

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

4/27/00

Dear Kirk —

Thanks for your letter —  
Michael stopped by to see me  
a couple of months ago — I was  
very glad to see him, & happy  
I didn't know all the good things  
he'd done until you wrote.  
I can't promise, but I will  
carefully consider what you said.

Sincerely  
Bill Clinton

Bill Clinton  
Mouflet

Copied  
Echaveste  
Verveer  
Ballantyne  
Podesta



Jack Valenti  
MPAA

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## MEMORANDUM

Wednesday, March 15, 2000

TO: John Podesta

FROM: Jack Valenti

*Main / Melanne*  
*off - need to*  
*show MP's & also*  
*poss of doing things under umbrella*  
*Be*

Attached is a letter from Kirk Douglas to the President.

I would be grateful if you saw to it that the President personally reads this. Kirk is a loyal supporter of the President and one of the great producer/actor/director legends of the movie industry.

Also, may I make a plea that the President reply to this letter. It's not necessary that he give a direct answer to Kirk, but a simple acknowledgment, and a warm embrace as only the President can do.

*Many thanks*

*Jack*



# KIRK DOUGLAS

March 13, 2000

President Bill Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I have the temerity to write to you about my son Michael. I risk his disapproval in writing to you, but I'm so very proud of what he has done to serve his country, generously offering his talent, money and his passions to the causes he believes to be indispensable not only to this free and loving land, but the whole planet as well.

Years earlier, Michael anticipated the dangers of leakages in nuclear sites. Perhaps you'll recall he produced and starred in THE CHINA SYNDROME to illuminate the possibility of nuclear terror. (That has always stayed with him). He has interrupted his movie career to carry on the work of peace under the banner of the United Nations. Almost alone among movie stars, he has been in the vanguard of those who are strenuously engaged in the daily struggle to unite rather than divide.

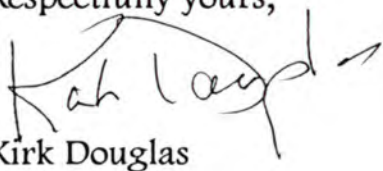
Right now, he is preparing for his golf tournament - Michael Douglas and Friends - this weekend we will raise almost a million dollars for the Motion Picture and Television Home. On March 20, he will address the MP's in the House of Commons as part of a meeting on Global Security and Non-Proliferation. He will talk about the need for leadership to reinforce international commitments to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

Page 2

I attach a brief catalogue of Michael's work. I humbly submit that you consider Michael Douglas as a most appropriate recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

God bless you.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kirk Douglas", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Douglas

**A Brief Catalogue  
of the activities of Michael Douglas  
to further the society's knowledge of  
and support for nuclear disarmament, peace,  
small arms reductions and abolition of hunger.**

- 1980 Michael helped form the National Alliance Against Violence with Jann Wenner which transformed into Cease Fire Inc.
- 1989 Kirk & Michael Douglas receive the Sheba Humanitarian Award for their charitable works from the Friends of Tel Hashomer.
- 1995 Premiere of "The American President" in aid of Cease Fire. Also recorded a series of PSA's that are still being used in the current campaign for stricter gun control.
- 1998 Michael receives France's Order of Arts & Letters.
- 1999 Michael is created a United Nations Messenger of Peace by Sec. Gen. Kofi Annan. Michael focuses his work as MoP on two issues: disarmament and human rights, concentrating on the right to human security. In the disarmament area, he is highlighting the necessity for nuclear disarmament as well as the need to stop the spread of small arms. As an American, he is using his MoP status to keep attention on the fact that the United States should pay the dues it owes the United Nations.

June 27, 1998  
Vienna, Austria

Just prior to his appointment, Michael participated in a United Nations commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by reciting the Preamble to the 1948 Universal Declaration at a Human Rights Assembly. Delivering a short speech on the right to human security at a panel discussion, Michael called upon the world to unite to "make nuclear weapons a horror of the past."

July 27, 1998  
Los Angeles, CA  
State of the World event

Michael put together a benefit cocktail event at the home of Sherry Lansing with funds directed towards the Middle Powers Initiative and the State of the World Forum.

September 25, 1998

New York, NY

*Disarmament*

Michael gave a keynote address to the Seminar on Initiatives to Stop the Spread and Unlawful Use of Small Arms, sponsored by the British American Security Information Council at UN Headquarters.

September 25, 1998

Ottawa, Canada

Michael met with Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Prime Minister Chretien regarding the Middle Powers Initiative.

October 30, 1998

New York, NY

*Disarmament*

Michael addressed the Women's International Forum at UN Headquarters highlighting his commitment to riding the world of nuclear weapons and calling for greater curbs on the flow of small arms.

December 10, 1998

New York, NY

*Human Rights*

In commemoration of Human Rights Day, Michael participated in presenting the Children's Human Rights Passports at UN Headquarters.

April 29, 1999

Santa Barbara, CA

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Michael attended an Abolition Strategy Meeting and the organizations annual dinner presenting Gen. Lee Butler with their achievement award.

July 20, 1999

New York, USA

*Disarmament/Human Rights*

Michael launched the DDA/UNICEF traveling exhibit Talking Aim at Small Arms: Defending Children's Rights at UN Headquarters.

October 11, 1999

Gramsh, Albania

*Disarmament*

Michael visited the DDA/UNDP Gramsh Pilot Project in Gramsh, Albania, to observe a demonstration of the destruction of weapons collected and the development projects given in exchange for the weapons. Visited also the neighboring region of Elbasan to encourage the citizens to extend the project to their region. Also, attended public events in Tirana



to call the attention of the national and the international community to the need for funding the projects. Met with both the President and Prime Minister of Albania.

November 15, 1999

San Francisco, CA

Michael headlined a gala benefit for the University of California, San Francisco Brain Tumor Research Center that raised millions of dollars for the treatment of brain tumors. It was in celebration of the inauguration of the Michael Douglas Pediatric Brain Tumor Program at UCSF.

January 26, 2000

Atlanta, Georgia

Michael attended the Atlanta Consultation with government representatives of several countries, US NGO arms control and non-proliferation experts, US government representatives, US legislators of both parties, parliamentarians and President Jimmy Carter. The Atlanta Consultation brought together all these representatives to identify the problems facing the nuclear non-proliferation regime from different perspectives and seek common ground for actions and policies.

February 22, 2000

Los Angeles, CA

Premiere of "Wonder Boys" in aid of Ploughshares Fund, a group Michael strongly supports, devoting itself to providing the resources needed by those working to stop the spread of weapons of war, from nuclear arms to landmines.

February 22, 2000

Los Angeles, CA

Michael and Gen. Lee Butler appeared at Annenberg School of Communication at USC to speak about the media's responsibility in covering the issue.

March 20, 2000

London, England

Michael will address MP's in the House of Commons on nuclear proliferation.

Note: Where I have italicized disarmament and human rights, Michael was acting as a Messenger of Peace on behalf of the United Nations.

Michael has also contributed millions of dollars over the years to many organizations, a cross section of which I have listed below.

### **Disarmament**

The United Nations  
Ploughshares Fund  
Handgun Control, Inc.  
Children of Chernobyl  
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
Center for Non Proliferation Studies

### **Human Rights**

Paul Robeson Foundation  
Hispanic Federation  
ACLU Foundation  
The Carter Center  
Global Green USA  
Human Rights Watch

### **Education**

The Allen-Stevenson School  
Citizenship Education Fund  
Claremont McKenna College  
Library Foundation of Los Angeles  
Pencil, Inc.  
Fulfillment Fund  
Safe Schools & Workplaces Committee  
UC Regents  
UCSB Foundation  
Working Playground  
Safe Future Education Fund  
City Scholars Foundation  
UCLA Foundation  
New Visions for Public Schools

### **Health**

American Paralysis  
American Red Cross  
Los Angeles Free Clinic  
Stop Cancer



Amfar  
Mary Lea Johnson Richards Institute  
NYU Child Study Center  
Barbara Sinatra Children's Center  
Council on Alcoholism & Substance Abuse  
Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International  
Cancer Research Institute  
Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation  
Ovarian Cancer Research Fund

### **Arts**

AFI  
Artists Rights Foundation  
Santa Barbara International Film Festival  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Motion Picture & Television Fund  
The Aspen Institute  
American Cinematheque  
The Market Theatre  
Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center  
Los Angeles Music Center  
Lobero Theatre Foundation

### **Environmental**

Conservation International  
Montecito Trails Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
Santa Barbara Citizens for Safe Water  
Trust for Public Land  
Rainforest Foundation International  
American Oceans Campaign  
NY Landmarks Conservancy  
Walden Woods Project  
NY Restoration Project  
Perfect Park Monument Committee