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Greek Independence Day Proclamation Signing 3/25/91 [OA 6031]

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**TALKING POINTS: GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PROC. SIGNING
ROOSEVELT ROOM \ MARCH 25, 1991 \ 11:30 A.M.**

0 IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP IAKAVOS [YOCK-OH-VOSE] AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR ZACHARAKIS [ZAH-HAH-RAH-KEES] TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS MORNING. SECRETARY DERWINSKI. ((DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.)) I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT SO MANY ESTEEMED GREEK-AMERICANS COULD JOIN ME TODAY AS I SIGN THIS PROCLAMATION OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING MARCH 25TH -- GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY.

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0 MARCH 25TH MARKS SEVERAL TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY. AND JUST AS AMERICANS AND GREEKS SHARE MANY COMMON VALUES, WE EACH HOLD THIS DATE IN SPECIAL REVERENCE FOR THE STRIDES WE MADE IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM. IT WAS IN THE SPRING OF 1584 THAT THE FIRST COLONISTS SET SAIL FROM ENGLAND IN SEARCH OF NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND INDEPENDENCE. 170 YEARS AGO -- DAY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, 1821 -- THE GREEK BANNER OF REVOLT WAS FIRST RAISED IN THE SUCCESSFUL UPRISING IN THE NAME OF LIBERTY.

0 THE SHARED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DATE IS MORE THAN A COINCIDENCE. IT IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE OF THE COMMON IDEALS AND VALUES THE PEOPLE OF GREECE AND AMERICA HOLD SO DEAR -- FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND JUSTICE. AND UNDER THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP OF PRIME MINISTER MITSOTAKIS [MIT-SO-TOCK-ISS], WITH WHOM I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING TWICE LAST YEAR, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUES TO FLOURISH. WE HOPE TO MEET AGAIN SOON.

0 I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK THE PEOPLE OF GREECE FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN THE HISTORIC COALITION EFFORT TO LIBERATE KUWAIT FROM RUTHLESS AGGRESSION. THE PEOPLE OF GREECE CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THEIR COUNTRY'S ROLE IN PROTECTING THE RULE OF LAW.

0 NOW IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PUT PEN TO PAPER AND
PROCLAIM GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY: A NATIONAL DAY OF
CELEBRATION OF GREEK AND AMERICAN DEMOCRACY.

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