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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 10, 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *cw*
FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EMW*
SUBJECT: CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO THE ARMED FORCES

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, December 11, at 2:15 p.m., you will videotape a message to U.S. Armed Forces stationed around the world. The taping will occur in the OEOB studio, Room 457.

II. DISCUSSION

The address (5 minutes, on teleprompter) pays tribute to our military for their part in the expansion of freedom and democracy around the world this year. To those serving in the Persian Gulf, there is a strong reminder of why they are there, and how America continues to firmly support their mission.

McNally/Simon
December 10, 1990
Draft 4 (B:TROOPS)

**PRESIDENTIAL VIDEO: CHRISTMAS GREETING TO THE TROOPS
ROOM 457, O.E.O.B.
TUESDAY, DEC. 11, 1990, 2:15 P.M.**

Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays, to you who are standing watch around the world. Never have I been prouder of our troops. Never have I been prouder to be your Commander-in-Chief. **Because in this season of peace, it is your commitment and your courage that makes peace possible.**

We think of you on the snowy fields and runways of Europe where, thanks to you, millions are celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah openly for the first time in 45 years. We think of you off the coast of the Philippines, in Japan, and on the DMZ in Korea. Thanks to you, the seeds of democracy saw shelter from the winds of war, took root, and now promise a new day in the Pacific. We think of you in Panama, where lightning success last Christmas ended the reign of a despot and brought peace to a people. We think of you in the air, on the high seas, and at bases and embassies around the world, who kept our country untouched and at peace throughout the long winter darkness of the Cold War. Back home, some talk of the cost of war. But it is **you who understand the price of peace.**

Each Christmas Day, we close our eyes in prayer and think of what Harry Truman called "the humble surroundings of the nativity and how from a straw-littered stable, shone a light which for nearly 20 centuries has given men strength, comfort, and peace." It is distant in time but close within our hearts. Because on

this Christmas Day, hour by hour, hand in hand, Americans will send their prayers eastward across the ocean and halfway across the world -- not only to the town of Bethlehem -- but to the sands and shores where you stand in harm's way.

We're in the Gulf because the world must not reward aggression, because our vital interests are at stake, and because of the brutality and danger of Saddam Hussein. We're there backed by 12 U.N. resolutions -- and the forces of 25 other nations.

Barbara and I spent Thanksgiving with our men and women over there. When we got back, I spoke to the American people, told them of your bravery, and reminded them why we're there. First, I put the immorality of the invasion of Kuwait itself. I said I was deeply concerned about what has happened and is happening there: concerned about a ruthless despot's attempt to dominate a volatile and critical region; concerned about his efforts to acquire nuclear arms; and concerned that a promising era is threatened by an international outlaw.

And I told the American people something else: That we want peace -- not war -- and that I will do my level best to bring you home without a single shot fired. And let me say one other thing: The sacrifices you make will never be forgotten. America is behind you. The world is behind you. And history is behind you. When you come home -- and we hope it's soon -- you will be welcomed as what you are -- all-American heroes.

Today at the White House -- and all across America -- candles burn in remembrance of you and all our troops, across the

country, and around the world. There is no way Americans can forget the contribution you are making to world peace and to our country. Whenever we see "Old Glory" snapping in the breeze, we think of you. Whenever we hear the inspirational words of "The Star-Spangled Banner," we think of you. Whenever we enjoy the boundless opportunities of a free country, we think of you.

**History may make men. But you are making history. **

I think of Lt. Mary Danko, a flight nurse who volunteered for Saudi Arabia. Her husband, a C-130 navigator, was already flying in support of Desert Shield. When asked if leaving their baby with relatives was a hard thing to do, Mary said: "It's the right thing to do. We're needed." When asked: "But what about the kid?" Mary explained: "We're doing it for the kid." \\\

Mary's right. She knows that when peace and freedom triumph, it's not a triumph for one particular country or one particular people -- but a triumph for our children -- a triumph for all humankind. \\\

And so it is with the holidays. For tonight the star of Bethlehem and the candles of the Menorah will cast their light in American outposts around the world, with a timeless message of hope and renewal that radiates to people of all faiths. \\\ Each of you is precious. Each life is important because it touches so many other lives. And while you may be out of America's sight -- rest assured no matter where you serve you will never be out of America's heart. \\\

Merry Christmas -- Happy Hanukkah -- happy holidays to you
all. God keep you and watch over you. And God bless America.

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McNally/Simon
December 7, 1990
Draft Three (B:TROOPS)

**PRESIDENTIAL VIDEO: CHRISTMAS GREETING TO THE TROOPS
ROOM 457, O.E.O.B.
TUESDAY, DEC. 11, 1990**

Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays, to you who are standing watch around the world. Never have I been prouder of our troops. Never have I been prouder to be your Commander-in-Chief. **Because in this season of peace -- the world is at peace -- thanks in large part to your commitment and your courage.**

We think of you on the snowy fields and runways of a Europe soon to be whole and free -- and where, thanks to you, millions are celebrating Christmas and Hanukkah openly for the first time in 45 years. We think of you off the coast of the Philippines, in Japan, and in the DMZ in Korea. Thanks to you, the seeds of democracy saw shelter from the winds of war, took root, and now promise of a new day in the Pacific. We think of you in Panama, where lightning success last Christmas ended the reign of a despot and brought peace to a people. We think of you in the air, on the high seas, and at bases and embassies around the world, who kept our country untouched and at peace throughout the long winter darkness of the Cold War. **Back home, some talk of the cost of war. But it is you who understand the price of peace.**

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Barbara and I spent Thanksgiving with our men and women over there. When we got back, I spoke to the American people, told them of your bravery, and reminded them why we're there. First, I put the immorality of the invasion of Kuwait itself. I said I was deeply concerned about all the hostages -- and especially our own beleaguered Embassy in Kuwait. The flag still flies there. But they are not the only Americans at risk. I'm also deeply concerned about Saddam's efforts to acquire nuclear arms.

And I told them something else: **That we want peace -- not war -- and that I will do my level best to bring you home without a single shot fired.** And let me say one other thing: As long as I am President, the sacrifices you make will never be forgotten. **America is behind you. The world is behind you. And history is behind you.** When you come home -- and we hope it's soon -- you will be welcomed as what you are -- all-American heroes.

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*Ellen Piazza
speechwriter
for AF Sec. Rice
she personally
talked to
Danko
703-695-1323
425-9365*

Mary's right. She knows that when peace and freedom triumph, it's not a triumph for one particular country or one particular people -- but a triumph for our children -- a triumph for all humankind. \\\

*Danko is a
triage nurse
for
Nat'l Guard
Charlotte, NC*

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Merry Christmas -- Happy Hanukkah -- happy holidays to you all. God keep you and watch over you. And God bless America.

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church has been built here, because it will be good for the community. I hope it will be possible, on the site where the old church is now, to erect a shrine to our Masonic Lodge. I don't want to see a tavern or anything of the sort go on this corner where that church has been, and if I can prevent it, it is not going there.

I want to say to you that I never have a day when one duty constitutes all I have to do. It is going to be necessary for me to be in Independence, Mo., at 4:13, to light the National Christmas Tree in Washington, and authorize a broadcast of a message which I am sending to the whole world. So I don't

think it will be possible, with the time what it is, for me to be able to shake hands with everybody here, although I see many, many people I would like very much to greet.

I was in the same situation the other night when I was out here, and last night, too, when I was out here. You will have to bear with me that it will not be possible for me to shake hands with everybody. It is not possible, as I may miss my connections. And as President of the United States, I can't miss any connections.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. in Grandview, Mo., preceding the dedication ceremony. The Grandview Baptist Church was the President's home church.

316 Recorded Message for Broadcast on World Day of Prayer.
December 24, 1950

ON THIS day of prayer and religious dedication and for the coming New Year, I want also to extend to our friends in other lands the best wishes of the people of the United States and my own personal wishes on this holiday which has come to mean more than a day of rejoicing with friends and family. Our thoughts and prayers go with all men regardless of race, creed, or nationality who share with us our hopes for peace and free-

dom in the times to come. I am confident that with understanding and determination we shall move steadily toward these goals. I send all of you again my greetings and best wishes.

NOTE: The message was recorded in Washington on December 22, just before the President's departure for Independence, Mo. It was broadcast worldwide by the Voice of America at 4:30 p.m. on December 24.

317 Address Recorded for Broadcast on the Occasion of the Lighting of the National Community Christmas Tree on the White House Grounds. *December 24, 1950*

ALL OVER our country and in many other parts of the world, men, women, and children are preparing to celebrate the birthday of Christ.

Never before in our lives has a Christmas seemed so important. I am not thinking of turkey dinners and stacks of gifts. I mean the quiet, reverent celebration of the faith,

hope, and love—born in a manger in Bethlehem.

Across all the continents of this world, peace-loving people today feel apprehension and loneliness and fear.

Many have forgotten the humble surroundings of the nativity and how, from a straw-littered stable, shone a light which for

nearly 20 centuries has given men strength, comfort, and peace.

At this Christmastime we should renew our faith in God. We celebrate the hour in which God came to man. It is fitting that we should turn to Him.

Many of us are fortunate enough to celebrate Christmas at our own fireside.

But there are many others who are away from their homes and loved ones on this day. Thousands of our boys are on the cold and dreary battlefield of Korea.

But all of us—at home, at war, wherever we may be—are within reach of God's love and power. We all can pray. We all should pray.

We should ask the fulfillment of God's will. We should ask for courage, wisdom, for the quietness of soul which comes alone to them who place their lives in His hands.

We should pray for a peace which is the fruit of righteousness.

318 The President's News Conference of December 28, 1950

THE PRESIDENT. Please be seated.

Start in asking questions, and I will try to answer them.

[1.] Q. Mr. President, do you expect to deliver the State of the Union Message next month in person?

THE PRESIDENT. I do.

Q. You say you do, sir?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, I expect to deliver the State of the Union in person on January 8th, if we can get ready.

[2.] Q. Mr. President, there have been reports at the Capitol that you have on your desk a proposed reorganization plan which would substitute one administrator for the present five-man RFC board?

The Nation already is in the midst of a Crusade of Prayer. On the last Sunday of the old year, there will be special services devoted to a revival of faith.

I call upon all of you to enlist in this common cause. I call upon you no matter what your spiritual allegiance.

We are all joined in the fight against the tyranny of communism. Communism is godless. Democracy is the harvest of faith—faith in one's self, faith in one's neighbors, faith in God.

Democracy's most powerful weapon is not a gun, tank, or bomb. It is faith—faith in the brotherhood and dignity of man under God.

Let us pray at this Christmastime for the wisdom, the humility, and the courage to carry on in this faith.

NOTE: The address was recorded in Washington on December 22, prior to the President's departure for Independence, Mo. It was broadcast at 5:16 p.m. on December 24.

THE PRESIDENT. That is not true.

Q. Have you ever discussed that?

THE PRESIDENT. Yes, I have—I have discussed it. In fact, I sent the reorganization plan down on the RFC, and it was turned down.¹

Q. But you are not considering any new ones?

THE PRESIDENT. No.

[Pause]

What's the matter—what's the matter? Christmas holidays got you? [Laughter]

[3.] Q. Well, I'll come up with one. Mr. President, on December 19th the Gov-

¹ See Item 114.

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~~DEC 5 1990~~
DEC 5 1990

Dear President Bush,

~~SLR~~

Even though I wrote this letter during the holiday season, please read it.

My children love you and so do we!

encl.

Please respond to this letter for my kids, Jonathar & Michael! It is my fault that it wasn't sent earlier.

Thank You,
Karen Dicker
5259 Whispering Oak
West Bloomfield, Mich.
48322

Shirley,
Here are our rather meager Christmas offerings for the speechwriters. Hopefully some better things will arrive soon.
P.S. make copies of these & send to Bob w/my note - give these back to SLR

Dear President Bush,

My children are 6 and 4 1/2 years old. They were very disappointed that your wish for a merry Christmas was the only wish you made for the American people. They both asked why you only blessed the Christian children and not the Jewish children.

They wanted to know if you were only the President for Christian people in America.

Then they asked if you knew there were Jewish Americans. Their suggestion was that we write to you and tell you that they want you to please bless all the people - Christians and Jews and also the people who believe in no God because they are Americans, too.

They thought that next year instead of saying "Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah, that it would be easier to just say "Happy Holidays" to everyone so that other Americans do not

think that you forgot about them.

President Bush, my children,
Jonathan and Michael, discussed
this among themselves first and
was first disturbed and then
came up with this solution
for next holiday season.

It was also at their insistence
that I am writing to you now.
They are hoping that next
year you do not only say "Merry
Christmas but that you tell
everyone to have a very happy holiday
season.

Thank you for strongly
considering this for next year!
Children, as you know, are very bright
and impressive.

Sincerely,
Karen Natoro Disper
5259 Whispering Oak
West Bloomfield, Mich.
48322

313-851-4985

P.S. Great job
in Panama!
My kids thought so, too!

Karen Watson Dwyer
5259 Whispering Oak
West Bloomfield, Mich.



President George Bush
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOV

Splash

ROYAL OAK MI 480
FUN
STAMPS

ROYAL OAK MI 480
PM
21 OCT
1990

Splash
into an Ocean
of Fun
Collect Stamps!

10-30-90

P-51B

BMP
901126

DEC 9 1990

Dear President Bush;

I know I'm a nobody to you but I am somebody to one of those men who just got sent over to Saudi Arabia late yesterday afternoon. One of those men is my husband, I was supportive of all this till he got sent over to who knows where for who knows how long, there's some ^{questions} ~~answers~~ we need answered and you're the one with all the answers that isn't telling us anything, I know there's alot of things that can't be explained right now but I have a few questions I'd like to get answered. I hope you don't think I'm another wife that just wants to make trouble and be a pain because I'm not, I'm concerned about my husband and friends over there.

One of my most thought about questions is why did you send our men over if there isn't gonna be anything happening till after the holidays? Why would you want to spend all your holidays where their at , they more than likely won't even be able to call home for Christmas to just say I love you and Merry Christmas. Have you ever ~~been~~ away from all your family and loved ones during the holidays? I don't suppose so, maybe someone should ~~stop~~ and think about how you would feel if you were them, wouldn't you want to have this done and over with as soon as possible, their over there ready to stand up for their country, so let them. Hussein is never gonna come out and settle this peacefully, think about our guys.

I have a 3 year old that doesn't understand this but he knows his daddy won't be here to share Santa Claus with us, How do you explain this to a 3 year old? The best present we could get is for our daddy to come home, that's all we ask for, is that so much.

One more thing I want to say than I'll quit, this is said for many people I know that have some one in Saudi. We want this over by the holidays, if our loved ones come home safe and sound or in a body bag we know it's over and can be put at ease for the first time in a long while, it might ^{and can get on with our lives, alone or with that person.} be painful for some of us but it's over and that's all we want.

Thank you for reading this and I hope I get a response back, i'd be nice if the families were thought about for once. Dawn Seehafer

My address :

Dawn Seehafer
20 W. Melgaard Rd.
Aberdeen, S.D. 57401
(605) 229-3758

Thank you for your time, let's go get that crazy man out
of where he doesn't belong.

Dawn Seehafer

Dawn Sehnager
30 W. Melgaard Rd.
Aberdeen, SD 57401



giving

The United Way USA 25



President George Bush
White House
Washington D.C. 20500

PEOPLE

He was driven to know the truth



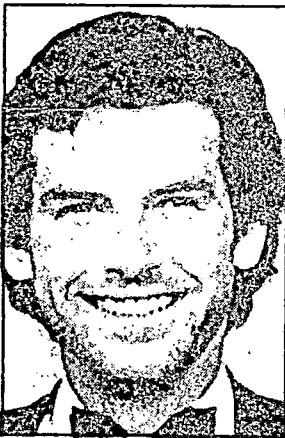
Begley Jr.

Ed Begley Jr., the father in television's *Parenthood*, says when he applied for his driver's license at 16 he learned who his real mother was from his birth certificate. Begley, now 41, said in the Dec. 8 issue of *TV Guide* that it took him some time to adjust to the fact his father's first wife was not his mother, as he had assumed. "It's pretty strange when you think one woman is your mother and you find out it's another woman," he said. "That lady who used to bring you Lincoln Logs? Yeah, I remember her. Well, for good reason, son. That's your mom." Begley said he gets along great with his mother, whom he knew as a family friend during his childhood. The name of the woman, an NBC page and part-time actress, was not revealed.

Don't have a cow, GIs

Sgt. 1st Class Joseph J. Torregrossa writes home from the Persian Gulf to report that Baghdad Betty, the Iraqi equivalent of World War II's Tokyo Rose, is telling GIs their women are being unfaithful, even cavorting with celebrities. In one broadcast, he writes, Betty warned that "while you are here, your wives and girlfriends are dating American movie stars. Movie stars like Tom Selleck, Paul Newman and Bart Simpson!" Torregrossa says troops are "all waiting for our letter, the 'Dear John' one, the one dumping us for Bart."

Criticism pierced his art



Brosnan

Pierce Brosnan, the suave detective in the TV series *Remington Steele*, took aim this week at Hollywood critics who have jokingly dismissed his new film. Brosnan defended the movie, *Mr. Johnson*, in a *Los Angeles Times* column, saying his yet-to-be-released film directed by Bruce Beresford should be given a chance. "If any art form ever required an open mind and a closed mouth until the work had a chance to prove or disprove itself, it is the motion picture," Brosnan wrote. He was responding to a recent *Times* article that referred to the movie's subject of road building in west Africa in the 1920s, and noted that one producer had quipped: "They ought to put speed bumps in the aisle to prevent people from leaving in droves."

Making a pitch for New York

New York, enchanting land of round-the-clock high crimes and misdemeanors, offers endless sloganeering potential. *Advertising Age* asked readers to predict the Big Apple's next tourist pitch. Their suggestions sound worthy of a David Letterman Top 10 list: "If you can make it here . . . you cannot necessarily make it out of here"; "We'll steal your heart (for starters)"; "The city that never sweeps";

It's time to investigate when his tales don't jibe

Creators Syndicate



ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: About six months ago, a very good-looking guy with personality plus moved into the area. Everyone took a liking to "Freddie" and went out of their way to be nice to him, because he was still grieving over the loss of his wife to cancer. I invited him over for a home-cooked meal, and eventually we started to date. Everything was wonderful until I noticed he was drinking a little too much.

After a few months, he began to forget dates, and when he did remember, he was too drunk to be a decent companion. He kept apologizing for his substandard behavior by saying he was having a hard time getting over his wife's death. That was fine for a while, but suddenly it dawned on me that many of Freddie's stories were conflicting.

I became suspicious and had the guy investigated. The information proved he never had been married to a woman who had died of cancer. His girlfriend, however, was married to another man at the time she was murdered. Freddie was a prime suspect, but nothing was ever proved.

I'm writing to warn other women that love can be plenty blind. If it doesn't feel right, ladies, do what I did. Hire a private investigator. It will be the best investment you ever made. — Experience Plus

Dear Experience: Thanks for a real eye-opener.

Dear Ann Landers: Please tell readers that it is inappropriate to ask parents of adopted children about their child's biological parents. In the six months we've had our chosen child, at least 100 people have asked, "What do you know about her real parents?" I would love to say, "It's really none of your business," but I've never had the nerve.

This little girl was sexually and physically abused by her father before she was 5, then abandoned. She lived on the streets with 10 brothers and sisters in a Central American country for three years before they were all taken into a Catholic orphanage.

An adopted child's past is intensely personal; please don't pry. — No Name, No City

Dear N.N.N.C.: There's a simple solution to the problem. When asked such questions, say, "I can't imagine why this would concern you."

Write to Ann Landers in care of The Columbus Dispatch, at the Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a reply.

Conve to pra

Universal Pres

Dear that you l your color ago about who fell i gentile girl. convert to raise their Jewish faith tion that practicing J find it, plea — Back t Cleveland

Dear I years to find

Dear A Jewish faith 13. However the high hol

Last ye girl. Connie her, and ou married in been a fam is, the rabb to Judaism. our childr become a p Jewish faith to be the attending se all the holid

Dear D

Dear United Stat Apparently each dinne finished ea must finish of all the dis

Abby, that the se allowing all the last eat rant dining — Slow Eat

Dear S! to remove t eating. sim "Would you eating before

Write to Columbus [geles, Calif. stamped en

Women worse worrywa

By Terry Lee Goodrich Fort Worth Star-Telegram

as men, said Handly, w the book with her husband,

"What we found for

194629

S. Green



American Red Cross



National Headquarters
Washington, DC 20006

November 27, 1990

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC
U.S.A.

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed please find a letter given to our Director of International Services while in Baghdad recently.

This letter is from one of the American Nationals presently detained in Iraq.

Regards,

Mary Lou McCutcheon
Director International
Social Services

Bagram
November 9, 1990

Dear Mr. President,

Today is the 100th day of my captivity. I have just heard the news of your decision to augment the forces deployed to the Gulf in order to provide for an offensive capability, if required. I can only imagine what it's like to be faced with decisions of that magnitude and to bear the responsibility of the possible consequences. In the hope that you may derive some comfort from the thoughts of an unintentional participant - an American hostage at what might become ground zero - I am sending them along. It may be weeks before you get word, but I wanted you to know what I was feeling at this moment in time. I hope it represents the feelings of most of the other hostages as well.

A Lesser Evil

We all hate war, like Eleanor,
And Truman - small dog Fella.
But what is more, we all abhor
It's call invoked by Allah.

A madman's dream can hardly seem
A vision of God's voice,
Yet nations wait and let their fate
Untold by Saddam's choice.

"By the sword we bring you freedom King"
I am ready
With all the might that's fit and right
To silence this Great Lie.

This "human shield" will badly yield
To consequence of your
If lesser evil is the deal
For Freedom's future well.

God Bless America,

Leann Coleman