

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

## Digital Library Collections

---

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

---

**Collection:** Presidential Handwriting File:  
Presidential Speeches

**Folder Title:** Folder 380 (06/30/1985 to 07/08/1985)

**Box:** 20

---

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digitized-textual-material>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Inventories, visit:

<https://www.reaganlibrary.gov/archives/white-house-inventories>

Contact a reference archivist at: **reagan.library@nara.gov**

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/research-support/citation-guide>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

*Last Updated: 01/30/2025*

(ELLIOTT EDIT)

JUNE 30, 1985 - 2 P.M.

PRESIDENT'S BACKUP COPY:  
PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON HOSTAGES

GOOD AFTERNOON. THE 39 AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE FOR  
~~17~~ 17 DAYS BY TERRORISTS IN LEBANON ARE FREE, SAFE, AND AT  
THIS MOMENT, ON THEIR WAY TO FRANKFURT, GERMANY. THEY  
WILL BE HOME AGAIN SOON.

---

THIS IS A MOMENT OF JOY FOR THEM, FOR THEIR LOVED  
ONES, AND FOR OUR NATION -- AND AMERICA OPENS ITS HEART  
IN A PRAYER OF THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD. WE CAN BE  
THANKFUL THAT OUR FAITH, COURAGE, AND FIRMNESS HAVE  
PAID OFF. BUT THIS IS NO MOMENT FOR CELEBRATION. LET  
IT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD:

---

-- THAT THE SEVEN AMERICANS STILL HELD CAPTIVE IN  
LEBANON MUST BE RELEASED, ALONG WITH OTHER INNOCENT  
HOSTAGES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

---

-- THAT THE MURDERERS OF ROBERT STETHEM -- AND OF  
OUR MARINES AND CIVILIANS IN EL SALVADOR -- MUST BE  
HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

---

-- THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR TERRORIST ACTS  
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD MUST BE TAKEN ON BY CIVILIZED  
NATIONS.

---

-- THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST ENSURE THAT ALL OUR AIRPORTS ARE SAFE AND THAT CIVIL AIR TRAVEL IS SAFEGUARDED; AND THAT THE WORLD MUST UNITE IN TAKING DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS, AGAINST NATIONS THAT SPONSOR TERRORISTS, AND AGAINST NATIONS THAT GIVE TERRORISTS SAFE HAVEN.

---

THIS DRAMA HAS REMINDED US HOW PRECIOUS AND FRAGILE ARE THE FREEDOMS AND STANDARDS OF DECENCY OF CIVILIZED SOCIETIES, HOW GREATLY CIVILIZED LIFE DEPENDS ON TRUST IN OTHER HUMAN BEINGS, BUT HOW THOSE VALUES WE HOLD MOST DEAR MUST ALSO BE DEFENDED WITH BRAVERY -- A BRAVERY THAT MAY LIE QUIET AND DEEP, BUT THAT WILL RISE TO ANSWER OUR CALL IN EVERY TIME OF PERIL.

---

FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND PEACE HAVE ENEMIES; THEY MUST ALSO HAVE STEADFAST FRIENDS.

---

THE UNITED STATES GIVES TERRORISTS NO REWARDS AND NO GUARANTEES. WE MAKE NO CONCESSIONS; WE MAKE NO DEALS. NATIONS THAT HARBOR TERRORISTS UNDERMINE THEIR OWN STABILITY AND ENDANGER THEIR OWN PEOPLE. TERRORISTS BE ON NOTICE: WE WILL FIGHT BACK AGAINST YOU, IN LEBANON AND ELSEWHERE; WE WILL FIGHT BACK AGAINST YOUR COWARDLY ATTACKS ON AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PROPERTY.

---

PAGE 3 - JUNE 30, 1985 - 4:00 P.M.

SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO FREE OUR FELLOW CITIZENS. SYRIA HAS HAD A CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE EFFORTS OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WERE, LIKEWISE, AN EXAMPLE OF CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION AGAINST THE DIRECT CHALLENGE OF LAWLESS TERRORISTS. KING HUSSEIN SPOKE OUT EARLY AND FORCEFULLY IN CONDEMNING THE HIJACKING. SAUDI ARABIA ALSO MADE AN EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION.

THROUGHOUT THE PAST <sup>17</sup>~~18~~ DAYS, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ISRAEL AND A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST, AS WELL AS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ALL OF WHICH DISPLAYED GREAT CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY AND RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES. WE WILL REMEMBER AND OFFER OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED US AND WHO STOOD WITH US; AND, YES, WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO DID NOT.

WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL JUSTICE IS DONE. WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE WORLD COMMUNITY MEETS ITS RESPONSIBILITY:

WE CALL UPON THOSE WHO HELPED SECURE THE RELEASE OF THESE T.W.A. PASSENGERS TO SHOW EVEN GREATER ENERGY AND COMMITMENT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ALL OTHERS HELD CAPTIVE IN LEBANON.

PAGE 4 - JUNE 30, 1985 - 2:00 P.M.

AND, WE CALL UPON THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO  
STRENGTHEN ITS COOPERATION TO STAMP OUT THIS UGLY,  
VICIOUS EVIL OF TERRORISM.

THANK YOU.

# # #

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

(ELLIOTT EDIT)

JUNE 30, 1985 - 2 P.M.

*RR is  
done*

# PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

GOOD AFTERNOON. THE 39 AMERICANS HELD  
HOSTAGE FOR 16 DAYS BY TERRORISTS IN LEBANON  
ARE FREE, SAFE, AND AT THIS MOMENT ON THEIR  
WAY TO FRANKFURT, GERMANY. THEY WILL BE  
HOME AGAIN SOON.

THIS IS A MOMENT OF JOY FOR THEM,  
FOR THEIR LOVED ONES AND FOR OUR NATION  
AND AMERICA OPENS ITS HEART IN A PRAYER OF  
THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD. WE CAN BE THANKFUL  
THAT OUR FAITH, COURAGE, AND FIRMNESS HAVE  
PAID OFF. BUT THIS IS NO MOMENT FOR  
CELEBRATION. LET IT BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD

-- THAT THE SEVEN AMERICANS STILL HELD  
CAPTIVE IN LEBANON MUST BE RELEASED ALONG  
WITH OTHER INNOCENT HOSTAGES FROM OTHER  
COUNTRIES.

-- THAT THE MURDERERS OF ROBERT  
STETHEM AND OF OUR MARINES AND CIVILIANS  
IN EL SALVADOR MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

PAGE 2 - JUNE 30, 1985 - 2:00 P.M.

-- THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
TERRORIST ACTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD  
MUST BE TAKEN ON BY CIVILIZED NATIONS.

---

-- THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY  
MUST ENSURE THAT ALL OUR AIRPORTS ARE SAFE  
AND THAT CIVIL AIR TRAVEL IS SAFEGUARDED/  
AND THAT THE WORLD MUST UNITE IN TAKING  
DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST TERRORISTS/  
AGAINST NATIONS THAT SPONSOR TERRORISTS/  
AND AGAINST NATIONS THAT GIVE TERRORISTS  
SAFE HAVEN.

---

THIS DRAMA HAS REMINDED US HOW PRECIOUS  
AND FRAGILE ARE THE FREEDOMS AND STANDARDS  
OF DECENCY OF CIVILIZED SOCIETIES/  
HOW GREATLY CIVILIZED LIFE DEPENDS ON TRUST  
IN OTHER HUMAN BEINGS// BUT HOW THOSE VALUES  
WE HOLD MOST DEAR MUST ALSO BE DEFENDED WITH  
BRAVERY /- A BRAVERY THAT MAY LIE QUIET AND  
DEEP / BUT THAT WILL RISE TO ANSWER OUR CALL  
IN EVERY TIME OF PERIL.

---

PAGE 3 - JUNE 30, 1985 - 2:00 P.M.

FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, AND PEACE HAVE ENEMIES/ THEY MUST ALSO HAVE STEADFAST FRIENDS.

THE UNITED STATES GIVES TERRORISTS NO REWARDS AND NO GUARANTEES. WE MAKE NO CONCESSIONS/ WE MAKE NO DEALS. NATIONS THAT HARBOR TERRORISTS UNDERMINE THEIR OWN STABILITY AND ENDANGER THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

TERRORISTS BE ON NOTICE/ WE WILL FIGHT BACK AGAINST YOU/ IN LEBANON AND ELSEWHERE/ WE WILL FIGHT BACK AGAINST YOUR ~~COWARDLY~~ ATTACKS ON AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PROPERTY.

SEVERAL COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO FREE OUR FELLOW CITIZENS. SYRIA HAS HAD A CENTRAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE EFFORTS OF THE ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT WERE LIKEWISE AN EXAMPLE OF CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION AGAINST THE DIRECT CHALLENGE OF LAWLESS TERRORISTS. SAUDI ARABIA ALSO MADE AN EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION.



PAGE 4 - JUNE 30, 1985 - 2:00 P.M.

THROUGHOUT THE PAST 16 DAYS, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH ISRAEL AND A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST / AS WELL AS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS / ALL OF WHICH DISPLAYED GREAT CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY AND RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES.

WE WILL REMEMBER AND OFFER OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED US AND WHO STOOD WITH US / AND, YES, WE WILL REMEMBER THOSE WHO DID NOT.

WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL JUSTICE IS DONE.

WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE WORLD COMMUNITY MEETS ITS RESPONSIBILITY /

WE CALL UPON THOSE WHO HELPED SECURE THE RELEASE OF THESE T.W.A. PASSENGERS TO SHOW EVEN GREATER ENERGY AND COMMITMENT TO SECURE THE RELEASE OF ALL OTHERS HELD CAPTIVE IN LEBANON.

PAGE 5 - JUNE 30, 1985 - 2:00 P.M.

AND, WE CALL UPON THE WORLD COMMUNITY  
TO STRENGTHEN ITS COOPERATION TO STAMP OUT  
THIS UGLY, VICIOUS EVIL OF TERRORISM.

THANK YOU.

---

# # #

31736555

SP981

(NOONAN)

JULY 2, 1985

31736555

GREET RETURNING BEIRUT HOSTAGES  
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE

MY REMARKS WILL BE BRIEF *A*

THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR SPEECHES / THIS IS A  
TIME FOR REUNIONS / AND FAMILIES COMING

TOGETHER. *[* THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO SAY /

AND I SAY IT FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART AND

IN THE NAME OF ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF OUR

COUNTRY / WELCOME HOME. *[* WE'RE SO HAPPY

YOU'RE BACK, SAFE AND SOUND. *NANCY*

THIS HAS BEEN A TRYING AND VERY

DEMANDING TIME FOR SO MANY PEOPLE / BUT FOR

NONE MORE THAN YOU. *[* I TALKED TO MANY OF

YOUR RELATIVES / MET WITH THEM AT VARIOUS

LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY WHILE YOU

WERE BEING HELD. *[* AND I KNOW YOU WON'T BE

SURPRISED WHEN I TELL YOU HOW COMMITTED THEY

WERE TO WINNING YOUR FREEDOM / HOW FULL OF

CARING AND CONCERN THEY WERE.

I KNOW THAT THEY'RE PROUD OF YOU /  
AND I KNOW FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE THAT YOU  
SHOULD BE VERY PROUD OF THEM.

ALL OF AMERICA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU /  
MANY PRAYERS WERE SAID FOR YOUR SAFE  
RELEASE. / IN THE DAYS THAT YOU WERE AWAY /  
OUR ATTENTION WAS NEVER ONCE DISTRACTED FROM  
YOUR PLIGHT / AND WE WOULD NOT REST UNTIL YOU  
RETURNED TO US, SAFE AND WHOLE.

NONE OF YOU WERE HELD PRISONER BECAUSE  
OF ANY PERSONAL WRONG ANY OF YOU HAD DONE TO  
ANYONE. / YOU WERE HELD SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU  
WERE AMERICANS. / IN THE MINDS OF YOUR  
CAPTORS YOU REPRESENTED US.

WHATEVER THE PRESUMED GRIEVANCE OR  
POLITICAL MOTIVE THAT CAUSED THESE ACTIONS /  
LET THERE BE NO CONFUSION / A CRIME WAS  
COMMITTED AGAINST YOU. / HIJACKING IS A  
CRIME / KIDNAPPING IS A CRIME /  
MURDER IS A CRIME / HOLDING OUR PEOPLE  
PRISONER IS A CRIME.

WHEN CRUELTY IS INFLICTED ON INNOCENT  
PEOPLE, / IT DISCREDITS WHATEVER CAUSE IN  
WHOSE NAME IT IS DONE. / AND THOSE WHO COMMIT  
SUCH DEEDS ARE ENEMIES OF PEACE /-  
LITERALLY ENEMIES OF THE PEACE.

NOW YOU ARE RETURNED TO US, /  
AND WE HEAVE A DEEP-FELT SIGH OF RELIEF.  
BUT THERE ARE PROMISES TO BE KEPT.

THE DAY YOUR PLANE WAS HIJACKED, /  
THE TERRORISTS FOCUSED THEIR BRUTALITY ON A  
BRAVE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS A MEMBER OF THE  
ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

THEY BEAT ROBBIE STETHEM WITHOUT MERCY AND  
SHOT HIM TO DEATH.

OUR JOY AT YOUR RETURN IS SUBSTANTIAL, /  
BUT SO IS OUR PAIN AT WHAT WAS DONE TO THAT  
SON OF AMERICA. / I KNOW YOU CARE DEEPLY  
ABOUT ROBBIE STETHEM AND WHAT WAS DONE TO  
HIM. / WE WILL NOT FORGET WHAT WAS DONE  
TO HIM /- THERE WILL BE NO FORGETTING.  
HIS MURDERERS MUST BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

NOR WILL WE FORGET THE SEVEN AMERICANS  
WHO WERE TAKEN CAPTIVE BEFORE YOU,  
AND WHO ARE CAPTIVE STILL. THEY MUST BE  
RELEASED. THE HOMECOMING WON'T BE COMPLETE  
UNTIL ALL HAVE COME HOME.

FOR NOW, WE REJOICE AT YOUR RETURN.  
NANCY AND I PRAYED FOR YOUR SAFETY.

WE PRAYED FOR YOUR SPEEDY RETURN.

WE WERE NOT ALONE / OUR PRAYERS WERE ONLY  
TWO AMONG MILLIONS.

WE FELT A GREAT NATIONAL CONCERN WHEN  
YOU WERE TAKEN, / AND IT IS A TRULY NATIONAL  
JOY THAT GREETES YOUR RETURN.

YOU ARE BACK IN THE FREE LAND OF  
AMERICA, SAFE AND SOUND. YOU WITHSTOOD YOUR  
ORDEAL WITH EXTRAORDINARY COMPOSURE AND  
COOLNESS. YOUR FAMILIES ARE WAITING FOR YOU  
NOW, (AND YOUR FRIENDS,) ALL YOUR LOVED ONES.

- 5 -

SO LET THE REJOICING BEGIN. IT'S GREAT  
TO HAVE YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG.

---

THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU. GOD BLESS YOU  
ALL. ~~now I believe Mr.~~

~~Whitney has something to~~  
~~say.~~ # # #

RR

(Rohrabacher/BE)  
July 3, 1985  
3:00 p.m.

31741555  
31741555  
PR 011

PRESIDENTIAL TAPING: 1985 NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME  
ENSHRINEMENT CEREMONIES  
TUESDAY, JULY 9, 1985

I am delighted to send my personal greetings to all of you gathered in Dayton, Ohio, for the 1985 enshrinement ceremony of the National Aviation Hall of Fame.

The 109 pioneers of aviation and space honored by the Hall of Fame achieved more than technical and engineering advances. By expanding the frontiers of aeronautical achievement, they pushed back the envelope of human potential and opened the door of a new age. They set higher standards of individual performance and inspired us all with their vision, courage, and spirit of adventure. Americans have always admired pathfinders -- the honors bestowed by the National Aviation Hall of Fame is in keeping with that tradition.

I want to pay special tribute tonight to the new members of the National Aviation Hall of Fame: General George Scratchley Brown, Major General Michael Collins, Colonel Carl Benjamin ~~Eielson~~ <sup>→</sup> ~~Eielson~~, and Colonel John P. Stapp. Their outstanding contributions form a bright chapter in our Nation's history of air and space flight. These individuals give our young people someone to look up to in more ways than one.

I also want to extend congratulations to our good neighbors from the north, the members of the Canadian Snowbirds, who will receive this year's Spirit of Flight Award.

Nancy and I send all the sponsors and supporters of the National Aviation Hall of Fame our best wishes and applaud your



efforts to preserve the legacy of our country's rich contributions to aviation. By recognizing the accomplishments of today and yesterday, you are making certain that America remains on the cutting edge of progress tomorrow.

Congratulations to all of you who are being honored and many thanks to Nick Harris and other members of the National Aviation Hall of Fame for all you are doing.

God bless you all.

The President has seen \_\_\_\_\_

326458-5C

(Gilder/BE)  
July 5, 1985  
10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: BUDGET  
SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1985

My fellow Americans: I'd like to take a few minutes out from your July Fourth weekend, if I might, to talk about business. It's summer in Washington, and as sure as the heat and humidity, we could have predicted another seasonal occurrence.

Once again the budget process has broken down. Even with dangerously large deficits looming over the horizon threatening to destroy the economic progress we have made, it's still business as usual when it comes to the budget. We can only hope that the House will cooperate with us in doing what is right for America.

Unfortunately, as it stands now, the budget proposed by the House is simply not a serious document. At best it could win a prize for creative bookkeeping. Huge so-called savings are simply assumed or invented, funds are juggled back and forth between accounts to show phony deficit reductions, and billions of dollars of expenses are just wished away.

Let me give you one example: right now the Government charges the oil companies for their offshore leases -- sort of a yearly rent for the use of Federal property. Well, the House decided that they would take the next 4 years of revenue from certain off-shore leases and count it all in 1986. Sure, that reduced the 1986 deficit by \$4 billion, but it increased our deficits in later years by exactly the same amount.

A full quarter of the so-called deficit reductions in the House budget are gimmicks like this. Most of the rest comes from raiding the national defense. There is nothing proportionate or fair in the House's budgetary assault on defense. They propose making over half their reductions in this one area, which accounts for less than a third of total spending. What the House Budget Committee calls a defense spending "freeze" is really a drastic cut, requiring a reduction from current plans in research and development, construction, and procurement of 19 percent in 1986, 23 percent in 1987, and 28 percent in 1988.<sup>3</sup> If the House budget were adopted, it would deliver a severe blow to our national security.

The Senate has proposed a budget that is responsible and fair, that holds real defense spending constant, and makes the necessary structural changes in domestic spending that will enable us to substantially reduce these deficits. But when the Senate and House budget conferees met, it quickly became clear that the House refused to give up its gimmicks or consider real cuts in domestic spending. If the pattern of past years repeats itself, we can expect the obstructionists to keep the process stymied until the final night before the deadline, when they'll go into a budgetary feeding frenzy, loading up huge spending measures with goodies for every special interest group in sight.

Well, enough is enough. We refuse to make a choice between a budget that threatens our national security, and a spending orgy that undermines our economy. Of course, as they do every year, some in Congress are using this annual collapse<sup>3</sup> of the

budget process as an excuse to call for a tax increase. I have promised before and I will repeat that promise today -- I will veto any tax hike, no matter how it's disguised, that comes across my desk. And I'm glad to say that I have more than enough votes pledged in the House to sustain that veto. I have some advice for those who talk about tax hikes: save your breath. I'm going to hold their feet to the fire on this budget ~~and make~~ <sup>UNTIL</sup> ~~they~~ <sup>THEY</sup> do the right thing ~~and~~ get Government spending under control.

I'm happy to be able to report that the Senate Judiciary Committee will be voting on a bill next week that could put some discipline back in the budget process -- the balanced budget amendment. Why shouldn't the U.S. Government be held to even the minimum standards of accountability that we demand of the smallest commercial bank? It's true that amending the Constitution is a lengthy and difficult procedure. <sup>WELL THAT'S</sup> All the more reason to start right away.

More immediate relief would come <sup>4</sup> from a line-item veto that would enable me to veto individual budget items, ~~selectively~~. <sup>IS THE TO</sup> That way ~~we can~~ cut the pork out of the massive appropriations bills Congress sends me without vetoing <sup>THE PART OF THE BILL</sup> ~~other measures~~ essential to human needs <sup>AND</sup> ~~or~~ our national security. If Congress can't stand <sup>OR WON'T</sup> up to the special interests, give <sup>PRESIDENTS</sup> ~~me~~ the line-item veto. ~~I'd be~~ <sup>THIS PRES. WOULD BE</sup> glad to take them on.

By cutting taxes and stamping out inflation we've put our economy back on the track of strong and solid growth. America is like a house that we build stronger and prouder every day. But ~~some of you homeowners may have had this experience:~~ right now

the American economy has termites. -- ~~that's the special interest~~  
~~spending -- and they are gnawing away at our foundations.~~ It's  
~~time to roll up our sleeves, get to work, and~~ <sup>TIME TO</sup> <sup>THEM</sup> clean out ~~this~~  
~~problem~~ once and for all. Please tell your Representatives not  
to waste more time or money, but to come back here ready to put  
our fiscal house in order and make Government live within its  
means. ~~WE~~ MUST REDUCE THE DEFICIT & MAKE A START ON ACHIEVING A BALANCED BUDGET.  
Until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

(DOLAN)

3173795C  
JULY 8, 1985 SP 982

PRESIDENT'S BACKUP COPY

ADDRESS TO AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

*Thank ✓ — John Sheppard*

I WANT TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE LAST  
TAX-DEDUCTIBLE A.B.A. CONVENTION.

---

BUT REALLY, I'M DELIGHTED YOU DECIDED TO COME TO  
THE CAPITAL AND, BELIEVE ME, THIS WEEK WASHINGTON  
BELONGS TO YOU. I NOTICED THIS MORNING THAT EVEN MILT  
PITTS, THE WHITE HOUSE BARBER, HAS A WELCOME SIGN UP:  
"HAIRCUTTING \$10; HAIRSPLITTING \$100." PER HOUR. I  
WAS DISAPPOINTED, THOUGH, TO HEAR FROM THE WHITE HOUSE  
COUNSEL THAT I COULDN'T ACCEPT YOUR HONORARIUM THIS  
MORNING; ACTUALLY I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FIRST  
TIME I EVER TALKED TO A GROUP OF LAWYERS AND CAME HOME  
WITH THE FEE. BUT DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO SPEAK  
VERY LONG; I HAVE A LUNCH SCHEDULED BACK AT THE WHITE  
HOUSE WITH MY WIFE, THE VICE PRESIDENT, AND MY CHIEF OF  
STAFF -- OR, AS YOU WOULD PUT IT, REAGAN, REAGAN, REGAN  
AND BUSH.

---

BUT, SERIOUSLY, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK  
TODAY NOT JUST TO THE LARGEST VOLUNTARY PROFESSIONAL  
ASSOCIATION IN THE WORLD BUT ONE WHOSE EXCLUSIVE  
CONCERN IS THE STARTING POINT FOR ANY FREE SOCIETY, A  
CONCERN THAT IS AT THE HEART OF CIVILIZED LIFE: THE  
LAW -- OUR COURTS AND LEGAL SYSTEM -- JUSTICE ITSELF.

---

NOW I WANT TO BE VERY CANDID WITH YOU THIS MORNING AND TELL YOU I HAD BEEN PLANNING TO COME HERE TODAY TO SPEAK ON A NUMBER OF LEGAL ISSUES: THE PROBLEMS OF OUR COURTS, OUR ADMINISTRATION'S ENFORCEMENT OF ANTI-TRUST AND CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS, AS WELL AS OUR ON-GOING ATTACK ON THE DRUG TRADE AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN GENERAL.

---

BUT I AM AFRAID THIS DISCUSSION WILL NOW HAVE TO AWAIT ANOTHER OCCASION. FOR IT HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL NATURE -- EVENTS THAT I FEEL COMPELLED AS PRESIDENT TO COMMENT ON TODAY. AND YET I THINK THESE MATTERS WILL BE OF INTEREST TO YOU NOT ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE AMERICANS BUT BECAUSE, AS LAWYERS, YOU ARE ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE RULE OF LAW AND THE DANGER POSED TO IT BY CRIMINALS OF BOTH A DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL VARIETY.

---

THE REASON WE HAVEN'T TIME TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES I HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED TO ADDRESS THIS MORNING HAS TO DO WITH WHAT OUR HOSTAGES -- AND WHAT ALL OF AMERICA -- HAVE BEEN THROUGH DURING RECENT WEEKS.

---

YET MY PURPOSE TODAY GOES EVEN BEYOND OUR CONCERN OVER THE RECENT OUTRAGES IN BEIRUT, EL SALVADOR -- OR THE AIR INDIA TRAGEDY, THE NARITA BOMBING, OR THE JORDANIAN AIRLINES HIJACKING. WE MUST LOOK BEYOND THESE EVENTS BECAUSE I FEEL IT IS VITAL NOT TO ALLOW THEM, AS TERRIBLE AS THEY ARE, TO OBSCURE AN EVEN LARGER AND DARKER TERRORIST MENACE.

---

THERE IS A TEMPTATION TO SEE THE TERRORIST ACT AS SIMPLY THE ERRATIC WORK OF A SMALL GROUP OF FANATICS. WE MAKE THIS MISTAKE AT GREAT PERIL; FOR THE ATTACKS ON AMERICA, HER CITIZENS, HER ALLIES, AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC NATIONS IN RECENT YEARS DO FORM A PATTERN OF TERRORISM THAT HAS STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS AND POLITICAL GOALS. AND ONLY BY MOVING OUR FOCUS FROM THE TACTICAL TO THE STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVE, ONLY BY IDENTIFYING THE PATTERN OF TERROR AND THOSE BEHIND IT, CAN WE HOPE TO PUT INTO FORCE A STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH IT.

---



SO, LET US GO TO THE FACTS. HERE IS WHAT WE KNOW. IN RECENT YEARS, THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY AND ESCALATING PATTERN OF TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, OUR ALLIES, AND THIRD WORLD NATIONS FRIENDLY TOWARD OUR INTERESTS. THE NUMBER OF TERRORIST ACTS ROSE FROM ABOUT 500 IN 1983 TO OVER 600 IN 1984; THERE WERE 305 BOMBINGS ALONE LAST YEAR -- THAT WORKS OUT TO AN AVERAGE OF ALMOST ONE A DAY. AND SOME OF THE MOST VICIOUS ATTACKS WERE DIRECTED AT AMERICANS OR U.S. PROPERTY AND INSTALLATIONS; AND THIS PATTERN HAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT 1985, AND IN MOST CASES, INNOCENT CIVILIANS ARE THE VICTIMS OF THE VIOLENCE. AT THE CURRENT RATE, AS MANY AS 1,000 ACTS OF TERRORISM WILL OCCUR IN 1985 -- THAT IS WHAT WE FACE UNLESS CIVILIZED NATIONS ACT TOGETHER TO END THIS ASSAULT ON HUMANITY.

---

IN RECENT YEARS, THE MIDEAST HAS BEEN ONE PRINCIPAL POINT OF FOCUS FOR THESE ATTACKS, ATTACKS DIRECTED AT THE UNITED STATES, ISRAEL, FRANCE, JORDAN, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. BEGINNING IN THE SUMMER OF 1984 AND CULMINATING IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR, THERE WAS ALSO A SERIES OF APPARENTLY COORDINATED ATTACKS AND ASSASSINATIONS BY LEFT-WING TERRORIST GROUPS IN BELGIUM, WEST GERMANY, AND FRANCE -- ATTACKS DIRECTED AGAINST AMERICAN AND NATO INSTALLATIONS OR MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL OFFICIALS OF THOSE NATIONS.

---

NOW WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE SOURCES OF THOSE ATTACKS AND THE WHOLE PATTERN OF TERRORIST ASSAULTS IN RECENT YEARS? IN 1983 ALONE, THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY EITHER CONFIRMED OR FOUND STRONG EVIDENCE OF IRANIAN INVOLVEMENT IN 57 TERRORIST ATTACKS. WHILE MOST OF THESE ATTACKS OCCURRED IN LEBANON, AN INCREASE IN ACTIVITY BY TERRORISTS SYMPATHETIC TO IRAN WAS SEEN THROUGHOUT EUROPE: SPAIN AND FRANCE HAVE SEEN SUCH INCIDENTS, AND IN ITALY, SEVEN PRO-IRANIAN LEBANESE STUDENTS WERE ARRESTED FOR PLOTTING AN ATTACK ON THE U.S. EMBASSY, AND THIS VIOLENCE CONTINUES.

---

IT WILL NOT SURPRISE ANY OF YOU TO KNOW THAT, IN ADDITION TO IRAN, WE HAVE IDENTIFIED ANOTHER NATION, LIBYA, AS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN TERRORISM. WE HAVE EVIDENCE WHICH LINKS LIBYAN AGENTS OR SURROGATES TO AT LEAST 25 INCIDENTS LAST YEAR. COLONEL QADHAFI'S OUTRAGES AGAINST CIVILIZED CONDUCT ARE, OF COURSE, AS INFAMOUS AS THOSE OF THE AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI.

THE GUNNING DOWN LAST YEAR -- FROM INSIDE THE LIBYAN EMBASSY -- OF A BRITISH POLICEWOMAN IS ONLY ONE OF MANY EXAMPLES. SINCE SEPTEMBER 1984, IRANIAN-BACKED TERRORIST GROUPS HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ALMOST 30 ATTACKS, AND, MOST RECENTLY, THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ABORTED A LIBYAN-BACKED PLOT TO BOMB OUR EMBASSY IN CAIRO. IT WAS THIS PATTERN OF STATE-APPROVED ASSASSINATION AND TERRORISM BY LIBYA THAT LED THE UNITED STATES, A FEW YEARS AGO, TO EXPEL LIBYAN DIPLOMATS AND HAS FORCED OTHER NATIONS TO TAKE SIMILAR STEPS SINCE THEN. BUT LET US, IN ACKNOWLEDGING HIS COMMITMENT TO TERRORISM, AT LEAST GIVE COLONEL QADHAFI HIS DUE. THE MAN IS CANDID: HE SAID RECENTLY THAT LIBYA WAS -- AND I QUOTE -- CAPABLE OF EXPORTING TERRORISM TO THE HEART OF AMERICA. WE ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF PHYSICAL LIQUIDATION AND DESTRUCTION AND ARSON INSIDE AMERICA.

AND, BY THE WAY, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE HERE THAT THE RECOGNITION OF THIS DEEP AND ON-GOING INVOLVEMENT OF IRAN AND LIBYA IN INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IS HARDLY CONFINED TO OUR OWN GOVERNMENT. MOST POLICE FORCES IN EUROPE NOW TAKE THIS INVOLVEMENT FOR GRANTED; AND THIS IS NOT EVEN TO MENTION THE WARNINGS ISSUED BY WORLD LEADERS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE JORDANIAN LEADERSHIP HAS PUBLICLY NOTED THAT LIBYAN ACTIONS CAUSED THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JORDANIAN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI.

---

NOW THREE OTHER GOVERNMENTS, ALONG WITH IRAN AND LIBYA, ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING A CAMPAIGN OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AGAINST THE UNITED STATES, HER ALLIES, AND MODERATE THIRD WORLD STATES.

---

FIRST, NORTH KOREA. THE EXTENT AND CRUDITY OF NORTH KOREAN VIOLENCE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES AND OUR ALLY, SOUTH KOREA, ARE A MATTER OF RECORD. OUR AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN SHOT DOWN; OUR SERVICEMEN HAVE BEEN MURDERED IN BORDER INCIDENTS; AND 2 YEARS AGO, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH KOREAN CABINET WERE BLOWN UP IN A BOMBING IN BURMA BY NORTH KOREAN TERRORISTS -- A FAILED ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE PRESIDENT CHUN. THIS INCIDENT WAS JUST ONE MORE OF AN UNENDING SERIES OF ATTACKS DIRECTED AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA BY NORTH KOREA.

---

J

WHAT IS NOT READILY KNOWN OR UNDERSTOOD IS NORTH KOREA'S WIDER LINKS TO THE INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST NETWORK. THERE IS NOT TIME TODAY TO RECOUNT ALL OF NORTH KOREA'S EFFORTS TO FOSTER SEPARATISM, VIOLENCE, AND SUBVERSION IN OTHER LANDS WELL BEYOND ITS IMMEDIATE BORDERS; BUT TO CITE ONE EXAMPLE: NORTH KOREA'S EFFORTS TO SPREAD SEPARATISM AND TERRORISM IN THE FREE AND PROSPEROUS NATION OF SRI LANKA ARE A DEEP AND CONTINUING SOURCE OF TENSION IN SOUTH ASIA. AND THIS IS NOT EVEN TO MENTION NORTH KOREA'S INVOLVEMENT HERE IN OUR OWN HEMISPHERE INCLUDING A SECRET ARMS AGREEMENT WITH THE FORMER COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT IN GRENADA. I WILL ALSO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT NORTH KOREA'S INVOLVEMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA IN A MOMENT.

AND THEN THERE IS CUBA, A NATION WHOSE GOVERNMENT HAS, SINCE THE 1960's, OPENLY ARMED, TRAINED, AND DIRECTED TERRORISTS OPERATING ON AT LEAST THREE CONTINENTS. THIS HAS OCCURRED IN LATIN AMERICA; THE O.A.S. HAS REPEATEDLY PASSED SANCTIONS AGAINST CASTRO FOR SPONSORING TERRORISM IN PLACES AND COUNTRIES TOO NUMEROUS TO MENTION. THIS HAS ALSO OCCURRED IN AFRICA; PRESIDENT CARTER OPENLY ACCUSED THE CASTRO GOVERNMENT OF SUPPORTING AND TRAINING KATANGAN TERRORISTS FROM ANGOLA IN THEIR ATTACKS ON ZAIRE. AND EVEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CASTRO HIMSELF HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE ACTIVELY ASSISTED THE SANDINISTAS IN THE EARLY SEVENTIES WHEN THEY WERE TRAINING IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH TERRORIST FACTIONS OF THE P.L.O.


AND FINALLY, THERE IS THE LATEST PARTNER OF IRAN, LIBYA, NORTH KOREA, AND CUBA IN A CAMPAIGN OF INTERNATIONAL TERROR -- THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN NICARAGUA. THE SANDINISTAS NOT ONLY SPONSOR TERROR IN EL SALVADOR, COSTA RICA, AND HONDURAS -- TERROR THAT LED RECENTLY TO THE MURDER OF FOUR U.S. MARINES, TWO CIVILIANS, AND SEVEN LATIN AMERICANS -- THEY PROVIDE ONE OF THE WORLD'S PRINCIPAL REFUGES FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISTS. MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE OPENLY CHARGED THAT NICARAGUA IS HARBORING SOME OF ITALY'S WORST TERRORISTS; AND WE HAVE EVIDENCE THAT IN ADDITION TO ITALY'S RED BRIGADES, OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE WORLD'S MOST VICIOUS TERRORIST GROUPS -- WEST GERMANY'S BAADER-MEINHOF GANG; THE BASQUE E.T.A.; THE P.L.O.; THE TUPAMAROS; AND THE I.R.A. -- HAVE FOUND A HAVEN IN NICARAGUA AND SUPPORT FROM THAT COUNTRY'S COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP.

---

IN FACT, THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN NICARAGUA HAS MADE ITSELF A FOCAL POINT FOR THE TERRORIST NETWORK AND A CASE STUDY IN THE EXTENT OF ITS SCOPE. CONSIDER FOR JUST A MOMENT THAT IN ADDITION TO ESTABLISHING STRONG INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES WITH CUBA AND LIBYA -- INCLUDING THE RECEIPT OF ENORMOUS AMOUNTS OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION -- THE SANDINISTAS ARE ALSO RECEIVING EXTENSIVE ASSISTANCE FROM NORTH KOREA. NOR ARE THEY RELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR DEBT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH KOREAN DICTATOR KIM IL-SUNG. BOTH DANIEL AND HUMBERTO ORTEGA HAVE RECENTLY PAID OFFICIAL AND STATE VISITS TO NORTH KOREA TO SEEK ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND MORE FORMAL RELATIONS. SO WE SEE THE NICARAGUANS TIED TO CUBA, LIBYA, AND NORTH KOREA. AND THAT LEAVES ONLY IRAN. WHAT ABOUT TIES TO IRAN? WELL, YES, ONLY RECENTLY, THE PRIME MINISTER OF IRAN VISITED NICARAGUA BEARING EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY FROM THE AYATOLLAH FOR THE SANDINISTA COMMUNISTS.

NOW I SPOKE A MOMENT AGO ABOUT THE STRATEGIC GOALS MOTIVATING THESE TERRORIST STATES. IN A MINUTE, I WILL ADD SOME COMMENTS OF MY OWN BUT FOR THE MOMENT WHY DON'T WE LET THE LEADERS OF THESE OUTLAW GOVERNMENTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES ABOUT THEIR OBJECTIVES?





DURING HIS STATE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA, NICARAGUA'S SANDINISTA LEADER DANIEL ORTEGA HEARD KIM IL-SUNG SAY THIS ABOUT THE MUTUAL OBJECTIVES OF NORTH KOREA AND NICARAGUA: ~~IF~~ IF THE PEOPLES OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD PUT PRESSURE ON AND DEAL BLOWS AT U.S. IMPERIALISM IN ALL PLACES WHERE IT STRETCHES ITS TALONS OF AGGRESSION, THEY WILL MAKE IT POWERLESS AND IMPOSSIBLE TO BEHAVE AS DOMINATOR ANY LONGER. AND COLONEL QADHAFI, WHO HAS A FORMAL ALLIANCE WITH NORTH KOREA, ECHOED KIM IL-SUNG'S WORDS WHEN HE LAID OUT THE AGENDA FOR THE TERRORIST NETWORK: WE MUST FORCE AMERICA TO FIGHT ON 100 FRONTS ALL OVER THE EARTH. WE MUST FORCE IT TO FIGHT IN LEBANON, TO FIGHT IN CHAD, TO FIGHT IN SUDAN, AND TO FIGHT IN EL SALVADOR.