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Office of National Service - FOIA [Freedom of Information Act] Status [2]: [Memo to POTUS re: 1,000 Points of Light Initiative 3/31/89]

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: STEPHEN M. STUDDERT
FROM: GREGG PETERSMEYER
SUBJECT: THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT INITIATIVE

I. ACTION-FORCING EVENT

April 9-15 is National Volunteer Week. This is a perfect time to launch an initiative to give content to the concept of a "thousand points of light". We should seize this opportunity early in your presidency to take control from Congressional Democrats on the issue of national service in general and youth service in particular and to make good on your pledge in your February 9th Message to Congress.

II. ANALYSIS

The issue of national service has become a topic of much general interest, debate and discussion. See Fortune article attached hereto as Exhibit "A". The Office of National Service has since Inauguration Day acquainted itself with leaders in the field of voluntary service and their views. See list attached hereto as Exhibit "B". One group in particular, a group of dynamic business and community leaders dedicated to the concept of national service led by Ray Chambers of Wesray Capital Corporation, has been engaged in particularly interesting and exciting work in this area for the past month. See list of members of the Chambers group attached hereto as Exhibit "C".

III. RECOMMENDATION

- That a public foundation be formed called "Points of Light Initiative: A National Community Service Trust". A description of the foundation is attached hereto as Exhibit "D".

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

- That the President announce this foundation during National Volunteer Week and indicate that its work will be of such importance and so central to your mission of rebuilding national strength at the community level through community service that the President will serve as its Chairman.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

- That the first formal initiative of the foundation be the YES to America initiative. A description of YES to America is attached hereto as Exhibit E".

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

- That the President announce the YES to America initiative during National Volunteer Week, but in an address separate from the one announcing the foundation in which the YES to America initiative will be housed.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

- That the President indicate in your YES address that YES legislation will be submitted to Congress formally requesting funding as outlined in "Building a Better America".

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove

- That the President during National Volunteer Week sign an Executive Order that convenes an advisory council composed of the Secretaries of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Labor, or their respective designees and the Director of ACTION who would report back within 30 days as to their recommendations for devising and implementing a nationwide strategy of service.

_____ Approve

_____ Disapprove