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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:** 13650  
**Folder ID Number:** 13650-002

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**Folder Title:**  
Somalia Trip 12/31/92 - 1/1/93 [OA 8485]

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Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
<b>G</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>

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**PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS:  
SOMALIA VISIT / 12/31/92 - 1/1/93**

- O I'M HERE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN THIS MISSION, BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN YOU. WE'VE ALREADY MADE GREAT PROGRESS: WITHIN 36 HOURS OF MY PLEDGE OF ASSISTANCE, WE HAD TEAMS ON THE GROUND. TODAY -- ABOUT 17,000 TROOPS ARE IN PLACE.**

**- 2 -**

**WE'VE DELIVERED ALMOST 20 THOUSAND TONS OF FOOD, SECURED BASES FROM BAIDOA TO BARDERA. THE PORT IS OPEN, FOOD IS MOVING, PEOPLE ARE BEING HELPED.**

- 3 -

- o OUR OBJECTIVE IS LIMITED, OUR MISSION DEFINED: THE UNITED STATES, SHOULDER TO SHOULDER WITH THE COALITION, WILL SECURE THE PEACE SO THAT HELP CAN GET THROUGH. OPERATION RESTORE HOPE WILL DO JUST THAT.

- 4 -

- o NO PRESIDENT IS QUICK TO ORDER AMERICAN TROOPS ABROAD. SO LET ME BE CLEAR: WE WILL FINISH THE JOB, HAND THE SECURITY MISSION BACK TO THE UN, AND WE'LL GET YOU HOME.
- o YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR FAMILIES SUPPORT YOU.

- 5 -

ONE DAD, RET. MAJOR JIMMIE RICH, OF TENNESSEE, SENT ME A COPY OF A LETTER TO HIS SON IN SOMALIA. HE WROTE: "TODAY WHEN I WAS PUTTING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS OUTSIDE, I REALIZED THAT BY BEING IN SOMALIA YOU WILL HAVE THE BEST CHRISTMAS EVER.

- 6 -

I KNOW THAT SOUNDS CRAZY, BUT IT IS TRUE WHEN YOU THINK OF THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS."

- 7 -

- o "I LEARNED THE TRUE LESSON OF CHRISTMAS WHEN I WENT TO VIET NAM ON DECEMBER 15 AND MISSED CHRISTMAS...YOUR BROTHER BRYAN LEARNED IT WHEN HE WAS IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON CHRISTMAS, AND MISSED THE BIRTH OF HIS SECOND CHILD...

- 8 -

NOW YOU ARE BEING GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL MEANING OF CHRISTMAS, TO GIVE OTHERS HOPE FOR A BETTER FUTURE."

- o I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE, HERE IN SOMALIA. ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER FAMINE.

- 9 -

I HELD ONE SPECIAL CHILD IN MY ARMS:  
SEVEN YEARS OLD, AND ONLY SEVENTEEN  
POUNDS.

O YOU'RE HERE ON A MANDATE FROM THE UN, A  
MISSION OF A NEW WORLD ORDER.

- 10 -

BUT YOUR SACRIFICE ANSWERS AN EVEN  
GREATER MANDATE, THE OLD WORDS OF A  
TIMELESS ORDER: "WHEN I WAS THIRSTY, YOU  
GAVE ME WATER...WHEN I WAS HUNGRY, YOU  
GAVE ME FOOD." MAY GOD BLESS OUR WORK  
HERE, AND OUR HOME, THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA.

(Grossman/Walters)  
DEPART  
Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DEPARTURE REMARKS  
MOGADISHU AIRPORT  
JANUARY 1, 1993

As I was falling asleep last night, I thought about my time aboard another carrier, the USS San Jacinto, 48 years ago. I was young -- not much different from many of you: same hopes for the future, same fears, same feeling about a special girl back home.

But the world we face today is different. The fatal certainties of a Cold War have shattered into a jigsaw of international complexity. This much is certain: America and her partners, like the brave coalition forces here today, must come together where we can to do what we will -- to thwart a tyrant, to protect the peace, to feed the starving.

But make no mistake. Our objective here is limited: we come together -- not to make Somalia safe for democracy -- but to make it safe for survival. Our mission: to secure the peace so that help can get through. Operation Restore Hope will do just that.

Thanks to you we're ahead of schedule: we've secured bases from Baidoa to Bardera. The port is open, food is moving, people are being helped.

As President, I want to send a message to the families of America's troops: once our work is done here, we'll hand the security mission back to the UN, and you're going home. I think your families understand that. Military families are special that way. Just before Christmas, I received a letter at the White House from a military dad, Ret. Major Jimmie Rich of

Tennessee. He sent me a copy of a letter he wanted me to deliver to his son in Somalia. Here's what it said:

"Today when I was putting the Christmas lights outside...I realized that by being in Somalia you will have the best Christmas ever. I know that sounds crazy. Christmas in the desert and in a land of unhappiness with millions of starving people. But it is true when you think of the REAL meaning of Christmas. Christmas is faith, hope, love, and giving....The greatest gift you can give is yourself...I learned the true lesson of Christmas when I went to Viet Nam on December 15 and missed Christmas...Your brother Bryan learned it when he was in the Persian Gulf on Christmas -- and missed the birth of his second child...Now you are being given the opportunity to experience the real meaning of Christmas, to give others hope for a better future. And you are learning what it really means to be a soldier."

Now most of you probably don't know this, but I've been here before, here in Somalia. It was another time, and yes, another famine. I remember holding one special child in my arms: seven years old, and only seventeen pounds. Many of you here have seen things that could break the heart of the strongest soldier.

But in this season of peace -- your sacrifice makes peace possible. American Pfc. Bill Davis put it this way: "It will be kind of like a Christmas present for the kids of Somalia." He's right. We may all come from different countries, and pray in different ways, but when we think on these things, the sands of Somalia seem a little closer to the places we call home. May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

(Grossman/Walters)  
DEPART. 2  
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bit: "As I write this," she says, "[my husband] and his men are preparing for their upcoming deployment to Somalia...[Kevin] and I will celebrate our first wedding anniversary in 10 days, so I am still fairly new to the military life...[But] I have a great deal of respect and faith in my husband's ability as a soldier. [And] I believe you will do all in your power to...bring our men and women home safely." Melanie, you have my word.

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(Grossman/Walters)  
SOMALIA  
Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ABOARD USS TRIPOLI  
DECEMBER 31, 1992

[[I want to congratulate you all for the way you've been able to improvise the holidays -- I hear that one of our rifle squads even invented their own Christmas carol: "Rudolf the Red Nosed Camel." Not exactly Bob Hope, but what can you do. \\]]

I remember the time I spent aboard another aircraft carrier, the USS San Jacinto, 48 years ago. I was young -- not that much different from many of you: same hopes for the future, same fears, same feeling about a special girl back home.

But the world we face today is different. The fatal certainties of a Cold War have shattered into a jigsaw of international complexity. This much is certain: American leadership, and American troops, must put the pieces together.

I am here because I believe in this mission...because I believe in you. You are proving that if America is to lead in great ways, we must lead in good will. The world has seen the face of suffering in Somalia. But already, through our action, the Somali people are being helped and healed: within 36 hours of my pledge of assistance, we had teams on the ground. 17,000 troops are now in place. We've secured bases from Baidoa to Bardera. The port is open and food is moving though.

We can make a difference, and so I believe we must. Our objective is limited, our mission defined: America, shoulder to shoulder with the coalition, will secure the peace so that help can get through. Operation Restore Hope will do just that. \\

Now no President is quick to order American troops abroad - especially during the holidays. So let me send this message to your families: once our work is done here, we'll hand the security mission back to the UN, and you're coming home. I think your families understand that -- military families are kind of special that way. Just before Christmas, I received a letter at the White House from a military dad, Ret. Major Jimmie Rich of Knoxville, Tennessee. He sent me a copy of a letter he wanted me to deliver to his son in Somalia. Here's what it said:

"Today when I was putting the Christmas lights outside...I realized that by being in Somalia you will have the best Christmas ever. I know that sounds crazy. Christmas in the desert and in a land of unhappiness with millions of starving people. But it is true when you think of the REAL meaning of Christmas. Christmas is faith, hope, love, and giving....The greatest gift you can give is yourself...I learned the true lesson of Christmas when I went to Viet Nam on December 15 and missed Christmas...Your brother Bryan learned it when he was in the Persian Gulf on Christmas -- and missed the birth of his second child...Now you are being given the opportunity to experience the real meaning of Christmas, to give others hope for a better future. And you are learning what it really means to be a soldier."

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But in this season of peace -- you are helping make peace possible. Your sacrifice echoes the words of the scriptures: "When I was thirsty, you gave me water...When I was hungry, you gave me food." May God bless you all, and may God bless the United States of America.

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(Grossman/Walters)

TP

Draft Two

PRESIDENTIAL TALKING POINTS: SOMALIA VISIT  
12/31/92 - 1/1/93

- o I'm here because I believe in this mission, because I believe in you. We've already made great progress: within 36 hours of my pledge of assistance, we had teams on the ground. Today.-- about 17,000 troops are in place. We've delivered almost 20 thousand tons of food, secured bases from Baidoa to Bardera. The port is open, food is moving, people are being helped.
  
- o Our objective is limited, our mission defined: The United States, shoulder to shoulder with the coalition, will secure the peace so that help can get through. Operation Restore Hope will do just that. \\
  
- o No President is quick to order American troops abroad. So let me be clear: we will finish the job, hand the security mission back to the UN, and we'll get you home. \\
  
- o Your country and your families support you. One dad, Ret. Major Jimmie Rich, of Tennessee, sent me a copy of a letter to his son in Somalia. He wrote: "Today when I was putting the Christmas lights outside, I realized that by being in Somalia you will have the best Christmas ever. I know that sounds crazy, but it is true when you think of the REAL meaning of Christmas."

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- o You're here on a mandate from the UN, a mission of a new world order. But your sacrifice answers an even greater mandate, the old words of a timeless order: "When I was thirsty, you gave me water...When I was hungry, you gave me food." May God bless our work here, and our home, the United States of America.

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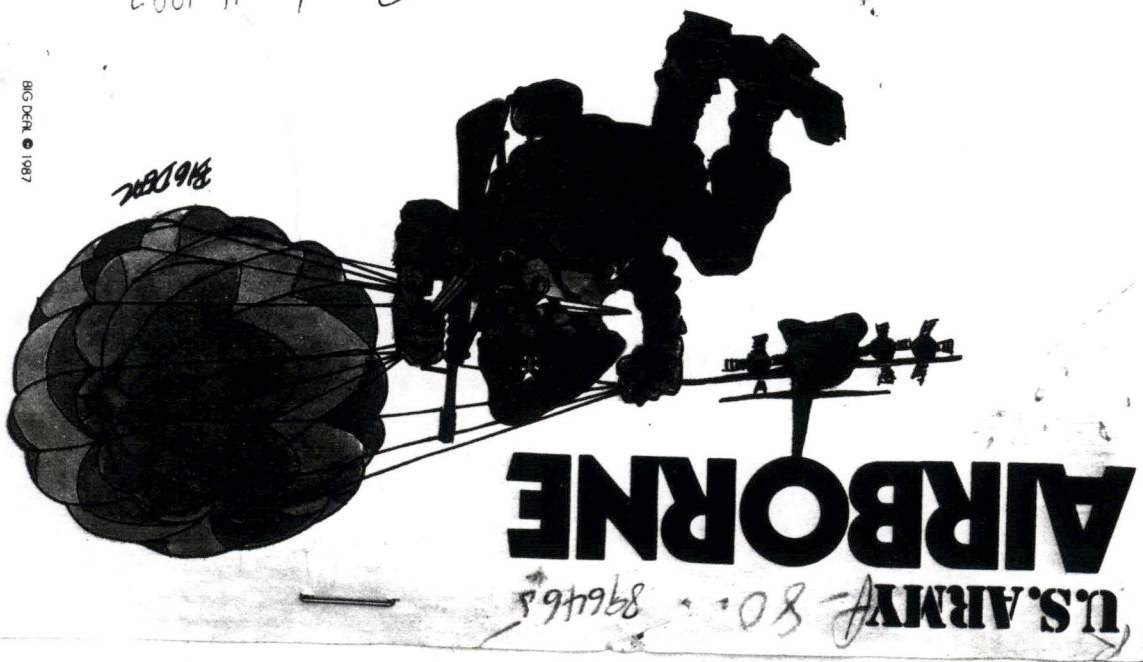
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Dear President & Mrs. Bush:

I have just watched your live announcement on CNN regarding the decision to send troops to Somalia on this humanitarian mission. My husband is a Staff Sergeant with 603 AFHQ Div. at Fort Drum, NY. As I write this, he and his men are preparing for their upcoming deployment to Somalia. ... I wanted you to know how much I appreciate your concern for the men and women who will serve on this mission and also for your recognition of the sacrifices that we, as their families, also make for our country. [Kevin] My husband and I will celebrate our first wedding anniversary in 10 days, so I am still fairly new to the military life. I am very proud of my husband's career [Curt]

December 4, 1992



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Dec. 4, 1992  
Page Two

and I have a great deal of respect  
and faith in my husband's ability as a  
soldier.

I believe you will do all in your  
power to... assure a successful completion  
to this mission; and bring our men and  
women home safely.

I wish for both of you and your  
family a very Merry Christmas and a  
wonderful New Year.

Respectfully,

Melanie L. Knapp-Cook

wife of: SSG Kevin M. Cook  
Co C 2/14 Inf.  
Ft. Drum, NY

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Watertown, NY 13601