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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

OA/ID Number: 13594
Folder ID Number: 13594-006

Folder Title:
Medal of Freedom 12/12/91 [OA 6040]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	17	5	2

**HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM \ THE EAST ROOM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991 \ 5:00 P.M.**

GOOD AFTERNOON. BARBARA AND I ARE HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH VICE PRESIDENT AND MRS. QUAYLE; WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF MY CABINET: JIM BAKER, BOB MOSBACHER, LYNN MARTIN. //

WE ARE JOINED TODAY BY TWO GENTLEMEN WHO REPRESENT OUR HIGHEST HUMANITARIAN IDEALS: UN SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL GIANDOMENICO PICCO. //

- 2 -

LET ME ALSO WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE THE FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF FIVE SPECIAL MEN RETURNED TO FREEDOM. / FINALLY, TO THOMAS SUTHERLAND / ALANN STEEN / JESSE TURNER / JOSEPH CICIPPIO / AND TERRY ANDERSON: LET ME SIMPLY SAY: WELCOME HOME. //

ALL OVER AMERICA, PEOPLE WAITED FOR THE DAY YOUR LONG ORDEAL WOULD END. ALL OVER AMERICA, WE SHARE YOUR JOY: WE THANK GOD THAT YOU ARE FREE. //

NOTHING SAYS IT BETTER THAN THE SIGN BACK IN NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, IN THOMAS CICIPPIO'S FRONT YARD. FOR FIVE LONG YEARS, THAT SIGN SERVED AS A CONSTANT REMINDER: WITH THE NAME OF EACH HOSTAGE -- AND A NUMBER COUNTING EACH CRUEL DAY OF CAPTIVITY. THEN, ONE BY ONE, THE NUMBERS GAVE WAY TO A SIGN MARKED "FREED." FINALLY, JUST NINE DAYS AGO, CAME THE MOMENT THE CICIPPIO FAMILY PRAYED FOR.

OVER JOSEPH'S NAME, THEY NAILED NOT ANOTHER NUMBER, BUT A SIGN, THAT READ: "FREE AT LAST."

ALL OF YOU HAVE SURVIVED AN ACT OF UNSPEAKABLE, UNCIVILIZED CRUELTY. HOSTAGE-TAKING IS HELL ON A HUMAN SCALE -- NOT JUST FOR THE INNOCENTS HELD CAPTIVE, BUT FOR THE FAMILIES THEY LEFT BEHIND. /

NO POWER ON EARTH CAN GIVE BACK THE YEARS YOU HAVE LOST. YET NO ONE CAN TAKE FROM YOU THE STRENGTH OF SPIRIT THAT SUSTAINED YOU.

THE WORLD IS NOW LEARNING THE HORRORS YOU ENDURED. BUT WE'RE LEARNING AS WELL THE STORY OF YOUR SURVIVAL -- THE MIRACLE YOU FASHIONED FROM THE HOPE YOUR CAPTORS COULD NOT TAKE AWAY. //

WE KNOW NOW HOW YOU USED THE LANGUAGE OF THE DEAF TO COMMUNICATE FROM CELL TO CELL -- TO SPEAK TO ONE ANOTHER IN SILENCE; HOW YOU MANAGED TO LEARN FROM ONE ANOTHER -- LAUGH WITH ONE ANOTHER -- HELP EACH OTHER SUSTAIN A STUBBORN DIGNITY. //

YOU DEMONSTRATED EACH DAY IN CAPTIVITY A DEFIANT FAITH. YOU BELIEVED IN YOUR COUNTRY, YOUR FAMILIES, YOUR COLLEAGUES -- AND YOURSELVES. YOU KNEW, THAT ONE DAY, YOU WOULD GO FREE. //

YOUR TRIUMPH SHINES NEW LIGHT ON A SIMPLE TRUTH. THE DAYS AND YEARS APART BURN AWAY THE TRIVIAL THINGS WE ONCE THOUGHT HAD VALUE -- TO REVEAL WHAT TRULY MATTERS IN LIFE: FAMILY / FAITH / HOPE AND LOVE.

SEEING FREEDOM THROUGH YOUR EYES -- EVEN FOR A MOMENT
-- FREES US FROM THE PETTY CONCERNS THAT SO OFTEN HOLD
US HOSTAGE AND DISTRACT US FROM LIFE'S LARGER JOYS.

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OTHERS, THE ORDEAL IS NOT OVER: FOR TWO GERMAN
CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES -- FOR THE FAMILIES OF TWO
COURAGEOUS AMERICANS WHOSE DUTY SENT THEM TO LEBANON
AND WHO DIED AT THE HANDS OF THEIR CAPTORS.

IN THE NAME OF THE CIVILIZED VALUES WE HOLD DEAR, I
CALL ON THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE CRIMES: FREE
HEINRICH STRUEBIG AND THOMAS KEMPTNER. RETURN THE
REMAINS OF RICH HIGGINS AND WILLIAM BUCKLEY. LET THE
FAMILIES OF THESE INNOCENT MEN FIND PEACE. ///

THE TRUTH IS CLEAR: HOSTAGE-TAKING HAS FAILED.
FROM THE BEGINNING IN TEHRAN IN 1979, HOSTAGE-TAKERS
SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT OUR SYSTEM'S REVERENCE FOR THE
INDIVIDUAL AS A WEAKNESS. //

YOUR CAPTORS BELIEVED HOSTAGE-TAKING WOULD TIE OUR HANDS. THEY WERE WRONG. WE REMAIN DETERMINED TO DEFEND AMERICAN INTERESTS AND INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THROUGH DESERT SHIELD AND DESERT STORM, WE STOOD FAST AGAINST AGGRESSION. WE SHOWED THE WORLD: TERRORISM IN ALL ITS FORMS CANNOT SUCCEED. //

IN THE END, THE HOSTAGE-TAKERS DID MORE DAMAGE TO THEIR CAUSE THAN THEY DID TO AMERICAN RESOLVE.

IN THE END, EACH HOSTAGE-TAKING -- EACH HEARTLESS ACT AGAINST INNOCENTS -- ANNOUNCED TO THE WORLD THE INHUMANITY OF THE CAPTORS.

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I AM CONVINCED THAT THIS COURSE REMAINS THE WORLD'S BEST HOPE THAT NO MORE INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN WILL MEET YOUR FATE -- THAT NO FAMILY WILL EVER AGAIN BE FORCED TO ENDURE YOUR YEARS IN AGONY.

THIS POLICY WAS NOT WITHOUT RISK. STICKING WITH IT WAS NEVER EASY -- ESPECIALLY FOR A COUNTRY THAT CARES SO DEEPLY ABOUT EVERY AMERICAN HELD AGAINST HIS WILL. / BUT WE HAVE LEARNED THAT IT WORKS: IT HELPED END THE AGONY -- IT HELPED BRING YOU HOME. ///

YES, AMERICA DID ITS PART. MANY MEN AND WOMEN IN THIS COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD -- MOST OF WHOM YOU WILL NEVER MEET -- WORKED TO SECURE YOUR FREEDOM. TODAY, WE RECOGNIZE THE SELFLESS EFFORTS OF ONE MAN WHO AT GREAT PERSONAL RISK HELPED BRING YOU TO FREEDOM. IN HIS YEARS AS SPECIAL ENVOY AT THE UNITED NATIONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL GIANI PICCO HAS SOUGHT ALWAYS TO SERVE PEACE AND RESOLVE CONFLICT.

TODAY, FOR HIS EFFORTS IN WINNING THE FREEDOM OF OUR HOSTAGES, WE HONOR GIANDOMENICO PICCO WITH THE PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

WE ALSO HONOR THE MAN WHO MADE YOUR RELEASE HIS PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY -- A MAN WHOSE LIFE WORK IN SERVICE TO HUMANITARIAN IDEALS HAS WON HIM HONOR THE WORLD OVER: JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR. //

JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR HAS MADE PEACE AMONG NATIONS HIS MISSION AND TAKEN THE PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER AS HIS PERSONAL CODE. HE WAS PRESENT AT THE CREATION: AS A DELEGATE TO THE FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UN IN 1946. WE FIRST MET IN 1971, WHEN EACH OF US RECEIVED THE SINGULAR HONOR OF SERVING OUR COUNTRIES AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. MY DISTINGUISHED COLLEAGUE WENT ON TO REPRESENT PERU IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, HE HAS SERVED THE CAUSE OF
WORLD PEACE AS SECRETARY-GENERAL.

HIS TENURE HAS MARKED THE REBIRTH OF THE UN -- ITS
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MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL, I AM PERSONALLY GRATEFUL FOR
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FOR FIVE YEARS, SHE WORE A BRACELET INSCRIBED WITH YOUR NAME. ON THE DAY OF YOUR RELEASE, SHE WROTE: "I WANTED YOU TO HAVE MY BRACELET SO YOU WOULD KNOW YOU WERE ALWAYS IN THE THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS OF MANY AMERICANS." //

ON THE SIDE OF THIS SIMPLE BAND ARE THE WORDS "HEBREWS 13:3." THE VERSE READS AS FOLLOWS: "REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE IN BONDS AS IF YOU WERE BOUND WITH THEM."

**WE REMEMBERED -- WE KEPT YOU IN OUR THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS -- AND IN THE END, THE CHAINS THAT HELD YOU
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**HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM \ THE EAST ROOM
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CLOSE HOLD

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/11/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM, 12/12 (12/11 5:15 p.m. draft)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

01 DEC 11 P5:32

December 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVE DEMAREST
TONY SNOW TS

FROM: DAN MC GROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMARKS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE MEDAL
OF FREEDOM TO SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ
DE CUELLAR

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, December 12, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. you will deliver remarks in the East Room to welcome our returning hostages. You will also present the Medal of Freedom to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar, and the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service to Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco. Each hostage will be accompanied by several family members.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 10 minutes / cards) welcome home the recently freed American hostages, restate our no-negotiations policy, and pay tribute to the tireless efforts of Secretary-General De Cuellar and Assistant Secretary-General Picco.

The bracelet, referenced in the text, (p. 5) was worn by Lynne Vincent for five years in honor of Thomas Sutherland. She wrote asking you to see that it be returned to him.

McGroarty/Bunton
December 11, 1991
5:15 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
5:00 P.M.

Good afternoon. I am honored to be joined here by two gentlemen who represent our highest humanitarian ideals: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco. // Let me also welcome to the White House the friends and families of five special men returned to freedom. / Finally, to Thomas Sutherland / Alann Steen / Jesse Turner / Joseph Cicippio / and Terry Anderson: let me simply say: welcome home. //

All over America, people waited for the day your long ordeal would end. All over America, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

Nothing says it better than the sign back in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in Thomas Cicippio's front yard. For five long years, that sign served as a constant reminder: with the name of each hostage -- a number counting each cruel day. Then, one by one, the numbers gave way to a sign marked "FREED." Finally, just nine days ago, came the moment the Cicippio family prayed for. Over Joseph's name, they nailed not another number, but a sign, that read: "FREE AT LAST."

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. Hostage-taking is hell on a human scale -- not just for the innocents held captive, but for the families they left behind. /

No power on earth can give back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is now learning the horrors you endured. But we're learning as well the story of your survival - - the miracle you fashioned from the hope your captors could not take away. //

We know now how you used the language of the deaf to communicate from cell to cell -- to speak to one another in silence; how you managed to learn from one another -- laugh with one another -- help each other sustain a stubborn dignity. // You demonstrated each day in captivity a defiant faith. You believed in your country, your families, your colleagues -- and yourselves. You knew, that one day, you would go free. //

Your triumph shines new light on a simple truth. The days and years apart burn away the trivial things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys. ///

The families here today are whole again. But for others, the ordeal is not over: for two German citizens and their families -- for the families of two courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner. Return the remains of Rich Higgins

and William Buckley. Let the families of these innocent men find peace. ///

The truth is clear: Hostage-taking has failed. From the beginning in Tehran in 1979, hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands. They were wrong. We remain determined to defend American interests and international principles in the Middle East. Through Desert Shield and Desert Storm, we stood fast against aggression. We showed the world: terrorism in all its forms cannot succeed. //

In the end, the hostage-takers did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve. In the end, each hostage-taking -- each heartless act against innocents -- announced to the world the inhumanity of the captors.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson -- you were right when you said no to negotiating with hostage-takers. This Administration has followed a no-negotiation policy since the beginning. Bargaining serves only to make a currency of human lives -- and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end. I am convinced that this course remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men and women will meet your fate -- that no family will ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risk. Sticking with it was never easy -- especially for a country that cares so deeply about

NSC changes

C. Stehner

every American held against his will. / But we have learned
that it works: It ~~ended~~ ^{helped} the agony -- ~~it brought you home.~~ ^{helped bring} III

*x 5066
9 AM
12/12*

Yes, America did its part. Many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet -- worked to secure your freedom. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his years as special envoy at the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General Giani Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

We also honor the man who made your release ^{his} a personal ~~crusade~~ ^{responsibility} -- a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over: Javier Perez de Cuellar. //

Javier Perez de Cuellar has made peace among nations his mission and taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as his personal code. He was present at the creation: as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the UN in 1946. We first met in 1971, when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council. For the past ten years, he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General.

His tenure has marked the rebirth of the UN -- its emergence as a force for peace. Cooperation now replaces Cold War conflict -- and across the globe, the UN now leads the international effort to resolve conflicts that have caused so much suffering. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated -- 11 are underway right now, 5 begun in the past year alone. // Mr. Secretary-General, I am personally grateful for your strong stand against Iraq's brutal assault on Kuwait -- and your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than ever before.

//

Today, we honor this architect of peace -- a man I am proud to call my friend. Mr. Secretary General: with great pride, I now present to you the highest civilian honor this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

Finally, I want to present a simple gift -- this one to Tom Sutherland. There are thousands more like it across America -- each one a symbol of the profound bonds Americans share. // It was sent to me by Lynne Vincent, a teacher in Northridge, California. For five years, she wore a bracelet inscribed with your name. On the day of your release, she wrote: "I wanted you to have my bracelet so you would know you were always in the thoughts and prayers of many Americans." //

On the side of this simple band are the words "Hebrews 13:3." The verse reads as follows: "Remember those who are in

bonds as if you were bound with them." We remembered -- we kept you in our thoughts and prayers -- and in the end, the chains that held you proved no match for the bonds that unite all Americans. //

Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVE DEMAREST
TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM: DAN MC GROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMARKS FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE MEDAL
OF FREEDOM TO SECRETARY-GENERAL JAVIER PEREZ
DE CUELLAR

I. SUMMARY

On Thursday, December 12, 1991 at 5:00 p.m. you will deliver remarks in the East Room to welcome our returning hostages. You will also present the Medal of Freedom to United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar, and the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service to Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco. Each hostage will be accompanied by several family members.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks (approximately 10 minutes / cards) welcome home the recently freed American hostages, restate our no-negotiations policy, and pay tribute to the tireless efforts of Secretary-General De Cuellar and Assistant Secretary-General Picco.

The bracelet, referenced in the text, (p. 5) was worn by Lynne Vincent for five years in honor of Thomas Sutherland. She wrote asking you to see that it be returned to him.

McGroarty/Bunton
December 11, 1991
5:15 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
5:00 P.M.

Good afternoon. I am honored to be joined here by two gentlemen who represent our highest humanitarian ideals: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco. // Let me also welcome to the White House the friends and families of five special men returned to freedom. / Finally, to Thomas Sutherland / Alann Steen / Jesse Turner / Joseph Cicippio / and Terry Anderson: let me simply say: welcome home. //

All over America, people waited for the day your long ordeal would end. All over America, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

Nothing says it better than the sign back in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in Thomas Cicippio's front yard. For five long years, that sign served as a constant reminder: with the name of each hostage -- a number counting each cruel day. Then, one by one, the numbers gave way to a sign marked "FREED." Finally, just nine days ago, came the moment the Cicippio family prayed for. Over Joseph's name, they nailed not another number, but a sign, that read: "FREE AT LAST."

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. Hostage-taking is hell on a human scale -- not just for the innocents held captive, but for the families they left behind. /

No power on earth can give back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is now learning the horrors you endured. But we're learning as well the story of your survival - - the miracle you fashioned from the hope your captors could not take away. //

We know now how you used the language of the deaf to communicate from cell to cell -- to speak to one another in silence; how you managed to learn from one another -- laugh with one another -- help each other sustain a stubborn dignity. // You demonstrated each day in captivity a defiant faith. You believed in your country, your families, your colleagues -- and yourselves. You knew, that one day, you would go free. //

Your triumph shines new light on a simple truth. The days and years apart burn away the trivial things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys. ///

The families here today are whole again. But for others, the ordeal is not over: for two German citizens and their families -- for the families of two courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner. Return the remains of Rich Higgins

and William Buckley. Let the families of these innocent men find peace. ///

The truth is clear: Hostage-taking has failed. From the beginning in Tehran in 1979, hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands. They were wrong. We remain determined to defend American interests and international principles in the Middle East. Through Desert Shield and Desert Storm, we stood fast against aggression. We showed the world: terrorism in all its forms cannot succeed. //

In the end, the hostage-takers did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve. In the end, each hostage-taking -- each heartless act against innocents -- announced to the world the inhumanity of the captors.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson -- you were right when you said no to negotiating with hostage-takers. This Administration has followed a no-negotiation policy since the beginning. Bargaining serves only to make a currency of human lives -- and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end. I am convinced that this course remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men and women will meet your fate -- that no family will ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risk. Sticking with it was never easy -- especially for a country that cares so deeply about

every American held against his will. / But we have learned that it works: It ended the agony -- it brought you home. ///

Yes, America did its part. Many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet -- worked to secure your freedom. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his years as special envoy at the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General Giani Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

We also honor the man who made your release a personal crusade -- a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over: Javier Perez de Cuellar. //

Javier Perez de Cuellar has made peace among nations his mission and taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as his personal code. He was present at the creation: as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the UN in 1946. We first met in 1971, when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council. For the past ten years, he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General.

His tenure has marked the rebirth of the UN -- its emergence as a force for peace. Cooperation now replaces Cold War conflict -- and across the globe, the UN now leads the international effort to resolve conflicts that have caused so much suffering. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated -- 11 are underway right now, 5 begun in the past year alone. // Mr. Secretary-General, I am personally grateful for your strong stand against Iraq's brutal assault on Kuwait -- and your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than ever before.

//

Today, we honor this architect of peace -- a man I am proud to call my friend. Mr. Secretary General: with great pride, I now present to you the highest civilian honor this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

Finally, I want to present a simple gift -- this one to Tom Sutherland. There are thousands more like it across America -- each one a symbol of the profound bonds Americans share. // It was sent to me by Lynne Vincent, a teacher in Northridge, California. For five years, she wore a bracelet inscribed with your name. On the day of your release, she wrote: "I wanted you to have my bracelet so you would know you were always in the thoughts and prayers of many Americans." //

On the side of this simple band are the words "Hebrews 13:3." The verse reads as follows: "Remember those who are in

bonds as if you were bound with them." We remembered -- we kept you in our thoughts and prayers -- and in the end, the chains that held you proved no match for the bonds that unite all Americans. //

Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

URGENT

Carolyn: FYI

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT**

TIME STAMP

ITEM NUMBER: 9020

ACTION OFFICER: Stettner *11 DEC 11 11:23* DATE: 11 December 10:00 am

- Prepare Memo For Scowcroft/Howe
- Prepare Memo For Brady
- Prepare Memo Scowcroft
- Appropriate Action
- Prepare Memo For Sittmann
- to Snow

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext. _____

Concur	FYI	Concur	FYI	Concur	FYI
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Andricos	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hutchings	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Popadluk
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Barth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pryce
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Beers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Kansteiner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rademaker
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Burns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lampley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Riedel
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Canas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Lowenkron	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Rostow
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Melby	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tobey
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Deal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Menan	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Van Eron
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gordon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> O'Leary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Whitley
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Haass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Patterson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Hull	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Poneman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

- INFORMATION
- Sittmann
 - Scowcroft (advance)
 - Hill
 - Howe (advance)
 - Exec Sec Desk
 - Secretariat

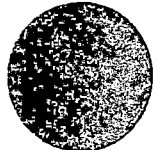
COMMENTS
Revised, cleared version attached

URGENT

Logged By _____

Return to Secretariat
379 OEOP

CLOSE HOLD



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

McGroarty/Bunton
December 10, 1991
4:45 p.m.

1 DEC 10 8:52
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
~~4:30 P.M.??~~
5:00 Pm

Good afternoon. I am honored to be joined here by two gentlemen who represent our highest humanitarian ideals: UN Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. Let me welcome to the White House the friends and families of ^{also} four special men returned to freedom. And to Thomas Sutherland / Alann Steen ^{Five} // Joseph Cicippio / and Terry Anderson: let me simply say: welcome home.

yes
protocol?
and

yes
with a hand

//

Barbara and I are grateful you could share this special day with us. When each of you were taken hostage -- as a nation -- we suffered and shared your grief. We counted each cruel day -- marked the birthdays, the anniversaries, the Christmases missed -- and never gave up hope. Today, as a nation, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

NO.

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. In each hostage-taking, we see hell on a human scale -- not just for the innocents held captive, but for the families they leave behind. Think of ^{Jo Ann Turner and} Sulome Anderson, the little girl ^{we} watched grow up without ^{their} her dad. Think of Terry Anderson -- and the father and brother ^{to whom} he could not ^{say} wish goodbye. //

OBE

No power on earth can give you back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is learning now the horrors you

deleted

endured. The days on end spent in darkness, blindfolded -- condemned to silence. The savage beatings -- the psychological assault aimed at stripping away your inner strength, ^{denying you your humanity,} / Yet you managed to find ways -- even while in chains -- to communicate with one another, to sustain one another: to demonstrate each day in captivity a defiant faith. You knew, with a fierce faith that inspires us, that one day, you would go free. //

Now, because you fought despair -- because you held fast to hope -- each one of you has been given a gift beyond measure: a future with the family you love. //

The days and years apart burn away the things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / ^{country /} hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys.

NO. NOT the place to put patriotism

For all of you, the nightmare has ended. But right now, the anguish continues -- for the families of two innocent German citizens held against their will, and for the families of two courageous Americans who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for ^{ee} ~~this~~ crime: ^{ee} return the remains of Rich Higgins and William Buckley. Let those who loved them find peace. //

From the beginning, the hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. / Yet, throughout your imprisonment, the ^{United States} ~~USA~~ followed a single policy:

Heinrich Schickel and James Komptner;

see insert

^{legitimate}
pursue every avenue to win your release -- but never -- never --
negotiate with terrorists.

Anderson, you said it best: "You can't negotiate with
you can't give them anything." // Bargaining
create a ^{marketplace} ~~(kind of currency)~~ in human lives.

A united world's best hope that no more
innocent men or women would meet your fate -- that no family
would ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

~~This policy was not without risks. Sticking with it was
never easy. In the end, the hostage-takers underestimated our
resolve. They found that taking hostages did more damage to
their cause than it did to American resolve.~~ //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands.

Yet it did nothing to diminish our will to defend American
interests and international ^{principles} ~~(ideals)~~ in the Middle East. Through
^{Shield to Desert} Desert Storm ~~[to the Conference in Madrid]~~, we ^{stood fast} ~~(continued to stand)~~
against aggression -- ^{in the process making clear to one and all that terrorism} ~~[and for the principles that promise a just
and lasting peace in the Middle East.]~~ //
^{a resolute}

Yes, America did its part. But your return to freedom was
the work of many men and women in this country and around the
world -- most of whom you will never meet. Today, we recognize
the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped
bring you to freedom. In his ^{ten} years as special envoy at the
^{United Nations} UN, Assistant Secretary-General ^{Giani} ~~(Giandomenico)~~ Picco has sought
always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his
efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor

✓
✓ revised
X

✓
United Nations
✓

Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

We also honor the man who made your release a personal responsibility ~~crusade~~ -- a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over: Javier Perez de Cuellar. //

Javier Perez de Cuellar has made peace among nations his mission and taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as his personal code. He was present at the ^{Creation} ~~Founding~~: as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the UN in 1946. We first met in 1971, when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as ^{Permanent Representative} ~~Ambassador~~ to the United Nations. My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council, ~~and serve as its President~~. For the past ten years, he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

During his tenure, the UN has been reborn. Cold War conflict has given way to true cooperation. Under UN auspices, ^{and the personal efforts of Javier Perez de Cuellar,} progress has been made in conflicts that have long defied

solution. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated -- 11 ^{are underway} ~~overall~~ ~~(in action)~~ right now, 5 begun in the past year alone. // Mr.

Secretary-General, I am personally grateful for your strong stand against aggression ^{Iraqi} in Kuwait -- and your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than ever

before. // In large part because of your wisdom and understanding, Javier, we are embarked on a world where the pillars are peace and security, human rights, social progress, and better standards of life. //

NO

✓

✓

✓

NO

✓

revised

?

Today, we honor this architect of peace -- a man whom I am proud to call my friend. Mr. Secretary General, it is with great pride that I now present to you the highest honor this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

Finally, I want to present today a simple gift -- this one to Thomas Sutherland. There are thousands more like it across America -- each one precious. / It was sent to me by Lynn Vincent, a teacher in Northridge, California. For five years, she wore a bracelet inscribed with your name. On the day of your release, she wrote: "I wanted you to have my bracelet so you would know you were always in the thoughts and prayers of many Americans." //

On the side of this simple band are the words "Hebrew 13:3." The verse reads as follows: "Remember those who are in bonds as if you were bound with them." We remembered -- we kept ^{all of} you in our thoughts and prayers -- and in the end, the chains that held you proved no match for the bonds that unite all Americans. //

Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

INSERT

BEFORE I BEGIN, LET ME COMMENT BRIEFLY ON A VERY GRATIFYING DEVELOPMENT: WITH TERRY ANDERSON'S RELEASE, ALL THE SURVIVING AMERICANS WHO HAD BEEN HELD HOSTAGE BY TERROR GROUPS IN LEBANON ARE FREE. ALL AMERICANS SHARE IN THE JOY OF THOSE WHO HAVE REGAINED THEIR FREEDOM. OUR JOY MINGLES WITH SAD REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM BUCKLEY AND COL. RICH HIGGINS, WHO WERE BRUTALLY MURDERED BY THEIR CAPTORS.

THEIR SUFFERING HAS NOT BEEN IN VAIN. CIVILIZED PEOPLE EVERYWHERE ARE REVULSED BY HOSTAGE-TAKING, MURDER AND TORTURE.

- 2 -

THE TERRORISTS' COWARDLY ACTION DID NOT DEMORALIZE US, IT SERVED TO STEEL OUR RESOLVE. DURING THE GULF CRISIS, WE SENT THAT MESSAGE TO ANY WOULD-BE AGGRESSOR OR TERRORIST OR TYRANT IN MIDDLE EAST MORE CLEARLY THAN EVER BEFORE. AMERICANS JOINED ARABS, AFRICANS, ASIANS, AND EUROPEANS IN A GLOBAL COALITION TO DEFEND INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND CIVILIZED VALUES.

AMERICA WILL STAY ENGAGED IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

WE'RE WORKING TO BRING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEACE TO FRUITION. THE RELEASE OF THE LAST AMERICAN HOSTAGE SHOULD SIGNIFY ANOTHER MILESTONE ALONG THE PATH WE ARE COMMITTED TO TRAVEL -- TO HALT TERROR AND VIOLENCE, TO FOSTER PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

#

NSC Revised (2)

3:50 pm

Reclh

9/1

For all of you here the nightmare has ended; but, for others it still continues -- for two German citizens and their families, and for two families of courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values all Christians and Muslims hold in common, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner; return the remains of Rich Higgins and of William Buckley. Let these innocent families be at peace.

Hostage taking has not been successful. From the beginning in Teheran in 1979 the purpose was to force us to negotiate for release by exploiting noble values that are deeply rooted in all Americans; respect for the individual person and a desire to end the suffering of innocents.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson, you were both right when on your release you said no to negotiating with hostage holders. This administration has followed a no-negotiation policy since its beginning. Bargaining makes a base currency of human lives, and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end.

It is not an easy policy, and it has not been without risk. But it is the most humane one and it offers the best hope that no more innocents will share the fate that befell you, that no more families will again be forced to endure such long years of agony. We have learned that it works; it brought you home; it ended the agony. In the end, the hostage holders did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve.

NSC(1) Retyped

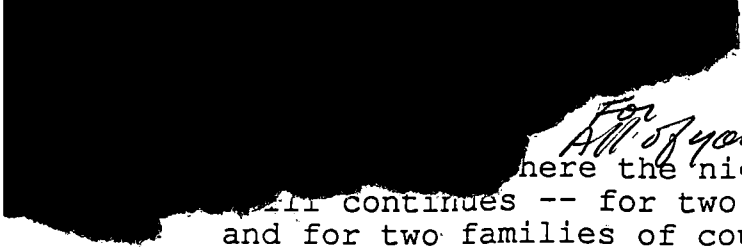
For all of you here the nightmare has ended; but, for others it continues -- for two German citizens and their families, and for ~~two~~ ^{the} families of ^{two} courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values ~~all Christian and Muslims hold in common,~~ ^{let us do this} I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner; return the remains of Rich Higgins and ~~of~~ William Buckley. Let these ~~innocent~~ ^{of these innocent men find} families be at peace. ^{peace}

Hostage taking has not been successful. From the beginning in Teheran in 1979 the purpose was to force us to negotiate for release by exploiting noble values that are deeply rooted in all Americans; respect for the individual person and a desire to end the suffering of innocents. But, we learned -- at some cost it must be said -- that making deals with terrorists is a mistake.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson, you were both right when on your release you said no to negotiating with hostage holders. This administration has followed that policy since the beginning. We have not negotiated with your captors. Bargaining makes a base currency of human lives, and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end. An apparently cruel -- but in fact, most humane -- approach of not negotiating is now recognized as the best hope that no more innocent men and women will share the fate that befell you, that no more families will again be forced to endure such long years of agony.

This policy has not been without risk. Sticking to it was never easy, especially in a democracy that is proud to hold high those ^{above all else} noble values of individual freedom and human rights. ^{values} But we have learned that it works; it brought you home; it ended the agony. In the end, the hostage holders did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve. In the end, the hostage holders have diminished themselves for their cruelty and inhumanity to innocent civilians.

NSC①



For you

...where the nightmare has ended; but, for others it continues -- for two German citizens and their families, and for two families of courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values all Christians and Muslims hold in common, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner; return the remains of Rich Higgins and of William Buckley. Let these innocent families be at peace.

Hostage taking has not been successful. From the beginning in Teheran in 1979 the purpose was to force us to negotiate for release by exploiting noble values that are deeply rooted in all Americans; ~~respect~~ ^{respect} for the individual person and a desire to end the suffering of innocents. (But, we learned -- at some cost it must be said -- that making deals with terrorists is a mistake.)

NBC
①

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson, you were both right when on your release you said no to negotiating with hostage holders. This administration has followed that policy since the beginning. We have not negotiated with your captors. Bargaining makes a base currency of human lives, and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end. An apparently cruel -- but in fact, most humane -- approach of not negotiating is now recognized as the best hope that no more innocent men and women will share the fate that befell you, that no more families will again be forced to endure such long years of agony.

This policy ~~was sometimes not well understood or followed, and it~~ has not been without risk. Sticking to it was never easy, especially in a democracy that is proud to hold high those noble values of individual freedom and human rights. But we have learned that it works; it brought you home; it ended the agony. In the end, the hostage holders did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve. In the end, the hostage holders have diminished themselves for their cruelty and inhumanity to innocent civilians.

35 line insert

picks up language from draft, but lengthens.

Extra Copy

For all of you here the nightmare has ended; but, for others it still continues -- for two German citizens and their families, and for two families of courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values all Christians and Muslims hold in common, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner; return the remains of Rich Higgins and of William Buckley. Let these innocent families be at peace.

Hostage taking has not been successful. From the beginning in Teheran in 1979 the purpose was to force us to negotiate for release by exploiting noble values that are deeply rooted in all Americans; respect for the individual person and a desire to end the suffering of innocents.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson, you were both right when on your release you said no to negotiating with hostage holders. This administration has followed a no-negotiation policy since its beginning. Bargaining makes a base currency of human lives, and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end.

It is not an easy policy, and it has not been without risk. But it is the most humane one and it offers the best hope that no more innocents will share the fate that befell you, that no more families will again be forced to endure such long years of agony. We have learned that it works; it brought you home; it ended the agony. In the end, the hostage holders did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve.

Admiral Howe's revisions to insert for
President's UN/Hostage meeting speech.

Carolyn Steltner
5066.

CLOSE HOLD



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 10 P6:20

DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE <i>NC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT <i>Zeltner 50100</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>NC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH <i>NC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>Latham 4026 NC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY <i>NC</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

DAVID D does plan to comment. DMG

Please forward no later than 10 this office. TH

ly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to

RESPONSE:

— MASTER — (sans D2 + Scowcroft) Sig + Roger

PHILLIP D. BRADY Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

McGroarty/Bunton
December 10, 1991
4:45 p.m.

21 DEC 10 PM: 52
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
4:30 P.M.??

Good afternoon. I am honored to be joined here by two gentlemen who represent our highest humanitarian ideals: UN Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. / Let me welcome to the White House the friends and families of four special men returned to freedom. And to Thomas Sutherland / Alann Steen / Joseph Cicippio / and Terry Anderson: let me simply say: welcome home.

//

Barbara and I are grateful you could share this special day with us. When each of you were taken hostage -- ^{we, (Rogich)} as a nation -- ~~we~~ suffered and shared your grief. We counted each cruel day -- marked the birthdays, the anniversaries, the ^{holidays (Rogich)} ~~Christmases~~ missed - - and never gave up hope. Today, as a nation, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

X
All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. In each hostage-taking, we see ^A hell on a human scale ^{which envelops (Porter)} - not just ^(Porter) ~~for~~ the innocents held captive, but ^(Porter) ~~for~~ the family they leave behind. Think of Sulome Anderson, the little girl we watched grow up without her dad. Think of Terry Anderson -- and the father and brother he could not wish goodbye. //

No power on earth can give you back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is learning now ^{of (Rogich)} the horrors you

OBE
reworded

OBE
reworded

endured. The days on end spent in darkness, blindfolded -- condemned to silence. The savage beatings -- the psychological assault aimed at stripping away your inner strength. / Yet you managed to find ways -- even while in chains -- to communicate with one another, to sustain one another: to demonstrate each day in captivity a defiant faith. You knew, with a fierce faith that inspires us, that one day, you would go free. //

Now, because you fought despair -- because you held fast to hope -- each one of you has been given a gift beyond measure: a future with the family you love. //

The days and years apart burn away the things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys.

For all of you, the nightmare has ended. But right now, the anguish continues -- for the families of two innocent German citizens held against their will, and for the families of two courageous Americans who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for this crime: return the remains of Rich Higgins and William Buckley. Let those who loved them find peace. //

From the beginning, the hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. / Yet, throughout your imprisonment, the U.S. followed a single policy:

Pursue every avenue to win your release -- but never --never -- negotiate with terrorists.

Terry Anderson, you said it best: "You can't negotiate with hostage-takers. You can't give them anything." // Bargaining would do no more than create a kind of currency in human lives. A united front remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men or women would meet your fate -- that no family would ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risks. Sticking with it was never easy. In the end, the hostage-takers underestimated our resolve. They found that taking hostages did more damage to their cause than it did to American resolve. //

X no
Your captors believed hostage-taking would ~~tie our hands~~ *impede our ability to take decisive actions*. Yet it did nothing to diminish our will to defend American *(Porter)* interests and international ideals in the Middle East. Through Desert Storm to the Conference in Madrid, we continued to stand against aggression -- and for the principles that promise a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. //

?
Yes, America did its part. But your return to freedom was the work of many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his ten years as special envoy at the UN, Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor

Mention Terry White?

Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

We also honor the man who made your release a personal crusade -- a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over: Javier Perez de Cuellar. //

Javier Perez de Cuellar has made peace among nations his mission and taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as his personal code. He was present at the founding: as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the UN in 1946. We first met in 1971, when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as Ambassador to the United Nations. My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council and serve as its President. For the past ten years, he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General.

During his tenure, the UN has been reborn. Cold War conflict has given way to true cooperation. Under UN auspices, progress has been made in conflicts that have long defied solution. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated -- 11 overall in action right now, 5 begun in the past year alone. // Mr. Secretary-General, I am personally grateful for your strong stand against aggression in Kuwait -- and your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than ever before. //

Today, we honor this architect of peace -- a man whom I am proud to call my friend. Mr. Secretary General, it is with great pride that I now present to you the highest honor this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

Finally, I want to present today a simple gift -- this one to Thomas Sutherland. There are thousands more like it across America -- each one precious. / It was sent to me by Lynn Vincent, a teacher in Northridge, California. For five years, she wore a bracelet inscribed with your name. On the day of your release, she wrote: "I wanted you to have my bracelet so you would know you were always in the thoughts and prayers of many Americans." //

On the side of this simple band are the words "Hebrew 13:3." The verse reads as follows: "Remember those who are in bonds as if you were bound with them." We remembered -- we kept you in our thoughts and prayers -- and in the end, the chains that held you proved no match for the bonds that unite all Americans. //

Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 292454ss

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 11 All: 35



DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*John
Pl. review
closely
Tony*

*Tony / Dan
Two minor comments.*

Phillip D. Brady

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

McGroarty/Bunton
December 10, 1991
4:45 p.m.

21 DEC 10 8:1:52
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS 4 HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
4:30 P.M.??

Good afternoon. I am honored to be joined here by two gentlemen who represent our highest humanitarian ideals: UN Assistant Secretary-General **Giandomenico Picco** and Secretary General **Javier Perez de Cuellar**. / Let me welcome to the White House the **friends and families** of four special men returned to freedom. And to **Thomas Sutherland / Alann Steen / Joseph Cicippio / and Terry Anderson**: let me simply say: welcome home.
//

9/15E
Barbara and I are grateful you could share this special day with us. When each of you were taken hostage -- as a nation -- we suffered and shared your grief. We counted each cruel day -- marked the birthdays, the anniversaries, the ^{holidays} ~~Christmases~~ missed - - and never gave up hope. Today, as a nation, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. // ✓ → *Cicippio is Muslim*

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. In each hostage-taking, we see hell on a human scale - - not just for the innocents held captive, but for the family they leave behind. Think of Sulome Anderson, the little girl we watched grow up without her dad. Think of Terry Anderson -- and the father and brother he could not wish goodbye. //

No power on earth can give you back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is learning now the horrors you

endured. The days on end spent in darkness, blindfolded -- condemned to silence. The savage beatings -- the psychological assault aimed at stripping away your inner strength. / Yet you managed to find ways -- even while in chains -- to communicate with one another, to sustain one another: to demonstrate each day in captivity a defiant faith. You knew, with a fierce faith that inspires us, that one day, you would go free. //

Now, because you fought despair -- because you held fast to hope -- each one of you has been given a gift beyond measure: a future with the family you love. //

The days and years apart burn away the things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys.

For all of you, the nightmare has ended. But right now, the anguish continues -- for the families of two innocent German citizens held against their will, and for the families of two courageous Americans who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for this crime: return the remains of Rich Higgins and William Buckley. Let those who loved them find peace. //

From the beginning, the hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. / Yet, throughout your imprisonment, the U.S. followed a single policy:

Pursue every avenue to win your release -- but never --never -- negotiate with terrorists.

Terry Anderson, you said it best: "You can't negotiate with hostage-takers. You can't give them anything." // Bargaining would do no more than create a kind of currency in human lives. A united front remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men or women would meet your fate -- that no family would ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risks. Sticking with it was never easy. In the end, the hostage-takers underestimated our resolve. They found that taking hostages did more damage to their cause than it did to American resolve. //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands. Yet it did nothing to diminish our will to defend American interests and international ideals in the Middle East. Through Desert Storm to the Conference in Madrid, we continued to stand against aggression -- and for the principles that promise a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. //

Yes, America did its part. But your return to freedom was the work of many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his ten years as special envoy at the UN, Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor

Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

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Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

✓

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
December 11, 1991

DEC 11 AIO: 35

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Hostages/De Cuellar Medal
of Freedom

We have reviewed the attached presidential remarks and have noted a few minor suggested comments on the draft.

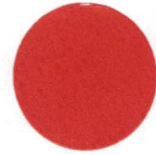
If you have any questions or we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 292454ss

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

McGroarty/Bunton
December 10, 1991
4:45 p.m.

21 DEC 10 8:52
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DECEMBER 12, 1991
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This policy was not without risks. Sticking with it was never easy. In the end, the hostage-takers underestimated our resolve. They found that taking hostages did more damage to their cause than it did to American resolve. // ~~IMPEDE~~ OUR ABILITY.

TO TAKE DECISIVE ACTIONS. Your captors believed hostage-taking would ~~tie our hands~~.

Yet it did nothing to diminish our will to defend American interests and international ideals in the Middle East. Through Desert Storm to the Conference in Madrid, we continued to stand against aggression -- and for the principles that promise a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. //

Yes, America did its part. But your return to freedom was the work of many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his ten years as special envoy at the UN, Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor

Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

We also honor the man who made your release a personal crusade -- a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over: Javier Perez de Cuellar. //

Javier Perez de Cuellar has made peace among nations his mission and taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as his personal code. He was present at the founding: as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the UN in 1946. We first met in 1971, when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as Ambassador to the United Nations. My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council and serve as its President. For the past ten years, he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General.

During his tenure, the UN has been reborn. Cold War conflict has given way to true cooperation. Under UN auspices, progress has been made in conflicts that have long defied solution. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated -- 11 overall in action right now, 5 begun in the past year alone. // Mr. Secretary-General, I am personally grateful for your strong stand against aggression in Kuwait -- and your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than ever before. //

Today, we honor this architect of peace -- a man whom I am proud to call my friend. Mr. Secretary General, it is with great pride that I now present to you the highest honor this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

Finally, I want to present today a simple gift -- this one to Thomas Sutherland. There are thousands more like it across America -- each one precious. / It was sent to me by Lynn Vincent, a teacher in Northridge, California. For five years, she wore a bracelet inscribed with your name. On the day of your release, she wrote: "I wanted you to have my bracelet so you would know you were always in the thoughts and prayers of many Americans." //

On the side of this simple band are the words "Hebrew 13:3." The verse reads as follows: "Remember those who are in bonds as if you were bound with them." We remembered -- we kept you in our thoughts and prayers -- and in the end, the chains that held you proved no match for the bonds that unite all Americans. //

Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

91 DEC 11 AIO: 38

December 11, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

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

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Hostages/De Cuellar Medal
of Freedom, The East Room, December 12, 1991

Pursuant to Phillip Brady's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We have no legal objection to the proposed presidential remarks, subject to the changes recommended by the NSC.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

CLOSE HOLD



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 11 10:19

DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: No comment.

Thanks,
Elizabeth Luttig

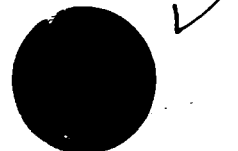
PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 292454ss

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

ok
DB

CLOSE HOLD

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 292454ss



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM



DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

OK - a few suggestions.

BT for SR

CLOSE HOLD

PHILLIP D. BRADY Assistant to the President and Staff Secretary Ext. 2702

McGroarty/Bunton
December 10, 1991
4:45 p.m.

21 DEC 10 8:41:52
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS. HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
4:30 P.M.??

Good afternoon. I am honored to be joined here by two gentlemen who represent our highest humanitarian ideals: UN Assistant Secretary-General **Giandomenico Picco** and Secretary General **Javier Perez de Cuellar**. / Let me welcome to the White House the **friends and families** of four special men returned to freedom. And to **Thomas Sutherland / Alann Steen / Joseph Cicippio / and Terry Anderson**: let me simply say: welcome home.
//

Barbara and I are grateful you could share this special day with us. When each of you were taken hostage -- as a nation -- ^{we,} ~~we~~ suffered and shared your grief. We counted each cruel day -- marked the birthdays, the anniversaries, the ^{holidays} ~~Christmases~~ missed -- and never gave up hope. Today, as a nation, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. In each hostage-taking, we see hell on a human scale -- not just for the innocents held captive, but for the family they leave behind. Think of Sulome Anderson, the little girl we watched grow up without her dad. Think of Terry Anderson -- and the father and brother he could not wish goodbye. //

No power on earth can give you back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is learning now ^{of} the horrors you

endured. The days on end spent in darkness, blindfolded -- condemned to silence. The savage beatings -- the psychological assault aimed at stripping away your inner strength. / Yet you managed to find ways -- even while in chains -- to communicate with one another, to sustain one another: to demonstrate each day in captivity a defiant faith. You knew, with a fierce faith that inspires us, that one day, you would go free. //

Now, because you fought despair -- because you held fast to hope -- each one of you has been given a gift beyond measure: a future with the family you love. //

The days and years apart burn away the things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys.

For all of you, the nightmare has ended. But right now, the anguish continues -- for the families of two innocent German citizens held against their will, and for the families of two courageous Americans who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for this crime: return the remains of Rich Higgins and William Buckley. Let those who loved them find peace. //

From the beginning, the hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. / Yet, throughout your imprisonment, the U.S. followed a single policy:

Pursue every avenue to win your release -- but never --never -- negotiate with terrorists.

Terry Anderson, you said it best: "You can't negotiate with hostage-takers. You can't give them anything." // Bargaining would do no more than create a kind of currency in human lives. A united front remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men or women would meet your fate -- that no family would ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risks. Sticking with it was never easy. In the end, the hostage-takers underestimated our resolve. They found that taking hostages did more damage to their cause than it did to American resolve. //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands. Yet it did nothing to diminish our will to defend American interests and international ideals in the Middle East. Through Desert Storm to the Conference in Madrid, we continued to stand against aggression -- and for the principles that promise a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. //

Yes, America did its part. But your return to freedom was the work of many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his ten years as special envoy at the UN, Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor

Mention
Terry
White

Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

We also honor the man who made your release a personal crusade -- a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over: Javier Perez de Cuellar. //

Javier Perez de Cuellar has made peace among nations his mission and taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as his personal code. He was present at the founding: as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the UN in 1946. We first met in 1971, when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as Ambassador to the United Nations. My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council and serve as its President. For the past ten years, he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General.

During his tenure, the UN has been reborn. Cold War conflict has given way to true cooperation. Under UN auspices, progress has been made in conflicts that have long defied solution. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated -- 11 overall in action right now, 5 begun in the past year alone. // Mr. Secretary-General, I am personally grateful for your strong stand against aggression in Kuwait -- and your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than ever before. //

Today, we honor this architect of peace -- a man whom I am proud to call my friend. Mr. Secretary General, it is with great pride that I now present to you the highest honor this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

Finally, I want to present today a simple gift -- this one to Thomas Sutherland. There are thousands more like it across America -- each one precious. / It was sent to me by Lynn Vincent, a teacher in Northridge, California. For five years, she wore a bracelet inscribed with your name. On the day of your release, she wrote: "I wanted you to have my bracelet so you would know you were always in the thoughts and prayers of many Americans." //

On the side of this simple band are the words "Hebrew 13:3." The verse reads as follows: "Remember those who are in bonds as if you were bound with them." We remembered -- we kept ^{all of} you in our thoughts and prayers -- and in the end, the chains that held you proved no match for the bonds that unite all Americans. //

Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

See p. 4

Pm 122

a couple small

changes - the first

per Snowcroft guidance.

Dan

McGroarty/Bunton
December 11, 1991
5:15 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
5:00 P.M.

Good afternoon. I am honored to be joined here by two gentlemen who represent our highest humanitarian ideals: UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco. // Let me also welcome to the White House the friends and families of five special men returned to freedom. / Finally, to Thomas Sutherland / Alann Steen / Jesse Turner / Joseph Cicippio / and Terry Anderson: let me simply say: welcome home. //

All over America, people waited for the day your long ordeal would end. All over America, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

Nothing says it better than the sign back in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in Thomas Cicippio's front yard. For five long years, that sign served as a constant reminder: with the name of each hostage -- a number counting each cruel day. Then, one by one, the numbers gave way to a sign marked "FREED." Finally, just nine days ago, came the moment the Cicippio family prayed for. Over Joseph's name, they nailed not another number, but a sign, that read: "FREE AT LAST."

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. Hostage-taking is hell on a human scale -- not just for the innocents held captive, but for the families they left behind. /

No power on earth can give back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is now learning the horrors you endured. But we're learning as well the story of your survival - - the miracle you fashioned from the hope your captors could not take away. //

We know now how you used the language of the deaf to communicate from cell to cell -- to speak to one another in silence; how you managed to learn from one another -- laugh with one another -- help each other sustain a stubborn dignity. // You demonstrated each day in captivity a defiant faith. You believed in your country, your families, your colleagues -- and yourselves. You knew, that one day, you would go free. //

Your triumph shines new light on a simple truth. The days and years apart burn away the trivial things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys. ///

The families here today are whole again. But for others, the ordeal is not over: for two German citizens and their families -- for the families of two courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner. Return the remains of Rich Higgins

and William Buckley. Let the families of these innocent men find peace. ///

The truth is clear: Hostage-taking has failed. From the beginning in Tehran in 1979, hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands. They were wrong. We remain determined to defend American interests and international principles in the Middle East. Through Desert Shield and Desert Storm, we stood fast against aggression. We showed the world: terrorism in all its forms cannot succeed. //

In the end, the hostage-takers did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve. In the end, each hostage-taking -- each heartless act against innocents -- announced to the world the inhumanity of the captors.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson -- you were right when you said no to negotiating with hostage-takers. This Administration has followed a no-negotiation policy since the beginning. Bargaining serves only to make a currency of human lives -- and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end. I am convinced that this course remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men and women will meet your fate -- that no family will ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risk. Sticking with it was never easy -- especially for a country that cares so deeply about

helped every American held against his will. / But we have learned
 that it works: It ~~ended~~ the agony -- it brought you home. *helped bring* ///

Yes, America did its part. Many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet -- worked to secure your freedom. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his years as special envoy at the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General Giani Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

responsibility We also honor the man who made your release a personal ~~crusade~~ -- a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over: Javier Perez de Cuellar. //

Javier Perez de Cuellar has made peace among nations his mission and taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as his personal code. He was present at the creation: as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the UN in 1946. We first met in 1971, when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council. For the past ten years, he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General.

His tenure has marked the rebirth of the UN -- its emergence as a force for peace. Cooperation now replaces Cold War conflict -- and across the globe, the UN now leads the international effort to resolve conflicts that have caused so much suffering. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated -- 11 are underway right now, 5 begun in the past year alone. // Mr. Secretary-General, I am personally grateful for your strong stand against Iraq's brutal assault on Kuwait -- and your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than ever before.

//

Today, we honor this architect of peace -- a man I am proud to call my friend. Mr. Secretary General: with great pride, I now present to you the highest civilian honor this country can bestow: the Medal of Freedom. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

Finally, I want to present a simple gift -- this one to Tom Sutherland. There are thousands more like it across America -- each one a symbol of the profound bonds Americans share. // It was sent to me by Lynne Vincent, a teacher in Northridge, California. For five years, she wore a bracelet inscribed with your name. On the day of your release, she wrote: "I wanted you to have my bracelet so you would know you were always in the thoughts and prayers of many Americans." //

On the side of this simple band are the words "Hebrews 13:3." The verse reads as follows: "Remember those who are in

bonds as if you were bound with them." We remembered -- we kept you in our thoughts and prayers -- and in the end, the chains that held you proved no match for the bonds that unite all Americans. //

Today those open arms welcome you home. May God bless the United States of America.

#

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 292454ss



WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 12 10:00 AM '91

DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91 10:00 am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No Comment

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

McGroarty/Bunton
December 10, 1991
4:45 p.m.

21 DEC 10 8:52
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS

HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
4:30 P.M.??

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//

Barbara and I are grateful you could share this special day with us. When each of you were taken hostage -- as a nation -- we suffered and shared your grief. We counted each cruel day -- marked the birthdays, the anniversaries, the Christmases missed -- and never gave up hope. Today, as a nation, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. In each hostage-taking, we see hell on a human scale -- not just for the innocents held captive, but for the family they leave behind. Think of Sulome Anderson, the little girl we watched grow up without her dad. Think of Terry Anderson -- and the father and brother he could not wish goodbye. //

No power on earth can give you back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is learning now the horrors you

endured. The days on end spent in darkness, blindfolded -- condemned to silence. The savage beatings -- the psychological assault aimed at stripping away your inner strength. / Yet you managed to find ways -- even while in chains -- to communicate with one another, to sustain one another: to demonstrate each day in captivity a defiant faith. You knew, with a fierce faith that inspires us, that one day, you would go free. //

Now, because you fought despair -- because you held fast to hope -- each one of you has been given a gift beyond measure: a future with the family you love. //

The days and years apart burn away the things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys.

For all of you, the nightmare has ended. But right now, the anguish continues -- for the families of two innocent German citizens held against their will, and for the families of two courageous Americans who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for this crime: return the remains of Rich Higgins and William Buckley. Let those who loved them find peace. //

From the beginning, the hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. / Yet, throughout your imprisonment, the U.S. followed a single policy:

Pursue every avenue to win your release -- but never --never -- negotiate with terrorists.

Terry Anderson, you said it best: "You can't negotiate with hostage-takers. You can't give them anything." // Bargaining would do no more than create a kind of currency in human lives. A united front remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men or women would meet your fate -- that no family would ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risks. Sticking with it was never easy. In the end, the hostage-takers underestimated our resolve. They found that taking hostages did more damage to their cause than it did to American resolve. //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands. Yet it did nothing to diminish our will to defend American interests and international ideals in the Middle East. Through Desert Storm to the Conference in Madrid, we continued to stand against aggression -- and for the principles that promise a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. //

Yes, America did its part. But your return to freedom was the work of many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his ten years as special envoy at the UN, Assistant Secretary-General Giandomenico Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor

Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

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#

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 292454ss

9020

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 12 09:19

DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 12/11/91

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF COURAGE FOR FREEDOM THE EAST ROOM - DECEMBER 12, 1991

SUBJECT:

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ROGICH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" 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 your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: Mr. Tony Snow:

NSC concurs with the attached as revised.

It is very long. *B*
Brent Scowcroft

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

CLOSE HOLD

McGroarty/Bunton
December 11, 1991
5:15 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HOSTAGES/DE CUELLAR MEDAL OF FREEDOM
THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
5:00 P.M.

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All over America, people waited for the day your long ordeal would end. All over America, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

Nothing says it better than the sign back in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in Thomas Cicippio's front yard. For five long years, that sign served as a constant reminder: with the name of each hostage -- a number counting each cruel day. Then, one by one, the numbers gave way to a sign marked "FREED." Finally, just nine days ago, came the moment the Cicippio family prayed for. Over Joseph's name, they nailed not another number, but a sign, that read: "FREE AT LAST."

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. Hostage-taking is hell on a human scale -- not just for the innocents held captive, but for the families they left behind. /

No power on earth can give back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is now learning the horrors you endured. But we're learning as well the story of your survival - - the miracle you fashioned from the hope your captors could not take away. //

We know now how you used the language of the deaf to communicate from cell to cell -- to speak to one another in silence; how you managed to learn from one another -- laugh with one another -- help each other sustain a stubborn dignity. // You demonstrated each day in captivity a defiant faith. You believed in your country, your families, your colleagues -- and yourselves. You knew, that one day, you would go free. //

Your triumph shines new light on a simple truth. The days and years apart burn away the trivial things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys. ///

The families here today are whole again. But for others, the ordeal is not over: for two German citizens and their families -- for the families of two courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner. Return the remains of Rich Higgins

and William Buckley. Let the families of these innocent men find peace. ///

The truth is clear: Hostage-taking has failed. From the beginning in Tehran in 1979, hostage-takers sought to exploit our system's reverence for the individual as a weakness. //

Your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands. They were wrong. We remain determined to defend American interests and international principles in the Middle East. Through Desert Shield and Desert Storm, we stood fast against aggression. We showed the world: terrorism in all its forms cannot succeed. //

In the end, the hostage-takers did more damage to their cause than they did to American resolve. In the end, each hostage-taking -- each heartless act against innocents -- announced to the world the inhumanity of the captors.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson -- you were right when you said no to negotiating with hostage-takers. This Administration has followed a no-negotiation policy since the beginning. Bargaining serves only to make a currency of human lives -- and leads to more of the evil it seeks to end. I am convinced that this course remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men and women will meet your fate -- that no family will ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risk. Sticking with it was never easy -- especially for a country that cares so deeply about

every American held against his will. / But we have learned that it works: It ^{helped} ~~ends~~ the agony -- ^{helped bring} ~~it brought~~ you home. ///

Yes, America did its part. Many men and women in this country and around the world -- most of whom you will never meet -- worked to secure your freedom. Today, we recognize the selfless efforts of one man who at great personal risk helped bring you to freedom. In his years as special envoy at the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General Giani Picco has sought always to serve peace and resolve conflict. Today, for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor Giandomenico Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service. [CITATION READ -- PRESIDENT AWARDS MEDAL.]

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McGroarty/Bunton
December 10, 1991
4:45 p.m.

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THE EAST ROOM
DECEMBER 12, 1991
4:30 P.M.??

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Barbara and I are grateful you could share this special day with us. When each of you were taken hostage -- as a nation -- we suffered and shared your grief. We counted each cruel day -- marked the birthdays, the anniversaries, the Christmases missed - - and never gave up hope. Today, as a nation, we share your joy: we thank God that you are free. //

All of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. In each hostage-taking, we see hell on a human scale - - not just for the innocents held captive, but for the family they leave behind. Think of **Sulome Anderson**, the little girl we watched grow up without her dad. Think of **Terry Anderson** -- and the father and brother he could not wish goodbye. //

No power on earth can give you back the years you have lost. Yet no one can take from you the strength of spirit that sustained you. The world is learning now the horrors you

endured. The days on end spent in darkness, blindfolded -- condemned to silence. The savage beatings -- the psychological assault aimed at stripping away your inner strength. / Yet you managed to find ways -- even while in chains -- to communicate with one another, to sustain one another: to demonstrate each day in captivity a defiant faith. You knew, with a fierce faith that inspires us, that one day, you would go free. //

Now, because you fought despair -- because you held fast to hope -- each one of you has been given a gift beyond measure: a future with the family you love. //

The days and years apart burn away the things we once thought had value -- to reveal what truly matters in life: family / faith / hope and love. Seeing freedom through your eyes -- even for a moment -- frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys.

For all of you, the nightmare has ended. But right now, the anguish continues -- for the families of two innocent German citizens held against their will, and for the families of two courageous Americans who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values we hold dear, I call on those responsible for this crime: return the remains of Rich Higgins and William Buckley. Let those who loved them find peace. //

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#

Dec. 12 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

we see too many problems. It is not a political problem as you very well know.

The President. Thank you all very much. We've got to go over and greet the families now.

Note: The exchange began at 4:35 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House, prior to a meeting with the U.N. Secretary-General; Giandomenico Picco, Assistant to the Secretary-General for Special Assignments; and the former five American hostages.

Remarks on Presenting the Medal of Freedom and the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service to United Nations Officials

December 12, 1991

The President. We are so happy, Barbara and I are so happy to be here for this very special pre-Christmas family occasion at the White House. The Vice President is here, and I salute him. Members of our Cabinet: Secretary of State; Secretary Mosbacher; Secretary of Labor; Tom Pickering, our able Ambassador at the U.N. And we all were just dying to come.

We're joined also by two gentlemen who represent the highest in humanitarian ideals. And I'm talking, of course, about Javier Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations; and the Assistant Secretary-General Gianni Picco, who is right here. Let me also welcome to the White House the friends and the families of five special men returned to freedom. Finally, to Thomas Sutherland, Alann Steen, Jesse Turner, Joseph Cicippio, and Terry Anderson, let me simply say on behalf of our entire country, welcome home.

All over America people waited for the day your long ordeal would end. And all over America we share your joy, and we thank God that you are free.

Nothing says it better than, I think, the sign in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in Thomas Cicippio's front yard. For 5 long years that sign served as a constant reminder, with the name of each hostage and a number counting each cruel day of captivity. And then, one by one, the numbers gave way to a sign marked "Freed." And

finally, just 9 days ago, came the moment the Cicippio family prayed for. And over Joseph's name, they nailed not another number but a sign that read, "Free at last." And that said a lot for all of us.

And all of you have survived an act of unspeakable, uncivilized cruelty. Hostage-taking is hell on a human scale, not just for the innocents held captive, but for the families, for the families that they left behind. And no power on Earth can give back the years that you've lost. And yet no one can take from you the strength of the spirit that sustained you.

The world is now learning the horrors that you endured. But we're learning as well, and this is the good news, the story of your survival, the miracle that you fashioned from the hope your captors could not take away.

We know now you used the language of the deaf to communicate from cell to cell to speak to one another in silence, how you managed to learn from one another, laugh with one another, help each other sustain a stubborn indignity. And you demonstrated each day in captivity a defiant faith. You believed in your country and your families and your colleagues and yourself. And you knew that one day you would go free.

Your triumph shines new light on a simple truth: The days and years apart burn away the trivial things we once thought had value to reveal what truly matters in life, family, faith, hope, and love. And seeing freedom through your eyes, even for a moment, frees us from the petty concerns that so often hold us hostage and distract us from life's larger joys, larger meaning.

The families here today are whole again. But for others the ordeal is not over, for two German citizens and their families, for the families of two courageous Americans whose duty sent them to Lebanon and who died at the hands of their captors. In the name of the civilized values that we hold dear, I call on those responsible for these crimes: Free Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner, and return the remains of Rich Higgins and William Buckley. And let the families of these innocent men find peace.

The truth is clear. Hostage-taking has failed. From the beginning in Tehran in 1979, hostage-takers sought to exploit our

system's reverence for those who have sought to exploit that reverence. Your captors believed that they would tie our hands, and they remained determined to protect their interests in international affairs in the Middle East. Through Desert Storm we stood firm, and we showed them that we would remain firm in all its forms. At the end, the hostages were damaged to their core. America's resolve, our resolve, and in taking, each heartless announced to the world that we would take the captors.

Tom Sutherland and I were right when you were with hostage-takers. That followed a no-negotiation beginning. Bargaining a currency of human lives, more of the evil that convinced that this world's best hope that men and women will no family will ever endure your years in captivity.

This policy was not with it wasn't easy, but that cares so deeply that he held against his will. It helped end to feel that it helped to

Yes, America did it women in this court world, most of whom worked to secure you we want to go on. Some members sitting behind you did their part, as well. And it wasn't just us and brothers and might single out here.

But there are other we want to recognize one man who, at great bring you to freedom enthetically that one heard from Terry Anderson that we honor that honor, and the other

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system's reverence for the individual. They sought to exploit that as a weakness. And your captors believed hostage-taking would tie our hands, and they were wrong. We remained determined to defend American interests in international principles in the Middle East. Through Desert Shield and Desert Storm we stood fast against aggression, and we showed the world that terrorism in all its forms can't succeed. And in the end, the hostage-takers did more damage to their cause than they did to America's resolve, certainly than they did to your resolve. And in the end, each hostage-taking, each heartless act against innocence announced to the world the inhumanity of the captors.

Tom Sutherland and Terry Anderson, you were right when you said no to negotiating with hostage-takers. This administration has followed a no-negotiation policy since the beginning. Bargaining serves only to make a currency of human lives and leads to more of the evil that it seeks to end. I am convinced that this course remains the world's best hope that no more innocent men and women will meet your fate, that no family will ever again be forced to endure your years in agony.

This policy was not without risk. Sticking with it wasn't easy, especially for a country that cares so deeply about every American held against his will. We've learned that it works. It helped end the agony, and I like to feel that it helped bring you home.

Yes, America did its part. Many men and women in this country and around the world, most of whom you'll never meet, worked to secure your freedom. And today, we want to go on. So many of the family members sitting behind you all and aside of you did their part, and boy, did they do it well. And it wasn't just spouses; it was sisters and brothers and plenty of others I might single out here.

But there are others as well. And today we want to recognize the selfless efforts of one man who, at great personal risk, helped bring you to freedom. And I might say parenthetically that one of the first words I heard from Terry Anderson was the suggestion that we honor the man we're about to honor, and the other one as well.

In his years as Special Envoy at the United Nations, Assistant Secretary-General

Gianni Picco has sought always to serve peace and to resolve conflict. Today for his efforts in winning the freedom of our hostages, we honor Mr. Picco with the Presidential Award for Exceptional Service.

Would you come up here, please, sir? Very proud to have you here.

I will ask the Major to read the citation please. Please be seated.

The Major. "The United States honors Mr. Picco in recognition of his distinguished role in facilitating the release of hostages held in Lebanon. His skillful diplomacy with Middle Eastern governments and officials and representatives of the hostage holders has resulted in freedom for many individuals held in the region outside the due process of law, including six Americans.

"His personal courage in the face of danger and his dedication to the mission represent the best tradition of international civil service."

The President. We also honor the man who made your release his personal responsibility, a man whose life work in service to humanitarian ideals has won him honor the world over, Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Before asking the Major to read the citation let me just say this: He made peace among all nations his mission. He's taken the principles of the United Nations Charter as a personal code.

He was present at the creation as a delegate to the first General Assembly of the United Nations back in 1946. And we first met in 1971 when each of us received the singular honor of serving our countries as Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

My distinguished colleague went on to represent Peru in the Security Council, and then, of course, as we all know, for the past 10 years he has served the cause of world peace as Secretary-General.

His tenure has marked the rebirth, literally, the rebirth of the United Nations, its emergence as a force for peace. Cooperation now replaces cold war conflict. And across the globe the U.N. now leads the international effort to resolve conflicts that have caused so much suffering. Peacekeeping missions have proliferated. Eleven are

underway right now; five begun in the past year alone.

And, Mr. Secretary-General, I am personally grateful to you for your strong stand against Iraq's assault on Kuwait, your tireless work to sustain the coalition. In large part because of your leadership, the United Nations now stands closer to its founding ideal than at any time in history.

And today then we honor this architect of peace, a man we are all proud to call friend, that Barbara and I especially treasure the friendship for the Perez de Cuellar. Mr. Secretary-General, with great pride I now present to you the highest civilian honor this country can bestow, the Medal of Freedom. And I will ask the Major to read the citation.

The Major. "Javier Perez de Cuellar. For 10 years of exceptionally distinguished service as Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar presided over the rebirth of that institution. With wisdom, vision, diplomacy, and skill, he forged a U.N. where cooperation in reaching common goals is replacing rhetoric and division.

"His tireless dedication to conflict resolution, and economic and social concerns has contributed to a better world and ensured a strengthened U.N. more capable than ever of fulfilling its Charter.

"His service has been marked by a singular devotion to humanitarian interests, including the life, security, and safety of individual people throughout the world.

"The United States honors a servant of humankind who has advanced the cause of freedom and hope."

The President. Congratulations.

The Secretary-General. Mr. President, Mrs. Bush, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is a tremendous honor for me to receive the Medal of Freedom, an award that I shall value all the more highly because it has been given to me by my old and very dear friend, President Bush.

In my view, it is really more appropriate that this tribute should be paid to the United Nations as a whole rather than to me personally. Today, as never before, the organization is being called upon to fulfill the responsibility entrusted to it by its founding fathers nearly half a century ago. The circumstances in the international

arena that have made it possible for the United Nations to carry out this role are deeply gratifying. And much credit is due to President Bush himself, who has a profound understanding of the organization and its goals.

Mr. President, it gives me special pleasure to attend this ceremony after having been greeted by a group of brave and wonderful men who, at this moment, understand more fully than we possibly can the true meaning of freedom. That these former American hostages have, at long last, been reunited with their loved ones and especially during this holiday season makes the efforts that I and my efficient and loyal assistant, Mr. Giandomenico Picco, have undertaken these many months all the more worthwhile.

At the same time, Mr. President, I cannot but mention with sorrow an American who was kidnaped while serving the United Nations, namely, Colonel William R. Higgins, who was, at the time of his abduction, chief of a peacekeeping observer group in south Lebanon. It is tragic that the life of this innocent man was lost. I am doing everything possible to see to it that his body is returned promptly to his family.

As I prepare to leave office, I would like, once again, to thank President Bush for the cooperation and support he has extended to me as Secretary-General, and to the organization more widely; and particularly in helping to ensure that the United Nations may fulfill the enormous expectations that today exist for greater peace, stability, and respect for human rights to all the world. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. I know some of us are going over to light America's Christmas tree across the way, but Barbara and I just have to say hello to the families. So what we'll suggest is, we'll go out here in the hall, and you all come wandering out. You've got to do that; that's mandatory. You have to say hello to us. And then, please take your families and browse through this winter wonderland. The work on all these decorations was done by volunteers from all over this country, and I think you'll feel, as we do, that the White House is blessed by this wonderful dedication, and the gift from the American people.

So, it's a fitting time. And I think we'll just ask you to come, just come by and say

Note: The President read the citation in the East Room at the White House. Major Wissler, USMC, military aide to the President, read the citation available for verification of this exchange.

Remarks on Lighting Christmas Tree December 12, 1991

Welcome to this wonderful tradition. And I am pleased to have some of you here with us to help light the Christmas tree. America's answered when these men and women so a special welcome to Madeleine Bassil. Here Virginia Steen; and Thea Ireland; Joseph and Elise Jesse and Badr Turner.

Have a great evening. *[At this point, the Christmas Peace entertainment began.]*

Well, thank you, Joe. I love you, and it's good to see you in the Interior, so many of you here. And, of course, a very special welcome to Marilyn Horne; this marvelous Chorus; the Navy Band; favorites, the Gatlin Brothers. And all the performers who bring the Christmas spirit to Washington.

And thanks to Santa. He's coming up. And we don't want particular Santa, Willard weather's going to be like Eve. He's predicting it every once in a while. *[Laughter.]*

This is a very special moment. I have my shoulder here at tonight. And on behalf of try I say, finally, to Terry Sutherland, Joseph Cicip Steen and Jesse Turner, at home: Welcome home.