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**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:** 13626  
**Folder ID Number:** 13626-007

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**Folder Title:**  
50th Anniversary of World War II 6/3/92 [OA 5809]

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| Stack:   | Row:      | Section:  | Shelf:   | Position: |
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## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 06/03/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ----

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 50th ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II - 06/04

|                | ACTION                   | FYI                                 |                  | ACTION                   | FYI                                 |
|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SKINNER        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MCBRIDE          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SCOWCROFT      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MOORE            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DARMAN         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PETERSMEYER      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| BRADY          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PORTER           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| BROMLEY        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | ROLLINS          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CALIO          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SMITH            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| DEMAREST       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | YEUTTER          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| FITZWATER      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>FINDLAY</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>KAUFMAN</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>MCGROARTY</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" 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

02 JUN 3 P4:43

June 3, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST 

FROM: CURT SMITH 

SUBJECT: NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

In the Roosevelt Room on Thursday, June 4 at 11 a.m., you will sign a proclamation heralding a national week of observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II. Your remarks are seven minutes in length and will be on cards.

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Three  
June 3, 1992  
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II  
ROOSEVELT ROOM  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

[Acknowledgements]. Members of the civic and veterans groups who, along with local communities, will observe over the next three and a half years various anniversaries of World War II. Members of the Department of Defense's World War II Commemoration Committee. //

Welcome to the White House -- and to the observance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds: The monumental struggle known as the Second World War. //

Overnight, World War II transformed America from a people at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. / The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. / World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace -- people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do his or her part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did the hard work of freedom. //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941, and enlisted on my eighteenth birthday. I recall how for the first few months of the war, news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was overrun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began what may have been the greatest naval battle of all time. //

We remember, even now. First, we broke the naval codes armed with critical information about the enemy's plans. Then, Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task force to intercept the Japanese fleet that had been sent to attack Midway. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and a destroyer, four enemy carriers were sunk and 250 enemy aircraft downed -- destroying their fleet. Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but it was inevitable. The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in.

Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's tide of times: When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Bataan and the Bulge / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in forests and on farmland / in swamps and deserts / in the air, on and under the sea / giving of themselves -- and often, of their lives. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington. Think of others in Boise / Bangor / Normandy / and Nettuno. Think of World War II's honor roll: more than 400,000 Americans dead, and two-thirds of a million wounded. Or the countless millions worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be divorced from Washington -- just as events in Europe and Asia affect each American today. //

Winston Churchill once said of World War II, "There never was a war in all history easier to prevent..." Today, let us recall what that lion cried as a voice in the wilderness: No one ever walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / Weakening our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to those with the potential to wage war. //

As long as I am President, the military's commitment to defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending the military. // Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us to retreat behind the water's edge. I say: Just as America's vigilance helped win that war -- so a strong America can now help win the peace. //

We seek a world where differences are solved peacefully -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. Sacrifices made heroically fifty years ago have helped bring about a new and better world. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol -- once vowed to take him fishing after the fighting stopped. / I thought of the father whose son or daughter would now know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. / And I resolved once again: We must never -- ever -- let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of America. Proud of what we have become as a Nation -- because of their service and sacrifice. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

World War II was a fight we did not seek, against enemies we did not choose, for a cause that is first among all: The right of people everywhere to be free. In that spirit, it is my honor to sign the proclamation designating the national observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

# # # #

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II \ ROOSEVELT ROOM  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992 \ 11:00 A.M.

SECRETARY CARD; GENERAL COLIN POWELL; DEPUTY  
SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ANTHONY PRINCIPI; DEPUTY  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DON ATWOOD; LAWRENCE GARRETT; DON  
RICE; MICHAEL STONE; CARL MUNDY; CONGRESSMAN JOHN  
MYERS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WITH US THIS  
MORNING; DR. DON WILSON, ARCHIVIST OF THE UNITED  
STATES; ALBERT McCLUSKEY, VETERAN OF THE BATTLE OF  
MIDWAY; OTHER VETERANS HERE TODAY; MEMBERS OF CIVIC AND  
VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

- 2 -

LT. GENERAL (RET.) CLAUDE KICKLIGHTER, EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR, AND MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S  
WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE. // WELCOME TO  
THE WHITE HOUSE -- AND TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE 50TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF AN EVENT WHICH LINKED AMERICAN HEARTS,  
AND MINDS: THE MONUMENTAL STRUGGLE KNOWN AS THE SECOND  
WORLD WAR. //

OVERNIGHT, WORLD WAR II TRANSFORMED AMERICA FROM A  
PEOPLE AT PEACE TO A NATION AT WAR THAT WOULD DEFINE  
THE COURSE OF HISTORY FOR THE REST OF THIS CENTURY. /

THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR FORCED AMERICA TO ABANDON ISOLATIONISM AND TAKE UP THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP. / WORLD WAR II WAS FOUGHT FOR AMERICAN SOIL AND SOVEREIGNTY. IT WAS ALSO FOUGHT TO DEFEND PEOPLE WHO, HATING WAR, SOUGHT ONLY PEACE -- PEOPLE EVERYWHERE WHO YEARN FOR FREEDOM, THEN AND NOW. /

THE YEAR 1942 WAS CRUCIAL TO OUR HISTORY. AMERICANS CAME TOGETHER. EACH CITIZEN SOUGHT WAYS TO DO HIS OR HER PART. /

FACTORIES DESIGNED TO BUILD THE TOOLS OF PEACE PRODUCED THE TOOLS OF WAR -- SHIPS, PLANES, TANKS, AND AMMUNITION -- ALL CRUCIAL TO THE ALLIED EFFORT. / IT WASN'T EASY -- BUT WE DID IT. WE DID THE HARD WORK OF FREEDOM. //

I WAS SEVENTEEN ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, AND ENLISTED ON MY EIGHTEENTH BIRTHDAY. I RECALL HOW FOR THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF THE WAR, NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC WAS GRIM. GUAM WAS OVERRUN.

BATAAN AND CORREGIDOR FELL IN THE PHILIPPINES. / YET THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA FOILED JAPANESE PLANS TO INVADE PORT MORESBY IN NEW GUINEA. AND FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK, OUR FORCES BEGAN WHAT MAY HAVE BEEN THE GREATEST NAVAL BATTLE OF ALL TIME. MIDWAY TURNED THE TIDE OF WWII AND THE INEVITABLE ALLIED VICTORY BEGAN TO TAKE SHAPE.

WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID OF WORLD WAR II, "THERE NEVER WAS A WAR IN ALL HISTORY EASIER TO PREVENT..."

TODAY, LET US RECALL WHAT THAT LION CRIED AS A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS: NO ONE EVER WALKS AWAY FROM APPEASING AN AGGRESSOR. HE ONLY CRAWLS. / WEAKENING OUR DEFENSES DURING A TIME OF PEACE IS AN OPEN INVITATION TO THOSE WITH THE POTENTIAL TO WAGE WAR. //

AS LONG AS I AM PRESIDENT, THE MILITARY'S COMMITMENT TO DEFENDING FREEDOM WILL BE MATCHED BY MY COMMITMENT TO DEFENDING THE MILITARY. // SOME SAY OUR VICTORY IN THE COLD WAR ALLOWS US TO RETREAT BEHIND THE WATER'S EDGE.

**I SAY: JUST AS AMERICA'S VIGILANCE HELPED WIN THAT WAR  
-- SO A STRONG AMERICA CAN NOW HELP WIN THE PEACE. //**

**WE SEEK A WORLD WHERE DIFFERENCES ARE SOLVED  
PEACEFULLY -- WHERE THE FORCE OF LAW OUTLASTS THE USE  
OF FORCE. SACRIFICES MADE HEROICALLY FIFTY YEARS AGO  
HAVE HELPED BRING ABOUT A NEW AND BETTER WORLD. /**

**IT IS A WORLD I THOUGHT OF LAST DECEMBER, WHERE ON THE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR, BARBARA AND I LOOKED  
AT THE SUNKEN WELL OF THE USS ARIZONA -- TOMB TO MORE  
THAN A THOUSAND OF THE GREATEST HEROES ANY NATION HAS  
EVER KNOWN. //**

**THERE, I THOUGHT OF THE WIFE WHOSE BEST FRIEND WAS  
HER HUSBAND. OR THE LITTLE BOY WHOSE BROTHER -- HIS  
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THE MEN WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR II WOULD TODAY BE PROUD OF AMERICA. PROUD OF WHAT WE HAVE BECOME AS A NATION -- BECAUSE OF THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE. PROUD OF HOW THEIR FATE -- AND FAITH -- STIR AND SHAPE US STILL. /

SO LET US HONOR THEM, REMEMBER THEM -- SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL SAY OF US WHAT WE DO ALSO: GOD BLESS THIS WONDROUS LAND -- THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. //

WORLD WAR II WAS A FIGHT WE DID NOT SEEK, AGAINST ENEMIES WE DID NOT CHOOSE, FOR A CAUSE THAT IS FIRST AMONG ALL: THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO BE FREE.

IN THAT SPIRIT, IT IS MY HONOR TO SIGN THE PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING THE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II.

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**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II \ ROOSEVELT ROOM  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992 \ 11:00 A.M.**

**GENERAL COLIN POWELL; DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
DON ATWOOD; SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, MICHAEL STONE;  
CONGRESSMAN JOHN MYERS, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
WITH US THIS MORNING; ALBERT MCCLUSKEY, VETERAN OF THE  
BATTLE OF MIDWAY; OTHER VETERANS HERE TODAY; MEMBERS OF  
THE CIVIC AND VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS WHO, ALONG  
WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WILL OBSERVE OVER THE NEXT  
THREE AND A HALF YEARS VARIOUS ANNIVERSARIES OF WORLD  
WAR II. MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE'S WORLD  
WAR II COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE. //**

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**- 2 -**

**WELCOME TO THE WHITE HOUSE -- AND TO THE OBSERVANCE  
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- 3 -

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- 4 -

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WE REMEMBER, EVEN NOW. FIRST, WE BROKE THE NAVAL CODES ARMED WITH CRITICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENEMY'S PLANS.

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- 6 -

THEN, ADMIRAL NIMITZ SENT HIS CARRIER TASK FORCE TO INTERCEPT THE JAPANESE FLEET THAT HAD BEEN SENT TO ATTACK MIDWAY. / FOR FOUR DAYS THE FIGHTING RAGED. FINALLY, THE INVASION FORCE WAS DRIVEN OFF. WHILE AMERICA LOST THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER YORKTOWN AND A DESTROYER, FOUR ENEMY CARRIERS WERE SUNK AND 250 ENEMY AIRCRAFT DOWNED -- DESTROYING THEIR FLEET. EXACTLY SIX MONTHS AFTER PEARL, VICTORY WAS NOT IMMINENT -- BUT IT WAS INEVITABLE. THE ENEMY'S TIDE WAS RUNNING OUT.

- 7 -

**THE ALLIES' TIDE WAS RUNNING IN.**

**HERE IS WHAT HISTORY WILL SAY OF THE GREATEST WAR  
IN MAN'S TIDE OF TIMES: WHEN ATTACKED, AMERICA'S SONS  
AND DAUGHTERS TOOK UP ARMS, AND BORE OUR BURDEN, FOR A  
CAUSE LARGER THAN OURSELVES. THEY FOUGHT AT BATAAN AND  
THE BULGE / FOUGHT IN UNKNOWN LANDS, AMID THE SHROUD OF  
DARKNESS, TO ILLUMINATE THE NIGHT. /**

- 8 -

**THEY FOUGHT IN FORESTS AND ON FARMLAND / IN SWAMPS AND  
DESERTS / IN THE AIR, ON AND UNDER THE SEA / GIVING OF  
THEMSELVES -- AND OFTEN, OF THEIR LIVES. //**

**THINK OF THE CEMETERY IN ARLINGTON. THINK OF  
OTHERS IN BOISE / BANGOR / NORMANDY / AND NETTUNO.  
THINK OF WORLD WAR II'S HONOR ROLL: MORE THAN 400,000  
AMERICANS DEAD, AND TWO-THIRDS OF A MILLION WOUNDED.  
OR THE COUNTLESS MILLIONS WORLDWIDE -- MANY HELPLESS  
INNOCENTS. /**

WORLD WAR II TAUGHT US THAT WHAT HAPPENED IN BERLIN AND TOKYO COULD NOT BE DIVORCED FROM WASHINGTON -- JUST AS EVENTS IN EUROPE AND ASIA AFFECT EACH AMERICAN TODAY.

//

WINSTON CHURCHILL ONCE SAID OF WORLD WAR II, "THERE NEVER WAS A WAR IN ALL HISTORY EASIER TO PREVENT..." TODAY, LET US RECALL WHAT THAT LION CRIED AS A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS: NO ONE EVER WALKS AWAY FROM APPEASING AN AGGRESSOR. HE ONLY CRAWLS. /

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**# # # #**

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON


June 3, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

DAVID DEMAREST 

FROM:

CURT SMITH 

SUBJECT:

NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

In the Roosevelt Room on Thursday, June 4 at 11 a.m., you will sign a proclamation heralding a national week of observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II. Your remarks are seven minutes in length and will be on cards.

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Three  
June 3, 1992  
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II  
ROOSEVELT ROOM  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

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# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 3, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID DEMAREST 

FROM: CURT SMITH 

SUBJECT: NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE  
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II

In the Roosevelt Room on Thursday, June 4 at 11 a.m., you will sign a proclamation heralding a national week of observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II. Your remarks are seven minutes in length and will be on cards.

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Three  
June 3, 1992  
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II  
ROOSEVELT ROOM  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

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WASHINGTON


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# # # #

*David,  
Please note Brent's comments  
below.  
PhD*

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Three  
June 3, 1992  
WAR

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*of dead? 70*

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*Ships about  
shrink to "green"  
under water*

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*Nimitz turned the tide of WWII and the inevitable victory began so tall a goal.*

??

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# # # #

The key to this is economic growth.

Last January, I proposed a solid common sense action plan to create jobs and stimulate economic growth for the short term. Congress still needs to act on that plan - and act now.

A balanced budget amendment will help ensure economic security for the American people in the long-term. Congress needs to act on that measure - and act now.

We have a moral imperative to act on behalf of future generations. They are not yet here to represent themselves - ~~the future~~ <sup>children and our</sup> It's time to protect our children's ~~only we can protect and enhance our future~~ children - and we're determined to enact this ~~for our children and their children's children~~ solemn bond between generations.

## WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 6/3/92 11:00 ar

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY

SUBJECT: ROSE GARDEN - THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

|                 | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |                        | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SKINNER         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MCBRIDE                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SCOWCROFT       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MOORE                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| DARMAN          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | PETERSMEYER <i>n/c</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| BRADY           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PORTER                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| BROMLEY         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | ROLLINS <i>n/c...</i>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| CALIO           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | SMITH                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| X DEMAREST      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | YEUTTER                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| FITZWATER       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FINDLAY                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY <i>n/c</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | KAUFMAN                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MCGROARTY              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                 |                                     |                                     | FIRESTONE              |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**REMARKS:**

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 a.m., WED. JUNE 3, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

**RESPONSE:**

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

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Two  
June 2, 1992  
WAR

02 JUN 2 All: 17

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
ROSE GARDEN  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

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# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 2, 1992

92 MAY 3 10:23

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: World War II Anniversary

We have reviewed the attached remarks and have noted a few suggested changes on the draft.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

*Wallen*

DATE: 6/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 6/3/92 11:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
 SUBJECT: ROSE GARDEN - THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

|                | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |                  | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
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| BROMLEY        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | ROLLINS          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| CALIO          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | SMITH            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| DEMAREST       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | YEUTTER          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| FITZWATER      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <u>FINDLAY</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <u>KAUFMAN</u>   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <u>MCGROARTY</u> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                |                                     |                                     | <u>FIRESTONE</u> |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 a.m., WED. JUNE 3, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

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

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Two  
June 2, 1992  
WAR

02 JUN 2 All: 17

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
ROSE GARDEN  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

Fellow veterans. Fellow Americans. Welcome to the White House -- and to the observance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds. A just cause that was democracy's cause: The monumental struggle known as World War II. //

Overnight, World War II transformed America from a people at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. / It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace - - people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do their part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did the hard work of freedom. //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941. For the next six months of the war, news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was overrun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet

the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began what may have been the greatest naval battle of all time. /

I remember, even now. First, ~~we~~ broke the war code. Then, Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task forces to intercept the fleet that had been sent to attack Midway -- a small group of islands just one thousand miles northwest of Honolulu. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, four enemy carriers were sunk --

*NO*  
~~destroying their fleet.~~ <sup>the Japanese</sup> Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but inevitable. ~~The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in.~~ //

*NO*  
*NO*  
 Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's ~~time~~ of times: When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Bataan and the Bulge / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in swamps and deserts / in the sea and air / giving of themselves -- and often, of their lives. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington. Think of plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. Think of World War II's honor roll: \_\_\_ Americans dead, and \_\_\_ wounded. Or the 55 million worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be

*our intelligence service*

divorced from Washington -- just as events in Europe and Asia affect each American today. //

(Hyles metaphors)


Winston Churchill once said, "Never was any conflict more preventable." Today, let us recall what that <sup>Churchill</sup> ~~lion in winter~~ cried as a 1930s' voice in the wilderness: No one ever walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / Weakening our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to those with the potential to wage war. //

As long as I am President, the military's commitment to defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending the military. // Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us to retreat <sup>BACK INTO ISOLATIONISM</sup> ~~behind the water's edge~~. I say: Just as America's vigilance helped win that war -- so a strong America can now help <sup>ADVANCE</sup> win the peace. //

I speak of a world where differences are solved peacefully - ~~not violently~~ -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol -- once vowed to take him fishing after the fighting stopped. / I thought of the father whose son or daughter would now know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. / I thought to myself: <sup>We</sup> I will never -- ever -- let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

 World War II was a fight we did not seek, against enemies we did not choose, for a cause that is first among all: The right of <sup>all</sup> people to be free. In that spirit, it is my honor to sign the proclamation designating the national observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 2, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DANIEL MCGROARTY

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

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: WWII Anniversary, Rose  
Garden

Pursuant to Phil Brady's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter and has no objection to the proposed Presidential Remarks.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

Henson -  
file to Peace Legacy...

9AW

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Two  
June 2, 1992  
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
ROSE GARDEN  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

Fellow veterans. Fellow Americans. Welcome to the White House -- and to the observance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds. A just cause that was democracy's cause: The monumental struggle known as World War II. //

Overnight, World War II transformed America from a people at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. / It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace - people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do their part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did the hard work of freedom. //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941. For the next six months of the war, news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was overrun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet

the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began what may have been the greatest naval battle of all time. /

I remember, even now. First, we broke the war code. Then, Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task forces to intercept the fleet that had been sent to attack Midway -- a small group of islands just one thousand miles northwest of Honolulu. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, four enemy carriers were sunk -- destroying their fleet. Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but inevitable. The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in. //

Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's tide of times: When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Bataan and the Bulge / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in swamps and deserts / in the sea and air / giving of themselves -- and often, of their lives. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington. Think of plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. Think of World War II's honor roll: \_\_ Americans dead, and \_\_ wounded. Or the 55 million worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be

divorced from Washington -- just as events in Europe and Asia affect each American today. //

Winston Churchill once said, "Never was any conflict more preventable." Today, let us recall what that lion in winter cried as a 1930s' voice in the wilderness: No one ever walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / Weakening our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to those with the potential to wage war. //

As long as I am President, the military's commitment to defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending the military. // Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us to retreat behind the water's edge. I say: Just as America's vigilance helped win that war -- so a strong America can now help win the peace. //

I speak of a world where differences are solved peacefully -- not violently -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol -- once vowed to take him fishing after the fighting stopped. / I thought of the father whose son or daughter would now know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. / I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

World War II was a fight we did not seek, against enemies we did not choose, for a cause that is first among all: The right of people to be free. In that spirit, it is my honor to sign the proclamation designating the national observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

# # # #

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

June 2, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR DANIEL MCGROARTY

FROM:

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

SUBJECT:

Presidential Remarks: WWII Anniversary, Rose  
Garden

Pursuant to Phil Brady's request, Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced matter and has no objection to the proposed Presidential Remarks.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

92 MAY 3 AIO: 23

DATE: 6/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 6/3/92 11:00ar

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
 SUBJECT: ROSE GARDEN - THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

|                | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |             | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SKINNER        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MCBRIDE     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SCOWCROFT      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MOORE       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| DARMAN         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | PETERSMEYER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| BRADY          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PORTER      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| BROMLEY        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | ROLLINS     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| CALIO          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | SMITH       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| DEMAREST       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | YEUTTER     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| FITZWATER      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FINDLAY     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | KAUFMAN     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MCGROARTY   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                |                                     |                                     | FIRESTONE   |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 a.m., WED. JUNE 3, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

- See comments  
 - R. Brady may comment at a later time

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

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Two  
June 2, 1992  
WAR

02 JUN 2 All: 17

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
ROSE GARDEN  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

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Overnight, World War II transformed America from a people at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. / It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace - - people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do their part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did the hard work of freedom. //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941. For the next six months of the war, news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was overrun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet

the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began what may have been the greatest naval battle of all time. /

I remember, even now. First, we broke the war code. Then, Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task forces to intercept the fleet that had been sent to attack Midway -- a small group of islands just one thousand miles northwest of Honolulu. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, four enemy carriers were sunk -- destroying their fleet. Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but inevitable. The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in. //

Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's tide of times: When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Bataan and the Bulge / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in swamps and deserts / in the sea and air / giving of themselves -- and often, of their lives. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington. Think of plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. Think of World War II's honor roll: <sup>292,000</sup> Americans dead, and <sup>671,000</sup> wounded. Or the 55 million worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be

use this #.

more than 2/3 of a million

(Howard 4657) (Statistical abstract of 1991) Pg. 346 (EBNER)

divorced from Washington -- just as events in Europe and Asia affect each American today. //

Winston Churchill once said, "Never was any conflict more preventable." Today, let us recall what that lion in winter cried as a 1930s' voice in the wilderness: No one ever walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / Weakening our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to those with the potential to wage war. //

As long as I am President, the military's commitment to defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending the military. // Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us to retreat behind the water's edge. I say: Just as America's vigilance helped win that war -- so a strong America can now help win the peace. //

I speak of a world where differences are solved peacefully - - not violently -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol -- once vowed to take him fishing after the fighting stopped. / I thought of the father whose son or daughter would now know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. / I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

World War II was a fight we did not seek, against enemies we did not choose, for a cause that is first among all: The right of people to be free. In that spirit, it is my honor to sign the proclamation designating the national observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

# # # #

# WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/2/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: WED. 6/3/92 11:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
SUBJECT: ROSE GARDEN - THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

|                | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |             | ACTION                              | FYI                                 |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| VICE PRESIDENT | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | HORNER      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SKINNER        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MCBRIDE     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| SCOWCROFT      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MOORE       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| DARMAN         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | PETERSMEYER | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| BRADY          | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | PORTER      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| BROMLEY        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | ROLLINS     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| CALIO          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | SMITH       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| DEMAREST       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | YEUTTER     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| FITZWATER      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FINDLAY     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| GRAY           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | KAUFMAN     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| HOLIDAY        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MCGROARTY   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|                |                                     |                                     | FIRESTONE   |                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 11:00 a.m., WED. JUNE 3, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE: The National Security Council staff has reviewed the Presidential Remarks on the World War II anniversary and concurs with changes. Additional recommended comments are attached.

June 3, 1992

*Brent Scowcroft*  
 Brent Scowcroft  
 Executive Secretary

92 MAR 9 6:34 AM '92

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

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED REMARKS

- We commemorate this week the anniversary of the end of World War II. The War represented a tremendous victory over aggression and over evil -- not all the evil in the world, but some of the greatest evil the world has seen inflicted by governments on their own people and on others.
- It is altogether fitting that we honor the memory of Americans who gave their lives in making this victory possible. Their sacrifice served not only Americans of all walks of life but all peoples everywhere who were victims of aggression and crimes against humanity. Their sacrifice secured our liberty and our freedom and, in fact, helped accelerate our national effort to come to grips with our national agenda: the eradication of racism, bigotry, and discrimination and the expansion of the blessings of liberty to all Americans. Their sacrifice also advanced the cause of freedom everywhere. Sometimes it did so merely by keeping the hope of freedom alive in places where it was denied.
- The Allied victory in the War continues to give us cause for celebration. Yet, as we look back, it also is a time for sober reflection. History is full of examples demonstrating the wisdom of that ancient Roman who said those who want peace must prepare for war. The origins of both World Wars and of some subsequent provide vivid additional examples. We continue to live on a dangerous planet where preparedness is the best deterrent to ever having to use military force. This is why I support and insist on maintaining adequate military forces and why, as your President, I will not accept imprudent defense cuts.
- We should not forget that in World War II, our Armed Forces were still segregated and that American citizens -- American citizens -- were incarcerated in camps simply because of the color of their skin. But the American agenda did not come to an end with that victory anymore than it has come to an end with the triumphant end of the Cold War.
- It is appropriate to reflect on the lessons of the Second World War -- from its causes and its sacrifice to the allied victory and what it meant to us as a Nation and to the world. I believe it is also time to take renewal from that great triumph of good over evil, of right over wrong, of humanity over injustice, to carry the struggle for justice in this country forward. And that we shall do.

(Smith/Aarhus)  
Draft Two  
June 2, 1992  
WAR

02 JUN 2 All: 17

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
ROSE GARDEN  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

*What anniversary?*  
*What is this date?*

Fellow veterans. Fellow Americans. Welcome to the White House -- and to the obserance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds. A just cause that was democracy's cause: The monumental struggle known as World War II. //

Overnight, [World War II transformed] America, <sup>found itself in a</sup> [from a people at] [peace to a nation at] war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon <sup>isolationism</sup> isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. <sup>Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty.</sup> / It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace -- people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucially <sup>important</sup> to our history. <sup>in many ways</sup> Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do <sup>his or her</sup> [their] part. / ~~factories~~ Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did the hard work of freedom. //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941. For the next six months of the war, <sup>the</sup> news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was overrun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet

the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began <sup>one of</sup> what may have been the greatest naval battle<sup>s</sup> of all time. / <sup>the Battle of Midway</sup>

I remember, even now. First, we broke the <sup>enemies</sup> war code. <sup>armed with critical info about the enemy's plans</sup> Then Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task forces to intercept the <sup>Japanese</sup> fleet that had been sent to attack Midway -- a small group of islands just one thousand miles northwest of Honolulu. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, four enemy carriers were sunk -- destroying their fleet. Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but inevitable. The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in. //

~~This worst of all wars showed that~~  
~~Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's~~  
~~tide of times:]~~ When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves.

They fought at Bataan and the Bulge / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in <sup>forests,</sup> swamps and deserts / in the <sup>air, on and under the sea</sup> sea and air / <sup>for their fellow man - in harm, for their nation, for freedom itself</sup> giving of themselves -- and often, <sup>giving</sup> of their lives. // <sup>in the process</sup>

Think of the <sup>there</sup> cemetery in Arlington. Think of plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. <sup>Honolulu and Normandy</sup> Think of World War II's honor roll: \_\_ Americans dead, and \_\_ wounded. Or the [55] million<sup>s</sup> worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be

comment:  
only refer to Europe. B. G. Berlin Preliminary of war is Pacific  
depends on how you count - could be 75 or as few as 25 milli

<sup>ignored</sup>  
 [divorced from Washington] -- just as events in Europe and Asia  
 affect each American today. //

Winston Churchill once said, "Never was any conflict more,  
<sup>the practical wisdom about international life:</sup>  
 preventable." Today, let us recall [what that lion in winter  
 cried as a 1930s' voice in the wilderness:] No one ever walks  
 away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / Weakening  
 our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to  
 those with the potential to wage war. //

As long as I am President, the military's commitment to  
 defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending  
<sup>The capabilities we need</sup>  
 the military. // Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us  
 to retreat behind the water's edge. I say: Just as America's  
 vigilance helped win that war -- so a strong America can now help  
 win the peace. //

<sup>We seek</sup>  
I speak of a world where differences are solved peacefully -  
 - not violently -- where the force of law outlasts the use of  
force. / It is a world I thought of last December, <sup>when</sup> ~~where~~ on the  
 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the  
 shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand  
<sup>our</sup> of [the greatest] heroes <sup>sacrifices made heroically 50 years ago have indeed helped</sup>  
~~[any Nation has ever known]~~ <sup>bring about a new and better world.</sup> //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her  
 husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol -- once  
 vowed to take him fishing after the fighting stopped. / I  
 thought of the father whose son or daughter would now know him as  
 a martyr, but never as a dad. / <sup>and I resolved once again</sup>  
I thought to myself: I will  
 never -- ever -- <sup>to</sup> let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

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# # # #

*Proud of the freedom  
and main sacrifices achieved  
attempts achieved*

*what we have become as a Nation - because of their service and sacrifice. Proud of how*

(Smith/Aarhus)  
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WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY  
ROSE GARDEN  
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

Fellow veterans. Fellow Americans. Welcome to the White House -- and to the observance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds. A just cause that was democracy's cause: The monumental struggle known as World War II. //

Overnight, World War II transformed America from a people at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. / It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace - people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do their part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did the hard work of freedom. //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941. For the next six months of the war, news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was overrun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet

the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began what may have been the greatest naval battle of all time. /

I remember, even now. First, we broke the war code. Then, Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task forces to intercept the fleet that had been sent to attack Midway -- a small group of islands just one thousand miles northwest of Honolulu. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, four enemy carriers were sunk -- destroying their fleet. Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but inevitable. The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in. //

Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's tide of times: When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Bataan and the Bulge / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in swamps and deserts / in the sea and air / giving of themselves -- and often, of their lives. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington. Think of plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. Think of World War II's honor roll: \_\_ Americans dead, and \_\_ wounded. Or the 55 million worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be

divorced from Washington -- just as events in Europe and Asia affect each American today. //

Winston Churchill once said, "Never was any conflict more preventable." Today, let us recall what that lion in winter cried as a 1930s' voice in the wilderness: No one ever walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / Weakening our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to those with the potential to wage war. //

As long as I am President, the military's commitment to defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending the military. // Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us to retreat behind the water's edge. I say: Just as America's vigilance helped win that war -- so a strong America can now help win the peace. //

I speak of a world where differences are solved peacefully -- not violently -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol -- once vowed to take him fishing after the fighting stopped. / I thought of the father whose son or daughter would now know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. / I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

World War II was a fight we did not seek, against enemies we did not choose, for a cause that is first among all: The right of people to be free. In that spirit, it is my honor to sign the proclamation designating the national observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

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