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November 10, 1989

MEMORANDUM

To: CHRISS WINSTON

From: MARK W. DAVIS

Re: Malta

The following aquatic language occurred to me while swimming the other day. Dave might want to take this memo with him on the trip. If the President has a dry statement to make, Dave could tack this on to the end:

((After complementing the crews of the U.S. and the Soviet warships))

"These Mediterranean waters have provided sealanes of commerce and conflict for more than two thousand years. The very ocean around us entombs the scuttled ships of empires lost -- the slave galley, the galleon, the dreadnought, the destroyer. These ships, meant to guard immortal empires, now litter the ocean floor, and guard nothing more than reefs of coral.

"If the millennia offer a lesson for mankind, it is this: true security does not come from empire and domination. True security cannot be found in overwhelming every other nation. True security can only be found in the growing trust of free peoples."

Davis/Martin
Title: Hispanic
Dec. 5, 1989
Draft: Three

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: CEOs, HISPANIC LEADERS, EAST ROOM
6:30 p.m., WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6, 1989**

Good evening. Secretary Cavazos, Deputy Secretary ((Rod)) DeArment ((De-Arm-ment)) -- thank you for your ideas and inspiration. Alfredo Estrada, publisher of Hispanic magazine, thank you and your staff for your suggestions. I am especially delighted to be among so many Hispanic and business leaders. Welcome to the White House.\\

((You know, I've just spent several days on ships in the Mediterranean Sea. And I must have left my sea legs in the Navy, because walking over here through the West Wing, I found myself listing slightly to starboard.))\\

But it was a good meeting, one that I believe will set the basis for future progress -- building peace and advancing freedom for a new century. Yet, no matter how far I travel, who I meet or what I see, nothing can beat the thrill of returning home, back to the United States of America.\\

I asked you here today to thank you for all that you've done. As you know, our growing Hispanic community will soon form the largest minority group in our nation. And if this is to remain the land of opportunity, then all the citizens of America must be well educated and prepared for the challenges of the future.

There was a time in this country when you could prosper without a high school degree or a special skill. But we are entering an age of specialization. And in the 1990s, those who do not learn, will not earn.\\ They will find it hard to contribute. They will find it hard to advance. It's as simple as that.\\

Sadly, almost 11 percent of Hispanic students drop out of high school each year. More than half of all Hispanic-Americans over the age of 25 have not completed high school. And when it comes to higher education, too many Hispanics just never get the chance for college.

Solutions are coming from Hispanic America. Strong family support\\ -- the encouragement of learning and excellence\\ -- these have always been the most striking features of the Hispanic tradition. Now this tradition is endangered by the tensions, the very tempo, of modern life. So we must work together to protect this heritage. Work together as leaders in government and business, as men and women concerned with the future. Nothing less than a national effort will suffice.

Secretary Cavazos, who heads the Working Group on Education of the Domestic Policy Council, is already addressing important education issues. Now I am pleased to tell you we are embarking on a new effort, one just for Hispanic-Americans -- due, in part, to the advice I've heard from so many of you. I have signed a directive asking Secretary Cavazos to form an Hispanic Education Task Force to assess how well federal education programs serve

Hispanics, and recommend ways to enhance the federal role. The Task Force will complete its work and report to me by the end of February. Then, I'll incorporate these findings into our broader efforts to improve American education, mandated by our Education Summit with the nation's governors.

The corporate leaders here today understand that supporting education and training is good business as well as good citizenship. Look at the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund, which has sent almost ten thousand young Hispanic men and women to college. This means ten thousand highly educated and highly skilled Americans will bring their talent and energy to American business, and their leadership to a new generation.

By contributing to the many programs and funds that advance the cause of Hispanic youth, you have truly made an investment in this generation, and the future of America. But education is more than an investment. And the cause of education transcends the many prosaic matters I've discussed today.

Education is, as Will and Ariel Durant wrote, not just "the painful accumulation of facts and dates and reigns, nor merely the necessary preparation of the individual to earn his keep in the world." It is the "transmission of our mental, moral, technical and aesthetic heritage as fully as possible to as many as possible."

Let the next generation of Hispanic-Americans fully know their heritage -- the heritage of Benito Juarez, Jose Marti and George Washington, of Octavio Paz and William Faulkner.

For advancing this cause, I pass on to you the gratitude of the nation. Thank you, God bless you, and God bless America.

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