequences for that regime.]

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We Americans are slow to anger; ~~and~~^{we} always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, public condemnations, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded.

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~~Finally~~, I said that we would act with others if possible, ~~and~~^{and} alone, if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. Tonight, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

(Buchanan)
April 14, 1986
4:45 p.m.

SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM
~~MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1986~~

~~PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT:~~ ~~title~~

My fellow Americans.

At [] this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities and the military assets of Muammar Khadafi that support his subversive activities. The attacks were concentrated, and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people -- with whom we have no quarrel.

From initial reports, our forces have succeeded in their mission -- and returned safely.

Several weeks ago, in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Khadafi we would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against American citizens.

More recently, I made it clear we would respond -- as soon as we determined, conclusively, who was responsible for such attacks.

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Khadafi's reign of terror.

The evidence is now conclusive that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime.

On March 25, more than a week before the attack, orders were sent from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin, to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans, that would cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libya's agents then planted the bomb at La Belle discotheque. On April 4th, the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the following morning. The next day, they reported back to Tripoli on the great success of their mission. Our evidence is direct; it is precise; it is irrefutable.

We have other solid evidence about attacks Khadafi has planned against U.S. installations and diplomats and even American tourists. Thanks to close co-operation with our friends, some of these have been prevented. With the help of ~~our~~ ^{authorities} French ~~allies~~, we recently aborted one such attack: a planned massacre -- using grenades and small arms -- of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American embassy.

Colonel Khadafi is not only an enemy of the United States; ~~His~~ record of subversion and aggression against the neighboring states in Africa is well-documented and well-known. He has ordered the murder of fellow Libyans in countless countries; he has sanctioned acts of terror in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as the Western Hemisphere.

Today, we have done what we had to do. If necessary, we shall do it again.

It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. ~~For~~ the people of Libya -- before Khadafi seized power in 1969 -- were for many years friends of the United States. And I am sure that, today, most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world. The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant, and, tonight, I want to pay special tribute to those brave and patriotic Libyans who risk their lives to provide us with the vital information we need to confirm Khadafi's role in these terrorist attacks.

To our friends and allies in Europe, who co-operated in today's mission, I would only say: You have the permanent gratitude of the American people.

Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of the West's policy that there be no sanctuary for terror; and, to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together.

Sometimes, it is said that by imposing sanctions against Colonel Khadafi, or by striking at his terrorist installations, we only magnify the man's importance. That the proper way to deal with him is to ignore him.

I do not agree.

Long before I came into this office, Colonel Khadafi had engaged in acts of international terror, acts that put him outside the company of civilized men. For years, however, he suffered no economic or political or military sanction. And the atrocities mounted in number -- as did the innocent dead and wounded.

And for us to ignore, by inaction, the slaughter of American civilians and American soldiers, whether in night clubs or airline terminals, is simply not in the American tradition.

When our citizens are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world, on the direct orders of a hostile regime -- we will respond, so long as I am in the Oval Office.

Self-defense is not only our right; it is our duty. It is the purpose behind the mission undertaken tonight, ~~A~~ mission fully consistent with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. We believe that this pre-emptive action against his terrorist installations will not only diminish Colonel Khadafi's capacity to export terror; ~~they~~^{it} will provide him with incentives and reasons to alter his criminal behavior. I have no illusions that tonight's action will ring down the curtain on Khadafi's reign of terror. But this mission, violent though it was, can bring closer a safer and more secure world for decent men and women. We will persevere.

Tonight, I salute the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our armed forces who carried out this mission: It is an honor to be your Commander in Chief. [Nancy and I join all americans -- and all civilized people -- in grieving for those who made the supreme sacrifice.]

[To the families of the airmen missing in Libya, let me state clearly: I hold Colonel Khadafi personally accountable for their well-being. Professional military men, they are entitled to be treated as such. To harm these men, or any of the other Westerners remaining in Libya, would entail grave consequences for that regime.]

We Americans are slow to anger, and always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, public condemnations, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. None succeeded.

Despite our repeated warnings, Khadafi continued his reckless policies of intimidation, his relentless pursuit of terror. He counted on America to be passive. He counted wrong.

I warned that there should be no ~~place~~ place on Earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills. I meant it.

Finally, I said that we would act with others, if possible, or alone, if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. Tonight, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

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(Buchanan)
April 14, 1986
4:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: title
 date

My fellow Americans.

At ~~6:30~~ this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the headquarters, terrorist facilities and the military assets of Muammar Khadafi that support his subversive activities. The attacks were concentrated, and carefully targeted to minimize casualties among the Libyan people -- with whom we have no quarrel.

From initial reports, our forces have succeeded in their mission -- and returned safely.

Several weeks ago, in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Khadafi we would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against American citizens.

More recently, I made it clear we would respond -- as soon as we determined, conclusively, who was responsible for such attacks.

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, and 230 others were wounded, among them some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in Colonel Khadafi's reign of terror.

The evidence is now conclusive that the terrorist bombing of La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime.

On March 25, more than a week before the attack, orders were ~~transmitted~~^{sent} from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin, to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans, that would cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libyans agents ~~in West Berlin~~ then planted the bomb at La Belle discotheque. On April 4th, the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the following morning. The next day, they reported back to Tripoli on the great success of their mission. Our evidence is direct; it is precise; it is irrefutable.

We have other solid evidence about attacks Khadafi has planned against U.S. installations and diplomats and even American tourists. Thanks to close co-operation with our friends, some of these have been ~~aborted~~^{prevented}. With the help of our French allies, we ~~aborted~~^{recently} one such attack: a planned massacre using grenades and small arms -- of civilians waiting in line for visas at an American embassy.

Colonel Khadafi is not only an enemy of the United States. His record of subversion and aggression against the neighboring states in Africa is well-documented and well-known. He has ordered the murder of fellow Libyans in countless countries; he has sanctioned acts of terror in Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, as well as ~~in~~² the Western Hemisphere.

Today, we have done what we had to do. If necessary, we shall do it again.

It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. For the people of Libya -- before Khadafi seized power in 1969 -- were for many years friends of the United

States. And I am sure that, today, most Libyans are ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for barbarism around the world. The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant, and, tonight, I want to pay special tribute to those brave and patriotic Libyans who risked ~~ed~~ their lives to provide us with the vital information we needed ~~ed~~ to confirm Khadafi's role in these terrorist attacks.

To our friends and allies in Europe, who co-operated in today's mission, I would only say: You have the permanent gratitude of the ~~people of the United States.~~ ^{American} ~~people of the United States.~~

Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil. It must be the core of the ~~West's~~ ^{West's} policy that there ~~can~~ be no sanctuary for terror; and, to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations must unite and work together.

Sometimes, it is said that by imposing sanctions against Colonel Khadafi, or by striking at his terrorist installations, we only magnify the man's importance. That the proper way to deal with him is to ignore him.

I do not agree.

Long before I came into this office, Colonel Khadafi had engaged in acts of international terror, acts that put him outside the company of civilized men. For years, however, he suffered no economic or political or military sanction. And the atrocities mounted in number -- as did the innocent dead and wounded.

And for us to ignore, by inaction, the slaughter of American civilians and American soldiers, whether in ~~nightclubs~~ or airline terminals, is simply not in the American tradition.

*A mission fully consistent with Article 51
of the United Nations
Charter.*

- 4 -

When our citizens ~~are~~ are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world, on the direct orders of a hostile regime -- we will respond, so long as I am in the Oval Office.

Self-defense is not only our right; it is our duty. It is the purpose behind the mission undertaken tonight. We believe that ~~these~~ ^{*This*} pre-emptive ~~assaults~~ ^{*acting against*} upon his terrorist installations will not only diminish Colonel Khadafi's capacity to export terror; they will provide him with ~~both~~ ^{*both*} incentives and reasons to alter his criminal behavior. Violent though it was, this mission, undertaken this evening by American military forces, can result in a safer and more secure world for decent men and women.

Tonight, I salute the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our armed forces who carried out this mission: It is an honor to be your Commander in Chief. [Nancy and I join all ~~americans~~ ^{*americans*} -- and all civilized people -- in grieving for those ~~who made the supreme sacrifice.~~ ^{*who*} made the supreme sacrifice.]

[To the families of the ~~amen~~ ^{*amen*} captured and held in Libya, let me state clearly: I ~~will~~ ^{*will*} hold Colonel Khadafi personally accountable for their well-being. Professional military men, they are entitled to be treated as such. To ~~mistreat~~ ^{*harm*} these men, or any of the other Westerners remaining in Libya, would entail grave consequences for that regime.]

We Americans are slow to anger, and always seek peaceful avenues before resorting to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, public condemnations, economic sanctions, and demonstrations of military force. *None succeeded.*

Despite our repeated warnings, Khadafi continued his reckless policies of intimidation, his relentless pursuit of

terror. He counted on America to be passive. ~~And~~ he counted wrong.

~~When~~ I warned that there should be no place on Earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills, I meant it.

Finally, I said that we would act ~~together~~ with others, or alone, if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have ^{if possible} no sanctuary anywhere. ~~Today~~ ^{Tonight}, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

(X1)

*That support his
subversive activities.*

My fellow Americans.

[At [6:30] this evening, Eastern time, air and naval forces of the United States launched a series of strikes against the head-
quarters, ~~the~~ terrorist facilities and ^{the} military assets of Muammar
~~the~~ Quadaffi. The attacks were concentrated, and carefully targeted
to minimize casualties among the Libyan people---with whom we have
no quarrel.

#2

[From initial reports, our forces have succeeded² in their mission---and returned ~~XXXXX~~ safely.

[Several weeks ago, in New Orleans, I warned Colonel Khadafi ^{we} that would hold his regime accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched against ~~MM~~ American citizens.

[More recently, I made it clear ^{that} we would respond³---as soon as we determined, conclusively, who was responsible for such ~~XXXXX~~ attacks.

g

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club ~~in~~ frequented by American servicemen. Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman were killed, ~~in that terrorist attack,~~ and 230 others were wounded. ~~Among them~~ were some 50 American military personnel. This monstrous brutality is but the latest act in ~~Colonel~~ Colonel ~~Qa~~ Khadafi's reign of terror.

The evidence is now ^{Conclusive} irrefutable that the ~~XXX~~ terrorist bombing of the La Belle discotheque was planned and executed under the direct orders of the Libyan regime ~~operating through their agents in the Libyan ~~XXX~~ Peoples Bureau in East Berlin.~~

On March 25, more than ^a week before the attack, orders were transmitted from Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin, to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans, ^{That would} The objective was to cause maximum and indiscriminate casualties. Libyan agents in Western Berlin then planted the bomb at the La Belle discotheque, and on ~~XXXXX~~ April 4th, the People's Bureau ~~XXX~~ alerted Tripoli that the attack would be carried out the ^{Following} ~~XXXXXX~~ next morning. The next day, they reported back to Tripoli ^{on} the great success of their mission. Our evidence is direct; it is precise; it is ~~XXX~~ irrefutable.

[We have other solid evidence about attacks Khadafi has
~~made~~ planned against ^{U.S.} American installations, ^{and} U.S. diplomats and
even American tourists. Thanks to close co-operation with our
^{Friends} fiends, some of these have been aborted. With the help of our
ⁿ French allies, we abort ^{ed} one such attack ~~---~~ a planned massacre ~~---~~
using grenades and small arms---of civilians waiting in line for visas
at an American embassy.

But Colonel Khadai is not only an enemy of the United States. His record of subversion and aggression against ^{the} his neighboring states in Africa is well-documented and well-known. He has ordered the murder of fellow Libyans in ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ countless Western countries; ^{and} he has sanctioned acts of terror in ^{Africa,} Europe, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{and} the Middle East, ~~Africa~~ as well as ^{my} the Western Hemisphere.

Today, ^{we} we have done what we had to do, ^{and} if necessary we ~~will~~ ^{shall} do it again ~~and~~.

It gives me no pleasure to say that, and I wish it were otherwise. For the ~~people~~ people of Libya ^{in 1969}----before Khadafi seized power---were for many years ^{the} the friends of the United States. And I am sure that, today, ^{most} there are many Libyans ^{are} ashamed and disgusted that this man has made their country a synonym for ~~terror and barbarism~~ around the world. ~~All those innocent victims who have died as a~~ ~~result~~ The Libyan people are a decent people caught in the grip of a tyrant, and, tonight, I want to pay special tribute to those brave and patriotic Libyans who risked their lives to provide us with the vital information we needed to confirm Khadafi's role in these terrorist attacks.

To our friends and allies in Europe, who co-operated in today's mission, I would only say: You have the permanent gratitude of the people of the United States.

Europeans who remember history understand better than most that there is no security, no safety, in the appeasement of evil.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ It must be the core of the West's policy that there can be no sanctuary for terror; ^{and} to sustain such a policy, free men and free nations ~~may~~ ^{unite and} must work together.

9 [I salute tonight, the skill and professionalism of the men and women of our armed forces who have carried out this mission: It is an honor to be your Commander in Chief. [Nancy and I join all Americans---and all civilized people---in grieving for those who made the supreme sacrifice, on this mission.]

[To the families of the airmen ^{captured and held} still alive in Libya, let me state clearly: I ~~would~~ will hold Colonel Khadafi personally ~~accountable~~ accountable for their well-being. As professional military men, they are entitled to be treated as such. To mistreat these men, or any of the other ~~Americans or~~ Westerners remaining in Libya, would entail grave consequences for the ^{that} Libyan regime.]

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

We Americans are a people slow to anger, and, before restoring to force, we always try peaceful means

must be paid when a policy of death and intimidation is practiced against the civilized nations of the world. There is no "victory" for Qadhafi today; he would be victorious only if he continued to murder Americans and others and paid no penalty whatsoever.

[To our brave men and women in uniform who have carried out this action: I am proud to be your Commander-in-Chief and salute the daring and skill you displayed. [Those who died did so on a mission of utmost importance. Nancy and I join all Americans and all the civilized world in grieving their supreme sacrifice.]

[To the ~~loved ones~~ ^{FAMILIES} of the airmen still alive in Libya, ^{Let me state,} I will hold Colonel Qadhafi personally ^{Accountable} responsible for their well-being and safe return. As professional military men, they are entitled to decent treatment. To ^{mistreat} ~~maltreat~~ these men, or any of the Westerners who remain in Libya, would ^{entail} ~~have~~ grave consequence.]

[We Americans are slow to anger, and always want ^{seek} ~~to try~~ peaceful ^{Avenues} ~~means~~ before we ^{Resorting} ~~resort~~ to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, economic sanctions, public condemnations, and demonstrations of ^{military} ~~force~~. ~~None succeeded.~~ ^{None succeeded.} ~~Responding, Extract Qadhafi of the day~~

In fair warning, I said that we "wish not to see our citizens kidnapped, shot, or blown out of the skies." Our warnings were ignored.

Despite our repeated warnings,
 Qadhafi continued his reckless and relentless pursuit of terror, *and his*
 and intimidation. He counted on us to be passive. *And* He counted
 wrong.

When I warned,
 I promised that there should be no place on Earth where
 terrorists can rest *and* or train *and* or practice their cruel and deadly
 skills, *I* meant it.

Finally, I said that we would act together with others, or
 unilaterally, *alone,* if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no
 sanctuary anywhere. *As* of today, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

April 14/1300

w/ President's Changes

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

My fellow Americans:

At _____ o'clock this evening, United States military forces engaged in a series of concentrated, carefully targeted air operations against Muammar Qadhafi's terrorist facilities and headquarters in Libya, hitting military assets that support his subversive adventures. Every effort was made to avoid harm to the people of Libya with whom we have no quarrel.

Initial reports tell me that our forces have successfully completed their mission (and returned safely).

A few weeks ago speaking in New Orleans, I said that we would hold Colonel Qadhafi accountable for any new terrorist attacks launched by him against Americans.

More recently, I made it clear that we would respond only when we had complete evidence as to who was responsible for such attacks. On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club known to be frequented by American servicemen. The bomb that killed Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman also wounded 230 others. Among them some 50 or more American military personnel. This monstrous terrorist brutality is but the latest chapter of Qadhafi's reign of terror.

We have unequivocal evidence that the attack was planned and executed under the direct orders of the present Libyan government through their People's Bureau in East Berlin. The objective was to cause maximum, indiscriminate casualties. On March 25, orders were transmitted from the Libyan government in Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans. Libyan agents in West Berlin planted the bomb at Le Belle discotheque. On April 4, the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would take place the next morning. The next day, they reported back to Libya on the success of their mission. The evidence is direct, precise, and irrefutable, ~~beyond any reasonable doubt.~~

We also have ^{Such} ~~such~~ evidence with regard to plans ^{Qadhafi has made for other} ~~for~~ attacks against American diplomats, innocent travelers, and American installations. Some of these have been thwarted thanks to close cooperation with our friends. One such ^{attack assault} would have been a grenade and small arms slaughter of innocent civilians waiting in line for visas at an embassy. We were able to abort that planned massacre. It is unlikely that we can be successful all the time.

with the help of French authorities,

Qadhafi is a global menace. His record of murder, blackmail, aggression and subversion is well-known and documented. He murders fellow Libyans and carries out terrorism in North Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and our own hemisphere.

~~Our policy has been clear and consistent. We will respond when those responsible for terrorist acts have been identified and that includes governments practicing terrorism or actively supporting it. The American people are not going to tolerate intimidation, terror, and outright acts of aggression. Nor should that be expected of them. I consider that the Oath of Office I took was a pledge to protect the God given rights of Americans whenever and wherever those rights were threatened. On last January 8, I imposed economic sanctions on Libya and called upon other governments to join us in collective action as a warning to Qadhafi to stop his support of terrorist activity. At that time, I made it clear that more forceful action would be taken if he failed to heed this warning. He not only failed, he stepped up his evil planning and boasted of it.~~

Today, we have done what we regrettably had to do and, if necessary, we will do it again. It doesn't give me pleasure to say that and I wish it could be otherwise.

Libya was for many years a friend of the United States, before Qadhafi seized power in 1969. I'm sure there are many, many Libyans who are ashamed that this man has made their country a symbol of barbarism through the world. The bloodied bodies on the floors of the airports in Rome and Vienna, one of them an 11 year old girl, people bomb blasted out of airplanes in the sky

MAY
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BE
ABLE
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and now this latest horror, this is not the doing of the people of Libya. Colonel Qadhafi, with his small clique of supporters, has squandered Libya's precious resources to build his military might and to send his messengers of hate and death throughout the world. I want to thank the brave and patriotic Libyans who have risked their lives to provide us with vital information on his intended terrorist attacks and the intelligence we needed to carry out today's operations.

To our friends and allies in Western Europe, I want to say: The American people owe a debt of gratitude to those who cooperated with us in this effort. Europeans who remember history understand better than most that appeasement of evil affords no safety. These steps by themselves will not end terrorism. The West will have to stand together, redouble its effort, and sustain a firm policy to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere.

Sometimes you hear it said that we just build up Qadhafi by paying him so much attention, that we should just ignore him, and thereby reduce his importance. How do you ignore the vicious slaughter of innocent people who have done no harm to anyone? In all the years we have not acted decisively against him, his crimes have only increased. He needs no pretexts; he continues his assault on the civilized world unprovoked. A stiff price

April 14/1300

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

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We also have such evidence with regard to plans for attacks against American diplomats, innocent travelers, and American installations. Some of these have been thwarted thanks to close cooperation with our friends. One such would have been a grenade and small arms slaughter of innocent civilians waiting in line for visas at an embassy. We were able to abort that planned massacre. It is unlikely that we can be successful all the time.

Qadhafi is a global menace. His record of murder, blackmail, aggression and subversion is well-known and documented. He murders fellow Libyans and carries out terrorism in North Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and our own hemisphere.

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To our friends and allies in Western Europe, I want to say: The American people owe a debt of gratitude to those who cooperated with us in this effort. Europeans who remember history understand better than most that appeasement of evil affords no safety. These steps by themselves will not end terrorism. The West will have to stand together, redouble its effort, and sustain a firm policy to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere.

Sometimes you hear it said that we just build up Qadhafi by paying him so much attention, that we should just ignore him, and thereby reduce his importance. How do you ignore the vicious slaughter of innocent people who have done no harm to anyone? In all the years we have not acted decisively against him, his crimes have only increased. He needs no pretexts; he continues his assault on the civilized world unprovoked. A stiff price

must be paid when a policy of death and intimidation is practiced against the civilized nations of the world. There is no "victory" for Qadhafi today; he would be victorious only if he continued to murder Americans and others and paid no penalty whatsoever.

[To our brave men and women in uniform who have carried out this action: I am proud to be your Commander-in-Chief and salute the daring and skill you displayed. Those who died did so on a mission of utmost importance. Nancy and I join all Americans and all the civilized world in grieving their supreme sacrifice.]

[To the loved ones of the airmen still alive in Libya: I will hold Colonel Qadhafi personally responsible for their well-being and safe return. As professional military men, they are entitled to decent treatment. To maltreat these men, or any of the Westerners who remain in Libya, would have grave consequence.]

We Americans are slow to anger, and always want to try peaceful means before we resort to the use of force. And we did. We tried quiet diplomacy, economic sanctions, public condemnations, and demonstrations of force.

In fair warning, I said that we "wish not to see our citizens kidnapped, shot, or blown out of the skies." Our warnings were ignored.

Qadhafi continued his reckless and relentless pursuit of terror and intimidation. He counted on us to be passive. He counted wrong.

I promised that there should be no place on Earth where terrorists can rest or train or practice their cruel and deadly skills. I meant it.

Finally, I said that we would act together with others, or unilaterally, if necessary, to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere. As of today, we have.

Thank you and God bless you.

RR changes

April 12/1700

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH

My fellow Americans:

At -- 9'clock

This evening, United States military forces ~~are striking a blow~~
~~against terrorism. They are~~ engaged in a series of concentrated,
 carefully targeted air operations against Muammar Qadhafi's
~~terrorist infrastructure in Libya~~ ~~against~~ terrorist facilities
 and headquarters in Libya, ~~against~~ *hitting* military assets that support
~~Qadhafi's~~ *HQ* subversive adventures, ~~and against the structure of~~
~~power that supports this evil regime.~~ Every effort ~~has been~~ *was* made
 to ~~minimize~~ *AVOID* harm to ~~innocent~~ *The people of Libya with whom*
we have no quarrel.

Initial reports tell me that our forces have successfully completed their mission (and returned safely).

A few weeks ago *SPEAKING* in New Orleans, I said that ~~Libya~~ *WE* would ~~be held~~ *HOLD*
 accountable for any new terrorist attacks *LAUNCHED BY HIM* against Americans.

~~Today, I am keeping my word.~~

More recently I made it clear that we would respond only when we had complete evidence as to who was responsible such attacks.

On April 5, in West Berlin, a terrorist bomb exploded in a night club known to be frequented by American servicemen. The bomb that killed Sergeant Kenneth Ford and a young Turkish woman also wounded 230 others, ~~who were citizens of many countries~~

Among them ~~55 Americans and 146 West Germans.~~ *SOME 50 OR MORE AMERICAN MIL. PERSONNEL.* This ~~is international~~

MONSTROUS terrorist brutality ~~on a monstrous scale~~ and it is but the latest chapter of Qadhafi's reign of terror.

~~In this particular case, We~~ have unequivocal evidence that the attack was planned and executed under the direct orders of the **PRESENT** Libyan government through their People's Bureau in East Berlin, ~~and that~~ The objective was to cause maximum, indiscriminate casualties. ~~Such a deliberate government policy of planning and conducting lethal armed attacks upon Americans and citizens of other nations is a clear act of aggression -- and Qadhafi's words have once again been matched by his deeds.~~

~~We possess unequivocal evidence of Libya's direct responsibility for this atrocity.~~ On March 25, orders were transmitted from the Libyan government in Tripoli to the Libyan People's Bureau in East Berlin to conduct a terrorist attack against Americans. Libyan agents in West Berlin planted the bomb at Le Belle discotheque. On April 4, the People's Bureau alerted Tripoli that the attack would take place the next morning. The next day, they reported back to Libya on the success of their mission. The evidence is direct, precise, and irrefutable beyond any reasonable doubt.

We also have such evidence with regard to plans
~~As I speak, Qadhafi and his advisors are planning even more~~
 for attacks against American diplomats, innocent travelers, and **AMERICAN** installations. Some ~~were~~ ^{OF THESE HAVE BEEN} be thwarted thanks to close cooperation with our friends. ^{ONE SUCH WOULD HAVE BEEN A GRENADE & SMALL ARMS} ~~But some attacks may yet be carried out.~~
 SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS WAITING IN LINE FOR VISAS AT AN EMBASSY, WE WERE ABLE TO ABORT THAT PLANNED MASSACRE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT WE CAN BE SUCCESSFUL ALL THE TIME.

~~Qadhafi is not a mere irritant as some suggest, but a global menace. His record of murder, blackmail, aggression and subversion is well-known and documented. Indeed, not only does he murders fellow Libyans and carry out terrorism in North Africa, and the Middle East, but Europe, Asia, and our own hemisphere, is feeling the effect of his violent tactics.~~

Our policy has been clear and consistent. ~~I have said that we~~
 We ^{will} ~~would~~ respond when those responsible for terrorist acts have been identified ~~I have warned that states practicing terrorism or actively supporting it, will not be allowed to do so without consequence.~~ ~~I have said that~~ ^{AND THAT INCLUDES GOVTS.} The American people are not going to tolerate intimidation, terror, and outright acts of aggression. ^{NOR SHOULD THAT BE EXPECTED OF THEM. I CONSIDER THAT THE OATH OF OFFICE I TOOK WAS AN OATH PLEDGE TO PROTECT THE GOD GIVEN RIGHTS OF AMERICANS WHENEVER & WHEREVER THOSE RIGHTS WERE THREATENED}
 ON LAST January 8, ^{I IMPOSED} economic sanctions on Libya and called upon other governments to join us in collective action ^{AS A WARNING FOR} ~~firm enough to~~
 TO QADHAFI ^{TO STOP HIS} ~~stop~~ Qadhafi's support of terrorist activity. At that time, I ^{MADE IT CLEAR THAT MORE FORCEFUL ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN IF HE FAILED TO HEED THIS WARNING} ~~received my right to consider other, more forceful action should HE NOT ONLY FAILED, HE STEPPED UP HIS EVIL PLANNING AND BOASTED OF IT. this fail to do the job. Qadhafi obviously refused to heed this message.~~

Today, we have done what we regrettably had to do and ~~said we would do to stop aggression and to stop increased terrorist attacks upon innocent people as a matter of deliberate policy by Qadhafi.~~ If necessary, we will ^{DO IT} ~~do it~~ again. It doesn't give me pleasure to say that and I wish it could be otherwise.

Sometimes you hear it said that the Palestinian problem is the root cause of terrorism, or that America's Middle East policy is part of the problem. Well, that's nonsense too. Extremists like Qadhafi aim their violence against those seeking peace; and the United States will not abandon its Middle East friends or its Middle East policies under the threat of blackmail.

Libya was for many years a friend of the United States, before Qadhafi seized power in 1969. ~~Even today,~~ I'm sure there are many, many Libyans who are ashamed that this man has made ^{THEIR COUNTRY} ~~Libya~~ A SYMBOL OF BARBARISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE BLOODIED BODYS ON THE FLOORS ~~an object of ridicule and disgust in the community of nations.~~ OF THE AIRPORTS IN ROME & VIENNA, ONE OF THEM AN 11 YR. OLD GIRL, PEOPLE BOMB BLASTED OUT OF ~~THE SKY~~ AIRPLANES IN THE SKY AND NOW THIS LATEST HORROR THIS IS NOT THE DOING OF ^{REPORT} ~~the~~ the people of Libya, ~~we have no quarrel with you.~~

Colonel Qadhafi, with his small clique of supporters, has squandered ^{LIBYAS} ~~your country's~~ precious resources to build his military might and to send his messengers of hate and death throughout the world. I want to thank the brave and patriotic Libyans who have risked their lives to provide us with vital information on his intended terrorist attacks and the intelligence we needed to carry out today's operations.

To our friends and allies in Western Europe, I want to say: The American people owe a debt of gratitude to those who cooperated with us in this effort. Europeans who remember history understand better than most that appeasement of evil affords no safety. These steps by themselves will not end terrorism. The

West will have to stand together, redouble its effort, and sustain a firm policy to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere.

Sometimes you hear it said that we just build up Qadhafi by paying him so much attention, that we should just ignore him, and thereby reduce his importance. ~~Well, that's nonsense. In all~~ ^{HOW DO YOU IGNORE THE VICIOUS SLAUGHTER OF} ~~INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO HAVE DONE NO HARM TO ANYONE? IN ALL~~ the years we have not acted decisively against him, his crimes have only increased. He needs no pretexts; he continues his assault on the civilized world unprovoked. ~~It is essential that~~ ^{MUST} a stiff price be paid when a policy of death and intimidation is ~~practised~~ ^{PRACTISED} ~~against the civilized nations of the world.~~ ~~followed by radical regimes like Qadhafi.~~ There is no "victory" for Qadhafi today; he would be victorious only if he continued to murder Americans ^{TO OTHERS} and paid no penalty whatsoever.

[To our brave men and women in uniform who have carried out this action: I am proud to be your Commander-in-Chief and salute the daring and skill you displayed. Those who died did so on a mission of utmost importance. Nancy and I join all Americans and all the civilized world in grieving their supreme sacrifice.]

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Thank you and God bless you.