

Originally Processed With FOIA(s):

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:** 13514  
**Folder ID Number:** 13514-006

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**Folder Title:**  
National Christmas Tree Lighting 12/14/89 [OA 3540]

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

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 14, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
AT LIGHTING CEREMONY OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE

The Ellipse

5:50 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Well, my special thanks to Santa Claus. That Santa mold will never be the same again. (Laughter.) But to Loretta and -- first, to Willard Scott, and then to Loretta and Peggy, Tommy Tune, Marilyn McKoo and Billy Davis, the great Air Force Band, and this marvelous team from Roanoke.

This is the Christmas that we've awaited for 50 years. And across Europe, East and West, 1989 is ending, bright with the prospect of a far better Christmastime than Europe has ever known. A far better future than the world dared to imagine. And 50 winters have come and gone since darkness closed over Europe in 1939 -- 50 years. But last month, as Lech Walesa was coming to the White House, the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down.

And another winter descended across Europe. Spring returned to Prague, an unconquerable people, unquenchable dreams. And today there's a new sound at the Wall -- new sound rings out. Not the hammer and sickle, but the hammer and the chisel. The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas, but also the bells of freedom.

And in this new season of hope, the triumph looms. It's just like the joy of Christmas; not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion, but a triumph for all humankind. The holidays are, as we've seen here tonight, a time of laughter and children and counting our blessings. A time when songs fill the air and hope fills our hearts for peace on Earth, goodwill to men.

And we've worked hard this year, all of us, all of you, to help build a better America, help someone else, help make this a kinder and gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. In this holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live, because from now on in America there's no room at the inn -- that's simply not an acceptable answer -- from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart.

And so this year, the spirit of the holidays is at long last matched by the spirit of the time. And it's the beginning of a new decade at the ending of an old century. And whatever your dream, whatever star you're following, the future is bright with possibility.

So Barbara and I want to wish all of you a very merry Christmas. And now, with simultaneous tree lightings from coast to coast, in Charleston and Santa Cruz, let's show our "thousand points of light." Let's turn on the National Christmas Tree.

(The tree is lit.) (Applause.)

END

5:55 P.M. EST

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(The tree is lit.) (Applause.)

END

5:55 P.M. EST

McNally/Simon  
December 13, 1989  
Draft SIX (B:X-MAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE  
THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1989, 5:45 P.M.

This is the Christmas we've awaited for 50 years. 333

Across Europe -- East and West -- 1989 is ending bright with the prospect of a far better Christmas than Europe has ever known, a far better future than the world dared to imagine. 33

Fifty winters have come and gone since darkness closed over Europe in 1939. 33 But last month, as Lech Walesa came to America, the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down. And as another winter descended across Europe -- spring returned to Prague. 333  
Unconquerable people. 33 Unquenchable dreams. 33

Today at the Wall a new sound rings out. Not the hammer and sickle -- but the hammer and chisel. The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas -- but also the bells of freedom.

And in this new season of hope, the triumph that looms is like the joy of Christmas. It is not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion -- but a triumph for all humankind. 333

The holidays are a time of laughter and children and counting our blessings. A time when songs fill the air, and hope fills our hearts for peace on Earth, good will to all.

We've worked hard this year to help build a better America, to make this a kinder; gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. This holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live. Because from now on in America, "there's

no room at the inn" is simply not an acceptable answer. From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. 33

For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart. 333 This year, the spirit of the holidays is at long last matched by the spirit of the times. 33 It is the beginning of a new decade -- and the end of an old century. Whatever your dream, whatever star you're following -- the future is bright with possibilities. 33

Merry Christmas to you all. And special Christmas thanks to Willard Scott, Loretta Lynn, Tommy Tune, the Air Force Band and all of you who helped. And now -- with simultaneous tree lightings from coast to coast, in Charleston and Santa Cruz, let's show you the "Thousand Points of Light." Let's turn on the National Christmas Tree. 3333

# # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., DEC. 13  
 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
 THE ELLIPSE  
 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1989  
 SUBJECT: 5:45 PM

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>N/C</i>	<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 <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>N/C</i>	<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 <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Room 122, x2930, NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

1989 DEC 12 PM 6:40

McNally/Simon  
December 12, 1989  
Draft Four (B:X-MAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE  
THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1989, 5:45 P.M.

McNALLY  
insert

Like every house, the White House is alive with holiday traditions, traditions that endear, traditions that endure. And though tonight's tradition, the lighting of the tree, is an old one, this is no ordinary Christmas. \\\

This is the Christmas we've awaited for 50 years. \\\

~~Across Europe - East and West -~~  
~~From the Atlantic to the Urals,~~ 1989 is ending bright with the prospect of a far better Christmas than Europe has ever known, a far better future than the world dared to <sup>imagine</sup> dream. \\\

Half a century ago there began in Central Europe a struggle that left as its legacy a divided Berlin, a divided Germany, a divided Europe. World War II also became the great divide for my generation, a touchstone against which we would forever measure time and change. \\\

I think of Christmas Eve 1944. More than 10 million Americans in uniform. President Roosevelt lit the National Tree with the same electric switch I have here tonight.

As Roosevelt spoke I was aboard a train. 20 years old. Crossed an ocean and a continent to get home. We stopped outside New York, and my fiancee, Barbara, climbed on board. And when we joined my parents there was laughter and tears, hugs and joy, the love and warmth of family during the holidays.

For us the war was over. \\\ But for half of Europe, the war and its aftermath was to <sup>haunt</sup> consume three generations. \\\

Christmas 1948 saw the Berlin Airlift. In 1955, Radio Free Europe broadcast President Eisenhower's message behind the Iron Curtain. He told them: "During the Christmas season, I want you to know that the American people...share your faith that right, in the end, will prevail -- to bring you once again among the free nations of the world."

And on Christmas Eve 1981, we kept a candle burning all night in the White House, in solidarity with the Polish people.

Today fifty winters have come and gone. *since darkness closed over Europe in 1939.* \\ *But* **And last month,** as Lech Walesa came to America, the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down. \\ **And as another winter descended across Europe -- spring returned to Prague.** \\

**Unconquerable people.** \\ **Unquenchable dreams.** \\

Today at the Wall a new sound rings out. **Not the hammer and sickle -- but the hammer and chisel.** The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas -- but also the bells of **freedom.**

And the triumph that looms is like the joy of Christmas. It is not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion -- **but a triumph for all humankind.** \\ \\

Tradition has it that the Christmas tree began almost 500 years ago, when Martin Luther was walking through the ~~snowy~~ woods and was struck by the sight of brilliant, winter-white stars twinkling through the snowy branches of a live evergreen.

And so it is especially appropriate that we gather this year to light a living tree, a tree whose branches are hung with a thousand stars, **a thousand points of light.** \\

The holidays are a time of laughter and children. A time when songs fill the air, and hope fills our hearts.

We've worked hard this year to help build a better America, to make this a kinder, gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. And when we say the times present opportunities for great and historic change, it's not only in Eastern Europe. It's right here at home, where "People Power" can also do a world of good, in places like Charleston and Santa Cruz, where thousands pitched in when disaster struck, and where trees will be lighted simultaneously with the National Tree here.

**This holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live.** The hungry and the afflicted. The lonely, the aged and the young. Those who are illiterate. And those who, like Mary and Joseph, simply have no place for their family to sleep.

Because from now on in America, "there's no room at the inn" is simply not an acceptable answer. And from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart. \\\

In the deep December dusk of Christmas Eve, as the churches and the streets empty out into the night, a winter stillness descends gently across the land. Driving by the farms and the cities, the windows all look the same. **But inside each house and apartment there are people with stories to tell, there are families bound together in hope and love.**

And in the still of the night, in the fading glow of the family Christmas tree and the rich, warm-wax smell of candles just gone out, parents stand alone beside their sleeping children. With hope in their hearts, a whispered prayer on their lips, they brush the hair from the eyes of the innocents. And in that moment, perhaps, we see what is eternal in Christmas -- and in ourselves. \\\

This year, the spirit of the holidays is at long last matched by the spirit of the times. And tonight the Star of Bethlehem and the candles of the menorah still cast their light in every corner of the world, with a timeless message of hope and renewal that radiates to people of all faiths. \\\

It is the beginning of a new decade -- and the end of an old century. Whatever your dream, whatever star you're following -- the future is bright with possibilities. \\\

Merry Christmas to you all. And now, let's turn on the National Christmas Tree. \\\

# # #

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

12/12/89

NOON, WED., DEC. 13

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

THE ELLIPSE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1989

SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_ 5:45 PM

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**REMARKS:**

Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Room 122, x2930, NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

No Comments 12/13/89

89 DEC 14 10:25

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

1989 DEC 12 PM 6:40

McNally/Simon  
December 12, 1989  
Draft Four (B:X-MAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE  
THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1989, 5:45 P.M.

Like every house, the White House is alive with holiday traditions, traditions that endear, traditions that endure. And though tonight's tradition, the lighting of the tree, is an old one, this is no ordinary Christmas. \\\

This is the Christmas we've awaited for 50 years. \\\

From the Atlantic to the Urals, 1989 is ending bright with the prospect of a far better Christmas than Europe has ever known, a far better future than the world dared to dream. \\\

Half a century ago there began in Central Europe a struggle that left as its legacy a divided Berlin, a divided Germany, a divided Europe. World War II also became the great divide for my generation, a touchstone against which we would forever measure time and change. \\\

I think of Christmas Eve 1944. More than 10 million Americans in uniform. President Roosevelt lit the National Tree with the same electric switch I have here tonight.

As Roosevelt spoke I was aboard a train. 20 years old. Crossed an ocean and a continent to get home. We stopped outside New York, and my fiancee, Barbara, climbed on board. And when we joined my parents there was laughter and tears, hugs and joy, the love and warmth of family during the holidays.

For us the war was over. \\\ But for half of Europe, the war and its aftermath was to consume three generations. \\\

Christmas 1948 saw the Berlin Airlift. In 1955, Radio Free Europe broadcast President Eisenhower's message behind the Iron Curtain. He told them: "During the Christmas season, I want you to know that the American people...share your faith that right, in the end, will prevail -- to bring you once again among the free nations of the world."

And on Christmas Eve 1981, we kept a candle burning all night in the White House, in solidarity with the Polish people.

Today fifty winters have come and gone. \\ And last month, as Lech Walesa came to America, the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down. \\ And as another winter descended across Europe -- spring returned to Prague. \\

Unconquerable people. \\ Unquenchable dreams. \\

Today at the Wall a new sound rings out. Not the hammer and sickle -- but the hammer and chisel. The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas -- but also the bells of freedom.

And the triumph that looms is like the joy of Christmas. It is not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion -- but a triumph for all humankind. \\\

Tradition has it that the Christmas tree began almost 500 years ago, when Martin Luther was walking through the snowy woods and was struck by the sight of brilliant, winter-white stars twinkling through the snowy branches of a live evergreen.

And so it is especially appropriate that we gather this year to light a living tree, a tree whose branches are hung with a thousand stars, a thousand points of light. \\

The holidays are a time of laughter and children. A time when songs fill the air, and hope fills our hearts.

We've worked hard this year to help build a better America, to make this a kinder, gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. And when we say the times present opportunities for great and historic change, it's not only in Eastern Europe. It's right here at home, where "People Power" can also do a world of good, in places like Charleston and Santa Cruz, where thousands pitched in when disaster struck, and where trees will be lighted simultaneously with the National Tree here.

**This holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live. The hungry and the afflicted. The lonely, the aged and the young. Those who are illiterate. And those who, like Mary and Joseph, simply have no place for their family to sleep.**

**Because from now on in America, "there's no room at the inn" is simply not an acceptable answer. And from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.**

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In the deep December dusk of Christmas Eve, as the churches and the streets empty out into the night, a winter stillness descends gently across the land. Driving by the farms and the cities, the windows all look the same. **But inside each house and apartment there are people with stories to tell, there are families bound together in hope and love.**

And in the still of the night, in the fading glow of the family Christmas tree and the rich, warm-wax smell of candles just gone out, parents stand alone beside their sleeping children. With hope in their hearts, a whispered prayer on their lips, they brush the hair from the eyes of the innocents. And in that moment, perhaps, we see what is eternal in Christmas -- and in ourselves. \\\

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# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*  
SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National Christmas Tree  
Lighting

Another fine job by the speechwriting staff. The remarks are very nicely done and evoke the true spirit and meaning of Christmas. We have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint and approve of the draft in its present form.

cc: James W. Cicconi

89 DEC 14 10:25

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., DEC. 13  
 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
 THE ELLIPSE  
 SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1989  
 5:45 PM

	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"/>	<del>PORTER</del>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PETERSMEYER</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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James W. Cicconi  
 Assistant to the President  
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 Ext. 2702

1989 DEC 12 PM 6:40

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And in the still of the night, in the fading glow of the family Christmas tree and the rich, warm-wax smell of candles just gone out, parents stand alone beside their sleeping children. With hope in their hearts, a whispered prayer on their lips, they brush the hair from the eyes of the innocents. And in that moment, perhaps, we see what is eternal in Christmas -- and in ourselves. \\\

This year, the spirit of the holidays is at long last matched by the spirit of the times. And tonight the Star of Bethlehem and the candles of the menorah still cast their light in every corner of the world, with a timeless message of hope and renewal that radiates to people of all faiths. \\\

It is the beginning of a new decade -- and the end of an old century. Whatever your dream, whatever star you're following -- the future is bright with possibilities. \\\

Merry Christmas to you all. And now, let's turn on the National Christmas Tree. \\\

# # #

McNally  
comments...

R PART OF TWO YEARS, MOTHERS AND FATHERS ACROSS  
LED TO TELL THEIR KIDS WHAT THE HECK THE  
WHEN HE SAYS "A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT." \\  
WELL -- THERE IT IS! \\ \\ \\

McNally/Simon  
December 12, 1989  
Draft Four (B:X-MAS)

EMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE  
THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1989, 5:45 P.M.

se, the White House is alive with holiday  
ons that endear, traditions that endure. And  
adition, the lighting of the tree, is an old  
one, this is no ordinary Christmas. \\ \\

This is the Christmas we've awaited for 50 years. \\ \\

From the Atlantic to the Urals, 1989 is ending bright with  
the prospect of a far better Christmas than Europe has ever  
known, a far better future than the world dared to dream. \\

Half a century ago there began in Central Europe a struggle  
that left as its legacy a divided Berlin, a divided Germany, a  
divided Europe. World War II also became the great divide for my  
generation, a touchstone against which we would forever measure  
time and change. \\ \\

I think of Christmas Eve 1944. More than 10 million  
Americans in uniform. President Roosevelt lit the National Tree  
with the same electric switch I have here tonight.

As Roosevelt spoke I was aboard a train. 20 years old.  
Crossed an ocean and a continent to get home. We stopped outside  
New York, and my fiance, Barbara, climbed on board. And when we  
joined my parents there was laughter and tears, hugs and joy, the  
love and warmth of family during the holidays.

For us the war was over. \\ But for half of Europe, the  
war and its aftermath was to consume three generations. \\

And today that lone candle has grown to fill the cobbled squares of ancient Europe, and give light to this new season of hope.

2

Christmas 1948 saw the Berlin Airlift. In 1955, Radio Free Europe broadcast President Eisenhower's message behind the Iron Curtain. He told them: "During the Christmas season, I want you to know that the American people...share your faith that right, in the end, will prevail -- to bring you once again among the free nations of the world."

And on Christmas Eve 1981, we kept a candle burning all night in the White House, in solidarity with the Polish people.

Today fifty winters have come and gone. ~~And last month,~~ as Lech Walesa came to America, the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down. ~~And as another winter descended across Europe --~~ spring returned to Prague. ~~Unconquerable people. Unquenchable dreams.~~

Today at the Wall a new sound rings out. Not the hammer and sickle -- but the hammer and chisel. The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas -- but also the bells of freedom.

And the triumph that looms is like the joy of Christmas. It is not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion -- but a triumph for all humankind. ~~Unconquerable people. Unquenchable dreams.~~

Tradition has it that the Christmas tree began almost 500 years ago, when Martin Luther was walking through the snowy woods and was struck by the sight of brilliant, winter-white stars twinkling through the snowy branches of a live evergreen.

And so it is especially appropriate that we gather this year to light a living tree, a tree whose branches are hung with a thousand stars, a thousand points of light.

The holidays are a time of laughter and children. A time when songs fill the air, and hope fills our hearts.

We've worked hard this year to help build a better America, to make this a kinder, gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. And when we say the times present opportunities for great and historic change, it's not only in Eastern Europe. It's right here at home, where "People Power" can also do a world of good, in places like Charleston and Santa Cruz, where thousands pitched in when disaster struck, and where trees will be lighted simultaneously with the National Tree here.

This holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live. The hungry and the afflicted. The lonely, the aged and the young. Those who are illiterate. And those who, like Mary and Joseph, simply have no place for their family to sleep.

Because from now on in America, "there's no room at the inn" is simply not an acceptable answer. And from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart. \\\

In the deep December dusk of Christmas Eve, as the churches and the streets empty out into the night, a winter stillness descends gently across the land. Driving by the farms and the cities, the windows all look the same. But inside each house and apartment there are people with stories to tell, there are families bound together in hope and love.

And in the still of the night, in the fading glow of the family Christmas tree and the rich, warm-wax smell of candles just gone out, parents stand alone beside their sleeping children. With hope in their hearts, a whispered prayer on their lips, they brush the hair from the eyes of the innocents. And in that moment, perhaps, we see what is eternal in Christmas -- and in ourselves. \\\

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Merry Christmas to you all. And now, let's turn on the National Christmas Tree. \\\

# # #

December 13, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: EDWARD McNALLY

SUBJECT: REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

I. SUMMARY

Attached are draft remarks for tomorrow evening's address at the National Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.

II. DISCUSSION

At 5:<sup>20</sup>~~45~~ p.m. on Thursday, December 14, 1989, you are scheduled to arrive onstage at the Ellipse to address a gathering of an estimated 4-10,000 people. Although many will be guests of the White House and Congress, the event is open to the public.

Your address is the highlight of a holiday celebration that includes ~~Master of Ceremonies~~ Willard Scott, Loretta Lynn, Tommy Tune, and the Air Force Band. There is special drama in the event not only because this is your first Christmas as President, but also because you will be the first President in 10 years to actually go down to the Ellipse to light the tree.

The remarks reflect on the extraordinary events of the first year of your Presidency and the "new season of hope" that many parts of Eastern Europe will celebrate this Christmas. ~~In keeping with your guidance to David Demarest about including family references in some of your holiday remarks, we have also~~ borrowed from your Life magazine account of your Christmas Eve homecoming in 1944.

The remarks also renew your call for "A Thousand Points of Light" here at home, calling on Americans to "reach out to someone right where you live" this holiday season.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 12/13/89

TO: *Alicia Winston*

FROM: CLARK KENT ERVIN *(C)*  
Office of National Service  
x6266

- Action
- Your Comment
- Let's Talk
- FYI

I think that this is a superb  
Speech,

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., DEC. 13  
 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
 THE ELLIPSE  
 SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1989  
 5:45 PM

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PETERSMEYER</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Room 122, x2930, NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

1989 DEC 12 PM 6:40

McNally/Simon  
December 12, 1989  
Draft Four (B:X-MAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE  
THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1989, 5:45 P.M.

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This is the Christmas we've awaited for 50 years. \\\

From the Atlantic to the Urals, 1989 is ending bright with the prospect of a far better Christmas than Europe has ever known, a far better future than the world dared to dream. \\\

Half a century ago there began in Central Europe a struggle that left as its legacy a divided Berlin, a divided Germany, a divided Europe. World War II also became the great divide for my generation, a touchstone against which we would forever measure time and change. \\\

I think of Christmas Eve 1944. More than 10 million Americans in uniform. President Roosevelt lit the National Tree with the same electric switch I have here tonight.

As Roosevelt spoke I was aboard a train. 20 years old. Crossed an ocean and a continent to get home. We stopped outside New York, and my fiancee, Barbara, climbed on board. And when we joined my parents there was laughter and tears, hugs and joy, the love and warmth of family during the holidays.

For us the war was over. \\\ But for half of Europe, the war and its aftermath was to consume three generations. \\\

hant

imagine

Christmas 1948 saw the Berlin Airlift. In 1955, Radio Free Europe broadcast President Eisenhower's message behind the Iron Curtain. He told them: "During the Christmas season, I want you to know that the American people...share your faith that right, in the end, will prevail -- to bring you once again among the free nations of the world."

And on Christmas Eve 1981, we kept a candle burning all night in the White House, in solidarity with the Polish people.

Today fifty winters have come and gone. \\ And last month, as Lech Walesa came to America, the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down. \\ And as another winter descended across Europe -- spring returned to Prague. \\

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Today at the Wall a new sound rings out. Not the hammer and sickle -- but the hammer and chisel. The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas -- but also the bells of freedom.

And the triumph that looms is like the joy of Christmas. It is not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion -- but a triumph for all humankind. \\\

Tradition has it that the Christmas tree began almost 500 years ago, when Martin Luther was walking through the snowy woods and was struck by the sight of brilliant, winter-white stars twinkling through the snowy branches of a live evergreen.

And so it is especially appropriate that we gather this year to light a living tree, a tree whose branches are hung with a thousand stars, a thousand points of light. \\

The holidays are a time of laughter and children. A time when songs fill the air, and hope fills our hearts.

We've worked hard this year to help build a better America, to make this a kinder, gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. And when we say the times present opportunities for great and historic change, it's not only in Eastern Europe. It's right here at home, where "People Power" can also do a world of good, in places like Charleston and Santa Cruz, where thousands pitched in when disaster struck, and where trees will be lighted simultaneously with the National Tree here.

**This holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live.** The hungry and the afflicted. The lonely, the aged and the young. Those who are illiterate. And those who, like Mary and Joseph, simply have no place for their family to sleep.

Because from now on in America, "there's no room at the inn" is simply not an acceptable answer. And from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart. \\\

In the deep December dusk of Christmas Eve, as the churches and the streets empty out into the night, a winter stillness descends gently across the land. Driving by the farms and the cities, the windows all look the same. **But inside each house and apartment there are people with stories to tell, there are families bound together in hope and love.**

and the  
Baby  
Jesus

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It is the beginning of a new decade -- and the end of an old century. Whatever your dream, whatever star you're following -- the future is bright with possibilities. \\\

Merry Christmas to you all. And now, let's turn on the National Christmas Tree. \\\

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 13, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR  
COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: JAY S. BYBEE *jsb*  
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: National Christmas Tree  
Lighting

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

12/12/89

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., DEC. 13

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE

SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1989  
5:45 PM

	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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Room 122, x2930, NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13. Thank you.

RESPONSE: December 13, 1989

TO: CHRISS WINSTON

NSC concurs with the Presidential remarks for the national Christmas tree lighting with the change and comments noted.

*Brent Scowcroft*  
Brent Scowcroft

cc: James W. Cicconi

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

89 DEC 13 A7:22

1989 DEC 12 PM 6:40

McNally/Simon  
December 12, 1989  
Draft Four (B:X-MAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
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Like every house, the White House is alive with holiday traditions, traditions that endear, traditions that endure. And though tonight's tradition, the lighting of the tree, is an old one, this is no ordinary Christmas. \\\

**This is the Christmas we've awaited for 50 years.** \\\

*Echoes Soviet contention regarding a 'Common European House'*  
(~~From the Atlantic to the Urals~~) 1989 is ending bright with the prospect of a far better Christmas than Europe has ever known, a far better future than the world dared to dream. \\\

Half a century ago there began in Central Europe a struggle that left as its legacy a divided Berlin, a divided Germany, a divided Europe. World War II also became the great divide for my generation, a touchstone against which we would forever measure time and change. \\\

I think of Christmas Eve 1944. More than 10 million Americans in uniform. President Roosevelt lit the National Tree with the same electric switch I have here tonight.

As Roosevelt spoke I was aboard a train. 20 years old. Crossed an ocean and a continent to get home. We stopped outside New York, and my fiance, Barbara, climbed on board. And when we joined my parents there was laughter and tears, hugs and joy, the love and warmth of family during the holidays.

For us the war was over. \\\ But for half of Europe, the war and its aftermath was to consume three generations. \\\

Christmas 1948 saw the Berlin Airlift. In 1955, Radio Free Europe broadcast President Eisenhower's message behind the Iron Curtain. He told them: "During the Christmas season, I want you to know that the American people...share your faith that right, in the end, will prevail -- to bring you once again among the free nations of the world."

And on Christmas Eve 1981, we kept a candle burning all night in the White House, in solidarity with the Polish people.

Today fifty winters have come and gone, <sup>Since the darkness closed over Europe in 1939.</sup> \ \ And last month,

CHANGE-----

<sup>We also witnessed the human triumph over that ugliest symbol of a divided Europe -- the Berlin Wall.</sup> as Lech Walesa came to America, ~~the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down.~~ \ \ And as another winter descended across Europe --

spring returned to Prague. \ \

Unconquerable people. \ \ Unquenchable dreams. \ \

Today at the Wall a new sound rings out. Not the hammer and sickle -- but the hammer and chisel. The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas -- but also the bells of freedom.

And the triumph that looms is like the joy of Christmas. It is not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion -- but a triumph for all humankind. \ \ \

Tradition has it that the Christmas tree began almost 500 years ago, when Martin Luther was walking through the snowy woods and was struck by the sight of brilliant, winter-white stars twinkling through the snowy branches of a live evergreen.

And so it is especially appropriate that we gather this year to light a living tree, a tree whose branches are hung with a thousand stars, a thousand points of light. \ \

In fact, the Czechs have a history of yielding without a fight

Not pagan?

The holidays are a time of laughter and children. A time when songs fill the air, and hope fills our hearts.

We've worked hard this year to help build a better America, to make this a kinder, gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. And when we say the times present opportunities for great and historic change, it's not only in Eastern Europe. It's right here at home, where "People Power" can also do a world of good, in places like Charleston and Santa Cruz, where thousands pitched in when disaster struck, and where trees will be lighted simultaneously with the National Tree here.

This holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live. The hungry and the afflicted. The lonely, the aged and the young. Those who are illiterate. And those who, like Mary and Joseph, simply have no place for their family to sleep.

Because from now on in America, "there's no room at the inn" is simply not an acceptable answer. And from now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others.

For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart. \\\

In the deep December dusk of Christmas Eve, as the churches and the streets empty out into the night, a winter stillness descends gently across the land. Driving by the farms and the cities, the windows all look the same. But inside each house and apartment there are people with stories to tell, there are families bound together in hope and love.

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# # #

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/12/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: NOON, WED., DEC. 13  
 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE  
 SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1989  
5:45 PM

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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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS: Please provide comments/edits on the attached directly to Chriss Winston, Room 122, x2930, NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13. Thank you.

RESPONSE: S.R. Shouldn't we mention Charlotte and Santa Cruz — if we're going to simultaneously light those X-MAS TREES

Note: They are there.  
p. 3, P2  
— McVally

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

1989 DEC 12 PM 6:40

McNally/Simon  
December 12, 1989  
Draft Four (B:X-MAS)

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For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart. \\\

In the deep December dusk of Christmas Eve, as the churches and the streets empty out into the night, a winter stillness descends gently across the land. Driving by the farms and the cities, the windows all look the same. **But inside each house and apartment there are people with stories to tell, there are families bound together in hope and love.**

And in the still of the night, in the fading glow of the family Christmas tree and the rich, warm-wax smell of candles just gone out, parents stand alone beside their sleeping children. With hope in their hearts, a whispered prayer on their lips, they brush the hair from the eyes of the innocents. And in that moment, perhaps, we see what is eternal in Christmas -- and in ourselves. \\\

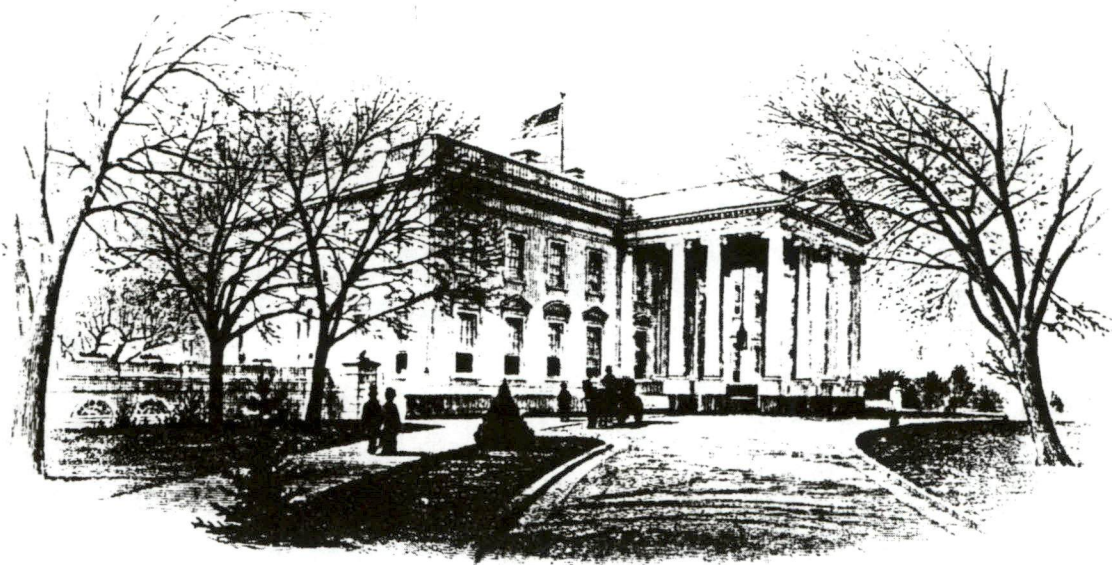
This year, the spirit of the holidays is at long last matched by the spirit of the times. And tonight the Star of Bethlehem and the candles of the menorah still cast their light in every corner of the world, with a timeless message of hope and renewal that radiates to people of all faiths. \\\

It is the beginning of a new decade -- and the end of an old century. Whatever your dream, whatever star you're following -- the future is bright with possibilities. \\\

Merry Christmas to you all. And now, let's turn on the National Christmas Tree. \\\

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER 3

DATE 12/14

TO Debbie Romash

FAX NUMBER x 6224

OFFICE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS Tree lighting Remarks

FROM P.A.

FAX NUMBER 456-6218

OFFICE NUMBER x 2930

McNally/Simon  
December 14, 1989  
Draft SIX (B:X-MAS)

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING  
THE ELLIPSE  
THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1989, 5:45 P.M.

Special thanks to Willard Scott, Loretta Lynn, Tommy Tune, Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis, the Air Force Band and all of you who helped this Christmas. \\

Because this is the Christmas we've awaited for 50 years.\\

Across Europe -- East and West -- 1989 is ending bright with the prospect of a far better Christmas than Europe has ever known, a far better future than the world dared to imagine. \\

Fifty winters have come and gone since darkness closed over Europe in 1939. \\ But last month, as Lech Walesa came to America, the Wall in Berlin came tumbling down. \\ And as another winter descended across Europe -- spring returned to Prague. \\ Unconquerable people. \\ Unquenchable dreams. \\

Today at the Wall a new sound rings out. Not the hammer and sickle -- but the hammer and chisel. The glad sound you hear is not only the bells of Christmas -- but also the bells of freedom.

And in this new season of hope, the triumph that looms is like the joy of Christmas. It is not a triumph for one particular country or one particular religion -- but a triumph for all humankind. \\ \\

The holidays are a time of laughter and children and counting our blessings. A time when songs fill the air, and hope fills our hearts for peace on Earth, good will to all.

We've worked hard this year to help build a better America, to make this a kinder, gentler nation. But there remains a world of need all around us. This holiday season, reach out to someone right where you live. Because from now on in America, "there's no room at the inn" is simply not an acceptable answer. From now on in America, any definition of a successful life must include serving others. \\\ For Christmas is measured not by what's beneath your tree, but by what's inside your heart. \\\

This year, the spirit of the holidays is at long last matched by the spirit of the times. \\\ It is the beginning of a new decade -- and the end of an old century. Whatever your dream, whatever star you're following -- the future is bright with possibilities. \\\

Merry Christmas to you all. And now -- with simultaneous tree lightings from coast to coast, in Charleston and Santa Cruz, let's show you our "Thousand Points of Light." Let's turn on the National Christmas Tree! \\\

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