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Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Iacocca (Mary)  
Chairman of the Board  
Chrysler Corporation  
P. O. Box 1919  
Detroit, MI 48288

Mrs. Nicola Iacocca  
2310 East Pennsylvania Street  
Allentown, PA 18103

Miss Kathy Iacocca  
Gray & Co.  
3255 Grace Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

Mr. Jeff Harper  
Gray & Co.  
3255 Grace Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

Mr. Robert Gray  
Gray & Co.  
3255 Grace Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20007

Mr. Charles T. Cudlip  
Chrysler Corporation  
1100 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Miss Paula Tebben  
Chrysler Corporation  
1100 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Mrs. Brittain Page  
2206 Kalorama Road, NW  
Washington, DC 20008

Mr. William E. Timmons  
Timmons & Co.  
1850 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. John Morrissey  
Chairman  
Kenyon & Eckhardt  
30600 Telegraph Road  
Birmingham, MI 48010

Mr. Richard Rovsek  
Westport Marketing Group, Inc.  
50 Riverside Avenue  
Westport, CT 06880

Mr. Richard Lueking  
Westport Marketing Group, Inc.  
50 Riverside Avenue  
Westport, CT 06880

Mr. Fred Berg  
Westport Marketing Group, Inc.  
50 Riverside Avenue  
Westport, CT 06880

Mr. Leo Kelmenson  
Kenyon & Eckhardt  
200 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10166

Mr. Philip Lax  
830 Morris Turnpike  
Short Hills, NJ 07078

Mr. Norman Liss  
Attorney at Law  
200 W. 57th Street  
New York, NY 10019

Mr. Alexander B. Lyon  
20 Hardwell Road  
Short Hills, NJ 07078

~~Mr. Set C. Momjian  
1975 Country Club Drive  
Huntington Valley, PA 19006~~

Mr. John Reagan "Tex" McCrary  
Texcomm  
10 W. 66th Street  
New York, NY 10023

Mr. Peter G. Peterson  
Chairman of the Board  
Lehman Brothers, Kuhn, Loeb, Inc.  
55 Water Street  
New York, NY 10041

Mr. John Sargent  
Vice President & Treasurer  
Genoco  
1007 Market Street  
Lapont Bldg., Rm. 8036  
Wilmington, DE 19898

Mr. Peter Max  
118 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10024

Mr. Paul Magid  
118 Riverside Drive  
New York, NY 10024

Dr. Peter Marzio  
Director of the Corcoran Gallery  
17th Street and New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

Mr. Nick Cretan  
Executive Director  
Maritime Association of the Port of New York  
80 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10004

Mr. Gilbert Grosvenor  
President  
National Geographic  
17th and M Streets, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Mr. Theodore Sheridan  
Vice President  
AMF Corporation  
777 Westchester Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10604

Mr. David Rovsek  
117 Hillcrest Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032

Mrs. Nancy Reynolds  
Bendix Corporation  
300 Maryland Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Mr. Edward Abramson  
Chairman  
Democratic Conference  
The Assembly  
State of New York  
Albany, NY 12224

Mr. Marvin Antonowsky  
Columbia Pictures  
300 Gold Gem Square  
Burbank, CA

Mr. John Burgee  
Johnson/Burgee Architects  
375 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Mr. John Barry  
540 Centre Island  
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

Mr. David Ewing  
Sea Pines Plantation  
15 Ridgewood Terrace  
Hilton Head Island, SC

Ms. Eleanor Sreb  
3033 Van Ness Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20008

Mr. Joseph Ventura  
6218 Nelway Drive  
McLean, VA 22101

Ms. Rene Dupont  
A-102 Greenville Center  
3801 Kennett Pike  
Wilmington, Delaware 19807

Honorable Jacob Javits  
375 Park Avenue, Suite 1606  
New York, NY 10152

Mr. Phil Ratner  
801 West Montgomery Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Mr. Wyatt A. Stewart, III  
Director of Finance  
National Republican Congressional Committee  
320 First Street, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

Mr. Paul Bergmoser  
46640 Amir Drive  
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Gov. Claude Kirk  
P. O. Box 668  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Mrs. Peggy Johnson  
136 E. 55th Street, Spt. 7E  
New York, NY 10022

Mr. Mack Scott  
1683 Severn  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

Ms. Marijke Bower Van Bodengraven  
3163 Day Avenue  
Miami, FL 33133

Mr. Set C. Momjian  
1975 Country Club Drive  
Huntington Valley, PA 19006

ADDITIONAL INVITEES FOR  
WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY

Mr. Michael Shane  
225 Turnpike Street  
Canton, Massachusetts 02021

Mr. Ronald Walker  
Korn/Ferry, International  
1825 K Street, NW, Suite 301  
Washington, DC 20006

Ms. Elizabeth M. O'Neil  
324 N. Pitt Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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DRAFT

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WS

For Release

Chapin 202/343-7343

PRESIDENT REAGAN AND INTERIOR SECRETARY JAMES WATT ANNOUNCE COMMISSION  
TO MOBILIZE PRIVATE SUPPORT FOR REHABILITATING  
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND ELLIS ISLAND

Formation of a 21-member commission to assist the Government in restoring the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, was announced today by President Reagan. Joining the President in the White House announcement was Interior Secretary James Watt and many of the commission members, including Chairman Lee Iacocca of Chrysler Corporation.

"Two of this Nation's greatest symbols of freedom and opportunity--the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island--are in need of extensive and costly repair," Secretary Watt said. "The distinguished private citizens who have volunteered to be on this commission will serve as a catalyst for enlisting the resources of the private sector to help with the massive effort of restoring these national treasures in time for the Statue of Liberty centennial in 1986 and the Ellis Island centennial in 1992."

The new group will be known as the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. Other commission members named in addition to Chairman Iacocca were:

- Mr. Bob Hope and Mrs. Delores Hope, Ventura, California
- Mr. Peter G. Peterson, Chairman, Lehman Bros., Kuhn, and Loeb
- Mr. Armen G. Avedisian, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Avedisian Company
- Mr. John Kluge, Chairman and President, Metromedia Television

(more)

Mr. Phil Lax, President, Ellis Island Restoration Commission

Mr. Philippe Vallery-Radot, President, French-American Committee  
for the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty

Mr. T. Robert Zochowski, Representative of the Governor of New Jersey

Mr. Morris Pesin, Representative of the Mayor of Jersey City,  
New Jersey

Secretary Watt said additional commission members, including representatives from New York City and New York State, would be announced in the near future.

The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are managed by the National Park Service as a National Monument. The world-famous 152-foot copper Statue of Liberty was given to the United States by the French people in 1884. Ellis Island served from 1892 to 1954 as the country's major immigration center, through which passed over one-third of the forebearers of the current U.S. population.

Both facilities need major repairs. The Statue suffers from the wear and tear associated with use by millions of visitors each year as well as the corrosive effects of the moisture-laden atmosphere of New York Harbor. Many of the buildings associated with Ellis Island have fallen into serious disrepair since the immigration center's closure in 1954. The National Park Service is seeking to develop Ellis Island into a major visitor attraction through a prototype program to lease some buildings there for restoration and use by the private sector.

A number of private groups have expressed interest in both the Statue of Liberty centennial and the Park Service's efforts to upgrade the neglected facilities at Ellis Island, Secretary Watt said. The commission named today will serve as an umbrella group coordinating private activities on behalf of both installations. In addition, the commission will seek to raise as much as \$100 million from private sources for the restoration program and advise the Secretary on preservation needs, the projected use of facilities and the programs associated with the upcoming centennials. Commission members will serve two-year terms and the life of the commission is expected to extend through 1992.

x      x      x

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 1982

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT CEREMONY FOR  
STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND COMMISSION

The East Room

1:30 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon. Today we're launching, as you well know, a commission whose task will be the rehabilitation of one of our most cherished symbols of liberty.

Much has been said over the years about the diversity of the American people and the vitality and resilience of the American character.

Well, that character isn't centered around any one religious denomination for in our country there are many religions. Everyone has a right to worship God as he or she chooses. It isn't based on any one ethnic group or race for our people come in all shades and shapes and we remain dedicated to the proposition that all of them are created equal. And I've found out in my present capacity now that -- I love to tell jokes now and then but I -- almost restricted to Irish jokes. (Laughter). I can't stray for fear of some misunderstanding. (Laughter).

But our national character is based on a common identity with a single ideal, a shared value that overcomes our differences and unites us as a people. What has made us a nation is our love of liberty and our realization that we're part of a great historic venture, an experiment in freedom to test the ability of people to live together in freedom, respecting the rights of others and expecting that their rights, in turn, will be respected.

I've said on a number of occasions that I can't help but believe, you can call it mysticism if you will, that God must have placed this land here between the oceans to be found by a certain kind of people and a kind only in one thing, that whatever corner of the world they came from they had the courage and the desire for freedom that went with it to uproot themselves and come to this strange land beginning back when it was the most underdeveloped land in the world

MORE

and come here leaving family and come to a strange language and everything that went with that kind of a move.

I think our vision of liberty is reinforced by shared symbols and experiences. Perhaps the strongest image of them all is the one that for millions of Americans was their first glimpse of America that Statue of Liberty.

At the turn of the century, America was blessed with an influx of new immigrants who became citizens and played a significant role in building our country and protecting our freedom. Most of them entered under the shadow of the Statue and were processed into the United States, as we know, through Ellis Island. Between 1892 and its closing in 1954, Ellis Island was the clearing house for millions of immigrants. Many who passed through the gates at Ellis Island had little more than what they carried with them. Yet they possessed a determination that with hard work and freedom, they would live a better life and their children even more so.

They were captured by the American dream and both they and their new country were the better for their efforts and their faith because they not only came here for something but just as they came from every corner of the world, they brought something from every corner of the world to this great melting pot. And maybe in so doing, they proved how artificial are the prejudices and the hatreds that exist in the world because we proved that we could all mix and, I don't know, to this day, one of the first questions you usually ask when you make friends with someone is, what is their ancestry, what country and it use to be that they'd say Irish or German or French or whatever and now they have to say three or four names because they've mixed. In fact, I've got three in mine -- Irish, English, and Scotch but -- and our children can add a fourth and have another country now. But today we declare that no longer functioning as it is, the Ellis Island as a processing center, its contribution is not over. It remains a unifying memory for millions of our citizens.

Our goal is to restore Ellis Island in time for the celebration of the centennial of the Statue of Liberty beginning on July 4th, 1984. I might add one note. The Statue of Liberty was built with funds contributed by people from all over France. Its base was constructed in part with contributions from American school children. And restoring Ellis Island, another monument to our freedom, is worthy of the same kind of heartfelt, voluntary effort. Both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island can help us all remember how grateful we should be to live in this land of freedom and good will.

You know, I know that there's one here, or have you already told them? Lee's parents came to this country in search of that kind of opportunity and through Ellis Island. And he certainly has proven what America has to offer for those immigrants or for the sons and the daughters of them.

So, now I just thank you all for being here with us today to help launch this campaign. And God bless you all.

SECRETARY WATT: Thank you very much, Mr. President.  
(Applause.)

When I introduced the other members of the commission, I failed to have them stand up. Would you stand up and -- I'm not sure where you are, the other members of the commission that have been appointed and if, Mr. President, I'd like -- if these men that have agreed to serve on the President's commission would come forward, I'd like to introduce the President to you and we'll catch him before he gets out, if I could ask you men to come over here. And Lee, if you'll join us.

(The Secretary introduces the commission members.)

THE PRESIDENT: I think we're all grateful to these gentlemen who that are going to take on this task and I know that

we'll get it done. And they told me now that I have to leave and go back to work. (Laughter. Applause.)

END

1:35 P.M. EDT

Patsy -

make sure Cmsn. is set up

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM

speech writing should do 4/30/82  
remarks - press will be there

TO: CRAIG FULLER  
FROM: <sup>FOR</sup> GREGORY J. NEWELL  
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

PLEASE IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING AND NOTIFY AND CLEAR ALL PARTICIPANTS. THE BRIEFING PAPER AND REMARKS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO RICHARD DARMAN BY 3 P.M. OF THE PRECEDING DAY.

MEETING: Announcement of Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Commission

DATE: May 18, 1982

TIME: 1:45 pm

DURATION: 10 minutes

LOCATION: Rose Garden

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: Coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY  
PARTICIPATION: No

**REMARKS REQUIRED**

cc: A. Bakshian  
M. Brandon  
R. Darman  
R. DeProspero  
K. Duberstein  
D. Fischer  
C. Fuller  
E. Hickey  
M. McManus  
E. Rollins  
C. Romero  
B. Shaddix  
L. Speakes  
S. Studdert  
WHCA Audio/Visual  
WHCA Operations  
R. Williamson  
N. Wormser  
A. Wrobleski

REC'D. CA APR 30 1982

**REMARKS RECEIVED**

EF

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Mid-May

Files

Done  
5/18/82

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

APPROVED FOR

5/10 at  
1:45

Date: 5/18/82  
Time: 1:45  
Length: 10 min

✓

Date 4/29/82  
April 28, 1982 GJN

1200701

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TO: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM: Craig L. Fuller *CF/RK*

REQUEST: Announcement of Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission

PURPOSE: The Department of Interior has created the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission to assist in raising funds needed for rehabilitation and to plan for the celebration of the centennial of the Statue of Liberty, beginning on July 4, 1984. Because of the importance of these two national symbols, and in keeping with the President's concept of volunteerism, Secretary Watt has requested that the President make the announcement. The President's involvement in the announcement will aid the Commission in achieving its goal of raising \$150 million.

BACKGROUND: Due to the number of private groups that have expressed an interest in assisting in the efforts to rehabilitate Ellis Island and the upcoming centennial of the Statue of Liberty, an "umbrella" group has been created to coordinate both efforts. The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission will provide advice on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each. Mr. Lee Iacocco, whose parents immigrated through Ellis Island, will serve as Chairman.

It is the goal of the Park Service to develop Ellis Island, which was the clearinghouse for over 12 million immigrants between 1892 and 1954, into a major visitor attraction. This project will be the initial prototype for the leasing of historic structures under the new amendments to the Historic Preservation Act, providing a vivid example of private sector involvement for other federal agencies to follow.

DATE: Mid-May DURATION: 10 Minutes

LOCATION: Rose Garden

PARTICIPANTS: A list of participants will be provided.

OUTLINE OF EVENT: Remarks by Secretary Watt and ... 5 minutes  
Introduction of Mr. Iacocco

Remarks by Mr. Iacocco ... 5 minutes

Secretary Watt Will Greet  
The President

The President Will Make ... 10 minutes  
Remarks and Shake Hands  
as Time Permits

REMARKS REQUIRED: Brief Remarks

MEDIA COVERAGE: White House Press

RECOMMENDED BY: Craig L. Fuller and Secretary Watt

PROJECT OFFICER: Craig L. Fuller

074438  
004438



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Greg Newell  
Director of Presidential Appointments and Scheduling

From: James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission  
Request for Announcement by the President

Background - Ellis Island, located off the New Jersey shoreline in upper New York Bay and lying in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, is remembered as the port of entry and clearinghouse for over 12 million immigrants between 1892 and 1954. Approximately three-fourths of the immigrants entering the U.S. during those years were processed through its gates. While mass examination of immigrants at Ellis Island ended in 1924, the station continued to serve for several years as a detention center for immigrants whose status was questioned.

The Second Quota Act of 1924, which ended mass immigration and provided for the examination of immigrants at American consulates overseas, changed the principle function of Ellis Island. Henceforth, it became primarily a center for the assembly and deportation of aliens who had entered the U.S. or had violated the terms of their admittance. Fewer and fewer new immigrants, all of whom now received their inspection on the ships coming up the bay, were sent to Ellis Island either because their papers were not in order or because they required medical treatment. Accordingly, the buildings at Ellis Island fell into disuse and disrepair.

During WW II the Ellis Island facilities were used as a coast guard station, a hospital for returning wounded soldiers, and a detention center for suspected enemy aliens. Following decommissioning of the coast guard station in 1946, the island remained in use primarily as a detention center. A brief flurry of activity occurred on the island after the passage of the Internal Security Act of 1950, which excluding arriving aliens who had been members of communist or fascist organizations, and remodeling and repairs were performed on the buildings to accommodate the large number of detainees.

In 1951 the U.S. Public Health Service closed the hospital complex on Island 2, and it was temporarily taken over by the Coast Guard. As a result of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 and a liberalized detention policy enacted in 1954, Ellis Island was closed in November 1954 and declared excess Federal Property.

REC'D. CA APR 07 1982

During the next decade there was a variety of proposals for the disposition and use of the 33 brick and stucco buildings on the 27.5 acre island. In May of 1965 President Johnson issued Proclamation 3656 adding Ellis Island to the Statue of Liberty National Monument under the administration of the National Park Service.

Current Condition - Ellis Island has suffered from a history of neglect since the end of the mass immigrations of the first few decades of this century. It was not until the nation's Bicentennial in 1976 that steps were taken to halt deterioration of the buildings and make the island available for public visitation.

During the last five years, the National Park Service has stabilized and made weathertight the main building that served as the principle processing area for immigrants. The National Park Service has also repaired the seawall that prevents erosion to the man made island. Exterior stabilization is presently occurring at the hospital administration building opposite the main processing building. Repairs to the clay tile road and brick and stone masonry will be completed in the late fall. The work will prevent further deterioration of the structure due to water infiltration. The rest of the buildings continue to deteriorate.

From May to October, the Park Service presently conducts limited guided tours of the hall and some of the grounds. Within the structures, visitors must stay within specially constructed protective walkways, to prevent potential injury due to falling plaster.

Project Program - It is the goal of the Park Service to develop Ellis Island into a major visitor attraction with new interpretive programs at the immigration station complimenting the ongoing program at the Statue of Liberty, providing an incentive for many more people to visit both islands.

Given the serious state of disrepair of the structures on the island and the significant resources required to carry out their rehabilitation, the opportunity to involve private sector interest and initiative is being pursued. This project will be the initial prototype for the leasing of historic structures under the new amendments to the Historic Preservation Act, providing a vivid example of private sector involvement for other federal agencies to follow.

Due to the number of private groups that have expressed an interest in assisting in the efforts to rehabilitate Ellis Island and the upcoming centennial of the Statue of Liberty an "umbrella" group has been proposed to coordinate both efforts (see diagram attached). The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission would be a body appointed by the Secretary under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463) to provide advice on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each.

Request for announcement by the President - Due to importance of these two national symbols, we would request that the President make the announcement of the formation of the advisory commission. It has been suggested that a reception in the East Room of the White House would be an appropriate vehicle for such an announcement. The commission will be in place by the second week of April and any time within that month would be acceptable. I will be traveling during April 14-15 and 19-20, but should be available during the rest of the month.

Office of the Secretary

STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Notice of Establishment

This notice is published in accordance with Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463). Following consultation with the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior is establishing the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. The purpose of the Commission shall be to serve as the primary citizen advisory body to the Secretary and the National Park Service on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each. It is anticipated that the Commission will advise the Secretary, without limitation, on the means and schedules of preservation, the projected uses of the facilities, the needs and uses of donated funds, property and services, the programs and activities associated with centennial celebrations and the ongoing programs and activities associated with both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

Further information regarding the committee may be obtained from the Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th & C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

The certification of establishment is published below.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior by 16 U.S.C., et seq., and 16 U.S.C. § 431, et seq.

MAR 11 1982

Date



Acting Secretary of the Interior

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NOTE: This notice must be published in the Federal Register at least fifteen days prior to the filing of the committee charter with the appropriate committees of Congress. The committee may not meet or take action prior to the time the charter is filed.

## CHARTER

### STATUTE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

1. The official designation of the committee is the Statute of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission.
2. The purpose of the Commission shall be to serve as the primary citizen advisory body to the Secretary and the National Park Service on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statute of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each. It is anticipated that the Commission will advise the Secretary, without limitation, on the means and schedules of preservation, the projected uses of the facilities, the needs and uses of donated funds, property and services, the programs and activities associated with centennial celebrations and the on-going programs and activities associated with both the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island. In order to provide a consolidated vehicle for such advice, other groups and individuals will be encouraged to work with and provide their ideas and advice to the Secretary and the National Park Service through the Commission.

To effectuate these purposes, the Commission may form itself into committees, subcommittees, and ad hoc committees as may be necessary. Membership on all committees shall be determined by the Chairman.

Meetings of all committees, as well as meetings of the Commission shall be subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as are appropriate under the circumstances.

3. The life of the Commission is expected to extend through 1992, the centennial of the beginning of Ellis Island's service as an immigration station. In view of the goals and purpose of the Commission, the period of its life will be reviewed prior to December 31, 1992, to determine whether or not legislative or further administrative extension is appropriate. The Commission will be reviewed biennially and will terminate at that time unless renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, P.L. 92-463.
4. The Commission will report to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.
5. The National Park Service will provide necessary support for the Commission.

6. The Commission duties are solely advisory and are as stated in paragraph 2.
7. The estimated annual operating cost of the Commission is \$60,000.00 which includes approximately two staff years of administrative support.
8. The Commission will meet at least quarterly.
9. The Commission will terminate two years from the date of filing of this charter, unless prior to that date, legislation has been enacted extending the life of the Commission, or administrative action is taken by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1a-2(c) and Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to extend the life of the Commission.
10. The Commission will have an undetermined number of members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. It is anticipated there will be no more than 21 members; however, additional members from category 2, below, may serve to increase this number. The members will be drawn from the following categories:

→ 1) One member from each of the states of New Jersey and New York and the cities of New York and Jersey City, to be selected from lists of nominees recommended by the governors of the states of New Jersey and New York and the mayors of the cities of New York and Jersey City;

→ 2) One member from each of those organizations which enters into a memorandum of understanding or other agreement with the Director of the National Park Service concerning furtherance of the purposes enumerated in paragraph 2 of this Charter;

→ 3) 9 members representing the broad range of interests inherent in the functions of the Commission as enumerated in paragraph 2 of this Charter.

Members of the Commission will serve terms of two years, at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Interior. The Chairperson of the Commission will be named by the Secretary of the Interior from among the third category of members. Vacancies occurring during a term by reason of removal, resignation, or death shall be filled for the remaining balance of the term.

11. The statutory authority for the creation of the Commission is 16 U.S.C. § 1a-2(c), as the Commission will provide significant assistance to the National Park Service in preparing for and in celebrating the centennials of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Commission is

necessary in furtherance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior by 16 U.S.C. § 431, et seq. and Presidential Proclamation # 1713 (43 Stat. 1968) thereunder.

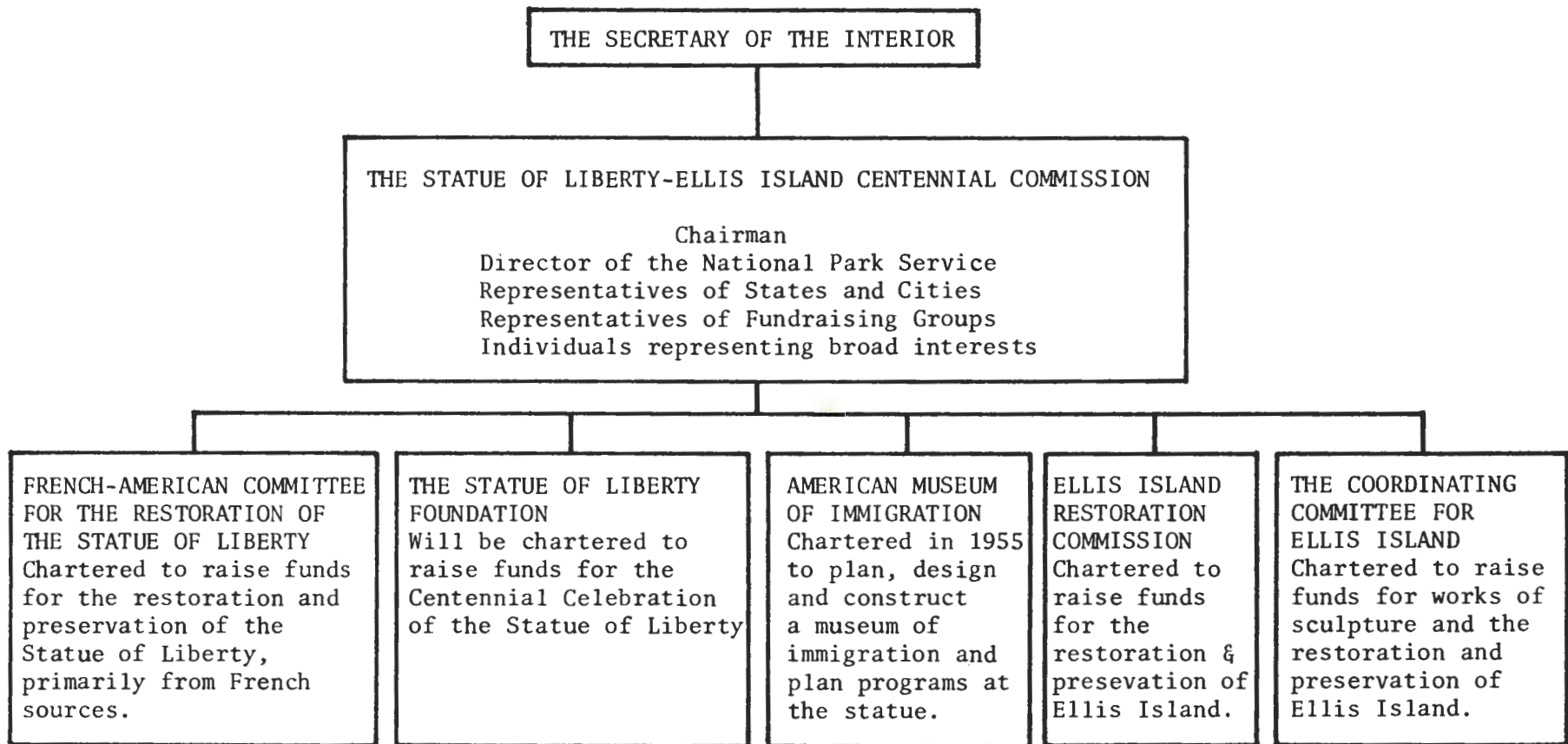
12. Commission members will receive no compensation for their services on the Commission, but may be allowed necessary travel expenses as authorized by 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

*Ronald Paul Hodel*

Acting Secretary of the Interior

Date signed: MAR 11 1982

Date Charter Filed: \_\_\_\_\_



The purpose of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission will be to serve as the primary citizen advisory body to the Secretary and the National Park Service on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the Centennial celebrations of each. It is anticipated that the Commission will advise the Secretary, without limitation, on the means and schedules of preservation, the projected uses of the facilities, the needs and uses of donated funds, property and services, the programs and activities associated with Centennial celebrations and the ongoing programs and activities associated with both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

MEMORANDUM  
OF CALL

TO: KDOI contact:

YOU WERE CALLED BY—  YOU WERE VISITED BY—  
Garnett Chapin

OF (Organization) Interior

PLEASE CALL → PHONE NO. 343-7343  FTS  
CODE/EXT.  
 WILL CALL AGAIN  IS WAITING TO SEE YOU  
 RETURNED YOUR CALL  WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

1<sup>st</sup> date that's good for  
Iacocca + Watt;  
April 22 / if needs to be  
later

RECEIVED BY J | DATE 4/8 | TIME 1140

Staff: Red Cavany  
Moorhead

**OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS  
ACTION TRACKING WORKSHEET**

Action resulting from:

- document (attached)
- telephone call
- meeting (attach conference report if available)

Document Date: 82 / 04 / 07

From: Secretary James G. Watt

Date Received: 82 / 04 / 07

Subject: Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission.  
Request for Announcement by the President.

**ACTION CODES:**

- A — Appropriate Action
- B — Briefing Paper
- C — Comment/Recommendation
- D — Draft Response
- F — Furnish Fact Sheet
- I — Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R — Direct Reply w/Copy
- S — For Signature
- X — Interim Reply

**ROUTE TO:**

| Date Sent    | Name        | Action Codes | Date Due | Action Taken |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| 82 / 04 / 09 | Greg Newell | A            | / /      |              |
| / /          | Fred Ryan   |              | / /      |              |
| / /          |             |              | / /      |              |
| / /          |             |              | / /      |              |
| / /          |             |              | / /      |              |
| / /          |             |              | / /      |              |

COMMENTS: Greg: Fuller has discussed with Deaver. Fuller recommends.  
Deaver has no objection.

Karen -

In light of the attached recommendation from Cavany and Moorhead does Craig still want to pursue?  
820427 - Yes - CHF wants to schedule Fred Ryan 4/26/82

Originator:  Dunlop  Faoro  Fuller  Gonzalez  Hart  Hodapp

**KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING MATERIAL AND WHEN THE ASSIGNED ACTION IS COMPLETE, RETURN TO:**



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

APRIL 20, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: ✓ RED CAVANEY - JAY MOORHEAD

FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION.

APR 20 1982

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Announcement of Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission

DATE: ---

LOCATION: The White House

BACKGROUND: See attached.

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept \_\_\_ Regret \_\_\_ Surrogate \_\_\_ Message \_\_\_ Other X  
 Priority \_\_\_  
 Routine \_\_\_

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

*Nice, worthwhile venture however it would  
 answer not to need the IP time. Do not object  
 at, therefore, defer to Jay Moorhead.*

*FJR*  
*Ryan*

APR 21 1982

RESPONSE DUE ASAP TO Fred J. Ryan

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

APRIL 20, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: ✓ JAY MOORHEAD - RED CAVANEY  
FROM: GREGORY J. NEWELL, DIRECTOR  
PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING  
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION.

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT: Announcement of Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission

DATE: ---

LOCATION: The White House

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept \_\_\_ Regret ✓ Surrogate \_\_\_ Message \_\_\_ Other ✓  
Priority \_\_\_  
Routine \_\_\_

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

- Too many Presidential Commissions already
- The President could mention in a speech at some later date, about the PSI efforts underway

RESPONSE DUE ASAP TO Fred J. Ryan

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1982  
5:45 p.m.

DACOM TO:       CRAIG L. FULLER  
                  Jamaica

FROM:            KAREN HART  
                  (Ext. 2823)

Send to Greg -  
CLF + MKD discussed  
CLF - recommends  
MKD - no objection

Summary Information

Discretionary Secretarial Appointment

Committee: STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Purpose: To serve as the primary citizen advisory body to the Secretary and the National Park Service on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each.

Date of Vacancies: Current

Number of Vacancies: 9

*OPD gets 4*

Length of Term: 2 years

Approximate No. Meetings Annually: 4

Compensation: Travel and per diem

PBA - M Howard



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

April 7, 1982

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

Dear Mr. President:

We at the Department of the Interior have been exploring new approaches to funding projects within the National Park Service. One such project now being pursued involves the rehabilitation of elements of the Statue of Liberty National Monument including the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, the former immigration center through which over one third of the current U. S. population can trace one or more of their forebearers.

In keeping with your concept of volunteerism, we are looking to the private sector for significant assistance in the process of fundraising for the rehabilitation of these two important National Landmarks. The Statue of Liberty, a gift from the French in 1884, is in need of major repairs due to the ravages of time and the constant moisture of New York Harbor. Ellis Island has been essentially abandoned since 1954 and has suffered similar deterioration.

In order to carry out these rehabilitation efforts, the Department has created the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. The Commission's primary function will be assisting in raising the 100 million dollars needed for rehabilitation, and to plan for the celebration of the centennial of the Statue of Liberty beginning on July 4, 1984.

It is our belief that the rehabilitation of these two symbols of liberty will help rekindle the spirit which made America great, and can contribute to the national renewal that will restore our land to economic and spiritual health. Therefore, we would like to invite you to announce the formation of this blue ribbon commission, and initiate this most significant private effort.

The Commission has received the approvals from the General Services Administration and the Office of Management and Budget, and is to be chaired by Mr. Lee Iacocco. Mr. Iacocco's parents immigrated through Ellis Island. We hope that you and Mrs. Reagan can both be involved in the announcement of the Commission and its goals at the convenience of your schedules.

Sincerely,

*James G. Watt*  
JAMES G. WATT

*Month before 1984  
to announce  
rehabilitation - postcard*

cc:  
Secy Files  
Secy RF (2)  
US (2)  
Ex Sec  
GChapin:z:4-7-82:4-7-82:35183

ES#42841



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

## MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Greg Newell  
Director of Presidential Appointments and Scheduling

From: James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior

Subject: Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission  
Request for Announcement by the President

Background - Ellis Island, located off the New Jersey shoreline in upper New York Bay and lying in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, is remembered as the port of entry and clearinghouse for over 12 million immigrants between 1892 and 1954. Approximately three-fourths of the immigrants entering the U.S. during those years were processed through its gates. While mass examination of immigrants at Ellis Island ended in 1924, the station continued to serve for several years as a detention center for immigrants whose status was questioned.

The Second Quota Act of 1924, which ended mass immigration and provided for the examination of immigrants at American consulates overseas, changed the principle function of Ellis Island. Henceforth, it became primarily a center for the assembly and deportation of aliens who had entered the U.S. or had violated the terms of their admittance. Fewer and fewer new immigrants, all of whom now received their inspection on the ships coming up the bay, were sent to Ellis Island either because their papers were not in order or because they required medical treatment. Accordingly, the buildings at Ellis Island fell into disuse and disrepair.

During WW II the Ellis Island facilities were used as a coast guard station, a hospital for returning wounded soldiers, and a detention center for suspected enemy aliens. Following decommissioning of the coast guard station in 1946, the island remained in use primarily as a detention center. A brief flurry of activity occurred on the island after the passage of the Internal Security Act of 1950, which excluding arriving aliens who had been members of communist or fascist organizations, and remodeling and repairs were performed on the buildings to accommodate the large number of detainees.

In 1951 the U.S. Public Health Service closed the hospital complex on Island 2, and it was temporarily taken over by the Coast Guard. As a result of the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952 and a liberalized detention policy enacted in 1954, Ellis Island was closed in November 1954 and declared excess Federal Property.

During the next decade there was a variety of proposals for the disposition and use of the 33 brick and stucco buildings on the 27.5 acre island. In May of 1965 President Johnson issued Proclamation 3656 adding Ellis Island to the Statue of Liberty National Monument under the administration of the National Park Service.

Current Condition - Ellis Island has suffered from a history of neglect since the end of the mass immigrations of the first few decades of this century. It was not until the nation's Bicentennial in 1976 that steps were taken to halt deterioration of the buildings and make the island available for public visitation.

During the last five years, the National Park Service has stabilized and made weathertight the main building that served as the principle processing area for immigrants. The National Park Service has also repaired the seawall that prevents erosion to the man made island. Exterior stabilization is presently occurring at the hospital administration building opposite the main processing building. Repairs to the clay tile road and brick and stone masonry will be completed in the late fall. The work will prevent further deterioration of the structure due to water infiltration. The rest of the buildings continue to deteriorate.

From May to October, the Park Service presently conducts limited guided tours of the hall and some of the grounds. Within the structures, visitors must stay within specially constructed protective walkways, to prevent potential injury due to falling plaster.

Project Program - It is the goal of the Park Service to develop Ellis Island into a major visitor attraction with new interpretive programs at the immigration station complimenting the ongoing program at the Statue of Liberty, providing an incentive for many more people to visit both islands.

Given the serious state of disrepair of the structures on the island and the significant resources required to carry out their rehabilitation, the opportunity to involve private sector interest and initiative is being pursued. This project will be the initial prototype for the leasing of historic structures under the new amendments to the Historic Preservation Act, providing a vivid example of private sector involvement for other federal agencies to follow.

Due to the number of private groups that have expressed an interest in assisting in the efforts to rehabilitate Ellis Island and the upcoming centennial of the Statue of Liberty an "umbrella" group has been proposed to coordinate both efforts (see diagram attached). The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission would be a body appointed by the Secretary under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463) to provide advice on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each.

Request for announcement by the President - Due to importance of these two national symbols, we would request that the President make the announcement of the formation of the advisory commission. It has been suggested that a reception in the East Room of the White House would be an appropriate vehicle for such an announcement. The commission will be in place by the second week of April and any time within that month would be acceptable. I will be traveling during April 14-15 and 19-20, but should be available during the rest of the month.

DRAFT OF REMARK<sup>S</sup> TO BE MADE BY SECRETARY WATT AT THE WHITE HOUSE -- 18 May 1982

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you here this afternoon to announce a most significant private initiative to restore two of our Nation's greatest symbols of opportunity -- the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

As many of you are aware, Ellis Island, the portal to freedom for millions of hopeful new Americans seeking a better life, has lain all but abandoned in New York Harbor since the mid-fifties and is now in a serious state of disrepair. And the Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France and a beacon of freedom to all the world's people is equally in need of major repairs due to the ravages of time, the constant moisture of New York Harbor, and the footsteps of millions of visitors a year climbing to her crown.

In a time when expenditures of Federal dollars must be restrained in order to help preserve those very freedoms these great symbols represent, we are calling upon dedicated citizens and private institutions to help with this massive restoration effort.

With this objective in mind, we have asked a group of outstanding citizens to help us mobilize this effort; individuals who know the results of hard work and the opportunities provided by our system of free enterprise and private initiative. Individuals who have not forgotten that this is, and always has been a nation of immigrants.

The one hundredth anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty is coming up in 1986; that's just a few years away, and with the help of this new commission and the generous offer of assistance from the people of France, we hope to have "The Lady", as she is affectionately known, completely rejuvenated for a grand birthday party. At the same time, we hope a restored Ellis Island will be open to the public to serve as an inspiration for the next one hundred years.

With these hopes and ambitions in mind, it is my great pleasure to introduce Mr. Lee Iacocca, whose parents came to America through the gates of Ellis Island, as the chairman of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. Mr. Iacocca...



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

## THE STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION FACT SHEET

The Centennial Commission charter was signed by the Under Secretary as Acting Secretary on March 11, was given final approval by the General Services Administration and the Office of Management and Budget on April 5, and was filed with the appropriate committees of Congress on April 8, 1982. (The organizational chart and commission charter are attached.)

Mr. Lee Iacocca has accepted the chairmanship of the new commission and intends to raise all necessary funds for the operation of the commission from the private sector. Mr. Paul Bergmoser, former President of the Chrysler Corporation has been selected as the new executive director for the commission.

In addition to Mr. Iacocca, ~~eight~~<sup>six</sup> at large members have been selected and approved by the White House Office of Personnel. All but one have been notified and accepted (see asterisk).

- Mr. Lee Iacocca, Chairman, The Chrysler Corporation
- Mr. Bob Hope, Ventura, California
- Mrs. Delores Hope, Ventura, California
- Mr. Peter G. Peterson, Chairman, Lehman Bros., Kuhn, and Loeb
- ~~Mr. Leonard Goldenson, Chairman, ABC Television~~
- Mr. Armen G. Avedisian, Chairman and CEO, The Avedisian Co.
- Mr. John Kluge, Chairman and President, Metromedia Television
- ~~Mr. Richard Manoogian, Chairman, Masco Corporation~~
- \* Mr. Peter Ueberroth, President, Los Angeles Olympic Committee  
(currently traveling out of the country)

The Governor of the State of New Jersey and the Mayor of the city of Jersey have made and the White House has approved their nominations to the commission. The Governor of the State of New York and the Mayor of New York City have yet to make their nominations. Two of the private groups asked to nominate representatives have done so.

- Mr. T. Robert Zochowski, representing the Governor of New Jersey
- Mr. Morris Pesin, representing the Mayor of Jersey City
- Mr. Phil Lax, representing the Ellis Island Restoration Commission
- M. Philippe Vallery-Radot, representing the French-American  
Committee for the Restoration of the Statue of Liberty

Office of the Secretary

STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Notice of Establishment

This notice is published in accordance with Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (P.L. 92-463). Following consultation with the General Services Administration, notice is hereby given that the Secretary of the Interior is establishing the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission. The purpose of the Commission shall be to serve as the primary citizen advisory body to the Secretary and the National Park Service on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each. It is anticipated that the Commission will advise the Secretary, without limitation, on the means and schedules of preservation, the projected uses of the facilities, the needs and uses of donated funds, property and services, the programs and activities associated with centennial celebrations and the ongoing programs and activities associated with both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

Further information regarding the committee may be obtained from the Director, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th & C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.

The certification of establishment is published below.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior by 16 U.S.C., et seq., and 16 U.S.C. § 431, et seq.

MAR 11 1982

Date



Acting Secretary of the Interior

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NOTE: This notice must be published in the Federal Register at least fifteen days prior to the filing of the committee charter with the appropriate committees of Congress. The committee may not meet or take action prior to the time the charter is filed.

## CHARTER

### STATUTE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

1. The official designation of the committee is the Statute of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission.
2. The purpose of the Commission shall be to serve as the primary citizen advisory body to the Secretary and the National Park Service on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statute of Liberty, as well as the centennial celebrations of each. It is anticipated that the Commission will advise the Secretary, without limitation, on the means and schedules of preservation, the projected uses of the facilities, the needs and uses of donated funds, property and services, the programs and activities associated with centennial celebrations and the on-going programs and activities associated with both the Statute of Liberty and Ellis Island. In order to provide a consolidated vehicle for such advice, other groups and individuals will be encouraged to work with and provide their ideas and advice to the Secretary and the National Park Service through the Commission.

To effectuate these purposes, the Commission may form itself into committees, subcommittees, and ad hoc committees as may be necessary. Membership on all committees shall be determined by the Chairman.

Meetings of all committees, as well as meetings of the Commission shall be subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act as are appropriate under the circumstances.

3. The life of the Commission is expected to extend through 1992, the centennial of the beginning of Ellis Island's service as an immigration station. In view of the goals and purpose of the Commission, the period of its life will be reviewed prior to December 31, 1992, to determine whether or not legislative or further administrative extension is appropriate. The Commission will be reviewed biennially and will terminate at that time unless renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, P.L. 92-463.
4. The Commission will report to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior.
5. The National Park Service will provide necessary support for the Commission.

6. The Commission duties are solely advisory and are as stated in paragraph 2.
7. The estimated annual operating cost of the Commission is \$60,000.00 which includes approximately two staff years of administrative support.
8. The Commission will meet at least quarterly.
9. The Commission will terminate two years from the date of filing of this charter, unless prior to that date, legislation has been enacted extending the life of the Commission, or administrative action is taken by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 1a-2(c) and Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act to extend the life of the Commission.
10. The Commission will have an undetermined number of members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. It is anticipated there will be no more than 21 members; however, additional members from category 2, below, may serve to increase this number. The members will be drawn from the following categories:

- 1) One member from each of the states of New Jersey and New York and the cities of New York and Jersey City, to be selected from lists of nominees recommended by the governors of the states of New Jersey and New York and the mayors of the cities of New York and Jersey City;

- 2) One member from each of those organizations which enters into a memorandum of understanding or other agreement with the Director of the National Park Service concerning furtherance of the purposes enumerated in paragraph 2 of this Charter;

- 3) 9 members representing the broad range of interests inherent in the functions of the Commission as enumerated in paragraph 2 of this Charter.

Members of the Commission will serve terms of two years, at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Interior. The Chairperson of the Commission will be named by the Secretary of the Interior from among the third category of members. Vacancies occurring during a term by reason of removal, resignation, or death shall be filled for the remaining balance of the term.

11. The statutory authority for the creation of the Commission is 16 U.S.C. § 1a-2(c), as the Commission will provide significant assistance to the National Park Service in preparing for and in celebrating the centennials of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Commission is

necessary in furtherance of duties imposed on the Department of the Interior by 16 U.S.C. § 431, et seq. and Presidential Proclamation # 1713 (43 Stat. 1968) thereunder.

12. Commission members will receive no compensation for their services on the Commission, but may be allowed necessary travel expenses as authorized by 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

*Ronald Paul Hodel*

Acting Secretary of the Interior

Date signed: MAR 11 1982

Date Charter Filed: \_\_\_\_\_

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY-ELLIS ISLAND CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Chairman

Director of the National Park Service  
Representatives of States and Cities  
Representatives of Fundraising Groups  
Individuals representing broad interests

FRENCH-AMERICAN COMMITTEE  
FOR THE RESTORATION OF  
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY  
Chartered to raise funds  
for the restoration and  
preservation of the  
Statue of Liberty,  
primarily from French  
sources.

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY  
FOUNDATION  
Will be chartered to  
raise funds for the  
Centennial Celebration  
of the Statue of Liberty

AMERICAN MUSEUM  
OF IMMIGRATION  
Chartered in 1955  
to plan, design  
and construct  
a museum of  
immigration and  
plan programs at  
the statue.

ELLIS ISLAND  
RESTORATION  
COMMISSION  
Chartered to  
raise funds  
for the  
restoration &  
presevation of  
Ellis Island.

THE COORDINATING  
COMMITTEE FOR  
ELLIS ISLAND  
Chartered to raise  
funds for works of  
sculpture and the  
restoration and  
preservation of  
Ellis Island.

The purpose of the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commision will be to serve as the primary citizen advisory body to the Secretary and the National Park Service on all matters pertaining to the preservation of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, as well as the Centennial celebrations of each. It is anticipated that the Commission will advise the Secretary, without limitation, on the means and schedules of preservation, the projected uses of the facilities, the needs and uses of donated funds, property and services, the programs and activities associated with Centennial celebrations and the ongoing programs and activities associated with both the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.