

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 1/28/86

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ASAP

SUBJECT: REMARKS: DEATH OF SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER CREW

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OGLESBY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REGAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	POINDEXTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MILLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RYAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHANAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPEAKES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHAVEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SPRINKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CHEW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	STEELMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DANIELS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SVAHN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	THOMAS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HENKEL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	TUTTLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HICKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ELLIOTT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KINGON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
LACY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Attached are the remarks the President is planning to make this afternoon. Please check for any factual inaccuracies as quickly as possible. Please give your comments directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office. Thanks.

RESPONSE: The NSC Staff has reviewed the attached Presidential remarks and has made a number of suggested changes.

William F. Martin
 William F. Martin
 Executive Secretary

cc: David L. Chew

David L. Chew
 Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

(Noonan)
January 28, 1986
Draft

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DEATH OF SPACE SHUTTLE CHALLENGER CREW
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 1986

Ladies and gentlemen, I had planned to speak to you tonight to report on the State of the Union, but the events of earlier today have led me to change those plans. Today is a day for mourning, and remembering.

Nancy, ~~and I are pained to the core by~~ ^{and all Americans have suffered a terrible loss because} the tragedy of the Shuttle Challenger. ~~We know we share this pain with all of the people of our country.~~ This is truly a national loss.

~~In more than a quarter century of the United States space program, we have never lost an astronaut in flight. We have never had a tragedy like this. And perhaps we have forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle. But they, the Magnificent Seven, were aware of the dangers -- and did their jobs brilliantly.~~ ^{thirteen years ago, almost to the day, we lost 3 astronauts in a terrible accident. On the other hand, they met their challenge head on and overcame them like those of the astronauts who have flown before them.}

We mourn seven heroes -- Michael Smith, Francis Scobee, Judith Resnick, Ronald McNair, Ellison Onizuka, Gregory Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe. ^{each in our own way, individually} We mourn their loss, ^{and we mourn them} as a Nation, together.

To the families of the Seven: We cannot bear, as you do, the full impact of this tragedy -- but we feel the loss, and we are thinking about you so very much. Your ~~relatives~~ ^{loved ones} were daring and brave and they had that special grace, that special spirit that said: Give me a challenge and I'll meet it with joy. They had a hunger to explore the universe and discover its truths. They wished to serve and they did -- they served all of us.

We have grown used to wonders in this century -- it's hard to dazzle us. But for 25 years the United States space program has been doing just that. We have grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we've only just begun, we're still pioneers -- they the members of the Challenger crew, were pioneers.

And I want to say something to the ^{school} children of America who were watching the live coverage of the shuttle's takeoff. I know it's hard to understand but sometimes painful things like this happen -- it's ~~is~~ part of the process of exploration and discovery -- it's ~~is~~ part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons. The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted -- it belongs to the brave, ^{to the bold, and to the daring. They were America's best} The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future -- and we'll continue to follow them. X

I've always had great faith in and respect for our space program -- and what happened today does nothing to diminish it. We don't hide our space program, we don't keep secrets and cover things up, we do it all up front, ~~and~~ in public. ^{for all to see.} That's the way freedom is, and we wouldn't change it for a minute.

We'll continue our quest in space. There will be more ^{flights} shuttles and more shuttle crews and, yes, more ^{volunteers, more civilians} ~~civilians~~, more teachers, in space. Nothing ends here -- our hopes and our journeys continue.

I want to add that I wish I could talk to every man and woman who works for NASA or who worked on this mission, and tell them: your dedication and professionalism have moved and

impressed us for decades, and we know of your anguish, ^{we share it.} but we're ~~sure you did your best to ensure a safe and successful flight~~

There's a coincidence today. On this day 390 years ago the great explorer Sir Francis Drake died aboard ship off the coast of Panama. In his lifetime the great frontiers were the oceans. And a historian later said, "He lived by the sea, died on it, and was buried in it." Today we can say of the Challenger Crew: ~~that they~~ ^{that they} ~~they lived by space, died in it, and were buried in it.~~ ^{for} their dedication was, like Drake's, complete. ✓

The crew of the space shuttle Challenger honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives. We will never forget them, nor the last time we saw them -- this morning, as they prepared for their journey, and waved goodbye, and "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God."

Thank you.

"reaches out and"

*we know how
rough this day
has been
for you.*