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FOIA Number:

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# FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the George Bush Presidential Library Staff.**

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13510  
**Folder ID Number:** 13510-011

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**Folder Title:**  
Lech Walesa 11/13/89 [OA 3537]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

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# Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

## (George Bush Library)

Document No. and Type	Subject/Title of Document	Date	Restriction	Class.
01. Telegram	U.S. Embassy, Warsaw to Secretary of State, re: Lech Walesa. (3 pp.)	11/13/89	P-1, (b)(1)	C

**Collection:**

**Record Group:** Bush Presidential Records  
**Office:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File, Drafts  
**Subseries:**  
**WHORM Cat.:**  
**File Location:** Lech Walesa 11/13/89

<b>Date Closed:</b> 9/29/2004	<b>OA/ID Number:</b> 03537
<b>FOIA/SYS Case #:</b>	
<b>Re-review Case #:</b> 2004-2249-S	
<b>P-2/P-5 Review Case #:</b>	

<b>MR Case #:</b>	<b>Appeal Case #:</b>
<b>MR Disposition:</b>	<b>Appeal Disposition:</b>
<b>Disposition Date:</b>	<b>Disposition Date:</b>

### RESTRICTION CODES

<p><b>Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]</b></p> <p>P-1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]  P-2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]  P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]  P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]  P-5 Release would disclose confidential advise between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]  P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]</p> <p>C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.</p>	<p><b>Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]</b></p> <p>(b)(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]  (b)(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]  (b)(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]  (b)(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]  (b)(6) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA]  (b)(7) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA]  (b)(8) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA]  (b)(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information</p>
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

November 13, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AND LECH WALESIA  
AT MEDAL OF FREEDOM CEREMONY

The East Room

6:07 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Just before Christmas, 1981, a darkness descended across Poland for the third time this century. What had begun as a year of hope and freedom ended in violence and repression. In snow-filled crossroads and town squares across Poland, iron tanks rumbled to a stop.

Lech Walesa made the sign of the cross on the foreheads of his sleeping children and was taken away into the night. Solidarity, a movement embracing the Polish nation, was outlawed. Communications with the outside world were cut. And Poland awoke to snow and steel and silence, an entire nation imprisoned.

But you can't lock up a dream. One by one, candles lit the windows of Poland's farmhouses and tenements, silent beacons of liberty still burning in the hearts of a brave and ancient people. And that Christmas Eve, not far from where we stand, a candle burned all night in the White House, like others all across America, glowing with solidarity with the Polish people.

When spring came, a time of renewal and rebirth, Lech Walesa's fate was still unknown, And as colleges and universities approached graduation, one by one, again and again, the same two names were heard. Lech Walesa and Solidarity.

Of course, Lech Walesa could not come to accept those honorary degrees. And so in crowded assembly halls and packed arenas across America, where every precious space was filled with proud and loving families, stage after stage held a single, unfilled place -- an empty chair, bearing only the Solidarity banner -- awaiting the release of Lech Walesa, the liberation of the Polish people.

We saw empty chairs in Maine and Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Illinois. And at Notre Dame, the crowd stood for three minutes in cheering tribute to the empty chair and the man who wasn't there. At Holy Cross, Lane Kirkland accepted the award on Lech Walesa's behalf. And back in Poland, in a humble wooden church on the outskirts of Gdansk, an empty chair was placed near the altar for the baptism of tiny Maria-Victoria, Lech's seventh child, a little girl he'd never seen.

For eight years, these empty chairs and the American people have waited for you to come. We waited because we believe in freedom. We waited because we believe in Poland. And we waited because we believe in you. (Applause.)

And today, the waiting is over. Lech Walesa, man of freedom, is at the White House. We think of it as the house of freedom.

Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you: "Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair. Now you can have a seat." (Applause.)

MORE

In just a few days, you will be the second private citizen from abroad -- second in our history to ever address a joint meeting of Congress -- after the Marquis de Lafayette in 1824. And like him, you helped win an historic struggle. And like him, you represent not only a people but also an idea -- an idea whose time has come. And nothing can stop an idea whose time has come.

That idea is freedom. The time is now. (Applause.)

You were called a nobody. But Lenin and Stalin have been disproved, not by presidents or princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk and his fellow workers in a brave union called Solidarity. The Iron Curtain is fast becoming a rusted, abandoned relic, symbolizing a lost era, a failed ideology. And the change is everywhere. Poland. Hungary. Czechoslovakia.

And ladies and gentlemen, the week that brought Lech Walesa to America is the week that the headlines proclaimed, "And the Wall comes tumbling down." (Applause.)

So what is happening in Berlin and on our television screens is astounding. World War II, fought for freedom, ironically left the world divided between the free and the unfree. And most of us alive today were born into that sundered world. And now almost 50 years have passed and some have wondered all these years why we stayed in Berlin. And let me tell you. We stayed because we knew -- we just knew -- all Americans -- that this day would come. And now a century that was born in war and revolution may bequeath a legacy of peace unthinkable only a few years ago.

The story of our times is the story of brave men and women who seized a moment, who took a stand. Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire others in them a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself; changed the course of a nation. History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history.

And I believe history continues to be made every day by small daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the country, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

Our own humble electrician, Ben Franklin, declared that "Our cause is the cause of all mankind, for we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own." And like Franklin, who seized lightning from the skies and brought it to Earth, Lech Walesa seized an idea, a powerful idea, and with it electrified the world. The idea is freedom. And the time is now.

Country by country, people by people, year by year, courageous new voices are raised in a hundred languages. Spanish, German, Chinese, Russian. And yet from these varied lips comes a word all can understand. Freedom. And with one voice, the people of the world have spoken. Freedom.

In America, it's our greatest natural resource, the secret of our success. And freedom will bring success to Poland, too. American aid has begun and more is coming. From Washington to Warsaw, Kansas City to Krakow, from Green Bay to Gdansk, Americans are linked in spirit with the Polish people in their brave struggle for opportunity, prosperity and freedom.

Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that is sweeping the world, East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

And even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the example of the Polish people was mirrored across Asia when

"People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan and South Korea and, yes, even in Tiananmen Square. The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you. (Applause.)

Thank you, Poland, for showing us that the dream is alive. And thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa. (Applause.)

And now, it is with great pride that I bestow the medal, previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King and President John F. Kennedy, Anwar Sadat, Mother Teresa. It is our nation's highest civilian honor. So, Mr. Walesa, if you'll come over here, let me read the citation.

To Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Lech Walesa has shown through his life and work the power of one individual's ideals when combined with the irresistible force of freedom. Through moral authority, force of personality and demonstrated heroism, he has inspired a nation and the world in the cause of liberty. The United States honors a true man of his times and of timeless ideals. Lech Walesa, distinguished son of Poland, champion of universal human rights. (Applause.)

MR. WALESA: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I'm deeply moved and gratified that I'm here, in the Capital of the United States of America and the White House, greeted so warmly by President George Bush in the company of American Polish friends.

One of the greatest dreams of my life has thus been fulfilled. I'm full of admiration for your country, not because it's a big power and not because it's rich, even though one could envy that. I admire America as a country of freedom -- freedom of man and freedom of a nation. You took that freedom yourself. Nobody gave it to you as a present. You built it through your hard work, step by step. You created wonderful democratic institutions which are an example for many other countries. But most before others, you created human attachments to freedom.

America is a free country because American workers and farmers are and want to be free. Technicians and engineers, bankers and industrialists. America is rich with its freedom. It shares it with the emigrants -- some are looking for freedom from misery and others are looking for freedom from persecutions.

That is why I so highly cherish the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Poles know the price of freedom as very few nations of the world. They know how to fight for freedom. They know how to defend freedom. Now my country has entered the road of freedom. It's rebuilding its independence and democracy. It's restoring sense to labor and economy. I'm sure that we will not get away from that road.

Mr. President, for yours and our freedom, for the American nation, for the freedom of all nations of the world, thank you very much for this wonderful, wonderful distinction. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Please be seated. Before we conclude, there is one more person with us today whose dedication to Solidarity and to free trade unions I feel we must recognize. You all know how crucial has been the work of the AFL-CIO in helping Solidarnosc through difficult times and in promoting free trade unions and democracy around the world.

So, Lane Kirkland, would you please come up here, sir. (Applause.) For over a decade, under your leadership, you and the union have been path-breakers for freedom, continuing the support for free trade unions around the world. And in Eastern Europe, your support was crucial. And you were there -- you, personally, were there -- in the hour of greatest need, helping to keep alive the dream of democracy in Poland.

And so, Lane, on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to present you with the Presidential Citizens Medal. And the citation reads: As President of the AFL-CIO, Joseph Lane Kirkland has worked tirelessly and effectively in support of Solidarity, free trade unions and democratic principles. America honors him for this dedication, which has helped spread the lamp of liberty in Eastern Europe and across the globe.

Congratulations. (Applause.)

MR. KIRKLAND: Mr. President, you must like surprises because I was extraordinarily surprised by your very generous act in enabling me to share an honor with the man who towers in the world today for his achievements -- Lech Walesa.

I can only say that it's what I think I try my best to stand for today that merits any such recognition. And what I do stand for -- the instrument and the principle of free trade unionism -- is today a lever that can move the world. And to serve that is a privilege for any person.

Thank you again, Mr. President. (Applause.)

END

6:28 P.M. EST

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAVID DEMAREST  
CHRISS WINSTON *ew*  
EDWARD McNALLY *EM*

SUBJECT: LECH WALESA MEDAL OF FREEDOM CEREMONY

I. SUMMARY

Attached is a draft for Monday evening's presentation of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Lech Walesa. Interest surrounding the award, and Walesa's first visit to America, is sufficiently high that the networks may pre-empt local evening news to carry your presentation live from the White House.

II. DISCUSSION

At approximately 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13, 1989, you are scheduled to join Mrs. Bush, Vice President and Mrs. Quayle, and Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole outside the Diplomatic Reception Room, to greet Lech Walesa and his official host during this visit, Lane Kirkland.

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Walesa is scheduled to accompany you into the East Room, where your arrival will be announced to the audience of approximately 220 persons, including U.S. labor leaders and representatives of the Polish-American community.

The East Room stage will be empty except for your podium, and a single, empty chair, draped with a red and white "SOLIDARNOSC" banner. Ever since the events of December 1981, the "empty chair" has been used at college commencements and in churches across our country to symbolize the special place in America that has been kept waiting for Lech Walesa.

For the first several minutes of your remarks, Mr. Walesa will remain standing beside you at the podium. As is indicated at the bottom of page two in the attached draft, at that point you will turn to Lech Walesa, and gesture for him to take his place in the empty chair with the "SOLIDARNOSC" banner.

At the conclusion of your remarks, you will invite Walesa back to the podium to receive the Medal of Freedom.

McNally/Simon  
November 9, 1989  
Draft Five (B:LECH)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESZA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

Just before Christmas, 1981, a darkness descended across Poland for the third time this century. What had begun as a year of hope and freedom ended in violence and repression. \\

In snow-filled crossroads and town squares across the nation, iron tanks rumbled to a stop. Lech Walesa made a cross on the foreheads of his sleeping children, and was taken away into the night. Solidarity, a movement embracing the Polish nation, was outlawed. Communications with the outside world were cut off. And Poland awoke to snow and steel and silence, an entire nation imprisoned. ///

But you can't lock up a dream. That night, candles lit the windows of Poland's farmhouses and tenements, silent beacons of the liberty still burning in the hearts of a brave and ancient people. And that Christmas Eve, not far from where we stand, a candle burned all night in the White House, like others all across America, glowing in solidarity with the Polish people. //

When spring came, a time of renewal and rebirth, Lech Walesa's fate was still unknown. And as colleges and universities approached graduation, one by one, again and again, the same two names were heard. \\ Lech Walesa. \\ Solidarity.

Of course, Lech Walesa could not come to accept those honorary degrees. And so in crowded assembly halls and packed

arenas across America, where every precious space was filled with proud and loving families, stage after stage held a single, unfilled place -- an empty chair, bearing only the Solidarity banner -- awaiting the release of Lech Walesa, and the liberation of the Polish people.

We saw empty chairs in Maine and Illinois, Pennsylvania and California. At Notre Dame, the crowd stood for three minutes in cheering tribute to the empty chair and the man who wasn't there. At Holy Cross, Lane Kirkland accepted the award on Lech Walesa's behalf. And back in Poland, in a humble wooden church on the outskirts of Gdansk, an empty chair was placed near the altar for the baptism of tiny Maria-Victoria, Lech's seventh child, a little girl he had never seen. \\

For eight years, these empty chairs, and the American people, have waited for you to come. We have waited because we believe in freedom. We have waited because we believe in Poland. We have waited because we believe in you. \\\

Today, the waiting is over. Today, Lech Walesa -- man of freedom, is at the White House -- the house of freedom. \\

[[TURN TO WALES]] Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you today: "Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair." [[GESTURE TO CHAIR WITH SOLIDARITY BANNER]] \\\

In just a few days, you will be the third private citizen in our history to address a joint session of Congress -- after the Marquis de Lafayette and Winston Churchill.

Like them, you helped win an important struggle against tyrannical adversaries. And like them, you represent not only a people but also an idea -- an idea whose time has come. And nothing can stop an idea whose time has come. \\  
 \

The idea is freedom. \\  
And the time is now. \\\

You were called a "nobody." But Lenin and Stalin have been disproven, not by Presidents or Princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk and his fellow workers in a brave union called Solidarity. The iron curtain is fast becoming a rusted, abandoned relic, symbolizing a lost era and a failed ideology. Poland. Hungary. East Germany. Czechoslovakia. The change is everywhere. And now a century that was born in war and revolution may bequeath a legacy of peace unthinkable only a few years ago. \\  
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The story of our times is the story of brave men and women who seized a moment, who took a stand. Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire in others a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself, and changed the course of a nation.

History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history. \\  
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And I believe history continues to be made, every day, by small, daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the

nation, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

Our own humble electrician, Ben Franklin, declared that "Our cause is the cause of all mankind, for we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own." And like Franklin -- who seized lightning from the skies and brought it to earth -- Lech Walesa seized an idea -- a powerful idea -- and with it electrified the world. The idea is freedom. \ \ And the time is now. \ \

Country by country, people by people, year by year, courageous new voices are raised in a hundred languages. In Spanish. German. Chinese. Russian. Afghan. And yet -- like the miracle of tongues -- from these varied lips comes a word all can understand. FREEDOM. As if with one voice the people of the world have spoken. FREEDOM. \ \

In America, it is our greatest natural resource, the secret of our success. And freedom will bring success to Poland, too. American aid has begun and more is coming. From Washington to Warsaw, from Kansas to Krakow, from Green Bay to Gdansk, Americans are linked in spirit with the Polish people in their brave struggle for opportunity, prosperity and freedom. \ \ \

Ten days from now, mothers and fathers across America will rise at first light to set log fires crackling and turkeys in the oven, and so begin a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. By candlelight and firelight, from the village greens of New England, to the make-shift living rooms in re-born San Francisco, Americans will gather to bow their heads in prayer.

Thanksgiving is the oldest, the most American of holidays, dating back to our very origins as a people. It comes without fireworks or presents. It comes without colored lights or colored eggs, without costumes or masks or midnight horns.

It is a time of gratitude. A time to give thanks. A time to remember what we stand for -- and why our forbearers sacrificed so much to come here and to build this great land.

America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure. \\

Today, Lech Walesa, you take your rightful seat in this bastion of democracy, here in this house of freedom. But there are others still waiting around the world. And our work remains undone, so long as a single chair remains unfilled. So long as the promise of freedom remains unkept. \\

Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith, and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that is sweeping the world East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you.

Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive. Thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa. \\\

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# # #

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 11/11/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----  
 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESZA MEDAL OF FREEDOM CEREMONY  
THE EAST ROOM  
 SUBJECT: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989 (11/9-draft five)

	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"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<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"/>	WINSTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

1989 NOV -9 PM 7:35

INFORMATION

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FROM: DAVID DEMAREST <sup>AD</sup>  
CHRISS WINSTON <sup>W</sup>  
EDWARD McNALLY <sup>EM</sup>

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Thanksgiving is the oldest, the most American of holidays, dating back to our very origins as a people. It comes without fireworks or presents. It comes without colored lights or colored eggs, without costumes or masks or midnight horns.

It is a time of gratitude. A time to give thanks. A time to remember what we stand for -- and why our forbearers sacrificed so much to come here and to build this great land.

America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure. \\

Today, Lech Walesa, you take your rightful seat in this bastion of democracy, here in this house of freedom. But there are others still waiting around the world. And our work remains undone, so long as a single chair remains unfilled. So long as the promise of freedom remains unkept. \\

Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith, and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that is sweeping the world East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you.

Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive. Thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa. \\\

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# # #

McNally/Simon  
November 9, 1989  
Draft Five (B:LECH)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

Just before Christmas, 1981, a darkness descended across Poland for the third time this century. What had begun as a year of hope and freedom ended in violence and repression. //

In snow-filled crossroads and town squares across the nation, iron tanks rumbled to a stop. Lech Walesa made a cross on the foreheads of his sleeping children, and was taken away into the night. Solidarity, a movement embracing more than half the Polish nation, was outlawed. Communications with the outside world were cut off. And Poland awoke to snow and steel and silence, an entire nation imprisoned. ///

But you can't lock up a dream. That night, candles lit the windows of Poland's farmhouses and tenements, silent beacons of the liberty still burning in the hearts of a brave and ancient people. And that Christmas Eve, not far from where we stand, a candle burned all night in the White House, like others all across America, glowing in solidarity with the Polish people. //

When spring came, a time of renewal and rebirth, Lech Walesa's fate was still unknown. And as colleges and universities approached graduation, one by one, again and again, the same two names were heard. // Lech Walesa. // Solidarity.

Of course, Lech Walesa could not come to accept those honorary degrees. And so in crowded assembly halls and packed

arenas across America, where every precious space was filled with proud and loving families, stage after stage held a single, unfilled place -- an empty chair, bearing only the Solidarity banner -- awaiting the release of Lech Walesa, and the liberation of the Polish people.

We saw empty chairs in Maine and Illinois, Pennsylvania and California. At Notre Dame, the crowd stood for three minutes in cheering tribute to the empty chair and the man who wasn't there. At Holy Cross, Lane Kirkland accepted the award on Lech Walesa's behalf. And back in Poland, in a humble wooden church on the outskirts of Gdansk, an empty chair was placed near the altar for the baptism of tiny Maria-Victoria, Lech's seventh child, a little girl he had never seen. //

For eight years, these empty chairs, and the American people, have waited for you to come. **We have waited because we believe in freedom. We have waited because we believe in Poland. We have waited because we believe in you.** ///

Today, the waiting is over. Today, Lech Walesa -- man of freedom, is at the White House -- the house of freedom. //

[[TURN TO WALES]] Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you today: **"Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair."** [[GESTURE TO CHAIR WITH SOLIDARITY BANNER]] ////

In just a few days, you will be the third private citizen<sup>in our history</sup> -- after Winston Churchill and the Marquis de Lafayette -- to address a joint session of Congress.

Like them, you helped win an important struggle against tyrannical adversaries. And like them, you represent not only a people but also an idea -- an idea whose time has come. And nothing can stop an idea whose time has come. //

**The idea is freedom. // And the time is now. ///**

You were called a "nobody." But Lenin and Stalin have been disproven, not by Presidents or Princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk and his fellow workers in a brave union called Solidarity. The iron curtain is fast becoming a rusted, abandoned relic, symbolizing a lost era and a failed ideology. Poland. Hungary. East Germany. Czechoslovakia. The chance is everywhere. And now a century that was born in war and revolution may bequeath a legacy of peace unthinkable only a few years ago. //

The story of our times is the story of brave men and women who seized a moment, who took a stand. Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire in others a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself, and changed the course of a nation.

**History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history. //**

And I believe history continues to be made, every day, by small, daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the

nation, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

Our own humble electrician, Ben Franklin, declared that "Our cause is the cause of all mankind, for we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own." And like Franklin -- who seized lightning from the skies and brought it to earth -- Lech Walesa seized an idea -- a powerful idea -- and with it electrified the world. The idea is freedom. // And the time is now. //

Country by country, people by people, year by year, courageous new voices are raised in a hundred languages. In Spanish. German. Chinese. Russian. Afghan. And yet -- like the miracle of tongues -- from these varied lips comes a word all can understand. FREEDOM. As if with one voice the people of the world have spoken. FREEDOM.

In America, it is our greatest natural resource, the secret of our success. \* *And freedom will bring success to Poland, too.*

Ten days from now, mothers and fathers across America will rise at first light to set log fires crackling and turkeys in the oven, and so begin a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. By candlelight and firelight, from the village greens of New England, to the make-shift living rooms in re-born San Francisco, Americans will gather to bow their heads in prayer.

Thanksgiving is the oldest, the most American of holidays, dating back to our very origins as a people. It comes without fireworks or presents. It comes without colored lights or colored eggs, without costumes or masks or midnight horns.

*insert*  
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*from*  
*p. 5*

\* It is a time of gratitude. A time to give thanks. A time to remember what we stand for -- and why our forbearers sacrificed so much to come here and to build this great land.

America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure. //

Today, Lech Walesa, you take your rightful seat in this bastion of democracy, here in this house of freedom. But there are others still waiting around the world. **And our work remains undone, so long as a single chair remains unfilled. So long as the promise of freedom remains unkept. //**

American aid has begun and more is coming. From Washington to Warsaw, from Kansas to Krakow, from Green Bay to Gdansk, Americans are linked in spirit with the Polish people in their brave struggle for opportunity, prosperity and freedom. **////**

Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith, and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that is sweeping the world East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

↑ to  
P.4  
A

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you, and the union workers you represent.

Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive. Thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa.

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# # #

CLOSE HOLD

SENSITIVE

Document No. 088582SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESIA

	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"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 4:00 PM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

SENSITIVE

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

McNally/Simon  
November 7, 1989  
Draft Three (B:LECH)  
1989 NOV -7 PM 5:40

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

Just before Christmas, 1981, a darkness descended across Poland for the ~~second~~<sup>third</sup> time this century. What had begun as a year of hope and freedom ended in violence and repression.

In snow-filled crossroads and town~~s~~squares across the nation, iron tanks rumbled to a stop. Lech Walesa made a cross on the foreheads of his sleeping children, and was taken away into the night. Solidarity, a movement embracing ~~more than half~~ the Polish ~~people~~<sup>nation</sup>, was outlawed. Communications with the outside world were cut<sup>off</sup>. And Poland awoke to snow and steel and silence, an entire nation imprisoned.

But as man has learned from Budapest to Beijing, you can't lock up a dream. That night, candles lit the windows of Poland's farmhouses and tenements, silent beacons of the liberty still burning in the hearts of a brave and ancient people. And that Christmas Eve, not far from where we stand, a candle burned all night in the White House, like others all across America, glowing in solidarity with the Polish people.

When spring came, a time of renewal and rebirth, Lech Walesa's fate was still unknown. And as colleges and universities approached graduation, one by one, again and again, the same two names were heard. Lech Walesa. Solidarity.

Of course, Lech Walesa could not come to accept those honorary degrees. And so in crowded assembly halls and packed arenas across America, where every precious space was filled with proud and loving families, stage after stage held a single, unfilled place -- an empty chair, bearing only the Solidarity banner -- awaiting the release of Lech Walesa, and the liberation of the Polish people.

We saw empty chairs in Maine and Illinois, Pennsylvania and California. At Notre Dame, the crowd stood for three minutes in cheering tribute to the empty chair and the man who wasn't there. At Holy Cross, Lane Kirkland accepted the award on Lech Walesa's behalf. And back in Poland, in a humble wooden church on the outskirts of Gdansk, an empty chair was placed near the altar for the baptism of tiny Maria-Victoria, Lech's seventh child, a little girl he had never seen.

For eight years, these empty chairs, and the American people, have waited for you to come. <sup>We</sup> ~~They~~ have waited because we believe in freedom. <sup>We</sup> ~~They~~ have waited because we believe in Poland. <sup>We</sup> ~~They~~ have waited because we believe in you.

Today, the waiting is over. Today, Lech Walesa -- man of freedom, is at the White House -- the house of freedom.

[[TURN TO WALES]] Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you today: "Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair." [[GESTURE TO CHAIR WITH SOLIDARITY BANNER]]

You represent a great people and a great nation. Even more, you represent an idea -- an idea whose time has come. And nothing can stop an idea whose time has come.

The idea is freedom. And the time is now.

*You were*  
~~The dictators and the generals called you~~ a "nobody." But Lenin and Stalin have been disproved<sup>n</sup>, not by Presidents or Princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk *and his* ~~and a~~ *fellow workers in a brave union called Solidarity.* ~~housewife from Manila.~~ The iron curtain is fast becoming a rusted, abandoned relic, symbolizing ~~a lost era and~~ a failed ideology. *now a* And century that was born in war and revolution may bequeath a legacy of peace unthinkable only a few years ago.

*Poland, Hungary, East Germany, Czechoslovakia. The change is everywhere.*  
~~That doesn't mean we embrace today's popular refrain that says, "History is over." I don't believe history is over. For~~ the story of our times is the story of brave men and women who seized a moment, who took a stand. →

Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire in others a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself, and changed the course of a nation. History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history.

And I believe history continues to be made, every day, by small, daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the

nation, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

Our own humble electrician, Ben Franklin, who like Lech Walesa seized lightning from the skies and brought it to earth, declared that "Our cause is the cause of all mankind, for we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own."

Country by country, people by people, year by year, courageous new voices are raised in a hundred languages. In Spanish. German. Chinese. Russian. Afghan. And yet -- like the miracle of tongues -- from these varied lips comes a word all can understand. FREEDOM. As if with one voice the people of the world have ~~cried out~~ <sup>SPOKE</sup>. FREEDOM.

In America, it is our greatest natural resource, the secret of our success.

<sup>Ten</sup>~~10~~ days from now, mothers and fathers <sup>across America</sup> will rise at first light to set log fires crackling and turkeys in the oven, and so begin a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. By candlelight and firelight, from the village greens of New England, ~~to the~~ ~~houseboats of the Gulf of Mexico, the farmhouses of Indiana, the~~ ~~snowy cabins of the Dakotas,~~ <sup>to</sup> and the make-shift living rooms in re-born San Francisco, Americans will gather to bow their heads in <sup>prayer</sup> ~~prayer~~.

Thanksgiving is the oldest, the most American of holidays, dating back to our very origins as a people. It comes without fireworks or presents. It comes without colored lights or colored eggs, without costumes or masks or midnight horns.

It is a time of gratitude. A time to give thanks. A time to remember what we stand for -- and why our forbearers sacrificed so much to come here and to build this great land.

America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure.

Today, <sup>Lech Walesa,</sup> you take your rightful seat in this bastion of democracy, here in the house of freedom. But there are others less fortunate, standing in the shoes of repression that you once wore. And our work remains undone until every chair is filled.

Here in the White House, here in America, empty chairs remain for people like Guillermo Endara, the democratically elected President of Panama, his head bloodied but unbowed by Noriega's lead-pipe politics. For Violeta Chamorro, the widowed editor of Nicaragua's opposition newspaper. For Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia. And yes, for Nelson Mandela, who we hope will soon be freed.

Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith, and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that <sup>is</sup> sweeping the world East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

~~Your example, and the example of the Polish people, has inspired hope and change in Hungary, East Germany, and all of Europe. Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the~~

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example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you.

Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive .  
~~even behind the Iron Curtain.~~ Thank you, Poland, for showing us  
that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by  
walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa.

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# # #

CLOSE HOLD

SENSITIVE

Document No. 088582SS

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 11/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESIA

	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"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 4:00 PM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

SENSITIVE

*please see for comments*

69:54 8 100 68

11/8/89

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

McNally/Simon  
November 7, 1989  
Draft Three (B:LECH)  
1989 NOV -7 PM 5:40

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESIA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

Just before Christmas, 1981, a darkness descended across Poland for the second time this century. What had begun as a year of hope and freedom ended in violence and repression.

In snow-filled crossroads and town<sup>s</sup>/squares across the nation, iron tanks rumbled to a stop. Lech Walesa made a cross on the foreheads of his sleeping children, and was taken away into the night. Solidarity, a movement embracing more than half the Polish people, was outlawed. Communications with the outside world were cut. <sup>off</sup> And Poland awoke to snow and steel and silence, an entire nation imprisoned. ✓

But as man has learned from Budapest to Beijing, you can't lock up a dream. That night, candles lit the windows of Poland's farmhouses and tenements, silent beacons of the liberty still burning in the hearts of a brave and ancient people. And that Christmas Eve, not far from where we stand, a <sup>special</sup> candle <sup>was lit and</sup> burned all night in the White House, like others all across America, glowing in solidarity with the Polish people.

When spring came, a time of renewal and rebirth, Lech Walesa's fate was still unknown. And as colleges and universities approached graduation, one by one, again and again, the same two names were heard. Lech Walesa. Solidarity.

Of course, Lech Walesa could not come to accept those honorary degrees. And so in crowded assembly halls and packed arenas across America, where every precious space was filled with proud and loving families, stage after stage held a single, unfilled place -- an empty chair, bearing only the Solidarity banner -- awaiting the release of Lech Walesa, and the liberation of the Polish people.

We saw empty chairs in Maine and Illinois, Pennsylvania and California. At Notre Dame, the crowd stood for three minutes in cheering tribute to the empty chair and the man who wasn't there. At Holy Cross, Lane Kirkland accepted the award on Lech Walesa's behalf. And back in Poland, in a humble wooden church on the outskirts of Gdansk, an empty chair was placed near the altar for the baptism of tiny Maria-Victoria, Lech's seventh child, a little girl he had never seen.

For eight years, these empty chairs, and the American people, have waited for you to come. They have waited because we believe in freedom. They have waited because we believe in Poland. They have waited because we believe in you.

Today, the waiting is over. Today, Lech Walesa -- man of freedom, is at the White House -- the house of freedom.

[[TURN TO WALES]] Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you today: "Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair." [[GESTURE TO CHAIR WITH SOLIDARITY BANNER]]

You represent a great people and a great nation. Even more, you represent an idea -- an idea whose time has come. And nothing can stop an idea whose time has come.

The idea is freedom. And the time is now.

The dictators and the generals called you a "nobody." But Lenin and Stalin have been disproved, not by Presidents or Princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk and a housewife from Manila. The iron curtain is fast becoming a rusted, abandoned relic, symbolizing a lost era and a failed ideology. And <sup>a</sup> century that was born in war and revolution may bequeath a legacy of peace unthinkable only a few years ago.

That doesn't mean we embrace today's popular refrain that says, "History is over." I don't believe history is over. For the story of our times is the story of brave men and women who seized a moment, who took a stand.

Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire in others a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself, and changed the course of a nation. History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history.

And I believe history continues to be made, every day, by small, daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the

nation, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

Our own humble electrician, Ben Franklin, who like Lech Walesa seized lightning from the skies and brought it to earth, declared that "Our cause is the cause of all mankind, for we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own."

Country by country, people by people, year by year, courageous new voices are raised in a hundred languages. In Spanish. German. Chinese. Russian. Afghan. And yet -- like the miracle of tongues -- from these varied lips comes a word all can understand. FREEDOM. As if with one voice the people of the world have cried out. FREEDOM.

In America, it is our greatest natural resource, the secret of our success.

10 days from now, mothers and fathers will rise at first light to set log fires crackling and turkeys in the oven, and so begin a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. By candlelight and firelight, from the village greens of New England, to the houseboats of the Gulf of Mexico, the farmhouses of Indiana, the snowy cabins of the Dakotas, and the make-shift living rooms in re-born San Francisco, Americans will gather to bow their heads in prayer.

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America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure.

Today, you take your rightful seat in this bastion of democracy, here in the house of freedom. But there are others less fortunate, standing in the shoes of repression that you once wore. And our work remains undone until every chair is filled.

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Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith, and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that's sweeping the world East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

Your example, and the example of the Polish people, has inspired hope and change in Hungary, East Germany, and all of Europe. Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the

example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you.

Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive even behind the Iron Curtain. Thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa.

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# # #

**CLOSE HOLD**

**SENSITIVE**

Document No. 088582SS

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 11/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESIA

	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"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 4:00 PM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

**CLOSE HOLD**

**SENSITIVE**

*See Comments 11/8/89*

89 OCT 8 4:21 PM

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

McNally/Simon  
November 7, 1989  
Draft Three (B:LECH)  
1989 NOV -7 PM 5

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

Just before Christmas, 1981, a darkness descended across Poland for the second time this century. What had begun as a year of hope and freedom ended in violence and repression.

In snow-filled crossroads and town-squares across the nation, iron tanks rumbled to a stop. Lech Walesa made a cross on the foreheads of his sleeping children, and was taken away into the night. Solidarity, a movement embracing more than half the Polish people, was outlawed. Communications with the outside world were cut. And Poland awoke to snow and steel and silence, an entire nation imprisoned.

But as man has learned from Budapest to Beijing, you can't lock up a dream. That night, candles lit the windows of Poland's farmhouses and tenements, silent beacons of the liberty still burning in the hearts of a brave and ancient people. And that Christmas Eve, not far from where we stand, a candle burned all night in the White House, like others all across America, glowing in solidarity with the Polish people.

When spring came, a time of renewal and rebirth, Lech Walesa's fate was still unknown. And as colleges and universities approached graduation, one by one, again and again, the same two names were heard. Lech Walesa. Solidarity.

Of course, Lech Walesa could not come to accept those honorary degrees. And so in crowded assembly halls and packed arenas across America, where every precious space was filled with proud and loving families, stage after stage held a single, unfilled place -- an empty chair, bearing only the Solidarity banner -- awaiting the release of Lech Walesa, and the liberation of the Polish people.

We saw empty chairs in Maine and Illinois, Pennsylvania and California. At Notre Dame, the crowd stood for three minutes in cheering tribute to the empty chair and the man who wasn't there. At Holy Cross, Lane Kirkland accepted the award on Lech Walesa's behalf. And back in Poland, in a humble wooden church on the outskirts of Gdansk, an empty chair was placed near the altar for the baptism of tiny Maria-Victoria, Lech's seventh child, a little girl he had never seen.

For eight years, these empty chairs, and the American people, have waited for you to come. They have waited because we believe in freedom. They have waited because we believe in Poland. They have waited because we believe in you.

Today, the waiting is over. Today, Lech Walesa -- man of freedom, is at the White House -- the house of freedom.

[[TURN TO WALESAS]] Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you today: "Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair." [[GESTURE TO CHAIR WITH SOLIDARITY BANNER]]

You represent a great people and a great nation. Even more, you represent an idea -- an idea whose time has come. And nothing can stop an idea whose time has come.

The idea is freedom. And the time is now.

The dictators and the generals called you a "nobody." But Lenin and Stalin have been disproved, not by Presidents or Princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk and a housewife from Manila. The iron curtain is fast becoming a rusted, abandoned relic, symbolizing a lost era and a failed ideology. And century that was born in war and revolution may bequeath a legacy of peace unthinkable only a few years ago.

That doesn't mean we embrace today's popular refrain that says, "History is over." I don't believe history is over. For the story of our times is the story of brave men and women who seized a moment, who took a stand.

Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire in others a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself, and changed the course of a nation. History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history.

And I believe history continues to be made, every day, by small, daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the

*Michael Jackson - 2800 Sello Strongly about deleting.*

*in Poland*

nation, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

Our own humble electrician, Ben Franklin, who like Lech Walesa seized lightning from the skies and brought it to earth, declared that "Our cause is the cause of all mankind, for we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own."

Country by country, people by people, year by year, courageous new voices are raised in a hundred languages. In Spanish. German. Chinese. Russian. Afghan. ~~And yet -- like~~ And yet -- like the miracle of tongues -- from these varied lips comes a word all can understand. FREEDOM. As if with one voice the people of the world have cried out. FREEDOM.

In America, it is our greatest natural resource, the secret of our success.

<sup>Ten</sup>~~10~~ days from now, mothers and fathers will rise at first light to set log fires crackling and turkeys in the oven, and so begin a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. By candlelight and firelight, from the village greens of New England, to the houseboats of the Gulf of Mexico, the farmhouses of Indiana, the snowy cabins of the Dakotas, and the make-shift living rooms in re-born San Francisco, Americans will gather to bow their heads in prayer.

Thanksgiving is the oldest, the most American of holidays, dating back to our very origins as a people. It comes without fireworks or presents. It comes without colored lights or colored eggs, without costumes or masks or midnight horns.

It is a time of gratitude. A time to give thanks. A time to remember what we stand for -- and why our forbearers sacrificed so much to come here and to build this great land.

America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure.

Today, <sup>Lech Walesa</sup> you take your rightful seat in this bastion of democracy, here in the house of freedom. But there are others less fortunate, standing in the shoes of repression that you once wore. And our work remains undone until every chair is filled.

Here in the White House, here in America, empty chairs remain for people like Guillermo Endara, the democratically elected President of Panama, his head bloodied but unbowed by Noriega's lead-pipe politics. For Violeta Chamorro, the widowed editor of Nicaragua's opposition newspaper. For Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia. And yes, for Nelson Mandela, who we hope will soon be freed.

Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith, and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that's sweeping the world East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

Your example, and the example of the Polish people, has inspired hope and change in Hungary, East Germany, and all of Europe. Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the

example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you.

Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive even behind the Iron Curtain. Thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa.

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# # #

**CLOSE HOLD**

**SENSITIVE**

Document No. 088582SS

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**



DATE: 11/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESA

	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"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>ROGERS</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PINKERTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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RESPONSE:

**CLOSE HOLD**

**SENSITIVE**

*See comments*

89 OCT 8 3:52 PM

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

McNally/Simon  
November 7, 1989  
Draft Three (B:LECH)  
1989 NOV -7 PM 5:40

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESZA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

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Today, the waiting is over. Today, Lech Walesa -- man of freedom, is at the White House -- the house of freedom.

[[TURN TO WALES]] Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you today: "Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair." [[GESTURE TO CHAIR WITH SOLIDARITY BANNER]]

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Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire in others a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself, and changed the course of a nation. History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history.

And I believe history continues to be made, every day, by small, daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the

nation, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

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America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure.

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Your example, and the example of the Polish people, has inspired hope and change in Hungary, East Germany, and all of Europe. Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the

Holmes  
5178

MAKES NO  
SENSE →

example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you.

*Handwritten: Walesa 5/28*  
*AKWARD →*  
 Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive even behind the Iron Curtain. Thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa.

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*  
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Lech Walesa

I have reviewed and concur with the attached Presidential remarks for the Medal of Freedom presentation to Lech Walesa.

If you have any questions or we can help in any other way, please let me know.

Attachment

c: James W. Cicconi

89 OCT 8 P2:45

**CLOSE HOLD**

**SENSITIVE**

Document No. 088582SS

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

DATE: 11/7/89

ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 11/8/89 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESZA

	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"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 4:00 PM, Wednesday, November 8, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

**CLOSE HOLD**

**SENSITIVE**

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

McNally/Simon  
November 7, 1989  
Draft Three (B:LECH)  
1989 NOV -7 PM 5:40

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESZA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: STEPHEN G. RADEMAKER *SR*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Lech Walesa

Pursuant to James Cicconi's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter and has no objection to the presidential remarks.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 OCT 8 11v 8 100 68

McNally/Simon  
November 7, 1989  
Draft Three (B:LECH)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: LECH WALESA MEDAL OF FREEDOM  
THE EAST ROOM, THE WHITE HOUSE  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1989

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Of course, Lech Walesa could not come to accept those honorary degrees. And so in crowded assembly halls and packed arenas across America, where every precious space was filled with proud and loving families, stage after stage held a single, unfilled place -- an empty chair, bearing only the Solidarity banner -- awaiting the release of Lech Walesa, and the liberation of the Polish people.

We saw empty chairs in Maine and Illinois, Pennsylvania and California. At Notre Dame, the crowd stood for three minutes in cheering tribute to the empty chair and the man who wasn't there. At Holy Cross, Lane Kirkland accepted the award on Lech Walesa's behalf. And back in Poland, in a humble wooden church on the outskirts of Gdansk, an empty chair was placed near the altar for the baptism of tiny Maria-Victoria, Lech's seventh child, a little girl he had never seen.

For eight years, these empty chairs, and the American people, have waited for you to come. They have waited because we believe in freedom. They have waited because we believe in Poland. They have waited because we believe in you.

Today, the waiting is over. Today, Lech Walesa -- man of freedom, is at the White House -- the house of freedom.

[[TURN TO WALES]] Lech Walesa, on behalf of the people of the United States, I am proud to say to you today: "Take your place in this house of freedom. Take your place in the empty chair." [[GESTURE TO CHAIR WITH SOLIDARITY BANNER]]

You represent a great people and a great nation. Even more, you represent an idea -- an idea whose time has come. And nothing can stop an idea whose time has come.

The idea is freedom. And the time is now.

The dictators and the generals called you a "nobody." But Lenin and Stalin have been disproved, not by Presidents or Princes, but by the likes of an electrician from Gdansk and a housewife from Manila. The iron curtain is fast becoming a rusted, abandoned relic, symbolizing a lost era and a failed ideology. And century that was born in war and revolution may bequeath a legacy of peace unthinkable only a few years ago.

That doesn't mean we embrace today's popular refrain that says, "History is over." I don't believe history is over. For the story of our times is the story of brave men and women who seized a moment, who took a stand.

Lech Walesa showed how one individual could inspire in others a faith so powerful that it vindicated itself, and changed the course of a nation. History may make men. But Lech Walesa has made history.

And I believe history continues to be made, every day, by small, daily acts of courage, by people who strive to make a difference. Such people, says Lech, "are everywhere, in every factory, steel mill, mine and shipyard, everywhere." And we've certainly seen them in the American labor movement, where from the leadership of Lane Kirkland to the rank and file across the

nation, they have struggled in the vanguard of the free labor movement around the world.

Our own humble electrician, Ben Franklin, who like Lech Walesa seized lightning from the skies and brought it to earth, declared that "Our cause is the cause of all mankind, for we are fighting for their liberty in defending our own."

Country by country, people by people, year by year, courageous new voices are raised in a hundred languages. In Spanish. German. Chinese. Russian. Afghan. And yet -- like the miracle of tongues -- from these varied lips comes a word all can understand. FREEDOM. As if with one voice the people of the world have cried out. FREEDOM.

In America, it is our greatest natural resource, the secret of our success.

10 days from now, mothers and fathers will rise at first light to set log fires crackling and turkeys in the oven, and so begin a day of thanksgiving and remembrance. By candlelight and firelight, from the village greens of New England, to the houseboats of the Gulf of Mexico, the farmhouses of Indiana, the snowy cabins of the Dakotas, and the make-shift living rooms in re-born San Francisco, Americans will gather to bow their heads in prayer.

Thanksgiving is the oldest, the most American of holidays, dating back to our very origins as a people. It comes without fireworks or presents. It comes without colored lights or colored eggs, without costumes or masks or midnight horns.

It is a time of gratitude. A time to give thanks. A time to remember what we stand for -- and why our forbearers sacrificed so much to come here and to build this great land.

America. The very word excited visions in Europe from the earliest days of the explorers. America is a refuge for hope, a place where ideas and dreams and people are protected, like a candle from the wind, to keep hope alive until the darkness lifts and the sun shines on a people free and secure.

Today, you take your rightful seat in this bastion of democracy, here in the house of freedom. But there are others less fortunate, standing in the shoes of repression that you once wore. And our work remains undone until every chair is filled.

Here in the White House, here in America, empty chairs remain for people like Guillermo Endara, the democratically elected President of Panama, his head bloodied but unbowed by Noriega's lead-pipe politics. For Violeta Chamorro, the widowed editor of Nicaragua's opposition newspaper. For Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia. And yes, for Nelson Mandela, who we hope will soon be freed.

Lech Walesa, by your abiding faith, and by the miracle of democracy's new birth in your homeland, you have come to personify the new breeze that's sweeping the world East and West, the spiritual godfather of a new generation of democracy.

Your example, and the example of the Polish people, has inspired hope and change in Hungary, East Germany, and all of Europe. Even while Solidarity was banned, your example, and the

example of the Polish people, was mirrored across Asia when "People Power" became a chant, first in the Philippines, and then in Pakistan, and South Korea, and yes, even in Tianamen Square.

The whole world is watching. And the whole world is with you.

Thank you, Poland -- for showing us that the dream is alive even behind the Iron Curtain. Thank you, Poland, for showing us that a dream wrought by flesh and blood cannot be stilled by walls of steel. Thank you, Poland. And thank you, Lech Walesa.

And now, it is with great pride and humility that I bestow upon Lech Walesa, of Gdansk, Poland, our nation's highest civilian honor -- a medal previously awarded to the likes of Martin Luther King, George Meany, Anwar Sadat and Mother Teresa. The Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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# # #

## CITATION

Lech Walesa has shown through his life and work the power of one individual's ideals when combined with the irresistible force of freedom. Through moral authority, force of personality, and demonstrated heroism, he has inspired a nation -- and the world -- in the cause of liberty. The United States honors a true man of his times and of timeless ideals, Lech Walesa, distinguished son of Poland and champion of universal human rights.

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