

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

Digital Library Collections

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

WHORM Subject File Code: SP584

(Speeches: Voice of America, Washington, DC, 02/24/1982)

Case file Number(s): Entire Category

Box: 170

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: 03/04/2025

EF (ROHRBACHER/AB)

FEBRUARY 24, 1982
1:10 P.M.

062829

WS

SP584

TR001

PR005-02

DROPBY: VOICE OF AMERICA (VOA)

FORTY YEARS AGO TODAY AMERICA
OPENED UP A CRUCIAL FRONT IN ITS WAR
AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF FREEDOM. IT WAS
79 DAYS AFTER PEARL HARBOR AND THE
NATION WAS MOBILIZING ALL ITS RESOURCES
IN THE EPIC STRUGGLE THAT BY THEN HAD
ENGULFED THE PLANET.

IN THOSE DAYS, AS NOW, TRUTH WAS A
VITAL PART OF AMERICA'S ARSENAL. A
SPIRITED BAND OF PROFESSIONALS -- MEN
AND WOMEN DEDICATED TO WHAT THEIR
COUNTRY STOOD FOR AND ANXIOUS TO DO
THEIR PART -- BEGAN BROADCASTING FROM
THE FOURTH FLOOR OF A NEW YORK CITY
OFFICE BUILDING.

HANDWRITING FILE

IN THOSE EARLY DAYS, UNDER THE ABLE
DIRECTION OF JOHN HOUSEMAN, PROGRAMS
WERE RECORDED ON ACETATE DISCS AND
SHIPPED VIA BOMBER TO ENGLAND AND LATIN
AMERICA FOR BROADCAST.

FROM THIS HUMBLE BEGINNING THE
VOICE OF AMERICA HAS GROWN INTO A
RESPECTED INSTITUTION OF AMERICAN
COMMUNICATION, A GLOBAL RADIO NETWORK
BROADCASTING 905 HOURS WEEKLY IN 39
DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

THOUGH BORN IN WAR, VOICE OF
AMERICA CONTINUED IN PEACE AND HAS MADE
ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTIONS. TODAY, AS WE
WITNESS NEW FORMS OF INHUMANITY
THREATENING PEACE AND FREEDOM IN THE
WORLD, THE VOICE OF AMERICA ^{can} PERFORM ~~AN~~ ^{AN EVEN}
^{MORE} VITAL FUNCTION.

BY GIVING AN OBJECTIVE ACCOUNT OF
CURRENT WORLD EVENTS, BY COMMUNICATING A
CLEAR PICTURE OF AMERICA AND OUR
POLICIES AT HOME AND ABROAD, THE VOICE
SERVES THE INTERESTS NOT ONLY OF THE
UNITED STATES BUT OF THE WORLD.

THE VOICE OF AMERICA IS FOR MANY
THE ONLY SOURCE OF RELIABLE INFORMATION
IN A WORLD WHERE EVENTS MOVE SO QUICKLY.
PERHAPS TODAY I CAN OUTLINE A NEWS STORY
THAT YOU MAY BE HEARING ABOUT.

AN HOUR AND A HALF AGO I ANNOUNCED
AT A MEETING OF THE ORGANIZATION OF
AMERICAN STATES A NEW INITIATIVE
PROMOTING PEACEFUL ECONOMIC AND
POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN BASIN.

THAT AREA OF THE WORLD WAS DRAMATICALLY
AFFECTED BY THE RISING PRICE OF OIL AND
THE SUBSEQUENT ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY OF
THE LAST DECADE.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO
HAVE SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT THIS INSTABILITY.

WE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE CONCERNED
NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE PROXIMITY OF
THOSE NATIONS, BUT ALSO BECAUSE WE HAVE
WITNESSED ON TOO MANY OCCASIONS THE
SUFFERING AND OPPRESSION THAT INVARIABLY
FOLLOWS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARXIST
DICTATORSHIPS.

IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD, THE
UNITED STATES WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH
FRIENDS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE LIKE
MEXICO, CANADA, AND VENEZUELA TO PROMOTE
ECONOMIC GROWTH, SOCIAL STABILITY AND
POLITICAL FREEDOM IN THE CARIBBEAN BASIN
AND CENTRAL AMERICA.

ON OUR PART WE INTEND TO OFFER A BOLD NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS. THE CENTER PIFCE OF THE PROGRAM IS A FPFE TRADE ARRANGEMENT FOR CARIBBEAN BASIN PRODUCTS EXPORTED TO THE UNITED STATES. THIS WILL ENCOUPAGE NEW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND A BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA. ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM ARE INCENTIVES FOR INVESTMENT AND FURTHER FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE AREA.

WE WILL, FURTHERMORE, SEEK TO ENCOURAGE THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS IN THE REGION. ALL TOO OFTEN EXTREMISTS FROM RIGHT OR LEFT HAVE SOUGHT TO UNDERMINE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS, HOPING TO IMPOSE THEIR WILL BY BRUTE FORCE.

THIS MENTALITY IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE FREE PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS. IT HAS NO PLACE IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO CONTINUE ITS SUPPORT TO THOSE WHO ARE STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. CERTAINLY, THE COMMUNIST DOMINATED GUERRILLAS OF THE REGION OFFER NOTHING BUT THE SAME BANKRUPT IDEAS THAT HAVE IMPRISONED THE POPULATIONS OF CUBA, VIETNAM, AFGHANISTAN, AND, YES, POLAND.

ON MARCH 21 FREE PEOPLES AROUND THE WORLD WILL JOIN IN OBSERVING AFGHANISTAN DAY. IN MARCHES, MEETINGS AND RALLIES, THEY WILL EXPRESS THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE HEROIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF AFGHANISTAN IN THEIR BRAVE STRUGGLE AGAINST SOVIET AGGRESSION.

I AM HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE VOICE OF
AMERICA WILL PROVIDE THOROUGH
INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE OF AFGHANISTAN
DAY.

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS
GIVEN HOPE TO THE CITIZENS OF THOSE
COMMUNIST REGIMES AND ALL VICTIMS OF
TYRANNY. THE CHALLENGES WE FACE ARE NO
LESS GRAVE AND MOMENTOUS THAN THOSE THAT
SPAWNED THE VOICE 40 YEARS AGO.
FREEDOM IS NO LESS THREATENED AND THE
OPPOSITION NO LESS TOTALITARIAN.

IN THIS STRUGGLE THERE IS NO
GREATER WEAPON THAN THE TRUTH. FREE MEN
HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM IT, IT REMAINS
THE ULTIMATE WEAPON IN THE ARSENAL OF
DEMOCRACY. - WATER - BOARD -

WE ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD, THAT UNLIKE
SOVIET BROADCASTS, THE VOICE OF AMERICA
IS NOT ONLY COMMITTED TO TELLING ITS
COUNTRY'S STORY, BUT ALSO REMAINS
FAITHFUL TO THOSE STANDARDS OF
JOURNALISM THAT WILL NOT COMPROMISE THE
TRUTH.

RECENTLY, WE CELEBRATED THE 250TH
BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON. HE
UNDERSTOOD THE POWER OF TRUTH AND ITS
RELATIONSHIP TO FREEDOM. "THE TRUTH
WILL ULTIMATELY PREVAIL," HE SAID,
"WHERE THERE ARE PAINS TO BRING IT TO
LIGHT."

TODAY, WE HAVE THIS RESPONSIBILITY:
BRINGING TRUTH TO LIGHT A WORLD GROPING
IN THE DARKNESS OF REPRESSION AND LIES.
LET US REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE TASK
AHEAD.

LK "FOUNDING FATHER WE CAN BE CONFIDENT
"THAT TRUTH WILL PREVAIL - FREEDOM SHALL NOT PERISH
FROM THIS EARTH."