

# Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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*Last Updated: 06/12/2025*

294429

PR003

February 26, 1985

Dear Mrs. Fletcher:

Thank you for my "pony." I'm delighted to have it and am most grateful to you. Thank you, too, for your kind words about the speech. I'll let you in on a secret; when I introduced our cadet and Mother Hale I was glad there was such sustained applause because I had a lump in my throat so big I needed the time to get my voice back.

Nancy sends her warmest regards and, again, our thanks to you.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mrs. Arthur A. Fletcher  
516 G Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

RR:AVH:SEV:pps

RR Dictation

Friday, Feb 8, 1985

Dear Mr President:

You were right on target with your State of the Union message last evening. From all whom I've had a chance to converse with, your message was well received.

I might add that your intro of Ms Nguyen and Mother Hale really stole the show, but more importantly brought tears to my eyes and others.

Mr President, I would like to share with you a little something I found that I'm sure you will recognize.  
(Smile)

I indeed feel honored  
to have served both you  
and the First Lady. I was  
a member of your Private  
Sector Initiatives staff and  
served as Administrative  
Assistant to Jim Rosebush,  
of the First Lady's staff.

May the Man upstairs  
continue to bless and protect  
you both in the years to come.

Sincerely,  
The Jacqueline Bush Lady  
Bunyan A. Fletcher

P.S. Mrs R, whenever you have  
a taste for some bread,  
it's only a call away. Just  
have Elaine give me a buzz.  
Love ya!  
BAF.

To Mrs. Mameen O'Hara Blair P.O. Box 1400  
Christiansburg, St. Croix - U.S. Virgin Islands

00820-1400

Dear Mameen

Thank you very much for forwarding our  
gifts & the letter from Patrick O'Regan & the Regan  
Clan. Everything arrived in good shape & as you  
suggested I've sent off a photo of Nancy & myself  
proudly holding the plaque & the walking sticks.

You were very kind & and I'm most grateful.  
Nancy her best as do I & again thanks &  
God bless you.

Sincerely  
Ron

To Mrs. Bethune A. Fletcher 516 G St. S.W. Wash. D. C.  
Dear Mrs. Fletcher

20024

Thank you for my "feeny" I'm delighted to have it  
and am most grateful to you. Thank you too for  
your kind words about the speech. I'll let you  
in on a secret; when I introduced our cadet & Mother Hale  
I was glad there was such sustained applause because I  
had a lump in my throat ~~so~~ so big I needed the time  
to get my voice back.

Nancy sends her warmest regard & again our  
thanks to you.

Sincerely  
RR

End  
1950  
File



318726

PR007-01

TALKING POINTS

- First, I want to commend Bob Dole and the Senate Republicans for hanging tough and resisting those outrageous farm bail-out demands that the Democrats wanted.
  - We have to expect the Democrats to play politics with almost every issue -- but they have outdone themselves with these farm credit proposals.
  - I know that Jack Block has been working closely with you on the farm credit problem. On Friday, Jack announced that he was implementing the revised farm credit program that Senate Republicans requested.
  - I want to ask Jack to update us on the short-term farm credit situation. This package with the improvements you requested will help. I want to make clear that we cannot accept additional legislation adding to the farm credit package.
- (Secretary Block to make comments.)
- I know that you all know that one of our first big fights this year will be to release the FY '85 money for the MX missile.
  - When this money was "fenced" by the Congress last year, it was generally understood that we would vote on the release of the dollars prior to the Easter recess.
  - I'm going to call on Bud McFarlane to review the time-



table for the MX votes, but I want to stress to all of you that it is imperative that the MX program go forward and I'm counting on your help in this fight.

(Bud McFarlane to make remarks.)

- Now to turn to another area -- our mutual efforts to reduce the deficit. I know that you have been struggling, in both the House and Senate, to try to develop a legislative package to cut spending . . . and I know that it's not an easy task.
- We have to work together to reduce government expenditures. The Democrats aren't going to help us, so it is up to us as Republicans to find a way to pass a spending reduction package as early as possible.
- Time is short. We all agreed to freeze overall spending for Federal programs at the '85 levels. We agreed that we need a spending cut package of \$50 billion. It is time for the Senate, where our best opportunity exists, to come forward now with an initiative as a basis for a mutually acceptable package.
- I want to ask Dave Stockman to make a few comments before hearing from you.

*Proper spending cut  
only makes sense  
if an increase*

(Dave Stockman to make remarks.)

(Call on Bob Dole and Bob Michel, and then open for discussion.)

End  
Case  
File

270881 SS  
10/65

NSC/S PROFILE

UNCLASSIFIED

ID 8501707

RECEIVED 02 MAR 85 12

TO PRESIDENT

FROM POINDEXTER

DOCDATE 27 FEB 85

PRESIDENT

27 FEB 85

KEYWORDS: USSR

ARMS CONTROL

CHERNENKO, K U

SUBJECT: TEXT OF CHERNENKO SPEECH TO ELECTORATE 23 FEB IN PRAVDA

ACTION: FOR RECORD PURPOSES

DUE:

STATUS C

FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

MATLOCK

SESTANOVICH

KRAEMER

FORTIER

ROBINSON

COMMENTS

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

( CT CT )

ACTION OFFICER (S)

ASSIGNED

ACTION REQUIRED

DUE

COPIES TO

DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE (C)

**National Security Council  
The White House**

85 MAR 2 AIC: 42

System # I  
Package # 1707

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
Bob Pearson	_____	_____	_____
Bob Kimmitt	<u>1</u>	<u>K</u>	_____
John Poindexter	<u>2</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
Paul Thompson	_____	_____	_____
Wilma Hall	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
Bud McFarlane	<u>4</u>	<u>VM</u>	<u>I</u>
Bob Kimmitt	<u>5</u>	<u>APK</u>	_____
NSC Secretariat	<u>6</u>	_____	<u>Log Sys I</u>
Situation Room	_____	_____	<u>for info only</u>

I = Information    A = Action    R = Retain    D = Dispatch    N = No further Action

cc: VP    Meese    Baker    Deaver    Other \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMENTS**

Should be seen by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Date/Time)

Should I pass President's comments  
to Nick for the Secretary?

2/27/85

Mr. President,

Secretary Shultz wanted you  
to see the arms control section  
of this address which begins at  
red tab.

John

1707

Very interesting - now  
all they have to do is indicate  
how fast they are willing to go  
in authorizing weapons.  
RR 2/27/85

The chairman, Comrade Grishin, stated that Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko had prepared the text of a speech to the electorate. At the instruction of Comrade Chernenko, his speech was read out at the meeting.

#### Chernenko Address

PM222120 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Feb 85 First Edition pp 1, 2

["Comrade K.U. Chernenko's Speech"]

[Text] Dear Comrades, I express my sincere gratitude to the working people of the Kuybyshev District of Moscow who again nominated me as candidate to run for the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation. I will do my best to justify this great trust, this high honor.

Elections to organs of Soviet power are a direct and vivid manifestation of the political will of the people. And we, Communists, naturally are proud that the Soviet people name, first of all, representatives of the Leninist party -- the leading force of our society -- as their candidates. This is convincing evidence of the support of the policy of the CPSU by the working people, evidence of the inviolable unity of the party and the people.

One year ago at the meeting with the electorate of your district, we had a detailed talk about key questions of domestic and foreign policies, about the progress of implementation of the decisions taken by the 26th CPSU Congress. We spoke of the achievements and difficulties of the past years. We spoke of what we were going to do to make our motherland even stronger and finer, to make the life of every Soviet citizen better and richer in content, and so that there may be peace, a durable and stable peace.

That is why I would like first of all to inform you of what we have managed to accomplished over the past year, a year of extensive and strenuous work for all of us.

You know full well that the party's Central Committee, the Politburo of the Central Committee worked actively in a very wide field. Much attention was devoted to the economy, to improving management and raising the efficiency of the national economy, developing the creative initiative and political activity of the masses, and perfecting ideological work. Serious measures are known to have been taken to strengthen discipline, law, and order. But still, let me tell you straight, there are not enough of them. In this sphere, we have acted and will act in full compliance with the decisions of the November (1982), June (1983), and February (1984) plenary meetings of the Central Committee of the CPSU.

At the same time, we have gone right into dealing with a number of other very important questions of our life. Improvement of the work of the soviets and the school reform, perfection of the party guidance of the Komsomol, and scaling up of the activity of people's control, land improvement, and enhancing of the social function of literature and the arts -- these are but a few problems which we have directed our efforts toward resolving.

The work of the party, as you see, is becoming ever more diverse and manifold. It is quite understandable why. This is required by the strategic course of the CPSU, the course toward the all-around perfecting of socialism built in our country. This is required by the specific features of the present political movement. We have launched preparations for the 27th party congress, the congress that is called upon to play a special role in the history of our party and the destinies of our country. It is precisely the 27th congress that is to adopt a new edition of the party program.

This will be the program for perfecting developed socialism, the program of a great constructive endeavor that will make it possible to fully translate our socialist ideals into life. This means to bring nearer the possibility of fulfilling the tasks directly linked with the construction of communism which was and remains our lofty goal, to bring about a sharp rise in labor productivity and material well-being of the people with all-around flourishing of spiritual culture, and to ensure complete and universal assertion of social justice inherent in our system with its key principle: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work." Such are the tasks of historic significance which should, in our opinion, find reflection in the new edition of the program of the CPSU, the work on which is now entering the final stage.

Someone, perhaps, may say: Aren't we getting carried away by formulating long-term tasks, while far from all current problems in this country have been resolved to meet the standards of developed socialism?

Here is how I would answer this question. It is possible to solve short-term, urgent problems successfully only by having a clear perspective for the future, clearly realizing the scale of future work. And the confidence that we will cope with that task is based on scientifically substantiated, realistic forecasts. This confidence is based on fully realistic achievements of the recent time, on the results which we have achieved, overcoming certain negative tendencies in our development.

Let us turn to the economic results of the past year. They speak of further steady progress of industry, of a substantial buildup of manufacturing capacities in key sectors of the national economy, and of the growth of our social wealth.

I will not quote the figures. They have been published in the press. I would like to draw your attention to only one indicator; I mean labor productivity. Higher labor productivity accounts for almost the entire increase in the national income.

From this follows an important conclusion: The Soviet economy ever more firmly establishes itself on the road of intensive development. This is the first and foremost concern of ours, both for today and tomorrow, for the present level of labor productivity, comrades, cannot satisfy us at all.

To produce more with less costs -- such, it would seem, is the simple formula of intensive economic growth, but all of us know how difficult it is to translate that into reality. There is a host of problems -- organizational and technical, moral and psychological. We are dealing with them more confidently now.

The working people show a higher sense of responsibility for their work. Last year, for example, enterprises met their obligations concerning mutual deliveries to a higher degree than in all previous years of the 5-year plan period. Tens of thousands of work collectives got down busily to economizing raw material and fuel. Now it is one of the most pressing problems.

All this tangible evidence that our economy is advancing to a qualitatively new stage of its development. In this process, there are achievements which are particularly gratifying to us. Among these, I am gratified to note the successes of the working people of your district. I have before me the data for the 4 years of the current 5-year plan period. Labor productivity in your district's industry grew over 50 percent more quickly than planned. Here are data for last year. You, just like the country's other collectives, undertook to raise the productivity of labor by at least 1 percent in excess of the plan but raised it by more than 2 percent. A remarkable result. Well done, comrades!

The working people of Moscow as a whole are working energetically in the 11th 5-Year Plan period. They gave their word to attain the planned targets ahead of time, and we all know that the Muscovites are good at keeping their word. It was not just luck that, on the strength of the results of socialist emulation for 1984, Moscow and its Kuybyshev District have been awarded the Challenge Red Banners of the CPSU Central Committee, the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, and the Central Committee of the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League.

It is known, comrades, that a rise in the people's well-being is the ultimate goal of all our efforts in the economic sphere. We make continuous headway in this field from year to year. Take, frankly speaking, such an urgent matter as the satisfaction of the population's growing demand for durable, high-quality goods. The fundamental line towards the priority development of the industries which manufacture consumer goods has been consistently sustained throughout 4 years of the current 5-year period.

We set such a task previously, too, but did not always manage to accomplish it. A real and practical change for the better has now taken place.

It is good that heavy industry branches more actively join in the solution of this question. Last year their share in the manufacture of consumer goods grew up to 30 percent. The social meaning of this, and political one, too, is clear to everyone. Our powerful industry to a still greater extent works directly for the good of people.



At the same time, we all know that to improve the quality of our consumer goods still remains quite a topical concern.

It is gratifying to note the success in the solution of the housing problem. In 1984 alone, 2 million well appointed apartments were built. Forty million people were rehoused over the 4 years of the current 5-year plan period. And there is every reason to believe that the housing construction program, the largest one in the history of 5-year plan periods, will be not only implemented but exceeded as well.

For a number of years we have been consistently taking measures to improve the working and living conditions of women who have children and increasing benefits to families with many children. Among our top-priority concerns are an accelerated construction of nurseries and kindergartens, an increase in the production of and a rise in the quality of goods for children.

We devote unflagging attention to building up the health of Soviet people. The party takes a broad view of this task. It encompasses efforts to make working conditions healthier, to protect the environment, to develop a truly mass physical culture movement, and, of course, first and foremost, to perfect the medical service of the population.

You know, comrades, that the party and our state are making more exacting demands upon the work of the health-service bodies and consistently working to overcome the serious drawbacks existing in this field. At the same time, we also see well the need to improve the working and living conditions of medical personnel. In particular, the question of starting the realization of measures next year to raise salaries for the health-service workers is now under consideration. This will be undoubtedly a big step in the social policy of the party because this concerns the well-being of more than five million people.

In a nutshell, a lot of good is being done for people. But, frankly speaking, it is necessary that much more should be done. What hinders that?

The answer, I think, is clear. The living standard and quality of life in our society rise from year to year commensurately with our work. Not less than that, but not more than that, either. This means that in order to raise the people's well-being more rapidly, it is essential to improve our work in all sectors more quickly and thoroughly.

This is what the party and its Central Committee strive for. They persistently steer matters to securing a real turning point in the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and a rise in the efficiency of the Soviet economy before the end of the eighties.

In this connection, I want to emphasize the following. Everyone, one can say, has broadly realized the need for qualitative changes in our economic work. What is needed is more resolutely to effect these changes in practice. It is essential to master more boldly and without delays everything useful and valuable that has already been produced for us by the economic experiments, advanced forms and methods of economic management. It is even more essential because we are in the concluding year of the current 5-year plan period. In order to worthily attain the planned goals of the period, I repeat once again, a large amount of persistent work with initiative will be needed.

Planning and management, the economic mechanism and the system of remuneration of labor -- all should be now perfected without procrastination. In our calendar there is no time which would be specifically allotted for this kind of work.

Many interesting ideas and sound mandates on how to improve the work of our bodies of power and economic management have been expressed during the election campaign. The task of the soviets is thoroughly and with the utmost attention to study and generalize them. The main thing is to translate them into life and introduce them to practice.

Comrades, little time separates us from the 40th anniversary of the victory in the Great Patriotic War. The heroic Soviet people under the leadership of the Leninist party defended their socialist motherland in the hardest battle against the Hitlerite hordes, brought freedom to Europe, and saved the world civilization from fascist barbarity. This feat of arms will never fade!

We revere the memory of those who died for the freedom and independence of our motherland. We have considered and still consider it our high duty to constantly care for the veterans of the Great Patriotic War, for their health, living, and welfare conditions.

In connection with the 40th anniversary of the victory, it seems appropriate to emphasize again the entire importance of the purposeful and efficient work for the patriotic education of working people, especially of the young generation. The everlasting purpose of our entire ideological work is to cultivate in Soviet people love for the motherland and an unshakable readiness to defend the socialist gains.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I want to congratulate our servicemen and all of you, comrades, on the approaching holiday -- Soviet Army and Navy Day. Soviet people may rest assured: The party and state have done and will do everything for our Armed Forces to be able reliably to protect the peaceful life of the people and for the country's defence capacity to be always at a proper level.

Comrades, we, the generation of today, are first and foremost duty bound to prevent a new world conflagration, to save life on earth. The present-day complicated international situation necessitates high vigilance, firmness, restraint, and, certainly, vigorous actions to improve the international climate.

It is of great benefit to the cause of peace and international security that there is the community of socialist states in the world consistently upholding the Leninist principle of peaceful coexistence in the international arena. Throughout the past years we spared no effort to ensure that cooperation of the countries of socialism in all fields should strengthen and broaden.

Strength in unity was the old watchword of the working class movement. Today it is fully applicable to the fraternal socialist countries.

We have jointly foiled the designs of the imperialists to exhaust socialism economically. In recent years our countries have made further headway in their socioeconomic development, and what is important, we are becoming economically less vulnerable to external effects. This is, in particular, the aim of the decisions of last year's summit conference of the CEMA member-countries, on whose implementation we are all working now. The process of socialist economic integration is picking up speed, the international socialist division of labor is gaining in depth. Every individual fraternal country and the whole socialist community benefit from it.

By acting jointly we have prevented the USA and its allies from upsetting the military-strategic parity in their favor. This is going to happen in the future too, for our fraternal alliance is indestructible.

II. 25 Feb 85

R 9

USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS  
POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

The 30th anniversary of the Warsaw Treaty is to be celebrated soon. I can inform you that all the parties to the treaty have declared for prolonging it. Under the conditions when the aggressive imperialist NATO bloc continues to act, we need, as before, a concerted, well-coordinated peaceable foreign policy and a reliable shield for peaceful labor.

We are for enhancing the role and influence of the world socialist system as a whole in the international arena. In this connection we attach much significance to normalizing relations with the People's Republic of China. Useful steps were taken in this respect last year. Although we cannot but see the continuing serious political differences, we would like to hope that Soviet-Chinese relations will be further favorably developed by the efforts of both sides.

We cooperate with all peaceable forces on earth in strengthening international security. In this day and age it means, in particular, cooperation with the freedom-loving, independent states of the former colonial and semicolonial world. All such states -- from great India to small Benin, from the neighboring Arab countries to the distant republics of Central and South America -- are our natural and like-minded partners when it comes to the defense of the rights of the peoples and peaceful future of mankind. We treasure friendship with them and will develop and strengthen it.

Comrades, the core of our foreign policy today is, of course, the struggle for terminating the arms race imposed by imperialism, for averting the threat of a world nuclear war.

We are at the threshold of new negotiations with the United States. Both sides have stated that they enter them to prevent an arms race in space and terminate it on earth. They have come to terms to consider and resolve questions of space and nuclear arms as a complex, in their interrelationship, which is absolutely indispensable to the success of the undertaking. This is the essence of the Geneva Accord. I would like to state once again with all clarity what our intentions in connection with the forthcoming talks are.

First: We do not strive to acquire any unilateral advantages over the United States and NATO countries, or for military superiority over them. We do not need it, as we have no intention of either threatening them or imposing our will on them, but want to live in peace and maintain normal, good relations with them.

Second: We want termination, and not continuation, of the arms race. This is precisely why the Soviet Union raises the question of such opening steps as a freeze on nuclear arsenals of the sides, an end to further deployment of missiles, etc. We consider the use of the negotiations for opposite purposes -- for justifying and camouflaging further buildup and deployment of mass annihilation systems -- to be an immoral and dishonorable business, a deception of peoples and a crime against them.

And third: We want a real reduction of the arms stockpiles, destruction of a substantial portion of them by way of a beginning, and not the development of increasingly new weapon systems, be it in space or on earth, offensive or purportedly defensive systems. Our ultimate objective here is the complete elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere on this planet, the complete removal of the threat of nuclear war.

The divergence of views of the sides on the matters that will be discussed is great now. This is obvious to all. There is no shortage of gloomy forecasts which doom the negotiations to failure in advance, but we do not share them.

Agreement is absolutely necessary and quite possible. It is necessary because, otherwise, the world will with increasing speed keep sliding down the inclined plane of the arms race and the threat of war will grow. Agreement is quite possible because what is needed for that end is simply to respect the rights and legitimate security interests of both sides, not to strive to upset the existing equilibrium of forces.

We call upon the leaders of the United States of America to approach the forthcoming negotiations seriously and in good faith. We call upon them to get rid of the senseless hopes for military superiority over the Soviet Union, for conducting negotiations with us from "positions of strength." We call upon them to renounce attempts at imposing such an agreement on us that will unilaterally bind the hands of the Soviet Union in strengthening its defenses, while throwing the doors wide open for the realization of record-high military programs drafted by Washington.

Such attempts bear absolutely no promise, yet they can undermine the possibility of agreement, which the peoples of our countries and all peoples are looking forward to, wishing lasting peace and a tranquil, happy life.

Comrades, the 40th year since victory prompts all of us to look once again both at our wartime experiences, at what was after the war, and the prospects, which are opening to the world today.

The countries of the coalition which defeated fascism belonged to different social systems. Yet they became allies. Their leaders succeeded in jointly outlining the fundamentals of the postwar arrangement. These fundamentals are recorded in the documents of Tehran, Yalta, and Potsdam. Their main essence remains topical today as well: It is to translate into practice mankind's greatest desire -- lasting peace. A way towards that was also charted -- to preserve the unity of aims and actions, which made it possible to defeat nazism and deliver the peoples from enslavement by the Hitlerites.

Some people might say that this could have happened only because there was war, that Hitlerism was seen as a universal danger. This is true. But in this day, too, mankind, all peoples, have a common deadly enemy -- the threat of a world nuclear catastrophe.

Take the events of the past decade. The leaders of the states of East and West were able, despite the serious differences dividing them, to display the necessary determination and understanding of the demands of the times. They made major strides towards lasting peace. A solid fabric of mutually beneficial cooperation began emerging, and long-term principles of peaceful mutual relations were outlined by joint effort.

We find these principles in the document, which put on record the fundamentals of relations between the USSR and the USA, in the agreement between them on preventing nuclear war. They were also mirrored in the treaties of the socialist countries with the FRG, which sealed the postwar realities in Europe. They, finally, won collective approval and were further developed in the Final Act of the European Conference in Helsinki.

Now history poses even more urgently the question of mankind's future. Courage and foresight in statesmen have become even more indispensable. I have already had occasion to speak of the enormous significance that a binding agreement between the nuclear powers could have, an agreement to observe certain norms in their mutual relations so as to prevent the outbreak of nuclear war. Our proposal on this score remains in effect.

III. 25 Feb 85

R 11

USSR NATIONAL AFFAIRS  
POLITICAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

We also believe that in celebrating the 40th anniversary since the end of the most terrible and destructive of wars, the leaders of the USSR and the USA could jointly reaffirm, in a form suitable to both countries, the essence and spirit of the main commitments undertaken by both countries at the end of the war and in the agreements of the seventies. They could declare their intention to act further in their foreign policy in the spirit of these commitments. This would certainly help toward strengthening mutual trust and toward a general improvement of the world situation. I am confident that such a joint act would win the support of all peaceable states and of all peoples.

Comrades, elections to the soviets of peoples deputies are always a signal event in our country's life. This is indeed a triumphant event -- the triumph of socialist democracy, the democracy which, genuinely, in practice, ensures the broad, interested participation of millions of working people in the administration of the state. The election campaign has vividly demonstrated the growing consciousness, labor, and public activeness of the masses. This, as Lenin more than once stressed, is the inexhaustible source of our system's strength.

The day after tomorrow Soviet citizens will come to the polling stations in all 15 Soviet Union republics. By voting for the candidates of the indissoluble bloc of Communists and nonparty members, they will express their will to peace, and the readiness to strengthen in every way the fraternal friendship of the peoples of the USSR, to struggle with fresh vigor for further salutary changes in every corner of our great homeland.

Allow me once again to thank you with all my heart for your trust. To us Communists no striving is loftier and no happiness is greater than selflessly to serve the homeland, our people.

I wish you, dear comrades, good health, well being and great successes in work, in all of your activities!

End  
Case  
File

296802  
F0002

February 27, 1985

Dear Don:

I'm glad to hear the weather didn't completely destroy the Inaugural for all of you. I only wish we hadn't been on such a fast track so there could have been more time for just visiting.

Don, I was surprised to learn of your ties to Czechoslovakia and that you are doing a book, and if I read you right, it is involved with the history of that country at least in part. I wish I could give you an affirmative answer regarding the embassy post there but there are problems. It seems that our present Ambassador is performing very well and there are no plans to make a change. I'll keep your letter on my desk just in case. Let me ask you though, would you be interested in other embassy posts if anything opened up or is Prague your only choice?

I appreciate very much what you've done and your willingness to serve and I'll hope something works out. I'd be very proud to have you officially on the team.

Nancy sends her love and from both of us to Marion.

Sincerely,

Mr. Don De Fore  
2496 Mandeville Canyon Road  
Los Angeles, California 90049

RR:AVH:NM:SEV:pps

RR Dictation



To Mr. Don DeFore - 2496 Mandeville Canyon Rd.  
L.A. Calif. 90049

Dear Don

I'm glad to hear the weather didn't completely destroy the inaugural for all of you. I only wish we hadn't been on such a fast track so there could have been more time for just visiting.

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I appreciate very much what you've done and your willingness to serve and I'll hope something works out. I'd be very proud to have you officially on the Team.

Nancy sends her love & from both of us to Marion.

Sincerely  
RR Ron

# DON DE FORE

February 15, 1985

President Ronald Reagan  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Despite the blizzardy weather, the various inaugural events were carried out with an exciting brilliance, and thoroughly enjoyed by all, including our sons David and Ron and their wives as well as Marion and me.

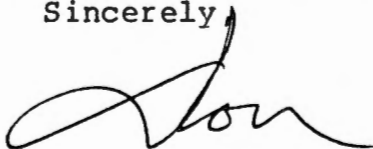
Mr. President, following my acceptance of the U.S.I.A.'s invitation to attend the Moscow Film Festival in 1969, I later visited in Prague the birthplace of my maternal grandparents and was able to gather much material for my forthcoming book, including the histories of the ancient kingdoms of Bohemia, Silesia, Moravia and Slovakia which later under President Wilson's guidance, were amalgamated into the Republic of Czechoslovakia under the leadership of Thomas Masaryk. I later met several times with his son, Jan Masaryk, the leader of the Czech government in exile, when he came to the Southland after attending the initial meeting of the U.N. in San Francisco. It wasn't until my '69 visit to Prague that I learned my grandfather's family was related to the Masaryk family.

Mr. President, would you consider me for our country's representative to Czechoslovakia? Following my commission of Goodwill Ambassador to Swaziland in 1980, I had several discussions with Helene von Damm, Pen James and later John Harrington regarding an assignment in the diplomatic field. The thinking then was that perhaps an English speaking country should be considered, however, I firmly believe that with a dedicated conservative staff, including interpreters, all working from well defined guidelines, I could very well represent our country and you with both honor and dignity.

Trusting this request can find fertile ground in your much crowded calendar of requests, I remain a dedicated servant of my country, ready, willing and able to serve.

Marion and our family send our love to you and Nancy.

Sincerely,



Don De Fore

DDF:vad

End  
165C  
File

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

3/4/85

Biff:

The President signed the  
attached letter to Beggs.

Craig Fuller is to give  
it to Beggs personally.

Sara E.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 28, 1985

Dear Mr. Beggs:

I'm enclosing a personal letter I received from a longtime friend. I found it so interesting I thought you should see it as well as have some further words about this individual.

Douglas Morrow has been for many years an outstanding screenwriter. He has been particularly noted for a number of biographical type screenplays in which he did exhausting research.

As long as I've known him he begins his day -- year round, with a lengthy swim in the pool except for one month each year when he and his wife go to Sun Valley to ski. His other hobby is rock climbing.

In his letter you'll see mention of Mt. Everest and surgery. Let me fill that in. A couple of years back after a routine checkup he was told that one day he might face a bypass operation because there were signs he was beginning to get some clogging of the artery to his heart. Upon getting this report he called his doctor and said, "why don't we do it now while I'm healthy instead of waiting until it causes a problem." His doctor said, "that's the most intelligent thing I've ever heard anyone say and you are the only one who's ever said it." So in he went and had the operation. Then with barely time for healing of the incisions he and his wife went on a long-planned trip to Nepal where they climbed to the 23,000 foot level of Mt. Everest.

All of this, surgery and Everest, has taken place during my term in office. Please understand I'm making no personal request. This matter is entirely up to you and your associates. I bring it to your attention only because it sounded, to this lowly horse calvaryman, as if it might have merit.

Best regards,

15/ RR

Mr. James M. Beggs  
Administrator.  
National Aeronautics  
and Space Administration  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20546



DOUGLAS MORROW

February 11, 1985

Dear Mr. President:

Again, I thank you for a considerate letter, yours of January 7th re: the good McFarlane-Coon meeting. I am delighted that Coon will be joining McFarlane at NSC in the spring. And I'm confident that he'll be helpful to you and McFarlane in that assignment.

Now, please fasten your seat-belt...here's a switch with at least the force of 4 or 5 G's.

After the Everest climb, you echoed Margot's query, "What do you do for an encore?" You'll recall my reply, "What about the Space Shuttle?"

I wasn't kidding.

As briefly as I can, here are several reasons why I hope you'll give it serious consideration:

1 - As I'm sure you're aware, the public, by and large, has grown apathetic in its interest in and support of the Space Program. This is tragic. NASA has done monumentally historic work. And, on a scale of 10 with respect to its long-range potential, it is still barely at 1 or 2. Its greatest possible contributions...to the country and to the world...are still to be achieved. But, because of the cost, it needs a continuing and increased enthusiasm and support from the people.

But NASA's PR work has not matched its enormous substantive achievement. Some of the stuff that was effective early on, and which elicited positive public reaction, has grown stale and redundant. There has been too much repetition of the 'golly gee whiz' 'wow!' reactions to space..."What a view!" "Fantastic ride!" etc. The flip-flops in weightless space. The unspontaneous dialogue with Mission Control, so obviously contrived to seem uncontrived. Etc. Etc.

I've followed the Program closely since its inception. And I think it is long overdue that a mission have a flight historian who would record, in layman's language, that the public would understand and be responsive to, the detailed history of a flight. This record would be aimed at de-emphasizing the superficial excitement of space travel, and emphasizing the enormity of the effort, the ingenuity of the Program and its people, and the almost limitless rewards still to be achieved.

In terms of invigorating public interest and support, I think I could write a flight history that could make a real contribution to the Program.



2/11/85

2 - There might be others who could also write an effective layman's Flight History. BUT NONE MY AGE. And this is a very significant point...the age factor.

You have broken important ground, as our oldest President who is already being referred to as one of our "great Presidents". You have made a major assault upon the "age barrier"...which is an archaic concept. What a waste of national resources it is to turn to pasture vibrant, experienced human beings merely because a calendar says "65"! What a shot in the psyche it would be for so many men and women if a guy my age made a flight and contributed to the Program while doing so!

(There is a peripheral factor also to be considered...it might make it a little easier to move the retirement age up a few years, and thereby take some heat off the Social Security System.)

3 - My making this flight, and working while on it, would dramatize another point, aside from age...that there is something that can effectively be done to anticipate and avert heart failure. If more people could be persuaded to do what I did, in advance of heart trouble, how many valuable people could live additional fruitful and constructive years!

I have no doubt I could pass the necessary physical for a flight. Prior to tackling Everest, I took an intensive series of physicals, including the thalium stress and scan. The guys conducting the tests were instructed to put me, if possible, to ultimate stress. I went through it like a hot knife through butter. Not a glitch of any kind. The cardiologist supervising the tests said there weren't many 30-year olds who could go to the limits I reached.

Unfortunately, society has conditioned too many people to regard themselves as old when they reach a certain age. And once they think they're old, they are old. In a major way, you've proven how dumb this is. In a small way, I guess I have, too.

And if, past 70 and after heart surgery, I could be a contributing member of one of these flights, both physically and mentally, I think I'd be taking another powerful whack at the age barrier.

Naturally, I'd be willing and eager to devote as many weeks or months as would be necessary for preparation and research.

Also, if what I write about the mission could in any way generate income, I would insist that all of it be assigned to NASA, or to a purpose of NASA's choice.

2/11/85

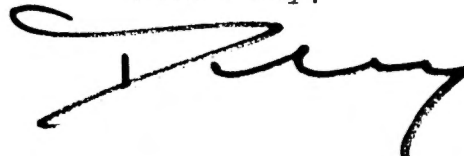
The only thing I want is to have the opportunity to make a contribution to the Program...and to the "old goats" of the world!

I could elaborate further on why my participating in a flight could be constructive. But I'm trying to keep this as short as possible. If you have a moment to call me, I think I might be able to convince you why this is a good idea, for several reasons.

Please give this serious consideration.

As always, Margot joins me in affectionate regards to you and Nancy.

Sincerely,



P.S. Our 40th party was great. Went even better than I dared to hope. Warm, intimate and high-spirited. And Margot was genuinely and ecstatically surprised. Quite a few old friends of yours. I think you both would have enjoyed it. Although we were disappointed you couldn't join us (particularly when being inaugurated as President of the United States was such a feeble, tacky excuse) we did appreciate very much your nice telegram.



End  
Case  
File

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RR