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Mrs. Reagan's Remarks
Just Say No International Walk
South Lawn

Thursday, May 22, 1986

-- Welcome to the White House! And hello to all of you who are listening. Thank you for being part of the first international "Just Say No" walk. Look around at how many young people are walking with you today. And just think, there are groups as big as yours, or even bigger, doing the same thing all over the world! Can you imagine how many children are saying "Just Say No" today? Children everywhere are learning about drug abuse at an early age. And that's a good thing.

-- It's good because now if you are offered drugs, you will know what to do. You will have the courage to stand up for what you believe and say "No." You can be proud that you are living a happy, healthy life. And your teachers and parents are proud of you too.

-- Each one of you is very special and we don't want you to change. We love you just the way you are. Drugs can change your life and take away all the fun you could have. I've talked to a lot of young people around the world who've used drugs and they were very unhappy. They said they wished they had never started taking drugs. They told me how hard it was to get off of them and if they could, they would tell every person in the world to always say "No" to drugs.

-- So tomorrow when you go back to school, and all summer-long, just remember to keep telling your friends about the dangers of drugs. You may even help save someone's life by telling them how

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you feel.

-- Now I want you to imagine just how loud it would sound if all the children in the world shouted "Just Say No" at the same time. That's how loud you want to say it if someone offers you drugs. So let's practice saying "Just Say No."

What should you do when someone offers you drugs?

(Just Say No!)

What will you do when someone offers you drugs?

(Just Say No!)

I can't hear you, Louder!

(Just Say No!)

-- That's wonderful! And I know that will keep drugs away.

-- Thank you again for being with me today. I love you and am so proud of you.

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