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CONGRESSIONAL CLUB LUNCHEON REMARKS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 1986

-- IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE WITH YOU AGAIN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME.

-- I DO APPRECIATE YOUR THEME THIS YEAR, "IT'S A SMALL WORLD," BUT AFTER ALL THOSE HOURS ON AN AIRPLANE, THE WORLD SEEMED MIGHTY BIG TO ME! BUT REALLY, THIS YEAR'S THEME IS VERY TIMELY AND SPECIAL.

-- SOMETIMES, IN THE FACE OF THE VIOLENCE AND TURMOIL

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OF TODAY'S WORLD, IT'S EASY TO LOSE SIGHT OF HOW SMALL THE WORLD REALLY IS. EVEN THOUGH PEOPLE ARE SEPARATED BY THOUSANDS OF MILES AND HAVE DIFFERENT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES, CUSTOMS, OR LOOKS, THEY ARE ALL BASICALLY THE SAME. THEY ALL WANT TO BELONG TO SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES, TO LOVE, AND TO BE LOVED. THIS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE CLEAR TO ME SINCE MY RECENT TRIP TO THE FAR EAST.

-- IN THOSE AND MY OTHER TRAVELS, I'VE ALSO LEARNED

THAT ONE OF THE STRONGEST SIMILARITIES BETWEEN PARENTS EVERYWHERE, IS THAT THEY WANT TO SEE THEIR CHILDREN LIVE DIGNIFIED, HAPPY, AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES. THIS IS THE VERY REASON WHY FIRST LADIES, AS MOTHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS, CAME TO THE UNITED STATES FOR THE FIRST LADIES CONFERENCES ON DRUG ABUSE. THEY ARE AWARE THAT OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE -- AND THAT WITHOUT THEM, OUR WORLD WOULD SEE NO TOMORROW.

-- CHILDREN THEMSELVES ARE NOW REALIZING HOW

THREATENING THE DRUG PROBLEM IS, AND NEXT WEEK, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE WILL JOIN TOGETHER IN THE INTERNATIONAL "JUST SAY NO" WALK AGAINST DRUG ABUSE.

-- I KNOW THAT MANY OF YOU ARE ACTIVE IN THIS FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND FOR THAT, I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL. YOU, TOO, ARE HELPING TO ENSURE THAT AMERICA, AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE WORLD, WILL HAVE A BRIGHT FUTURE.

-- IN CLOSING, I WANT TO THANK YOU, AGAIN, FOR ANOTHER

LOVELY LUNCHEON AND FOR ALL THE GOOD THINGS YOU DO. GOD
BLESS YOU AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

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