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WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF RECORDS MANAGEMENT
WORKSHEET

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Name of Document: BRIEFING PAPERS
FOR PRESIDENT'S
SCHEDULED
APPOINTMENTS FOR

DEC 23 83

Subject Codes:

P	R	0	0	7	-	0	1
P	R	0	1	6	-		
F	O	0	0	5	-	0	3
C	D	0	5	1	-		
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Subject: Interview with the following
reporters for the following
wire services:
Associated Press, United Press
International, Reuters, and
Agence France Presse.

ROUTE TO:		ACTION		DISPOSITION		
Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
RMHENL		RSZ			C	

Referral Note:

THE SCHEDULE OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN



Friday, December 23, 1983

9:00 am (30 min)	<u>Staff Time</u> (Baker/Meese/Deaver)	Oval Office
9:30 am (15 min)	<u>National Security Briefing</u> (McFarlane)	Oval Office
9:45 am (15 min)	<u>Senior Staff Time</u>	Oval Office
10:00 am (60 min)	<u>Personal Staff Time</u>	Oval Office
11:00 am (60 min)	<u>NSC Briefing</u> (McFarlane)	Situation Room (distributed separately)
12:00 m (2 hrs)	<u>Lunch and Personal Staff Time</u>	Oval Office
2:00 pm (30 min)	<u>Pre-Interview Briefing</u> (Gergen/Speakes) (TAB A)	Oval Office
2:30 pm (15 min)	<u>Interview with Wire Services</u> (Gergen/Speakes)	Oval Office
3:00 pm (30 min)	<u>Haircut</u>	West Basement

UNP 12/22/83
4:00 pm

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(2 hrs)

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Oval Office

12:45
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(30 min)

MKW - B.Mc - B. Gergen
Pre-Interview Briefing
(Gergen/Speakes) (TAB A)

Oval Office

2:30 pm
(15 min)

Interview with Wire Services
(Gergen/Speakes)

Oval Office

3:00 pm
(30 min)

Haircut

West Basement

UNP 12/22/83
4:00 pm

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Dec

THE SCHEDULE OF
PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN

Friday, December 23, 1983

9:07

9:00 am (30 min)	<u>Staff Time</u> (Deaver/Morse /Deaver) 9:18 Bush	Oval Office
9:30 am (15 min)	<u>National Security Briefing</u> 9:24 - 9:56 (McFarlane) Bush, MKO, B. Finner	Oval Office
9:45 am (15 min)	Senior Staff Time	Oval Office
10:00 am (60 min)	<u>Personal Staff Time</u> 9:56 -	Oval Office
11:00 am (60 min)	<u>NSC Briefing</u> (McFarlane) (distributed separately)	Situation Room
12:00 m (2 hrs)	<u>Lunch and Personal Staff Time</u>	Oval Office
2:00 pm (30 min)	<u>Pre-Interview Briefing</u> 2:05 (Gergen/Speakes), Deaver (TAB A)	Oval Office
2:30 pm (15 min)	<u>Interview with Wire Services</u> 2:35 - 3:05 (Gergen/Speakes)	Oval Office
3:00 pm (30 min)	<u>Haircut</u> 3:10 - 3:40	West Basement

McFarlane, Simms, Fitzwater, Baroody, Danahy, Gergen

UNP 12/22/83
4:00 pm

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INTERVIEW WITH THE WIRE SERVICES

DATE: December 23, 1983
TIME: 2:30 p.m. (15 minutes)
PLACE: Oval Office

FROM: Dave Gergen
Larry Speakes

I. PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for a year-end interview with AP, UPI, Reuters and Agence France Presse.

II. BACKGROUND

These reporters would like to reflect with you on the accomplishments and disappointments of the year and your hopes for the coming year. The interview is not intended to be another general press conference, but there may be a couple of follow-up questions on Lebanon, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, etc. It is a good opportunity to stress the themes of peace and economic progress. The interview will be embargoed for the Sunday morning newspapers.

III. PARTICIPANTS

The President
Helen Thomas, United Press International
Jim Gerstenzang, Associated Press
Mike Gelb, Reuters
Pierre Rousselin, Agence France Presse

IV. PRESS PLAN

An AP and UPI photographer will be present briefly at the beginning of the interview.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

After exchanging pleasantries, the interview will begin.

Briefing material attached.

December 22, 1983

NOTES FOR YEAR-END INTERVIEW WITH AP AND UPI

Biggest accomplishments of last 3 years?

- o Strengthened economy -- our major objective on taking office.
- o Renewing respect for America abroad.
- o Restoring military's strength -- and morale.
- o Showing people that government could respond to their wishes -- Congress and President could enact a program. Americans getting their confidence in government back as we try to get government off their backs and on their side, again.

What about this year -- 1983?

- o 1983 was a good year -- and 1984 should be, too.
- o Specifically:
 - Recovery took off;
 - Social Security reform was passed;
 - full tax rate cut took effect;
 - focused education debate on excellence, not money;
 - Grenada rescue succeeded;
- o All through 1983 we had positive GNP growth, falling unemployment, and low inflation. Haven't seen that kind of positive combination since 1972. Really was a banner year.
 - growth for year was healthy 6.1% (based on 4th quarter "flash" of 4.5% -- could change some);
 - CPI up 3.2% for last 12 months;
 - Civilian unemployment fell from 10.8% last December to 8.4%.
- o Economists inside and outside government almost unanimous that recovery will continue throughout 1984. Our goal was sustainable growth with low inflation -- and we can have it well past 1984, provided Congress works with us on controlling spending and reducing deficit.

- o Now, 3.6 million more Americans working than a year ago. That's what growth means -- jobs -- and that's why recovery was our top priority.
- o There are 102.7 million working. That's a record -- but it's a record RR expects to see broken many times in 1984 as growth leads to even more jobs.

Have achieved what many in 1980 thought impossible -- at least this soon.

- o Inflation: CPI rose only 3.2% from a year ago. Some said we might not see it so low until 1990 or so.
- o Economy growing again: From start of 1979 to end of 1982, there was virtually no growth (some quarterly ups and downs, but GNP basically stagnated over that 4 year period). Some then were saying we'd have to learn to live without growth in an "era of limits" but RR thinks what's happening now to economy is proving them wrong.
- o Growth of spending cut: Spending rose more than 17% in 1980. The rate's now about half that.
- o Taxes: Many said Congress would never go along with lower tax rates and certainly never pass indexing (and give up the automatic revenue bonus from inflation).
- o Energy: Many thought prices, shortages and U.S. dependence on imported oil could only get worse. But, 2 days after taking office, RR ordered decontrol and now:
 - prices are down -- actually lower than on inauguration day.
 - U.S. importing only half the oil it did in 1977.
- o Social Security: Retirement fund saved from bankruptcy. Also, since RR took office, benefits for average retired couple rose \$170 a month.
- o Education: Now discussion centers on how much children should learn, not how much government should spend. That's a result of the Administration's leadership in commissioning Excellence report.
- o Returning power to State, local governments: Through block grants, have eliminated categorical programs, given states more flexibility. Just signed reauthorization of General Revenue Sharing.

- o Fighting drug traffic: Thought by some to be out of control, drug traffic now a major target of Administration. Since February of 1982 (start of S. Florida Task Force) unprecedented efforts have led to seizure of over 5 million pounds of marijuana, 28,000 pounds of cocaine, and 220 pounds of heroin.

U.S defenses, America's leadership role being restored.

- o The declining U.S. commitment to adequate defense spending has been reversed under RR and funding for needed strategic and conventional weaponry is being passed by Congress.
- o Morale in the armed services is up; quality of men and women in uniform should be source of pride to all Americans.
- o Have followed firm, realistic policy in U.S.- Soviet relations.
- o Put forward comprehensive set of proposals for nuclear arms reductions. Hopeful Soviets will return to talks and U.S. ready to resume negotiations. Believe it's in Soviet interest to return to table.
- o Had successful summit in Williamsburg. Leaders of industrial nations struck broad agreement on basic Western economic and security goals. (Note OECD report, out Wednesday, was more optimistic about prospects for world economy than any in several years. OECD is Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development -- an international agency composed of major industrialized nations.)
- o Action in Grenada, efforts to strengthen alliances, have demonstrated new U.S. resolve to protect and further her national interests and resume rightful place of leadership in the world. Nations around the globe now looking to U.S. again for leadership.

Disappointments?

- o Biggest is loss of brave young men in uniform. Decision to send men into danger toughest any President has to make. Was the right decision, but wish it didn't have to be made.
- o Deficits, of course, but RR's determined to get them down. Budget for FY85 will show how we can reduce the deficit in coming years -- and we're going to work hard to get Congress on our side.

- o Legislatively, some disappointments, such as tuition tax credits. Still looking for progress on this and other fronts.

(If asked, RR could name the following, as examples.)

- Enterprise Zones;
- school prayer;
- greater budget restraints.

Hopes and themes for 1984

- o Three key themes envisioned by your staff for 1984:
 - continued economic growth;
 - peace through strength;
 - restoration of traditional values -- family, work, thrift, etc.