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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 5, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

H. LAWRENCE GARRETT, II

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Nicaragua

We have reviewed the above-referenced draft Presidential remarks and have no legal objections to them.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	4/4/85	ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT D	OUE BY: 7:30 a.m. 4/5/85	
SUBJECT:	REMARKS:	Nicaragua		
		(4/4/85 7:00 p.m. draft)		

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments or edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an information copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Noonan/BE) April 4, 1985 7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT: NICARAGUA FRIDAY, APRIL 5, 1985

Ladies and gentlemen, as all of you know yesterday we outlined a peace proposal to deal with the problems in Central America, specifically Nicaragua. Our proposal reflects the central philosophy that guides our foreign policy: to bring peace to an area, we must assist and encourage the growth of democracy in that area. Through our proposal we hope to secure both peace and democracy through negotiation and dialogue.

We are asking both sides in Nicaragua -- the communists and the democratic resistance -- to lay down their arms. We are asking the Church to serve as mediator in efforts to bring free elections to Nicaragua. And, we have asked the communists to take steps to move their government away from totalitarian acts and forward to democratic freedom.

As you know, I have asked Congress to finally free up \$14 million for the Freedom Fighters of Nicaragua -- aid that will go to medicines, food, and clothing for the fighters and their families. I would like to note at this point that these days the Federal Government spends \$14 million every few minutes. I am asking Congress, then, for "just a few minutes" worth of help for the democratic forces of Nicaragua. Fourteen million dollars is very little to us -- but it will make a world of difference to them.

And so we have made our offer, we have made our peace proposal, and we are hopeful that the communists will respond positively.

Last evening, I met with three of the great leaders of the side that fights for freedom in Nicaragua. They have expressed to me their reservations about the chances of success of our peace plan. And yet they have courageously agreed to support our efforts, in spite of the fact that this noble gesture could, down the road, put them at a military or political disadvantage. They have told me that they see our proposal, at least in part, as a gamble. But so great is their hope for the possibility of progress, and so great is their trust in the United States, that they have accepted it as a gamble worth taking. For this they deserve our thanks — and our reassurance that no matter what, we will not leave their side. We will not, not ever, abandon those who fight for freedom in Central America, for their fight is our fight, their cause is our cause, and their commitment to freedom reflects our own.

In this season of peace, we have put forth an olive branch. We pray it will be accepted and not rebuffed; we pray it will mark a beginning, and a time of hope, for all who yearn for freedom.

Thank you, and to all of you a happy and blessed Easter and Passover.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 11, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Law Day

Signing Ceremony

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	1/10/85	ACTION/CONCURRENCE/CO	OMMENT DUE BY	10:00 am,	Thurs., 4/11/8
SUBJECT:	PRESIDENTIAL	REMARKS: LAW DAY	SIGNING CE	REMONY	
		(4/10 -	- 2:00 pm dr	aft)	

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REMARKS:

Please give any comments, edits, recommendations directly to Ben Elliott. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Dolan/BE)
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2:00 p.m. Sceived S S

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LAW DAY SIGNING CEREMONY MONDAY, APRIL 15, 1985

I want to welcome all of you here today. I especially want to thank Chief Justice Burger, the Attorney General, Senator Thurmond, Congressman Rodino, and Director Webster, the distinguished members of the Judiciary, the presidents of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and other distinguished representatives of our legal profession for being with us.

I think a gathering of such distinguished jurists is altogether appropriate for an occasion on which we rededicate ourselves to a concept that is the starting point for any free society and that is a tradition at the heart of civilized life: the rule of law.

It was a fierce allegiance to this concept -- a firm belief that the lawful rights of a colonial people were being badly abused by a tyrannical government -- that began this Nation.

Our Constitution is regarded as a model of its kind. And today the practice and administration of law is one of America's mightiest institutions. "Scarcely any question arises in the United States," DeToqueville noted more than a century ago, "which does not become, sooner or later, a subject of judicial debate . . ."

Now I know that some have cautioned, the Chief Justice among them, that true respect for the law means understanding its limitations. We must remember that the law itself can never

ensure justice, that only a free people working under the protection and with the guidance of the law can accomplish this. We must remember, as well, that the law is a delicate instrument -- if used too little, it can never serve its noble purposes of protecting life and liberty, but if used too much it will threaten those very same liberties.

Along with many of you, I have suggested in recent years that we must guard against undue emphasis on codes, regulations, and legal mandates, that excessive litigation or overregulation makes the law unwieldy and jeopardizes its truly important functions: that of codifying and winning allegiance to the most fundamental values and deeply held beliefs of our communities and our country.

In striking this proper balance, our courts and the legal profession today face a great challenge. As Abraham Lincoln once suggested to a fellow attorney, "Discourage litigation. Persuade your neighbors to compromise whenever you can . . . as a peace-maker the lawyer has a superior opportunity of being a good man. There will be business enough."

And as we reflect today on both the majesty and the limitations of the law, I think the theme of this year's Law Day Observance, "Liberty and Justice for all," is particularly appropriate. It brings to mind an impressive example of how the law can embody fundamental values yet grow and expand to take on new meaning. As I noted in my inaugural address, many of us older Americans remember a time when people of a different race, creed, or ethnic origin in our land found hatred and prejudice

installed in social custom and, yes, in the law. There's no story more heartening in our history than the progress that we've made toward the "Brotherhood of man" that God intended for us, much of it by assuring all our citizens their civil rights. Let us resolve there will be no turning back or hesitation on the road to an America rich in dignity and abundant with opportunity for all our citizens.

And as we seek to extend the benefits of the rule of law to all our citizens, let us also remember today those millions in many lands who are the victims of arbitrary, repressive or totalitarian government. We remember that here in our own land we will maintain the law as a protection of free men and women against such government, and we note our hope that someday all the peoples of the Earth will enjoy the sanctions and live under the rule of law.

How well it was put by our forefathers, and how often we forget how well: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

And now, again, I want to thank all of you for being here today; and I am delighted to sign this proclamation.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Dropby at Conference on

Religious Liberty

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/12/85	ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: C.O.B. TODAY, 4/12/85
SUBJECT: REMARKS	: DROPBY AT CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
	(4/12 - 10:00 a.m. draft)

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REMARKS:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by c.o.b. today, with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

ReceivedSS

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY AT CONFERENCE ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 1985

Thank you very much.

I am deeply honored to address this conference. I know that a good many of you have come a long way to be here today, and I know you have given greatly of your time, energy and concern.

And I can only hope, as you do, that those now suffering around the world for their beliefs will draw renewed courage from your work.

The history of religion and its impact on civilization cannot be summarized in a few days, never mind minutes. But one of the great shared characteristics of all religions is the distinction they draw between the temporal world and the spiritual world. All religions, in effect, echo the words of the gospel of St. Matthew: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things which are God's." What this injunction teaches us is that the individual cannot be entirely subordinate to the state, that there exists a whole other realm, an almost mysterious realm of individual thought and action which is sacred, and which is totally beyond and outside of state control.

This idea has been central to the development of human rights. Only in an intellectual climate which distinguishes between the City of God and the City of Man -- and which explicitly affirms the independence of God's realm, and forbids any infringement by the state on its prerogatives -- only in such

a climate could the idea of individual human rights take root, grow, and eventually flourish.

We see this climate in all democracies, and in our own political tradition. The founders of our republic rooted their democratic commitment in the belief that all men "are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." And so they created a system of government whose avowed purpose was -- and is -- the protection of those God-given rights.

But, as all of you know only too well, there are many political regimes today that completely reject the notion that a man or a woman can have a greater loyalty to God than to the state. Marx's central insight, when he was creating his political system, was that religious belief would subvert his intentions. Under Marxism, the ruling party was to claim for itself the attributes which religious faith ascribes to God alone. Under Marxism, the state was to be the final arbiter of truth, justice, and morality. And so Marx declared religion an enemy of the people -- a drug, an opiate of the masses. And Lenin said, "Religion and communism are incompatible in theory as well as in practice . . . We must fight religion."

All of this illustrates a truth that I believe must be re-understood: atheism is not an incidental element of communism, not just part of the package -- it is the package.

In countries which have fallen under communist rule, it is often the church which forms the most powerful barrier against a completely totalitarian system. And so, totalitarian regimes

always seek either to destroy the church or, when that is impossible, to subvert it.

For the former, we have the Soviet Union, where the church was immediately attacked by the communist revolution. This was not done without considerable craftiness. The Soviets, bowing to Western "squeemishness" about the denial of liberties, often characterized their actions as merely defensive.

In 1945, Josef Stalin met with Harry Hopkins, who had been sent by Harry Truman to discuss various East/West problems. In the middle of a talk about politics, Stalin interjected the following: In 1917, he said, the Russian communist party had proclaimed the right of religious freedom as part of their political program. But, he said, the churches of Russia had declared the Soviet government anathema, and had called on church members to resist the call of the Red Army. Now what could we do, said Stalin, but declare war on the church. He assured Hopkins, however, that World War Two had ended the church-state antagonism and now freedom of religion could be granted to the church.

Well, this, as you know, goes under the heading "The Big Lie." But it was told in a typically plaintive and put-upon manner, as if there was just no choice; try as we could to reason with those cruel and powerful priests, they just wouldn't stop attacking us and so we had to close their churches.

Well, history has taught us that you can bulldoze a church but you can't extinguish all that is good in every human heart. And so, in spite of the dangers involved there are Christians throughout the communist world, and Muslims, and Jews, who continue to practice their faith. Some of them have been imprisoned for their courage.

There is the late Valery Marchenko, who died in a Soviet prison hospital a few short months ago. He was 37 years old, a scholar and a Christian who, at his most recent trial, said that all of his life he had tried to "serve goodness" which he considered to be his "Christian duty." There is Father Gleb Yakunin, who was recently sent to Siberia for 5 years of internal exile. He is another prisoner of faith. And Vladislav Rakay, recently jailed for helping to distribute bibles in Czechoslovakia. These are only a few of many.

Dr. Ernest Gordon, the President of an organization named CREED -- Christian Rescue Effort for the Emancipation of Dissidents -- noted that on a recent trip to Eastern Europe, he spoke with a priest who had spent 10 years in prison. The priest asked him to deliver a message to the West: there is a war going on; it is not nuclear but spiritual. The fallout of the atheistic explosion is everywhere. But Dr. Gordon added, "Although the fallout may be everywhere, we are reminded that God too is everywhere and not even tyrannies can keep him out."

We in the United States have protested this terrible abuse of people who are nothing less than heroes of the century. Most recently, when Congressional leaders met in Moscow with Premier Gorbachev, House Minority leader Bob Michel brought along a list of Baltic and Ukrainian prisoners of conscience. And the Council on Soviet Jewry was magnificent in making sure that the

congressional delegation did not leave without extensive data on persecuted Jews in the Soviet Union.

Religious persecution, of course, is not confined to Europe. We see it in Iran, whose leaders have declared virtual war on the Bahais. We see it in Afghanistan, where the Soviets have moved against the Mujahadeen. And we see a variation on how to abuse religious freedom in the Sandinista regime of Nicaragua.

In Nicaragua, the Sandinista regime is faced with a politically active church that -- although it supported the revolution -- is now considered a major obstacle to complete totalitarian control. And so the Sandinistas are actively attempting to discredit and split the church hierarchy. One area to be watched, by the way: the Sandinistas, like all communist regimes, are injecting their ideology into the educational system and have begun widespread literacy campaigns to indoctrinate children and adults. But the Catholic Church is fighting to maintain autonomy and keep this indoctrination out of church-run schools.

This has not been resolved. Cuba solved the problem by closing all private schools, including religious schools. So did Ethiopia.

The general state of religious liberty in Nicaragua is suggested by testimony from various sources, including refugees. We recently learned of a pastor of the Evangelical Church in a Nicaraguan town who told the Freedom Fighters that the Sandinistas had threatened to send the 3,000 members of his church to relocation camps. The pastor and his church members

are now hiding out in caves and temporary settlements in the countryside.

May I interject here that stories like this are the reason we are asking Congress for aid to help the Freedom Fighters, and to help the victims of the Sandinista regime.

The Sandinistas also harassed Jews. Two Nicaraguan refugees, Sarita and Oscar Kellerman, have told of the firebombing of their synagogue by the Sandinistas -- and how they wrote on the synagogue and the Kellerman's home the words, "Jews -- Out of Nicaragua."

When I think of Nicaragua these days, it occurs to me anew that you can judge any new government, any new regime, by whether or not it allows religion to flourish. If it doesn't, you can be sure it is an enemy of mankind -- for it is attempting to ban what is most beautiful in the human heart.

But we must not feel despair, because it is not appropriate to the times. We are living in a dramatic age. Throughout the world, the machinery of the state is being used as never before against religious freedom — but at the same time, throughout the world, new groups of believers keep springing up. Points of light flash out in the darkness, and God is honored once again. Perhaps this is the greatest irony of the communist experiment: the very pressure they apply seems to create the force, friction, and heat that allow deep belief to once again burst into flame.

I believe that the most essential element of our defense of freedom is our insistence on speaking out for the cause of religious liberty. I would like to see this country rededicate

itself wholeheartedly to this cause. I join you in your desire that the Protestant churches of America, the Catholic Church, and the Jewish organizations remember the members of their flock who are in prison or in jeopardy in other countries.

We <u>are</u> our brothers' keepers, all of us. And I hope the message will go forth, from this conference to prisoners of conscience throughout the world: "Take heart, you have not been forgotten. We, your brothers and sisters in God, have made your cause our cause, and we vow never to relent until you have regained the freedom that is your birthright as a child of God."

Thank you. God bless all of you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Ceremony Honoring

Teacher of the Year (Thurs., 4/18/85)

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4/11/85	ACTION/CONCURRENC	E/COMMENT DUE BY:	4/15/85	

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CEREMONY HONORING TEACHER OF THE YEAR (4/11 - 3:30pm draft)

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REMARKS:

Please provide any comments, edits, recommendations directly to Ben Elliott by cob Monday, April 15, 1985. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

ReceivedSS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CEREMONY HONORING TEACHER OF THE YEAR THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 1985

Well, thank you so much and it's good to welcome you to the White House. I want to thank Good Housekeeping magazine, the Encyclopedia Britannica Companies, and the Council of Chief State School Officers for sponsoring the Teacher of the Year Award. And we're very happy to see students and faculty of Irmo High. We appreciate that you came all the way from South Carolina just to chaperone Mrs. Dozier and make sure she doesn't get into any trouble in Washington.

Today we honor a very special American. She and her colleagues are, day-by-day, in their quiet, unsung way, probably more important to the survival and success of our freedom than anyone else in this Nation -- that's how much teachers mean to America.

Good teachers must be so many different people: our child's third parent and lifelong friend; the person who makes hard things seem easy; who teaches us to think apart, yet act together; and who conveys the meaning of ideas and, through personal example, the nobility of ideals.

Sometimes, when targets of others' rudeness and abuse, teachers must feel like they've become an American dartboard.

But, they're a tough, resilient crew, and pretty clever, too.

They can be funny or cross, but they stick to their challenge, whether it's math, English, or history, or teaching about word processors which, incidentally, still leave me at a total loss.

Most of all, good teachers care. They care very much about what they teach, about the curiosity they instill, about how well their students learn, and where their lives will lead. So we look to teachers and we look up to teachers. We count on their conscience, their courage, and their concern. We count on them being the kind of hero Emily Dickinson described when she wrote, "If I can stop one heart from breaking . . . If I can ease one life the aching . . . Or cool one pain . . . I shall not live in vain."

Each gifted instructor, each leader helping restore
excellence in education today, is a vessel of hope for America -hope that ignorance may be cast away; hope that young minds may
be awakened to new worlds of discovery; and, yes, hope that we
may always be free, for with freedom as our guiding star,
America's future will never be a burden dragging us down, but a
great soaring adventure of creativity, powered by the deepest
treasures of the human mind and heart -- wisdom, faith, and love.

We have such an individual with us today. Born in Vietnam, orphaned as a young girl, then adopted by U.S. warrant officer Lawrence Knecht who was stationed in Saigon, Mrs. Therese Knecht Dozier enjoys a dual honor: she and her brother are believed to be the first Vietnamese children adopted by an American couple. And, as a 32-year-old high school history teacher in Columbia, South Carolina, she is America's 1985 Teacher of the Year.

Terry Dozier began her career in 1974, teaching social studies in Gainsville, Florida, after she graduated from the University of Florida. By the way, she graduated with a

straight-A average as the university's "Outstanding 4-Year Scholar." In 1976, her husband's work took them to Miami, where she taught math to disadvantaged children at an inner-city school. Since 1977, she's been teaching at Irmo High School, where she concentrates on world history.

She has said, "I have always been very conscious of having been given a chance to make something of myself. I want to give that chance to others and to share the excitement of learning that I have always felt. Teaching is a way of repaying a debt."

Indeed it is. Her teaching is a reflection of her own experiences, a statement that there is no certainty our values will survive. Everything depends on us. Mrs. Dozier does not take America for granted. Perhaps more than most, she may appreciate that ours has been a blessed land set apart in a special way -- a great continent between the oceans to be found by people from every corner of the Earth; people with a special love for freedom and the courage to uproot themselves, and leave homeland and friends to come here to create something new in all the history of mankind -- a land where man is not beholden to government, government is beholden to man.

Terry Dozier is a teacher of world history who provides students with perspective and the ability to make sound judgements. "She makes history exciting," her students say. Well, speaking as one former radio announcer, I was impressed, Terry, when I heard your account of Louis XVI's ride to the guillotine was so vivid, your students were sitting in suspense on the edge of their seats.

Your sense of history and your keen mind will give students a better grasp of the world. As we know, this month marks the 10th anniversary of the communist conquest of South Vietnam. In reaction to that event, "No More Vietnams" has become the slogan of a generation.

But the lessons of recent history -- from countries in

Eastern Europe, to Asia, Africa, and Cuba and Nicaragua -- are

clear: freedom is a fragile flower that cannot be protected by

slogans alone. A line in William Tell says, "The most pious man

cannot stay in peace if it does not please his evil neighbor."

it is unfortunate, but true, that there are regimes in the world that, by their very nature, are neither agreeable nor altruistic, but arrogant and aggressive; regimes that not only disdain democracy but defiantly proclaim the doctrine of Lenin which states, "The dictatorship of the proletariat is nothing else than power based upon force and limited by nothing -- by no law and by absolutely no rule."

If we expect Americans to become intelligent, successful leaders for a more secure and prosperous world, then should they not study this doctrine of dictatorship, and its application today, as seriously and thoroughly as they study the intellectual foundation of our own freedom?

I strongly believe, and I know Secretary Bennett agrees, that our actions must be informed by an awareness of history and the realities of human nature if mankind is to avoid repeating the tragedies of the past. By helping young people acquire such

knowledge, Mrs. Dozier is contributing directly to the health and vitality of this country and to its freedom.

Now, Mrs. Dozier, I can't close without telling our guests about a few of those other things you do so well, which have gained you such renown: you know, like how you dress up for Punk Rock Day, and cheerlead in the Student-Faculty Basketball Game, and coordinate the Homecoming half-time activities, too.

Let me say for the entire country what your family, your fellow members of the faculty, and the students at Irmo High already know. You are Teacher of the Year because you have taught so many, so much, and so well; and even more, because your gift has given them joy and love of learning. And, I don't think I'm speaking out of school when I add -- the love they share for learning is a love they share for you.

Mrs. Terry Dozier, today America honors you. But, in truth, it is you who honors America every day of the year.

Thank you and God bless you always.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 17, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

DIRECTOR, PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHWRITING

FROM:

JOHN G. ROBERTS

ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT:

Remarks: Victims of Crime Week Ceremony

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced remarks, and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

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4:00 P.M. TOMORROW

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM ___

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:

SUBJECT: REMARKS	: VICTIMS	OF CR	IME WEEK CEREMONY		
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REMARKS:

4/16/85

DATE:

Please provide any edits directly to Ben Elliott by 4:00 p.m. tomorrow, with an information copy to my office. Thank you.'

RESPONSE:

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS "VICTIMS OF CRIME WEEK" CEREMONY_ FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1985

It's a pleasure to welcome all of you here today to the White House -- Attorney General Meese, Members of Congress, and our special guests.

Since our first days in office, the problem of crime has been a major concern of this Administration; even while we had to act immediately to deal with the twin crises of a declining economy and a jeopardized national defense, making our houses and streets safe again remained among our highest priorities.

At the time we took office, Government was bloated and had taken on responsibilities in areas where it was neither competent nor needed, yet at the same time Government failed in its most legitimate and important functions: preserving domestic order and protecting society from those who would prey on the innocent.

In the past few years, we have seen a return to the values that are the basis for a free and just society: the belief that right and wrong matters, that individuals are responsible for their actions, and that punishment must be swift and sure for those who transgress against the rights of their fellow citizens.

It was such values and beliefs that guided us when we took office. In the early years of this Administration, we launched a massive attack on the illegal drug trade and on the infrastructure of organized crime — achieving a quantum leap in the number of prosecutors and agents assigned to these cases. We appointed judges who understood that the innocent members of society have a right to be protected from criminal offenders. We

achieved some of the most significant anti-crime legislation in our history -- accomplishing desperately needed reforms in parole. and sentencing procedures and in a wide variety of other areas, reforms that make life tougher for career criminals and easier for the law abiding.

At the local and State level, too, the voice of the people was heard; States passed tough, new sentencing requirements; judges or prosecutors who were lax in their duty were held up to public scrutiny, and communities and neighborhoods began a new era of cooperation with law enforcement to protect lives and liberty.

The outcome of all this effort is now clear. As you have already heard, crime is down significantly and -- for the first time -- it's down over 3 successive years. I know there are some who claim this is merely a reflection of demographic trends -- that there is less crime now because there are fewer members of our society who are in the crime prone age.

But a coincidence is not a correlation. The truth is that crime has sometimes risen and sometimes declined in relation to the number of those in the crime prone age. For example, between the years 197 and 198 the number in the crime prone age group rose by only 1 percent; yet violent crime rose by 40 percent.

The real reason for the rise in crime in past years was a failure to administer prompt and sure justice. Between the years 1960_ and 1970_, for example, the likelihood of being imprisoned if arrested fell by more than half. But now these figures are beginning to change. It is a fact that hundreds of thousands more career criminals are being incarcerated today than in 1970;

that fact must be acknowledged and its meaning understood. It is happening because our criminal justice system is responding to the public outcry over crime; it is happening because we are doing more to protect the innocent and punish the guilty, and so our homes, our families, and our society are safer.

The real explanation then for the decline in crime can be found right where the credit for America's social progress can usually be found: the resolve of the American people to speak out, to make their voices heard, to demand justice.

There is no better example of this resolve than the work of those we honor here today, who have worked with their fellow citizens to bring public attention to the plight of the victims of crime. I am proud that this Administration led the way in passing new legislation and new programs for the victims of crime. But most of all I share the pride of all Americans today in honoring those who have through their work for the victims of crime turned anguish and fear into constructive action.

I want to salute Theresa Saldana, Carole Deluca, Caren Robinson, Cecile Laurinitis, Patti Linebaugh, and Sharon Komlos -- each of you who rose above the fear and frustration that all victims of crime must face; you turned terrible moments in your lives into something beneficial and helpful to your fellow Americans; you used your suffering so that others would suffer less. This was a noble thing to do and for this our Nation owes you thanks. On behalf of the American people, I want to extend to each of you our gratitude for your patriotism and your selflessness.

God bless you all.