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ARRIVAL IN LOS ANGELES \ LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1992 \ 8:50 P.M.

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE IN LOS ANGELES -- AND I AM
THANKFUL TO SEE THAT CALM HAS RETURNED TO THIS CITY. /
AS I THINK BACK TODAY TO WHAT I SAID LAST FRIDAY, I
THINK OF THE OATH I TOOK THE DAY I ENTERED OFFICE --
THE CONSTITUTION'S CHARGE TO EVERY PRESIDENT TO "ENSURE
DOMESTIC TRANQUILITY." THIS I KNOW: WE CAN NEVER
CONDONE VIOLENCE -- BECAUSE WITHOUT PEACE, THERE CAN BE
NO HOPE. //

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WE CANNOT BEGIN TO MOVE FORWARD -- WE COULD NOT
BEGIN TO REBUILD -- UNTIL THE VIOLENCE HAD BEEN
STOPPED, AND ORDER RESTORED. WE'VE MET THAT FIRST
MISSION -- AND NOW, THE GOOD PEOPLE OF SOUTH CENTRAL
L.A. ARE FREE TO COME OUT FROM BEHIND CLOSED DOORS --
TO BEGIN THE DIFFICULT PROCESS OF REBUILDING THIS CITY,
OF RESTORING HOPE.

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TOMORROW, I WILL MEET WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS AND WITH THE CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES, TO SEE AND SPEAK WITH THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF LAST WEEK'S TRAGIC EVENTS.

I WILL ASSURE THEM -- AS I CAN ASSURE ALL THE CITIZENS OF LOS ANGELES: THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO HELP THIS CITY REBUILD. LET ME FOCUS FOR A MOMENT ON THE ACTIONS WE'RE TAKING AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL TO HELP.

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THROUGH MY PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION, FEMA -- THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY -- WILL MAKE AN ESTIMATED \$300 MILLION DOLLARS IN ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES.

WE WILL MAKE GRANTS DIRECTLY TO PEOPLE HIT HARDEST BY THE VIOLENCE -- PERSONAL GRANTS UP TO \$11,500 TO MEET URGENT NEEDS LIKE FOOD, CLOTHING AND MEDICINE.

THESE GRANTS WILL ALSO HELP WITH TEMPORARY HOUSING -- MONEY FOR REPAIR TO HOMES WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE, AND TO PROVIDE SHELTER FOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO LOST THEIR HOMES. WE'RE ALSO HELPING WITH CRISIS COUNSELING AND DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOW WITHOUT JOBS AS A RESULT OF THE DISASTER.

A DISASTER FIELD OFFICE IS ALREADY UP AND RUNNING, AND FEMA'S 800 ASSISTANCE NUMBER IS READY RIGHT NOW TO RECEIVE CALLS IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, CHINESE, THAI, KOREAN, VIETNAMESE AND LAOTIAN.

IN ADDITION, FEMA WILL ASSIST THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN REPAIRING AND RESTORING PUBLIC UTILITIES -- LIKE WATER AND ELECTRICITY -- ESSENTIAL TO EVERY DAY LIFE.

BEYOND THESE EMERGENCY GRANTS, WE WILL PROVIDE LOW-INTEREST SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION DISASTER LOANS -- UP TO \$500,000 FOR PHYSICAL DAMAGE AND LOST INVENTORY. HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS ARE ALSO ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER SBA PROGRAMS UP TO \$100,000 FOR DAMAGES AND LOSSES. PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT ROUGHLY \$300 MILLION IN LOANS WILL BE MADE IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA.

ALL TOLD, FEDERAL AID TO SPEED THE RECOVERY PROCESS WILL TOTAL APPROXIMATELY \$600 MILLION. THIS ASSISTANCE WILL HELP GET BOARDED-UP AND BURNED OUT BUSINESSES OPEN AGAIN -- UP AND RUNNING; IT WILL HELP PEOPLE CLEAN UP THE STREETS; HELP THE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WHO'VE LOST THEIR HOMES AND THEIR BELONGINGS TO COPE WITH THIS MOST PERSONAL OF TRAGEDIES.

FINALLY, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS ARRANGED FOR DELIVERY OF OVER 2,000 CASES OF RICE CEREAL; OVER 2,000 CASES OF INFANT FORMULA; NEARLY 250 CASES OF NON-FAT DRY MILK -- AND CONTINUES TO ASSESS EMERGENCY FOOD NEEDS.

THIS IS JUST A BEGINNING. THE URGENT NEED FOR ASSISTANCE MUST NOT OBSCURE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE LARGER CHALLENGE WE FACE. BEYOND THESE SHORT-TERM ACTIONS, WE MUST BRING HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY TO OUR INNER CITIES.

OUR AIM MUST NOT SIMPLY BE TO RECREATE WHAT WE HAD -- BUT TO BUILD SOMETHING BETTER IN ITS PLACE. THERE MUST BE NO RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO. TOO OFTEN IN THE PAST, WE'VE MEASURED OUR COMPASSION THE WRONG WAY -- BY BUDGETS AND BUREAUCRACIES -- INSTEAD OF BY HOW MANY POOR PEOPLE HAVE PERMANENTLY ESCAPED POVERTY. THIS MUST END.

THERE IS NO QUESTION THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS AN IMPORTANT AND FUNDAMENTAL ROLE IN ENDING POVERTY AND DESPAIR IN OUR INNER CITIES. BUT THE TIME HAS COME TO TRY A NEW WAY. WE MUST START WITH A SET OF PRINCIPLES -- PRINCIPLES THAT GIVE THE WORD OPPORTUNITY REAL MEANING. THEY ARE GROUNDED IN COMMON SENSE: ORDER IS BETTER THAN DISORDER. TOLERANCE IS BETTER THAN INTOLERANCE. WORK IS BETTER THAN WELFARE. OWNERSHIP IS BETTER THAN TENANCY.

OPPORTUNITY IS BETTER THAN ENTITLEMENT. INDEPENDENCE IS BETTER THAN DEPENDENCE. AND TRADITIONAL FAMILY VALUES ARE BETTER THAN THE DEADLY COMBINATION OF MORAL RELATIVISM AND GOVERNMENT PATERNALISM. WE NEED TO LET POOR FAMILIES TAKE BACK CONTROL OF THEIR LIVES -- BY MAKING OUR COMMITMENT TO END POVERTY AND DESPAIR GREATER THAN EVER.

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THIS TIME, WE MUST MAKE CERTAIN TO PUT THE GOVERNMENT ON THE SIDE OF OPPORTUNITY -- ON THE SIDE OF HUMAN DIGNITY, ON THE SIDE OF HOPE. ANYTHING LESS WOULD BE A DISSERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF LOS ANGELES WHO NEED OUR HELP. ANYTHING LESS WOULD BE UNWORTHY OF OUR GREAT NATION. //

IN FIVE SHORT DAYS, LOS ANGELES HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO DESERVE THANKS RUNS INTO THE TENS OF THOUSANDS.

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THE FIREFIGHTERS AND POLICE OFFICERS, WHO WORKED HOURS ON END. THE THOUSANDS OF VOLUNTEERS. THE CHURCHES AND CHURCHGOERS -- THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS. THE MANY PEOPLE -- KNOWN AND UNKNOWN -- WHO CAME TO THE AID OF PEOPLE IN NEED, WHO STEPPED FORWARD TO STOP THE VIOLENCE -- TO SAVE A LIFE.

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LET ME SAY SOMETHING -- SOMETHING I PROMISED MYSELF I'D SAY THE MOMENT I GOT HERE -- TO EVERY ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO REACHED OUT, ACROSS THE BARRIERS OF COLOR, AND PUT THEIR OWN SAFETY AT RISK TO HELP OTHERS. THANK GOD FOR WHAT YOU DID. YOU DID MORE THAN SIMPLY SAVE A LIFE -- YOU GAVE A NATION CAUSE FOR HOPE. AND YOU PROVED, AMIDST THE HATE AND THE HORROR, THAT THIS IS STILL THE CITY OF ANGELS.

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THANK YOU -- AND MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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- **Through the Presidential Disaster declaration, FEMA will make assistance available to those hit hardest by the violence. A preliminary estimate of this assistance is approximately \$300 million.**
- **Tomorrow, disaster application centers will open in seven locations in Los Angeles County to begin the disaster assistance process. Individuals, families and businesses directly affected can visit any of these centers to apply for aid from a variety of federal and state agencies.**

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- **The SBA is also making available low-interest disaster loans for business losses and home damage.**
- **All told, federal aid to Los Angeles and the surrounding areas may total as much as \$600 million.**
- **And finally, I have asked several of my able Cabinet secretaries to look into the underlying causes of this tragic event.**

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- o **We've got some very good, comprehensive proposals that are being considered now. When they are announced, I hope they will receive your enthusiastic support.**
- o **I believe the federal government is playing a crucial and positive role in rebuilding South Central Los Angeles.**
- o **Your comments and suggestions are critical as we chart this course.**