

Chron

—

GARRICK FELDMAN

Publisher - Editor

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DEC 23 PM 1:33

*Mr. President:
I'd gladly run
a response to my
front page column
printers! See 7.*

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Publishers of the North Pulaski Leader and The Leader in Lonoke & White Counties

Dec. 14, 1997

'97 DEC 23 PM1:32

President Bill Clinton
and Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Clinton:

Thank you for remembering us again with a holiday card. If our letters are less frequent, that doesn't mean you are not in our thoughts.

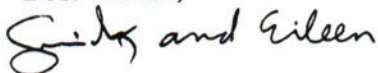
We were tempted to write to you several times this year about the inaugural ceremonies -- did Mrs. Clinton wave at us on Pennsylvania Avenue? -- and about other pressing questions, but thought better of it. Why bother when you have more important chores to attend to?

 We're enclosing a recent issue of our paper (which, by the way, has doubled in size during the Clinton administration) and would welcome a presidential statement on the future of Little Rock Air Force Base. As you know, Frank White is telling anyone who'll listen that you don't care what will happen to our base. Will Arkansas' last active-duty base stay open? Will it get new missions? Will it expand? Can the President issue a statement to the Leader on this important matter to the community?

A quick update: Rebecca is a junior at NYU, still majoring in dance and drama. Jonathan is a senior and Aliya is a junior at Parkview. Garrick's parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently -- a remarkable journey from the Holocaust and communist tyranny to peace and happiness in the New World.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. May you find the strength to overcome adversity and reshape the world into a better place.

Best wishes,



Garrick and Eileen Feldman

Open letter to President: Help base grow

To President Bill Clinton:
You've probably heard recent speculation about the future of Little

Rock Air Force Base. Some in the media tell us the base might not stay open for very long.

The Air Force denies the base will close anytime soon. But who knows what might happen a few years from

now? Community leaders are worried. Some have contacted you and told you about their concerns.

The way folks see it around here, it's better to react when you first hear rumors about possible realignments than wait till the deal is done. What with cutbacks in military spending and more base closings on the horizon, no community can ignore today's realities.

You can understand why people are worried. The base is one of the

We've heard military leaders say LRAFB enjoys the best community relations of any base in the country. That's got to be worth something. Let's not end that relationship.

Sure, military roles change. But everyone agrees our base has done a terrific job training U.S. and foreign C-130 crews.

Speculation is that the base will not train a new generation of C-130s and won't even get any new planes. Why slight the premier C-130 base in the world?

This base is the workhorse of military transportation. LRAFB has carried troops and supplies to trouble spots all over the world, including the Gulf during the war against Saddam Hussein.

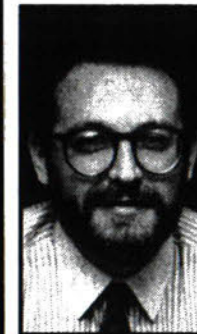
All we ask is that the administration not forget the enormous contribution our base has made. Talk us up among Washington's elite.

Check us out next time you fly to Arkansas. If you haven't seen the base in a while, you'll see it's getting better instead of older.

After you became President, we had hoped you would land here in Air Force One. The base was prepared for you. It can handle more than your limousine. Your entourage would get a secure reception here.

Why not drop in sometime as you did once in a while when you were governor? Sure, life is more complicated for you than it was back then,

(See FELDMAN, page 3A)



Garrick Feldman
Editor

largest employers in the state. Parents of some of those same community leaders who have contacted you helped bring the base here almost 45 years ago. They lobbied in Washington and raised money to buy the land that was donated to the military.

That was a smart investment. For about \$1 million, central Arkansas got a facility worth \$4 billion. Far more than that has been pumped into the state's economy over the years.

Even more than the rest of the country, southerners believe the military gives them the best value for their tax dollars. How is that for a vote of confidence?



Top of the Rock rocks crowd

Members of the Top of the Rock Chorus entertain during last week's Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce dinner at the community center. The group, based in Jacksonville, sings great American standards

from the swing era as well as religious songs. Top of the Rock, which sings acappella, has openings for new singers. (Leader photo by David Parker)

Hundreds to march

City to file complaint



Apple Days at First Jacksonville Bank

Teller Barbara Camp (right) hands an apple to Angela Mackey at First Jacksonville Bank and Trust, which last Tuesday and Wednesday gave away apples to its customers. The annual tradition is held just before Thanksgiving. (Leader photo by David Parker)

FELDMAN

(Continued from page 1A)

but remember who put you in office when you were governor.

Truth to tell, we had hoped that during your administration we would see new missions at Little Rock Air Force Base. We had visions of several thousand airmen and their families getting assigned here. They'd get a warm welcome from all of us.

Perhaps our hopes were unrealistic, but we figured you might put in a good word for us. Let's not make politics a factor in military decisions, but don't let us get overlooked, either. Consider our central location, not to mention our fine climate and the aforementioned citizenry that is pro-military.

How supportive are we?

Let's put it this way: Air Force people who spent many years here like this area enough to have made it their permanent home. They have taken their military skills and put them to good use in other endeavors. (Talk about making our military dollars go well beyond their initial investment.)

Several previous commanders who have retired here have made tremen-

dous contributions to the community. Col. McLyle Zumwalt helped establish Pathfinders schools and homes for the physically and mentally disabled; Col. Roy Hart runs the county aid programs for the state Department of Human Services, and Col. William Kehler heads the Junior ROTC program at Cabot High School.

This is hoping you'll visit us for the 45th anniversary of Little Rock Air Force Base in 1999, if not sooner. We could talk about plans for the base's

50th anniversary in 2004, when you'll have a less hectic schedule.

Your valuable attention in this matter is much appreciated.

Republican will meet a

The North Pulaski County Women will meet Saturday at the Esplanade Public Library, 308 W. Sonville.

The program on November 15 is politics and the speaker will be chairman of the District Republican

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President William J. Clinton

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20500

'97 DEC 23 PM 12:56

December 4, 1997

Dear Mr. President,

I wish to express to you and Hillary all my profound thanks for all the friendship you have demonstrated to me and my family in the wake of Yitzhak's death. Such friendship is rare to find and I cherish it in my heart.

It really was very meaningful for us - myself, Mr. Peres and all our personal friends, to present you with the first "Rabin - Peres Man Of Peace" award.

Your long time efforts to promote peace in our region despite the many obstacles will eventually achieve its goal - a new reality in the Middle East of co-existence and peace.

I hope this prize will enhance a wealth of individuals who will exemplify the vision and dedication to peace - which only a few years ago was unbridgeable.

The ceremony was of unique significance. Your special friendship and rapport with Yitzhak made it so personal and warm. All our friends were



truly overwhelmed by your speech and by the unusually warmth that harbored in the air.

We also were all very impressed and moved by Hillary's as well as the Vice-President's speeches. I would, as well, like to thank you for your effort to bring together all the American people involved in the struggle for peace. Your effort touched me deeply and is very much appreciated

At the same time I wish to thank you for your willingness to share and be the guest of honor in an event to be held next year in the United States in support of our efforts to build the *Yitzhak Rabin Center for Israel Studies*. This project ought to materialize into a wonderful institution as homage to the memory of the great leader and human being Yitzhak had been.

We would like to hold the event towards the third commemoration of the assassination, and we shall of course coordinate the date with your office. Again, my deepest heartfelt gratitude to both you and Hillary for your kindness and support during the last two years. I am especially grateful for your part in sustaining Yitzhak's legacy.

With my very best wishes to you,

Sincerely yours with all my love,

Lea Rabin

Lea Rabin



President William J. Clinton
The white House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20500

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12-23-97
TO BURKHART
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TO NSC

December 12, 1997

Dear Mr. President:

I have the distinct honor to forward to you the Message of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, for the celebration of the next World Day of Peace to be observed on January 1, 1998. 1997 DEC 23 PM 12:24

The theme of this year's Message is: *From the Justice of Each comes Peace for All.*

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew the sentiments of my highest consideration and to express to you and your family my very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely


Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan
Apostolic Pro-Nuncio

The President
William J. Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C.

- Enclosure -



MESSAGE
OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE JOHN PAUL II
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
WORLD DAY OF PEACE

1 JANUARY 1998

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FROM THE JUSTICE OF EACH COMES PEACE FOR ALL

1. **J**ustice goes hand in hand with peace and is permanently and actively linked to peace. Justice and peace seek the good of one and all, and for this reason they demand order and truth. When one is threatened, both falter; when justice is offended, peace is also placed in jeopardy.

Precisely because there exists a very close connection between the justice of the individual and the peace of everyone, in the present Message for the World Day of Peace I wish to address above all the Heads of States, keeping in mind that today's world, though marked in many regions by tension, violence and conflict, is nevertheless seeking a new composition and a more balanced stability, with a view to a true and lasting peace for the whole of humanity.

Justice and peace are not abstract concepts or remote ideals. They are values which dwell, as a common patrimony, in the heart of every individual. Individuals, families, communities and nations, all are

called to live in justice and to work for peace. No one can claim exemption from this responsibility.

At this moment my thoughts turn to those who, without wanting it, are caught in the midst of bitter conflicts. I also think of the marginalized, the poor, the victims of all kinds of exploitation. These are people who are experiencing in their own flesh the absence of peace and the terrible effects of injustice. Who can remain indifferent to their craving for a life rooted in justice and in genuine peace? It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that they achieve their desire: there can be no complete justice unless everyone shares in it equally.

Justice is, at one and the same time, a moral virtue and a legal concept. Sometimes it is represented as a blindfold figure; in effect though, it is the proper task of justice to be clear-sighted and vigilant in ensuring the balance between rights and duties, in fostering an equitable sharing of burdens and benefits. Justice makes whole, it does not destroy; it leads to reconciliation, not to revenge. Upon examination, at its deepest level it is rooted in love, which finds its most significant expression in mercy. Therefore justice, if separated from merciful love, becomes cold and cutting.

Justice is an active and life-giving virtue: it defends and promotes the inestimable dignity of every human person and is concerned for the common good, insofar as it is the guardian of relations between individuals and peoples. No one, in fact, ever lives in isolation. From the first moment of life, each human being exists in relationship to others, in such a way that

the good of the individual and the good of society go hand in hand. Between the two there exists a delicate balance.

Justice rests on respect for human rights

2. The human person is by nature endowed with universal, inviolable and inalienable rights. These rights do not however exist in isolation. In this respect my venerable predecessor Pope John XXIII taught that the person "has rights and duties, flowing directly and simultaneously from his very nature".¹ It is upon the correct anthropological foundation of these rights and duties, and upon their intrinsic correlation, that the true bulwark of peace rests.

In recent centuries, these human rights have been formulated in declarations of principles and binding legal instruments. In the history of peoples and nations in search of justice and freedom, the proclamation of these rights is remembered with rightful pride, also because it was often experienced as a turning-point after patent violations of the dignity of single individuals and whole peoples.

Fifty years ago, after a war characterized by the denial for certain peoples of the right even to exist, the General Assembly of the United Nations promulgated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. That was a solemn act, arrived at after the sad ex-

¹ JOHN XXIII, Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris* (11 April 1963), I, 1: AAS 55 (1963), 259.

perience of war, and motivated by the desire formally to recognize that *the same rights belong to every individual and to all peoples*. In that document we read the following statement, which has resisted the passage of time: "Recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world".² The concluding words of the document deserve no less attention: "Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein".³ It is a tragic fact that today this provision is still being blatantly violated through oppression, conflict and corruption, or, in a more subtle way, through an attempt to reinterpret, or wilfully misinterpret, the very definitions contained in the Universal Declaration. That document must be observed integrally, in both its spirit and letter. It remains—as Pope Paul VI of venerable memory declared—one of the United Nations' principal titles to glory, "especially when we think of the importance which is attributed to it as a sure path to peace".⁴

On the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, being celebrated this year,

² *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, Preamble.

³ *Ibid.*, Art. 30.

⁴ *Message to the President of the 28th General Assembly of the United Nations on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (10 December 1973): AAS 65 (1973), 674.

it is fitting to recall that "the promotion and protection of human rights is a matter of priority for the international community".⁵ Certain shadows however hover over the anniversary, consisting in the reservations being expressed in relation to two essential characteristics of the very idea of human rights: their *universality* and their *indivisibility*. These distinctive features must be strongly reaffirmed, in order to reject the criticisms of those who would use the argument of cultural specificity to mask violations of human rights, and the criticisms of those who weaken the concept of human dignity by denying juridical weight to social, economic and cultural rights. Universality and indivisibility are two guiding principles which at the same time demand that human rights be rooted in each culture and that their juridical profile be strengthened so as to ensure that they are fully observed.

Respect for human rights not only involves their protection in law. It must include all the other aspects which stem from the notion of human dignity, the very basis of rights. In this regard attention to education assumes great relevance. It is likewise important to attend to the promotion of human rights: a task which follows from love of the human person as such, "since love goes beyond what justice can provide".⁶ In the context of promoting human

⁵ *Vienna Declaration*, The World Conference on Human Rights (June 1993), Preamble I.

⁶ SECOND ECUMENICAL VATICAN COUNCIL, Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, 78.

rights, further efforts must be made to protect the rights of the family, which is "the natural and basic unit of society".⁷

Globalization with solidarity

3. The vast geopolitical changes which have taken place since 1989 have been accompanied by veritable revolutions in the social and economic fields. The globalization of the economy and of finance is now a reality, and we are realizing more and more clearly the effects of the rapid progress related to information technologies. We are on the threshold of a new era which is the bearer of great hopes and disturbing questions. What will be the effect of the changes taking place? Will *everyone* be able to take advantage of a global market? Will *everyone* at last have a chance to enjoy peace? Will relations between States become more equitable, or will economic competition and rivalries between peoples and nations lead humanity towards a situation of even greater instability?

For a more equitable society and a more stable peace in a world on the way to globalization, it is an urgent task of the International Organizations to help promote a sense of responsibility for the common good. But to achieve this we must never lose sight of the human person, who must be at the centre of every social project. Only thus will the United

⁷ *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, No. 16, 3; cf. *Charter of the Rights of the Family* (22 October 1983), presented by the Holy See.

Nations become a "family of nations", in accordance with its original mandate of "promoting social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom".⁸ This is the path for building a world community based on "mutual trust, mutual support and sincere respect".⁹ The challenge, in short, is to ensure a globalization *in solidarity*, a globalization *without marginalization*. This is a clear duty in justice, with serious moral implications in the organization of the economic, social, cultural and political life of nations.

The heavy burden of external debt

4. Nations and whole regions of the world, on account of their fragile financial or economic potential, risk being excluded from an economy which is becoming globalized. Others have greater resources, but unfortunately cannot take advantage of them for various reasons: unrest, internal conflicts, a lack of adequate structures, environmental degradation, widespread corruption, criminality and other reasons as well. Globalization has to be linked with solidarity. Special aid must be forthcoming so that countries which are unable to enter the market successfully on their own strength alone can in fact overcome their present situation of disadvantage.

⁸ Charter of the United Nations, Preamble.

⁹ JOHN PAUL II, Address to the 50th General Assembly of the United Nations Organization (5 October 1995), 14: *L'Osservatore Romano*, 6 October 1995, p. 7.

This is something owed to them in justice. In a true "family of nations" no one can be excluded; on the contrary, it is the weakest, the most fragile which must be supported, so that they too can develop their full potential.

My thoughts go here to one of the greatest difficulties which the poorer nations have to face today. I refer to the heavy burden of *external debt*, which compromises the economies of whole peoples and hinders their social and political progress. In this regard, the international financial institutions have recently initiated significant attempts to secure a coordinated reduction of this debt. I earnestly hope that progress will continue to be made in this direction by applying conditions in a flexible way, so that all eligible nations can benefit before the year 2000. The wealthier nations can do much in this respect, by supporting the implementation of such measures.

The debt question is part of a vaster problem: that of the persistence of poverty, sometimes even extreme, and the emergence of new inequalities which are accompanying the globalization process. If the aim is globalization *without marginalization*, we can no longer tolerate a world in which there live side by side the immensely rich and the miserably poor, the have-nots deprived even of essentials and people who thoughtlessly waste what others so desperately need. Such contrasts are an affront to the dignity of the human person. Certainly there is no lack of appropriate means for eliminating poverty, including the promotion of consistent social and

productive investments on the part of world economic bodies. This presupposes that the international community intends to act with the necessary political determination. Praiseworthy steps in that direction have already been taken, but a lasting solution requires a concerted effort by everyone, including the States concerned.

*A culture of respect for the rule of law
is urgently needed*

5. And what are we to say of the grave inequalities existing *within* nations? Situations of *extreme poverty*, wherever they are found, constitute a prime injustice. Eliminating them ought to be a priority for everyone, at the national as well as the international level.

Nor can we pass over in silence the *evil of corruption* which is undermining the social and political development of so many peoples. It is a growing phenomenon insidiously infiltrating many sectors of society, mocking the law and ignoring the rules of justice and of truth. Corruption is hard to combat, because it takes many different forms: when it has been suppressed in one area, it springs up in another. Courage is needed just to denounce it. To eliminate it, together with the resolute determination of the Authorities, the generous support of all citizens is needed, sustained by a firm moral conscience.

A grave responsibility in this battle falls on people in public life. Theirs is the duty to work tirelessly

for the equitable application of the law and for transparency in all acts of public administration. Being at the service of its citizens, the State is the steward of the people's resources, which it must administer with a view to the common good. Good government requires accurate controls and complete honesty in *all* economic transactions. In no way can it be permitted that resources intended for the public good are used for other interests of a private or even criminal nature.

The fraudulent use of public monies penalizes above all the poor, who are the first to be deprived of the basic services essential for personal development. And when corruption creeps into the administration of justice, it is again the poor who pay the heaviest price: delays, inefficiency, structural insufficiencies, the lack of an adequate defence. They often have no choice but to suffer the abuse of power.

Particularly offensive forms of injustice

6. There are other forms of injustice which put peace at risk. Here, I wish to mention two. First, *not having the possibility of fair access to credit*. The poor are often obliged to remain outside the normal financial system or to place themselves in the hands of unscrupulous money-lenders who charge exorbitant rates of interest. The end result is the aggravation of an already precarious situation.

For this reason it is everyone's duty to work to ensure that the poor have access to credit on equitable terms and at affordable interest rates. Actually, financial agencies offering mini-credit on terms favouring the poor already exist in various parts of the world. These are initiatives to be encouraged, for this is the path which can lead to the radical elimination of the shameful scourge of usury, by giving everyone access to the economic means needed for the dignified development of families and communities.

And what are we to say of *increasing violence against women and against children of both sexes*? Today this is one of the most widespread violations of human rights, and tragically it has even become a terror tactic: women taken hostage, children barbarously slaughtered. To this must be added the violence of forced prostitution and child pornography, and the exploitation of children in the workplace in conditions of veritable slavery. Practical steps are needed to try to stop the spread of these forms of violence. In particular, appropriate legal measures are needed at both the national and international level. If, as I have often stated in previous Messages, the dignity of every person is to be recognized and respected, the difficult task of education and cultural promotion must be faced. One element, in fact, absolutely must not be lacking in the ethical and cultural patrimony of the human family as a whole and of each individual person: awareness that human beings are all equal in dignity, de-

serve the same respect, and have the same rights and duties.

*Building peace in justice
is a task for one and all*

7. Peace for all of us comes from the justice of each of us. No one is excused from a task of such importance for the whole of humanity. It concerns every man and every woman, each according to his or her own competence and responsibility.

I appeal above all to you, *Heads of States and Leaders of Nations*, the principal guardians of the rule of law in your respective countries. Certainly this is not an easy task for you to fulfil, but it constitutes a primary obligation. May the codes which govern the States you serve be a guarantee of justice for the people and an incentive for an ever growing sense of civic responsibility.

Furthermore, building peace in justice calls for the cooperation of *every sector of society*, each in its own area of influence and in harmony with other groups within the community. In particular I encourage you, *educators* engaged at every level in training and educating the younger generation: form them in moral and civic values, instil in them a lively sense of rights and duties, beginning with the experience of the school community itself. Educate in justice in order to educate in peace: this is one of your primary tasks.

In the formative process, the *family* is indispensable. The family is the appropriate environment for the human formation of the younger generation. From your example, dear *parents*, depends to a large degree the moral character of your children: they assimilate it from the kind of relations which you foster within the family nucleus and towards those outside it. The family is the first school of living, and the influence received inside the family is decisive for the future development of the individual.

Finally, to you, *young people* of the world, who spontaneously aspire to justice and peace, I say: always keep alive the quest for these ideals, and have the patience and persistence to pursue them whatever the concrete situation in which you find yourselves. Be quick to reject the temptation of unlawful short-cuts towards false mirages of success and wealth. On the contrary, value what is right and true, even when to do so requires sacrifice and commits you to going against the current. Thus it is that "from the justice of each comes peace for all".

Sharing, the way to peace

8. The Jubilee of the Year 2000 is fast approaching, a time which for believers is devoted in a special way to God, the Lord of history, a reminder to all of the radical dependence of the creature on the Creator. But in the Biblical tradition it was also a time for freeing slaves, for returning land to its

rightful owner, for forgiving debts, thus restoring the conditions of equality willed by God among all the members of the people. It is therefore a special time for seeking that justice which leads to peace.

By virtue of their faith in the God who is love and of their sharing in Christ's universal redemption, Christians are called to act justly and to live in peace with all, for "Jesus does not merely give us peace. He gives us *his* Peace accompanied by *his* Justice. He *is* Peace and Justice. He becomes *our* Peace and *our* Justice".¹⁰ I said these words almost twenty years ago, but against the backdrop of the radical changes now taking place they assume an even more specific and vital meaning.

The distinctive mark of the Christian, today more than ever, must be love for the poor, the weak, the suffering. Living out this demanding commitment requires a total reversal of the alleged values which make people seek only their own good: power, pleasure, the unscrupulous accumulation of wealth. Yes, it is precisely to this radical conversion that Christ's disciples are called. Those who commit themselves to following this path will truly experience "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (*Rom* 14:17), and will taste "the peaceful fruit of righteousness" (*Heb* 12:11).

I wish to repeat to the Christians of all continents the admonishment of the Second Vatican Council: "The demands of justice should first be satisfied, lest

¹⁰ JOHN PAUL II, *Homily at Yankee Stadium, New York* (2 October 1979), 1: AAS 71 (1979), 1169.

the giving of what is due in justice be represented as the offering of a charitable gift".¹¹ A society of genuine solidarity can be built only if the well-off, in helping the poor, do not stop at giving from what they do not need. Moreover, offering material things is not enough: what is needed is *a spirit of sharing*, so that we consider it an honour to be able to devote our care and attention to the needs of our brothers and sisters in difficulty. Christians, the followers of other religions and numberless men and women of good will today feel called to a simple life-style as a condition for making the just sharing of the fruits of God's creation a reality. Those living in poverty can wait no longer: they need help *now* and so have a right to receive *immediately* what they need.

The Holy Spirit at work in the world

9. The First Sunday of Advent marked the beginning of the second year of immediate preparation for the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000, dedicated to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of hope is at work in the world. He is present in the selfless service of those who work alongside the outcast and the suffering, those who welcome immigrants and refugees, those who bravely refuse to reject a person or a whole group for ethnic, cultural or religious reasons. He is especially present in the generous activity of all who

¹¹ Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 8.

patiently and perseveringly continue to promote peace and reconciliation between people who were once opponents and enemies. Indeed, these are signs of hope which encourage us to seek the justice which leads to peace.

The heart of the Gospel message is Christ, who is everyone's peace and reconciliation. May his countenance shine upon the path of humanity as it prepares to cross the threshold of the Third Millennium!

May his justice and his peace become a gift for all, without distinction!

"Then shall the wilderness be fertile land
and fertile land become forest.

In the wilderness justice will come to live,
and integrity in the fertile land;
integrity will bring peace,
justice give everlasting security" (*Is 32:15-17*).

From the Vatican, 8 December 1997.

Joannes Paulus II

12-23-97
TO BURKHARDT
FOR REPLY?

Yes
Carmel
MS

Stg/Sec

'97 DEC 23 PM 12:55

Pete Hamill

p.o. box 3398/ Church St. Station/ New York NY 10008-3398

Dec 11/ 97

Dear Mr. President,

This is a follow-up to our brief talk last night at Bill Richardson's apartment. Specifically, about one aspect of the situation in Northern Ireland.

A problem crucial to both short-term and long-term solutions is the situation of some of the "hard cases" of the IRA. These are men, now in their mid-30s or older, whose lives have been completely mauled by the struggle in that province since the late 1960s. Some have emerged from years in prison to a world in which their families have been shattered, wives departed, children become strangers. In prison, in blindly foolish adherence to the nationalist faith, they refused to partake in any programs sponsored by the British crown, and therefore are completely uneducated for the mundane world of peace. These were the people who broke the last ceasefire. They have a certain contempt -- a kind of class disdain of the educated man -- for Gerry Adams. They've lost their youth to The Cause and feel they have gained absolutely nothing from all the years of sacrifice. They must know in their bones that the old utopian dream of a United Ireland is beyond reach, but they are still capable of destruction and violence as a form of therapy. Unless they are brought into the general society, there can be no peace.

My suggestion: convince the Ireland Fund, or some other non-governmental agency, to create an equivalent to our G.I. Bill of Rights, in my opinion the most successful American governmental program of the second half of this century. Such a fund would initially provide tuition for education: in the use of computers, the creation of small businesses, the mastery of a vocation or craft. Upon completion of the educational part of the program, loans could be provided to set up shops or businesses, or to get mortgages on homes. Police records would not matter; the past would be considered the past. In that spirit, during the early stage, neither the Irish nor British governments should be directly involved.

Such a program would, of course, be open to all those Loyalist paramilitaries who served time in prison during these same years. It should not be perceived as a reward for terrorism but as a practical means of transforming men and women -- no longer young -- into productive citizens of the Irish 21st century. Common sense should convince everybody that it is in nobody's interest to have a part of the population in a state of permanent alienation and resentment -- a group that has already been schooled to the techniques of violence. Remember: as the peace process goes on, more and more prisoners will be released, and there must be a system in place to help them make the transition to civilian life. They can't

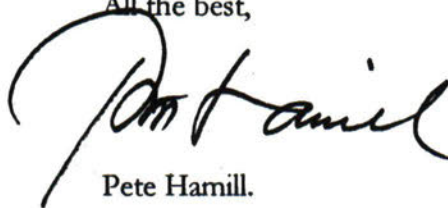
be left to roam from the dole office to the pub, while resentment fuels their bitterness. Some citizens of the North might see these former prisoners as common criminals. Others might view them as patriots or defenders of the faith. None of that should get in the way of their redemption, a notion, after all, common to all branches of Christianity.

I have no way to know what such a program would cost. Perhaps, after a year or so, if the peace process succeeds, Irish and British government funds could supplement the initial funding. But that might not be necessary. There might be money available from the EEC, or outfits like the Ford Foundation. American multi-nationals – IBM, ATT – might provide staff, hardware, programs for training. Somebody from Queens University, Belfast, might be enlisted immediately to make a hard estimate of the numbers of people who would qualify for such programs and the potential costs.

Obviously, this is not a single solution to the agonies of Northern Ireland. There is no single solution. But it could be one of those carrots that give people a vision of a possible future that might help them to bury the past – or at least cage it. Perhaps it could even be called the Fund for the Irish Future.

If you or your staff need to find me, the telephone number is 212-962-1035. The fax is 212-962-2360. It was great to see you, and hope to see you again, if, as Hank Williams used to say, the good Lord's willin' and the creek don't rise.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Hamill', with a large, sweeping initial 'P'.

Pete Hamill.

PS Don't miss Carl Hiassen's *Lucky You*. The guy's a mad genius of a novelist and deadly serious, like all the great comic writers.

PPS Our black Lab, now 10, is named Gabo, in homage to Gabriel Garcia Marquez, el gran Gabo. You will soon discover that this would be a better world if more of the people were like these amazing, intelligent, gentle and well-mannered creatures.

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A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

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The H

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1600 I

Washington, DC 20000

Dear Mr. President:

As 1997 president of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, I would like to commend your selection of a site for your Presidential Library. It is a highly visible and accessible location. It will be a great opportunity for learning; it will also be another excellent opportunity for many Arkansans and other visitors to experience good architecture.

Our Board of Directors feels strongly that AIA Arkansas architectural firms should be involved in this project in some fashion. The American Institute of Architects represents the highest professional standards for architects nationally, and AIA Arkansas members are among our region's most qualified. It is without a doubt that Arkansas architects can make a real contribution to the process of realizing the Presidential Library.

Whether or not Arkansas firms are incorporated into the design team, we would respectfully request that representatives of the AIA serve in an informational capacity. This means that we would have representatives who attend the presentation informed.

Finally, we
any capacity

Sincerely,

John H. Allison

John H. Alli:

12-23-97

To Burkhardt for reply?

Yes

No

B.

AIA Arkansas

A Chapter of The American Institute of Architects

10/25
'97 DEC 23 PM5:01



December 4, 1997

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The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

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Whether or not Arkansas firms are incorporated into the design team, we would respectfully request that representatives of the AIA serve in an informational capacity. This means that we would have representatives who attend major presentations, track the progress of the work and keep our statewide membership informed.

Finally, we offer our continuing support for your efforts, and are willing to serve in any capacity where we are needed. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John H. Allison, AIA

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72207
Telephone 501.663.8820
Facsimile 501.666.3828