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Article for Overseas Press Club Award Dinner 3/16/90 [OA 4727]

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G	26	16	2	2

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3/17/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: -----

PRESIDENTIAL ARTICLE: TIME MAGAZINE/OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB
ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

SUBJECT: (3/16 - 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 type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input 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>PINKERTON</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>WINSTON</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

90 MAR 19 4 38

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

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1990 MAR 16 PM 4:56

March 15, 1990

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON *W*
FROM: MARY KATE GRANT *MKG*
SUBJECT: ARTICLE FOR OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB AWARDS DINNER

I. SUMMARY

Attached for your consideration is a proposed article for the program at the Overseas Press Club Annual Awards Dinner. The theme of this year's dinner is "Let Freedom Ring: The Press in the New Age of Democracy."

II. DISCUSSION

Every year, the dinner program is designed as a mock-up of a national magazine; this year's will be Time magazine (last year was Newsweek). This is the second year you have contributed a piece and photos to the program.

Grant/Nappo
March 16, 1990
Draft five
A:time

PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL ARTICLE: TIME MAGAZINE/OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB
ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

THEME: "LET FREEDOM RING: THE PRESS IN THE NEW AGE OF DEMOCRACY"

Shortly after World War II, President Harry Truman told the American Society of Newspaper Editors: "We cannot run the risk that nations may be lost to the cause of freedom, because their people do not know the facts. I am convinced that we should greatly extend and strengthen our efforts to make the truth known to people in all the world."

Here in America, we believe in the free press. Every day, about 1400 local television stations, 1600 daily newspapers, and over 10,000 radio stations -- each one fiercely independent of any government control -- report on candidates for office, government policies, local, national and international events

Today, forty years after President Truman championed the power of a free press, people from Panama to Poland are winning their struggle for freedom.

Thanks to the scrutiny that no government can now escape, things are changing, and the spirit is catching. For example, the staff of one Czechoslovak Socialist party daily paper, The Free Word, announced last winter that it would no longer parrot the official line and would become an independent journal. Then, workers at the government-controlled television stations threatened to shut down broadcasts unless coverage of public

demonstrations was both prominent and fair. Soon after, the nightly news began featuring film clips of the protests at Wenceslas Square in Prague.

In Czechoslovakia and Hungary, people watched television coverage as the "Revolution of '89" evolved and the Berlin Wall fell. In Timisoara, Romania, a pastor in the Hungarian Reformed Church spoke out against the tyranny of the Bucharest regime on Hungarian television. After the interview, he was denied food and fuel, barred from meeting with his family, and finally imprisoned. Lech Walesa wrote in an open letter to the brave priest: "Even prison walls will not be able to hide what is noble and good from the eyes of the world." Walesa was right -- and now the people of Romania, free from of the despotism that imprisoned them for so long, are building democracy. And elsewhere, in Managua, the publisher of the once-outlawed newspaper La Prensa has been elected President of Nicaragua after years of censorship by the Marxist Sandinistas.

Your work overseas, as foreign correspondents and editors, has helped spark the fires of truth and freedom. In those far-away countries, the "truth has set men free." Not only in Berlin, but in so many cities and villages around the world, "the wall" separating the people and their God-given freedom has come down. And it has come down because people know that freedom means the right to question and change the established way of doing things and that no single authority or government has a

monopoly on the truth. As long as there is a free press in this world, the walls will continue to come down.

The idea of freedom is alive everywhere. Pope John Paul II, a great religious and spiritual leader but also a Polish patriot, wrote years ago, "Freedom has continually to be won, it cannot merely be possessed. It comes as a gift but can only be kept with a struggle." Each of you is an important part of that ongoing struggle.

I salute the members of the Overseas Press Club and send you my best wishes on this occasion. God bless you and God bless America.

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