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Last Updated: 05/07/2025

GREETING TO U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

THANK YOU BILL SIMON, AND THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF AMERICA'S TEAM AT THE 23RD OLYMPIAD: YOU DID US PROUD.

YOUR'RE HEROES, EVERY ONE OF YOU
LIVING PROOF OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AMERICA
SETS ITS SIGHTS HIGH AND SAYS, "LET'S
CREATE A LITTLE EXCELLENCE." AND YOU
GAVE US MOMENTS WE'LL NEVER FORGET.
THERE WAS BLATNICK DROPPING TO HIS KNEES
IN THANKS -- AND MARY LOU RETTON GETTING
THAT PERFECT TEN. THERE WAS STEINSEIFER
AND HOGSHEAD HITTING THE WALL AT THE
EXACT SAME HUNDREDTH OF A SECOND -- AND
CARL LEWIS' SMILE WHEN HE TIED JESSE
OWENS' RECORD.

THERE WAS SOMETHING VERY SPECIAL ABOUT THIS OLYMPICS, THERE WAS A SPECIAL SPIRIT TO IT. YOU GAVE US ALL SUCH A LIFT -- YOU GAVE US SOMETHING TO BE UNIFIED AROUND AND CHEER FOR TOGETHER.

I THINK YOU MAY POSSIBLY HAVE HEARD THAT CHEER, IT WENT SOMETHING LIKE "U...S...A!" IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER YOU WON THE GOLD, THE SILVER OR THE BRONZE -- THAT CHEER WAS FOR YOU.

THE SPECIALNESS OF THIS OLYMPICS WAS APPARENT FROM THE BEGINNING. YOU WALKED INTO THE OPENING CEREMONIES WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF PRIDE, A VIBRANT AND VERY HUMAN DELIGHT THAT WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE CROWDS AND THAT WAS PICKED UP BY PEOPLE WATCHING ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY.

THROUGHOUT THE GAMES, I COULDN'T
HELP BUT THINK THAT IF THE PEOPLE OF THE
WORLD JUDGED AMERICANS BY WHAT THEY SAW
OF YOU, THEN THEY THINK, "AMERICANS?

WELL, THEY'RE GENEROUS AND FULL OF SERIOUS EFFORT, THEY'RE FULL OF HIGH SPIRITS, THEY'RE MOTIVATED BY ALL THE BEST THINGS . . . THEY'RE TRULY A NATION OF CHAMPIONS."

I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT HERE TO SINGLE OUT AND SAY THANK YOU TO THE UNCELEBRATED PEOPLE IN THE STORY: YOUR COACHES AND TRAINERS, YOUR PARENTS AND FRIENDS, ALL THE QUIET PEOPLE WHO STOOD BEHIND YOU WHEN THE SHOT RANG OUT AND THE RACE BEGAN -- AND YES, THOSE YOU MAY HAVE DEFEATED, BUT WHOSE OWN EFFORTS HELPED PUSH YOU TO YOUR BEST. EVERY HERO KNOWS THAT NO HERO DOES IT ALONE. THE PEOPLE WHO STOOD BEHIND YOU DESERVE OUR THANKS. THE WAY I SEE IT, THERE OUGHT TO BE AN OLYMPIC EVENT IN MORAL SUPPORT. THEY'D GET A PERFECT TEN.

I WANT TO SAY TOO THAT THE THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DID A MARVELOUS JOB.

WHAT TERRIFIC PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN. JUST ABOUT EVERYONE IN THIS CITY HAD TO PUT HIM OR HERSELF OUT IN SOME WAY, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, WHILE THE GAMES WERE ON. THEY NOT ONLY DID IT, THEY DID IT WITH A SMILE. THEY WON THE ADMIRATION AND THANKS OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

THIS IS A GOOD TIME ALSO TO THANK
THE GENEROUS CORPORATIONS THAT DECIDED,
A FEW YEARS BACK, TO CONTRIBUTE MONEY
AND PERSONNEL AND TIME TO HELP OUR
ATHLETES. THEY PROVED THAT THE PROFITS
REAPED FROM A FREE ECONOMY CAN BE USED
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EVEN FOOTING WITH THE STATE-SUBSIDIZED
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CORPORATIONS DID US PROUD. SO DID BILL
SIMON, WHO LED THIS GREAT CITIZENS'
EFFORT. SO DID THE LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. . . AND THE U.S.
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

THE 23RD OLYMPIAD OF THE MODERN ERA
IS OVER BUT IT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.
IT WAS ATTENDED BY MORE COUNTRIES THAN
EVER BEFORE -- THERE WAS MORE COMPETITION
THAN EVER BEFORE -- THERE WAS MORE
BRILLIANT TALENT THAN EVER BEFORE -AND, AS YOU KNOW, A LOT OF RECORDS WERE
BROKEN.

THE GAMES WERE A TRIUMPH -- A TRIUMPH OF FRIENDLY AND GENEROUS COMPETITION, A TRIUMPH OF THE SPIRIT. IT TURNED OUT NOTHING COULD MAR THE GAMES, NOTHING COULD DETRACT. IT TURNED OUT THE ONLY LOSERS OF THE 23RD OLYMPIAD WERE THOSE WHO DIDN'T -- OR COULDN'T -- COME.

AS FOR THOSE WHO DID -- WHAT GREATNESS THEY SHOWED US. I KNOW YOU WERE IMPRESSED BY THE ATHLETES THE OTHER COUNTRIES SENT.

THE SOUTH KOREAN BOXERS AND THE CHINESE GYMNASTS, THE ROMANIAN ATHLETES AND THE JAMAICANS AND THE JAPANESE . . . FOR A LOT OF US, ONE OF THE REALLY INDELIBLE IMAGES OF THE GAMES WAS OF GABRIELLA ANDERSEN-SCHIESS OF SWITZERLAND, WALKING DAZED AND DEHYDRATED TO THE FINISH LINE, REFUSING TO GIVE UP, PUSHING ON EVEN WHEN ALL HER STRENGTH WAS GONE, SUMMONING UP JUST THAT LAST BIT OF RESERVE AND CROSSING THAT LINE. WHAT A HERO SHE IS.

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AND SO I SAY TO YOU, THE GREAT MELTING POT TEAM OF 1984, THE MEMBERS OF AMERICA'S TEAM AT THE 23RD OLYMPIAD: THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES, THANKS FOR THE GREAT MOMENTS. THANKS FOR BEING WHAT YOU ARE: GENUINE HEROES.

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AND YOU KNOW WHAT? 1984 HAS A KIND OF SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR ME. I'M FINDING IT TO BE A VERY INTERESTING YEAR.

BUT AFTER SEEING WHAT YOU DID AT THIS OLYMPICS, I CAN'T WAIT 'TIL '88. I CAN'T WAIT.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH, AND GOD BLESS YOU.

AND NOW, YOU REMEMBER THAT RIGHT
BEFORE THE GAMES YOU GAVE ME A GIFT OF
ALL YOUR OLYMPIC TEAM PINS. TODAY I
WANT TO RETURN THE FAVOR. I HAVE A GIFT
FOR THE FUTURE U.S. OLYMPIC HALL OF
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IS GIVEN TO HONOR THE MEMBERS OF AMERICA'S
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BUT MAYBE NOW WE KNOW WHY THE SOVIETS FELT SO INSECURE ABOUT COMING IF I THOUGHT I'D LOSE A LOT OF GOLD WHILE VISITING ANOTHER COUNTRY I MIGHT THINK TWICE TOO!

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books about the melting pot, but the past two weeks there it was, winning medals for us, representing us every day.

And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes.

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Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

And now, you remember that right before the Games you gave me a gift of all your Olympic team pins. Today I want to return the favor. I have a gift for the future U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. It is the American Eagle, and it is given to honor the members of America's Team at the '84 Games -- because you soared to greatness.

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CLASSIFICATION

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

#### WASHINGTON

August 11, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

BEN ELLIOTT BL

SUBJECT:

Olympic Medalists Ceremony

Attached is a revised draft of your remarks to the U.S. Olympic Medal winners on Monday. It incorporates your edits and a few small editorial and research changes.

On page 1, paragraph 3, the reference to Carl Lewis breaking Jesse Owens' record is not yet a fact, but is written on what is viewed as a certainty for Saturday. Should Lewis fail, we will delete this reference.

On page 3, paragraph 1, the words "more records were broken than ever before," has been changed to "a lot of records were broken."

At the request of Advance, we added language at the end for your presentation of an American Eagle to the U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame.

12.

Thank you.

(Noonan/BE/RR) August 11, 1984 10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Bill Simon, and thank you all very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad:
You did us proud.

You're heroes, every one of you living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick dropping to his knees in thanks — and Mary Lou Retton getting that perfect ten. There was Steinseifer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same hundredth of a second — and Carl Lewis' smile when he tied Jesse Owens' record.

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. I think you may possibly have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!" It doesn't matter whether you won the gold, the silver or the bronze -- that cheer was for you.

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning. You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching all around the country.

Throughout the Games, I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you, then they think, "Americans? Well, they're generous and full of

serious effort, they're full of high spirits, they're motivated by all the best things. they're truly a nation of champions.

I want to take a moment here to single out and say thank you to the uncelebrated people in the story: your coaches and trainers, your parents and friends, all the quiet people who stood behind you when the shot rang out and the race began -- and yes, those you may have defeated, but whose own efforts helped push you to your best. Every hero knows that no hero does it alone. The people who stood behind you deserve our thanks. The way I see it, there ought to be an Olympic event in Moral Support. They'd get a perfect ten.

I want to say too that the city of Los Angeles did a marvelous job. What terrific people in this town. Just about everyone in this city had to put him or herself out in some way, one way or another, while the Games were on. They not only did it, they did it with a smile. They won the admiration and thanks of the entire country.

This is a good time also to thank the generous corporations that decided, a few years back, to contribute money and personnel and time to help our athletes. They proved that the profits reaped from a free economy can be used to help our young people compete on an even footing with the state-subsidized athletes of other countries. Those corporations did us proud. So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee...and the U.S. Olympic Committee.



The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before -- there was more competition than ever before -- there was more brilliant talent than ever before -- and, as you know, a lot of records were broken. A few countries -- very few -- did not attend. But maybe now we know why the Soviets felt so insecure about coming. If I thought I'd lose a lot of gold while visiting another country I might think twice too!

The Games were a triumph -- a triumph of friendly and generous competition, a triumph of fellowship, a triumph of the spirit. It turned out nothing could mar the Games, nothing could detract. It turned out the only losers of the 23rd Olympiad were those who didn't -- or couldn't -- come.

As for those who did -- what greatness they showed us. I know you were impressed by the athletes the other countries sent. The South Korean boxers and the Chinese gymnasts, the Romanian athletes and the Jamaicans and the Japanese . . . For a lot of us, one of the really indelible images of the games was of Gabriella Andersen-Schiess of Switzerland, walking dazed and dehydrated to the finish line, refusing to give up, pushing on even when all her strength was gone, summoning up just that last bit of reserve and crossing that line. What a hero she is.

I have just a final point here. One of the things I noted, and liked so much as I watched the Games on T.V., was that often, in many of the events, you could sort of figure out who represented what country. . . except with the American athletes. With the American athletes you almost always had to see the

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And you know what? ]984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

And now, you remember that right before the Games you gave me a gift of all your Olympic team pins. Today I want to return the favor. I have a gift for the future U.S. Olympic Hall of Fame. It is the American Eagle, and it is given to honor the members of America's Team at the '84 Games -- because you soared to greatness.

MEMORANDUM

# NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

21800250 6052 5P906

August 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM:

ROBERT M. KIMMITT Bob

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Event with

US Olympic Medalists

The NSC has reviewed the attached Presidential remarks at the event with the US Olympic Medalists and has made a minor suggested edit on page 3.

Attachment

As stated

cc: Richard G. Darman

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

August 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT

SIGNED

FROM:

for KARNA SMALL &

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: Event with

US Olympic Medalists

The proposed Presidential remarks at the event with US Olympic Medalists have been reviewed, and a minor comment was made on page 3.

Sestanovich (for Fortier) concurs.

## RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to Ben Elliott at Tab I.

Approve Disapprove

# Attachment

TAB I Memo to Ben Elliott with attached Presidential remarks

	National Security The White Ho	System #	# <u>T</u> # <u>6052</u>
Paul Thompson  Bob Kimmitt	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	DISPOSITION
John Poindexter  Tom Shull  Wilma Hall			
Bud McFarlane  Bob Kimmitt  NSC Secretariat  Situation Room	3	8	D
	Action R = Retain  Baker Deaver Ot	D = Dispatch her	N = No further Action
COMMENTS	Should be s	seen by:	(Date/Time)

84 AUG 9 P3: 06

" · Z

RECEIVED 09 AUG 84 12

TO

MCFARLANE

FROM DARMAN, R

DOCDATE 09 AUG 84

PORT

KEYWORDS. SPEECHES

OLYMPICS

DARMAN REFERRAL

SUBJECT: DRAFT PRES REMARKS RE EVENT W/ US OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

ACTION. MEMO KIMMITT TO ELLIOTT DUE. 09 AUG 84 STATUS S FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

SMALL

FORTIER

URGENT

SHULL

ROBINSON

KIMMITT

THOMPSON

COMMENTS DUE BY 5PM

REF#

LOG

NSCIFID

( CL )

ACTION, OFFICER (S) ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED DUE

COPIES TO

DISPATCH /

By	
1-1	

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM FYI 8/10/84 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: DATE: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS REMARKS: SUBJECT: **ACTION FYI ACTION FYI** VICE PRESIDENT **MURPHY OGLESBY** MEESE  $\Box$ **ROGERS BAKER SPEAKES** DEAVER **STOCKMAN SVAHN** P **VERSTANDIG** DARMAN ΠP . **FIELDING** WHITTLESEY П TUTWILER **FULLER** WIRTHLIN HERRINGTON ELLIOTT **HICKEY** HENKEL **McFARLANE McMANUS REMARKS:** 

The attached has gone forward to the President and is provided for your information.

**RESPONSE:** 

NOTE: decomed to @, SAB+MKD 200pm 1/10

104 AUG 10 PF 12: 07

a .... . . . . . .

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Don Miller, and thank you all very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad:
You did us proud.

You're heroes, every one of you. You're living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick falling to his knees in thanks -- and Retton getting that perfect ten. There was Steinseifer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same hundredth of a second -- and Carl Lewis' smile when he tied Jesse Owens' record.

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. I think you may have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!" It doesn't matter whether you won the gold, the silver or the bronze -- that cheer was for you.

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning, when all of you marched into the Coliseum together. An Englishman watching from the stands looked out at you and was quoted as saying, "That's what the world loves about America, that wonderful casualness and confidence." You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching throughout the country.

I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you, then they think, "Americans? Well, they're generous and full of serious effort, they're full of gaity and high spirits, they're motivated by all the best things...and do they bring home the gold, or what?"

I want to take a moment here to single out and say thank you to the uncelebrated people in the story: your coaches and trainers, your parents and friends. All the quiet people who stood behind you when the shot rang out and the race began. Every hero knows that no hero does it alone. The people who stood behind you deserve our thanks. The way I see it, there ought to be an Olympic event in Moral Support. They'd get a perfect ten.

I want to say too that the city of Los Angeles did a marvelous job. What terrific people in this town. Just about everyone in this city had to put him or herself out in some way, one way or another, while the Games were on. They not only did it, they did it with a smile. They won the admiration and thanks of the entire country. And I think a guy back East summed it up when he was sitting around with his family during the games one day. He said, "L.A. has a lotta class, a lotta style." Don't you think he was right?

This is a good time also to thank the corporations and businesses that decided, a few years back, to contribute money and personnel and time to help our athletes. They proved that the profits reaped from a free economy can be used to help our young people compete on an even footing with the state-subsidized

athletes of other countries. Those corporations did us proud.

So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did
the Los Angeles Olympic Committee...and the U.S. Olympic
Committee.

The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before -- there was more competition than ever before -- there was more brilliant talent than ever before -- and, incidentally, more records were broken than ever before. A few countries -- very few -- did not attend. But at least now we know why the Soviets said they felt so insecure about coming. If I thought I'd lose a lot of gold while visiting another country I might think twice too! The Games were a triumph -- a triumph of friendly and generous competition, a triumph of fellowship, a triumph of the spirit. It turned out nothing could mar the Games, nothing could detract. It turned out the only losers of the 23rd Olympiad were those who didn't -- or couldn't -- come.

As for those who did -- what greatness they showed us.

Weren't you impressed by the athletes the other countries sent?

The Korean boxers and the Chinese gymnasts, the Rumanian athletes and the Jamaicans and the Japanese . . . For a lot of us, one of the really indelible images of the games was of Gabriella

Andersen-Schiess of Switzerland, walking dazed and dehydrated to the finish line, refusing to give up, pushing on even when all her strength was gone, summoning up just that last bit of reserve and crossing that line. What a hero she is.

I have just a final point here. One of the things I noted, and liked so much as I watched the Games on T.V., was that usually, in most of the events, you could sort of figure out who represented what country . . . except with the American athletes. With the American athletes you almost always had to see the U.S.A. on their uniforms -- because our team came in all shapes and sizes, all colors and nationalties and races and ethnic groups. And I was thinking, you can talk on forever and read books about the melting pot, but the past two weeks there it was, winning medals for us, representing us every day.

And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes.

You did us proud.

And you know what? 1984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.



# THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

8/10/84

## PLEASE DACOM IMMEDIATE

TO THE PRESIDENT (Via the Military Aide) The Ranch

copy to: JAMES BAKER

MICHAEL DEAVER

FROM: RICHARD DARMAN

1984 AUS 11 AM 9: 28 **CLASSIFICATION** CIRCLE ONE BELOW A PAGES \_\_ MODE **IMMEDIATE** SECURE FAX # \_\_\_\_ RELEASER \_ PRIORITYS DTG 1/051/7 AUG NON-SECURE FAX ROUTINE #55 FROM/LOCATION/ TO/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT 1105357 Aug 81 INFORMATION ADDEES/LOCATION/TIME OF RECEIPT

The President has seen\_

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/REMARKS:

Raction 355

CLASSIFICATION

1984 AUS 10 17: 12: 08

(Noonan/BE) August 10, 1964 11:30 a.m.

The President has seen

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS MUNUAY, AUGUST 13, 1984 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Don Miller, and thank you all very much.

Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad: You did us proud.

You're heroes, every one of you - You're living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick failing to his knees in thanks -- and Retton getting\*that perfect ten. There was Steinseifer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same hundredth of a second -- and Carl Lewis' smile when he tied Jesse Owens' record.

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. think you may have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!" It doesn't matter whether you won the gold, the silver or the bronze -- that cheer was for you.

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning, when all of you marched into the Coliseum together. An Englishman watching from the stands looked out at you and was quoted as saying, "That's what the world loves about America, that wonderful casualness and confidence." You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching throughout the country.

I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you, then they think, "Americans? Well, they're generous and full of serious effort, they're full of gaity and high spirits, they're motivated by all the best things...and do they bring home the gold, or what?"

I want to take a moment here to single out and say thank you to the uncelebrated people in the story: your coaches and trainers, your parents and friends. All the quiet people who stood behind you when the shot rang out and the race began. Every here knows that no here does it alone. The people who stood behind you deserve our thanks. The way I see it, there ought to be an Olympic event in Moral Support. They'd get a perfect ten.

I want to say too that the city of Los Angeles did a marvelous job. What terrific people in this town. Just about everyone in this city had to put him or herself out in some way, one way or another, while the Games were on. They not only did it, they did it with a smile. They won the admiration and thanks of the entire country. And I think a guy back East summed it up when he was sitting around with his family during the games one day. He said, "L.A. has a lotta class, a lotta style." Don't you think he was right?

This is a good time also to thank the corporations and businesses that decided, a few years back, to contribute money and personnel and time to help our athletes. They proved that the profits reaped from a free economy can be used to help our young people compete on an even footing with the state-subsidized

athletes of other countries. Those corporations did us proud. So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did the Los Angeles Olympic Committee...and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before — there was more competition than ever before — there was more brilliant talent than ever before — and, incidentally, more records were broken than ever before. A few countries — very few — did not attend. But at least now we know why the Soviets said they felt so insecure about coming. If I thought I'd lose a lot of gold while visiting another country I might think twice too! The Games were a triumph — a triumph of friendly and generous competition, a triumph of fellowship, a triumph of the spirit. It turned out nothing could mar the Games, nothing could detract. It turned out the only losers of the 23rd Olympiad were those who didn't — or couldn't — come.

As for those who did -- what greatness they showed us.

We will you impressed by the athletes the other countries sent.

The Korean boxers and the Chinese gymnasts, the Rumanian athletes and the Jamaicans and the Japanese . . . For a lot of us, one of the really indelible images of the games was of Gabriella

Andersen-Schiess of Switzerland, walking dazed and dehydrated to the finish line, refusing to give up, pushing on even when all her strength was gone, summoning up just that last bit of reserve and crossing that line. What a hero <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.1007/jhc.10.1007/jhc.1007/jh

I have just a final point here. One of the things I noted, and liked so much as I watched the Games on T.V., was that usually, in most of the events, you could sort of figure out who represented what country . . . except with the American athletes. With the American athletes you almost always had to see the U.S.A. on their uniforms — because our team came in all shapes and sizes, all colors and nationalties and races and ethnic groups. And I was thinking, you can talk on forever and read books about the melting pot, but the past two weeks there it was, winning medals for us, representing us every day.

And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes.

You did us proud.

And you know what? 1984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

To: C.FULLER (EOP021)
To: WH-RM (EOP043)

From: WH-SPEECH (EOP047) Posted: Fri 10-Aug-84 19:02 EDT Sys 64 (126)

To: WH-OCA (EOP020)

Subject: speech/rr/revised/Olympic Medalists

(Noonan/BE) August 10, 1984 7:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Bill Simon, and thank you all very much. Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad:

You're heroes, every one of you. You're living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick falling to his knees in thanks -- and Retton getting that perfect ten. There was Steinseifer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same hundredth of a second -- and Carl Lewis' smile when he tied Jesse Owens' record.

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. I think you may have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!" It doesn't matter whether you won the gold, the silver or the bronze -- that cheer was for you.

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning. You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching all around the country.

Throughout the Games, I couldn't help but think that if the people of the world judged Americans by what they saw of you, then they think, "Americans? Well, they're generous and full of

Page 2

serious effort, they're full of gaity and high spirits, they're motivated by all the best things...and do they bring home the gold, or what?"

I want to take a moment here to single out and say thank you to the uncelebrated people in the story: your coaches and trainers, your parents and friends. All the quiet people who stood behind you when the shot rang out and the race began. Every hero knows that no hero does it alone. The people who stood behind you deserve our thanks. The way I see it, there ought to be an Olympic event in Moral Support. They'd get a perfect ten.

I want to say too that the city of Los Angeles did a marvelous job. What terrific people in this town. Just about everyone in this city had to put him or herself out in some way, one way or another, while the Games were on. They not only did it, they did it with a smile. They won the admiration and thanks of the entire country. And I think a guy back East summed it up when he was sitting around with his family during the games one day. He said, "L.A. has a lotta class, a lotta style." Don't you think he was right?

This is a good time also to thank the corporations and businesses that decided, a few years back, to contribute money and personnel and time to help our athletes. They proved that the profits reaped from a free economy can be used to help our young people compete on an even footing with the state-subsidized athletes of other countries. Those corporations did us proud. So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did

Page 3

the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee...and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The 23rd Olympiad of the modern era is over but it will never be forgotten. It was attended by more countries than ever before — there was more competition than ever before — there was more brilliant talent than ever before — and, as you know, a lot of records were broken. A few countries — very few — did not attend. But at least now we know why the Soviets said they felt so insecure about coming. If thought I'd lose a lot of gold while visiting another country I might think twice too! The Games were a triumph — a triumph of friendly and generous competition, a triumph of fellowship, a triumph of the spirit. It turned out nothing could mar the Games, nothing could detract. It turned out the only losers of the 23rd Olympiad were those who didn't — or couldn't — come.

As for those who did -- what greatness they showed us. Weren't you impressed by the athletes the other countries sent? The South Korean boxers and the Chinese gymnasts, the Romanian athletes and the Jamaicans and the Japanese . . . For a lot of us, one of the really indelible images of the games was of Gabriella Andersen-Schiess of Switzerland, walking dazed and dehydrated to the finish line, refusing to give up, pushing on even when all her strength was gone, summoning up just that last bit of reserve and crossing that line. What a hero is.

crossing that line. What a hero \_\_\_ is.

I have just a final point here. One of the things I noted, and liked so much as I watched the Games on T.V., was that usually, in most of the events, you could sort of figure out who

Page 4

represented what country . . . except with the American athletes. With the American athletes you almost always had to see the U.S.A. on their uniforms — because our team came in all shapes and sizes, all colors and nationalties and races and ethnic groups. And I was thinking, you can talk on forever and read books about the melting pot, but the past two weeks there it was, winning medals for us, representing us every day.

And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes.

You did us proud.

And you know what? 1984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

And now, you remember that right before the Games you gave me a gift of all the medals of our Olympic Teams. Today I want to return the favor. I have a gift for the future U.S. Olympics Hall of Fame. It is the American Eagle, and it is given to honor the members of America's Team at the '84 Games -- because they soared to greatness.

Comments from: WH-OCA (EOP020) Posted: Sat 11-Aug-84 14:49 EDT Sys 64 Forwarded to the President yesterday.

And so I say to you, the great melting pot team of 1984, the members of America's team at the 23rd Olympiad: Thanks for the memories, thanks for the great moments. Thanks for being what you are: genuine heroes.

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And you know what? 1984 has a kind of special significance for me. I'm finding it to be a very interesting year. But after seeing what you did at this Olympics, I can't wait 'til '88. I can't wait.

Thank you all very much, and God bless you.

Comments from: WH-OCA (EOP020) Posted: Thu 9-Aug-84 11:41 EDT Sys 64

August 9, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

FROM:

CRAIG L. FULLER

SUBJECT:

EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

[Monday, August 13]

Please provide any comments/edits you may have directly to Ben Elliott (456-6266, Speechwriting Office) by 5 pm today, and an information copy to my office.

Thanks.

To: C.FULLER (EOP021)
To: D.CLAREY (EOP027)
To: T.GIBSON (EOP028)
To: WH-RM (EOP043)

To: DOC (EOP060)

From: WH-SPEECH (EOP047) Posted: Thu 9-Aug-84 11:36 EDT Sys 64 (135)

To: WH-OCA (EOP020)

Subject: speech/ss/Olympic Medalists

(Noonan/BE) August 9, 1984 10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: EVENT WITH U.S. OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 1984 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Thank you Don Miller, and thank you all very much. Ladies and Gentlemen of America's Team at the 23rd Olympiad:

You're heroes, every one of you. You're living proof of what happens when America sets its sights high and says, "Let's create a little excellence." And you gave us moments we'll never forget. There was Blatnick falling to his knees in thanks -- and Retton getting that perfect ten. There was Steinseiffer and Hogshead hitting the wall at the exact same mili-second -- and

There was something very special about this Olympics, there was a special spirit to it. You gave us all such a lift -- you gave us something to be unified around and cheer for together. I think you may have heard that cheer. It went something like "U...S...A!"

The specialness of this Olympics was apparent from the beginning, when all of you marched into the Coliseum together. An Englishman watching from the stands looked out at you and was quoted as saying, "That's what the world loves about America, that wonderful casualness and confidence." You walked into the opening ceremonies with a special kind of pride, a vibrant and very human delight that was transmitted to the crowds and that was picked up by people watching throughout the country.

### Page 2

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I want to say too that the city of Los Angeles did a marvelous job. What terrific people in this town. Just about everyone in this city had to put him or herself out in some way, one way or another, while the Games were on. They not only did it, they did it with a smile. They won the admiration and thanks of the entire country. And I think a guy back East summed it up when he was sitting around with his family during the games one day. He said, "L.A. has a lotta class, a lotta style." Don't you think he was right?

This is a good time also to thank the corporations and businesses that decided, a few years back, to contribute money and personnel and time to help our athletes. They proved that the profits reaped from a free economy can be used to help our young people compete with the state-subsidized athletes of other

#### Page 3

countries. Those corporations did us proud. So did Bill Simon, who led this great Citizen's Effort. So did the Los Angeles Olympic Committee...and the U.S. Olympic Committee.

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#### Page 4

usually, in most of the events, you could sort of figure out who represented what country . . . except with the American athletes. With the American athletes you almost always had to see the U.S.A. on their uniforms — because our team came in all shapes and sizes, all colors and nationalties and races and ethnic groups. And I was thinking, you can talk on forever and read books about the melting pot, but the past two weeks there it was, winning medals for us, representing us every day.