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The President has seen_____

(NSC/Elliott)
November 7, 1985
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: ADDRESS TO THE SOVIET PEOPLE
VOICE OF AMERICA
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1985

My fellow Americans, we're expanding the format of our radio broadcast today. During the next 10 minutes, I'll be speaking to the Russian people over the Voice of America about the upcoming Geneva Summit. My words will be directed to them, but I want you to hear what I say.

Good evening, this is Ronald Reagan, President of the United States, speaking to you from Washington. I'd like to speak about my upcoming meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva and my hopes for a better relationship between our two governments.

Your leaders can freely appear on American radio and television, and be interviewed by our magazines and newspapers. So I was grateful for my recent and -- as you know -- rare opportunity to speak with representatives of your press -- the first time in 24 years such an interview has taken place. But the interview was published only in Isvestia, and unfortunately there were serious omissions.

So I wish to speak to you personally, not only as President and proud citizen of America, but also as a husband, father, and grandfather who shares your deepest hopes -- that all our children can live and prosper in a world of peace.

I grew up in a small town in America's heartland, where values of faith in God, freedom, family, friends, and concern for one's neighbors were shared by all, values you also share. My

SO DURING MY SCHOOL YEARS I WORKED DURING VACATIONS. FOR ~~family was not wealthy and I worked as a lifeguard and in~~ A TIME ON CONSTRUCTION & THEN FOR SEVERAL SUMMERS AS A LIFE GUARD AT A RIVER SE~~construction labor. Then I became a radio broadcaster, before~~ THEN AFTER FINISHING MY EDUCATION I BECAME A RADIO SPORTS ANNOUNCER WHICH LED TO ACTING ~~going to~~ IN Hollywood where I was elected head of our professional actors guild. I've always been proud to say I'm the only American President who was also president of a labor union.

Back then, I had no intention of engaging in national politics. But America is a great country filled with opportunities for people. ~~to follow their dreams~~. In ~~the~~ THE years that followed, including my years as Governor of California, and as President, I have not forgotten the values I learned as a boy. Nor have my fellow Americans.

Now, I know that much has been written in your press about America's hostile intentions toward you. I reject these distortions. Americans are a peace-loving people; we do not threaten your nation and never will. The American people are tolerant, slow to anger, but staunch in defense of their liberties and, like you, their country.

More than once, OUR 2 COUNTRIES ~~we~~ have joined to oppose a common enemy. During our war for independence, Russia provided assistance to the distant American colonists. A century-and-a-half later, we joined together to defeat the common enemy of Fascism. BEFORE THAT WE WERE ALLIES IN W.W.I. (W.W.I)

Even before we entered ~~the war~~, America was supplying massive quantities of food and equipment to those fighting the Nazis. We provided 14,795 aircraft to your forces, 7,056 tanks, more than half a million vehicles, and more than 6 million tons of food and other staples. I'm told one can still see some old Studebakers in Russian streets.

Americans will never forget the valor, pain, and, at last, the joy of victory that our peoples shared. I remember President Roosevelt's praise for the Russian people's heroism. How can any of us alive then forget that terrible year of 1941 when the Nazis were repulsed at the gates of Moscow, the courage of Leningraders during the 870-day siege, the victory at Stalingrad, or our historic meeting on the Elbe in 1945?

Americans fought for 4 years on all fronts and many lie buried in Northern Africa, Europe, Burma, China, the Pacific islands, and at the bottom of the sea. Some are buried on Soviet soil -- in the Hero City of Murmansk, where they had brought precious supplies through the treacherous convoy route.

Yet, after that victory, Americans gave generously to help rebuild wartorn countries, even to former enemies, because we had made war on a vicious ideology, not on a people. And we demonstrated our desire for peace by rapidly demobilizing. At the end of 1945, we had an armed force of almost 12 million; by 1948, we had reduced that number to less than 1.5 million.

Immediately after World War II, when we were the only country with nuclear weapons, we proposed giving those weapons up altogether to an international authority so that no country would have such destructive power at its disposal. What a pity this idea was not accepted.

Today, we must both face the challenge of eliminating nuclear weapons. I have said many times, and will say again to you: a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. I

pray God that we can rid the world of these dangerous weapons, in part by finding a reliable defense against them.

Our negotiators in Geneva are working hard to reach a break-through. I am pleased that the Soviet Union finally responded to our original proposals. We studied the response carefully and replied quickly. These are complicated negotiations and satisfactory results will take long, hard work.

Let me be clear about our research and testing program on strategic defense technologies. Our goal is to make the world safer through development of non-nuclear security shields that would protect people by preventing weapons from reaching their targets and, hopefully, render nuclear weapons obsolete. You should be aware that your own government has been conducting long-standing and extensive programs on its own defensive systems, including advanced research.

For our part, the United States is just beginning a long process of investigating defenses. ~~Another President will have to make the decision on whether to deploy. But if it were me, and our research and testing were successful, I would try to convince the Soviet Union to join us in taking a great step forward — toward defenses that would offer the entire world an insurance policy and threaten no one.~~ If & when our research proves that a defensive shield against nuclear missiles is practical, I believe our 2 nations & those others who have nuclear weapons should come together and agree to eliminate our offensive nuclear weapons in return for which we would make our defensive system available to all.

We must live together in peace. America's whole history has been a search for peace and opportunity by pioneers seeking freedom, many from the old European order. We are proud of the Russians, the Ukranians, the Jews, the Armenians, and many others who sailed by our Statue of Liberty and reached our shores.

Diversity is one of our great strengths. That is partly why we are confusing to outsiders. Our government is elected by the people; it is not above the people or above the law.

We believe that truth is found through debate and discussion. "Truth does not burn in the fire, or drown in the water." Our system is often uncomfortable for elected officials, because one of our proudest institutions is a free press. The press criticizes me, and sometimes it hurts, but that is their role -- to raise difficult questions and keep officials accountable to the people. But no one should mistake our freedoms for weakness.

We favor free and open dialogue not just for Americans, but for all peoples. We believe freedom of the individual, freedom of speech, freedom of the press are, as our Declaration of Independence says: unalienable rights of all men.

Ten years ago, the United States and the Soviet Union along with 35 other countries signed the Helsinki Accords. We all pledged to respect human rights, permit our citizens freedom of speech and travel, and to improve communication among the peoples of the signatory nations. America asks the world's leaders to abide by what they have committed themselves to. We ask no more of them than we do of ourselves.

As the world's two strongest nations, we owe it to the rest of humanity not only to keep our word, but to help find peaceful settlements to local and regional conflicts -- in Afghanistan, Africa, Latin America, and elsewhere.

We must also join forces against terrorism. There is no place in a civilized world for assassinations, terrorist bombings, and other mindless violence. I strongly urge you and your government to join us in combatting terrorism and ensuring that no country will offer succor or comfort to terrorists.

We have much to learn from each other. Americans have long been enriched by your cultural giants. The works of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Turgenev, Gorky, Pasternak, and Chingis Aitmatov are taught in many American universities. Just as American authors from James Fenimore Cooper, Mark Twain and Jack London, to Ernest Hemingway and William Faulkner are popular in your country.

I am an enthusiast for expanded contacts between our two great societies, wherever there is mutual interest. I am particularly interested in increasing exchanges among our young people for they are our future. We should open a dialogue between our nations, so leaders of each country would have the same chance to communicate to the people of the other through the medium of television. If more of your citizens visited us, you would understand that our people want peace as fervently as you do, for it is better to see something once than hear about it a hundred times.

I hope my discussions with Mr. Gorbachev in Geneva will be fruitful and will lead to future meetings. We seek peace not only for ourselves, but for all those who inhabit this small planet.

I am reminded that we share borders with three countries -- Mexico, Canada, and the Soviet Union. We pride ourselves on our

friendly relations and open borders with our two North American neighbors. And I hope the day will come when that narrow chain of islands stretching from Alaska to the eastern shore of Siberia will symbolize the ties between our two great peoples, not the distance between us.

Everything has a season. Let us hope as we near Christmas and the New Year that this will be the season for peace. Thank you for welcoming me into your homes.

God bless you.

(ROBINSON) The President has seen NOVEMBER 9, 1985

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DINNER WITH PRINCE CHARLES
AND PRINCESS DIANA

STATE DINNER TOAST

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES/ SIR OLIVER AND LADY WRIGHT/ AMBASSADOR AND MRS. PRICE/ LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: NANCY AND I ARE DEEPLY HONORED TO WELCOME THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

PERMIT ME TO ADD OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO PRINCE CHARLES ON HIS BIRTHDAY, JUST 5 DAYS AWAY. & EXPRESS -- HAPPINESS -- PRNCS D. -- 1ST VISIT-U.S.

IN HIS 1941 ADDRESS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS, PRIME MINISTER CHURCHILL REMARKED/ "I CANNOT HELP REFLECTING THAT IF MY FATHER HAD BEEN AMERICAN AND MY MOTHER BRITISH, (INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY AROUND,) I MIGHT HAVE GOT HERE ON MY OWN." YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, THE RECEPTION YOU HAVE RECEIVED HERE SUGGESTS THAT IF YOU HAD BEEN AMERICAN/ YOU MIGHT WELL HAVE COME TO THIS HOUSE ON YOUR OWN.

OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY INNUMERABLE TIES OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND PRESENT FRIENDSHIP. OUR LANGUAGE, OUR LAW, OUR DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, OUR FIERCE BELIEF IN THE GOD-GIVEN RIGHT OF MEN TO BE FREE -- ALL THESE WE OWE TO YOU. WE HAVE STOOD TOGETHER THROUGH TWO GREAT WORLD CONFLICTS. TODAY, WE GO ON SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER IN AN ALLIANCE TO PROTECT FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

THIS EVENING WE HAVE GATHERED ON A HAPPY OCCASION -- A CELEBRATION OF THE TREASURE HOUSES OF BRITAIN, PERHAPS THE MOST MAGNIFICENT EXHIBITION EVER MOUNTED. FIVE CENTURIES OF BRITISH ACHIEVEMENT -- FIVE CENTURIES OF ELEGANCE, BEAUTY, AND CHARM. I SHOULD ADD WIT. WHEN NANCY AND I TOURED THE EXHIBITION, WE WERE STRUCK BY A SETTEE FROM BALMORAL CASTLE CONSTRUCTED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF DEER ANTLERS.

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WONDERING EVER SINCE WHETHER SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD BE DONE WITH CATTLE HORNS OUT ON THE RANCH.

"THE TREASURE HOUSES OF BRITAIN" TRULY IS A GREAT GIFT -- FROM THE HOUSES' OWNERS, THE BRITISH PEOPLE, AND YOU, THE EXHIBITION's PATRONS. I SPEAK FOR ALL AMERICANS WHEN I SAY A HEARTFELT THANK YOU.

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES, IN THE EYES OF MY COUNTRYMEN, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY HOLD A PLACE OF HIGH HONOR. YOUR DEVOTION TO DUTY COMMANDS OUR ESTEEM. AMERICANS JOIN OUR BRITISH COUSINS IN LOOKING UPON YOU WITH AFFECTION AND RESPECT.

IN THAT SAME 1941 ADDRESS, WINSTON CHURCHILL SAID: "IT IS NOT GIVEN TO US TO PEER INTO THE FUTURE.

STILL I AVOW MY HOPE AND FAITH, SURE AND INVIOLATE, THAT IN THE DAYS TO COME THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL, FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY, AND FOR THE GOOD OF ALL, WALK TOGETHER IN MAJESTY, IN JUSTICE AND IN PEACE."

TODAY THAT NOBLE HOPE IS A GLORIOUS REALITY.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN A TOAST:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

# # #

The President has seen_____

(Robinson/BE)
November 7, 1985
3:00 p.m.

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DINNER WITH PRINCE CHARLES
AND Pprincess DIANA
STATE DINNER TOAST
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1985

Amb. & Mrs. Price

Your Royal Highnesses, Sir Oliver and Lady Wright, ladies and gentlemen: Mrs. Reagan and I are deeply honored to welcome the Prince and Princess of Wales to this grand old American home, the White House. By the way, quite recently portions of the White House were repainted -- and I'm afraid that when we removed the old paint, we found scorch marks from the British burning of the house back in 1814. Now you've returned, and all Washington is once again ablaze.

I'm afraid of this one.

You may recall that in his 1941 address before a joint session of the Congress, Prime Minister Churchill remarked, "I cannot help reflecting that if my father had been American and my mother British, instead of the other way around, I might have got here on my own." Your Royal Highnesses, the reception you have been accorded by my countrymen has made it quite clear that, if you had been American, you might well have made it to this house on your own.

Your Royal Highnesses, your kingdom and our Republic are bound together by innumerable ties of ancient history and present friendship. Our language, our law, our democratic system of Government, our fierce belief in the God-given right of men to be free -- all these the United States owes to your island. We have traded with each other, to our mutual benefit, in all the decades since my country was founded. We have stood together through two

great world conflicts. Today, we go on shoulder-to-shoulder in an alliance formed to protect the democracies which, just 40 years ago, so many gave their lives on the beaches of Normandy to defend.

This evening we have gathered on a happy occasion -- a celebration of "The Treasure Houses of Britain," perhaps the most magnificent exhibition ever mounted. The exhibition presents five centuries of British achievement -- five centuries of elegance, beauty, and charm. I should add wit. When Nancy and I saw the exhibition the other day, we learned to our surprise that one enormous silver wine cooler had regularly been used by its owners to give their dog its baths.

"The Treasure Houses of Britain" richly details the cultural life of your kingdom, the land which in turn provided the foundations of our own cultural life. Truly, it is a great gift -- a gift from the houses' owners, from the British people, and from you, the exhibition's patrons. I speak on behalf of the American people when I extend to you our gratitude.

Your Royal Highnesses, in the eyes of my countrymen, you and your family hold a place of high honor. By setting an unfailing model of dignity and grace, you serve the American people as surely as you serve your own. Your devotion to duty commands our esteem. Your self-evident love for your kingdom and the commonwealth inspires us. Certainly the American people join the British in looking upon you with affection and respect.

In his 1941 address, Prime Minister Churchill looked forward to our times. "It is not given to us," he said, "to peer into

the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American people will for their own safety and for the good of all walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace."

Today that noble hope remains a glorious reality.

Please join me in a toast: Her Majesty the Queen.

As being made

(Robinson/BE)
November 7, 1985
3:00 p.m.

AL REMARKS: DINNER WITH PRINCE CHARLES
AND PRINCESS DIANA
STATE DINNER TOAST
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1985

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the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American people will for their own safety and for the good of all walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace."

Today that noble hope is a glorious reality.

Please join me in a toast: Her Majesty the Queen.

(AN EARLY BIRTHDAY WISH TO PRINCE CHARLES MAY BE ADDED TO THIS)

The President has seen

(NOONAN) NOVEMBER 11, 1985

~~3514955~~

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
ARLINGTON CEMETERY

THANK YOU. SECRETARY WEINBERGER, HARRY WALTERS, ROBERT MEDAIROS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

A FEW MOMENTS AGO I PLACED A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER, AND AS I STEPPED BACK AND STOOD DURING THE MOMENT OF SILENCE THAT FOLLOWED I SAID A SMALL PRAYER.

IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT EACH OF MY PREDECESSORS HAD HAD A SIMILAR MOMENT, AND I WONDERED IF OUR PRAYERS WEREN'T VERY MUCH THE SAME, OR EVEN IDENTICAL.

I WONDER, IN FACT, IF ALL AMERICANS' PRAYERS AREN'T THE SAME TODAY.

WE CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMISTICE THAT ENDED WORLD WAR I, THE ARMISTICE THAT BEGAN ON THE ELEVENTH HOUR OF THE ELEVENTH DAY OF THE ELEVENTH MONTH.

SO THE TIMING OF THIS HOLIDAY IS QUITE DELIBERATE IN TERMS OF HISTORICAL FACT.

BUT SOMEHOW IT ALWAYS SEEMS QUITE FITTING TO ME THAT THIS DAY COMES DEEP IN AUTUMN, WHEN COLORS ARE MUTED AND DAYS SEEM TO INVITE CONTEMPLATION.

WE ARE GATHERED AT THE NATIONAL CEMETERY WHICH PROVIDES A FINAL RESTING PLACE FOR THE HEROES WHO HAVE DEFENDED OUR COUNTRY SINCE THE CIVIL WAR.

THIS AMPHITHEATRE, THIS PLACE FOR SPEECHES, IS MORE CENTRAL TO THE CEMETERY THAN AT FIRST MIGHT SEEM APPARENT — FOR ALL WE CAN EVER DO FOR OUR HEROES IS REMEMBER THEM AND WHAT THEY DID, AND MEMORIES ARE TRANSMITTED THROUGH WORDS.

SOME TIME BACK I RECEIVED IN THE NAME OF OUR COUNTRY THE BODIES OF FOUR MARINES WHO HAD DIED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY.

I SAID THEN THAT THERE IS A SPECIAL SADNESS THAT ACCOMPANIES THE DEATH OF A SERVICEMAN, FOR WE'RE NEVER GOOD ENOUGH TO THEM, NOT REALLY, WE CAN'T BE, BECAUSE WHAT THEY GIVE US IS BEYOND OUR POWERS TO REPAY.

AND SO, WHEN A SERVICEMAN DIES, IT IS A TEAR IN THE FABRIC, A BREAK IN THE WHOLE, AND ALL WE CAN DO IS REMEMBER.

IT IS, (IN A WAY,) AN ODD THING TO HONOR THOSE WHO DIED IN DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY, IN DEFENSE OF US, IN WARS FAR AWAY.

THE IMAGINATION PLAYS A TRICK. WE SEE THESE SOLDIERS IN OUR MINDS AS OLD AND WISE, WE SEE THEM AS SOMETHING LIKE THE FOUNDING FATHERS, GRAVE AND GRAY HAIRED. BUT MOST OF THEM WERE BOYS WHEN THEY DIED AND THEY GAVE UP TWO LIVES, THE ONE THEY WERE LIVING AND THE ONE THEY WOULD HAVE LIVED.

WHEN THEY DIED THEY GAVE UP THEIR CHANCE TO BE HUSBANDS AND FATHERS AND GRANDFATHERS. THEY GAVE UP THEIR CHANCE TO BE REVERED OLD MEN. THEY GAVE UP EVERYTHING FOR OUR COUNTRY, FOR US. AND ALL WE CAN DO IS REMEMBER.

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMEONE WHO IS REMEMBERING FOR US. NO MATTER WHAT TIME OF YEAR IT IS, OR WHAT TIME OF DAY, THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE WHO COME TO THIS CEMETERY AND LEAVE A FLAG, OR A FLOWER, OR A LITTLE ROCK ON A HEADSTONE. AND THEY STOP, AND BOW THEIR HEADS AND COMMUNICATE WHAT THEY WISHED TO COMMUNICATE. THEY SAY, 'HELLO JOHNNY,' OR 'HELLO BOB - WE STILL THINK OF YOU - YOU'RE STILL WITH US - WE NEVER GOT OVER YOU - AND WE PRAY FOR YOU STILL AND WE'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, WE'LL ALL MEET AGAIN...'

IN A WAY THEY REPRESENT US/ THESE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS,/ AND THEY SPEAK FOR US AS THEY WALK AMONG THE HEADSTONES AND REMEMBER.

IT IS NOT SO HARD TO SUMMON MEMORY/ BUT IT IS HARD TO RECAPTURE MEANING.

AND THE LIVING HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO REMEMBER THE CONDITIONS THAT LED TO THE WARS IN WHICH OUR HEROES DIED.

PERHAPS WE CAN START BY REMEMBERING THIS/ THAT ALL OF THOSE WHO DIED FOR US AND OUR COUNTRY WERE, (IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,) VICTIMS OF A PEACE PROCESS THAT FAILED.

VICTIMS OF A DECISION TO FORGET CERTAIN THINGS/ — TO FORGET, FOR INSTANCE, THAT THE SUREST WAY TO KEEP A PEACE GOING IS TO STAY STRONG. WEAKNESS, AFTER ALL, IS A TEMPTATION/ IT TEMPTS THE PUGNACIOUS TO ASSERT THEMSELVES. BUT STRENGTH IS A DECLARATION THAT CANNOT BE MISUNDERSTOOD.

STRENGTH IS A CONDITION THAT DECLARES 'ACTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES.' STRENGTH IS A PRUDENT WARNING TO THE BELLIGERENT THAT AGGRESSION NEED NOT GO UNANSWERED.

PEACE FAILS WHEN WE FORGET WHAT WE STAND FOR. IT FAILS WHEN WE FORGET THAT OUR REPUBLIC IS BASED ON FIRM PRINCIPLES. PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE REAL MEANING - THAT WITH THEM WE ARE THE LAST BEST HOPE OF MAN ON EARTH. WITHOUT THEM WE ARE LITTLE MORE THAN THE CRUST OF A CONTINENT.

PEACE ALSO FAILS WHEN WE FORGET TO BRING TO THE BARGAINING TABLE GOD's FIRST INTELLECTUAL GIFT TO MAN. COMMON SENSE.

COMMON SENSE GIVES US A REALISTIC KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN BEINGS AND HOW THEY THINK. HOW THEY LIVE IN THE WORLD. WHAT MOTIVATES THEM.

COMMON SENSE TELLS US THAT MAN HAS MAGIC IN HIM, BUT ALSO CLAY. COMMON SENSE CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT...AND WRONG.

COMMON SENSE FORGIVES ERROR/ BUT IT ALWAYS RECOGNIZES IT TO BE ERROR FIRST.

WE ENDANGER THE PEACE /- AND CONFUSE ALL ISSUES /- WHEN WE OBSCURE THE TRUTH,/ WHEN WE REFUSE TO NAME AN ACT FOR WHAT IT IS/ WHEN WE REFUSE TO SEE THE OBVIOUS AND SEEK SAFETY IN AMBIGUITY. PEACE IS ONLY MAINTAINED --(AND WON)- BY THOSE WHO HAVE CLEAR EYES AND BRAVE MINDS.

PEACE IS IMPERILED WHEN WE FORGET TO TRY FOR AGREEMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS AND TREATIES/ WHEN WE FORGET TO HOLD OUT OUR HANDS AND STRIVE/ WHEN WE FORGET THAT GOD GAVE US TALENTS TO USE IN SECURING THE ENDS HE DESIRES. PEACE FAILS WHEN WE FORGET THAT AGREEMENTS (ONCE MADE,) CANNOT BE BROKEN WITHOUT A PRICE. EACH NEW DAY CARRIES WITHIN IT THE POTENTIAL FOR BREAKTHROUGHS,/ FOR PROGRESS./ EACH NEW DAY BURSTS WITH POSSIBILITIES. AND SO HOPE IS REALISTIC, AND DESPAIR A POINTLESS LITTLE SIN.

AND PEACE FAILS WHEN WE FORGET TO PRAY TO THE SOURCE OF ALL PEACE, AND LIFE, AND HAPPINESS. I THINK SOMETIMES OF GENERAL MATTHEW RIDGEWAY WHO, (THE NIGHT BEFORE D-DAY) TOSSED SLEEPLESS ON HIS COT AND TALKED TO THE LORD AND LISTENED FOR THE PROMISE GOD MADE TO JOSHUA, "I WILL NOT FAIL THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE."

WE ARE SURROUNDED TODAY BY THE DEAD OF OUR WARS. WE OWE THEM A DEBT WE CAN NEVER REPAY. ALL WE CAN DO IS REMEMBER THEM, AND WHAT THEY DID, AND WHY THEY HAD TO BE BRAVE FOR US. ALL WE CAN DO IS TRY TO SEE THAT OTHER YOUNG MEN NEVER HAVE TO JOIN THEM. TODAY AS NEVER BEFORE WE MUST PLEDGE TO REMEMBER THE THINGS THAT WILL CONTINUE THE PEACE. TODAY AS NEVER BEFORE WE MUST PRAY FOR GOD's HELP IN BROADENING AND DEEPENING THE PEACE WE ENJOY.

LET US PRAY FOR FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE, AND A MORE STABLE WORLD.

AND LET US MAKE A COMPACT TODAY WITH THE DEAD/ A PROMISE IN THE WORDS FOR WHICH GENERAL RIDGEWAY LISTENED/ "I WILL NOT FAIL THEE NOR FORSAKE THEE."

IN MEMORY OF THOSE WHO GAVE THE LAST FULL MEASURE OF DEVOTION, MAY OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE LASTING PEACE GAIN STRENGTH.

THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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The President has seen_____

(Noonan/BE)
November 7, 1985
6:30 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY
ARLINGTON CEMETERY
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1985

Thank you. Secretary Weinberger, Harry Walters, Robert Medairos, ladies and gentlemen.

A few moments ago I placed a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and as I stepped back and stood during the moment of silence that followed I said a small prayer. It occurred to me that each of my predecessors had had a similar moment, and I wondered if our prayers weren't very much the same, or even identical. I wonder, in fact, if all Americans' prayers aren't the same today.

We celebrate Veterans Day on the anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I, the armistice that began on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. So the timing of this holiday is quite deliberate in terms of historical fact. But somehow it always seems quite fitting to me that this day comes deep in autumn, when colors are muted and days seem to invite contemplation.

We are gathered at the national cemetery which provides a final resting place for the heroes who have defended our country since the Civil War. This amphitheatre, this place for speeches, is more central to the cemetery than at first might seem apparent -- for all we can ever do for our heroes is remember them and what they did, and memories are transmitted through words.

Some time back I received in the name of our country the bodies of four Marines who had died while on active duty. I said then that there is a special sadness that accompanies the death of a serviceman, for we're never good enough to them, not really, we can't be -- because what they give us is beyond our powers to repay. And so, when a serviceman dies, it is a tear in the fabric, a break in the whole. And all we can do is remember.

It is, in a way, an odd thing to honor those who died in defense of our country, in defense of us, in wars far away. The imagination plays a trick: we see these soldiers in our minds as old and wise; we see them as something like the Founding Fathers, grave and gray haired. But most of them were boys when they died and they gave up two lives: the one they were living and the one they would have lived. When they died they gave up their chance to be husbands and fathers and grandfathers; they gave up their chance to be revered old men. They gave up everything -- for our country, for us. And all we can do is remember.

There is always someone who is remembering for us. No matter what time of year it is, or what time of day, there are always people who come to this cemetery and leave a flag, or a flower, or a little rock on a headstone. And they stop, and bow their heads and communicate what they wished to communicate. They say, 'Hello Johnny,' or 'Hello Bob -- we still think of you -- you're still with us -- we never got over you -- and we pray for you still and we'll see you again, we'll all meet again...' In a way they represent us, these relatives and

friends, and they speak for us as they walk among the headstones and remember.

It is not so hard to summon memory; but it is hard to recapture meaning. And the living have a responsibility to remember the conditions that led to the wars in which our heroes died.

Perhaps we can start by remembering this: that all of those who died for us and our country were, in one way or another, victims of a peace process that failed. Victims of a decision to forget certain things -- to forget, for instance, that the surest way to keep a peace going is to stay strong. Weakness, after all, is a temptation; it tempts the pugnacious to assert themselves. But strength is a declaration that cannot be misunderstood. Strength is a condition that declares 'actions have consequences;' strength is a prudent warning to the belligerent that aggression need not go unanswered.

Peace fails when we forget what we stand for; it fails when we forget that our Republic is based on firm principles, ~~and~~ ~~those~~ principles THAT have ~~meaning~~, real meaning -- that with them we are the last best hope of man on earth, ~~but~~ without them we are little more than the crust of a continent.

Peace also fails when we forget to bring to the bargaining table God's first intellectual gift to man: common sense. Common sense gives us a realistic knowledge of human beings and how they think, how they live in the world, what motivates them. Common sense tells us that man has magic in him, but also clay. Common sense can tell the difference between right...and

wrong. Common sense forgives error, but it always recognizes it to be error first. We endanger the peace -- and confuse all issues -- when we obscure the truth, when we refuse to name an act for what it is, when we refuse to see the obvious and seek safety in ambiguity. Peace is only maintained -- and won -- by those who have clear eyes and brave minds.

Peace is imperiled when we forget to try for agreements and settlements and treaties, when we forget to hold out our hands and strive, when we forget that God gave us talents to use in securing the ends he desires. Peace fails when we forget that agreements, once made, cannot be broken without a price. Each new day carries within it the potential for breakthroughs, for progress; each new day bursts with possibilities. And so hope is realistic, and despair a pointless little sin.

And peace fails when we forget to pray to the source of all peace, and life, and happiness. I think sometimes of General Matthew Ridgeway who, the night before D-Day, tossed sleepless on his cot and talked to the Lord and listened for the promise God made to Joshua: "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee."

We are surrounded today by the dead of our wars. We owe them a debt we can never repay. All we can do is remember them, and what they did, and why they had to be brave for us. All we can do is try to see that other young ~~boys~~ MEN never have to join them. Today as never before we must pledge to remember the things that will continue the peace. Today as never before we must pray for God's help in broadening and deepening the peace we enjoy. Let us pray for freedom, and justice, and a more stable

world. And let us make a compact today with the dead, a promise in the words for which General Ridgeway listened: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.

In memory of those who gave the last full measure of devotion, may our efforts to achieve lasting peace gain strength.

Thank you. God bless you all and God bless America.