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DATE: 8/13

TO: Jack Burgess

I thought you better
see this.

file
VFW

FROM:

Robert Hill
Presidential Correspondence
Room 90
Ext: 7610

WHC064(1507)(1-023560C225)PD 08/13/82 1506 1982 AUG 13 PM 4 14

ICS IPMWGWF WSH

02711 08-13 0402P EST

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2136140094 TDRN LOS ANGELES CA 134 08-13 0220P EST

PMS PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN, DLR

WHITE HOUSE DC

THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S. REGRETS YOUR INABILITY TO APPEAR BEFORE OUR 83RD NATIONAL CONVENTION. THOUSANDS OF VFW DELEGATES FROM ACROSS THE NATION HAVE ASSEMBLED TO HEAR YOUR REMARKS. RECENTLY YOU TRAVELED TO MONTANA TO CELEBRATE A CENTENNIAL. WE ARE HOPEFUL YOU CAN REARRANGE YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE TO TRAVEL TO LOS ANGELES TO SPEAK TO REPRESENTATIVES OF 2.5 MILLION AMERICAN PATRIOTS FROM ALL OVER THIS COUNTRY. THE TAX INCREASE APPEARS TO BE CLOSE TO PASSAGE.

WHILE WE APPRECIATE JUDGE CLARK'S APPEARANCE BEFORE OUR NATIONAL CONVENTION, YOUR ATTENDANCE WOULD INDICATE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO VETERANS PROBLEMS AND THE STATE OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE VFW WOULD APPRECIATE A FAVORABLE RESPONSE SO THAT OUR SCHEDULE CAN BE REARRANGED TO ACCOMMODATE YOUR APPEARANCE. EITHER AUGUST 18 OR 19 CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOU.

ARTHUR J FELLWOCK, NATIONAL COMMANDER IN CHIEF, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S. (IN CONVENTION) PHONE 213/614-0094

1438 EST

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draft

Thank you very much, Commander Fellwock, for that kind introduction. I'm not sure I know how to possibly live up to it. You may recall the story about Admiral Nimitz and General MacArthur, who were fishing together off the Philippines during the second World War, when a sudden squall capsized their boat and sent both men into the water. When they finally managed to climb back on, the admiral turned to the general and said, "Now, Mac, I hope you won't mention this to a soul. I'd be disgraced if the men of the Navy ever found out I can't swim".

And to this, the general replied, "Don't worry, admiral. Your secret is safe. Besides, I'd hate to have my men discover I can't walk on water."

Hold
Now, when you find yourself addressing an audience in the wake of President Reagan, you don't really expect to walk on water - you're pleased just to be listened to at all. I think our President did us all very proud yesterday morning... and from your reaction to his message, I suspect you agree with me.

Two years ago, the people of this country signaled their desire to turn away from the path of diplomatic retreat and unilateral disarmament. They said they wanted America re-armed - not may -be, not just a little, but re-armed to a level that would deter future aggression and prevent any adversary from confusing our hunger for peace with a taste for appeasement.

At the same time, here at home, they demanded an end to the pickpocket school of government, an end to double digit inflation, an end to the ^{turbulent} ocean of federal red ink threatening to capsize us all. The man and the moment met, and today, we are once again making good on the promise of America.

That, of course, is but one of many priorities you and this Administration have in common. Together, we envisage an America where government is the people's servant, and not their master. We see an America whose people can afford to enjoy the fruits of their labor -- instead of surrendering that bounty to the voracious appetite of tax collectors and bureaucratic regulators.

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In the last 19 months, President Reagan has done much to make that vision become reality. Thanks to his leadership -- and thanks to the vocal support of millions of citizens like yourselves -- we are giving this country back to the people who made it great, and defended it bravely. We have launched the greatest relief program ever -- for the American taxpayer. We are putting \$ _____ billion back into your pockets -- and we are entrusting you to make the decisions that will move our economy off dead-center.

We have finally begun to tighten the belt on Washington -- while continuing to care for those in genuine need. For any who doubt that commitment, I would call their attention to the 95 million Americans who will eat a federally-subsidized meal tomorrow -- or the 5 million college students aided by federal dollars in pursuit of a degree -- or the one million aspiring jobholders being trained with federal funds -- or the 3½ million who live in federally-subsidized housing.

This Administration is not abandoning its obligation to the needy -- only accepting the honest fact that government can no longer spend with reckless abandon, and that when it does it only burdens every citizen with an unbearable load of taxes, inflation and unemployment. No we have a different idea. We

are cutting taxes -- cutting the rate of growth in spending -- reducing excessive regulation -- and pursuing a stable economic climate ^{to restore prosperity,} ~~within which to make plans.~~ We are doing all this because the old ways have failed. And because we want something better than paternalism for the poor -- we want to offer them a hand up not just a hand out. We want a hard pressed middle class to keep more of what it earns. As they grow to adulthood, we want our children to have the same opportunity to enjoy the independence that comes with self-support.

Most of all, we want them to inherit a world at peace, where no one rattles a sword and no one drags a chain. And that brings me to yet another priority which you and this Administration share.

Perhaps no audience in America better understands the distinction between defensive and offensive weapons. Surely, none has been more generous in its support for an America whose defense is adequate to her needs. For you understand that great nations must shoulder great responsibilities. They must be willing to spend dollars for defense, unless they want to spill blood on ~~some distant~~ battle fields ^{again.} You understand the difference between outlaws and the law-abiding -- not only in our own neighborhoods, but in the global community. You

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understand strength as a deterrent to wrongdoers. And you have never hesitated to go public with that realistic assessment of the dangerous world in which we live.

And so it is, that this evening, in the midst of a worldwide debate on arms and arms control, I would like to spend a few minutes on this country's position and this President's efforts to halt the rush to doomsday.

Last November 18, 1981 President Reagan called for the "Zero" Option as far as theater nuclear forces for Europe were concerned; that is, withdrawal of U.S. Pershing II and ground-launched cruise missiles to be matched by the dismantling of Soviet SS-20's, SS-4's, and SS-5's already in place.

On May 9th of this year, our President unveiled his long-awaited strategic arms reduction proposal:

ICBM warheads down by about 50% to 5,000 for each side and all ballistic missiles -- land or sea-based -- down to one-half of the existing U.S. inventory.

Finally, on June 10th President Reagan called for sharp, mutual reductions over a seven-year period of the opposing forces on NATO's central front - to down to 700,000 for Warsaw Pact and NATO ground forces and 900,000 for ground and air forces.

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In each of these three dramatic Presidential proposals -- strategic weapons, theater nuclear weapons, and conventional force levels -- certain bed-rock, non-negotiable principles were evident. We insist that any reductions be mutual, equitable, verifiable, and significant in scope.

Of course, President Reagan is a man of peace. But he seeks a true peace, one that will endure over time. We reject the peace of Poland, an Afghanistan, or a Finland. We reject peace at any price - because we know it can become the first payment on an installment plan for war.

→ Such a form of American strategic surrender, however muted or disguised, will never occur so long as Ronald Wilson Reagan leads this Nation we love. Some who "freeze now and count later"...Well, I invite them to drop their placards, discard their slogans, and remember this: negotiation, like marriage, takes two. It has little hope of success without incentives for both sides to negotiate in good faith. No one more than Ronald Reagan hopes for an early end to the endless stockpiling of weaponry. But to freeze weapons at their existing imbalance would achieve nothing but a global stamp of approval on the Soviets' nuclear superiority. Or, to use a domestic comparison it would be the ultimate example of taking guns away from those who have them only for self-defense -- while leaving them bristling in the trigger-happy hands of international law-breakers.

There is nothing new in the popular desire to spend less on national defense. During a debate on the subject in 1789, in our constitutional convention, one delegate got to his feet and moved that "the standing army be restricted to 5,000 men at any one time." This prompted George Washington, as presiding officer, to suggest an amendment of his own -- to provide that no foreign enemy shall invade the United States with more than 3,000 troops at any time.

Freezing an imbalance of arms would be just about as effective as that original freeze on the size of ^{our} standing ~~armies~~ ^{army}. It would put pressure on this country and little or none on the Soviets. It would not materially advance the cause of nuclear disarmament -- on the contrary, it would all but destroy the justification for any genuine arms reduction. No -- the nuclear status quo is too deadly to enshrine permanently. President Reagan understands that thoroughly, and that is why he is inviting the Soviets to invest more commitment and less propaganda in stemming the arms spiral.

The Soviets claim to harbor strictly defensive notions. Tell that to the people of Afghanistan. Tell it to the residents of Warsaw and Gdansk. In fact, this "strictly defensive" military machine has been expanding at an alarming rate for the past 15 years. As a land power, you wouldn't think that Soviet defense requires maritime superiority -- yet that's what they've spent

tens of billions of dollars to achieve. Equipped with a land army already considerable larger than our own, you wouldn't think that Soviet defense would require adding scores of fresh divisions and four times as many tanks -- and yet that's exactly what they've done. As a nation saddled with economic woes, whose people are deprived of consumer goods and basic necessities, you wouldn't think that Soviet defense alone could justify spending \$85 billion more than the U.S. over the last ten years. And yet, that's exactly what they've done.

And what have they gotten for their money? An empire whose cracks are showing. A guerilla war in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan. An expansive solar system of economically impoverished satellites. And rising hostility wherever people value freedom and the opportunity to create a better life for themselves. The Soviets portray their military buildup as a necessary response -- a circling of the wagons, if you will, to protect the motherland from hostile forces ranged around her borders. In fact, their paranoia is directed less at outside forces than those within. The only thing greater than their fear is their ambition. And so it is that the Reagan Administration finds itself confronted with a drastically different balance of power than anything known in the last twenty-five years.

Those pacifists who march in European streets have an understandable interest in protecting their homelands from a nuclear holocaust. But they must not forget in their zeal for peace

that it is not strength but weakness which tempts the aggressor. They of all people should understand the lessons of Munich and the locust years that followed. And they should likewise grasp the dangers of a world in which the United States lowers, not only her voice, but also her flag. We, no less than they, must come to terms with a world in which American resolve is all that stands between a tense balance and a global reign of terror. Either we accept that burden, or we place every value we hold dear in peril.

The American people expressed their own concern about our future course 19 months ago. They elected President Reagan with a clear mandate to rebuild our defenses. And the President has responded with a series of decisions designed to ward off would-be aggressors.

Now I'd be remiss if I didn't point out the myth being perpetrated by our detractors - the idea that somehow we're depriving social programs of dollars so that weapons can be built and defenses restored. But look at the record of the last few years. In the 1950's and 60's, defense spending accounted for nearly half the national budget, and between 8 and 9% of our GNP. Today, by contrast, for all the talk of a build-up, the Defense Department spends less than 29% of the total budget, and just over 6% of the GNP. Yet the Soviets have gone on spending 2½ times that level - over \$400 billion more than this country allotted to its defense needs during the 1970's alone.

The end product of this imbalance is painfully obvious to all but those blinded by their own sloganeering.

The sad but inescapable truth is that virtually every part of our strategic forces is in need of both modernization and strengthening. The Minuteman system for missile basing was decided on more than 20 years ago. The mainstay of our present bomber force, the B-52, was chosen some 30 years ago, forcing our pilots to fly planes older than themselves.

Much has been said about the U.S. military build-up. What exactly, does it consist of? Basically, it contains five mutually reinforcing elements:

- FIRST -- We plan long neglected improvements in our command and control systems. This will enable us to better-operate all parts of the triad: land, sea and air.
- SECOND -- We will modernize our strategic bomber fleet to replace our 30-year-old B-52's, so we can continue to have an ability to penetrate Soviet air defenses by manned bombers.
- THIRD -- We will deploy new, heavier, and far more accurate submarine-launched ballistic missiles -- in many ways, the most survivable of all defense systems.
- FOURTH -- We will undertake a step-by-step plan to improve the strength and accuracy of the new MX land-based missiles (which are far more accurate and which carry 10 warheads apiece). We will also seek out ways to reduce the vulnerability of the MX.

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-- FIFTH -- We will improve our strategic defenses as yet another means of discouraging and deterring attack.

We will not neglect our conventional capabilities - far from it. We intend to place special emphasis on those areas which have suffered the most during the long years when our defenses were allowed to decay. That means improving the overall readiness, sustainability, and modernization of our forces. It means bolstering our military's ability to respond to conventional challenges. It means getting on with the unglamorous yet critical task of providing more spare parts, more ammunition, more fuel and more training so that those who must be proficient in the use of weapons can have the time they need to develop their skills properly.

In rebuilding our land forces, we will not neglect those who fly our flag on the vast oceans and the inland seas. For access to the seas is vital if we are to protect our interests abroad as well as the crucial lines of supply that now bring us scarce materials from all over the world. A strong Navy is the only way to insure this ability -- and we are rebuilding ours so that it will be very strong indeed. We are also upgrading the rapid deployment force.

And we are finally rewarding our men and women in uniform with more than pretty words and empty gestures. Last October, our military personnel received a pay raise of 14.3%. It was long overdue, and well-deserved. And it's no coincidence that the President not long ago was able to announce that all four services have met their manpower quotas for the first time since the all-volunteer force was introduced in 1973.

Because of the President's leadership in changing our national attitudes about those who serve, recognition of military service for what it is - the protection of our freedom - and appreciation for the men and women who perform those jobs is growing as rapidly as is their level of pay. Our enlistment and reenlistment rates are significantly improved. The importance of this cannot be exaggerated. Because history has proved again and again, that the tenacity and character of a nation is reflected in those who wear its uniform and carry its arms.

I could not leave this hall without paying special tribute to some of the bravest Americans I know -- those who represent some 535,000 Vietnam veterans in your proud organization.

In 1980, the President described the war you fought with gallantry and heroism as a "Noble Cause". And despite the tragic divisiveness of that war here in America, a careful

survey of those who actually did the fighting shows that 91% take pride in having served our country. ^{percent} Ninety of those who saw "heavy combat" expressed the same sentiment. And sixty-six percent stated they would serve again.

I sense these courageous young American veterans know something that some other Americans never knew -- or have forgotten.

What they know is summed up in a few lines scrawled in a bunker at Khe Sanh:

"For those who fought for it,
Freedom has a flavor that
the protected will never know".

At the birth of our republic more than two centuries ago, Thomas Jefferson said the same thing in slightly different language ... "Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must ... underg~~o~~t the fatigues of supporting it."

You who fought in Vietnam, like all your colleagues who have given distinction to the uniform of American fighting men, have undergone the fatigues foreseen by Jefferson. Because of you, the rest of us know the blessings of freedom. We will not sacrifice what you have achieved. We will not embrace short-term popularity at the expense of long-range survival. We will not turn our backs on our friends -- and we dare not turn our backs

in the presence of foes. We will keep the peace -- but a peace of equals. We will insure American power -- along with a sense of American purpose. We will not lower our voice; we will never lower our flag. And the men of Khe Sanh, like their predecessors at Guadalcanal, Anzio, the Ardennes, and Gettysburg, will know that their sacrifice is honored, their nation secure, and their children safe to assume their own responsibilities in the 200 year struggle for freedom -- wherever it thrives, and especially, wherever it is threatened. You have never let us down; we will not let you down.

Thank you and God bless you all.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 8/13/82 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: --

SUBJECT: JUDGE CLARK'S SPEECH TO VFW CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES 8/16

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	GERGEN	☐	☒
MEESE	☐	☒	HARPER	☐	☐
BAKER	☐	☒	JAMES	☐	☐
DEAVER	☐	☒	JENKINS	☐	☐
STOCKMAN	☐	☐	MURPHY	☐	☐
CLARK	☐	☒	ROLLINS	☐	☐
DARMAN	☒ P	☒ SS	WILLIAMSON	☐	☒
DOLE	☐	☒	WEIDENBAUM	☐	☐
DUBERSTEIN	☐	☐	BRADY/SPEAKES	☐	☒
FIELDING	☐	☐	ROGERS	☐	☐
FULLER	☐	☒	_____	☐	☐

Remarks:

Attached for your information is a copy of the speech Judge Clark will give to the VFW Convention on behalf of the President.

*Copy to Cooper Holt
8/24/82*

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

August 13, 1982
9:00 a.m.

JUDGE CLARK ADDRESS TO THE VFW CONVENTION
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 16, 1982

Commander Fellwock, Marion Watson, President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans Administrator Nimmo, distinguished guests and all of you. I'm pleased and honored to be with you, and to be representing the President on this occasion. You may be sure that the President would be here with you himself were it not for a couple of items called the Middle East and Tax Reform. He asked me to bring affectionate greetings to all of you, particularly his friend Charlton Heston. Being with the VFW, you understand what it means to be in a fight. Well, the President tells me that Screen Actors Guild politics is as tough as it comes, and it takes real professional courage to make the kind of stands Chuck Heston has been taking. The President is enormously pleased that you have chosen to honor Chuck at this convention.

And he sends special greetings to Commander Henry Kleeman, Lt. David Venlet, Lt. Lawrence Muczynski (Mu-zin-ski) and Lt. James Anderson. These fellas did more for the cause of peace in a few minutes over the Gulf of Sidra last year than all the jawboning people have done with that Libyan dictator for the last decade. Pardon the expression, but with men on duty like this, the President sleeps better at night.

You know there has always been an argument over just which branch of the service is actually the toughest, especially if there is a Marine in the room. Well, I heard a story about a group of Marines who were sent to an Army base, for airborne training. An Army Lieutenant briefed these Marines about the operations. He told them they were to jump from their plane at 800 feet and once they hit the ground they would regroup and head north. After the briefing, several of the Marines went to the Lieutenant and asked if the plane could be lowered to, maybe, 500 feet. The Lieutenant explained that if it went any lower it wouldn't allow time for the parachutes to open . . . to which the surprised Marines replied: Oh, you mean we'll be wearing parachutes.

We were in the midst of the Presidential campaign when the President was with you at your convention in Chicago. I want each of you to know that he has not forgotten that your organization departed from an 80-year precedent to endorse his candidacy.

Twenty-four months ago does not seem like such a long time. Already our country was plagued with underlying economic ills from which we are still suffering.

The problems we faced required a commitment to seek a fundamental change of direction -- not band-aid solutions or quick fixes. Relying on government to solve every problem, turning to politicians whose only answer was tax, tax and spend, spend had put us on the road to economic oblivion and

was undermining the character of our people. Well, during the 19 months of this Administration, we've made an honest attempt to put this country back on the right track. The President asked me to thank you now for all the support you and your office in Washington have been. We've gone through some tough fights, and the VFW's been there when it counted. The struggle isn't over yet, but we're winning it.

One of the most important things we've tried to do is focus America on new ways of approaching problems. Through our Private Sector Initiative drive, which has been a priority program, we've encouraged people to get directly involved -- to take more personal responsibility for their families, their community and their country.

Your organization, of course, has always been an example of what concerned citizens can accomplish. Last year the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary units contributed over 1-3/4 million hours and \$1-1/2 million to community service projects. Your driver safety and bicycle safety programs as well as your drug abuse projects touch the lives of hundred of thousands of young people. And I understand that over 1,100 Boy Scout troops are sponsored by VFW posts.

All of this is in the finest tradition of American voluntarism, as is the tremendous service you offer your country by watching over the interests of the American veteran. Bob Nimmo keeps the President appraised of all that you are doing.

He tells me that last year, in V.A. hospitals and offices throughout the country, you donated time worth millions of dollars -- and the kind of sincere dedication that money cannot buy. Your network of accredited service officers are an indispensable part of the system, which all too often is marred by the complexities of government bureaucracy. Through your network, veterans are able to cut the red tape and receive the benefits that rightfully belong to them.

I'm proud to say that during this time of necessary budget reductions, we have not proposed cutbacks in the basic benefits provided those who defended this country. And let there be no mistake. No one is giving the veteran anything; these are benefits that have been earned. The President has demonstrated his commitment to veterans by asking for \$7.6 billion in the 1983 fiscal year budget for the VA health care system, \$1 billion more than the 1981 program. Increased health care benefits to former POWs took effect with the passage of Public Law 97-37. The VA is planning a significant expansion of the readjustment counseling program. In the home loan area, the Administration has instituted a number of regulatory initiatives that make it easier for veterans to use the GI home loan benefits they have earned. These few examples are indicative of the Administration's commitment to the veteran. So today, let me restate to you that the quality health care offered to our veterans will not be compromised and the programs promised to those who fought for their country remain a solid commitment of this Administration.

I want you to know that in the Councils of government, the veterans of our country could have no better nor more articulate spokesman than Bob Nimmo. He stands four-square behind the rights of those who have put their life on the line for our country and is a particularly outspoken defender of the VA integrated health care system. He is committed to improving its efficiency and its ability to deliver services to our veterans. Bob Nimmo is in the lead in resisting suggestions for privatizing major segments of the health care for veterans.

Two years ago, when the President spoke at your Chicago convention, he was concerned about more than a faltering economy. Sometimes it's difficult to remember the frustration and helplessness we felt then knowing that 50 of our citizens were being held hostage in a distant land. America seemed confused and vacillating. For the first time, one could hear the refrain that we were a Nation in decline, that our best days were behind us. Morale in our military was plunging as were recruitment and reenlistment rates.

What we witnessed was the predictable result of a decade of neglect for the security needs of the United States. What happened in the last decade was one of the greatest voluntary reversals of a global power relationship in the history of man.

I am proud to report to you today that in this Administration the brave men and women who defend this country are being given the respect and consideration they deserve.

During the last decade, military pay and benefits were permitted to seriously erode; righting this wrong was one of the President's first orders of business. This, coupled with a commitment to provide our personnel with the tools and weapons they need, has shown dramatic results.

A few months ago, the President got a letter from our Ambassador to Luxembourg. The Ambassador had been up on the East German border where the Second Armored Cavalry regiment is stationed. And he wrote to tell the President what a fine spirit he found among our troops. He said, as he started to leave, one 19-year-old lad followed him over to the helicopter and wanted to know if the Ambassador could get a message to the President. As Ambassador, he is the President's representative, so he replied he could do that. The soldier said, "Well, will you tell him for us that we're proud to be here and we ain't scared of nothing?"

Well, the spirit reflected by that young man is only one of many indicators that we've turned a very serious situation around. The all-volunteer military, the system most consistent with our tradition as a free society, is working, and working well. All of the services are meeting their recruiting goals and there's a high level of reenlistment. Furthermore, test

scores have improved dramatically and a larger share of the recruits are high school graduates. In short, we're attracting more and better people to the military service.

These fine young Americans have proved that they are willing to do this hard and often dangerous job, now that they know their country stands behind them and that their sacrifice is appreciated. All of us are proud that during the 19 months of this Administration, we have been permitted to play a part in restoring respect for the dignity and honor of those who defend this country.

Rebuilding our defenses, of course, takes more than reviving morale; it also requires money. Two decades ago President Kennedy said, "Peace and freedom do not come cheap." Now increasing Government spending for any reason is a painful task for this Administration.

That's why the President appointed a man in whom he has exceptional trust, a man of talent and judgment, to head the Department of Defense. An undeniably important part of Cap Weinberger's job is getting control of the cost of our defense, realizing that to maintain a consensus for national security, the people must be aware that their resources are not being wasted.

And while it hasn't made much news, major reforms have been instituted. Over the next 6 years, for example, \$21 billion will be saved by improvements in the acquisition process and management operations of the Department, all part

of a reform package that will save the taxpayers over \$52 billion in that same time period. However, no matter how good the management, the cost of defending this Nation is still an expensive proposition. How much to spend, and on what, is a matter for honest discussion. But, we cannot and will not compromise the security of this country or the safety of our servicemen and women.

Our security rests on more than the morale of our troops and the efficiency of their equipment. When the President last met with you, he talked about the need for a more coherent foreign policy. Certainly, today's world is not without a broad array of problems and conflicts, but I suggest the leadership the President and his Administration has offered in the last 19 months is more consistent with maintaining peace than what preceded. Do any of you believe we were more secure or more respected with a liberal foreign policy that glossed over differences with the Soviets and never stood firm with our allies? No, kiss-on-the-cheek foreign policy did not bring us closer to peace.

There are those who criticize us for blocking American involvement in the construction of the Soviet gas pipeline as part of our Poland-related sanctions. Notwithstanding legitimate business concerns -- and the President is mindful of those concerns -- how do the critics respond to the fact that acceptance at this time of American involvement in the pipeline could be interpreted as tacit acceptance of the

repression in Poland and the reported use of Gulag forced labor in Siberia for pipeline construction, a report which we are vigorously investigating? At a time when Soviet troops slaughter Afghan freedom fighters, and at a time when their arms production continues unabated, it is no time to offer them a massive infusion of hard currency earnings and subsidized credits so even more of their resources can be channeled into making weapons. In essence, lifting the sanctions and permitting the pipeline to proceed on schedule and at a reduced cost would mean that the American taxpayer would ultimately bear the burden in the form of higher defense expenditures to keep pace with an even more rapid Soviet military build-up. It was therefore no surprise when the official Soviet news agency Tass described a recent congressional committee vote in opposition to the President's policy "a slap in the Administration's face". The Soviet Union fully realizes that the pipeline is much more than a commercial and financial issue.

There are those who point to our selling of grain, suggesting our stand is inconsistent and self-serving. Well, let's take a serious look at that argument. We sell grain to the Soviet Union only on a cash basis -- no subsidized credit whatsoever. Grain purchases also absorb precious hard currency that could otherwise be dedicated to their defense industries. In addition, the Soviet Union can procure

sufficient amounts of grain on the world market to make any unilateral U.S. embargo largely ineffective. And most important, they are dependent on us, not the other way around.

Finally, let me say: Leadership does not always mean going along, even with friends. It means doing what is right. In this case, the President is convinced our pipeline decision was right, and unless there is significant progress in Poland, the decision sticks.

But let there be no mistake, standing firm should not be interpreted as belligerency. I say to you who know the ultimate importance of preserving peace, you who have seen the tragedy of war firsthand, who have seen friends die on the battlefield, we desire peace with all our hearts. But to realize that objective, we must use our heads as well as our hearts. There are those who pound on their chest shouting for peace. They would make agreements even if it leaves the Western Democracies weak and militarily vulnerable. They act on the blind hope that militaristic regimes will respect our sincerity and compromise. As morally superior as that may make them feel, it does not make conflict in the real world any less likely.

Teddy Roosevelt had something to say about this. "The voice of the weakling," he said, "counts for nothing when he clamors for peace; but the voice of the just man armed is

potent. We need to keep in a condition of preparedness . . . not because we want war, but because we desire to stand with those whose plea for peace is listened to with respectful attention."

No, we don't gloss over our differences with the Soviets. We are proud of our free system and we are not afraid to say it. We oppose Soviet tyranny, and we are not afraid to say that either. Yet this does not mean we cannot -- even while realizing our differences -- deal with the Soviet Union or anyone else on a mature basis in order to prevent armed conflict, which is, of course, in the interests of all the nations of the world.

The historic record is clear. Since the end of World War II, the United States has been the leader in serious disarmament and arms control proposals. We remain dedicated to these peaceful objectives today.

To this end, we are engaged in serious strategic arms reduction negotiations. We've offered proposals to eliminate intermediate-range land-based nuclear missiles and to reduce by one-third, the number of warheads on both land- and sea-based strategic ballistic missiles. In these negotiations, as in negotiations on conventional arms reductions and in all other arms control efforts we are undertaking, we will seek agreements which achieve real reductions, which are equal, and which are effectively verifiable.

I'd like to thank the VFW for your support of our arms reduction efforts and for your vocal opposition to those who propose to have us freeze current levels of nuclear arms prior to any reductions having taken place. Such a freeze removes any incentive for the Soviets to negotiate, as it would legitimize current Soviet advantage, would freeze us into a position of permanent inferiority, and would be unverifiable. In short, it would reward the Soviets for their massive buildup, would guarantee them nuclear superiority over this country, and would badly undercut the serious negotiations in which we are currently engaged.

I'm happy to be able to say that the voices of reason seem to be winning this crucial debate. Congress struck a blow for sensible arms reduction by rejecting a freeze measure that would have undercut our arms reduction negotiations in Geneva. Instead, the House passed the Broomfield Amendment supporting our START Talks and urging the Soviet Union to join with us in concluding an equitable and verifiable agreement which freezes strategic nuclear forces at equal and substantially reduced levels. This was a triumph for peace and good sense, and groups like the VFW were instrumental in winning this hard-fought cause for national security and world peace -- the goals this Administration is dedicated to heart and soul. Your continued efforts as different states and local communities take up freeze resolutions will be equally important.

Perhaps those who support such a freeze, and I don't doubt these people's honest convictions, but perhaps this is just another lingering reaction to the Vietnam conflict, which left so many disillusioned with their own country. We all remember that tragic war, as do the millions of Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians who fled or suffered the terrible fate that befell their countries when the Communist Armies took over. Let us today confirm that a tremendous wrong, a breach of faith, was done to those dedicated Americans who fought that war and came home only to suffer the brunt of the anti-military sentiment being fanned by the emotions of the day.

The VFW is doing a tremendous job letting Vietnam veterans know that their sacrifice is not taken lightly. Your contributions to the Vietnam memorial project are most appreciated. When the President entered office, a man had been waiting for years to receive a decoration he earned by his bravery in Vietnam. He'd been waiting because some people thought honoring him would revive memories of that conflict. Well, it was the President's privilege to personally award Sergeant Roy Benavidez the Congressional Medal of Honor.

We can and will make up to the Vietnam vets the ingratitude some showed them on their return. We must also pledge that in the future those who defend this

country will know that, if they are called upon to risk their lives, their Government and fellow countrymen will have the courage to back them up.

One of the greatest tragedies of Vietnam was that the United States cannot be certain, even to this day, that the treaty we signed to disengage ourselves from the conflict was fully complied with in regards to our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. We have no confirmed evidence, but we have enough information not to rule out the possibility that some of our unaccounted-for servicemen could still be held alive in Indochina. We will continue to use all means available, including the full intelligence apparatus of the United States, to get to the bottom of this matter. Should we discover these reports are true, we are prepared to take appropriate action to ensure that no American remains a captive. Simultaneously, we are continuing our efforts to insure the remains of those American prisoners still in Indochina are returned home.

Many of you fought in the Second World War, an epic struggle that to this day affects our lives in so many ways. The heroism demonstrated during that conflict captured the imagination of the American people and inspired the Nation to do what was necessary to get the job done.

There ^{were} ~~was~~ stories of courage like that on the submarine Growler when in February 1943 it was attacked, while on the surface, by a Japanese warship. Her Captain, Commander Howard Gilmore, was the last man to turn and leave the submarine's bridge so that it could dive to safety, but was wounded before he could get below. Rather than risk losing the sub while he was taken below, Commander Gilmore gave the order to "Take her down." The Growler and its crew survived to fight again because of Commander Gilmore's sacrifice.

During peacetime, it is often hard for the public to realize that this Nation is still served by individuals like Commander Gilmore and the crew of the Growler.

President Reagan said something in his Inauguration that deserves repeating: "Those who say that we're in a time when there are no heroes," he said, "they just don't know where to look."

Well, we know where they are. They're doing the tough job of keeping the peace and protecting their country. They spend long, grueling hours in the engine room of ships. They stand guard duty in cold nights far away from home. They put in the extra effort needed to maintain expensive aircraft and other equipment, knowing that these machines are necessary for the security of their country. There is no greater gift to their families, their neighbors or their country than the service they provide.

When discussing National Defense, we must never forget that we are talking about brave men and women upon whose shoulders rests the future of our independence and freedom. We know they will not let us down. The Reagan Administration is dedicated that their Government will not let them down.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 11, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR RED CAVANEY

THRU: DIANA LOZANO

FROM: MORTON C. BLACKWELL

Cooper Holt of the VFW just called to say he had learned that the President will be arriving in California August 18. The VFW convention continues through August 19.

They will of course make any changes in their convention schedule to accommodate the President.

We are having enough trouble with Reagan constituencies furious about the tax bill. This is a chance to strike a good blow with a great speech to an enthusiastically pro-Reagan group.

Any chance we can schedule the President in Los Angeles to the National VFW convention August 18 or 19?

cc: Fred Ryan

VFW

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1982

TO: Fred Ryan

FROM: Maiselle Shortley

Would you please give me some
sort of status report on the
attached request?

The VFW is very supportive of
the President. If at all possible
this event should be done.

THANKS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 30, 1981

Dear Commander Fellwock:

The President has asked me to thank you for inviting him to attend and address the delegates to the Veterans of Foreign Wars 83rd National Convention, August 16-19, 1982.

Although the President would like to join you and your distinguished guests on this special occasion, we know you will understand that we are unable to project the President's schedule this far in advance. Particular notation is being made of your invitation, however, and nearer the date we will be back in touch with you about the possibility of his acceptance. In the meantime, please know your thoughtfulness of the President is most appreciated.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Newell
Special Assistant
to the President

Commander Arthur J. Fellwock
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States
V.F.W. Memorial Building
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

July 17, 1981

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As National Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I am most honored to invite you to address the delegates attending our 83rd National Convention to be held in Los Angeles, California, during the period August 16-19, 1982.

While we would welcome your attendance on August 16, 17 or 18, we would prefer to have you keynote the opening of our Convention to be held on Monday, August 16, at 11 A.M. With past Conventions as my certain guide, you may expect an audience of seven thousand of your fellow Americans.

I realize, Mr. President, the great demand on your time, but I am hopeful you can arrange your busy schedule in order to attend our Convention. In our opinion, it would be a wonderful platform for you to express your views on national security and foreign policy before a very friendly audience.

Finally, I wish you to know you may count on the unswerving support of the 1.9 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and the 650 thousand members of our Ladies Auxiliary as you seek to advance America's best interest at home and abroad.

I certainly wish you every success and am hopeful you will join us in Los Angeles.

Respectfully,

ARTHUR J. FELLWOCK
National Commander-in-Chief





THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 3, 1982

Ms. Maiselle Shortley
Office of Public Liaison
191 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20501

Dear Maiselle:

Enclosed are some suggested remarks Mrs. Dole might consider for use in speaking to our 83rd National Convention on Tuesday, August 17. As you know, the President will address our Opening Session on Monday, the 16th of August--the day before Mrs. Dole's address. Mr. Dana Rohrabacher is the Presidential speech writer who is preparing draft remarks for the President's review.

Obviously, the President will express themes that Mrs. Dole might well choose to enlarge upon or to extend.

We are looking forward to Mrs. Dole's appearance before our delegates.

Best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Cooper", is written over the typed name.

COOPER, T. HOLT
Executive Director

CTH:nlp
Enclosures

1982 Natl. VFW Auxiliary Convention
Natl. President, Marion Watson

PRESENTATION "UNITED AMERICAN AWARD"
TO ELIZABETH DOLE, ASST. TO PRES. OF U.S.
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON
TUESDAY, 10 A.M., AUGUST 17, 1982

This morning...we are very PROUD...to honor a VERY SPECIAL LADY...a top executive in our FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -- MRS. ELIZABETH DOLE! Mrs. Dole...is the ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT...OF THE UNITED STATES...FOR PUBLIC LIAISON. We are glad that the LADIES AUXILIARY ...to the VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS...fits into this category. Mrs. Dole...a lawyer...formerly served as a COMMISSIONER OF THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION. She is the wife of Senator Robert Dole...Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. ...A World War II veteran...he is a long time backer...of veterans rights...and of America.

Mrs. Dole... directs President Reagan's...major outreach program...at the White House. She is responsible...for assuring the views of Key organizations....are considered...by the President...in developing public policy. Her work with non-governmental organizations provides a means...for establishing a consensus...for the Reagan Administration's policies and programs.

Mrs. Dole graduated with honors from Duke University, where she majored in political science. She received her masters degree from Harvard University. She planned the first National Conference on EDUCATION OF THE DEAF in America for the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare...and has served as Executive Director of the President's Committee...on Consumer Interests.

Mrs. Dole serves on the Board of Trustees, Duke University...Board of Advisors, Duke Business School...the Boards of Directors of the National Council on Aging, and American Council on Young Political Leaders.

She is the recipient of the Arthur S. Fleming Award for outstanding Government Service. In 1974, TIME Magazine selected Mrs. Dole as one of America's 200 "FACES OF THE FUTURE"!

AND NOW...ELIZABETH DOLE...PLEASE COME TO THE PODIUM (WAIT FOR HER TO COME). It is a delight and a PRIVILEGE ...to welcome you...here today... and to present to you...our UNITED AMERICAN AWARD: IT READS:

TO ELIZABETH DOLE...ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES...
FOR PUBLIC LIAISON...YOU LIVE PATRIOTISM...EVERY DAY...PROMOTE
LOVE OF COUNTRY IN EVERY WAY...STANDING UNITED...FOR AMERICA!
YOUR DEDICATION, COMMITMENT AND TOP LEADERSHIP IN FEDERAL POSITIONS
HAVE BENEFITTED AMERICA AND AMERICANS. PRESENTED....BY THE LADIES
AUXILIARY...TO THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES...
NATIONAL CONVENTION...LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA...AUGUST 17, 1982.

NOW...MRS. UNITED AMERICAN...WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU...

ELIZABETH DOLE SPEAKS AND ACCEPTS AWARD

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH...MRS. DOLE. IT IS AN HONOR...TO HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY OF HONORING YOU. YOU ARE...A UNITED AMERICAN!

ASST. TO THE PRESIDENT OF U.S., FOR PUBLIC LIAISON
(IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION OF "UNITED AMERICAN AWARD")
NATIONAL VFW AUXILIARY - NATIONAL CONVENTION
Tuesday, August 17, 1982 -- Los Angeles Convention Ctr.

THANK YOU... VERY, VERY MUCH...PRESIDENT WATSON...and all...of you very PATRIOTIC members of the Ladies Auxiliary...to the Veterans of Foreign Wars! You may be sure...that this beautiful UNITED AMERICAN AWARD will be placed in a prominent place in my office... to remind me that STANDING UNITED FOR AMERICA...must be practiced and lived every day.

The beauty of the AWARD...will be a testimonial...of the beautiful deeds by the VFW Auxiliary members...throughout our Nation. There is no doubt...that the women of America...can be a vital force in our Country. And, the VFW Ladies Auxiliary...is certainly at the top of the list!

Proof of your effectiveness is your continual growth in membership for the past TWENTY SEVEN YEARS!...Now totaling...668,243 UNITED AMERICANS! Something must be right about your organization...or women wouldn't be joining!

AMERICANS must be ALERT to the ever lurking danger of COMMUNISM and other ISMS. I congratulate you on your very strong AMERICANISM AND LOYALTY DAY program.

Your record...in raising funds...to CONQUER CANCER is MAGNIFICENT!.... TWO MILLION...ONE HUNDRED AND FIVE THOUSAND...AND SIX HUNDRED DOLLARDS! And... I know that this is hard-to-come-by money...with bake sales.... dinners at the post home...and other fundraising projects. I know

that the funds...are used to assist Cancer stricken members and support Cancer Education and Research. I understand that \$91,000 has been allocated for CANCER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH...and \$254,000 will be returned to the States for research.

More and more I liked the forcefulness of your theme...STANDING UNITED FOR AMERICA. For standing requires strength...know-how...dedication...forcefulness.

Women must STAND UNITED...AGAINST DRUG ABUSE! And I know...that your organization sponsors drug seminars...distributes leaflets and information. Youth is America's greatest treasure...for the future...and I congratulate you on your many programs for young people -- JUNIOR GIRL activities...Patriotic Art Competiton...VOICE OF DEMOCRACY are BIG IMPORTANT CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMS.

Your organization is known for its good works for senior citizens. And you..perhaps more...than other Americans are well informed... on critical issues...facing AMERICA. AN ELECTION YEAR is coming up... and I know...as you always do...you will be registering men and women in your community...and then seeing that they get out...and vote!

My CONGRATULATIONS on your stupendous SERVICE RECORD...for this past year which your National President has reported to me -- 26 million hours of volunteer service.... and \$29 MILLION DOLLARS contributed to help others.

BUT KNOWING YOUR STRENGTH AND YOUR IMPORTANCE TO AMERICA as an FEDERAL
EMPLOYEE...I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT REMIND YOU...that STANDING
UNITED FOR AMERICA...also means...STANDING UNITED WITH OUR PRESIDENT....
RONALD REAGAN...BACKING CRITICAL ISSUES that need your understanding---
the uprisings of small Nations...the growing unemployment...the high
cost of just living...care of Veterans in the VA Hospital Systems....
National Defense and Security....(Other Issues.)

ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE, ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC LIAISON, DIRECTS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S MAJOR OUTREACH PROGRAM AT THE WHITE HOUSE. SHE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING THAT THE VIEWS OF KEY ORGANIZATIONS ARE CONSIDERED BY THE PRESIDENT IN DEVELOPING PUBLIC POLICY AND HER WORK WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDES A MEANS OF ESTABLISHING A CONSENSUS FOR THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

MRS. DOLE GRADUATED WITH DISTINCTION IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY WHERE SHE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE STUDENT BODY AND ELECTED TO PHI BETA KAPPA. SHE RECEIVED A MASTER'S DEGREE IN EDUCATION FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY AND HER LAW DEGREE FROM HARVARD LAW SCHOOL. MRS. DOLE PLANNED THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION OF THE DEAF IN THIS COUNTRY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE IN 1966, AFTER WHICH SHE DEFENDED THE POOR IN THE D. C. COURT SYSTEM. FROM 1969 TO 1973, SHE SERVED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER INTERESTS, AND THEN AS DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS. IN 1973, SHE WAS APPOINTED TO THE FEDERAL

TRADE COMMISSION WHERE SHE WORKED, AS A COMMISSIONER, TO PROMOTE COMPETITION IN THE MARKETPLACE AND TO ELIMINATE UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE MARKET PRACTICES.

IN 1972, MRS. DOLE RECEIVED THE ARTHUR S. FLEMMING AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AND IN 1974, TIME MAGAZINE CHOSE HER AS ONE OF AMERICA'S 200 "FACES FOR THE FUTURE."

SHE CURRENTLY SERVES ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF DUKE UNIVERSITY AND THE BOARD OF ADVISORS FOR THE DUKE BUSINESS SCHOOL. SHE IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON AGING; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WOLF TRAP FOUNDATION FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS; AND THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN. MRS. DOLE HAS SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE HARVARD LAW SCHOOL ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AND IS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION BANKRUPTCY COMMITTEE.

DURING THE 1980 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, MRS. DOLE SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF VOTERS FOR REAGAN/BUSH AND WAS A MEMBER OF THE REAGAN/BUSH TRUTH SQUAD. AS ONE OF FIVE DIRECTORS OF THE OFFICE

OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT, SHE DIRECTED THE HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITION.

A NATIVE OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, SHE IS MARRIED TO BOB DOLE, UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM KANSAS AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

BESIDES ALL OF WHAT I'VE SAID ABOUT HER, MRS. DOLE IS THE VFW'S "PERSON" IN THE WHITE HOUSE. I'LL LET HER EXPLAIN WHO IN THE DOLE HOUSEHOLD -- THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, OR, OUR OLD FRIEND KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE, WARMS UP THE TV DINNER AT THE END OF YOUR LONG DAYS.

MRS. DOLE, YOU ARE AMONG FRIENDS, AND WE AWAIT YOUR MESSAGE WITH DEEP INTEREST.

THANK YOU, COMMANDER FELLWOCK, FOR THAT MOST GENEROUS INTRODUCTION.

THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONE MINOR CORRECTION I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE FOR THE RECORD.

YOU INVITED ME TO EXPLAIN WHO -- BOB OR I -- "WARMS UP" THE TV DINNER AT THE END OF ONE OF OUR LONG DAYS IN WASHINGTON.

WELL, WHEN IT IS MY TURN, I WARM UP OUR DINNERS; BOB DOES IT HIS WAY. HE BURNS THEM. (PAUSE.)

NO SENSIBLE PERSON WHO HOPES TO MAKE AN ENDURING IMPACT ON AN AUDIENCE SHOULD EVER SPEAK WHERE PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS ALREADY SPOKEN.

WELL, OUR PRESIDENT DID US ALL VERY PROUD HERE YESTERDAY. FROM YOUR REACTION TO HIS PRESENCE AND HIS MESSAGE, I SUSPECT YOU AGREE WITH ME. (PAUSE.)

ONE POLICY IMPERATIVE ARISING FROM THE 1980 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WAS THE CLEAR CALL TO RE-ARM AMERICA -- NOT MAYBE, NOT PERHAPS, NOT JUST A LITTLE BIT, BUT TO RE-ARM TO THAT LEVEL NEEDED TO ASSURE THAT NEITHER WE NOR OUR ALLIES WOULD BE SUBJECTED TO EITHER MILITARY ATTACK OR INTIMIDATING POLITICAL PRESSURE.

(2)

OF COURSE, PRESIDENT REAGAN IS A MAN OF PEACE.

BUT HE SEEKS A TRUE PEACE. BY A TRUE PEACE, THIS ADMINISTRATION MEANS ONE THAT WILL ENDURE OVER TIME AND BE ENDURABLE IN CONTENT.

WE COULD CHOOSE THE PEACE OF A POLAND, AN AFGHANISTAN, OR A FINLAND ANYTIME WE WANT.

SUCH A FORM OF AMERICAN STRATEGIC SURRENDER, HOWEVER MUTED OR DISGUISED, WILL NEVER OCCUR SO LONG AS RONALD WILSON REAGAN LEADS THIS NATION WE LOVE.

A SENSIBLE, SUSTAINED, DECADE-LONG EFFORT TO REBUILD OUR NEGLECTED MILITARY FORCES HAS BEEN LAUNCHED.

WE CAN, WE MUST, AND WE WILL STAY THE COURSE.

IN THIS EFFORT, WE ARE SUSTAINED AND REINFORCED BY THE ROCK-SOLID PATRIOTISM OF THE VFW AND YOUR MAGNIFICENT LADIES AUXILIARY.

I WOULD ALSO APPLAUD YOUR DECISION OF THREE YEARS AGO TO FORM A POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE.

I DO NOT SAY THIS AS A POLITICAL PARTISAN, BUT RATHER AS A CITIZEN WHO, AS DO YOU, WANTS TO SEE VETERANS' ENTITLEMENTS PROTECTED AND OUR COMMON DEFENSE SECURED.

(3)

I KNOW YOUR PAC WILL CALL THEM AS THEY SEE THEM AND LET THE POLITICAL CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY. THIS IS AS IT SHOULD BE.

OF COURSE, HOLDING TO A STEADY COMMITMENT TO RE-ARM AMERICA IS NEVER EASY.

IT CERTAINLY MUST HAVE BEEN EASIER IN PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE'S TIME. THE STORY GOES THAT AFTER REVIEWING ONE MODEST WAR DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST OF THAT ERA, PRESIDENT COOLIDGE STATED, "LET'S BUY ONE AIRPLANE AND LET THE PILOTS TAKE TURNS."

I HAVEN'T PASSED THIS STORY ALONG TO OMB. THEY MIGHT TAKE IT TOO LITERALLY.

WELL, ONE SHARED BELIEF THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY TEAM PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS PUT TOGETHER DOES TAKE VERY LITERALLY IS THAT THERE IS NO OTHER "AMERICA" OUT THERE TO SAVE US SHOULD WE STUMBLE OR FALTER. OUR ALLIES REMAIN VITALLY IMPORTANT TO US, BUT THE CENTRAL THRUST AND DIRECTION OF OUR OVERALL SECURITY POLICY MUST BE MADE-IN-AMERICA.

SOME YEARS BACK, MY HUSBAND (IN A TONGUE-IN-CHEEK WAY) REMARKED THAT HE SAW NOTHING VERY INVOLVED IN FRAMING U. S. FOREIGN POLICY. HE SAID THAT WE MUST ALWAYS DO TWO THINGS: (1) BEAT NEBRASKA; AND, (2) SELL WHEAT.

(NOW, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT HIS REAL POSITION GOES WELL BEYOND THESE STRAIGHT-FORWARD IMPERATIVES.)

THE SIMPLE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT WE AMERICANS WANT FOR THE WORLD THAT WHICH WE HAVE ACHIEVED FOR OURSELVES: FREEDOM UNDER THE LAW. THE FANCIER WAY TO PHRASE THIS WOULD BE A WORLD HOSPITABLE TO AMERICAN VALUES.

WE COVET NO TERRITORY. WE RESPECT AND HONOR DIVERSITY. AND WE KNOW THAT IT IS A WORLD AT PEACE WHICH SUPPORTS AND STRENGTHENS OUR FREE INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN VALUES.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE 65-YEAR RECORD OF THE SOVIET UNION PLACES THAT REGIME IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO EVERYTHING WE SAFEGUARD FOR OURSELVES AND SEEK FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD.

IF THE CONTEST WERE PURELY POLITICAL, THERE WOULD BE NO CONTEST.

AMERICAN FREEDOM ATTRACTS; SOVIET TOTALITARIANISM REPELS.

WHAT HAS GIVEN THIS CONTEST A DEADLY-SERIOUS TURN IS THE UNMISTAKABLE SOVIET DECISION TO ACHIEVE A POSTURE OF CLEAR-CUT AND USABLE MILITARY SUPERIORITY.

THE RELENTLESS SOVIET DRIVE HAS BEEN MAINTAINED THROUGH PERIODS DESCRIBED AS "COLD WAR," "DETENTE," AND "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE."

IT ESSENTIALLY IGNORED SALT I AND SALT II.

THIS WELL-DOCUMENTED SOVIET BUILD-UP MOST ASSUREDLY IS NOT
A NEW DISCOVERY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.

RECALL IT WAS PRESIDENT CARTER'S DEFENSE SECRETARY HAROLD
BROWN WHO OBSERVED: "WE BUILD; THEY BUILD. WE STOP; THEY BUILD."

AS YOU KNOW, A BI-PARTISAN EFFORT IN THE 97TH CONGRESS HAS
BRAVELY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT REAGAN'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN TO RE-ARM
AMERICA.

THESE FINE CONGRESSMEN FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE HAVE
MY THANKS; THEY DESERVE YOURS. (PAUSE;)

AS I EARLIER REMARKED, OUR PRESIDENT IS A MAN WHO SEEKS A
TRUE PEACE.

RECALL, ON NOVEMBER 18TH, 1981, HE CALLED FOR THE "ZERO"
OPTION AS FAR AS THEATER NUCLEAR FORCES FOR EUROPE WERE CONCERNED;
I.E., NO U. S. PERSHING II AND GROUND-LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILES
TO BE MATCHED BY THE DISMANTLING OF THE SOVIET SS-20'S, SS-4'S,
AND SS-5'S ALREADY IN PLACE.

ON MAY 9TH OF THIS YEAR, OUR PRESIDENT UNVEILED THE LONG-AWAITED STRATEGIC ARMS REDUCTION PROPOSAL:

ICBM WARHEADS DOWN BY ABOUT 50% TO 5,000 FOR EACH SIDE AND ALL BALLISTIC MISSILES -- LAND OR SEA-BASED -- DOWN TO ONE HALF OF THE EXISTING U. S. INVENTORY.

FINALLY, ON JUNE 10TH, PRESIDENT REAGAN CALLED FOR SHARP, MUTUAL REDUCTIONS OF THE OPPOSING FORCES ON NATO'S CENTRAL FRONT TO BE ACCOMPLISHED OVER SEVEN YEARS TO 700,000 FOR WARSAW PACT AND NATO GROUND FORCES AND 900,000 FOR GROUND AND AIR FORCES.

IN EACH OF THESE THREE DRAMATIC PRESIDENTIAL PROPOSALS -- STRATEGIC WEAPONS, THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND CONVENTIONAL FORCE LEVELS -- CERTAIN BED-ROCK, NON-NEGOTIABLE PRINCIPLES WERE OBSERVED: THE REDUCTIONS WOULD BE MUTUAL, EQUITABLE, VERIFIABLE, AND WOULD REPRESENT SHARP AND SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS.

NOW, IF THOSE WHO CALL FOR "FREEZE-NOW-AND-COUNT-LATER" CAN DO ANY BETTER, I URGE THEM TO DROP THEIR PLACARDS, PICK UP THEIR PENCILS, AND ADVISE US NOW.

PREDICTABLY, YOU AND I HAVE ALREADY HEARD SOME OF OUR FELLOW CITIZENS TELL US THAT THE SOVIETS WILL REJECT THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS AND THAT WE SHOULD BE MORE SENSITIVE TO THEIR PERCEPTIONS.

WELL, IF THE SOVIETS COME UP WITH PROPOSALS THAT ARE TRULY MUTUAL, EQUITABLE, VERIFIABLE AND ADD UP TO SHARP REDUCTIONS, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT OUR NEGOTIATORS WILL BE QUICK TO SPOT THIS BREAK THROUGH -- AND OUR PRESIDENT WILL BE EQUALLY QUICK TO ACT DECISIVELY AND AFFIRMATIVELY.

THE BALL IS AT THEIR END OF THE COURT.

SO FAR, HOWEVER, WE HAVE YET TO SEE COMMUNISM IN POWER WITHOUT TANKS; OR WILLING TO FOREGO "TANKS" ONCE THEY ARE IN POWER.

WE SHALL SEE. (PAUSE.)

BEFORE MY TIME WITH YOU DRAWS TO A CLOSE, I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A SPECIAL SALUTE TO YOU VIETNAM VETERANS HERE IN THIS AUDIENCE REPRESENTING 535,000 VIETNAM VETERANS IN YOUR PROUD ORGANIZATION.

PRESIDENT REAGAN WAS NEVER MORE RIGHT THAN HE WAS IN 1980 WHEN HE DESCRIBED THE WAR YOU SO BRAVELY FOUGHT AS A "NOBLE CAUSE."

NOT TOO MANY AMERICANS REALIZE THAT, DESPITE THE TRAGIC
DIVISIVENESS OF THAT WAR HERE IN AMERICA, A CAREFUL SURVEY OF
THOSE WHO DID THE FIGHTING SHOWS THAT 91% STATED THEY ARE PROUD
TO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY; 90% OF THOSE WHO SAW "HEAVY COMBAT"
EXPRESSED THE SAME SENTIMENT. SIXTY-SIX PERCENT STATED THEY WOULD
SERVE AGAIN.

I SENSE THESE MAGNIFICENT YOUNG AMERICAN VETERANS KNOW SOMETHING
THAT SOME OTHER AMERICANS NEVER KNEW -- OR HAVE FORGOTTEN.

WHAT THEY KNOW -- AND SOME OTHER AMERICANS MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN --
IS CAUGHT UP IN SOME LINES SCRAWLED IN A BUNKER AT KHE SANH:

"FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR IT,

"FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR THAT

"THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW."

WELL, YOU IN THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES
KNOW THIS FOR SURE -- EVEN IF THE ED ASNERS OF OUR SOCIETY CAN'T
TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COMMUNISM AND RHEUMATISM -- AND I
DEEPLY APPRECIATE BEING HERE AMONG YOU.