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Somalia 12/3/92 [OA 8485]

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G	26	18	5	7

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 3, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DAN MC GROARTY *DMG*

SUBJECT: SOMALIA

The attached draft has been prepared for your statement on Somalia. It has been reviewed by General Scowcroft, Admiral Howe and Bob Zoellick.

~~SECRET~~

DRAFT PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT
NSC/Revised McG 12/3/92, 3:15 p.m.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU TODAY ABOUT THE TRAGEDY IN SOMALIA --
AND ABOUT A MISSION THAT CAN EASE SUFFERING AND SAVE LIVES.

WE IN THE UNITED STATES ARE BLESSED TO LIVE IN A NATION THAT
IS NOT RIVEN BY CIVIL WAR OR THREATENED BY A POWERFUL ENEMY.
WITH THE SUCCESSFUL END OF THE LONG AND COSTLY COLD WAR, WE
OVERCAME GRAVE THREATS THAT AMERICA AND THE WORLD HAD LIVED WITH
FOR NEARLY HALF A CENTURY. BUT IN THE POST COLD WAR PERIOD, WE
FACE A GROWING NUMBER OF CHALLENGES AS MANY NATIONS EXPERIENCE
INSTABILITY, WAR AND HUMANITARIAN DISASTERS. WE ARE WORKING HARD
WITH OTHER NATIONS TO RESTORE STABILITY AND BRING RELIEF TO THE
MANY PEOPLE THAT ARE TRAGIC VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND FAMINE.

THERE IS NO MORE SHOCKING HUMAN TRAGEDY THAN THAT IN
SOMALIA. THE SCOPE OF SUFFERING IS HARD TO IMAGINE. ALREADY,
OVER A QUARTER MILLION PEOPLE -- [AS MANY PEOPLE AS LIVE IN
BUFFALO, NEW YORK,] -- HAVE DIED IN THE SOMALI FAMINE. IN THE
MONTHS AHEAD, FIVE TIMES THAT NUMBER -- ONE AND ONE HALF MILLION
PEOPLE -- MAY STARVE TO DEATH.

WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN SOMALIA FOR MANY MONTHS, AS
PART OF A MASSIVE INTERNATIONAL RELIEF EFFORT. AMERICA HAS SENT
[300 THOUSAND TONS] OF FOOD -- MORE THAN HALF OF WHAT THE WORLD
HAS GIVEN TO SOMALIA.

COURAGEOUS AID WORKERS FROM MANY COUNTRIES TRIED TO
DISTRIBUTE THE FOOD IN AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS
ENVIRONMENT. BUT THE CONVOYS FROM SOMALIA'S PORTS WERE BLOCKED.
THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH AIRCRAFT TO FLY THE FOOD OUT TO THE TOWNS
WHERE PEOPLE WERE STARVING.

~~SECRET~~

Declassify on: OADR

Determined To Be an Administrative
Marking Per E.O. 12356 Sec. 1.1 (a)

RM 9/30/04

SO IN AUGUST, ACTING IN CONCERT WITH THE U.N., WE SENT IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE TO FLY FOOD TO THE TOWNS. TO DATE, AMERICAN PILOTS HAVE FLOWN OVER 1,400 FLIGHTS DELIVERING OVER 17 THOUSAND TONS OF FOOD AID.

WHEN THE UN AUTHORIZED 3,500 UN GUARDS TO PROTECT THE RELIEF OPERATION, WE FLEW IN THE FIRST OF THEM -- 500 SOLDIERS FROM PAKISTAN.

BUT IN THE MONTHS SINCE THEN, THE SECURITY SITUATION HAS GROWN WORSE. THERE IS NO GOVERNMENT IN SOMALIA. LAW AND ORDER HAVE BROKEN DOWN. IN THE AREAS WHERE SUFFERING IS WORST, THERE IS ANARCHY.

THE UN HAS BEEN PREVENTED FROM DEPLOYING ITS INITIAL COMMITMENT OF TROOPS. RELIEF FLIGHTS CANNOT PROVIDE ENOUGH FOOD.

FOOD CONVOYS ON THE GROUND HAVE BEEN HIJACKED / AID WORKERS ASSAULTED / SHIPS WITH FOOD HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO ARTILLERY ATTACKS THAT PREVENTED THEM FROM DOCKING.

CONFRONTED WITH THESE CONDITIONS, RELIEF GROUPS CALLED FOR OUTSIDE TROOPS TO PROVIDE SECURITY SO THEY COULD FEED PEOPLE. AND IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS SITUATION THAT WE TOLD THE UN THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE WILLING TO PROVIDE MORE HELP TO ENABLE RELIEF TO BE DELIVERED. THE UN HAS, AFTER DUE DELIBERATION, TODAY [update] ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO LEAD A COALITION TO GET THE FOOD THROUGH.

LET ME SAY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE: WE SEEK NO STRATEGIC INTEREST IN COMING TO THE AID OF SOMALIA, NO SPECIAL ADVANTAGE. WE TAKE THIS ACTION BECAUSE OF WHO WE ARE -- BECAUSE OF WHAT AMERICAN IDEALS MEAN TO US, AND TO THE WORLD.

THE PEOPLE OF SOMALIA -- ESPECIALLY THE CHILDREN OF SOMALIA -- NEED OUR HELP. WE CAN EASE THEIR SUFFERING. WE CAN HELP THEM LIVE. WE CAN GIVE THEM HOPE. / AMERICA MUST ACT. //

IN TAKING THIS ACTION, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT I UNDERSTAND THE UNITED STATES ALONE CANNOT RIGHT THE WORLD'S WRONGS. BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT SOME CRISES IN THE WORLD CANNOT BE RESOLVED WITHOUT AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT -- THAT AMERICAN ACTION IS NECESSARY AS A CATALYST FOR BROADER INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. IN THIS CASE, ONLY THE UNITED STATES HAS THE GLOBAL REACH TO PLACE A LARGE SECURITY FORCE ON THE GROUND IN SUCH A DISTANT PLACE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY. ONLY THE UNITED STATES CAN LEAD A COALITION TO SAVE THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT SOMALIS FROM DEATH.

A GREAT NATION, WITH OUR VALUES AND TRADITIONS, HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO DO WHAT WE CAN WHEN WE ALONE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ENORMOUS TRAGEDY AND THE CHANCE FOR LIFE AND HOPE. AFTER CONSULTING WITH MY ADVISORS AND THE CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP, I HAVE TODAY TOLD UN SECRETARY GENERAL BOUTROS GHALI THAT AMERICA WILL ANSWER THE CALL. WE WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE ACTING ALONE. OTHER NATIONS FROM NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE, AFRICA, ASIA, AND THE ISLAMIC WORLD HAVE SAID THEY WILL JOIN US.

IN RESPONSE TO THIS UN MANDATE, HERE IS WHAT WE AND OUR COALITION PARTNERS WILL DO:

FIRST, WE WILL CREATE A SECURE ENVIRONMENT IN THE WORST HIT PARTS OF SOMALIA SO THAT FOOD CAN MOVE FROM SHIPS, OVER LAND, TO THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE NOW DEVASTATED BY STARVATION.

SECOND, ONCE WE HAVE CREATED THAT SECURE ENVIRONMENT, WE WILL HAND THE SECURITY MISSION BACK TO A REGULAR UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE.

WHILE OUR MISSION IS HUMANITARIAN, WE WILL DEAL HARSHLY WITH ANYONE WHO ATTEMPTS TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM BEING FED. OUR MISSION HAS A LIMITED OBJECTIVE: TO GET FOOD MOVING -- AND PREPARE THE WAY FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE. I ANTICIPATE IT WILL BE OF SHORT DURATION.

TO THE PEOPLE OF SOMALIA, I PROMISE THIS: WE DO NOT PLAN TO KEEP FORCES IN YOUR COUNTRY. WE DO NOT PLAN TO DICTATE POLITICAL OUTCOMES. WE RESPECT YOUR SOVEREIGNTY AND INDEPENDENCE. WE COME TO YOUR COUNTRY FOR ONE REASON ONLY: WE COME IN PEACE TO FEED THE STARVING.

LET ME SAY TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES: WE ARE TURNING TO YOU TO DO A DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS JOB. AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF, I ASSURE YOU: YOU WILL HAVE OUR FULL SUPPORT TO DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO GET THE JOB DONE. AND WHEN YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR MISSION, WE WILL BRING YOU HOME.

FINALLY, LET ME CLOSE WITH A MESSAGE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO TAKE PART IN THIS MISSION. I UNDERSTAND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE YOUR LOVED ONES GO -- TO SEND THEM OFF KNOWING THEY WILL NOT BE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. BUT THE HUMANITARIAN MISSION THEY UNDERTAKE IS IN THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF SERVICE.

THEIR WORK WILL SAVE LIVES AND END SUFFERING. AND WHEN THEY ARE DONE, ALL AMERICANS WILL WELCOME THEM HOME WITH HONOR AND PRIDE.

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

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PER E.O. 12356, SEC 3.8 (c)
1.1 (a)

RML/dak
9/30/04

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