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Last Updated: 07/15/2025

1940-44
PR003

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1984

Dear Elsa:

I found your letter here when I returned from California. Incidentally, California is still a hard place to leave.

You brought a warm wave of nostalgia with your memories of past campaigns and the Dallas reception. Thank you for your generous words and your friendship. I treasure both.

Nancy sends her love as do I. God bless you.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Elsa Sandstrom
3580 Winslow Road
Oceanside, California 92054

84 1 6

Mrs. Elsa Sandstrom
Ronald we have his address
Reagan

Dear Elsa

I found your letter here
when I returned from Calif.

Incidentally Calif. is still a hard
place to leave.

You brought a warm wave
of nostalgia with your memories
of past campaigns & the Dallas
reception. Thank you for your
generous words and your
friendship. I treasure both.

Nancy sends her love as
do I. God bless you.

Sincerely, Ron

ELSA SANDSTROM

December 18, 1983

Hon. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 200

Dear Mr. President -

As 1983 draws to a close, your accomplishments thus far will be drawn into focus by many - and they are good. This has not been an easy year for you - the decisions which had to be made within the presidency were awesome, yet they were made with forthrightness and courage. I, for one, would not fault you if you and Nancy were to wrap up a good first term and return to the tranquillity and beauty of your ranch in the sky. Somehow or other I feel this will not be your decision, since there is still so much to be done, and the challenge remains to finish the job.

Forgive me for reminiscing a bit . . . but memories of my volunteer activities in politics are thousandfold dating back to Goldwater days . . . and there is one among those that will always be a standout. It is the reception we had for you in Dallas before you ever were a candidate. The people flooded that hotel to catch just a glimpse of the man, Ronald Reagan. The elevators were overloaded; and they waited endlessly to get to the upper floor (12th ?); until, being afraid to miss the reception altogether, they decided to walk up and filled the stairwells all the way up. Of one thing I feel certain, the women of Texas are in the majority for our president.

ELSA SANDSTROM

December 18, 1983

- 2 -

It is one of my big dreams for 1984 to return to Dallas; and savor the victory!

It is good to have the media anticipate your answer of "Peace". May everyone associate ^{the} word with you! For peace in the world, man needs first to find peace within himself.

"I am leaving you with a gift - peace of mind and heart! And the peace I give isn't fragile like the world gives. So don't be troubled or afraid."

John: 14:27

Again, may God bless and protect you and Nancy, as you go forward together the country needs you.

Sincerely,



Elsa Sandstrom (Mrs.)

End
case
File

168615
NR 002

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
January 5, 1984

Dear Brute:

You did it again. Would that some of your fellow journalists could see the Leninists for what they are.

I'll meet with them and I hope we can work out some ways we can live in this world together. But we must never go to sleep leaving them on guard duty.

Thanks for the column. I'll see that it and all the others get circulated through the West Wing.

At this point in the above dictation, believe it or not, your letter of December 9 arrived. I'll look into the Panda thing but so far there has been no mention of such a thing in any of the Cabinet level meetings with the Chinese. I'll be prepared though.

I'm so sorry to hear about Freddie Nichols. I'm writing Helen right away.

Sincerely,



Lt. Gen. Victor H. Krulak (Ret.)
3665 Carleton Street
San Diego, California 92106

P.S. Brute, I just realized you are sending your letters by way of Roy Miller. If you address them to me here at the White House and then above and to the left of the address put the number 16691, they'll come directly to me -- no delay.

84 1. 6

Mr. Victor H. Krulak

Ronald

Reagan

We have his address

Dear Bruce, all is well.

22/4. If you did it again? Would

that some of your fellow

journalists could see the

Seminists for what they are.

I'll meet with them and

I hope we can work out some

ways we can live in this world

together. But I must never get to

sleep leaving them on guard

duty.

Thanks for the column. I

see that it & all the others

get circulated through the

West Wing. We all do need it

~~But I don't want to~~

(over)

(At this point on the above dictation, believe it or not your letter of Dec. 9, ~~concerning~~
~~the Rogers case~~, ~~is~~ arrived. I'll look into the Panda thing but so far there has been no mention of such a thing in any of the cabinet level meetings with the Chinese. I'll be prepared though. I'm so sorry to hear about Freddie Nichols. ~~I have~~ I'm writing ~~him~~ Helen right away.

Jimmy Ray

P.S. Brother I just developed you
are sending your letter by way of
Roy Miller. If you address them
to me here at the W. H. and then
above & to the left of the address put
the number 16691 They'll come
directly to me — no delay.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TO: Dick Darman

FROM: KATHY OSBORNE
Personal Secretary
to the President

DATE: 1-3-84

This is a good friend of RR's so
he should see. Is there anything
in the works about the Pandas
which RR should know about? I'll
take care of a condolence to Mrs.
Freddie Nichols.

KO
Send original in.
I'm sending
copy to Williams to
deal w. pandas
question.
DD.

VICTOR H. KRULAK

9 December 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
c/o Roy D. Miller
4723 Crocker Center
333 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90071

Dear Mr. President:

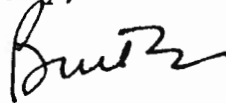
I am a Trustee of the San Diego Zoo, the largest and probably best overall, of all the world's zoos. Like every other Zoo, San Diego wants a pair of Chinese giant pandas and it occurs to me that the Chinese Government might be disposed to release a pair, as a gesture of friendship and respect for you on your forthcoming visit.

San Diego is a logical repository for the pandas, inasmuch as:

- It has immediately at hand the types of bamboo that pandas eat.
- It has the best veterinary staff and facilities of any zoo in the world.
- It has the world's best record in breeding of endangered animals.
- It was the first U.S. zoo to establish a trading relationship with zoos in the People's Republic of China; and
- It is the only U.S. zoo that supports itself.

If, by chance, the Chinese were to present you with a pair of pandas, I hope you might consider entrusting them to the San Diego Zoo.

Sincerely,



P.S. I regret to tell you that our campmate Freddie Nichols died a few days ago. His wife, Helen, lives at 1630 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, Illinois 60091

VICTOR H. KRULAK

5 December 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
c/o Mr. Roy D. Miller
4723 Crocker Center
333 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90071

Dear Mr. President:

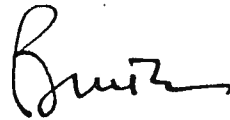
Although "The Last Day" was a poor film, I expect it will signal a rash of similar pot-boilers that can do your program no good. I wrote the enclosed column in the hope that it might help neutralize the effect of the film.

I don't believe I told you that we have a new member of Owl's Nest -- Paul Sticht, president of R. J. Reynolds. He is a fine man and a good addition to our group.

It seems that Grenada and your associated actions have caused the Sandinistas in Nicaragua to back off a little. I am sure, however, that it has not altered their convictions. They are tough Leninists. They cannot tolerate any real freedom. And they hate us.

Warm thanks for your steadfast behavior and all personal good wishes.

Sincerely,



VHK:jm
Enclosure

194350
194350
PR 009

January 5, 1984

Dear Mr. Wehir:

We're back in Washington now but with many warm memories of our short stay in California. One of the nicest of those memories is of a plane towing a banner bearing a message addressed to me.

I've learned you were responsible for that, and I just want you to know how proud you made me feel. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Here's hoping your holidays were as warm and pleasant as you helped ours to be.

Again, thanks and very best wishes.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

H
Mr. Robert C. Wehir
Post Office Box 493
Cathedral City, California 92234

RR:AVH:CAD:pps

RR Dictation

✓ Encl: Inscribed Casual Photo

840106



To Mr. Robert C. Wehr

RONALD REAGAN

Dear Mr. Wehr

We're back in Wash. now
but with many warm memories
of our short stay in Calif.
One of the nicest of those memories
is of a plane towing a banner
bearing a message addressed to
me.

I've learned you were
responsible for that and I just
want you to know how proud
you made me feel. I thank you
from the bottom of my heart.
Here's hoping your holidays
were as warm & pleasant as you
helped ours to be.

Again thanks & very best
wishes.

Sincerely
RR

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The man who was in the small aircraft
with a message "Thank you President
Reagan and the Marines" was:

Mr. Hobert C. Wehir
Post Office Box 493
Cathedral City, Ca. 92234

He is a truck driver, a former Marine
and Vietnam War Veteran.

END
CASE
FILE

1940 73
PV
THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 5, 1984

Dear Pearly:

I do have a suggestion and yes, I'd like a copy of your speech. Send it to me at the White House in care of Kathy Osborne. That will bypass the bureaucracy.

Thanks very much and a belated "Happy New Year!"

Sincerely,



Mr. Paul M. Browne
130 Maiden Lane
San Francisco, California 94108

84 1 6

To Mr. Paul M. Browne 130 MAIDEN LANE
Ronald S.F. Calif. 94108
Reagan

Dear Pearly

I do have a suggestion &
yes I'd like a copy of your
speech. Send it to me at the
White House c/o Kathy Osborne,
That will by pass the
bureaucracy.

Thanks very much & a
related "Happy New Year"!

Sincerely

Ran

PAUL M. BROWNE
130 MAIDEN LANE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94108

December 15, 1983

Dear Ron:

The Club made a recording of a speech I made to a VIP breakfast gathering this July for the assembled group at Owl's Nest.

Justin Dart suggested I mail it to you through his office, but it got lost somewhere, and I was wondering if you would like a copy of it?

Maybe you have a better suggestion for sending it?

Let me know.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Browne

Paul M. Browne

g

Keep up the good work! We miss you

END
CASE
FILE

1940 72
PR003

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1984

Dear Tim:

Just returned from a few days in California to find your letter awaiting me. I've known the feeling you have but from experience can tell you the best days are always the ones that lie ahead.

Thank you for the support you've always given for what we are trying to do. Thank you, too, for your pledge of continued help. I'll be proud to have it.

God bless you and warmest regard.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

The Honorable Timothy A. Curtin
Post Office Box 142
Forest, Ohio 45843

840106

To The Hon. Timothy A. Curtin
Ronald P.O. Box 142
Reagan Forest Ohio
45843

Dear Tim

Just returned from a few days in Calif. to find your letter awaiting me. I've known the feeling you have but from experience can tell you the best days are always the ones that lie ahead.

Thank you for the support you've always given for what we are trying to do. Thank you too for your pledge of continued help, I'll be proud to have it.

God bless you & warmest regard.
Sincerely Ron

TIMOTHY A. CURTIN

MAYOR
CITY HALL
211 W. LIMA STREET
FOREST, OHIO 45843
(419) 273-2500

December 26, 1983

Personal

Dear Mr. President:

This is the last letter that I will write to you as Ohio's youngest mayor -- and possibly the most important. In just a few days, I will leave office with many warm and happy memories of causes, some won and some lost, for which I have fought over the past four years. I will also leave office with the same steadfast determination that the conservative causes which you and I have supported over the past several years are the right course we must take to keep our great land strong and thriving. I have stood strong in my support of you over the past four years, Mr. President, and I shall continue to stand beside you in the coming months as a private citizen.

You have done a great deal for the United States and, as Mayor of Forest, I have been very proud to serve you on a local level. While I hope that my political "retirement" is a short one, I want you to know that I will continue to do everything I can to help you continue the work that was started on January 20, 1981. My mailing address after the first of the year will be P.O. Box 142, Forest, and I hope that I can count on your contacting me whenever you feel I might be able to be of assistance to you. One of the last things that the late John Ashbrook, a friend to both of us, said to me before his death was how important it was that you return to office for another term in 1984. I will do everything in my power to see that this becomes a reality.

As a private citizen I pledge my continued prayers, support, admiration, and my warmest personal regards.

Godspeed, Mr. President.

Cordially yours,



TIMOTHY A. CURTIN
Mayor of Forest and
Ohio's youngest mayor

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

*RR has
suggested
Returns to me
after we answer.
RR*

END
CASE
FILE

194870
PR003

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 5, 1984

Dear Stan:

Returned to Washington to find your letter and the photo. I wonder if a Beefeater in London can vote here by absentee ballot?

Nancy and I thank you both. We're still dreaming about California. Give our best to Ernestine.

Sincerely,

RON

Mr. R. Stanton Avery
150 North Orange Grove Boulevard
Pasadena, California 91103

90 R. Stanton Avery
Ronald
Reagan

Dear Stan

Returned to Wash. to find
your letter and the photo.
I wonder if a Beebeater in
London can vote here by
absentee ballot?

Nancy & I thank you both.
We're still dreaming about
Calif. Give our best to
Ernestine.

Sincerely Ron

R. STANTON AVERY
150 NORTH ORANGE GROVE BOULEVARD
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91103

December 16, 1983

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

Mr. President:

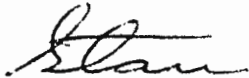
You have a special friend among the Beefeaters
at the Tower of London. His picture is enclosed.

When asked the meaning of the letters on his
costume, he replied, "Elect Reagan for a
Second term." He is also probably an admirer
of Margaret Thatcher.

Ernestine and I are looking forward with great
anticipation to seeing you and Nancy at the
Annenbergs on New Year's Eve.

With our highest regards and best personal wishes.

Sincerely,



Enclosure

End
Case
File

194069
GI002

January 5, 1984

Dear Bob:

A very belated wish that your holidays were all you wanted them to be. And a heartfelt thanks for your greeting and gifts. Believe me, we'll find time to wear them. Of course sometimes (but not often) I feel almost as old as those stones -- but not as pretty.

Nancy joins me in our thanks to you both and our very best to your lady.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Robert Dean Nesen
American Embassy
Yarralumla, Australia 2600

RR:AVH:CAD:pps

RR Dictation

To Ambassador ~~Dean~~ Robert Dean ^{Nixon}
**Ronald
Reagan**

Dear Bob

A very belated wish that
your holidays were all you
wanted them to be. And
a heartfelt thanks for your
greeting & gifts. Believe me
we'll find time to wear them.

Of course some times (but not
often) I feel almost as old as
those stones - but not as pretty.

Nancy joins me in our thanks
to you both & our very best
to your lady.

Sincerely
Ron

not sent

cc

To: The President & Nancy -
I hope you can find time to
wear these.

The Ambassador of the United States of America

and Mrs. Robert D. Nesen

wish you a Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year.

Thanks so much for being our
President & First Lady

Bob Nesen

R. D. Nesen
American Embassy
Parraluma, A. C. T.
2600

END
CASE
FILE

192867
EP

January 5, 1984

Dear John:

How good it was to hear from you. Thanks for writing and for bringing Dr. Petterle's letter to my attention.

Thanks, too, for telling me about Kathleen and the reaction at El Camino High. That makes me feel very, very good.

Nancy sends her best as do I. We hope your holidays were all you wanted them to be.

Again, thanks.

Sincerely,

RBH

Mr. John T. Kehoe
Suite 405
2020 Hurley Way
Sacramento, California 95825

RR:AVH:CAD:pps

RR Dictation

To Mr. John T. Kehoe 2020 HURLEY WAY
Suite 405

Ronald
Reagan

Dear John

How good it was to hear
from you. Thanks for
writing and for bringing
Dr. Patterdes' letter to my
attention.

Thanks too for telling me
about Kathleen & the
reaction at El Camino High.

That makes me feel very, very
good.

Nancy sends her best as
do I. We hope your holidays
were all you wanted them to be.

Again Thanks -

Sincerely Ron

**The Cook
Company**

2020 Hurley Way
Suite 405
Sacramento, CA 95825
916 920-9000

December 27, 1983

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

My daughter, Kathleen, attends El Camino High School in Sacramento and our oldest daughter, Cari, graduated from this high school two years ago. Both girls, as well as Marilou and me, were extremely pleased with your acknowledgement of the fundamental school in your Indiana speech last month.

As a matter of fact, the entire school is on "Cloud 9" for this great, special recognition. The reason the school does so well is truly the leadership of its principal, Dr. Joseph Petterle. His philosophy so parallels yours when it comes to public education. It is very uncanny. The other day he and I had a discussion which took me back to the late 60's and some of the discussions which we had with Alex Sherriffs on the questions of public education.

Dr. Petterle is taking a well-earned leave of absence from El Camino for the spring semester. He would very much like to be a part of any effort to evangelize your goals for public education, wherever and however. I would hope that the right officials would have this desire brought to their attention because I believe someone who is a professional educator and well respected by the education community can be the best advocate for the goals which you and I would like to see materialize in this key arena. The future is truly dependent on how we educate our youth today.

December 27, 1983

I queried Dr. Petterle as to his estimate of the attitude of public educators toward what is happening and he has fundamentally a very optimistic view, in spite of the propaganda that Walter Mondale has already sewed up public educators for his purposes in next year's campaign. I would hope that Dr. Petterle could be put to work at achieving what you want for the future of education. Like the Methodist ministers of old, I think Dr. Petterle could ride the circuit and spread the message that he firmly believes in far and wide.

In closing, to you and Nancy go my warmest best wishes, not only for this season, but for a highly successful 1984. The nation and the world are better off for the three-plus years you have dedicated and the future of all of us will be more secure through your service in the next five years.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

THE COOK COMPANY



John T. Kehoe
Vice President - Economic Planning

JTK/jg
Enc

END
CASE
FILE

194068
PR 003

January 5, 1984

Dear Al:

It was good to hear your voice and then to get back here among the puzzle palaces and find your letter.

I'm pleased to learn how '83 was for you. I guess you already know how it was for me -- doesn't everybody?

Nancy sends her love and from both of us to Cynthia. Aren't you glad she survived that rainy camping trip? We are.

Best regards,

BOB

Mr. Albert E. Schwabacher, Jr.
Dean Witter Reynolds Inc.
101 California Street
San Francisco, California 94111

RR:AVH:CAD:pps

RR Dictation

To Mr. Albert E. Schwalbach Jr.

Dear Walter Reynolds Inc.

Ronald Reagan
101 Calif. St.
S.F. Calif. 94111

Dear Al

It was good to hear
your voice and then to
get back here among the
pygmy palaces & find you
better.

I'm pleased to learn how
'83 was for you. I guess you
already know how it was for
me — doesn't everybody?

Nancy sends her love & from
both of us to Cynthia. Aren't
you glad she survived that
rainy camping trip? We are.

Best Regards

Walter

23 Dec 83

DEAN WITTER REYNOLDS INC.
101 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94111



ALBERT E. SCHWABACHER, JR.
Vice President
Investment Banking

Dear Nancy and Dutch

Special thoughts
are with you at this time of
year - All of us have so
much for which to be thankful.

You two have been
consistent, thoughtful and have
shown marvelous leadership -
The 'turn around' in respect is
most marked overseas - Right
here at home people too are
realizing that once again the
image of our President means
leadership.

Our 1983 was healthy, happy
and productive 6 1/2 grand
children -

We think of you often

Stay well

and carry on.

Fondly

Cynthia & Lee

END
CHASE
FILE

198012
NPO16

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 6, 1984

Dear Madame Ambassador:

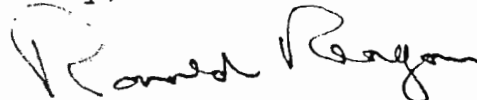
Just as I was starting to feel guilty about what we've done to you -- judging by the magazine cover -- I turned to the photo of you and was reassured. Are you sure the cover wasn't done by the same person responsible for the peace petitions?

Seriously, I thank you and congratulate you on the story. It was excellent.

Helene, everyone here is happy for you, but at the same time we miss you.

Give Byron my regards and, again, thank you for all that you are doing and doing so well.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Helene von Damm
American Embassy
Vienna, Austria



Helene Von Damm

RONALD REAGAN

Dear Madame Ambassador

Just as I was starting to feel guilty about what we've done to you - judging by the magazine cover - I turned to the photo of you and was reassured. Are you sure the cover wasn't done by the same person responsible for the peace petitions?

Seriously - I thank you & congratulate you on the story, it was excellent.

Helene everyone here is happy for you, at the same time we miss you.

Give Byron my regards and again thank you for all that you are doing & doing so well.

Sincerely

Ron

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

VIENNA

TO: RR

FROM: Helene Von Damm

Thought you'd like
to see how the
hard work of my
job has aged me!



(at least the story
is good!)

This magazine is
Austria's answer
to Time.

Reaction to the attached article, included the following editorial (translated by USIS Vienna):

Austrian Communist Party Organ "Volksstimme"
November 23, 1983

"HELENE VON REAGAN (sic) AND THE LINZ APPEAL"

"'An important, politically significant factor.' State Secretary (Johanna) Dohnal this way described the 120,000 signatures to the Linz Appeal of the Austrian peace movement when they were turned over (to the Austrian government at the Federal Chancellery November 22). The central organ of her party, the 'Arbeiter-Zeitung,' regarded an inconspicuous 15-line report about the presentation of the signatures as an adequate appreciation of this main campaign of the peace movement to date.

"Well, we have to make allowances for the space problems of the Socialist Party paper in its Tuesday (November 22) issue. Almost a whole page was given to the most beloved of all the darlings of the sensationalist press, U.S. Ambassador Helene von Damm, who was permitted 'exclusively for the AZ' to parrot Reagan's mendacious propaganda about Grenada. Surprised 'AZ' readers were informed that the Grenadans have 'welcomed' the bloody invasion by the U.S. Marines and are now 'glad that their situation has changed.' Expert Helene also told them that the principle of non-intervention is a 'rather sterile aim.' And that the United States is always 'on the side of those who want freedom and reject authoritarian rule' - as, for instance, in El Salvador, Guatemala or Chile.

"The 'AZ' pointed out that it does not identify itself with this position. The good Helene nevertheless got almost a whole page. Is, on the other hand, the 'AZ' item about the 120,000 signatures against the deployment of NATO's missiles so tiny because the Socialist Party organ does identify itself with this? But let's stop griping: to be fair we have to note the fact that the presentation of the signatures was worth only seven lines in the 'Kurier' while for the readers of 'Die Presse' and the 'Kronen-Zeitung' the act at the Federal Chancellery did not take place at all."

ADWS



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Vienna, Austria

November 18, 1983

Dr. Manfred Scheuch
Editor-in-Chief
Arbeiter Zeitung
Rechte Wien Zeile, 97
1050 Wien

Dear Dr. Scheuch:

As promised during our telephone conversations of yesterday, I enclose a personal contribution to the Arbeiter Zeitung by Ambassador von Damm entitled "GRENADA - ANOTHER AFGHANISTAN?" The Ambassador would very much like to convey her strongly held views on this important subject to your readers.

As agreed, I am forwarding the English text of the Ambassador's article for translation by your staff.

With best regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Felix S. Bloch".

Felix S. Bloch
Deputy Chief of Mission

Enclosure:

As stated.

GRENADA - ANOTHER AFGHANISTAN?

by

Helene von Damm

Ambassador of the United States to Austria

Now that the smoke has cleared, perhaps we can persuade those who are skeptical of the Grenada rescue operation to take a deep breath and reflect -- is Grenada really another Afghanistan? It certainly could have been had the U.S. not prevented it!

Captured documents and weapons indicate that the Cubans, as Soviet proxies, were planning to repeat the whole Afghan story in Grenada. The action by the U.S. and the Organization of East Caribbean States (OECS) in all likelihood thwarted such Cuban intentions. Fortifications, stockpiled weapons, secret military treaties, personnel from Eastern Europe, Africa and East Asia -- this evidence suggests that what Cuba had in mind was a complete take-over of Grenada.

Moscow went into Afghanistan to impose a government of Soviet choice on the Afghans. The United States and members of the OECS went into Grenada to prevent a Cuban-Soviet regime from being imposed on the Grenadians.

The Grenadians themselves welcomed the decision by the OECS states and the participation of the United States. They offered no resistance (which came primarily from the Cubans on the island) and are delighted at the change in their situation. This is a far cry from what has transpired in Afghanistan where thousands of Afghans have been resisting the overwhelming Soviet military might.

Two hundred thousand Afghan civilians have been killed. More than four million have been forced to seek refuge. Afghan natural resources are being exploited by the USSR. One hundred thousand Soviet troops have been carrying on a ruthless war using helicopter gunships to destroy villages, burning crops, boobytrapping toys to kill children and, according to many reports, using chemical warfare. All indications are that the Soviets do not intend to withdraw. For their part, the Afghan people have risen to resist the foreign invader, and to attempt to restore their country's independence. Under great handicaps and hardships, and with minimal outside support, they are fighting with incredible bravery against one of the world's mightiest armies.

In Grenada, the U.S. made it clear from the start that military personnel would remain only as long as necessary to maintain

order while the people of the island have an opportunity to choose their own government. Many of the troops have already departed and the balance will leave within 60 days of the beginning of the operation. The United States and other countries are providing the economic assistance which Grenada needs in order to stabilize both its economy and its political system.

Many have alleged that the action in the Caribbean violates international law. We do not accept this argument. Our legal case rests on three independent bases:

First, the request for assistance from the Governor General, the head of state of Grenada appointed by Queen Elizabeth II, which in itself is sufficient under international law;

Second, the exercise of regional collective security, a right recognized by the United Nations Charter; and,

Finally, the humanitarian response to protect our own citizens.

But I would prefer to leave the legal dispute to the international lawyers who are adept at engaging in theoretical exercises. For me it is enough to know that Grenada was spared the fate of Afghanistan and now has a second chance for self-determination, democracy and human rights. Fragile emerging democracies such as Grenada are entitled to such aspirations and warrant our support and, when necessary, sacrifice.

Instead of chastizing and condemning the United States, America's critics should ask whether it is best to acquiesce in the subversion of independent countries in order to achieve the laudable but rather sterile goal of non-intervention or whether it is necessary to act in order to keep a bad situation from getting worse. Europe's own history certainly recommends the latter course. In both Afghanistan and Grenada the United States is on the side of those who want freedom and reject authoritarianism.

Sometimes in support of liberty, and to prevent aggression, the use of force is necessary. Europeans know from first hand experience of the sacrifices the United States has made in the defense of freedom and democracy. Rather than expect everlasting gratitude for such past actions, however, we would prefer to receive more faith and appreciation for the heavy leadership role the U.S. has assumed and continues to play in the Western world.

There is nothing wrong with constructive criticism among family, friends and allies if the exercise doesn't drown out the good and the positive. What we need to keep in mind in the case of Grenada is that a country will now again be in a position to join the family of nations as an independent, stable and democratic polity. This should be welcome news to Europeans, and particularly to Austrians, who value their own independence and freedom.

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