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“Just Say No” Night. Feb. 4, 1988
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REMARKS FOR NBA "JUST SAY NO" NIGHT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1988

-- THANK YOU.

-- (TO THE KIDS): YOUR ENTHUSIASM AGAINST DRUGS MAKES ME FEEL ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL. I WISH ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAD YOUR STRENGTH AND SPIRIT. I'M VERY PROUD OF EACH OF YOU.

-- (TO THE GENERAL AUDIENCE): AND TO ALL THE REST OF YOU HERE TONIGHT, I THINK YOU'VE JUST SEEN WHAT SOMEDAY WILL SAVE THIS COUNTRY FROM DRUGS -- OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR ABILITY TO SAY NO.

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-- AND WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS AMONG THE YOUNG, AMONG THOSE WHO HAVEN'T YET PICKED UP THE DANGEROUS HABIT OF DRUGS. WE'RE MAKING THAT PROGRESS WITH THE HELP OF ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION.

-- IN ELEVEN CITIES ACROSS THE U.S. TONIGHT, NBA TEAMS ARE SHOWING THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE "JUST SAY NO" CAMPAIGN. I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK OF A YOUNG MAN WHO SHOULD BE PLAYING ON ONE OF THESE COURTS TONIGHT. BUT LEN BIAS NEVER REACHED THE NBA. HE

NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO SUIT UP. HE WAS A FIRST ROUND DRAFT CHOICE OF COCAINE, AND IT KILLED HIM. LEN BIAS NEVER GOT THE MESSAGE THAT DRUGS ARE DANGEROUS.

-- THE NBA IS HELPING MAKE SURE OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE DO GET THE MESSAGE. IN ADDITION TO THE NBA AND THE TEAM OWNERS, I ALSO WANT TO THANK PLAYERS LIKE WAYMAN TISDALE [TIS-DALE] WHO ARE DOING SO MUCH TO HELP. I LOOK UP TO WAYMAN IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE.

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-- SO TO ALL OF YOU, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND (TO THE KIDS) THANK YOU FOR JUST SAYING NO.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

February 4, 1988

Dear Friends:

Tonight in 11 cities across America, the National Basketball Association and 22 of its individual teams are honoring the international "Just Say No" movement. I am very grateful to have the opportunity to address the athletes and their supporters on this special occasion.

Drug abuse, especially among our young people, is one of the most terrifying problems facing our world today. This epidemic is destroying lives and tearing families apart. It must be stopped.

There is great hope in ending this battle, however, because of activities like those taking place tonight. By joining the "Just Say No" movement and creating its own prevention program, "Don't Foul Out," the NBA is sending a strong message to young people everywhere: drugs are unacceptable, and there are healthy alternatives to drug use.

I thank the NBA, the players and all the fans participating in the excitement of these games tonight. With your continued involvement, our young people will have a bright and drug-free future.

Sincerely,

FROM:

Jim Manning
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Customer Number, if any

TO:

Carolyn Blitz
National Basketball Association
Olympic Tower
645 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10022

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