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# FOIA MARKER

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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Speech File Draft Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1993

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**OA/ID Number:** 13594  
**Folder ID Number:** 13594-008

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**Folder Title:**  
Christmas Tree Lighting 12/12/91 [OA 6040]

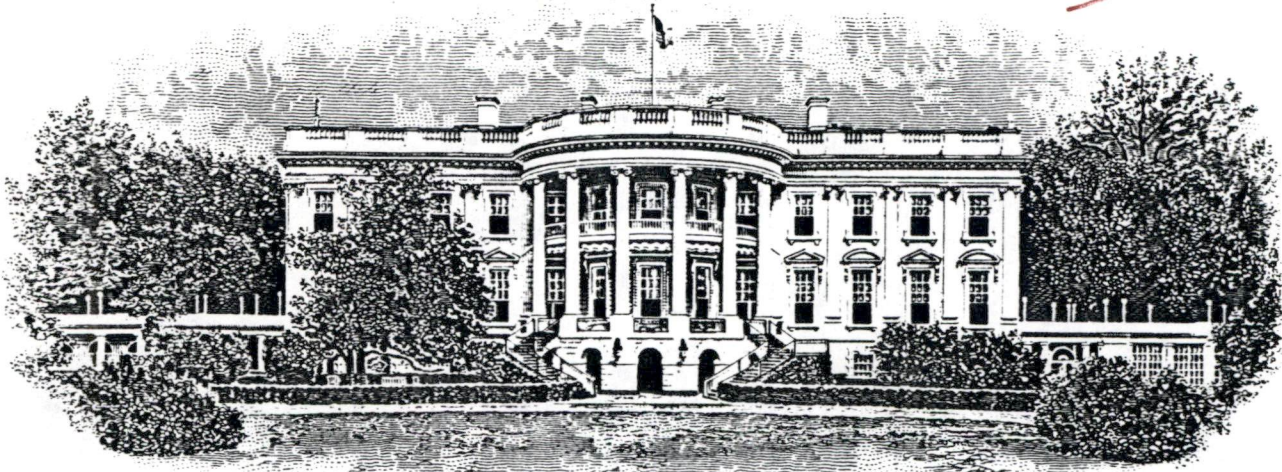
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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*✓ sent*



FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

DATE Dec 12, 1991  
TO Gary Walters  
FAX NUMBER 6255  
OFFICE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER 7

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS

FROM Nancy Benson - Speechwriting  
COMMENTS For the "Signer"  
OFFICE NUMBER 456-2930

## **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING INTRODUCTION \ ELLIPSE**

**THANK YOU, AND WELCOME TO THIS WONDERFUL WASHINGTON TRADITION. I'M PARTICULARLY PROUD TONIGHT TO HAVE SOME VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS HERE WITH ME TO HELP LIGHT OUR NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE. AMERICA'S PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED WHEN THESE MEN CAME HOME TO US. SO A SPECIAL WELCOME TO: TERRY ANDERSON AND MADELEINE BASSIL; ALANN AND VIRGINIA STEEN; THOMAS AND JEAN SUTHERLAND; JOSEPH AND ELHAM CICIPPPIO; AND JESSE AND BADER TURNER. GOD BLESS YOU AND ENJOY THE SHOW.**

**# # #**

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING \ THE ELLIPSE  
THURSDAY 12, 1991 \ 6:00 P.M.

THANK YOU, MR. RILEY [JOE]. IT'S GOOD TO SEE SECRETARY LUJAN AND SO MANY OTHER SPECIAL GUESTS. AND A WARM THANK YOU TO MARILYN HORNE, THE TUCSON BOYS CHORUS, THE NAVY BAND, JOE WILLIAMS, THE GATLIN BROTHERS, AND ALL THE PERFORMERS WHO'VE BROUGHT THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT TO WASHINGTON TONIGHT.

AND THANKS TO SANTA. WELL, YOUR BIG NIGHT'S COMING UP. AND PEOPLE THINK I TRAVEL A LOT. \\  

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- 2 -

I DON'T HAVE TO ASK THIS SANTA [WILLARD SCOTT] WHAT THE WEATHER WILL BE LIKE CHRISTMAS EVE: HE'S PREDICTING IT.

THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL NIGHT. I LOOK AT YOU BRAVE MEN AND ON BEHALF OF YOUR LOVING COUNTRY I SAY, FINALLY, TO TERRY ANDERSON AND THOMAS SUTHERLAND AND JOSEPH CICIPPPIO AND ALANN STEEN AND JESSE TURNER AND THE OTHERS NOT HERE -- WELCOME HOME. WELCOME HOME TO THIS, THE MOST GENEROUS, MOST PROUD, MOST FREE NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. \\\

AND JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR AND GIANDOMENICO PICCO, WHO JUST JOINED US ALL AT THE WHITE HOUSE, DID GOD'S WORK. THEY HELPED BRING OUR BROTHERS BACK. THEY MADE TRUE THE WORDS OF ISAIAH, FOUND IN THE FIRST BOOK THE CAPTORS ALLOWED INTO THESE MEN'S CELL: "THE PEOPLE THAT WALKED IN DARKNESS HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT; THEY THAT DWELL IN THE LAND OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH, UPON THEM HATH THE LIGHT SHINED." \\\

IT'S MORE THAN JUST APPROPRIATE -- IT'S REALLY ALMOST MIRACULOUS -- THAT WE CAN CELEBRATE WITH THESE FIVE THE LIGHTING OF OUR NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE. THE IDEA IS SO MOVING BECAUSE THESE MEN HAVE COME OUT OF DARKNESS INTO THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF LIBERTY. \\\

AS YOU HEAR THESE REMARKABLE MEN TALK, YOU REALIZE THEY WERE NEVER LOST IN THAT DARKNESS OF SORROW, ANGUISH AND DESPAIR.

EVEN AT THE WORST MOMENTS, THEY WERE GUIDED BY A STUBBORN SPARK THAT CRUELTY COULDN'T EXTINGUISH -- THE SPARK OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.

THEIR PRECIOUS GIFT TO US IS TO REKINDLE OUR NATION'S BELIEF IN THE LIGHT OF FAITH -- AND OUR BELIEF IN OURSELVES.

WHEN TERRY AND TOM AND JOSEPH AND ALANN AND JESSE LIGHT OUR NATION'S TREE TONIGHT, THAT ACT WILL BE A REMINDER OF WHAT THEY AND THEIR COMPANIONS, LIVING AND GONE, HAVE ALREADY DONE TO LIGHT THIS NATION'S SOUL.

THERE HAVE BEEN SPECIAL GUESTS AT THESE CEREMONIES BEFORE -- EVEN WINSTON CHURCHILL HELPED TO LIGHT THE TREE DURING WWII. BUT THIS NATION HAS NEVER BEEN HONORED BY THE PRESENCE OF MEN WHOSE SPIRIT MEANT MORE TO US. YOUR FORTITUDE, HUMOR AND GENEROSITY TELL US OF THE TRUE MEANING OF THIS SEASON.

AT THIS TIME OF YEAR ESPECIALLY, THESE MEN REMIND US THAT THE GLITZ AND GLAMOR OF MATERIAL THINGS DON'T MATTER. THE COURAGE, FAITH, AND LOVE THESE MEN EMBODY ARE ALL WE NEED TO RECOGNIZE WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.

THE WAY THEY HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES AND TO US PROVES THEY LIVE BY THE CHALLENGE OF THAT BEAUTIFUL PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS: "GRANT THAT I MAY NOT SO MUCH SEEK TO BE CONSOLED AS TO CONSOLE. TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS TO UNDERSTAND. TO BE LOVED AS TO LOVE.

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, LET ME SOW HOPE. WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LOVE. AND WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, EVER LIGHT." \\\

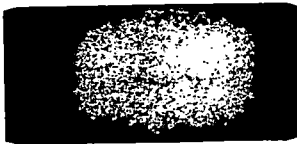
WHEN HISTORY REMEMBERS CHRISTMAS 1991, LET IT REMEMBER THAT TONIGHT WE GATHERED WITH MEN WHO SHOW US THAT THIS IS A SEASON OF SPIRIT, NOT A CELEBRATION OF PLENTY.

LET HISTORY REMEMBER THAT TONIGHT WE STOOD WITH THESE TRUE HEROES AND ASKED FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON THIS WORLD.

FINALLY, IN THE WORDS OF THE CAROL WE'LL SING IN A FEW MINUTES, LET HISTORY REMEMBER THAT AT CHRISTMAS 1991, THIS NATION UNITED TO ASK GOD FOR PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO ALL.

GOD BLESS THESE MEN, THIS WONDERFUL COUNTRY, AND NOW LET'S LIGHT OUR TREE.

# # #



# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

91 DEC 10 P6:20

DATE: 12/10/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

THURSDAY, DEC. 12, 1991 - 5:45

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 type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCBRIDE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<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

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

31 DEC 10 P 1: 51

December 10, 1991

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:           DAVID DEMAREST  
                  TONY SNOW *12/10/91 TS*

FROM:               BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

On Thursday, December 12, you will once again light the National Christmas Tree at the Ellipse. (The ceremony starts at 5 p.m.; the lighting will actually be about 5:45 p.m.) Ten to twelve thousand people are expected.

Four of the recently returned hostages will be taking part in the treelighting with you. The remarks (5 minutes, cards) focus on these men, and the symbolism of their journey from darkness into light.

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 10, 1991 1 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Three

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse 5:45 p.m.**

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] And thanks to Santa. Well, your big night's coming up. And people think I travel a lot. \\ I don't have to ask this Santa [Willard Scott] what the weather will be like Christmas Eve -- he's predicting it. \\

This is a very special night. I look to you brave men and on behalf of your loving country I say, finally, to Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland and Joseph Cicippio and Alann Steen and the others not here -- welcome home. Welcome home to this, the most generous, most proud, most free nation on the face of the earth.

And to Javier Perez de Cuellar and Giandomenico Picco -- you have done God's work. You have brought our brothers back. You have made true the words of Isaiah, found in the first book the captors allowed into these men's cell: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

It's more than just appropriate -- it's really almost miraculous -- that we can celebrate with our returned brothers the lighting of our nation's Christmas tree. The idea is so moving because these men have come out of darkness into the bright light of liberty.

As you hear these remarkable men talk, you realize they were never lost in that darkness of sorrow, anguish and despair. Even

at the worst moments, they were guided by a stubborn spark that cruelty couldn't extinguish -- the spark of the human spirit. Their precious gift to us is to rekindle our nation's belief in the light of faith -- and our belief in ourselves.

When Terry and Tom and Joseph and Alann light our nation's tree tonight, that act will be a reminder of what they and their companions, living and gone, have already done -- light this nation's soul.

There have been special guests at these ceremonies before - - even Winston Churchill helped to light the tree during WWII. **But this nation has never been honored by the presence of men whose spirit meant more to us.** Your fortitude, humor and generosity tell us of the true meaning of this season.

We now have new symbols etched in our national memory. We'll never forget Peggy Say running to embrace her brother, Terry Anderson. Or Tom Sutherland's infectious, exultant smile. Or Alann Steen waving a tiny American flag from a balcony in Wiesbaden. Or stories of years spent in a living grave that these men transformed into "The Church of the Locked Door."

At this time of year especially, these images remind us that the glitz and glamor of material things don't matter. The courage, faith, and love these men embody are all we need to recognize what's really important.

The way they have returned to their families and to us proves they live by the challenge of that beautiful prayer of St. Francis: "Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to

console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love. Where there is despair, let me sow hope. Where there is hatred, love. And where there is darkness, ever light."

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that tonight we gathered with men who show us that this is a season of spirit, not a celebration of plenty. Let history remember that tonight we stood with these true heroes and asked for God's blessing on this world. Finally, in the words of the carol we'll sing in a few minutes, let history remember that at Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth, good will to all.

God bless these men, this wonderful country, and now let's light our tree.

# # # # # #

## **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING INTRODUCTION \ ELLIPSE**

**THANK YOU, AND WELCOME TO THIS WONDERFUL WASHINGTON TRADITION. I'M PARTICULARLY PROUD TONIGHT TO HAVE SOME VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS HERE WITH ME TO HELP LIGHT OUR NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE. AMERICA'S PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED WHEN THESE MEN CAME HOME TO US. SO A SPECIAL WELCOME TO: TERRY ANDERSON AND MADELEINE BASSIL; ALANN AND VIRGINIA STEEN; THOMAS AND JEAN SUTHERLAND; JOSEPH AND ELHAM CICIPPPIO; AND JESSE AND BADER TURNER. GOD BLESS YOU ALL.**

**# # #**

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## **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING INTRODUCTION \ ELLIPSE**

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**# # #**

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# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

*91 NOV 5 All: 18*

DATE: 12/6/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MONDAY, 12/9/91 2:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991 - THE ELLIPSE

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER <i>N/C</i>	<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>N/C</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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>Janet Benquist N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 2:00 p.m., MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 5, 1991 5 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Two

21 DEC 6 A10:28

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse**

Good evening, everyone. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] and thanks to Santa. Well, your big night's coming up. And people think I travel a lot. I don't have to ask this Santa what the weather will be like Christmas Eve -- he predicted it.

A special welcome home from this entire country to all the men who were hostages so long and are finally back: finally home in this, the most generous, most proud, most free nation on the face of the earth. We've seen some unforgettable triumphs for the human spirit these last couple of years. Tonight, let's say a silent prayer that one Christmas we'll gather under this tree able to celebrate freedom and peace embracing the entire world.

You know, Christmas is the only day when the world comes to a stop in honor of a single person. What a moving reminder of the power of one life -- of one man who stood for faith, hope and charity. And, as He said, "the greatest of these is charity." Charity. The joy of friendship and helping others -- and the very idea this year's Pageant of Peace celebrates.

When we light this tree tonight, let it also in a very real way shine a beacon on the American heart -- a glowing reminder that this is a nation based on the ideal of charity -- of goodness, generosity, family, and simple kindness.

When we illuminate this tree, when we turn this cold darkness into warm light, let's remember that we can do that in a

concrete way in our own neighborhoods. Tonight we join together and turn this into a Tree of Light. Every American can turn each hometown into a Community of Light, by reaching out to a friend or stranger in need. By working in our own neighborhoods we can make sure that no elderly person goes to bed hungry -- that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets -- that no child lacks the birthright of love. Then -- one Community of Light at a time -- we will turn America into a Nation of Light.

The way we will do that is to follow tonight's theme; follow the lesson of the greatest teacher who ever lived. We'll turn the magic of Christmas into the magic of national redemption through Christ's example of charity -- caring for others out of love.

This is a special season -- rich in meaning for many faiths. Last week at a ceremony at the White House I shared in the beginning of Hanukkah, the first day of the lighting of the menorah. In a couple of weeks the candles of Kwanza will be lit. And I'm here today to help light our National Christmas Tree. It's a great tradition, because this tree stands for our nation's unity and our nation's hope. You know, the switch I'll use to light the tree is the same one that's been used by every President since Coolidge started this ceremony 68 years ago.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that tonight we asked for God's blessing on this world. That tonight we asked that God's grace be granted to our brothers and sisters in need. And, finally, in the words of the carol we'll sing

together in a few minutes: Let it be remembered that on  
Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth,  
good will to all.

God bless you all, and now let's light this beautiful tree.

# # # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1991

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:           DAVID DEMAREST  
                  TONY SNOW *TS*

FROM:               BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

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(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 10, 1991 1 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Three

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse 5:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. NW**

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] And thanks to Santa. Well, your big night's coming up. And people think I travel a lot. \ \ I don't have to ask this Santa [Willard Scott] what the weather will be like Christmas Eve -- he's predicting it. \ \

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God bless these men, this wonderful country, and now let's light our tree.

# # # # # #

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/6/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MONDAY, 12/9/91 2:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991 - THE ELLIPSE

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" 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"/>	<u>MCBRIDE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>PORTER ROSE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FIRESTONE</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>SNOW</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>                    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE: *No comment*

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

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 5, 1991 5 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Two

21 DEC 6 AIO: 28

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse**

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concrete way in our own neighborhoods. Tonight we join together and turn this into a Tree of Light. Every American can turn each hometown into a Community of Light, by reaching out to a friend or stranger in need. By working in our own neighborhoods we can make sure that no elderly person goes to bed hungry -- that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets - - that no child lacks the birthright of love. Then -- one Community of Light at a time -- we will turn America into a Nation of Light.

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This is a special season -- rich in meaning for many faiths. Last week at a ceremony at the White House I shared in the beginning of Hanukkah, the first day of the lighting of the menorah. In a couple of weeks the candles of Kwanza will be lit. And I'm here today to help light our National Christmas Tree. It's a great tradition, because this tree stands for our nation's unity and our nation's hope. You know, the switch I'll use to light the tree is the same one that's been used by every President since Coolidge started this ceremony 68 years ago.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that tonight we asked for God's blessing on this world. That tonight we asked that God's grace be granted to our brothers and sisters in need. And, finally, in the words of the carol we'll sing

together in a few minutes: Let it be remembered that on  
Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth,  
good will to all.

God bless you all, and now let's light this beautiful tree.

# # # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

91 DEC 9 P3:10

December 9, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW  
Deputy Assistant to the President for  
Communications and Director of Speechwriting

FROM: JANET REHNQUIST *JR*  
Associate Counsel to the President

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks -- Christmas Tree Lighting;  
Thursday, December 12, 1991; The Ellipse

At your request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter. We have no legal objections.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this matter.

cc: Phil Brady

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

31 DEC 9 P2:19

DATE: 12/6/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MONDAY, 12/9/91 2:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991 - THE ELLIPSE

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" 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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 2:00 p.m., MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: Comments from Cabinet Affairs are attached.

Thanks,  
*EL*  
 Elizabeth Luttig

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

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 5, 1991 5 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Two

21 DEC 6 AIO: 28

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse**

Good evening, everyone. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] and thanks to Santa. Well, your big night's coming up. And people think I travel a lot. I don't have to ask this Santa what the weather will be like Christmas Eve -- he predicted it.

A special welcome home from this entire country to all the men who were hostages so long and are finally back: finally home in this, the most generous, most proud, most free nation on the face of the earth. We've seen some unforgettable triumphs for the human spirit these last couple of years. Tonight, let's say a silent prayer that one Christmas we'll gather under this tree able to celebrate freedom and peace embracing the entire world.

You know, Christmas is the only day when the world comes to a stop in honor of a single person. What a moving reminder of the power of one life -- of one man who stood for faith, hope and charity. And, as He said, "the greatest of these is charity." Charity. The joy of friendship and helping others -- and the very idea this year's Pageant of Peace celebrates.

When we light this tree tonight, let it also in a very real way shine a beacon on the American heart -- a glowing reminder that this is a nation based on the ideal of charity -- of goodness, generosity, family, and simple kindness.

When we illuminate this tree, when we turn this cold darkness into warm light, let's remember that we can do that in a

concrete way in our own neighborhoods. Tonight we join together and turn this into a Tree of Light. Every American can turn each hometown into a Community of Light, by reaching out to a friend or stranger in need. By working in our own neighborhoods we can make sure that no elderly person goes to bed hungry -- that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets - - that no child lacks the birthright of love. Then -- one Community of Light at a time -- we will turn America into a Nation of Light.

The way we will do that is to follow tonight's theme; follow the lesson of the greatest teacher who ever lived. We'll turn the magic of Christmas into the magic of national redemption through Christ's example of charity -- caring for others out of love.

This is a special season -- rich in meaning for many faiths. Last week at a ceremony at the White House I shared in the beginning of Hanukkah, the first day of the lighting of the menorah. In a couple of weeks the candles of Kwanza will be lit. And I'm here today to help light our National Christmas Tree. It's a great tradition, because this tree stands for our nation's unity and our nation's hope. You know, the switch I'll use to light the tree is the same one that's been used by every President since Coolidge started this ceremony 68 years ago.

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together in a few minutes: Let it be remembered that on  
Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth,  
good will to all.

God bless you all, and now let's light this beautiful tree.

# # # # #

**SUGGESTED OPENING FOR PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS AT 1991 TREE LIGHTING**

Good evening. I'm glad so many of you could be here for this ceremony starting off the holiday season. The beauty of this special season is reflected in the attractive way that the President's Park has been decorated with living evergreens for the Pageant of Peace. Again this year, thanks go to the National Coal Association for contributing the 57 live trees ringing the Pageant, representing each of the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and the U.S. Territories. It is significant that those handsome blue spruce trees were grown on a reclaimed surface coal mine, symbolizing the successful environmental restoration of land from which energy is produced, and we thank America's coal producers for that.



# OSM FACT SHEET

U.S. Department of the Interior  
202 208-2558

Office of Surface Mining  
November 21, 1991

## CHRISTMAS TREES FROM RECLAIMED MINE LAND

Each year, just before Christmas, the President of the United States turns the switch that lights the National Christmas Tree and the 57 smaller trees that represent the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories. The annual tree-lighting ceremony, which traditionally marks the start of the National Christmas Pageant of Peace, is held on The Ellipse, just south of the White House. Although the national tree is permanently planted on The Ellipse, the 57 state and territorial trees are planted temporarily for the event, and then, following the holiday season, are transplanted to Washington area parks.

This year the 57 state and territorial trees and the other trees used to landscape The Ellipse for the Pageant are from reclaimed coal mine land. The trees were grown on land that was mined and reclaimed in the late 1970's by the R & F Coal Company, a subsidiary of the Shell Mining Company. The reclaimed mine land near St. Clairsville, Ohio, is now a 62-acre Christmas tree farm owned by John and Marian Feisley.

These trees are an excellent example of reclamation currently being completed by mining companies operating under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. Land containing a productive tree farm was surface mined, over 226,500 tons of coal removed, the land reclaimed, and a productive tree farm reestablished.

The tree-lighting ceremony on The Ellipse opens with a musical program and is concluded with the President's Christmas message and his lighting the trees.

For additional information contact:

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

91 NOV 8 12:30

DATE: 12/6/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MONDAY, 12/9/91 2:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991 - THE ELLIPSE

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" 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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 2:00 p.m., MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Handwritten initials: dh, DS*

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

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 5, 1991 5 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Two

21 DEC 6 AIO: 28

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse**

Good evening, everyone. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] and thanks to Santa. Well, your big night's coming up. And people think I travel a lot. I don't have to ask this Santa what the weather will be like Christmas Eve -- he predicted it.

A special welcome home from this entire country to all the men who were hostages so long and are finally back: finally home in this, the most generous, most proud, most free nation on the face of the earth. We've seen some unforgettable triumphs for the human spirit these last couple of years. Tonight, let's say a silent prayer that one Christmas we'll gather under this tree able to celebrate freedom and peace embracing the entire world.

You know, Christmas is the only day when the world comes to a stop in honor of a single person. What a moving reminder of the power of one life -- of one man who stood for faith, hope and charity. And, as He said, "the greatest of these is charity." Charity. The joy of friendship and helping others -- and the very idea this year's Pageant of Peace celebrates.

When we light this tree tonight, let it also in a very real way shine a beacon on the American heart -- a glowing reminder that this is a nation based on the ideal of charity -- of goodness, generosity, family, and simple kindness.

When we illuminate this tree, when we turn this cold darkness into warm light, let's remember that we can do that in a

concrete way in our own neighborhoods. Tonight we join together and turn this into a Tree of Light. Every American can turn each hometown into a Community of Light, by reaching out to a friend or stranger in need. By working in our own neighborhoods we can make sure that no elderly person goes to bed hungry -- that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets -- that no child lacks the birthright of love. Then -- one Community of Light at a time -- we will turn America into a Nation of Light.

The way we will do that is to follow tonight's theme; follow the lesson of the greatest teacher who ever lived. We'll turn the magic of Christmas into the magic of national redemption through Christ's example of charity -- caring for others out of love.

This is a special season -- rich in meaning for many faiths. Last week at a ceremony at the White House I shared in the beginning of Hanukkah, the first day of the lighting of the menorah. In a couple of weeks the candles of Kwanza will be lit. And I'm here today to help light our National Christmas Tree. It's a great tradition, because this tree stands for our nation's unity and our nation's hope. You know, the switch I'll use to light the tree is the same one that's been used by every President since Coolidge started this ceremony 68 years ago.

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that tonight we asked for God's blessing on this world. That tonight we asked that God's grace be granted to our brothers and sisters in need. And, finally, in the words of the carol we'll sing

together in a few minutes: Let it be remembered that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth, good will to all.

God bless you all, and now let's light this beautiful tree.

# # # # #

**WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**

31 NOV 8 A10:28

DATE: 12/6/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MONDAY, 12/9/91 2:00pm

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

SUBJECT: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1991 - THE ELLIPSE

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" 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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIRESTONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SNOW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 2:00 p.m., MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*Good, But.*  
 NSC has an idea to intro. hostages at this event. Pls. check with Bill Sittman - T. you S.R.  
 PHILLIP D. BRADY  
 Assistant to the President  
 and Staff Secretary  
 Ext. 2702

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 5, 1991 5 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Two

21 DEC 6 AIO: 28

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse**

Good evening, everyone. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] and thanks to Santa. Well, your big night's coming up. And people think I travel a lot. I don't have to ask this Santa what the weather will be like Christmas Eve -- he predicted it.

A special welcome home from this entire country to all the men who were hostages so long and are finally back: finally home in this, the most generous, most proud, most free nation on the face of the earth. We've seen some unforgettable triumphs for the human spirit these last couple of years. Tonight, let's say a silent prayer that one Christmas we'll gather under this tree able to celebrate freedom and peace embracing the entire world.

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together in a few minutes: Let it be remembered that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth, good will to all.

God bless you all, and now let's light this beautiful tree.

# # # # #

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 5, 1991 5 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Two

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse**

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You know, Christmas is the only day when the world comes to a stop in honor of a single person. What a moving reminder ~~for~~ ~~all of us~~ of the power of one life -- of one man who stood for faith, hope and charity. And, as He said, "the greatest of these is charity." Charity. The joy of friendship and helping others -- and the very idea this year's Pageant of Peace celebrates.

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concrete way in our own neighborhoods. Tonight we join together and turn this into a Tree of Light. Every American can now ~~go out and~~ turn each hometown into a Community of Light, by ~~each of us in our own way~~ reaching out ~~a hand to~~ a friend, or stranger, in need. By working in our own neighborhoods we can make sure that no elderly person goes to bed hungry -- that no homeless person spends another despairing night on the streets -- that no child lacks <sup>the</sup> his birthright of love. Then -- one Community of Light at a time -- we will turn America into a Nation of Light.

The way we will do that is to follow tonight's theme; follow the lesson of the greatest teacher who ever lived. We'll turn the magic of Christmas into the magic of national redemption through Christ's example of charity -- caring for others out of love.

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# # # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

91 DEC 12 PM 12:18

December 9, 1991

MEMORANDUM FOR TONY SNOW

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Christmas in Washington

We have reviewed the attached draft and have no suggested changes from a policy standpoint. We approve of the draft remarks in their current form.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 12/9/91 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WEDNESDAY, 12/11/91 NOON

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON"

SUBJECT: PENSION BUILDING - SUNDAY, DEC. 15, 1991 6:00pm

	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" 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"/>	PORTER ROSE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<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 NOON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

Simon  
Dec. 9, 1991  
Draft 2 (XMAS)

~~21 DEC 9 3:30~~  
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: "CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON"  
PENSION BUILDING  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1991  
6:00 P.M.

Thank you, \_\_\_\_\_. To all the performers -- Anne and Vince, Anita and Johnny, and these two wonderful choirs: What a magnificent performance! From the Bush family -- and for all the families watching -- thank you for filling our hearts with song, and lifting our spirits with the joys of Christmas. \\

About a hundred years ago, there was a little girl who was afraid there wouldn't be any Christmas that year. You see, her friends had told her that Santa Claus wasn't real. So to find the truth, she wrote to the newspaper for the answer.

"Virginia," came the famous reply, "your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age.... Santa Claus exists as certainly as love \ and generosity \ and devotion exist, giving life its highest beauty and joy." What would the world be like without Santa? About "as dreary as if there were no Virginias."

Christmas is a time to enter that child-like world of dreams and wishes, to rediscover what makes life worth living in a world that too often forgets. You won't find the meaning of Christmas beneath a tree, or swaddled in gift-wrap. For it matters less what's under your tree than what's in your heart. Find a way to give of yourself. Help a stranger; make sure that every child knows that someone loves them. The only Christmas gift that ever

really mattered was given that very first Christmas: the gift of God's love \ born here on Earth -- love that never ends, soothing mercy, poured out without measure.

These next few days, families will reunite. Together, they will enjoy special meals, sit around crackling fires, share warm memories and loving embraces. As Christmas arrives each year, we Americans recall with humble awe how blessed we are among nations. May God continue to watch over us, and grant us peace. From all of us \ to all of you: Merry Christmas!

# # #

together in a few minutes: Let it be remembered that on Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth, good will to all.

God bless you all, and now let's light this beautiful tree.

# # # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1991

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:           DAVID DEMAREST  
                      TONY SNOW *with for TS*

FROM:                BETH HINCHLIFFE *BH*

On Thursday, December 12, you will once again light the National Christmas Tree at the Ellipse. (The ceremony starts at 5 p.m.; the lighting will actually be about 5:45 p.m.) Ten to twelve thousand people are expected.

Four of the recently returned hostages will be taking part in the treelighting with you. The remarks (5 minutes, cards) focus on these men, and the symbolism of their journey from darkness into light.

(Hinchliffe/Nix)  
December 10, 1991 1 p.m.  
LIGHTS Draft Three

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING**  
**Thursday, December 12, 1991**  
**The Ellipse 5:45 p.m.**

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] And thanks to Santa. Well, your big night's coming up. And people think I travel a lot. \\ I don't have to ask this Santa [Willard Scott] what the weather will be like Christmas Eve -- he's predicting it. \\

This is a very special night. I look to you brave men and on behalf of your loving country I say, finally, to Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland and Joseph Cicippio and Alann Steen and the others not here -- welcome home. Welcome home to this, the most generous, most proud, most free nation on the face of the earth.

And to Javier Perez de Cuellar and Giandomenico Picco -- you have done God's work. You have brought our brothers back. You have made true the words of Isaiah, found in the first book the captors allowed into these men's cell: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

It's more than just appropriate -- it's really almost miraculous -- that we can celebrate with our returned brothers the lighting of our nation's Christmas tree. The idea is so moving because these men have come out of darkness into the bright light of liberty.

As you hear these remarkable men talk, you realize they were never lost in that darkness of sorrow, anguish and despair. Even

at the worst moments, they were guided by a stubborn spark that cruelty couldn't extinguish -- the spark of the human spirit. Their precious gift to us is to rekindle our nation's belief in the light of faith -- and our belief in ourselves.

When Terry and Tom and Joseph and Alann light our nation's tree tonight, that act will be a reminder of what they and their companions, living and gone, have already done -- light this nation's soul.

There have been special guests at these ceremonies before -- even Winston Churchill helped to light the tree during WWII. But this nation has never been honored by the presence of men whose spirit meant more to us. Your fortitude, humor and generosity tell us of the true meaning of this season.

We now have new symbols etched in our national memory. We'll never forget Peggy Say running to embrace her brother, Terry Anderson. Or Tom Sutherland's infectious, exultant smile. Or Alann Steen waving a tiny American flag from a balcony in Wiesbaden. Or stories of years spent in a living grave that these men transformed into "The Church of the Locked Door."

At this time of year especially, these images remind us that the glitz and glamor of material things don't matter. The courage, faith, and love these men embody are all we need to recognize what's really important.

The way they have returned to their families and to us proves they live by the challenge of that beautiful prayer of St. Francis: "Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to

console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love. Where there is despair, let me sow hope. Where there is hatred, love. And where there is darkness, ever light."

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that tonight we gathered with men who show us that this is a season of spirit, not a celebration of plenty. Let history remember that tonight we stood with these true heroes and asked for God's blessing on this world. Finally, in the words of the carol we'll sing in a few minutes, let history remember that at Christmas 1991, this nation united to ask God for Peace on earth, good will to all.

God bless these men, this wonderful country, and now let's light our tree.

# # # # #

## **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING INTRODUCTION \ ELLIPSE**

**THANK YOU, AND WELCOME TO THIS WONDERFUL WASHINGTON TRADITION. I'M PARTICULARLY PROUD TONIGHT TO HAVE SOME VERY SPECIAL FRIENDS HERE WITH ME TO HELP LIGHT OUR NATION'S CHRISTMAS TREE. AMERICA'S PRAYERS WERE ANSWERED WHEN THESE MEN CAME HOME TO US. SO A SPECIAL WELCOME TO: TERRY ANDERSON AND MADELEINE BASSIL; ALANN AND VIRGINIA STEEN; THOMAS AND JEAN SUTHERLAND; JOSEPH AND ELHAM CICIPPPIO; AND JESSE AND BADER TURNER. GOD BLESS YOU AND ENJOY THE SHOW.**

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So, it's a fitting time that you all are here. And I think we'll just wander on out now and ask you to come, and please, all of you just come by and say hello. We'd love that.

*Note: The President spoke at 5:03 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. Maj. John Wissler, USMC, military aide to the President, read the citations. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.*

### Remarks on Lighting the National Christmas Tree December 12, 1991

Welcome to this wonderful Washington tradition. And I am particularly proud tonight to have some very special friends here with us to help light our Nation's Christmas tree. America's prayers were answered when these men came home to us; so a special welcome to Terry Anderson and Madeleine Bassil. Here they are: Alann and Virginia Steen; and Thomas and Jean Sutherland; Joseph and Elham Cicippio; and Jesse and Badr Turner.

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

Well, thank you, Joe. Please be seated all of you, and it's good to see the Secretary of the Interior, so many other special guests here. And, of course, a warm thank you to Marilyn Horne; this marvelous Tucson Boys Chorus; the Navy Band; Joe Williams; our favorites, the Gatlin Brothers over here. And all the performers who brought the Christmas spirit to Washington tonight.

And thanks to Santa. His big night is coming up. And we don't have to ask this particular Santa, Willard Scott, what the weather's going to be like on Christmas Eve. He's predicting it. And he is right every once in a while. [Laughter]

This is a very special night. And I look over my shoulder here at the very special guests, the brave men who are with us here tonight. And on behalf of our loving country I say, finally, to Terry Anderson, to Tom Sutherland, Joseph Cicippio, and Alann Steen and Jesse Turner, and the others not here: Welcome home.

Welcome home, to this, the most generous and proud and free Nation on the face of the Earth. It is more than just appropriate, it is almost miraculous that we can celebrate with these five the lighting of our Nation's Christmas tree. The idea is so moving because these men have come out of darkness into the bright light of liberty. And as you hear these remarkable men talk, you realize they were never lost in that darkness of sorrow, anguish, and despair. Even at the worst moments, they were guided by a stubborn spark that cruelty could not extinguish, the spark of the human spirit.

Their precious gift to us is to rekindle our Nation's belief in the light of faith and our belief in ourselves. And when Terry and Tom and Joseph and Alann and Jesse light our Nation's tree tonight, that act will be a reminder of what they and their companions, living and gone, have already done to light our Nation's soul.

There have been special guests at these ceremonies before. Even Winston Churchill helped to light the tree during World War II, but this Nation has never been honored by the presence of men whose spirit meant more to all of us. Your fortitude, your humor, and generosity tell us the true meaning of this season. And at this time of year especially, these men remind us that the glitz and glamour of material things don't matter; the courage, the faith, and the love of these men embody, that they embody, are all we need to recognize what's really important.

The way they've returned to their families and to us proves they live by the challenge of that beautiful prayer of St. Francis, "Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. Where there is despair, let us sow hope; where there is hatred, love; and where there is darkness, ever light."

When history remembers Christmas 1991, let it remember that tonight we gathered with men who show us that this is a season of spirit, not a celebration of plenty.

Let history remember that tonight we stood with these two heroes and asked for God's blessing on this world. And finally, in the words of the carol we'll sing in a few

Dec. 12 / Administration of George Bush, 1991

minutes, let history remember that at Christmas 1991, this Nation united to give thanks to God and to ask God for peace on earth, goodwill to all.

God bless these five men, this wonderful country, and now I'd like to ask them to join me as we light the Nation's Christmas tree.

*Note: The President spoke at 5:42 p.m. on the Ellipse during the annual Christmas Pageant of Peace. In his remarks, he referred to Joe Riley, president of the Christmas Pageant of Peace; Marilyn Horne, mezzo-soprano with the Metropolitan Opera; jazz singer Joe Williams; and country and western entertainers, the Gatlin Brothers. Television weatherman Willard Scott was dressed as Santa Claus. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.*

**Proclamation 6391—Wright Brothers Day, 1991**

December 12, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

**A Proclamation**

They were quiet men of modest means, but in an extraordinary display of talent, imagination, and teamwork, Orville and Wilbur Wright changed the world. Less than a century ago, on December 17, 1903, these enterprising brothers launched the age of aviation with the first controlled, manned flight in a heavier-than-air, mechanically propelled airplane. Although their handcrafted "Flyer" covered just 120 feet on its maiden voyage over the windswept beach near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the Wright brothers helped lead mankind on a great journey of discovery and progress that continues to this day.

Given the routine nature of air travel today—as well as the increasing frequency of shuttle missions and other forms of space-flight—it can be difficult for us to fathom just how remarkable the work of the Wright brothers was. When they began to experiment with airplane models and wind tunnels at their small workshop in Dayton,

Ohio, many people believed that human flight would never be possible. At that time, even the automobile had not yet appeared on the American scene. Defying the skeptics, Orville and Wilbur Wright persevered through months of careful study, calculation, and design.

Indeed, long before they began constructing their first flying machine, the Wrights immersed themselves in the study of existing texts and papers on fundamental aerodynamics. They also conducted exhaustive research, moving far beyond previously accepted data and theories, many of which had proved to be unreliable. The Wrights' achievement of three-axis control in flight, inspired by watching birds of the air, laid the foundation for their success at Kitty Hawk and for the future development of all aviation.

More than a tribute to their mechanical acumen and collective genius, the Wright brothers' triumph at Kitty Hawk stands as a shining example of the power of intellect and determination over seemingly insurmountable odds. It is an example we do well to remember. Today many frontiers still stand before us. Every problem and question we face, both as individuals and as a Nation, represents new challenges and opportunities. Like Orville and Wilbur Wright and like all those Americans who have used their freedom, resources and skill to reach high goals, we, too, can rise on the wings of industry and learning.

The Congress, by a joint resolution approved December 17, 1963 (77 Stat. 402; 36 U.S.C. 169), has designated the 17th day of December of each year as "Wright Brothers Day" and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation commemorating this day.

Now, Therefore, I, George Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 17, 1991, as Wright Brothers Day. I invite all Americans to observe that day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the

United States and sixteenth.

[Filed with the Register, 10:10 a.m.]

Note: This proclamation is published in the Federal Register.

**Statement on Forces in Europe Implementation, December 12,**

Today I have the "Convention Implementation" report the United States supports the Europe treaty-liaison NATO Alliance. security interest: NATO objectives.

However, I have the provisions of the Agency submit a to the President, and the Chairman Relations Commit of executive branch the President's c supervise and within the executive shall not be inter that authority.

Section 402 requires oversight Agency (OSIA) review by the H. Services and API provides sufficient of OSIA activities. include other committees will undergo budget review and requested report for the Commission