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American Community Greeting--Brussels, Belgium 5/30/89 [OA 6264]

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TALKING POINTS: AMERICAN COMMUNITY GREETING
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
MAY 30, 1989

- Barbara and I are pleased to have this opportunity to visit the Brussels American School.
- I want to commend my host here, Dr. Jennifer Beckwith, for the work you do at what is really a rather large one-room schoolhouse -- kindergarten on up.
- I also want to recognize our Ambassadors: Mike Glitman, our envoy to Belgium, Ambassador to NATO Alton Keel, and Ambassador to the EC Alfred Kingon.
- You serve with distinction in very demanding assignments.
- And it's a team effort. All of the foreign service family members in this room contribute to our successes.

- Right now, Brussels is the hub of some of the most important and exacting diplomatic missions in the world.
- Barbara and I remember our time in China -- the excitement, as well as the difficulties and risks involved in foreign service life.
- I assure you, I'll be doing all I can to make your overseas duty as rewarding, safe and fulfilling as possible.
- Thank you for this kind welcome. On behalf of all Americans, let me thank you for the real contribution all of you make to advance America's mission in the world.

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FAX

WHITE HOUSE ADVANCE OFFICE
Brussels, Belgium

From Washington:
Fax no. 395-2000-
5516 (dial tone) 218
(WH 5516 (tone) 218

From Belgium:
217-0579, ext 21

DATE 5/18/89

FAX (202) 456-6218

TEL _____

TO: Tri-Mission Community Event Speech Writer

FROM: Andrea Raiford

SUBJECT: Background Information

Please pass attached message to above addressee as soon as possible.
Thank you.

May 18, 1989

2 of 4

TO: Tri-Mission Community Event Speech Writer
FROM: Andrea Raiford
SUBJECT: Background Information

The following will be in attendance for the President's speech:
Members of the following:

- U.S. Embassy Staff
- U.S. Mission to the European Communities
- U.S. Bilateral Mission
- U.S. Military Delegation
- NATO Activity Communication Information Systems Agency
- Joint Administrative Services
- International Military Staff
- International Staff
- NATO Support Activity Staff
- Private Sector Americans

There will be a public address system for the following outside the main hall:

- Brussels American School (known as BAS)
- St. John's School
- International School of Brussels (known as ISB)

INTRODUCTION TO BRUSSELS AMERICAN SCHOOL

Brussels American School is, in effect, two schools under several roofs and one administration. The elementary school consists of a half-day kindergarten and grades 1 through 6. It has its own building, playground, library and special learning facilities. The secondary school consists of grades 7-12. It, too, has its own building, playing fields, library, special learning facilities, and labs for science, computer, home economics and business courses. The staff and students share the administration--a principal and an assistant principal; specialists--reading improvement, art, physical education, talented and gifted, and special education; office staff; cafeteria facilities and services; guidance and counseling services; health and referral services; supply; multi-purpose room; multi-level assemblies; gymnasium; bus transportation; and a maintenance crew. We are what is known as a Unit School, K-12. For purposes of statistics and student identity, however, we differentiate between elementary and secondary divisions.

There are approximately 300 students here, K-12. They are distributed remarkably evenly over thirteen grade levels. The faculty consists of 32 professional educators--26 classroom teachers, a guidance counselor and 5 specialists. Two administrators supervise and manage the total complex. There is one administrative secretary, one clerk-typist and a half-time tuition clerk. We also have a cafeteria and maintenance staff, all employed through NSA. Ours is a somewhat international school in that we have students from several NATO countries, as well as several host-nation staff members.

Brussels American School belongs to a federal organization known as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS), a system consisting of approximately 300 schools worldwide. As a member of DoDDS, this school's mission is to provide educational opportunities comparable to those offered in quality school systems in the United States. Brussels American School has never failed in meeting that objective. Within the curriculum there is ample opportunity for emphasis on concepts and activities germane to our specific student body and community. At the same time, the school is charged with curricular responsibilities as set by the DoDDS system. It is beneficial for students and parents to bear this in mind. This school is part of the ninth largest school system in American public education, a system which has highly professional and educational policies and standards which BAS will always follow.

The school has traditionally taken advantage of its location in sponsoring student excursions and field trips. There is a developing interaction between our school and local Belgian and other schools. Because BAS is a tax-exempt school and is subject to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the United States and Belgium, only students whose sponsors are employed by the U.S. Government or NATO can be enrolled here.

HISTORY OF BRUSSELS AMERICAN SCHOOL

Brussels American School was constructed in the Brussels area because of the relocation of the American military and NATO Headquarters from France at the end of 1966. Many of the first students and teachers moved from France to Brussels with the school. BAS currently consists of four buildings situated on an attractive 17-acre landscaped campus. Since its opening in October 1967, numerous improvements have been made to the facilities, including the construction of a new supply building and art room, playing fields and track facilities.

The first accreditation of the Brussels American School was granted in April 1968. Accreditation has continued regularly without citation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, headquartered in Boulder, Colorado.

The Brussels American School has the distinct advantage of maintaining a small enrollment. It permits the students and staff to have a high degree of close, personal contact. A family atmosphere exists. It is felt that the course offerings are rather extensive and compare favorably to the curriculum of larger DoD schools and schools of respective size in the United States. The school size also permits the majority of students to actively participate in athletic and extracurricular activities, a characteristic which is not indicative of larger schools, wherever they might be.

The student population is unusual for DoD schools. The presence of students from many of NATO's member nations--Canada, Greece, Turkey, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Italy and Great Britain--enhances an already culturally-strong student body.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BRIEFING PAPER

McGROARTY

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THE PRESIDENT'S AMERICAN COMMUNITY GREETING IN BRUSSELS

- o This event is scheduled to take place in the gymnasium of the Brussels American School (BAS). This campus was constructed in 1967 and sits on 17 acres within a few miles of both downtown Brussels and the airport.
- o BAS is a Department of Defense-supported school and offers American-style education from kindergarten through grade 12 (senior high school). Children from the American business community and others also are enrolled. About 350 children currently attend BAS.
- o The anticipated audience of 1500-2000 will include students and parents of the BAS as well as U.S. personnel from the tri-mission community (Embassy Brussels, U.S. Mission NATO, and U.S. Mission to the European Community). Other Americans resident in Brussels may also attend.
- o The tri-mission community in Brussels is among the largest official American communities overseas.
- o This will be the President's primary opportunity to address remarks to Americans serving in Brussels. Many in this audience will be interested in NATO and EC issues, as well as our bilateral relationship with Belgium; however, like most Americans living overseas, they are also preoccupied with issues of terrorism and the threat to Americans and their families abroad.

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