

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title: Somalia-Troops Event				
Staff Office-Individual: Legislative Affairs-Rosner, Jeremy				
Original OA/ID Number: 4				
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Draft Pres Remarks 5-4

Tomorrow 10:00
Ceremony

-Randy Beer 5
x5066

New File: Somalia Troops Event

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

Remarks to Forces Returning
From Somalia

GENERAL JOHNSTON, MEN AND WOMEN OF UNITAF, THE UNITED TASK FORCE SOMALIA,

WELCOME HOME!

AND ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS, THANK YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

EVERY ONE OF YOU HERE TODAY REPRESENTS A THOUSAND WHO SERVED: THE FIRST MARINE DIVISION, THE ARMY TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION, AND OTHER UNITS. OVER THIRTY THOUSAND AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVED AT SOME TIME IN THESE LAST FIVE MONTHS IN SOMALIA: NAVY, AIR FORCE, ARMY, AND MARINES. AND ALONG WITH YOU THOUSANDS OF COALITION FORCES FROM OVER 20 NATIONS.

YOU HAVE MADE AMERICA PROUD. YOU HAVE SERVED IN THE BEST TRADITION OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE AMERICAN MILITARY.

YOU WENT TO SOMALIA NOT TO IMPOSE OUR WILL OR TO SEIZE TERRITORY.

YOU WENT TO HELP. YOU WENT TO FEED. YOU WENT TO BRING PEACE. YOU WENT TO RESTORE HOPE.

AND YOU SUCCEEDED.

WHERE ONCE THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS STARVING AND ANARCHY WAS RAMPANT, NOW FOOD IS GETTING THROUGH, AND THE VIOLENCE IS CONTAINED.

IF YOU HAD NOT GONE, AS MANY PEOPLE AS LIVE IN BUFFALO NEW YORK WOULD HAVE DIED BY NOW. PEOPLE ARE ALIVE TODAY BECAUSE OF YOU. AND THE PEOPLE OF SOMALIA HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK BEYOND THE SEARCH FOR THEIR NEXT MEAL TO TOMORROW.

BUT SOME AMERICANS DID NOT COME HOME. EIGHT DID NOT RETURN FROM OPERATION RESTORE HOPE. PRIVATE FIRST CLASS DOMINGO ARROYO, 11TH MARINES; LANCE CORPORAL ANTHONY BOTELLO, 7TH MARINES; PRIVATE DAVID CONNER, ARMY 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION; SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT DEEKS, 5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP; LAWRENCE FREEMAN, U.S. ARMY CIVILIAN; PRIVATE DANIEL HARRIS, 13TH ARMY CORPS SUPPORT COMMAND; PRIVATE DON ROBERTSON, 157TH ARMY FIELD SERVICE COMPANY; AND LANCE CORPORAL WILLIAM ROSE, 7TH MARINES. WE SALUTE YOU. AMERICA WILL NOT FORGET YOUR SERVICE. YOUR SACRIFICE IS OUR LOSS. YOU ARE THE BEST OF ALL OF US, BEACONS FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD, GUIDES TO A TIME WE HOPE WILL COME, A FUTURE WE NOW MUST EVER MORE RESOLUTELY STRIVE FOR BECAUSE OF YOUR EXAMPLE. TO YOUR LOVED ONES, WE EXTEND OUR HEARTS AND OUR PRAYERS.

DESPITE THIS SOMBER NOTE, GENERAL JOHNSON, YOU AND YOUR COMRADES HAVE WRITTEN AN IMPORTANT CHAPTER IN THE ANNALS OF INTERNATIONAL

PEACEKEEPING AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. YOU HAVE SHOWN THAT JUSTICE IS STRONGER THAN HIRED GUNS, THAT MORALITY IS MORE POWERFUL THAN LAWLESSNESS, THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WILL STAND UP FOR HUMANITY AND DECENCY IN THE FACE OF TYRANNICAL WARLORDS.

YOU ALSO LEAVE BEHIND A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE, WHICH FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS A SIGNIFICANT AMERICAN COMPONENT. YOU HAVE SET THE STAGE AND MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THAT FORCE TO DO ITS MISSION.

AND WHILE THE TASK IN SOMALIA IS NOT COMPLETE, YOU HAVE GIVEN THAT COUNTRY A CHANCE. NOW IT IS UP TO THE SOMALI PEOPLE TO USE THAT CHANCE TO REBUILD AND TO CREATE A SELF SUSTAINING, DEMOCRATIC, CIVIL SOCIETY.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO OTHER POSSIBLE MISSIONS, ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD, WE KNOW BETTER WHAT TO EXPECT AND WHAT IS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU DID IN SOMALIA.

WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE AMERICA WHO ACTS? BECAUSE THE WORLD LOOKS TO US FOR LEADERSHIP AND JOINS US WHEN WE DO ACT.

WHY DO WE HAVE TO ACT IN PLACES LIKE SOMALIA, WHERE WE APPEAR TO HAVE NO REAL INTERESTS? BECAUSE, AS HEMINGWAY WROTE, "WE ARE PART OF THE WHOLE." AND WHEN WHOLESAL SLAUGHTER THREATENS AND WE CAN HELP, WE MUST. FOR MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS UNATTENDED ANYWHERE, DIMINISHES ALL OF US EVERYWHERE...AND DISORDER IGNORED, SPREADS.

DOES SENDING AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN OVERSEAS MEAN ENGAGING IN OPEN ENDED, ILL DEFINED TASKS? NO. WE CAN AND HAVE DEFINED DISCRETE AND DOABLE MISSIONS, AND WE CAN AND DO BRING OUR FORCES HOME WHEN THE MISSION IS COMPLETED.

AND SO WE GIVE YOU A HEARTY WELCOME HOME, AND ALL AMERICA'S THANKS FOR CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF THE CORPS AND OF THIS COUNTRY. FROM THE SHORES OF TRIPOLI TO THE SHORES OF SOMALIA, SEMPER FIDELIS.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACE MAKERS.

Rm 375



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 29, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Secretary of Defense Les Aspin

RE: Honoring Returning Troops from Somalia

Lieutenant General Johnson, who commanded our military forces in Somalia, is returning to the United States. He and a 30 man contingent of his headquarters will arrive at Andrews Air Force Base at 8:30 a.m., May 5.

I believe this is an excellent opportunity for you to personally recognize the outstanding performance of our troops in the Somalia operation. I would propose a "South Lawn" ceremony to honor General Johnson and his troops on behalf of all who served in Somalia. Alternatively, you could welcome them upon their return at Andrews Air Force Base.

Somalia is a success story for the U.S. military. Your participation in this event would reinforce this success to the nation at large. I recommend you do this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Les Aspin", is located in the lower right quadrant of the page.

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