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Human Rights Day, 12/10/90

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

30 OCT 6 All: 49

DATE: 12/7/90 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12/7/90 4:00 PM

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HUMAN RIGHTS DAY SIGNING CEREMONY

	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 type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT <i>BOOTLEG</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST <i>ON ROAD</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PINKERTON <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>STATE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" 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 TODAY, Friday, December 7, with a copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

90 DEC -7 AM 11:16

McGroarty/Dooley
December 7, 1990
10:45 am
[RIGHTS]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HUMAN RIGHTS DAY SIGNING CEREMONY
THE WHITE HOUSE
DECEMBER 10, 1990
1:30 PM

Welcome all of you. [Introductory acknowledgements.] It is an honor to mark this important occasion with so many of the men and women who make it their calling to advance the cause of freedom and human rights around the world. //

And it is a special pleasure to meet with you as we look back on a year in which the cause of freedom has made such great gains. A year in which the collapse of communism -- the end of four long decades of Cold War and conflict -- closed one of the darkest chapters of this or any century, and the world looked with new hope to an era of peace and freedom. //

With freedom's advance come new challenges. This is especially true in Europe -- the continent that for so long stood at the heart of East-West conflict. There, the Revolution of 89 has given way to the renaissance of 1990 -- to the difficult business of democracy-building. The hard work of consolidating these great gains has just begun. // America can take pride in the role we've played in this revolution -- but we must not make the mistake of thinking that our work is now over. //

Today, as so many of the newly emerging democracies struggle to put in place the foundation stones of freedom, the American

example can light the way forward. // Former Chief Justice Burger is a special guest today -- to mark with us the fact that the new year we soon begin, 1991, is the 200th anniversary of the American Bill of Rights. // Last month, when I addressed the Federal Assembly in Czechoslovakia -- a country which is now engaged in establishing the institutions of free government -- I brought with me copies, for every member, of our Constitution and our Bill of Rights -- in the spirit of friendship, as proof of the common principles that bind all free people. //

The authors of our Bill of Rights did their work not simply for one nation or one era -- but for the ages. // Our assistance -- not just material, but moral -- can help our friends in Eastern Europe build a democracy that endures. //

As we work to further the cause of human rights, we must remember: There is no greater guarantee against the tyranny of men than the rule of law. //

This advance in human rights is not confined to one continent alone. I returned just two days ago from South America. I visited five countries, each one now back on the democratic path. One of them -- Argentina -- turned back an anti-democratic challenge just days before I came. When we arrived, you could see and feel the depth of Argentina's dedication to democracy and its ideals. //

As I said in Buenos Aires, the day of the dictator is over. The war of ideas has been won -- by democracy. // Human rights, and respect for all it entails -- free elections, multi-party

systems, property rights and individual liberties -- is gaining ground the world over. // In Latin America and in Asia, where free market principles now power some of the world's fastest growing economies. // Across the continent of Africa -- too often neglected during the years of East-West conflict, the issue of human rights is now of key importance. //

These new challenges and the great gains we've all witnessed cannot obscure the fact that -- this day and every day -- millions of men, women and children around the world continue to be denied the freedom to live, work and worship as they wish. // Here, too, is work to be done. This nation and its people cannot be true to what is best in us if we fail to speak out for those whose voices are silent. //

Here in our own hemisphere, for the people of Cuba -- Castro's island prison, increasingly isolated and out of step with the flourishing of freedom across the rest of the Americas. // In Africa, where millions endure the indignity and injustice of apartheid -- and millions more live in poverty and oppression. // In China: for the students now on trial for taking part in peaceful protest -- and a full one fifth of all humanity, denied the rights and freedoms we hold dear. //

And of course, we must speak out and stand up for the people of Kuwait -- a people whose very nation is now in the grip of a tyrant unmoved by human decency. // The reports -- eye-witness accounts -- that I have heard from Kuwaiti citizens are a catalogue of human misery. Looting, torture, rape, summary

execution -- acts of unspeakable cruelty: what has happened to Kuwait is more than an invasion -- it is a systematic assault on the soul of a nation. //

As long as such assaults occur -- as long as inhuman regimes deny basic human rights -- our work is not done. //

Today, I sign these documents. Words on paper -- just as our own Constitution, our own Bill of Rights, our own Declaration of Independence are nothing more than words -- and yet nothing less than the sum of human hope. // As I sign these documents, I call on every American to see that the **ideals enshrined in these words** shine forth in our deeds -- as the very essence of the all that America stands for. //

Once more, may God bless all of you for your work in the cause of freedom. //

I will now sign the proclamation, designating December 15 Bill of Rights Day -- and marking today, December 10, as Human Rights Day.

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