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**OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
Washington, D.C. 20500**

FAX TRANSMISSION TO: Chriss Winston
Office of Communications

FROM: David Tell
Deputy Chief of Staff

DATE: Friday, May 12, 1989

PAGES: Three (3), including cover

SUBJECT: The President's May 15 Drugs/Crime/Guns Speech

Director Bennett's comments and suggestions on Monday's speech. Please call me at 673-2512 if further discussion is needed or possibly helpful.

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines
E.O. 13526, SEC 3.4 (b), September 11, 2006
By lt NARA, Date 05/20/23

DECLASSIFIED
PER DOS WAIVER, November 6, 2015
By lt NARA, Date 05/30/23

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OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
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DATE: Friday, May 12, 1989

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General Comments

This is an excellent speech, well-written, coherent, newsworthy, and politically attractive -- if this is how the President ultimately decides to handle the assault weapon question. But we are still concerned that this response -- a permanent ban on imports that fail to meet the "sporting purposes" requirement of the 1968 Act -- leaves the President without an answer to those who will inevitably charge him with ducking the problem of domestic manufacture, sale, and transfer. It will be difficult to establish a good rationale for banning foreign-made weapons if similar domestic-manufacture weapons are left unregulated -- except a kind of gun industry protectionism that the President should not, even by implication, appear to endorse.

A domestic component of the President's package that might ban domestic assembly of foreign-made assault weapons parts has the same protectionist tinge, and is less than perfect because of it.

The gun-magazine limitation currently contained in the speech (page 7) is fine, but we suggest that the anecdotal example adduced in its support represents a serious potential embarrassment to the President. A "street-sweeper" shotgun with a 12-round magazine is a terrible and dangerous weapon, of course. A theoretical "street-sweeper" shotgun with a 10-round magazine would be -- to the popular imagination -- a difference in degree, not kind. Picture the obvious political cartoon: a man shot 10 times by a drug dealer, sighing in relief that the murder weapon didn't have just 2 more cartridges. We suggest that the "street-sweeper" example be dropped, and that the President describe the problem in general terms only.

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines
E.O. 13526, SEC 3.4 (b), September 11, 2006
By JK NARA, Date 05/30/23

DECLASSIFIED
Department of State Guidelines, July 21, 1997
By JK NARA, Date 05/30/23

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-2-

Specific Editorial suggestions

Page 2, third paragraph. Since the President is not addressing the "demand side" of the drug equation in this speech, the triad "drugs and dollars and dependency" should instead be something like "drugs and dollars and destruction."

Page 3, second paragraph. "Society causes crime like wet sidewalks cause rain" is not a good "false analogy" to make the President's point. Rain causes wet sidewalks. But crime doesn't cause society. Cut this line, and run the following sentence (minus the "But") into this paragraph.

Page 10, third full paragraph. Insert after "L.A. barrio" something like: "or at some motorcycle gang outpost in the Ozarks." All current examples in this paragraph are in black and Hispanic areas. That's bad politics, and it's also not true.

Also, the penultimate "And you" of this paragraph might be construed to mean that the Administration intends to enter poor neighborhoods and their jails and "finish the job." That's a bit much. Something along the lines of "We will take back our streets" would be just as tough, and better calibrated.



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DECLASSIFIED
PER DOS WAIVER, November 6, 2015
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**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON**

**LAST FALL, A RETIRED NEW YORK POLICE LIEUTENANT
GAVE ME BADGE NUMBER 14072 -- THE BADGE HIS SON WORE
THE DAY HE WAS GUNNED DOWN BY A GANG OF COCAINE
COWARDS. MATTHEW BYRNE ASKED ME TO KEEP EDDIE'S BADGE
AS A "REMINDER OF ALL THE BRAVE POLICE OFFICERS...WHO
PUT THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE FOR US EVERY DAY."**

- 2 -

**MATT, YOUR SON'S BADGE IS KEPT IN MY DESK IN THE
OVAL OFFICE. DURING THE DEBATE ON GUN-RELATED VIOLENCE
THAT HAS RAGED IN THIS COUNTRY THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS,
NEITHER IT, NOR WHAT IT REPRESENTS, HAS EVER BEEN FAR
FROM MY MIND. I'VE HEARD THE MANY VOICES, THE
COURAGEOUS AND THE CORRUPT, THE WOUNDED AND THE
WIDOWED.**

WE GATHER TODAY TO RESPOND TO THOSE VOICES, AND TO HONOR THE FALLEN BY LAUNCHING A NEW NATIONAL STRATEGY -- A PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICA'S CITIES AND STATES -- TO TAKE BACK THE STREETS.

IT CALLS FOR A RETURN TO COMMON SENSE. AND IT BEGINS WITH A CLEAR-EYED VISION OF THE KIND OF PROBLEMS WE FACE, THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE, THE KIND OF VALUES WE HOLD -- AND THE KIND OF NATION WE INTEND TO BEQUEATH TO OUR CHILDREN.

THE PROBLEM IS VIOLENT CRIME -- AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE BLOOD THAT'S BEEN SHED BY INCREASINGLY SOPHISTICATED GUNS IN THE HANDS OF A NEW CLASS OF CRIMINALS. USUALLY, BUT NOT ALWAYS, THE DEATHS ARE TIED TO A CYCLE OF DOLLARS AND DRUGS AND DEPENDENCY.

THE PRINCIPLES ARE SIMPLE. MY GENERATION WELL REMEMBERS WHAT SOME BELIEVE WAS F.D.R.'S FINEST SPEECH: THE "FOUR FREEDOMS" ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

THE LAST, OFTEN FORGOTTEN, BUT ARGUABLY MOST FUNDAMENTAL OF THOSE FREEDOMS WAS SIMPLY THIS: FREEDOM FROM FEAR. OUR SWORN DUTY TO "INSURE DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY" IS AS OLD AS THE REPUBLIC ITSELF, PLACED IN THE CONSTITUTION'S PREAMBLE EVEN BEFORE THE COMMON DEFENSE AND THE GENERAL WELFARE. WHEN WE ASK WHAT KIND OF SOCIETY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE, OUR GOAL MUST BE A NATION IN WHICH LAW ABIDING CITIZENS ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE.

TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL, PEOPLE MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. THAT'S COMMON SENSE. MOST AMERICANS ARE LAW ABIDING, AND MOST BELIEVE THAT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS RIGHT AND WRONG -- GOOD AND EVIL. WHETHER IT'S THE BRUTALIZATION OF A YOUNG RUNNER IN A PARK OR TERRORIZING A YOUNG MAN ONTO A CROWDED HIGHWAY, THESE ARE ACTS THAT CANNOT BE EXCUSED, OR EXPLAINED AWAY.

A COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO CRIME MEANS THAT IF WE ARE GOING TO AFFECT PEOPLE'S BEHAVIOR, WE MUST HAVE A CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IN WHICH THERE IS AN EXPECTATION THAT:

- IF YOU COMMIT A CRIME, YOU WILL BE CAUGHT.
- AND IF CAUGHT, YOU WILL BE PROSECUTED.
- AND IF CONVICTED, YOU WILL DO TIME.

FOR FAR TOO LONG, A PRIVILEGED CLASS OF VIOLENT AND REPEAT OFFENDERS HAVE CALCULATED THAT CRIME REALLY DOES PAY -- THAT OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS A CRAPSHOOT WHERE THE RISKS ARE WORTH THE REWARDS. WELL, IT'S TIME WE CHANGE THE ODDS -- AND UP THE STAKES ENORMOUSLY.

WE WILL LEAD THE WAY. WE WILL DO OUR PART -- AND THEN SOME. BUT NO FEDERAL EFFORT CAN SUCCEED WITHOUT THE FULL PARTNERSHIP OF THE CITIES AND STATES YOU REPRESENT.

UNFORTUNATELY, NOWHERE IS YOUR FRONT LINE ROLE MORE EVIDENT THAN IN THE HONOR ROLL THAT WILL BE READ TODAY: OF THE 161 OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY LAST YEAR, 152 WERE STATE OR LOCAL COPS. YOU ARE THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE -- AND YOUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO ADOPT TOUGH LEGISLATION AND PROVIDE THE RESOURCES -- IN POLICE, PROSECUTORS AND PRISONS -- TO FULLY BACK YOU UP.

AT THE TRIAL OF EDDIE BYRNE'S EXECUTIONERS, THERE WAS TESTIMONY THAT THE HIT WAS ORDERED FROM PRISON TO SEND A "MESSAGE" TO THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE BADGE. ONE WITNESS SAID THEY HOPED TO SEE THE ATTACK ON THE TV NEWS AT RIKER'S ISLAND.

TODAY WE HAVE A MESSAGE OF OUR OWN: WE'RE GOING TO TAKE BACK THE STREETS. BY TAKING CRIMINALS OFF THE STREETS.

IT'S AN ATTACK ON ALL FOUR FRONTS -- NEW LAWS TO PUNISH THEM, NEW AGENTS TO ARREST THEM, NEW PROSECUTORS TO CONVICT THEM, AND NEW PRISONS TO HOLD THEM.

I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY A COMPREHENSIVE NEW OFFENSIVE FOR COMBATTING VIOLENT CRIME. FOR EDDIE BYRNE, FOR EVERY OFFICER WE HONOR HERE TODAY, AND FOR AMERICA.

THE FIRST FRONT OF THIS CAMPAIGN -- NEW LAWS -- STARTS WITH THE SEMI-AUTOMATIC AND SO-CALLED "ASSAULT" WEAPONS THAT CRIMINALS HAVE TAKEN AS THEIR GUN OF CHOICE.

AGAIN, COMMON SENSE HAS TO PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THIS DISCUSSION. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, NEARLY HALF THE HOUSEHOLDS IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE GUNS. THE GUNS ARE ALREADY OUT THERE.

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AND THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY ARE LEGITIMATELY OWNED FOR LEGITIMATE PURPOSES.

BUT IN CONTRAST TO LEGITIMATE GUN OWNERSHIP IS THE CHILLING FACT THAT SOMETHING LIKE 80 PERCENT OF ALL FIREARMS USED BY FELONS ARE STOLEN OR OTHERWISE UNLAWFULLY OBTAINED. THROUGHOUT OUR NATION'S HISTORY, THE HARD LESSON WE'VE LEARNED IS THAT CRIMINALS WILL GET GUNS.

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SO LET ME BE VERY CLEAR ABOUT OUR RESPONSE: THE RIGHT TO OWN GUNS IS NOT A LICENSE TO HARM OTHERS.

FIRST, I AM CALLING ON CONGRESS TODAY TO DO FOR DANGEROUS FIREARMS WHAT IT HAS WISELY DONE FOR DANGEROUS DRUGS -- TO DOUBLE THE MANDATORY MINIMUM PENALTIES FOR THE USE OF SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS IN CRIMES INVOLVING VIOLENCE OR DRUGS.

- 15 -

THE MATH IS SIMPLE. ANYONE WHO USES A SEMI-AUTOMATIC FOR CRIME -- OR SO MUCH AS HAS ONE ON THEM DURING A CRIME -- WILL DO AN AUTOMATIC 10 EXTRA YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON. NO PROBATION. NO PAROLE. NO MATTER WHICH JUDGE THEY GET.

SECONDLY, WE JUST CAN'T PLEA BARGAIN AWAY THE LIVES OF OUR COPS AND KIDS.

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I AM DIRECTING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ADVISE AMERICA'S PROSECUTORS TO END PLEA BARGAINING FOR VIOLENT FEDERAL FIREARMS OFFENSES. THOSE WHO USE GUNS WILL DO TIME -- HARD TIME.

THIRD -- WHEN A CRIMINAL CARRIES A GUN -- AND SOMEONE DIES -- THEY MUST PAY WITH THEIR OWN LIVES.

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WE ARE CALLING ON CONGRESS TODAY TO ENACT THE STEPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE DEATH PENALTY -- AND TO NEWLY DESIGNATE THE USE OF A FIREARM AS AN "AGGRAVATING FACTOR" FOR DETERMINING WHETHER THE DEATH SENTENCE SHOULD BE IMPOSED.

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AND I CALL ON AMERICA'S GOVERNORS TO MATCH THIS FEDERAL INITIATIVE AND PROPOSE THESE SAME THREE STANDARDS AT HOME -- MANDATORY TIME, NO DEALS WITHOUT COOPERATION, THE DEATH PENALTY WHERE APPROPRIATE. YOUR STATES OWE IT TO THOSE HERE TODAY.

FOURTH -- TWO MONTHS AGO, AT MY DIRECTION, THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS SUSPENDED THE IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN, SO-CALLED "ASSAULT" WEAPONS.

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ATF IS CONTINUING ITS EXAMINATION TO DETERMINE WHICH --
IF ANY -- OF THESE WEAPONS ARE ACCEPTABLE UNDER THE
STANDARDS IN EXISTING LAW. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THIS
THREE MONTH STUDY -- AND AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION --
WE WILL PERMANENTLY BAN THOSE IMPORTS THAT DON'T
MEASURE UP TO THESE STANDARDS.

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RECENTLY, THE U.S. NEWS COVER STORY ON GUNS SUMMED
UP A RELATED CHALLENGE -- "THE DIFFICULTY IN DRAFTING
LAWS THAT WILL SEPARATE ASSAULT WEAPONS USED IN CRIME
FROM SEMI-AUTOMATICS FREQUENTLY USED" FOR LEGITIMATE
HUNTING AND SPORT.

THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL CONTROVERSY AND DEBATE ON THIS
POINT. BUT ONE THING THAT WE DO KNOW ABOUT THESE
"ASSAULT" WEAPONS IS THAT THEY INVARIABLY ARE EQUIPPED
WITH UNJUSTIFIABLY LARGE MAGAZINES.

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THE NOTORIOUS AKS-47, FOR EXAMPLE, COMES WITH A MAGAZINE THAT PUMPS OFF 30 EXPLOSIVE BURSTS WITHOUT RELOADING.

AND THAT IS WHY -- FIFTH -- WE STAND ON THE STEPS OF CONGRESS AND ASK ITS SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE IMPORTATION, MANUFACTURE, SALE, OR TRANSFER OF GUN MAGAZINES OF MORE THAN 15 ROUNDS.

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THE CURRENT DEBATE WAS FIRST SPARKED WHEN AN UNSTABLE GUNMAN IN STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA PURCHASED AN AKS-47 OVER THE COUNTER -- AND USED IT TO LAY WASTE TO AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND.

PATRICK EDWARD PURDY HAD NO BUSINESS BUYING THAT GUN. HE WAS ARRESTED ON HIS FIRST WEAPONS CHARGE BEFORE HIS 15TH BIRTHDAY. BY HIS FOURTH FIREARMS ARREST, PURDY HAD FINALLY TURNED 18, AND WITH IT CHALKED UP THE FIRST OF TWO ADULT CONVICTIONS.

ALTHOUGH FOR VIOLENT AND WEAPONS OFFENSES, BOTH CONVICTIONS WERE MISDEMEANORS. PURDY CRAWLED THROUGH THE LOOPHOLE THAT BARS ONLY FELONS FROM BUYING GUNS -- AND GOT THAT DEADLY AKS-47. THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS.

AND THEREFORE, WE ALSO PROPOSE THAT CONGRESS CLOSE THE PURDY LOOPHOLE, AND OTHERS LIKE IT THAT ALLOW DEADLY WEAPONS TO FALL INTO DEADLY HANDS. AGAIN, THAT'S JUST COMMON SENSE.

BUT WE NEED TO DO MORE THAN JUST ENACT NEW LAWS. IN A RECENT MOVIE ABOUT THE L.A. GANG WARS, A WOMAN SHOUTS ENCOURAGEMENT TO A COP ON PATROL, TELLING HIM: "YOU GET THEM OFF THE STREET." HE ANSWERS: "LADY, WE'RE TRYING." AND THE WOMAN OFFERS A FOUR WORD SOLUTION: "YOU NEED MORE HELP."

BELIEVE ME, WE KNOW IT. OUR POLICE NEED MORE HELP.

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AND I'M HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU THAT WE'RE PREPARED TO MATCH RHETORIC WITH RESOURCES -- AND CALL ON OUR CITIES AND STATES TO DO THE SAME.

THE SECOND FRONT OF OUR NEW OFFENSIVE CALLS FOR INCREASED MANPOWER AND A NEW STRATEGY ON GUNS -- A STRATEGY BASED ON MODELS OF PROVEN EFFECTIVENESS.

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I HAVE DIRECTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE TREASURY SECRETARY, WORKING TOGETHER WITH STATE AND LOCAL ENFORCEMENT, TO LAUNCH A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED OFFENSIVE AGAINST OUR NATION'S MOST VIOLENT CRIMINALS.

I AM REQUESTING FUNDING FOR HIRING 825 NEW FEDERAL AGENTS AND STAFF -- 375 AT ATF, 300 AT THE FBI, AND 150 DEPUTY U.S. MARSHALS.

MANY OF THESE HIRINGS WILL PERMIT EXPERIENCED INVESTIGATORS FROM ALL THREE AGENCIES TO PROMPTLY COMBAT VIOLENT CRIME IN THE FIELD.

OF COURSE, ARRESTING THESE THUGS DOESN'T HELP IF WE DON'T HAVE THE MUSCLE TO PROSECUTE EACH CRIMINAL TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW. THAT'S WHY THE THIRD FRONT OF THIS CAMPAIGN CALLS FOR CONGRESS TO BACK UP THESE NEW TROOPS WITH 1,600 NEW PROSECUTORS AND STAFF -- THE LARGEST INCREASE IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY.

NOW, THERE PROBABLY ISN'T A COP HERE WHO HASN'T SEEN A CASE WHERE A DANGEROUS FELON -- PROPERLY ARRESTED, FULLY PROSECUTED, AND SENTENCED TO THE MAXIMUM -- WALKED OUT OF JAIL EARLY, SOMETIMES YEARS EARLY, BECAUSE STATE PRISONS ARE BURSTING AT THE SEAMS. THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

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PART OF OUR COMMON SENSE APPROACH IS A SIMPLE RECOGNITION THAT IT DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD TO PROVIDE NEW FEDERAL AGENTS, NEW ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEYS, AND NEW LAWS WITH LONG-TERM PENALTIES -- IF WE DON'T HAVE THE PRISON CELLS TO KEEP CRIMINALS WHERE THEY BELONG. A CHAIN IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS WEAKEST LINK.

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AND SO, AS THE FOURTH FRONT IN THIS COMPREHENSIVE EFFORT, I AM CALLING ON CONGRESS TO AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL \$1 BILLION --OVER AND ABOVE THE \$500 MILLION ALREADY SLATED FOR 1990 -- FOR FEDERAL PRISON CONSTRUCTION. THESE 24,000 NEW BEDS WILL NEARLY DOUBLE FEDERAL PRISON CAPACITY.

NOT SINCE LINCOLN HAS A PRESIDENT STOOD IN FRONT OF THE CAPITOL AND BEEN JUST A FEW MILES FROM THE FRONT LINE OF A WAR.

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NEVER WAS THE TOLL MORE VISIBLE THAN IN THE FACES OF THE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN -- THE FAMILIES -- GATHERED HERE TODAY. AND WHEN I FIRST STOOD HERE AS PRESIDENT -- ONLY MOMENTS AFTER TAKING THE OATH -- I MADE A PROMISE: "THIS SCOURGE WILL STOP." AND THAT'S A PROMISE WE INTEND TO KEEP.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I OFFER MY CONDOLENCES FOR YOUR FALLEN LOVED ONES AND FELLOW OFFICERS. I SALUTE YOUR COMMITMENT AND YOUR COURAGE.

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AND AS A CITIZEN GRATEFUL FOR THE PROTECTION YOU HAVE PROVIDED FOR MY FAMILY AND MY COUNTRYMEN, I THANK YOU AND WISH YOU GODSPEED. AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 15, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

West Front, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C.

12:29 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you, Suzie. If it doesn't start clearing up, we're issuing snorkels to everybody out there. (Laughter.) Thank you, Suzie Sawyer, and, of course, to Dewey Stokes and Craig Floyd, my respects as well. You have great leadership, and I salute them. I want to say how pleased I am that the Secretary of the Treasury is with me -- Nick Brady; our Attorney General -- the able Dick Thornburgh; and our drug czar, Secretary Bill Bennett.

The fact that we four are here is intentional. It sends the signal of our commitment and of our interest. And I know members of Congress are here as well. I spotted my own Senator, Senator Phil Gramm of Texas and Senator Pete Wilson. But I'm going to be in trouble because I can't see over there who else is there, but I know many are sitting right over here, and we salute them. I see Senator Ford and others. And we're just delighted that they are here today. (Applause.)

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072. And I have it with me here today -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by a gang of cocaine cowards. Matt Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers who put their lives on the line for us every single day."

Matt, your son's badge, as I have told you, is kept in my desk at the Oval Office. And during the debate on gun-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it, nor what it represents has ever been far from my mind. I've heard the many voices, the courageous and the compassionate, the wounded and the widowed. And I salute the survivors that are here today.

We gather today to respond to those voices and to honor the fallen by launching a national strategy -- a partnership with America's cities and states -- to take back the streets.

It calls for a return to common sense. And it begins with a clear-eyed vision of the kind of problems we face, the kind of people we are, the kind of values that we hold -- and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

The problem is violent crime -- and, in particular, the blood that's been shed by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of dollars and drugs and dependency.

The principles are simple. My generation well remembers what some believe was FDR's finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" -- an address to a joint session of the Congress. And the last, often forgotten, but arguably the most fundamental of those freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic tranquility" is as old as the Republic, placed in the Constitution's Preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. And

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so when we ask what kind of society the American people deserve, our goal must be a nation in which law-abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

To achieve this goal, people must be held accountable for their actions. And that's common sense. Most Americans are law-abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- good and evil. And whether it's the brutalization of a young runner in a park or terrorizing a young man on to a crowded highway, these are acts that cannot be excused, or explained away. A common sense approach to crime means that if we're going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that if you commit a crime, you will be caught; and if caught, you will be prosecuted; and if convicted, you will do time. (Applause.)

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously.

And we will lead the way. We'll do our part -- and then some. But no federal effort can succeed without the full partnership of the cities and states that you so nobly represent. Unfortunately, nowhere is your front line role more evident than in the honor roll that will be read today: of 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. And you are the first line of defense -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered from prison to send a message to the people behind the badge. And one witness said that they hoped to see the attack on the television news at Riker's Island.

Well, today we have a message of our own: We're going to take back the streets -- by taking criminals off the streets. And it's an attack -- (applause) -- it is an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish them, new agents to arrest them, new prosecutors to convict them, and new prisons to hold them. (Applause.)

I am announcing today -- and there is no more fitting place than right here -- a comprehensive new offensive for combating violent crime. For Eddie Byrne, for every officer we honor here today and for America. The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semiautomatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals have taken as their gun of choice.

And again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns, and guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used by felons are stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns. And so let me be very clear about our response: The right to own a gun is not a license to harm others.

And so first, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of semiautomatic weapons in crimes involving violence or drugs.

And the math is simple. Anyone who uses a semiautomatic for crime -- or so much as has one on them during a crime -- will do

MORE

an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. No probation. No parole. No matter which judge they get. (Applause.)

And secondly, we must can't plea bargain away the lives of your loved ones, the lives of our cops and kids. And I'm directing the Attorney General to advise America's prosecutors to end plea bargaining for violent federal firearms offenses. Those who use guns will do time -- hard time. (Applause.)

And third -- when a criminal carries a gun -- and someone dies -- they must pay with their own lives. (Applause.)

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty -- and to newly designate the use of a firearm as an "aggravating factor" for determining whether the death sentence should be imposed.

And I call on America's governors to match this federal initiative and propose these same three standards at home -- mandatory time, no deals without cooperation, and the death penalty where appropriate. Your states owe it to those here today, and to the American people. (Applause.)

And fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms suspended the importation of certain so-called "assault" weapons. ATF is continuing its examination to determine which, if any, of these weapons are not acceptable under standards in existing law. And at the conclusion of this study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban any imports that don't measure up to these standards.

Recently, the U.S. News cover story on guns summed up a related challenge -- "the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semiautomatics frequently used" for legitimate hunting and sport.

And here is substantial controversy and debate on this point. You're all well aware of that. But one thing that we do know about these "assault" weapons is that they are invariably equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. The notorious AKS-47, for example, comes with a magazine that pumps off 30 explosive bullets without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps here in front of the Capitol and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of these insidious gun magazines of more than 15 rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AKS-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy had no business buying that gun. He was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. And by his fourth firearms arrest, Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up the first of two adult convictions. Although for violent and weapons offenses, both convictions were misdemeanors. Purdy crawled through the loophole that bars only felons from buying guns -- and got that deadly AKS-47. That is outrageous.

And therefore, we also propose that Congress close this Purdy loophole, and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just plain common sense. We must not allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. But we need to do more than just enact new laws. And in a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off the street." And he answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

And believe me, we know it. Our police need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on our cities and states to do the same.

The second front, if you will, of our new offensive calls for increased manpower and a new strategy on guns -- a strategy based on models of proven effectiveness. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together with state and local enforcement, to launch a comprehensive, coordinated offensive against our nation's most violent criminals.

And I am requesting funding for hiring 825 new federal agents and staff -- 375 at ATF, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals. Many of these hirings will permit experienced investigators from all three agencies to promptly combat violent crime in the field.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. And that's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new prosecutors and staff.

And now, there probably isn't a police officer here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because prisons are bursting at the seams. That is not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new federal agents, new assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties -- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on the Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. (Applause.) These 24,000 new beds will boost federal prison capacity by nearly 80 percent.

Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front lines of a war. Never was the toll more visible than in the faces of the brave men and women -- the families -- gathered here today. And when I first stood here as President -- over there -- only moments after taking the oath of office -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop." And that's a promise that we intend to keep. Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen loved ones and for your fellow officers. And I salute your commitment, and I salute your courage, and as a citizen -- grateful for the protection you have provided for me and my family and my fellow countrymen. I thank you, and I wish you Godspeed.

Thank you all, and God bless the United States of America. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

END

12:45 P.M. EDT

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/11/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/11/89 6:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

| | ACTION | FYI | | ACTION | FYI |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SUNUNU | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NEWMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| DARMAN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | STUDDERT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| BREEDEN | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CARD | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | WINSTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CICCONI | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PINKERTON | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| HAGIN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward any comments directly to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 6:00 PM, TODAY, Thursday, May 11, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Sorry for the short turnaround. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 11 PM 1:5

(McNally/Simon)
May 11, 1989
11:00 a.m.
Draft Three
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front line of a war.

Certain sections, of certain cities -- including this one -- have been turned into combat zones by pockets of violent and well-armed drug lords.

Never was the toll more visible than in the faces of the brave men and women -- the families -- gathered here on democracy's front steps today.

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by one such gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on drug-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it nor what it represents has ever been far from my mind. I've heard many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

Some say we should give up. Others all but suggest we barricade the streets. But somewhere between despair and destruction, there is a balanced course. Room for a measured response. A place for common sense.

And no effective search for the solutions can begin without ^{determining} ~~a thoughtful look~~ at the problem we face, ^{or understanding} ~~and~~ ~~at~~ the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold, and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

First, the problem. We're here today to talk about violent crime -- and, in particular, the blood~~shed~~ that has been ~~spurred~~ ^{shed} by increasingly sophisticated guns in the hands of a new class of cold-blooded criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of drugs and dollars and dependency.

Second, the principles. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, ^{but} ~~and~~ arguably most fundamental of President Roosevelt's freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquil|ity" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve -- and what kind of society we hope to pass on to our children -- it's clear that our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

Fundamental to this duty is the notion that people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- that we each carry within ourselves the capacity for evil -- and the freedom to choose instead to do good.

We can all be glad that the failed policies of liberal leniency -- often blaming society or even the victim -- seem to be fading from the debate. (Society causes crime like wet sidewalks cause rain.) ?

But a return to a common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

- If a crime is committed, you will be caught.
- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.
- And if convicted, you will do time.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously. And I'll talk about that in a moment.

One other principle. The federal government has a special enforcement role, particularly one of leadership. But our job is also to work in partnership with state and local law enforcement, complementing efforts, providing technical assistance and sometimes cash where needed, and where possible.

Nonetheless -- for constitutional and traditional reasons -- the primary responsibility for law enforcement always has and will continue to rest with state and local authorities.

Unfortunately, nowhere is this sometimes dangerous duty more evident than in the honor roll that will be read ^{today.} ~~after my remarks~~ ~~are concluded.~~ Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the front line troops -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered by a short-term convict -- serving just ___ years for a serious weapons charge -- to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they ^{hoped} ~~wanted~~ to see the attack on the TV news at Rikers Island.

Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a little message of our own.

If you use guns, get used to prison TV.

We're going to take back the streets. And we're going to do it by taking you off them.

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish you, new cops to arrest you, new prosecutors to convict you, and new jails to hold you.

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals lately have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used in crime are stolen or otherwise unlawfully possessed. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response:

The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others. First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of a ~~Tully~~ or semi-automatic weapon in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is real simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an extra 10 years in federal prison. No probation. No parole.

And it doesn't matter anymore whether you get a tough judge. The 10 years is automatic. Go straight to jail. The games are over.

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward, all deals are off. I am directing the Attorney General to notify all federal prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for violent firearms offenses.

You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if you use an "assault" weapon -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty that became law last year -- and to newly designate the use of fully and semi-automatic weapons as "aggravating factors" for determining whether a sentence of death should be imposed.

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Department of the Treasury suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons -- under the existing law requiring that they be generally recognized as suitable or adaptable for sporting purposes.

Treasury is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under these standards. They continue to invite comments and testimony from all interested groups and individuals. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban ^{those} all imports that don't measure up to this standard.

(Porter)

We also call on American businesses to follow the lead of Colt Industries -- which has voluntarily halted the production of assault weapons like the imports covered by the current ban.

Now, perhaps the biggest challenge in combatting this problem was recently summed up in the U.S. News cover story on guns: "The key problem is the difficulty in drafting laws that will separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used for target practice and sometimes for hunting."

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point, and there is simply much that we do not yet know. But one thing that we do know about the common characteristics of these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. One of the best examples is the so-called "street-sweeper" -- a powerful shotgun with a built in magazine that pumps off 12 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than 10 rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AK-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy was born in November 1964, and was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By the time of his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction .

*fact sheet page 15
These
Guns 12
the diff between
12 and 10 rounds
train.*

It is outrageous that -- under the loopholes in current federal law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal despite his police record. That's not right.

And therefore -- sixth -- our comprehensive legislative package, which the Attorney General will transmit this week, also calls on Congress to close the Purdy loophole and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

Finally, no criminal should get out on the streets until and unless they are drug free. I ask that Congress enact my proposal to make drug-testing a mandantory condition before any criminal is released -- whether on bail or parole.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. You need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on the states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for more ~~troops~~ ^{more power} and a new strategy on guns. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with their colleagues in state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Weapons Task Forces -- headquartered in seven

3 Th.

more power
Cops

major cities facing acute violent crime -- to target and arrest America's most dangerous offenders.

I am requesting funding for hiring 750 new federal agents -- 300 at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals, along with 75 new support staff. Many of these hirings will permit experienced firearms experts from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Modeled on the highly successful Drug Task Forces set up by President Reagan in 1983, the Dangerous Weapons Task Forces will be based on a concept of proven effectiveness -- the mobilization of federal, state and local law enforcement ^{professionals} ~~shock troops~~ to get violent and dangerous criminals off our streets.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new federal prosecutors -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early, sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties

-- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong.

(A chain is only as strong as its weakest link?)

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. By adding 26,000 new beds to the present rated capacity of 29,112 beds, the federal prison capacity will be virtually doubled.

The last time I stood on these steps -- only moments after becoming President -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or ^{streets of} on the L.A. ~~barrio~~, or right here in ^{D.C.} ~~Anacostia~~, I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

loved ones and our fallen
 Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen comrades. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 12, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *ew*
FROM: EDWARD E. McNALLY *EM*
SUBJECT: CRIME PACKAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

I. SUMMARY

Attached for your consideration and review are draft remarks for your announcement of the Administration's new package for combatting violent crime -- to be made at the Peace Officers Memorial Day commemoration outside the Capitol on Monday.

II. DISCUSSION

At 12:00 noon on Monday, May 15, 1989, you are scheduled to attend the Peace Officers Memorial Day ceremony to commemorate the 161 law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty in 1988. A wreath will be laid with 161 carnations -- including one to be added by you. An audience of approximately 7,000 persons is expected.

(McNally/Simon)
May 12, 1989, 6:00 p.m.
Draft Four
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by a gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on gun-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it, nor what it represents, has ever been far from my mind. I've heard the many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

We gather today to respond to those voices, and to honor the fallen by launching a new national strategy -- a partnership with America's cities and states -- to take back the streets.

It calls for a return to common sense. And it begins with a clear-eyed vision of the kind of problems we face, the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold -- and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

The problem is violent crime -- and, in particular, the blood that's been shed by increasingly sophisticated guns in the

hands of a new class of criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of dollars and drugs and dependency.

The principles are simple. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, but arguably most fundamental of those freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve, our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

To achieve this goal, people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- good and evil. Whether it's the brutalization of a young runner in a park or terrorizing a young man onto a crowded highway, these are acts that cannot be excused, or explained away. A nation that cannot understand the difference between right and wrong will never protect itself.

A common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

- If you commit a crime, you will be caught.
- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.
- And if convicted, you will do time.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously.

We will lead the way. We will do our part -- and then some. But no federal effort can succeed without the full partnership of the cities and states you represent. Unfortunately, nowhere is your front line role more evident than in the honor roll that will be read today: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the first line of defense -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered from prison to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they hoped to see the attack on the TV news at Riker's Island.

Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a message of our own: We're going to take back the streets. By taking you off the streets.

It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish you, new agents to arrest you, new prosecutors to convict you, and new prisons to hold you.

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. For Eddie Byrne, for every officer we honor here today, and for America.

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used by felons are stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response: The right to bear arms is not a license to harm others.

First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of semi-automatic weapons in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. No probation. No parole. No matter which judge you get.

*to end plea bargaining
for violent federal firearms
cases.*

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. ~~From this day forward: All deals are off.~~ I am directing the Attorney General to advise America's prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for federal firearms offenses. You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if you use one of these weapons -- and someone dies -- the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty -- and to newly designate the use of a firearm as an "aggravating factor" for determining whether the death sentence should be imposed.

And I call on America's Governors to match this federal initiative and propose these same three standards at home -- mandatory time, no deals without cooperation, the death penalty where appropriate. Your states owe it to those here today.

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons. ATF is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under the standards in existing law. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- we will permanently ban those imports that don't measure up to these standards.

Recently, the U.S. News cover story on guns summed up a related challenge -- "the difficulty in drafting laws that will

separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used" for legitimate hunting and sport.

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point. But one thing that we do know about these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. The notorious AK-47, for example, comes with a magazine that pumps off 30 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than ~~[[10 or 15]]~~ rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AKS-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy had no business buying that gun. He was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction. And yet -- under the loopholes in current law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal. That's outrageous.

And therefore, we also propose that Congress close the Purdy loophole, and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off

to launch a coord. offensive against our nation's most violent criminals

the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. Our police need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on our cities and states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for increased manpower and a new strategy on guns -- a strategy based on models of proven effectiveness. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first ~~Dangerous Offenders Task Forces~~ -- to target ~~America's most dangerous streets and arrest our nation's~~ ^{coordinated, concentrated comprehensive effort} ~~most violent criminals.~~ ^{America's dangerous} most violent criminals.

I am requesting funding for hiring 825 new federal agents and staff -- 375 at ATF, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals. Many of these hirings will permit experienced investigators from all three agencies to promptly assume ~~Task Force posts to combat violent crime.~~

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new prosecutors and staff -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early,

sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties -- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. These 24,000 new beds will nearly double federal prison capacity.

Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front line of a war. And when I first stood here as President -- only moments after taking the oath -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or on the streets of L.A., or in right here in D.C., I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen loved ones and fellow officers. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 13, 1989

NOTE FOR ED MCNALLY:

Attached are the President's comments on the crime speech, as Jim gave them to me over the phone. The material in brackets is Jim's gloss on the comments and reflects them.

Two policy points need to be resolved: first, whether the Attorney General agrees with the policy on plea-bargaining, and second, whether the limit will be 10 or 15 rounds. Phil Brady is checking on the former; Jim is hoping to reach Roger Porter to clear up the latter.

The President does not want to speak directly to criminals or address them in the second person. There may be other areas than those Jim has marked where this is done; please rework them.

I should be in at some point tomorrow; please call me to work out a schedule for this speech.

Thanks.



(McNally/Simon)
May 12, 1989, 6:00 p.m.
Draft Four
(B:CRIME)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT
MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989
12:00 NOON

Last fall, a retired New York police lieutenant gave me badge number 14072 -- the badge his son wore the day he was gunned down by a gang of cocaine cowards. Matthew Byrne asked me to keep Eddie's badge as a "reminder of all the brave police officers...who put their lives on the line for us every day."

Matt, your son's badge is kept in my desk in the Oval Office. During the debate on gun-related violence that has raged in this country the past several months, neither it, nor what it represents, has ever been far from my mind. I've heard the many voices, the courageous and the corrupt, the wounded and the widowed.

We gather today to respond to those voices, and to honor the fallen by launching a new national strategy -- a partnership with America's cities and states -- to take back the streets.

It calls for a return to common sense. And it begins with a clear-eyed vision of the kind of problems we face, the kind of people we are, the kind of values we hold -- and the kind of nation we intend to bequeath to our children.

The problem is violent crime -- and, in particular, the blood that's been shed by increasingly sophisticated guns in the

hands of a new class of criminals. Usually, but not always, the deaths are tied to a cycle of dollars and drugs and dependency.

The principles are simple. My generation well remembers what some believe was F.D.R.'s finest speech: The "Four Freedoms" address to a joint session of Congress. The last, often forgotten, but arguably most fundamental of those freedoms was simply this: freedom from fear. Our sworn duty to "insure domestic Tranquility" is as old as the republic itself, placed in the Constitution's preamble even before the common defense and the general welfare. When we ask what kind of society the American people deserve, our goal must be a nation in which law abiding citizens are safe and feel safe.

To achieve this goal, people must be held accountable for their actions. That's common sense. Most Americans are law abiding, and most believe that there is such a thing as right and wrong -- good and evil. Whether it's the brutalization of a young runner in a park or terrorizing a young man onto a crowded highway, these are acts that cannot be excused, or explained away. ~~A nation that cannot understand the difference between right and wrong will never protect itself.~~

A common sense approach to crime means that if we are going to affect people's behavior, we must have a criminal justice system in which there is an expectation that:

- If you commit a crime, you will be caught.
- And if caught, you will be prosecuted.
- And if convicted, you will do time.

Phil
Brady

N.Y.

For far too long, a privileged class of violent and repeat offenders have calculated that crime really does pay -- that our criminal justice system is a crapshoot where the risks are worth the rewards. Well, it's time we change the odds -- and up the stakes enormously.

We will lead the way. We will do our part -- and then some. But no federal effort can succeed without the full partnership of the cities and states you represent. Unfortunately, nowhere is your front line role more evident than in the honor roll that will be read today: Of the 161 officers killed in the line of duty last year, 152 were state or local cops. You are the first line of defense -- and your respective governments have an obligation to adopt tough legislation and provide the resources -- in police, prosecutors and prisons -- to fully back you up.

At the trial of Eddie Byrne's executioners, there was testimony that the hit was ordered from prison to send a "message" to the people behind the badge. One witness said they hoped to see the attack on the TV news at Riker's Island.

~~Well, keep the cameras rolling. I hope they have C-SPAN at Rikers. Because today we have a message of our own: We're going to take back the streets. By taking you off the streets.~~ *outlaw*

It's an attack on all four fronts -- new laws to punish ^{them} you, new agents to arrest ^{them} you, new prosecutors to convict ^{them} you, and new prisons to hold ^{them} you.

→ I do not like talking directly to criminals. - un-Presidential
too macho, too rhetorical

I am announcing today a comprehensive new offensive for combatting violent crime. For Eddie Byrne, for every officer we honor here today, and for America.

The first front of this campaign -- new laws -- starts with the semi-automatic and so-called "assault" weapons that criminals have taken as their gun of choice.

Again, common sense has to play an important part in this discussion. The fact of the matter is, nearly half the households in this country have guns. The guns are already out there. And the overwhelming majority are legitimately owned for legitimate purposes.

But in contrast to legitimate gun ownership is the chilling fact that something like 80 percent of all firearms used by felons are stolen or otherwise unlawfully obtained. Throughout our nation's history, the hard lesson we've learned is that criminals will get guns.

So let me be very clear about our response: The right to ~~bear arms~~ ^{own guns} is not a license to harm others.

First, I am calling on Congress today to do for dangerous firearms what it has wisely done for dangerous drugs -- to double the mandatory minimum penalties for the use of semi-automatic weapons in crimes involving violence or drugs.

The math is simple. You use these weapons for crime -- you so much as have one on you during a crime -- and you will do an automatic 10 extra years in federal prison. No probation. No parole. No matter which judge you get.

[4/1/87]

assuming that AG is on board

Secondly, we just can't plea bargain away the lives of our cops and kids. From this day forward: **All deals are off.** I am directing the Attorney General to advise America's prosecutors that this nation has seen its last plea-bargain for federal firearms offenses. You use a gun, and you will do time.

Third -- if ^{*[criminals]*} you use one of these weapons -- and someone dies -- ~~the only place you should expect mercy is from a Court beyond our jurisdiction.~~ ^{*you must pay with your own life*}

We are calling on Congress today to enact the steps necessary to implement the death penalty -- and to newly designate the use of a firearm as an "aggravating factor" for determining whether the death sentence should be imposed. ^{*[was comment written this way because speech to follow the speech - the general comment about not addressing criminals directly overrides this specific comment]*}

And I call on America's Governors to match this federal initiative and propose these same three standards at home -- mandatory time, no deals without cooperation, the death penalty where appropriate. Your states owe it to those here today.

Fourth -- two months ago, at my direction, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms suspended the importation of certain, so-called "assault" weapons. ATF is continuing its examination to determine which -- if any -- of these weapons are acceptable under the standards in existing law. At the conclusion of this three month study -- and after careful consideration -- **we will permanently ban those imports that don't measure up to these standards.**

Recently, the U.S. News cover story on guns summed up a related challenge -- "the difficulty in drafting laws that will

work

separate assault weapons used in crime from semi-automatics frequently used" for legitimate hunting and sport.

There is substantial controversy and debate on this point. But one thing that we do know about these "assault" weapons is that they invariably are equipped with unjustifiably large magazines. The notorious AK-47, for example, comes with a magazine that pumps off 30 explosive bursts without reloading.

And that is why -- fifth -- we stand on the steps of Congress and ask its support for legislation prohibiting the importation, manufacture, sale, or transfer of gun magazines of more than [[10 or 15]] rounds.

The current debate was first sparked when an unstable gunman in Stockton, California purchased an AKS-47 over the counter -- and used it to lay waste to an elementary school playground.

Patrick Edward Purdy had no business buying that gun. He was arrested on his first weapons charge before his 15th birthday. By his fourth firearms arrest Purdy had finally turned 18, and with it chalked up his first adult conviction. And yet -- under the loopholes in current law -- Purdy's purchase of that deadly AK-47 was entirely legal. That's outrageous.

And therefore, we also propose that Congress close the Purdy loophole, and others like it that allow deadly weapons to fall into deadly hands. Again, that's just common sense.

But we need to do more than just enact new laws. In a recent movie about the L.A. gang wars, a woman shouts encouragement to a cop on patrol, telling him: "You get them off

what does this mean? what's the loophole? Do we mean to close it with the model waiting periods?

Describe loophole

→ *[Should be AKS-47, as above]*

the street." He answers: "Lady, we're trying." And the woman offers a four word solution: "You need more help."

Believe me, we know it. Our police need more help. And I'm here today to tell you that we're prepared to match rhetoric with resources -- and call on our cities and states to do the same.

The second front of our new offensive calls for increased manpower and a new strategy on guns -- a strategy based on models of proven effectiveness. I have directed the Attorney General and the Treasury Secretary, working together and with state and local enforcement, to launch our nation's first Dangerous Offenders Task Forces -- to target America's most dangerous streets and arrest our nation's most violent criminals.

I am requesting funding for hiring 825 new federal agents and staff -- 375 at ATF, 300 at the FBI, and 150 Deputy U.S. Marshals. Many of these hirings will permit experienced investigators from all three agencies to promptly assume Task Force posts to combat violent crime.

Of course, arresting these thugs doesn't help if we don't have the muscle to prosecute each criminal to the fullest extent of the law. That's why the third front of this campaign calls for Congress to back up these new troops with 1,600 new prosecutors and staff -- the largest increase in our nation's history.

Now, there probably isn't a cop here who hasn't seen a case where a dangerous felon -- properly arrested, fully prosecuted, and sentenced to the maximum -- walked out of jail early,

sometimes years early, because state prisons are bursting at the seams. That's not right.

Part of our common sense approach is a simple recognition that it doesn't do any good to provide new Task Forces, new Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and new laws with long-term penalties -- if we don't have the prison cells to keep criminals where they belong. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

And so, as the fourth front in this comprehensive effort, I am calling on Congress to authorize an additional \$1 billion -- over and above the \$500 million already slated for 1990 -- for federal prison construction. These 24,000 new beds will nearly double federal prison capacity.

Not since Lincoln has a President stood in front of the Capitol and been just a few miles from the front line of a war. And when I first stood here as President -- only moments after taking the oath -- I made a promise: "This scourge will stop."

~~If the thugs are listening up at Riker's, or on the streets of L.A., or in right here in D.C., I have a final message for you. You started this war. But we are going to finish it. And you.~~

Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen loved ones and fellow officers. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

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remove the

→ Needs a transition [this war is different]

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY
U.S. CAPITOL -- WEST FRONT

SUBJECT: MONDAY, MAY 15, 1989

(5/12 - 6:00p.m. draft four)

| | ACTION FYI | | | ACTION FYI | |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MCCLURE | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| SUNUNU | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NEWMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| SCOWCROFT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PORTER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | STUDDERT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BATES | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | UNTERMAYER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| BREEDEN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ROGERS | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CARD | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | WINSTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CICCONI | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PINKERTON | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HAGIN | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

(McNally/Simon)
May 12, 1989, 6:00 p.m.
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Ladies and gentlemen, I offer my condolences for your fallen loved ones and fellow officers. I salute your commitment and your courage. And as a citizen grateful for the protection you have provided for my family and my countrymen, I thank you and wish you Godspeed. And God bless America.

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