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October 6, 1983

file

Dear Mr. McGrath:

Thank you for your kind message which has been forwarded to me by Mr. Kenneth Duberstein.

The President appreciates your interest in his meeting with members of the American Legion and to participate in their rally on behalf of MIA/POW's.

As much as he appreciates your thoughtfulness, unfortunately, due to prior commitments on the West Coast during that time, it will not be possible for the President to honor this request.

With the President's best wishes,

Sincerely,

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR.
Director, Presidential
Appointments and Scheduling

The Honorable Raymond J. McGrath
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: Morton Blackwell -- FYI
Kenneth Duberstein -- FYI

FJR/JL/pmv-10FJR

Morton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 28, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO OPL SENIOR STAFF

FROM: MARY ANN MELOY *MM*

SUBJECT: Attached

The attached indicates names that have either been submitted or invited to State Dinners.

*This list shows
Cmdr. Krenal
on page six.
mk*

Morton

OPL State Dinner List
Austria - February 28

*Jack
Cushman
Austria*

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Eberhart (Mimi)
1633 North San Joaquin Street
Stockton, CA 95204

Home: 209-462-5507
Office: 209-464-8781

President, Ducks Unlimited
President, Bank of Stockton, Stockton, California

*Mary Jo
Austria*

Mr. and Mrs. Jim F. Hughes (Peggy)
6 Village Drive
Ashville, NC 58803

Home: 704-274-7166
Office: 704-253-9861

Mr. Hughes is President of Marmel Corporations and President-elect of the National Tire Dealers and Retreaders Association. NTDRA represents 5,000 manufacturer and distributors of automobile and truck tires.

*Judi
Austria*

Mr. and Mrs. David J. Humphreys (Laura)
2221 McChesney Court
Vienna, VA 22180

Home: 703-938-6447
Office: 703-968-7722

Mr. Humphreys is President of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Assoc. which is a multi-billion dollar industry. He is a member of the advisory board of the U.S. Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus of the U.S. House and the policy committee of the Highway Users Federation.

*Judi
Austria*

Mr. Raymond Mastalish (not married)
2230 California Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Home: 202-232-2633
Office: 202-484-7520

Mr. Mastalish is the Executive Director of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. This association is the original representative of 80% of 605 area agencies on aging in the . and effects national policy.

OPL State Dinner List
Austria - February 28
Page Two

*Judi
Austria*
Mr. and Mrs. John A. McMahon (Anne)
1150 North Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, IL 60611

Home: 312-280-6549
Office: 312-280-6622

Mr. McMahon is President of the American Hospital Assoc. which represents 6,000 out of approximately 7,200 hospitals in the United States.

*Mary Jo
Austria*
Mr. and Mrs. James Price (Jo Ann)
806 Jessica Drive
Fort Washington, MD 20744

Home: 301-567-5713
Office: 202-347-8600

Mrs. Price is President of the American Association of Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Companies. The association represents over 100 privately-owned companies, licensed by the SBA, which provide equity financing and/or long-term loans to small businesses owned by socially or economically disadvantaged persons.

Morton

Mary Jo
China -
submitted to
social office

Mr. and Mrs. William G. Anderson (Janice)
895 West Rahn Road
Dayton, OH 45429

Home: 513-434-1298
Office: 513-445-2842

Mr. Anderson is Chairman of the Board of the National Foreign Trade Council, a private non-profit organization of 600 companies for the promotion of U.S. international trade and investment. NFTC's major issues are reauthorization of the Export Administration Act, Local Content, and other trade-related questions. Mr. Anderson is also affiliated with NCR Corporation.

Cathy
Fed. Rep of
Germany

Professor Gustave A. Anguizola
P. O. Box 4488
UTA Station
Arlington, TX 76019

Home: 817-275-7126

An extremely visible Reaganite. Dr. Anguizola is an ultra Conservative who was appointed to various special commissions by Governor Clements. He has also served on a presidential commission investigating the Panama Canal Treaty. Prof. Anguizola's academic and political credentials are extensive and are too numerous to list. He is highly cultured and speaks three foreign languages fluently.

Louis
China -
submitted to
Social Office

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew A. Athens (Louise)
151 North Michigan Ave.
#3504
Chicago, IL 60601

Home: 312/856-1531
Office: 312/565-0111

Mr. Athens is the National Chairman of the United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC) which is the second most important Greek-American organization. Mr. Athens is one of the most well known and popular leaders in the Greek-American community. UHAC has a monthly newspaper.

Judi
China -
submitted to
Social Office

Dr. & Mrs. Donald Bentley (Dorothy)
710 10th St.
Hawley,, MN. 56549

Home: 218-346-7876
Office: 312-440-2500

Dr. Bentley is President of the American Dental Assoc. and represents the sum total of denistry with 140,000 members, 85% of all practicing dentists in the U.S.

Michael
China -
submitted to
Social Office

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth J. Bialkin (Ann)
211 Central Park West
New York, NY 10024

Home: 212-787-4004
Office: 212-935-8000

Mr. Bialkin is President of ADL. ADL is one of the most important Jewish organizations. ADL is involved in foreign policy, as well as domestic issues. Under Bialkin's leadership, ADL has been very supportive of a number of the President's programs and policies.

Michael Gale
Portugal
Mr. and Mrs. Norman Braman (Irma)
4777 Pinetree Drive
Miami, FL

Home: 305-672-0334
Office: 305-576-6900

Key leader in Florida. Major political fundraiser. Active in the 1980 Presidential campaign. Currently paying for advertisement supporting the President's policies in Florida and other states.

Dec
China -
submitted to
Social Office
Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Bryant (Juanita)
1734 N Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20036

Home: 202-347-3168

Juanita is President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Their 650,000 members in 12,000 towns in US seek to promote a better quality of life for all. Associate and international membership numbers 10 million. GFWC disseminates information to all. Just returned from Mainland China.

Judi
Bahrain
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Cole
2457 West Shore Drive
Lummi Island, WA 98262

Home: 206-758-7286

President of the American Nurses Association.

Mel
China -
submitted to
Social Office
Mr. and Mrs. Comer Cottrell (Isabell)
5444 Northbrook
Dallas, TX 75220

Home: 212-926-5388

Mr. Cottrell is President of Pro-Line Corporation. This is a major Black corporation in Texas. He is a supporter of the President.

*See
Bahrain*

Mr. and Mrs. David Crowley (Mary)
10265 Inwood Road
Dallas, TX 75229

Home: 214-386-1000
Office: 214-386-1115

Mrs. Mary Crowley founded Home Interiors and Gifts 25 years ago and today she is considered one of the most successful business women in the country. Over 41,000 women serve as displayers with her company and she is active in involving her company and the employees in a wide-range of volunteer and community service efforts. Large financial supporter of this President.

*Morton
Bahrain*

Mr. and Mrs. David Crowley (Mary Weaver)
10265 Inwood Drive
Dallas, TX 75229

Office: 214-386-1000

Mrs. Crowley has a work-force of many thousands in direct-home sales of products. She is a strong supporter of the President and is very active with Christian organizations.

*Long
China -
submitted to
Social Office*

Mr. Thomas W. Gleason
17 Battery Place
Room 1530
New York, , NY 10004

Office: 212-425-1200

Mr. Gleason, President of the International Longshoremens Association, is the Vice-President of the AFL-CIO and Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the AFL-CIO. Mr. Gleason, a staunch anti-communist, has been a figure in the American labor movement for over 40 years.

Michael
Chen
Submitted to
social office

Mr. and Mrs. Osias (Ozzie) Goren (Dorothy)
8447 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 409
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

Home: 213-553-8911
Office: 213-653-2704

Mr. Goren was active in the 1980 Presidential campaign. Active political fundraiser. President of the Los Angeles Community Jewish Federation.

Dee
Bahrain

Dr. and Mrs. Henry Heitman (Betty)
2111 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22301

Home: 703-979-0823
Office: 202-484-6735

Betty is Co-Chair of the RNC. She heads up the women's outreach program; Working Partners which assists in voluntarism, and Traget '80, a talent bank for women.

Many go.
Fed. Rep. of
Germany

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hollander (Betty Ruth)
1 Arbor Road
Stamford, CT 06903

Office: 203-322-1666

Mrs. Hollander chairs the Omega Group, Inc., a diversified high-tech engineering company which she founded. She was awarded Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of 1982 by Catalyst, Inc. in New York in April 1983. She is an active member of Women Business Owners of New York.

Judi
China -
submitted to
social office

Mr. & Mrs. David J. Humphreys (Laura)
2221 McChesney Court
Vienna,, VA. 22180 --

Home: 703-938-6447
Office: 703-968-7722

Mr. Humphreys is President of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Assoc. which is a multi-billion dollar industry. He is a member of the advisory board of the U.S. Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus of the U.S. House and the policy committee of the Highway Users Federation. Group has been supportive of President's environmental policies and commented on great improvements in our National Parks.

Morton
China -
submitted to
social office

Mr. & Mrs. Keith A. Kreul (Dolores Mae)
1608 K Street N.W.
Washington, , D.C. 20006

Home: 608-822-6060
Office: 202-861-2712

Keith A. Kreul is the newly elected National Commander of the American Legion. Outgoing President of VFW attended a State Dinner. American Legion wrote and requested that their President be included in a State Dinner.

Mary Jo
China -
submitted to
social office

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Licarelli (Mary)
4760 Regents Walk
Excelsior, MN 55331

Home: 612-474-6161
Office: 612-372-8770

Mr. Licarelli is affiliated with Norwest Venture Capital Management, Inc., and is the Chairman of the Board of the National Association of Small Business Investment Companies. NASBIC's 400 member companies are licensed under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to provide venture capital and loans to small businesses for start-up or expansion.

*Judi
Chen
submitted to
social office*

Mr. & Mrs. John Linebaugh (Johnnie)
1015 26th St.
Marathon,, FL. 33050
Home: 305-743-5772
Office: 513-474-3622

Mr. Linebaugh is President and Chief Executive of Family Motor Coach Association which has more than 40,000 family members. This association sponsors major meetings and trade shows. Group supports environmental policies of this Administration.

*Cathi
Bahrain*

Mr. and Mrs. John Mariotta (Jenny)
595 Gerard
Bronx, NY 10451
Home: 212-993-0500

President of WELBILT, Chairman of the Latin American Manufacturers Association and financial supporter of the Republican National Hispanic Assembly. Supported the Reagan/Bush effort.

*Mel
Ivory Coast*

Mr. Clarence McKee
1776 K Street, N. W.
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20006
Home: 202-466-4880

He is Vice Chair of the D. C. Republican Committee.

*Judi
China -
submitted to
social office*

Mr. & Mrs. John A. McMahon (Anne)
1150 North Lake Shore Dr.
Chicago, , IL. 60611

Home: 312-280-6549
Office: 312-280-6622

Mr. McMahon is President of the American Hospital Assoc. which represents 6,000 out of approximately 7,200 hospitals in the United States. Group supported medicare prospective payment. Mr. McMahon is a member of the W.H. Healthcare Cost Containment working group.

*Mary Go.
Fed. Rep of
Germany*

Dr. and Mrs. R. F. Mettler (Donna)
5200 Three Village Drive
Lindhurst, OH 44124

Office: 216-383-2121

Dr. Mettler is Chairman and CEO of TRW Incorporated.

*Judi
China -
submitted to
social office*

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Miller (Elizabeth)
7500 Goldin Lane
Citrus Heights, , CA. 95610

Home: 916-723-5015
Office: 916-323-4856

Mrs. Miller is President of the National Assoc. of Foster Grandparents Program Directors which represents 205 programs. She knows Mrs. Reagan personally.

*John R.
Fed Rep. of
Germany*

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Ney (Judy)
285 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Office: 212-210-3000

Helpful during 1980 campaign. working with Urban League and other minority groups; provided public relations counsel to Grace Commission; active in New York communications; invaluable in getting the President's message across to business, leadership community.

Judi
China -
submitted to
social office

Mr. & Mrs. Stuart Northrop (Cynthia)
226 Cheswold Lane
Haverford, , PA 19041

Home: 215-642-3599
Office: 513-865-5415

Mr. Northrop is Chairman of the Huffy Corporation which is the largest bicycle manufacturer in the U.S. He also graduated from Yale University, where he was a classmate and friend of the Vice President.

Mel
Portugal

Mr & Mrs. J. A. Parker (Dolores)
891 Van Dusen Court
Great Falls, VA 22066

Home: 703-759-4597
Office: 202-347-7765

President, Lincoln Institute. Strong supporter.

M J J
Portugal

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney R. Petersen (Nancy)
4326 Forman Avenue
Toluck Lake, CA 91602

Office: 213-739-8226

Mr. Petersen is Chairman and CEO of Getty Oil Company.

Judi
China -
submitted to
social office

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur M. Peterson (Carol)
1011 O'Malley Drive
Billings,, MT. 59102

Home: 406-252-3763
Office: 406-248-7444

Mr. Peterson is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kampgrounds of America which innovated the franchise campground concept.

*Mel
Portugal*

Dr. and Mrs. David Satcher (Nola)
6305 East Valley Road
Nashville, TN 37205

Home: 615-352-8022

College President. Has been helpful.

*Candace
China
submitted to
social office*

Dr. & Mrs. Beurt SerVaas (Cory)
2525 W. 44th St.
Indianapolis,, IN. 46208

Home: 317-291-9198
Office: 317-636-8881

Dr. Cory SerVaas is editor and
publisher of the Saturday Evening
Post.

*Lee
Bahrain*

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Smith (Barbara)
3707 East Gilroy
Salt Lake City, Utah 84109

Home: 801-278-1225
Office: 801-531-2636

Mrs. Barbara Smith is President of the Mormon Women's Relief
Society, a group of 1.6 million women who are involved in
encouraging voluntary efforts, traditional values, and involve-
ment in politics.

*Linus
Fed. Rep of
Germany*

Mr. and Mrs. Werner Walbrol (Elizabeth)
1 Sutton Place South
New York, NY 10022

Home: 212-974-8881
Office: 212-974-8848

This is the premier German-American commercial
organization. It is nationwide, and has three
publications (one weekly and two monthlies).
German-Americans are the largest U.S. ethnic
group, over 49 million strong.

Dec
Bahrain
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon White (Berta)

Bailey, MS 39320

Home: 601-737-2281

Office: 601-737-2211

Mrs. Berta White is President of Women's activities for the American Farm Bureau Federation, which represents over 3 million farm families working to develop constructive action programs to meet the needs of farmers.

File: Am Legion

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO: MIKE BAROODY
FROM: Morton C. Blackwell *MB*
SUBJECT: AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft President's article for the November issue of American Legion Magazine.

The Central American crisis is conspicuous by its absence. This could be taken to mean a shift of priorities. We cannot know now what the situation there will be in November, but it is safe to say that we will still be involved in major efforts to turn back communist aggression in the region.

I suggest at least three paragraphs based on the President's previous remarks about Central America.

MCB:jet

cc: Faith Ryan Whittlesey

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 31, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM:

MIKE BAROODY *MB*

SUBJECT:

AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

The attached is a draft Presidential article for the Novmeber issue of American Legion Magazine. I am sending this to you and Dick Darman concurrently for staffing with edits to my office by c.o.b. Friday, September 2.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

A Grateful Nation Remembers:

Veterans Day 1983

America's annual salute to veterans every November 11th is a time for prayers, parades and speeches. Most speakers hope to capture the spirit of an address delivered by Abraham Lincoln 120 years ago, before there was a Veterans Day. Those words, spoken during a bloody struggle, tell of a citizen's obligation to those who died so their Nation might endure:

"It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they have thus far so nobly advanced.... for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion...."

On this Veteran's Day we should re-dedicate ourselves to the greatest task facing our nation, the unfinished work in our search for a lasting peace. There are no better citizens to lead us in that noble task than our Nation's 28-million veterans. For 85 percent of the veterans alive today served during our country's wars, and no citizen values peace more than one who has known the pain and suffering of war.

But veterans also know best the price of peace and freedom. They understand well the words of John Stuart Mill:

"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. A man who has nothing which he cares about more than his personal safety is a miserable creature and has no chance of being free

unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."

A few years ago, the newspapers carried a photo of a young man in an anti-draft demonstration carrying a placard proclaiming: "There is nothing worth dying for." Could he have known the value -- and the price -- of peace? For if nothing is worth dying for, then the over one million Americans who have died in battle since the Revolution died in vain. And the sacrifices made by the millions of other American veterans were worth nothing. But we know the priceless legacy that those lives and those sacrifices purchased for us. It is a legacy that includes the most precious possessions of a free people -- liberty, human dignity, civil rights, and patriotism.

Four times in my lifetime we have had to fight to protect those values. Indeed, virtually every American generation in our nation's history has had to fight to defend the freedoms we enjoy today.

We cherish those ideals today more than ever before, because we know that so many peoples are forced to live without them. Tyranny, injustice, and armed aggression are no strangers to today's world. Yet the United States stands as an abiding witness to the endurance of freedom -- and free people.

So let us pledge to work to preserve those precious gifts that our American veterans have purchased for us. Only a strong America can remain a free America.

For almost a decade, during the years after the Vietnam War, it seemed that Americans forgot that important truth. We neglected our defenses, allowing our military equipment to become obsolete and fall into disrepair. And worse yet, we ignored the needs of our servicemen and women, failing to give them the respect they deserved or the compensation they earned. Emboldened by America's neglect, the enemies of freedom expanded their influence, by invasion and infiltration, throughout the world.

Three years ago, the American people decided that they could no longer tolerate these risks to their liberty. In electing a new national leadership, their first mandate was to rebuild America's defenses.

We have made a good start. Our investments in defense are already paying dividends. Our military forces are once again trained and ready for any crisis that might arise. Morale in our units and on our ships has soared. The Services are recruiting the best of America's young men and women, and now our career professionals are choosing to remain in the Service. For they know that once again it is an honor to wear the uniform.

But we still have much to do. We must continue the long and difficult effort to modernize our military equipment. We can no longer afford to give the men and women in our armed forces equipment that is older than they are. Nor should we fail to maintain the improvements we have made in readiness.

The temptation to return to the neglect of the past is great. The allure of false economies at the expense of defense is still strong in the minds of some. But we have worked too hard to allow our successes and our hopes to fade now. It is not easy and it is not cheap to redress the neglect of the past decade. But then, nothing so valuable as liberty comes easily, or cheaply.

While we are rebuilding the strength necessary to defend our freedom and preserve peace, we are also searching for greater understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union, and for mutual reductions of strategic weapons. Here again, we know that we can only be successful in our negotiations and discussions if we maintain our strength and resolution. Our defense program will provide that strength; the spirit and support of America's citizens and elected representatives provide the resolution. And we look to America's veterans to provide the leadership needed to keep that resolution alive throughout our nation.

I know that our veterans will not disappoint us in our campaign for peace, just as they did not disappoint us in battle. For they are made of something special, something difficult to define.

In his book, "The Bridges of Toko-Ri," novelist James Michener tries to identify that quality. In the book's final scene, an admiral stands on the darkened bridge of his carrier, waiting for pilots he knows will never return from their mission.

And as he waits he asks the silent darkness: "Where did we find such men?"

I asked the same question almost a generation later -- when our POW's returned from captivity in Vietnam. Despite years of terror and suffering, and despite the fact that some of their countrymen had tried to forget their lonely sacrifices, it was obvious to the millions of people watching their return on television that these were men who had an unabiding love of their country. Unfortunately even the return of the POWs did not mark the last of our Vietnam veterans to return home. And we are still waiting. There are still 2,491 Vietnam veterans unaccounted for in that war. I want to reaffirm my determination to account for every brave American who served in Southeast Asia. My Administration has not forgotten and will not forget these veterans and the sacrifices that they and their families have made. We will not rest until the fullest possible accounting has been accomplished.

Although every one of the veterans of that war fought as bravely as any Americans in our history, no one greeted them with parades, bands, or the waving of the flag they had so nobly served. There was no "thank you" for their sacrifice. There was no effort to honor and give pride to the families of the 57,000 young men who gave their lives on Vietnam's battlefields.

But just as we finally recognized the damage to our defenses caused by our neglect during the post-Vietnam years,

we also finally acknowledged the damage to our nation's spirit caused by the neglect of our Vietnam veterans. Thanks to Jan Scruggs and the many other fine Americans who supported the erection of our Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the shores of the Potomac in Washington last Veterans Day, we finally gave our Vietnam veterans the welcome home they deserved.

And now we know where to find the heroes of Vietnam. We find them where we've always found our heroes from earlier wars -- in our villages and towns; working in our cities, in our shops, and on our farms. It should be no surprise. We knew what kind of kids they were -- our sons and daughters, and the youngster next door.

I think we just let it slip our minds for a time. Now all Americans are showing their pride in them, along with the veterans of all our wars. And this Veterans Day, we're saying thank you.

5. m.B. file

**The
American
Legion**



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

★ NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ★ P. O. BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 ★
(317) 635-8411 ★

Seattle, Washington
August 25, 1983

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

Dear Mr. President:

Before our 65th National Convention comes to a close, I want to thank you for taking the time from your busy schedule to address our convention. It was a pleasure and a privilege to present you to our delegates and guests as our President and as our fellow Legionnaire of Pacific Palisades Post 283.

The standing ovation you received at the close of your remarks and the number of times you were interrupted with applause told you more clearly than I can how well those remarks were received. We appreciate your message and were encouraged by it.

It was kind of you to stop and say hello to my family. My granddaughter, Katie, was delighted when you accepted her jelly beans. I know that in the years ahead she will treasure the front page photo taken at that time. Needless to say, it will also be treasured by her grandfather. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

AL KELLER, JR.
National Commander

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
Seattle, Washington

For Immediate Release

August 23, 1983

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO THE
65th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION

The Seattle Center
Mercer Forum Arena
August 23, 1983

12:00 noon PDT
3:00 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

Thank you very much, Commander Keller, Governor Spellman, Secretary Donovan, Senator Gorton, members of Congress who are here, and all of you, my fellow Legionnaires, I thank you for that warm greeting and the feeling is mutual.

It's always a special pleasure to address the Legion, and today is no exception, so Legionnaire Ronald Reagan, Pacific Palisades Post, as you have been told, 283, reporting for duty. (Applause)

My uniforms are long since in mothballs, but one of the major responsibilities that goes with my present job is being the chief advocate for America's Armed Forces and veterans, and I take that responsibility seriously. (Applause)

One of the greatest lessons of life is that if you set high standards and do your best to live up to them, you won't go wrong. The Legion has set high standards for itself and for our country. And as long as America lives up to your standards, America will not go wrong. (Applause)

At home and abroad, our country is on the right track again. As a nation, we have closed the books on a long, dark period of failure and self doubt and set a new course. With your continuing support and the support of millions of other patriotic, God-fearing Americans we have come a long way. But the task we face is still a challenging one and a lot of hard work remains to be done. But let's be sure we know what needs to be done.

We've got a few people in Washington who don't want to hear when we tell of our arms control and strategic modernization program and America's responsibility to protect peace and freedom. My own concern with these issues is nothing new, as many of you know. Three years ago at your Boston convention, I pledged to restore America's military posture so that we could promote peace while safeguarding our freedom and security. With the help of groups like the Legion, we've kept that pledge. (Applause)

MORE

Our military forces are back on their feet, and standing tall. Modern equipment is being delivered to the troops, training is way up and combat readiness rates have really soared. And once again, young Americans wear their uniforms and serve their flag with pride. (Applause)

We're getting and keeping very good people in all of the services. We've made great progress, and we're going to make more, and I hope that makes you as proud as it does me. (Applause)

I have to interrupt and tell you a little thing, and I don't mean this to -- these young men and women in our armed services are hostile and warlike. They know that they're the peacekeepers. But an ambassador wrote me a letter, our Ambassador to Luxembourg, and he said he had been up in the East German frontier and visiting the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, and as he went back to his helicopter, he was followed by a young 19 year old trooper and the young man asked him if he thought he could get a message to me. Well, being an Ambassador, he allowed as how he could. And the kid said well, would you tell him we're proud to be here and we ain't scared of nothing. (Applause)

But while I'm on the subject of our military forces I want to reaffirm our determination to account for every brave American who served in Southeast Asia. (Applause) This Administration has not forgotten and will never forget the sacrifices that they and their families have made. And we will not rest until the fullest possible accounting has been made. (Applause)

The other half of restoring our military posture concerns our strategic forces. In the past, we paid a grim price for indecision and neglect -- for a one-way restraint that was never returned by the other side. The resulting imbalance weakened the credibility of our nuclear deterrent -- the deterrent that has been the single greatest bulwark for peace in the postwar era. While past American leaders hesitated or naively hoped for the best, the Soviet Union was left free to pile up new nuclear arsenals without any real incentives to seriously negotiate reductions.

Well, history doesn't offer many crystal clear lessons for those who manage our Nation's affairs. But there are a few, and one of them is surely the lesson that weakness on the part of those who cherish freedom inevitably leads to trouble -- that it only encourages the enemies of both peace and freedom. On the other hand, history teaches us that by being strong and resolute we can keep the peace -- and even reduce the threats to peace. (Applause)

MORE

And that was why, at your Boston Convention in 1980, I pledged to strive for arms reduction agreements -- not so-called arms control agreements that permitted further growth, but real arms reductions.

We've kept that pledge, too. For the past 2-1/2 years, this Administration has steadfastly followed a dual-track of deterrence through modernization and the search for a more stable peace through arms reduction negotiations.

There is no contradiction in this dual approach, despite what some of the critics in Washington might have you believe. The restoration of a credible deterrent and the search for real arms reductions and stability are two sides of the same coin -- a coin that is inscribed with the words, peace and security.

Now, our efforts are designed to sustain peace, plain and simple. We don't seek an arms race; indeed, we seek to reverse the trends that cause it by beginning to lower the levels of the nuclear arms. But we will not, and we cannot, accept anything that would be detrimental to our security and to the freedom and safety of our children and our grandchildren.

And that's what is so important about the MX. The MX Peacekeeper missile and our program to develop a new, small, single-warhead missile are critical to our country's present and future safety. They will maintain state-of-the-art readiness against the Soviets' already modernized systems. They will also ensure stability and deterrence, making it clear that aggression by the Soviet Union would never pay. And they're an essential incentive -- (applause) -- they're an essential incentive for the Soviets to negotiate seriously for genuine arms reduction so that we can move to a more stable world in which the risk of war is reduced.

Modernization goes hand in hand with deterrence. Both are necessary incentives for successful negotiations.

Many of our critics willfully ignore this inter-relationship. Instead, they focus their attention and their criticism on some single point which doesn't address the central issue. Often, it's based on wishful thinking or downright misinformation.

For example, one argument contends that the MX Peacekeeper would pose a first-strike threat to the Soviet Union. In the most fundamental sense, this argument runs counter to the whole history of America. Our country has never started a war, and we've never sought, nor will we ever develop a strategic first-strike capability. Our sole objective is deterrence, the strength and credibility it takes to prevent war. And in any case, there is no way that the MX, even with the remaining Minuteman force, could knock out the entire Soviet ICBM force, so the argument is a false one, both philosophically and technically.

MORE

What we really want, and what we would have with the MX in place is enough force that tells the enemy we'd do them a lot of damage. (Applause)

But the example that I have given is typical of the twisted logic of the anti-MX lobby. It reminds me of the tale told of an armed services poker game which took place a few years back on a western military base. The MPs were tipped off, raided the barracks, and the four poker players just managed to hide the cards and poker chips in time. When the police got there, they were sitting at an empty table, staring innocently at each other. And the MP sergeant asked each one in turn if he'd been gambling, and the soldier bit his lip and replied, "No, sarge, I haven't been gambling, and the airman answered the same way, and that finally brought them to the marine. And they said, "Have you been gambling?" And the M.P. looked the cop right dead in the eye and asked, "Who with?" (Laughter)

That was quick thinking, but the marines sure avoided a real issue, and the real issue is what counts. The real national defense issue of our time is maintaining deterrence while seeking arms reductions. And today, I'm pleased to be able to report some good news on the negotiating front. Our fundamental negotiating positions in both the START and INF talks have been strengthened by a number of related developments that have occurred this year. Let me share a few of them with you.

First on the list is that strong bipartisan support is beginning to surface for our strategic program. Starting with the perceptive recommendations of the Scowcroft Commission, and strengthened by the bipartisan Congressional support in strategic modernization votes in May and July, America has finally begun to forge a national consensus for peace and security. The MX Peacekeeper program and the development program for a new, small, single-warhead missile will complement the B-1 bomber and Trident submarine programs, the other legs of the TRIAD. But we aren't over the hump yet. There is still work to be done, and I am counting on your continuing and active support as we approach the next legislative round on appropriations for the MX this autumn.

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If we see this mission through, the combined efforts of this Administration and the Congress will restore the credibility of America's strategic posture -- the essential foundation for deterrence and successful negotiations. We've learned over and over again that only common resolve in the West can bring responsiveness from the East.

And fortunately, western allied unity today is a firm reality. Our negotiations have been preceded by close consultations with the Congress and with our Allies. This process has continued during the negotiations in Geneva, and we've given our negotiators the flexibility to explore all possible avenues with the Soviets.

Peace is a beautiful word, but it is also freely used, and sometimes even abused. As I've said before, peace is an objective, not a policy. Those who fail to understand this do so at their peril. Neville Chamberlain thought of peace as a vague policy in the thirties, and the result brought us closer to World War II. Today's so-called "peace movement" -- for all its modern hype and theatrics -- makes the same old mistake. They would wage peace by weakening the free. And that just doesn't make sense. (Applause) My heart is with those who march for peace. I'd be at the head of the parade if I thought it would really serve the cause of peace. But the members of the real peace movement, the real peacekeepers and peacemakers, are people who understand that peace must be built on strength. And for that, the American people and free people everywhere owe all of you a deep debt of gratitude. (Applause)

Like you, our Allies remain united in a common effort to strengthen both deterrence and the prospects for arms reduction through negotiations. They recognize the dangers to allied unity of Soviet propaganda and thinly-veiled threats -- at causing NATO to abandon its dual-track decision to modernize and negotiate. If we lacked the will to provide a credible deterrent, then we could look forward to ever more aggressive Soviet behavior in the future. Because NATO understands this, NATO will persevere.

When you add it all up, despite the problems, there is strong reason for hope. This Administration has worked very hard over the course of many months to refine our own negotiating objectives and positions. We've developed a sound, well-thought-out strategy to achieve them. We stand united with the Congress and our Allies. Our strategic TRIAD is being modernized. We're negotiating arms reductions in good faith. And there's been encouraging movement in these negotiations. For the first time, in the START negotiations, the Soviets are willing to actually talk about actual reductions. In Vienna, at the Mutual Balanced Force Reduction Talks, the Soviet negotiators have shown movement on the verification issues needed to permit us to negotiate reductions in the conventional force safely. There has also been progress in discussing confidence-building measures. All these indicators, modest though they may seem, point in the same positive direction -- new hope for arms reductions and a more secure world.

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Let's not kid ourselves. There are lots of ambiguities and we've still got a long way to go, a long way from agreement. Plenty of tough, hard bargaining remains to be done at the negotiating table. But I can assure you that our highest priority is focused on this, the most challenging and important issue of our lifetimes, and we're making headway -- for peace. (Applause)

Another issue of critical importance to all Americans -- and one I view as the centerpiece of American foreign policy -- concerns our responsibility as peacemaker.

We can't build a safe world with honorable intentions and good will alone. Achieving the fundamental goals our Nation seeks in world affairs -- peace, human rights, economic progress, national independence, and international stability -- means supporting our friends and defending our interests. Our commitment as peacemaker is focused on these goals. Right now this commitment is most visible in Central America, the Middle East and Africa.

Our policy in Central America is to help the people of that troubled region help themselves, help them to build a better life -- to help them toward liberty and to help them reverse centuries of poverty and inequity.

And that's what they want, too. In Costa Rica, democracy and respect for human rights are a long and proud tradition. In Honduras, democratic institutions are taking root. In El Salvador, democracy is beginning to work even in the face of externally supported terrorism and guerrilla warfare.

We know that democracy in Central America will not be built overnight. But step by step, with humanitarian, economic and private sector assistance from the United States, it can and will be achieved.

And that's why we established the Caribbean Basin Initiative, a program designed to help the people in that region help themselves. The Caribbean Basin Initiative is based on a combination of trade and private investment incentives. We decided to listen and learn from what our neighbors have been saying for a long time -- that the best thing we could do to help them build a better, freer life for themselves. We agree and, though you wouldn't know it from some of the coverage, by far the greatest portion of our aid to Central America is humanitarian and economic.

Now there are some -- in Moscow and Havana -- who don't want to let our Caribbean neighbors solve their problems peacefully. They seek to impose their alien form of totalitarianism with bullets instead of ballots.

And that's why we are supporting a security shield for those nations that are threatened. Unless that shield is there, democracy, reform, economic development, and constructive dialogue and negotiations cannot survive and grow. Other than training our own troops, this is the only purpose behind our military exercises -- to demonstrate our commitment to the free aspirations and sovereignty of our neighbors. (Applause)

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I've said it before, and I'll say it again: Human rights means working at problems, not walking away from them. Would America be America if, in their hour of need, we abandoned our nearest neighbors? From the tip of Tierra del Fuego to Alaska's Point Barrow, we're all Americans. We worship the same God, cherish the same freedom. Can we stand idly by and allow a totalitarian minority to destroy our common heritage? Our concern is justice. Has communism ever provided that? Our concern is poverty. Has a communist economic system ever brought prosperity? No. If the United States were to let down the people of Central America -- people who are struggling for the democratic values that we share -- we would have let ourselves down, too. We could never be certain of ourselves, much less of the future, if we turned our back on our nearest neighbors' struggle for peace, freedom and evolving democracy. (Applause)

In the Middle East, the pursuit of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors remains another fundamental objective of this Administration. Yes, it's a thorny problem, and our negotiators have faced serious difficulties over the past two-and-a-half years. But there's been real progress. The Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt in April of 1982. This essential step in the establishment of peace between Egypt and Israel wouldn't have been possible without our decision to contribute to the multinational force and observers that are currently operating in the Sinai. In Lebanon, our Marines continue to serve alongside their French, British and Italian comrades as we work for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from that troubled land. Our joint presence strengthens the resolve of the Lebanese government to assume the tough task of maintaining order.

We Americans covet no foreign territory, and we have no intention of becoming policeman to the world. But as the most powerful country in the West, we have a responsibility to help our friends keep the peace. And we should be proud of our achievements -- (applause) --

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and especially proud of the fine men and women of our armed forces who undertake these tough yet vital tasks.

In Africa, we're engaged in a parallel commitment -- economic development, the growth of democracies and the peaceful resolution of conflict. And here, too, our emphasis is on developmental and economic assistance. We maintain only a handful of military advisers on the whole African continent. Our economic aid is four times larger than what we spend on security assistance. Contrast this with what the Soviet Union is doing. The record shows that since the Soviets began their aid program to Africa in 1954, military aid has outpaced all other Soviet aid by seven-to-one. Then add more than 40,000 Soviet and surrogate military personnel stationed in Africa, and it's no wonder that Africa is rife with conflict and tension.

For our part, we're actively working to defuse the tensions and conflict in Namibia and Angola while we help fight poverty in the region. In Chad, the United States is a partner in a multinational economic assistance package designed to get this tragically poor and strife-torn country on its feet. But without protection from external aggression, there can be no economic progress.

And naked, external aggression is what is taking place in Chad today. Drawing upon the nearly \$10 billion worth of Soviet military equipment and munitions now in Libya, Colonel Qadhaffi has been using Soviet-built fighter bombers, T-55 tanks and artillery in a blatant attempt to destroy a legitimate government. President Habre and the people of his country are truly beleaguered as they struggle to preserve their independence. It is in this context that we have joined a number of other countries in providing emergency security assistance to Chad.

Yes, in Africa there is real reason for concern. But there are also harbingers of hope. Less than two weeks ago, I had the pleasure of meeting with President Diouf of Senegal. He's a great man doing a great job. His outstanding leadership has brought Senegal fully into the community of truly democratic states. And a similar democratic success story has just taken place in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation, where free presidential elections were successfully completed last week.

That's right, there's a democratic revolution going on in this world. It may not grab the headlines, but it's there, and it's growing. The tide of history is with the forces of freedom -- and so are we.

That's the real message -- (applause) -- and that's the overwhelming news story of our time, even though it seldom makes the front page. The light of the democratic ideal is not slowly fading away. It gains in brightness with every passing day, but it needs our care and cultivation.

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You know, Mark Twain once remarked that he spent \$25 to research his family tree, and then he had to spend \$50 to cover it up. (Laughter) Well, America is more fortunate. We can be proud of our heritage, and we need never hide from our roots. The world we live in is not an easy one, but we have inherited a noble mission, a mission that casts a beacon of hope for all the earth's people. America, more than anything, wants lasting peace -- peace with liberty, with justice, and with the freedom to follow the dictates of God and conscience. To succeed, we will need wisdom, strength, and imagination. We'll need patience and vigor. But to seek anything less would be to deny our heritage and the real meaning of our great Nation.

You know, our National Anthem is probably the only one that asks a question: "does that banner still wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" When Francis Scott Key wrote that he was asking if our flag was still flying. Well, today, we know the flag still flies. But what we continue to answer is that it does wave o'er a people that are still free and still brave and determined to preserve this land for generations to come. (Applause)

Thank you for all that you and the Legion are doing to help America stay true to this quest, and God bless you all.

Thank you. (Applause)

END

(12:26 p.m. PDT
(3:26 p.m. EDT)

The American Legion



Morton B.

JUN 13 1983

June 8, 1983

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

Dear Mr. President:

The American Legion has received a copy of a June 2, 1983, letter from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director, David A. Stockman, to Chairman Jamie L. Whitten of the House Appropriations Committee regarding H.R. 3191, the FY 84 Treasury, Postal Service, General Government Appropriations bill. Mr. Stockman's letter is distressing in its reference to three items of concern to the Legion-- 1) the Revenue Foregone postal subsidy 2) rules proposed by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which would significantly alter Reduction-in-Force procedures and establish a performance based incentive system and 3) contracting out employee positions at the General Services Administration (GSA), which are specifically reserved for veterans by 5 USC 3310.

In the case of the postal subsidy, our organization and other preferred rate mailers have presented to Congress and to your office the need for continuing such rates at existing levels through the upcoming fiscal year. We simply cannot afford the rate increase which would result from your funding recommendations of \$400 million. Since preferred postage treatment provides our organization the opportunity to freely communicate and to maintain private sector services for the needy, we must object to Mr. Stockman's comment that the postal subsidy is "unnecessary." Recent survey findings show that \$65 billion annually in goods and services are being provided by private sector charitable activities. When recognizing that subsidized mail is an intricate part of this entire initiative, we choose to view this subsidy as an investment.

Mr. President, just as the postal subsidy plays a significant role in the welfare of the American people, the welfare of Federal employees is served by a fair and equitable system for determining retention in Federal service when RIF's are carried out. We recognize your need to be able to effectively manage personnel matters but the regulatory changes proposed by OPM could accommodate subjective implementation and, thereby, could provide a vehicle for diluting the provisions of law regarding veterans preference. In any case, we believe that Congress should have an opportunity to review the proposed regulations.

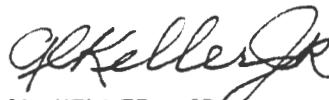
The President

June 8, 1983

Federal employees, specifically veterans, would be adversely affected by the GSA contracting out proposal for the positions of guards, custodians, elevator operators, and messengers. These positions, reserved by law (5 USC 3310), for veterans, are often the only means these people have of entering federal service and failure to retain these positions as part of the federal work force would virtually ignore current law under provisions of the Veterans Readjustment Appointment Authority.

Mr. President, we urge you to reconsider your position on the three issues discussed here.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Al Keller, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

AL KELLER, JR.
National Commander
The American Legion

The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N.W. ★ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006 ★
(202) 861-2700 ★



For God and Country

June 30, 1983

Dear Fellow Legionnaire:

It is imperative that a nationwide grass roots campaign be conducted to demonstrate popular endorsement of a strong and supportive policy toward our near neighbors of the Caribbean. We seek your assistance in this matter by using every means at your disposal to advise the public that the President's Caribbean Basin Initiative is in the nation's best interest and to convey that message to Congress. Unlike routine appeals for communications with Capitol Hill, we are calling for your participation because of your particular familiarity with this issue.

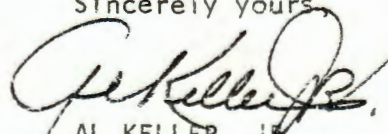
Despite President Reagan's recent speech to a joint session of Congress in which he presented a moderate proposal which would help friendly nations to progress toward democracy and economic security while remaining free of outside intervention, it appears that Congress is reluctant to approve requested funding for aid without attaching conditions which would hamper U.S. policies in the Caribbean. Congress must clearly understand the strategic significance of the region and our elected officials on Capitol Hill must further understand that there is broad-based support across the country for continued economic and security aid to Central America, that such support exists despite the nearly 300 organizations lobbying against current U.S. policy.

For your information, I am enclosing copies of documents which explain the Legion's position relative to Central America, President Reagan's speech (consistent with Legion mandate), and my letter of response to the President's address. Additional information will be provided, if requested, by National staff in Washington. They will be most helpful in providing current analyses of the situation in Central American. Contact the National Security/Foreign Relations Division if you should require any such assistance.

I have discussed the critical situation in Central American with Dr. Robert P. Foster, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission. We agree that immediate action by concerned Americans is imperative; therefore, we encourage you to help implement our resolutions through support of the Administration's policy toward this strategically vital area. As mentioned, this can best be accomplished through a grass roots campaign of communicating to Congress your views on this matter.

Thank you for your help and I know that you will do your best to encourage all Americans to do the same.

Sincerely yours,


AL KELLER, JR.
National Commander

Enclosures

64th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
HELD IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 484

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN BASIN

WHEREAS, Soviet-Cuban aggression continues to increase in the Caribbean Basin;
and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union is supporting a massive buildup of communist military
forces and bases in Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua; and

WHEREAS, the Caribbean Basin nations continue to suffer underdevelopment and
economic chaos; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States now has properly recognized vital
U.S. interests in the Caribbean Basin, the communist threat, and the area's
serious economic plight; and

WHEREAS, the Government of the United States has started to enunciate a more
comprehensive policy based on the Caribbean Basin Initiative and increased
military assistance; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago,
Illinois, August 24, 25, 26, 1982, that the Administration be urged to enlarge
the Caribbean Basin Initiative into a true "Marshall-type-Plan" for the area,
including greatly increased funding over a number of years; and, be it
further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to develop adequate military and
intelligence capabilities to accomplish its objectives in the Caribbean Basin;
and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to support increased educational
exchanges between the United States and the Caribbean Basin nations; and,
be it finally

RESOLVED, that The American Legion should inform (through The American Legion
Magazine, other Legion publications, and other means of communication) the
American public and Congress of vital U.S. interests in the Caribbean Basin
and the need to pursue them vigorously.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
THE AMERICAN LEGION - INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
October 13-14, 1982

RESOLUTION #5

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: CENTRAL AMERICA

WHEREAS, communist insurgency efforts are increasing in Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica; and

WHEREAS, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica are experiencing serious economic problems; and

WHEREAS, Costa Rica has had a democratic system of government for over three decades and has, until recently, achieved excellent economic growth; and

WHEREAS, U.S. military aid to Guatemala has been suspended since 1977; and

WHEREAS, recent developments in Guatemala indicate the possibility that it may wish to establish a fair, efficient government and achieve disciplined performance by its armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Nicaragua, with Soviet and Cuban assistance, is developing armed forces far in excess of its reasonable needs; continues to support communist insurgencies in other Central American nations; is becoming a more thoroughly totalitarian communist dictatorship and persecutes its own citizens, especially the Miskito Indians; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 13-14, 1982, that the executive and legislative branches of government be urged to provide adequate economic and military aid, in cooperation with other donor nations, to Costa Rica and Honduras to enable those countries to defeat communist aggression and solve their economic problems; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Administration be urged to work closely with the government of Guatemala to bring about conditions conducive to the resumption of military assistance to Guatemala and expansion of economic assistance to Guatemala; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Administration be urged to take firm action to isolate the Sandinista government of Nicaragua and defeat its efforts to support communist subversion in Central America.

64th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION
HELD IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
August 24-26, 1982

RESOLUTION 310

COMMITTEE: Foreign Relations

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR

WHEREAS, recent elections have been held in El Salvador with several parties seeking seats in the Salvadoran Assembly; and

WHEREAS, the people of El Salvador overwhelmingly demonstrated their rejection of the communist insurgents by the extremely large turnout for the March 28, 1982, constituent assembly election, under very difficult conditions; and

WHEREAS, the communist threat to El Salvador continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, the economic situation in El Salvador continues to deteriorate; and

WHEREAS, the government of the United States has publicly, clearly and repeatedly "drawn a line", and pledged to defeat communist aggression in El Salvador, thus making U.S. resolve and success absolutely imperative; and

WHEREAS, the American Legion has continuously and consistently opposed world-wide communist expansion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, by The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 24, 25, 26, 1982, that the U.S. Government be urged to provide adequate economic aid to El Salvador and furnish increased military training and equipment as necessary to defeat the guerrillas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the U.S. Government be urged to take whatever action is necessary to redeem its pledge to defeat communist subversion in El Salvador.

President Reagan

Central America: Defending Our Vital Interests

April 27, 1983



United States Department of State
Bureau of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Following is an address by President Reagan before a joint session of Congress, April 27, 1983.

A number of times in past years, Members of Congress and a President have come together in meetings like this to resolve a crisis. I have asked for this meeting in the hope that we can prevent one.

It would be hard to find many Americans who are not aware of our stake in the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, or the NATO line dividing the free world from the communist bloc. And the same could be said for Asia.

But in spite of, or maybe because of, a flurry of stories about places like Nicaragua and El Salvador, and, yes, some concerted propaganda, many of us find it hard to believe we have a stake in problems involving those countries. Too many have thought of Central America as just that place way down below Mexico that can't possibly constitute a threat to our well-being.

And that's why I have asked for this session. Central America's problems do directly affect the security and the well-being of our own people. And Central America is much closer to the United States than many of the world trouble spots that concern us. So as we work to restore our own economy, we cannot afford to lose sight of our neighbors to the south.

El Salvador is nearer to Texas than Texas is to Massachusetts. Nicaragua is just as close to Miami, San Antonio, San Diego, and Tucson as those cities are to Washington where we're gathered

tonight. But nearness on the map doesn't even begin to tell the strategic importance of Central America, bordering as it does on the Caribbean—our lifeline to the outside world. Two-thirds of all our foreign trade and petroleum pass through the Panama Canal and the Caribbean. In a European crisis, at least half of our supplies for NATO would go through these areas by sea. It's well to remember that in early 1942 a handful of Hitler's submarines sank more tonnage there than in all of the Atlantic Ocean. And they did this without a single naval base anywhere in the area.

Today, the situation is different. Cuba is host to a Soviet combat brigade, a submarine base capable of servicing Soviet submarines, and military air bases visited regularly by Soviet military aircraft.

Because of its importance, the Caribbean Basin is a magnet for adventurism. We are all aware of the Libyan cargo planes refueling in Brazil a few days ago on their way to deliver medical supplies to Nicaragua. Brazilian authorities discovered the so-called medical supplies were actually munitions and prevented their delivery. You may remember that last month, speaking on national television, I showed an aerial photo of an airfield being built on the island of Grenada. Well, if that airfield had been completed, those planes could have refueled there and completed their journey.

If the Nazis during World War II and the Soviets today could recognize the Caribbean and Central America as vital to our interests, shouldn't we also?

Struggle for Freedom in El Salvador

For several years now, under two administrations, the United States has been increasing its defense of freedom in the Caribbean Basin. And I can tell you tonight, democracy is beginning to take root in El Salvador which, until a short time ago, knew only dictatorship. The new government is now delivering on its promises of democracy, reforms, and free elections. It wasn't easy, and there was resistance to many of the attempted reforms with assassinations of some of the reformers. Guerrilla bands and urban terrorists were portrayed in a worldwide propaganda campaign as freedom fighters representative of the people. Ten days before I came into office, the guerrillas launched what they called a "final offensive" to overthrow the government. And their radio boasted that our new Administration would be too late to prevent their victory.

They learned democracy cannot be so easily defeated. President Carter did not hesitate. He authorized arms and ammunition to El Salvador. The guerrilla offensive failed, but not America's will. Every president since this country assumed global responsibilities has known that those responsibilities could only be met if we pursued a bipartisan foreign policy.

As I said a moment ago, the Government of El Salvador has been keeping its promises, like the land reform program which is making thousands of farm tenants, farm owners. In a little over 3 years, 20% of the arable land in El Salvador has been redistributed to more than 450,000 people. That's 1 in 10 Salvadorans who have benefited directly from this program.

El Salvador has continued to strive toward an orderly and democratic society. The government promised free elections. On March 28th, little more than a year ago, after months of campaigning by a variety of candidates, the suffering people of El Salvador were offered a chance to vote—to choose the kind of government they wanted. And suddenly the so-called freedom fighters in the hills were exposed for what they really are—a small minority who want power for themselves and their backers not democracy for the people. The guerrillas threatened death to anyone who voted. They destroyed hundreds of buses and trucks to keep the people from getting to the polling places. Their slogan was brutal: "Vote today, die tonight." But on election day, an unprecedented 80% of the electorate braved ambush and gunfire and trudged for miles, many of

them, to vote for freedom. And that's truly fighting for freedom. We can never turn our backs on that.

Members of this Congress who went there as observers told me of a woman who was wounded by rifle fire on the way to the polls, who refused to leave the line to have her wound treated until after she had voted. Another woman had been told by the guerrillas that she would be killed when she returned from the polls, and she told the guerrillas, "You can kill me; you can kill my family; you can kill my neighbors; you can't kill us all." The real freedom fighters of El Salvador turned out to be the people of that country—the young, the old, the in between—more than a million of them out of a population of less than 5 million. The world should respect this courage and not allow it to be belittled or forgotten. And again, I say in good conscience, we can never turn our backs on that.

The democratic political parties and factions in El Salvador are coming together around the common goal of seeking a political solution to their country's problems. New national elections will be held this year and they will be open to all political parties. The government has invited the guerrillas to participate in the election and is preparing an amnesty law. The people of El Salvador are earning their freedom, and they deserve our moral and material support to protect it.

Yes, there are still major problems regarding human rights, the criminal justice system, and violence against non-combatants. And, like the rest of Central America, El Salvador also faces severe economic problems. But in addition to recession-depressed prices for major agricultural exports, El Salvador's economy is being deliberately sabotaged. Tonight in El Salvador—because of ruthless guerrilla attacks—much of the fertile land cannot be cultivated; less than half the rolling stock of the railways remains operational; bridges, water facilities, telephone and electric systems have been destroyed and damaged. In one 22-month period, there were 5,000 interruptions of electrical power; one region was without electricity for a third of a year.

I think Secretary of State Shultz put it very well the other day. "Unable to win the free loyalty of El Salvador's people, the guerrillas," he said, "are deliberately and systematically depriving them of food, water, transportation, light, sanitation, and jobs. And these are the people who claim they want to help the common people."

They don't want elections because they know they would be defeated. But, as the previous election showed, the Salvadoran people's desire for democracy will not be defeated. The guerrillas are not embattled peasants armed with muskets. They are professionals, sometimes with better training and weaponry than the government's soldiers. The Salvadoran battalions that have received U.S. training have been conducting themselves well on the battlefield and with the civilian population. But, so far, we've only provided enough money to train 1 Salvadoran soldier out of 10, fewer than the number of guerrillas that are trained by Nicaragua and Cuba.

Relations With Nicaragua

And let me set the record straight on Nicaragua, a country next to El Salvador. In 1979, when the new government took over in Nicaragua, after a revolution which overthrew the authoritarian rule of Somoza, everyone hoped for the growth of democracy. We in the United States did too. By January of 1981, our emergency relief and recovery aid to Nicaragua totaled \$118 million—more than provided by any other developed country. In fact, in the first 2 years of Sandinista rule, the United States directly or indirectly sent five times more aid to Nicaragua than it had in the 2 years prior to the revolution. Can anyone doubt the generosity and good faith of the American people?

These were hardly the actions of a nation implacably hostile to Nicaragua. Yet, the Government of Nicaragua has treated us as an enemy. It has rejected our repeated peace efforts. It has broken its promises to us, to the Organization of American States, and, most important of all, to the people of Nicaragua.

No sooner was victory achieved than a small clique ousted others who had been part of the revolution from having any voice in government. Humberto Ortega, the Minister of Defense, declared Marxism-Leninism would be their guide, and so it is. The Government of Nicaragua has imposed a new dictatorship; it has refused to hold the elections it promised; it has seized control of most media and subjects all media to heavy prior censorship; it denied the bishops and priests of the Roman Catholic Church the right to say mass on radio during holy week; it insulted and mocked the Pope; it has driven the Miskito Indians from their homelands—burning their villages,

destroying their crops, and forcing them into involuntary internment camps far from home; it has moved against the private sector and free labor unions; it condoned mob action against Nicaragua's independent human rights commission and drove the director of that commission into exile.

In short, after all these acts of repression by the government, is it any wonder that opposition has formed? Contrary to propaganda, the opponents of the Sandinistas are not die-hard supporters of the previous Somoza regime. In fact, many are anti-Somoza heroes who fought beside the Sandinistas to bring down the Somoza government. Now they've been denied any part in the new government because they truly wanted democracy for Nicaragua, and they still do. Others are Miskito Indians fighting for their homes, their lands, and their lives.

The Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua turned out to be just an exchange of one set of autocratic rulers for another, and the people still have no freedom, no democratic rights, and more poverty. Even worse than its predecessor, it is helping Cuba and the Soviets to destabilize our hemisphere.

Meanwhile, the Government of El Salvador, making every effort to guarantee democracy, free labor unions, freedom of religion, and a free press, is under attack by guerrillas dedicated to the same philosophy that prevails in Nicaragua, Cuba, and, yes, the Soviet Union. Violence has been Nicaragua's most important export to the world. It is the ultimate in hypocrisy for the unelected Nicaraguan Government to charge that we seek their overthrow when they're doing everything they can to bring down the elected Government of El Salvador. The guerrilla attacks are directed from a headquarters in Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

But let us be clear as to the American attitude toward the Government of Nicaragua. We do not seek its overthrow. Our interest is to ensure that it does not infect its neighbors through the export of subversion and violence. Our purpose, in conformity with American and international law, is to prevent the flow of arms to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica. We have attempted to have a dialogue with the Government of Nicaragua, but it persists in its efforts to spread violence.

We should not—and we will not—protect the Nicaraguan Government from the anger of its own people. But we should, through diplomacy, offer an alternative. And, as Nicaragua ponders its options, we can and will—with all the

resources of diplomacy—protect each country of Central America from the danger of war. Even Costa Rica, Central America's oldest and strongest democracy, a government so peaceful it doesn't even have an army, is the object of bullying and threats from Nicaragua's dictators.

Nicaragua's neighbors know that Sandinista promises of peace, nonalliance, and nonintervention have not been kept. Some 36 new military bases have been built; there were only 13 during the Somoza years. Nicaragua's new army numbers 25,000 men supported by a militia of 50,000. It is the largest army in Central America supplemented by 2,000 Cuban military and security advisers. It is equipped with the most modern weapons, dozens of Soviet-made tanks, 800 Soviet-bloc trucks, Soviet 152-MM howitzers, 100 antiaircraft guns, plus planes and helicopters. There are additional thousands of civilian advisers from Cuba, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Libya, and the PLO [Palestine Liberation Organization]. And we are attacked because we have 55 military trainers in El Salvador.

The goal of the professional guerrilla movements in Central America is as simple as it is sinister—to destabilize the entire region from the Panama Canal to Mexico. If you doubt me on this point, just consider what Cayetano Carpio, the now-deceased Salvadoran guerrilla leader, said earlier this month. Carpio said that after El Salvador falls, El Salvador and Nicaragua would be "arm-in-arm and struggling for the total liberation of Central America."

Nicaragua's dictatorial junta, who themselves made war and won power operating from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica, like to pretend they are today being attacked by forces based in Honduras. The fact is, it is Nicaragua's Government that threatens Honduras, not the reverse. It is Nicaragua who has moved heavy tanks close to the border, and Nicaragua who speaks of war. It was Nicaraguan radio that announced on April 8th the creation of a new, unified, revolutionary coordinating board to push forward the Marxist struggle in Honduras. Nicaragua, supported by weapons and military resources provided by the communist bloc, represses its own people, refuses to make peace, and sponsors a guerrilla war against El Salvador.

The Need for U.S. Support

President Truman's words are as apt today as they were in 1947, when he, too, spoke before a joint session of the Congress:

At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one.

One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way.

I believe that our help should be primarily through economic and financial aid which is essential to economic stability and orderly political processes.

... Collapse of free institutions and loss of independence would be disastrous not only for them but for the world. Discouragement and possibly failure would quickly be the lot of neighboring peoples striving to maintain their freedom and independence.

The countries of Central America are smaller than the nations that prompted President Truman's message. But the political and strategic stakes are the same. Will our response—economic, social, military—be as appropriate and successful as Mr. Truman's bold solutions to the problems of postwar Europe?

Some people have forgotten the successes of those years and the decades of peace, prosperity, and freedom they secured. Some people talk as though the United States were incapable of acting effectively in international affairs without risking war or damaging those we seek to help.

Are democracies required to remain passive while threats to their security and prosperity accumulate?

Must we just accept the destabilization of an entire region from the Panama Canal to Mexico on our southern border?

Must we sit by while independent nations of this hemisphere are integrated into the most aggressive empire the modern world has seen?

Must we wait while Central Americans are driven from their homes, like the more than 4 million who have

sought refuge out of Afghanistan or the 1.5 million who have fled Indochina or the more than 1 million Cubans who have fled Castro's Caribbean utopia? Must we, by default, leave the people of El Salvador no choice but to flee their homes, creating another tragic human exodus?

I do not believe there is a majority in the Congress or the country that counsels passivity, resignation, defeatism in the face of this challenge to freedom and security in our hemisphere.

I do not believe that a majority of the Congress or the country is prepared to stand by passively while the people of Central America are delivered to totalitarianism, and we ourselves are left vulnerable to new dangers.

Only last week an official of the Soviet Union reiterated Brezhnev's threat to station nuclear missiles in this hemisphere—5 minutes from the United States. Like an echo, Nicaragua's commandante, Daniel Ortega, confirmed that, if asked, his country would consider accepting those missiles. I understand that today they may be having second thoughts.

Now, before I go any further, let me say to those who invoke the memory of Vietnam: There is no thought of sending American combat troops to Central America; they are not needed—indeed, they have not been requested there. All our neighbors ask of us is assistance in training and arms to protect themselves while they build a better, freer life.

We must continue to encourage peace among the nations of Central America. We must support the regional efforts now underway to promote solutions to regional problems. We cannot be certain that the Marxist-Leninist bands who believe war is an instrument of politics will be readily discouraged. It's crucial that we not become discouraged before they do. Otherwise the region's freedom will be lost and our security damaged in ways that can hardly be calculated.

If Central America were to fall, what would the consequences be for our position in Asia, Europe, and for alliances such as NATO? If the United States cannot respond to a threat near our own borders, why should Europeans or Asians believe that we are seriously concerned about threats to them? If the Soviets can assume that nothing short of an actual attack on the United States will provoke an American response, which ally, which friend will trust us then?

Basic Goals

The Congress shares both the power and the responsibility for our foreign policy. Tonight, I ask you, the Congress, to join me in a bold, generous approach to the problems of peace and poverty, democracy and dictatorship in the region. Join me in a program that prevents communist victory in the short run but goes beyond to produce, for the deprived people of the area, the reality of present progress and the promise of more to come.

Let us lay the foundation for a bipartisan approach to sustain the independence and freedom of the countries of Central America. We in the Administration reach out to you in this spirit.

We will pursue four basic goals in Central America.

First. In response to decades of inequity and indifference, we will support democracy, reform, and human freedom. This means using our assistance, our powers of persuasion, and our legitimate "leverage" to bolster humane democratic systems where they already exist and to help countries on their way to that goal complete the process as quickly as human institutions can be changed. Elections—in El Salvador and also in Nicaragua—must be open to all, fair and safe. The international community must help. We will work at human rights problems, not walk away from them.

Second. In response to the challenge of world recession and, in the case of El Salvador, to the unrelenting campaign of economic sabotage by the guerrillas, we will support economic development. By a margin of two-to-one, our aid is economic now, not military. Seventy-seven cents out of every dollar we will spend in the area this year goes for food, fertilizers, and other essentials for economic growth and development. And our economic program goes beyond traditional aid: The Caribbean initiative introduced in the House earlier today will provide powerful trade and investment incentives to help these countries achieve self-sustaining economic growth without exporting U.S. jobs. Our goal must be to focus our immense and growing technology to enhance health care, agriculture, and industry and to ensure that we, who inhabit this interdependent region, come to know and understand each other better, retaining our diverse identities, respecting our diverse traditions and institutions.

Third. In response to the military challenge from Cuba and Nicaragua—to their deliberate use of force to spread tyranny—we will support the security of the region's threatened nations. We do not view security assistance as an end in itself but as a shield for democratization, economic development, and diplomacy. No amount of reform will bring peace so long as guerrillas believe they will win by force. No amount of economic help will suffice if guerrilla units can destroy roads and bridges and power stations and crops again and again with impunity. But, with better training and material help, our neighbors can hold off the guerrillas and give democratic reform time to take root.

Fourth. We will support dialogue and negotiations—both among the countries of the region and within each country. The terms and conditions of participation in elections are negotiable. Costa Rica is a shining example of democracy. Honduras has made the move from military rule to democratic government. Guatemala is pledged to the same course. The United States will work toward a political solution in Central America which will serve the interests of the democratic process.

To support these diplomatic goals, I offer these assurances:

- The United States will support any agreement among Central American countries for the withdrawal—under fully verifiable and reciprocal conditions—of all foreign military and security advisers and troops.

- We want to help opposition groups join the political process in all countries and compete by ballots instead of bullets.

- We will support any verifiable, reciprocal agreement among Central American countries on the renunciation of support for insurgencies on neighbors' territory.

- And, finally, we desire to help Central America end its costly arms race and will support any verifiable, reciprocal agreements on the nonimportation of offensive weapons.

To move us toward these goals more rapidly, I am tonight announcing my intention to name an ambassador at large as my special envoy to Central America. He or she will report to me through the Secretary of State. The ambassador's responsibilities will be to lend U.S. support to the efforts of regional govern-

ments to bring peace to this troubled area and to work closely with the Congress to assure the fullest possible bipartisan coordination of our policies toward the region.

What I'm asking for is prompt congressional approval for the full reprogramming of funds for key current economic and security programs so that the people of Central America can hold the line against externally supported aggression. In addition, I am asking for prompt action on the supplemental request in these same areas to carry us through the current fiscal year and for early and favorable congressional action on my requests for fiscal year 1984. And finally, I am asking that the bipartisan consensus, which last year acted on the trade and tax provisions of the Caribbean Basin Initiative in the House, again take the lead to move this vital proposal

to the floor of both chambers. And, as I said before, the greatest share of these requests is targeted toward economic and humanitarian aid, not military.

What the Administration is asking for on behalf of freedom in Central America is so small, so minimal, considering what is at stake. The total amount requested for aid to all of Central America in 1984 is about \$600 million; that's less than one-tenth of what Americans will spend this year on coin-operated video games.

In summation, I say to you that tonight there can be no question: The national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America. If we cannot defend ourselves there, we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble, and the safety of our homeland would be put at jeopardy.

We have a vital interest, a moral duty, and a solemn responsibility. This is not a partisan issue. It is a question of our meeting our moral responsibility to ourselves, our friends, and our posterity. It is a duty that falls on all of us—the President, the Congress, and the people. We must perform it together. Who among us would wish to bear responsibility for failing to meet our shared obligation? ■

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The American Legion

★ WASHINGTON OFFICE ★ 1608 "K" STREET, N. W. ★ WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006 ★



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

April 28, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

The American Legion's 2.6 million members throughout the nation heartily applaud and endorse the comprehensive plan of action for Central America you described to the Congress on April 27, 1983. We are convinced that your approach is practical, suited to the area, and offers the best hope for success. It is a plan all Americans, of whatever persuasion, can, and should, endorse. As has unfortunately happened repeatedly in the Twentieth Century, America must belatedly recognize a serious threat to her interests and unite behind a common endeavor. No more delay or avoiding the issue can be tolerated. Only determined, coordinated and resolute action under U.S. leadership can avoid a creeping Pearl Harbor--and this time not thousands of miles distant in the Pacific--but within several hundred miles of our shores.

Bipartisan action, as you so rightly suggested, is most assuredly vital to promoting democracy in Central America. Now is the time when America must--if it is to survive and prosper in the long run as a beacon of liberty--reestablish the very effective bipartisan approach to foreign policy and national security policy that prevailed in the immediate post-war era. That period of enlightened statesmanship created the institutions and policies establishing a military deterrent shield behind which an unprecedented expansion of Western democracy and economic development occurred. The challenge now is to recapture the spirit that responded to early challenges to create such successful innovations as the OAS, NATO, World Bank and IMF. New international institutions are probably not required at present, but a similar bipartisan spirit, long-range commitment, and willingness to sacrifice are essential.

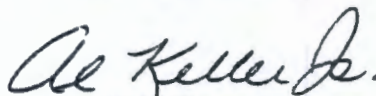
Your four-part program of action addresses the needs of the area in a balanced, internally consistent manner. Democratic reform, economic development aid, security assistance, and support for flexible negotiations consistent with U.S. goals is a combined approach suitable to the needs of fending off external threats while seeking to promote the growth of democratic, equitable societies.

The American Legion has been a leading voice among those seeking to alert America to its vital interests in the Caribbean Basin and Central America. Following through on our concern for the Panama Canal Treaties, we looked intensively at Central America and, in 1980, formed a Western Hemisphere Task Force to study the area and report to the American people. The task force published an extensive study on the Caribbean Basin last year, which led us to adopt a program very similar to yours. However, we go one giant step beyond your Caribbean Basin Initiative, which we nevertheless strongly support. We call for a "Marshall-type Plan" for the Caribbean Basin. As we see it, the Caribbean Basin suffers from an economic-political malady which makes it susceptible to communist aggression just as war-devastated Western Europe was susceptible to communist aggression in the wake of World War II. Such a plan is called for because that approach features coordinated programs, significant funding, regional cooperation, and a long-term commitment. Today, we endorse General Marshall's advice in 1947 to devise "a cure rather than a palliative." For a "Marshall-type Plan" would flow logically from the formation laid in your four-part strategy by providing a long-term program to promote freedom and prosperity in the Caribbean Basin.

As another expression of concern for the vital importance of Central America to U.S. national security, I devoted my "Commander's Message" in the May issue of The American Legion Magazine to debunking the "Vietnam syndrome." I believe the three million copies distributed of that article will help to convince concerned Americans that we cannot allow incorrect lessons drawn from the Vietnam War to restrict American policy. Carried to its logical conclusion, the "Vietnam syndrome" would tie America's hands and lead inexorably to withdrawal into Fortress America with a concomitant diminishment of freedom and prosperity throughout the world.

Let me assure you, our members will continue to support a sound program for protecting vital American interests and security in Central America and encouraging those in the area truly seeking democracy, justice, and freedom.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Al Keller, Jr.", with a stylized, cursive script.

AL KELLER, JR.
National Commander

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 4, 1983

Dear Mr. Keller:

Thank you for your letter of April 28, supporting the proposed bipartisan plan of action for Central America which I presented to a joint session of Congress on April 27.

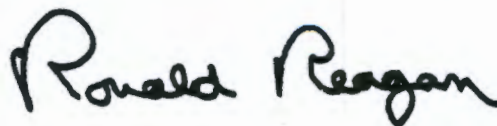
A communist takeover of Central America would endanger the United States' economy, present severe national security problems and could result in millions of frightened victims fleeing into our country.

In discharging my responsibilities to conduct America's foreign policy, it was very gratifying to receive such a strong endorsement from the nation's largest veterans' organization.

I look forward to receiving the active support of millions of Legionnaires and members of the Auxiliary from all over the country in the days ahead. A continued, concerted effort by concerned Americans is imperative if we are to protect our vital interests in Central America and fulfill our moral obligations to those seeking a better life under free institutions.

Thanks for stepping forward in a time of national challenge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script. The first name "Ronald" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Reagan".

National Commander Al Keller, Jr.
The American Legion
1608 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

DATE: 6/17/83 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/20/83SUBJECT: Sch. Room. Address 65th Annual Mtg.
Conv. of American Legion

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
WHITTLESEY	☐	☐	TILLER	☐	☐
VIPOND	☐	☐	VILA	☐	☐
ROUSSELOT	☐	☐	GRAF	☐	☐
BLACKWELL	☒	☐	SUNDSETH	☐	☐
BUCKALEW	☐	☐	MORECI	☐	☐
GALE	☐	☐		☐	☐
JACOBI	☐	☐		☐	☐
JEPSEN	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

RESPONSE: The President spoke earlier this year to the Legion's Mid-Winter Conference. This is only a courtesy invitation. They do not expect that the President will be able to accept.

It is, however, absolutely vital that the President address the VFW Convention in New Orleans in August. We can't afford to play favorites between these two major, supportive groups.

Faith Ryan Whittlesey
Assistant to the President
Ext. 2270

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

JUNE 16, 1983

TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Address - the 65th Annual National Convention
of the American Legion

DATE: August 19-25, 1983

LOCATION: Seattle, Washington

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept___ Regret___ Surrogate___ Message___ Other___
Priority___
Routine___

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

RESPONSE DUE 6-21-83

TO Sarah Long *fm*

145880

The American Legion

★ NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS ★ P. O. BOX 1055 ★ INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46206 ★
(317) 635-8411 ★



OFFICE OF THE
NATIONAL COMMANDER

*Scheduling
8/23
Aug (24-25)*

June 9, 1983

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

Dear Mr. President:

The 65th Annual National Convention of The American Legion will be held in Seattle, Washington, August 19-25, 1983. It is my pleasure to extend this formal and most cordial invitation to you to address the delegates and guests of our National Convention during the opening session on Tuesday, August 23.

Additional sessions of our convention will be held on August 24 and 25. If either of these dates would be more compatible to your schedule, the time and date of your appearance on our program would be arranged at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Al Keller, Jr.".

AL KELLER, JR.
National Commander