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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 23, 1991

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Blue Room

THE PRESIDENT: Merry Christmas. I'd like to offer a special greeting to the men who were held hostage so long and to their families who never surrendered hope through the long years of isolation and hardship.

These valiant people sustained themselves through faith and friendship, character and courage. They demonstrated the strength of American ideals, character and determination -- a strength that inspired the entire world in 1991.

Nineteen ninety-one has been a year of dramatic change and challenge. It was about one year ago, in the interest of world peace, that I decided Saddam Hussein's aggression would not stand even if force had to be used. We tried diplomacy and economic embargoes, and then we moved against the brutal dictator and liberated Kuwait.

When our troops returned home, we felt whole -- proud of their courage, confident in ourselves. And that was just the beginning of a momentous year.

Who would have thought 12 months ago, that the Soviet Union as we have known it would no longer exist. Who would have thought that Arabs and Israelis in the Middle East would sit down to discuss ways of forging a permanent peace. And who would have thought that we would see democracy and freedom sweep the globe so dramatically. Who would have thought that American ideals would triumph with such startling suddenness.

In 1991, the impossible became history. And now we must capture that same spirit of belief in ourselves as we overcome hard times at home and build a foundation for lasting prosperity and peace.

And we've already started. Just last week I signed a transportation bill that will put hundreds of thousands of Americans back in good jobs. This year, we unleashed a revolution in education. And I can tell you by the end of this decade, we will have the world's best schools. And our children will lead the next generation to a better future.

And next week I'll travel to Asia to fight for open markets and more opportunities for American workers because exports abroad mean more jobs right here at home. Let there be no mistake, my number one priority is jobs and economic growth. And I'm confident that we will succeed.

Let us remember that American ideals, faith, fellowship, family, freedom, are the values that will shape the world dawning before us. Already Americans have banded together to help those in need, and that's appropriate for this season of faith. It's also the way Americans are -- decent, helpful, full of ambition and hope,

MORE

united in their devotion to community and family. Thank God for our families.

When I lit our National Christmas Tree in Washington nearly two weeks ago, thousands of lights illuminated the towering spruce -- thousands of warm beacons transformed the night. Each day we can light the darkness by helping someone in need, working to see that no elderly person goes to bed hungry; that no homeless person spends another night shivering on the streets; that no child sits alone unloved, unknown.

Americans have the talent and power to do anything. And so when history remembers Christmas, 1991, let it remember that we promise to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. Let it record that on Christmas, 1991, this nation united to ask God for peace on Earth, goodwill to all. And let it record that a new age of goodness and hope began here and now.

God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

END

Final Dec 23 11:20 a.m.

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 23, 1991 ~~1~~ p.m.
CHRISTMAS.TS Draft Four

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS ADDRESS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1991
BLUE ROOM**

Merry Christmas. I'd like to offer a special greeting to the men who were held hostage so long, and to their families, who never surrendered hope through the long years of isolation and hardship.

These valiant people sustained themselves through faith and friendship; character and courage. They demonstrated the strength of American ideals, character, and determination -- a strength that inspired the entire world in 1991.

1991 has been a year of dramatic change and challenge. It was about one year ago, in the interest of world peace that I decided Saddam Hussein's aggression would ^{not} stand even if force had to be used. We tried diplomacy and economic embargoes -- and then we moved against the brutal dictator and liberated Kuwait.

When our troops returned home, we felt whole -- proud of their courage; confident in ourselves. And that was just the beginning of a momentous year.

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have thought that American ideals would triumph with such startling suddenness?

In 1991, the impossible became history. Now, we must capture that same spirit of belief in ourselves as we overcome hard times at home -- and build a foundation for lasting prosperity and peace. And we've already started.

Just last week, I signed a transportation bill that will put hundreds of thousands of Americans back in good jobs.

This year, we unleashed a revolution in education, and I can tell you, by the end of this decade, we will have the world's best schools -- and our children will lead the next generation to a better future.

And next week, I'll travel to Asia to fight for open markets and more opportunities for American workers because exports abroad mean more jobs right here at home. Let there be no mistake, my number one priority is jobs and economic growth. And I'm confident that we will succeed.

Let us remember that American ideals -- faith, fellowship, family, freedom are the values that will shape the world dawning before us.

Already, Americans have banded together to help those in need. That's appropriate for this season of faith. It's also the way Americans are: decent, helpful, full of ambition and hope -- united in their devotion to community and family. Thank God for our families.

When I lit our National Christmas Tree in Washington nearly

two weeks ago, thousands of lights illuminated the towering spruce; thousands of warm beacons transformed the night. Each day we can light the darkness by helping someone in need -- working to see that no elderly person goes to bed hungry; that no homeless person spends another night shivering on the streets; that no child sits alone, unloved, unknown. //

Americans have the talent and power to do anything. So when history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that we promised to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. Let it record that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for peace on earth, good will to all. Let it record that a new age of goodness and hope began here -- and now.

God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

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(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 5 p.m.
CHRISTMAS Draft One

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS ADDRESS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1991**

Time of Taping

Merry Christmas. A special welcome from this entire country to the men who were hostages so long and are finally home -- finally home in this, the most generous, most proud, most free nation on the face of the earth. We've seen some unforgettable triumphs for the human spirit these last couple of years. Today, let's say a silent prayer that one Christmas we'll be able to celebrate freedom and peace embracing the entire world.

And today, let's also say a prayer for those at home who urgently need our help. These are tough times. Americans search for a sign from Washington that someone understands. People like Dave Perdue, of Arlington, Texas. I was down in Texas last week, signing a transportation bill on a highway near Arlington. After I got home I heard that Dave had been trying to see me. He's the President of UAW Local 276, at the GM plant. He said: "I would just have pleaded with him to...look around. Just do something."

Dave -- I am looking around. I do see. I do care -- I care desperately. And we are doing something. We're doing everything we can. We will turn this thing around. We will do it because we are Americans -- rooted in sound economic fundamentals but, more importantly, rooted in ideals of faith, fellowship and family -- the ideals that have sustained this nation for 215 years. While in Washington we dedicate ourselves to doing all we can for each one of you -- you can summon up the best of the American spirit and reach out and help your neighbors in need.

*USA Today
Pg. 2A
"One worker's plea to Bush!"*

Nope

whole

You know, Christmas is the only day when the world honors a single person. What a moving reminder for all of us of the power of one life -- of one man who stood for faith, hope and charity - and "the greatest of these is charity." Charity -- the joy of friendship and helping others -- and the theme of this year's National Christmas Tree here in Washington.

Christians 13:13

pageant

more than almost 2 weeks

Along with our 5 most recent hostages, I lit that tree about a week ago. As I watched the lights come on -- the thousands of sparkling lights on that dark, tall spruce -- I thought of how they transformed the night into something beautiful. At that moment, in a very real way this tree became a symbol -- a living, shining reminder that this is a nation based on the ideal of charity -- of goodness, generosity, and simple kindness.

Pageant of Peace

When we illuminated that tree, we turned the cold darkness into warm light. We can do that every day in a concrete way in our own neighborhoods, when each of us in our own way reaches out a hand to a friend, or stranger, in need. By working in our own neighborhoods we can make sure that no elderly person goes to bed hungry -- that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets -- that no child lacks his birthright of love.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that together we promised to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. And let it be remembered that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth, good will to all. God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

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Final Dec 23 11:20 a.m.

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 23, 1991 ~~1~~ p.m.
CHRISTMAS.TS Draft Four

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS ADDRESS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1991
BLUE ROOM**

Merry Christmas. I'd like to offer a special greeting to the men who were held hostage so long, and to their families, who never surrendered hope through the long years of isolation and hardship.

These valiant people sustained themselves through faith and friendship; character and courage. They demonstrated the strength of American ideals, character, and determination -- a strength that inspired the entire world in 1991.

1991 has been a year of dramatic change and challenge. It was about one year ago, in the interest of world peace that I decided Saddam Hussein's aggression would ^{NI} stand even if force had to be used. We tried diplomacy and economic embargoes -- and then we moved against the brutal dictator and liberated Kuwait.

When our troops returned home, we felt whole -- proud of their courage; confident in ourselves. And that was just the beginning of a momentous year.

Who would have thought twelve months ago that the Soviet Union would no longer exist? Who would have thought that Arabs and Israelis in the Middle East would sit down to discuss ways of forging a permanent peace? Who would have thought that we ^{would} see democracy and freedom sweep the globe so dramatically? Who would

have thought that American ideals would triumph with such startling suddenness?

In 1991, the impossible became history. Now, we must capture that same spirit of belief in ourselves as we overcome hard times at home -- and build a foundation for lasting prosperity and peace. And we've already started.

Just last week, I signed a transportation bill that will put hundreds of thousands of Americans back in good jobs.

This year, we unleashed a revolution in education, and I can tell you, by the end of this decade, we will have the world's best schools -- and our children will lead the next generation to a better future.

And next week, I'll travel to Asia to fight for open markets and more opportunities for American workers because exports abroad mean more jobs right here at home. Let there be no mistake, my number one priority is jobs and economic growth. And I'm confident that we will succeed.

Let us remember that American ideals -- faith, fellowship, family, freedom are the values that will shape the world dawning before us.

Already, Americans have banded together to help those in need. That's appropriate for this season of faith. It's also the way Americans are: decent, helpful, full of ambition and hope -- united in their devotion to community and family. Thank God for our families.

When I lit our National Christmas Tree in Washington nearly

two weeks ago, thousands of lights illuminated the towering spruce; thousands of warm beacons transformed the night. Each day we can light the darkness by helping someone in need -- working to see that no elderly person goes to bed hungry; that no homeless person spends another night shivering on the streets; that no child sits alone, unloved, unknown. //

Americans have the talent and power to do anything. So when history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that we promised to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. Let it record that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for peace on earth, good will to all. Let it record that a new age of goodness and hope began here -- and now.

God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

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~~establish relations with our old Vietnam-era enemies, Cambodia~~
~~and Vietnam?~~ Who would have thought that American ideals would triumph with such startling suddenness?

In 1991, the impossible became history. Now, we must wrestle with our victory. We must overcome hard times at home - - and build a foundation for lasting prosperity and peace.

Last week, I signed a transportation bill that will put hundreds of thousands of Americans back in good jobs. I talked to some of the men and women helped by this law. They're like most Americans -- proud, industrious, eager to do good work.

But my efforts won't stop there. This year, we unleashed a revolution in education, a challenge to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world. Already, more than half the states have taken up the challenge posed by our America 2000 education strategy. I can tell you, by the end of this decade, we will have the world's best schools -- and our children will lead the next generation to a better future.

Next week, I'll travel to Asia. I'll fight to open markets and opportunities for American workers. The stakes are very real. This year we exported more than ever before, and that means good jobs at good wages for American men and women.

At home, let us remember that American ideals -- faith, fellowship, family, freedom -- won the Cold War. These values will shape the world dawning before us.

Already, Americans have banded together to help those in need. That's appropriate for this season of faith. It's also

the way Americans are: decent, helpful, full of ambition and hope -- united in their devotion to community and family. Thank God for our families.

And thank God for our faith in ourselves and our ideals. Christmas reminds us of the man who conquered death -- who stood for faith, hope and charity -- and declared that "the greatest of these is charity." Charity -- that's the theme of this year's National Christmas Tree pageant.

When I lit our National Christmas Tree in Washington nearly two weeks ago, thousands of lights illuminated the towering spruce; thousands of warm beacons transformed the night. Each day we can light the darkness by helping someone in need -- working to see that no elderly person goes to bed hungry; that no homeless person spends another night shivering on the streets; that no child sits alone, unloved, unknown. //

We can carry our light into the darkness by working hard and doing the best we can. Americans have the talent and power to do anything. So let's dedicate ourselves to achieving our dreams.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that we promised to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. Let it record that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for peace on earth, good will to all. Let it record that a new age of goodness and hope began here -- and now.

God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

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(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 23, 1991 1 p.m.
CHRISTMAS.TS Draft Four

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS ADDRESS
MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1991
~~OEOB STUDIO~~ *Blue Room*

Merry Christmas. I'd like to offer a special greeting to the men who were held hostages so long, and to their families, who never surrendered hope through the long years of isolation and hardship.

These valiant people sustained themselves through faith and friendship; character and courage. They demonstrated the strength of American ideals, character, and determination -- a strength that inspired the entire world in 1991.

One year ago, I had to wrestle with the possibility of sending Americans to the battlefield against Saddam Hussein. Many people wanted me to play it safe, to ignore America's role as the leader of the free world. But when Saddam taunted us and mocked our ideals, we proved that we take our word seriously. We said we'd liberate Kuwait. With the help of a multinational force, we did.

When our troops returned home, we felt whole -- proud of our courage; strong in our leadership; confident in ourselves. And that was just the beginning of a momentous year.

Who would have thought twelve months ago that the Soviet Union would no longer exist? Who would have thought that Arabs and Jews in the Middle East would sit down to discuss ways of forging a permanent peace? Who would have thought that we could

establish relations with our old Vietnam-era enemies, Cambodia and Vietnam? Who would have thought that American ideals would triumph with such startling suddenness?

In 1991, the impossible became history. Now, we must wrestle with our victory. We must overcome hard times at home - - and build a foundation for lasting prosperity and peace.

Last week, I signed a transportation bill that will put hundreds of thousands of Americans back in good jobs. I talked to some of the men and women helped by this law. They're like most Americans -- proud, industrious, eager to do good work.

But my efforts won't stop there. This year, we unleashed a revolution in education, a challenge to create the best elementary and secondary schools in the world. Already, more than half the states have taken up the challenge posed by our America 2000 education strategy. I can tell you, by the end of this decade, we will have the world's best schools -- and our children will lead the next generation to a better future.

Next week, I'll travel to Asia. I'll fight to open markets and opportunities for American workers. The stakes are very real. ~~This year we exported more than ever before, and each billion dollars' worth of manufactured exports means 22,000 good American jobs.~~

At home, let us remember that American ideals -- faith, fellowship, family, freedom -- won the Cold War. These values will shape the world dawning before us.

Already, Americans have banded together to help those in

need. That's appropriate for this season of faith. It's also the way Americans are: decent, helpful, full of ambition and hope -- united in their devotion to community and family. Thank God for our families.

And thank God for our faith in ourselves and our ideals. Christmas reminds us of the man who conquered death -- who stood for faith, hope and charity -- and declared that "the greatest of these is charity." Charity -- that's the theme of this year's National Christmas Tree pageant.

When I lit our National Christmas Tree in Washington nearly two weeks ago, thousands of lights illuminated the towering spruce; thousands of warm beacons transformed the night. Each day we can light the darkness by helping someone in need -- working to see that no elderly person goes to bed hungry; that no homeless person spends another night shivering on the streets; that no child sits alone, unloved, unknown. //

We can carry our light into the darkness by working hard and doing the best we can. Americans have the talent and power to do anything. So let's dedicate ourselves to achieving our dreams.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that we promised to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. Let it record that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for peace on earth, good will to all. Let it record that a new age of goodness and hope began here -- and now.

God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

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Latest draft to Staffing 2:30

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 19, 1991 2 p.m.
CHRISTMAS.TS Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS ADDRESS

Merry Christmas. And a special greeting ~~from~~ to the men who were hostages so long and are finally home -- and to their families. Through long years of isolation and hardship, these men sustained themselves -- through faith and friendship; character and courage.

Now, reunited with the ones they love, these men remind us just how extraordinary our Nation is; and how fortunate we are to belong to the American family.

We've seen some unforgettable triumphs for the human spirit these last couple of years. We've seen walls tumble and hearts open to the promise of liberty. We've seen a Cold War give way to the promise of a prosperous peace. Today, let's say a silent prayer that one Christmas we'll be able to celebrate freedom and peace embracing the entire world.

And today, let's also say a prayer for those here at home who need help, so that they might stand proud and self-sufficient again -- Americans given voice by people like Dave Perdue, of Arlington, Texas. I was down in Texas last week. After I got home I heard that Dave had been trying to see me. He's the President of UAW Local 276, at the GM plant. He said: "I would just have pleaded with him to...look around. Just do something."

Well, I do see. I do care. I'm fighting to strengthen our economy and believe me, I'll do more. I'll do everything in my power to free up the power, the creativity, the potential of the

USA Today
Pg A2

American people. American ideals -- faith, fellowship, family, freedom -- won the Cold War. I promise you, those values also will shape the new world dawning before us.

Already, Americans have banded together to help those in need, and to build the basis for new hope and prosperity. That's appropriate for this season of faith -- for all religions. But it's also the way Americans are: decent, helpful, full of ambition and hope.

✓ Christmas is a day when the whole world honors a single person. Christ triumphed over death because he possessed the courage of love. Christmas reminds us of the power of one life, of one man who stood for faith, hope and charity -- and "the greatest of these is charity." Charity -- the joy of helping others, and the theme of this year's National Christmas Tree.

Along with our five most recent hostages, I lit that tree in Washington ^{nearly two} ~~about~~ ^s a week ago. As the thousands of sparkling lights illuminated that dark, tall spruce -- they transformed the night. They turned the cold darkness into warm light. They served as bright shining reminders that this nation believes in the ideal of charity -- that Americans have always been good, generous and kind.

Each day we can dispell ^g a little darkness by helping someone in need. We can dispell ^g darkness by working to see that no elderly person goes to bed hungry; that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets; that no child lacks his birthright of love. We can carry our own lights into the

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Counthians
13:13

Dec. 12
Tree
Lighting
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Release
Pageant
of Peace

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Press
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darkness by working hard, by doing the best work we can, by building a foundation for ^{our} ~~a~~ children's futures.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that together we promised to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. And let history remember that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for peace on earth, good will to all. God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

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Beh to Tony

(Hinchliffe/Nix)
December 18, 1991 5 p.m.
CHRISTMAS Draft One

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS ADDRESS

Merry Christmas. And a special greeting from this entire country to the men who were hostages so long and are finally home. Welcome back to those who gave us inspiring legacies of individual courage, decency, and faith. We've seen some unforgettable triumphs for the human spirit these last couple of years. Today, let's say a silent prayer that one Christmas we'll be able to celebrate freedom and peace embracing the entire world.

And today, let's also say a prayer for those here at home who urgently need help -- Americans given voice by people like Dave Perdue, of Arlington, Texas. I was down in Texas last week, signing a transportation bill on a highway near Arlington. After I got home I heard that Dave had been trying to see me. He's the President of UAW Local 276, at the GM plant. He said: "I would just have pleaded with him to...look around. Just do something."

Dave -- I do see. I do care. We are doing something and, believe me, we will do more. We will do everything. Our future will be tremendous. We will succeed because we are Americans -- rooted in ideals of faith, fellowship and family -- the ideals that have sustained this nation for 215 years. We will succeed because we'll work together, each of us contributing, and we'll grow as a nation through this work. Right now each of you can begin in your own hometown -- you can summon up the best of the American spirit and reach out and help your neighbors in need.

Christmas is a day when the whole world honors a single

person. Christ blessed each life he touched with His goodness, His resolve and His courage. Christmas reminds us of the power of one life, of one man who stood for faith, hope and charity -- and "the greatest of these is charity." Charity -- the joy of helping others, and the theme of this year's National Christmas Tree.

Along with our five most recent hostages, I lit that tree in Washington about a week ago. As I watched the lights come on -- the thousands of sparkling lights on that dark, tall spruce -- I thought of how they transformed the night into something beautiful. At that moment in a very real way this tree became a symbol -- a living, shining reminder that this is a nation based on the ideal of charity -- of goodness, generosity, and simple kindness.

When we illuminated that tree, we turned the cold darkness into warm light. We can do that every day in a concrete way in our own neighborhood when each of reaches out a hand to a friend, or stranger, in need. By working in our own backyards we can make sure that no elderly person goes to bed hungry; that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets; that no child lacks his birthright of love. We can also bring our own individual light to this nation's future by working hard, by making the best products, by building the very best America we can.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that together we promised to bring God's light to our brothers and sisters in need. And let history remember that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for peace on earth, good will to all. God bless you, and may your Christmas be bright with love.

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The way we'll do that is to follow the true meaning of Christmas -- the lesson of the greatest teacher who ever lived. We can turn the magic of Christmas into the magic of national redemption through Christ's example of charity -- caring for others out of love.

This is a special season -- rich in meaning for many faiths. Earlier this month at a ceremony at the White House I shared in the beginning of Hanukkah, the first day of the lighting of the menorah. Then, we lit the National Christmas Tree. And soon, the candles of Kwanzaa will be lit.