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BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION
SUMMARY

As the Bush Administration finishes its first year, the domestic economy remains strong while, around the world, dramatic and hopeful changes are taking place. In the international arena, the President heralded -- in his Inaugural address -- the historic era of freedom that was dawning: "The day of the dictator is over." Four decades of strength and solidarity among the Western democracies, reinforced by the new vigor of American leadership in the 1980's, have borne fruit. Democracy is spreading around the world and ~~our~~ democratic values of political and economic freedom are expanding on every continent. The President seized the initiative -- with new proposals for arms reduction at the NATO Summit in May; with a series of measures to nurture democracy in Eastern Europe, dramatized by his historic visit to Poland and Hungary in July; and, finally, with his invitation to Soviet President Gorbachev to meet at Malta, in December, to begin building a new structure for world peace.

The domestic agenda has been full. In the Fall, the President unveiled his National Drug Control Policy in a televised address to the Nation and convened an Education Summit

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with the Nation's Governors. The Administration proposed initiatives in a number of areas, this year, ranging from child care to environmental protection; from fighting violent crime to ethics reforms. At the same time, the economy remains strong with current economic expansion continuing to set new records and create new jobs.

KEEPING THE ECONOMY STRONG

- o **Record Expansion:** During the current economic expansion -- in its 84th month as of November -- over 20.7 million jobs have been created and the unemployment rate has fallen to levels not seen in 1⁶5 years. Income levels have risen sharply and growth in industrial output is over one-and-a-half times that of Western Europe. Real per capita income, output and business fixed investment are at record levels. Yet, consumer price inflation has remained under five percent for the past seven years.

- o **Savings and Loans:** In August, ⁹the President signed the **Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act of 1989** to begin resolving the savings and loan situation. The President's plan, introduced in the first days of the Administration, addresses the enormous financial crisis that exists in the thrift industry and implements tough standards to help ensure such a crisis never happens again.

- o **Third World debt:** The Administration has taken the lead in finding a way to reduce the debt burden and encourage economic growth in developing countries. At the Administration's urging, the IMF and World Bank have set aside funds to support debt reduction programs for developing countries. Three countries, Mexico, the Philippines and Costa Rica, have successfully negotiated agreements under the Administration's debt plan.

- o **International Trade:** Leading efforts to promote free and fair trade, the Bush Administration successfully advanced the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations including its proposal to correct and prevent trade distortions in agriculture and its proposal to create rules for international trade in services. It is engaged in bilateral trade talks with Japan to discuss impediments to expanding trade and encourage it to open its markets to ~~our~~^{U.S.} exports. Reducing some tariffs immediately, the Administration began the smooth implementation of the new free trade agreement with Canada.

- o **Budget Policy:** After extensive negotiations by the Administration with Congress, an agreement was reached on a budget plan for FY 1990. The plan meets the Gramm-Rudman-

Hollings deficit target for the fiscal year with no new taxes.

- o **Minimum Wage:** The Administration reached an agreement with Congress and the President signed legislation to increase the basic minimum wage in increments to \$4.25 an hour by 1991 and ~~will~~ create an historic training wage. The training wage, insisted upon by the Administration, will save thousands of jobs for the working poor and younger, less experienced workers. ✓

SEIZING INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE

- o **A Resurgence of Democracy:** At the outset of the Administration, the President developed a strategy to encourage and help sustain the historic processes taking place, especially in Eastern Europe. In April, the President spoke in Hamtramck, Michigan, and called for self-determination in Eastern Europe and an end to the division of the continent. In May, President Bush called for the Berlin Wall to come down, and set forth his vision of a Europe "whole and free" during his visit to Mainz, Germany. Though the pace of change was even faster than anticipated, the United States remains on the course set by the President last spring. In the Western Hemisphere, democracy also

continues to advance. In October, the President attended a meeting of hemispheric Presidents in Costa Rica to celebrate 100 years of that country's democracy.

- o **Poland and Hungary:** The President's strong support for political pluralism and economic reform in Poland and Hungary was highlighted by his July visit to those nations and by the leadership he has exercised to mobilize international backing for these reforms. In September, the President proposed a major U.S. package of economic, environmental assistance and trade and investment incentives to assist in the economic restructuring of Poland and Hungary which became the framework for the "Support for East European Democracy Act," passed by Congress and signed by the President in November..

- o **"Beyond Containment":** The President has welcomed the extraordinary political and economic changes underway in the Soviet Union. In a major speech at Texas A&M University in May, he established a new American policy, "Beyond Containment," that seeks to integrate Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union into the community of nations. Major progress has been made in arms reduction including negotiations on conventional forces in Europe, strategic arms reduction, a global ban on chemical weapons, nuclear testing and a new "Open Skies" initiative. The bilateral agenda has been

broadened to include transnational issues such as the environment and the struggle against drug abuse.

- o **Economic Summit:** Under President Bush's leadership, the Paris Economic Summit in July agreed to launch concerted international action to support Polish and Hungarian economic reforms and to coordinate Western assistance. The Economic Summit also made further progress on key U.S. economic and political objectives such as a strengthened debt strategy, economic policy coordination, completion of the Uruguay Round by December 1990, and international cooperation on protection of the environment.
- o **NATO Summit:** The President seized the arms control initiative and won the strong support of our allies with a bold proposal to reduce conventional forces in Europe. The Alliance also agreed on a rapid pace of negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement within a year. The U.S. proposal would involve deep cuts in Warsaw Pact manpower and equipment, and moderate cuts on the NATO side to achieve a stable balance in Europe.
- o **Malta:** As European and other events accelerated, the President conceived the idea of meeting ^{informally} with Mr. Gorbachev ~~informally~~ for an in-depth, wide-ranging exchange. This took place on board ships off Malta in early December. The

President offered a number of initiatives on economic relations, cultural exchange, human rights and arms reduction. Europe and regional issues, particularly Central America, were also subjects of discussion. It was agreed to hold a formal US-Soviet Summit in the last two weeks of June, 1990, in the United States.

- o **China:** Visiting China soon after taking office, the

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ON MARCH 24,

- o **Central America Accord:** ¹ The President and Congressional leaders agreed ~~on March 24~~ on a bipartisan strategy for peace and democracy in Central America. With the agreement, for the first time in years, the U.S. has a broadly supported strategy aimed at bringing about free and fair elections and ^{the} establishment of democracy in Nicaragua. The

Administration also remains committed to the support of democracy in El Salvador and the rest of the region.

- o **Strengthening our Strategic Deterrent:** After a thorough review of U.S. defense strategy, the President submitted to the Congress a defense budget that will modernize our deterrent capability including, after more than a decade of debate, specific proposals for two mobile ICBMs. The strategic modernization program also includes the revolutionary B-2 bomber, the Trident D-5 missile for our submarine force, and funding to support an informed development and deployment decision on the Strategic Defense Initiative within the next four years. Although Congress made some reductions in the Administration's requests for these and other programs, its actions generally support the President's objectives.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

- o **Education Summit:** The President called the Nation's Governors together for an historic Education Summit. The Administration and the Governors committed to ^{encourage} ~~facilitate~~ education reform in America by: establishing national education goals; working for greater flexibility in the use of Federal funds in exchange for increased accountability; implementing state-by-state restructuring of the education

system; and adopting improved ways of measuring performance.

- o **Educational Excellence:** The President submitted to Congress a comprehensive set of education initiatives, **The Educational Excellence Act of 1989**. The Act includes proposals for merit and magnet schools, alternative certification of teachers, excellence awards for teachers, emergency grants to help urban schools to fight drugs, increased funding for endowments at Historically Black Colleges, and a National Science Scholars program.

- o **National Drug Control Strategy:** In his first Address to the Nation, the President unveiled a comprehensive, coordinated strategy for fighting illegal drug use. The President has five priority areas: the criminal justice system; drug treatment; education, community action, and the workplace; international initiatives; and interdiction efforts.

- o **National Transportation Policy:** The Department of Transportation is developing a National Transportation Policy to facilitate the allocation of public and private resources so that transportation systems -- highway, aviation, mass transit, rail and maritime -- enhance national economic growth, global competitiveness, national security, environmental quality and personal mobility.

- o **Combatting Violent Crime:** President Bush transmitted to Congress **The Comprehensive Violent Crime Control Act of 1989** proposing measures to augment enforcement and prosecution, strengthen current law, to prohibit the importation and manufacture of gun magazines of more than 15 rounds and to expand prison capacity.

- o **Clean Air Act Revisions:** On July 21, President Bush transmitted to the Congress the first proposed revisions to the **Clean Air Act** since 1977. His legislation is designed to harness the power of the marketplace to drastically reduce three major threats to the nation's environment: acid rain, urban air pollution, and toxic air emissions.

- o **Natural Gas Deregulation:** On July 26, the President signed into law the **Wellhead Decontrol Act of 1989**, which ends all remaining price controls on natural gas. This will phase out all federal price controls on natural gas by January 1, 1993, marking the first time since 1954 that energy markets will be completely deregulated.

- o **Clean Water and Coastlines:** On March 10, the EPA implemented a medical waste tracking program to track medical wastes to ensure proper disposal and prevent ocean pollution -- an important step forward in a comprehensive program to help keep our beaches clean. The President is also committed to

end ocean dumping of sewage sludge by 1991 and EPA and the Department of Justice have negotiated compliance schedules with local jurisdiction^s to meet the 1991 deadline. ✓

- **Hazardous Waste:** The President announced that he will seek new legislation to ban all exports of hazardous waste unless an agreement exists with the receiving country to provide for its safe handling.
- **Department of Energy Facilities Cleanup:** The Department of Energy has published an aggressive five-year cleanup plan which identifies site-by-site Departmental environmental restoration and waste management initiatives which would meet the Nation's security needs and comply with environmental safety and health laws.
- **Global Climate Issues:** The President has accelerated the Administration's activities on global change and has offered to host a conference next fall to negotiate a framework treaty on global change. He has enhanced the Nation's international leadership in this field by developing an integrated scientific approach, endorsing NASA's Mission to Planet Earth, and increasing the global change research budget, already the largest of any nation. And has announced a White House environmental research conference to be held next spring. Also, the President proposed a 28%

increase in global environmental research for FY 1990. The \$663 million budget, the largest amount spent by any nation on global environmental research, will help to continue the United States' international leadership in this field.

- o **Ozone Depletion:** In order to prevent further damage to the earth's protective ozone layer, the President has called for a total worldwide phaseout of CFCs by the year 2000, provided safe substitutes are available.

- o **Science and Technology:** The President has strengthened coordination of Federal R&D activities and improved oversight of science and technology policy by restructuring the ^{White House} Office of Science and Technology Policy. He has directed the establishment of the President's Council of Advisors ^o in Science and Technology drawn from the private ? sector to advise him in this area.

- o **Space:** The President has committed the nation to "a sustained program of manned exploration of the solar system" and "the permanent settlement of space." To this end, he has identified as critical elements of the U.S. space program: the permanently-manned Space Station Freedom, manned missions to the Moon and to Mars, and the Mission to Planet Earth aimed at understanding Earth's fragile environment. The President established the National Space

Council under the leadership of Vice President Quayle to coordinate U.S. space activities.

WORKING FOR A KINDER, GENTLER AMERICA

- o **Affordable Housing:** The President unveiled HOPE, a comprehensive agenda of **Homeownership and Opportunity for People Everywhere**. Major elements include provisions to help first-time home buyers, low-income housing residents, and the homeless, and to create up to fifty enterprise zones over the next four years. Secretary Kemp has been charged with finding new ways to put more FHA foreclosures into the hands of non-profit groups that serve the homeless.
- o **The Homeless:** The President requested full funding of the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in FY 1990 and proposed an additional \$50 million to encourage public-private partnerships to reduce homelessness. The President recently signed legislation that substantially increases funding for the McKinney Act.
- o **Child Care:** The President transmitted to Congress a child care proposal, the **Working Family Child Care Assistance Act of 1989**, which provides a new refundable child care tax credit of up to \$1000 per child under age four, for low- and moderate-income working families. This legislation will

also make the existing Dependent Care Tax Credit refundable, and does not discriminate against religious or family-based child care or against two-parent families in which a parent works in the home caring for the children.

- o **Head Start:** The President also challenged Congress to increase Head Start funding by \$250 million in FY 1990 to allow 95,000 more four-year-olds to participate in the program. Congressional action provided \$151 million which will allow the Program to serve up to 37,500 more eligible four-year olds.
- o **Experimental AIDS Eradication Efforts:** The President has promoted wider availability of experimental and therapeutic drugs such as AZT, to battle HIV and AIDS.
- o **Adoption:** In September, the President sent two legislative proposals to Congress designed to encourage adoption of special needs children, through tax incentives and expense reimbursements for adoptive parents. In addition, the President has directed all Federal agencies to develop plans for supporting and promoting adoption of special needs children.
- o **National Service:** The President is spearheading a movement ^{to} ~~engaging~~ ^e all individuals and institutions in America in

community service. He announced the formation of a foundation known as "The Points of Light Initiative" to: encourage all Americans to take steps to address social problems as their own; identify, enlarge and multiply successful community service initiatives; and discover, encourage, and develop new community leaders.

- o **Civil Rights:** Working with Congress, the President has signed legislation reauthorizing the Commission on Civil Rights through FY 1991. The Administration has endorsed the Hate Crimes Bill, which provides for the collection of data about crimes motivated by racial, religious, or ethnic animosity. The Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice has vigorously pursued the enforcement of the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988, which became effective in March.

- o **Disabled Americans:** The President is committed to legislation that would extend civil rights protection to disabled Americans. This legislation, called the **Americans with Disabilities Act**, would represent the most significant expansion of federal civil rights laws in the past two decades. With the support of the Administration, a version of the Act passed the Senate on September 7, and has been under consideration in the House since then.

- o **Whistleblower Protection:** On April 10, the President signed ~~S. 20~~, the "Whistleblower Protection Act of 1989." This law will strengthen the protection and procedural rights available to those federal employees who report misdeeds and mismanagement.

- o **Infant Mortality:** To address the all-too-high infant mortality rate, the Administration forwarded to Congress legislation to extend Medicaid eligibility to pregnant women and infants with incomes up to 130 percent of the poverty line, as well as Medicaid coverage for immunizations for all children up to age five who are eligible for Food Stamps. Congress raised the mandatory Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women and children up to age six to 133 percent of the poverty level, ~~but it did not act on the President's proposal to fund infant mortality demonstrations.~~

- o **Campaign Finance Reform:** The President proposed comprehensive campaign finance legislation designed to lessen the power of special economic interests and restore real competition to American Congressional elections.

- o **Ethics:** Numerous ethics reforms proposed in President Bush's ethics legislation were enacted by Congress in the "Government Ethics Reform Act of 1989" shortly before it adjourned. Key reforms include the extension of post-

employment "revolving door" restrictions to the Legislative Branch, tax deferral for Federal employees required to sell assets to avoid conflicts of interest, reform on rules for gifts and travel, limitations on outside earned income for high-level officials and a ban on receipt of honoraria by all Federal employees (except in the Senate which instead enacted a reduced ceiling on honoraria) President Bush also issued an ethics Executive Order in April setting forth strict principles for the conduct of Executive Branch employees. ✓

- o **Welfare Reform:** The Administration issued final rules on October 13 to implement the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training program of the Family Support Act of 1988, as the next step in welfare reform. The Administration is proposing to spend over three-and-a-half billion ^{dollars} over the next five years to implement the JOBS program. The Act will help reduce the number of individuals who need welfare. ?

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