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McNally
December 11, 1989
Draft Two (B:X-MAS)

**PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
THE WHITE HOUSE
THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 1989, 5:45 P.M.**

LIKE EVERY HOUSE, THE WHITE HOUSE IS ALIVE WITH HOLIDAY
TRADITIONS, TRADITIONS THAT ENDEAR, TRADITIONS THAT ENDURE.

AND THE WHITE HOUSE IS ALIVE WITH THE MERRY GHOSTS OF
CHRISTMAS PAST. THE JOYFUL SOUNDS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON'S FIDDLE.
THE WARM SMELLS OF THE CHRISTMAS DINNER ABE LINCOLN'S SON HOSTED
FOR THE NEEDY. THE RICH, DEEP ECHOES OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT
READING DICKENS' "CHRISTMAS CAROL" TO HIS GRANDCHILDREN. \\

WE'LL HONOR ONE HOLIDAY TRADITION A WEEK FROM TONIGHT, WHEN
WE CELEBRATE THE BEGINNING OF HANUKKAH WITH A SPECIAL WHITE HOUSE
CEREMONY. AND ANOTHER BEGINS TONIGHT, HERE BESIDE THE WHITE
HOUSE, WHERE WE GATHER TO LIGHT THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE.

BUT THIS IS NO ORDINARY CHRISTMAS. \\

THIS IS THE CHRISTMAS WE'VE AWAITED FOR 50 YEARS. \\\

FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE URALS, 1989 IS ENDING BRIGHT WITH
THE PROSPECT OF A FAR BETTER CHRISTMAS THAN EUROPE HAS EVER
KNOWN, A FAR BETTER FUTURE THAN THE WORLD DARED TO DREAM. \\

HALF A CENTURY AGO THERE BEGAN IN CENTRAL EUROPE A STRUGGLE
THAT LEFT AS ITS LEGACY A DIVIDED BERLIN, A DIVIDED GERMANY, A
DIVIDED EUROPE.

WORLD WAR II ALSO BECAME THE GREAT DIVIDE FOR MY GENERATION,
AN ABYSS FROM WHICH MANY WOULD NEVER RETURN, AND A TOUCHSTONE
AGAINST WHICH WE WOULD FOREVER MEASURE TIME AND CHANGE. \\

AND IN THIS TIME OF GREAT HOPE, IT IS EASY TO FORGET THE THIN MARGIN THAT OFTEN SEPARATED OUR ALLIANCE AND ITS ARMIES FROM DEFEAT. 50 YEARS AGO POLAND HAD FALLEN AND EUROPE WAS HELD IN THE ICY GRIP OF ITS DARKEST WINTER. NONE COULD IMAGINE THE AGONY AND THE ANGUISH THAT WOULD BE ENDURED BEFORE THE WORLD WAS RID OF THAT HORROR. \\\

I THINK OF CHRISTMAS EVE 1944. 10 MILLION AMERICANS IN UNIFORM. HERE IN WARTIME WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT LIT THE NATIONAL TREE WITH THE SAME ELECTRIC SWITCH I HAVE HERE TONIGHT.

IT WOULD BE ROOSEVELT'S LAST CHRISTMAS. THE LAST CHRISTMAS OF THE WAR. THE LAST CHRISTMAS THAT WOULD KNOW JUST ONE BERLIN.

ON THAT SNOWY NIGHT I RODE A TRAIN EASTWARD ACROSS AMERICA. BACK FROM THE PACIFIC. 20 YEARS OLD. ON CHRISTMAS EVE THE TRAIN STOPPED JUST OUTSIDE NEW YORK, AND YOUNG BARBARA PIERCE CLIMBED ABOARD. AND WHEN WE JOINED MY PARENTS THERE WAS LAUGHTER AND TEARS, HUGS AND JOY, THE LOVE AND WARMTH OF FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS.

TWO WEEKS LATER, BARBARA AND I WERE WED.

FOR US THE WAR WAS OVER. BUT FOR HALF OF EUROPE, THE WAR AND ITS AFTERMATH WAS TO CONSUME THREE GENERATIONS. \\\

DECEMBER 1948 BROUGHT THE BERLIN AIRLIFT, BRAVE YOUNG AMERICAN FLYERS BATTLING TIME AND THE ELEMENTS TO BRING CHRISTMAS TO AN ISLAND OF FREEDOM IN THE GRAY, GRAY SEAS OF EASTERN EUROPE.

THE YEARS TOOK A TOLL BUT NEVER DIMMED OUR FAITH. ON CHRISTMAS MORNING 1955, RADIO FREE EUROPE BROADCAST PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S MESSAGE BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN, TO THE PEOPLES OF

EASTERN EUROPE. HE TOLD THEM: "DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE...SHARE YOUR FAITH THAT RIGHT, IN THE END, WILL PREVAIL -- TO BRING YOU ONCE AGAIN AMONG THE FREE NATIONS OF THE WORLD."

20 YEARS LATER, DURING MY FIRST WINTER IN CHINA, I SAT IN CHURCH WITH A HARDY BAND OF COURAGEOUS CHINESE CHRISTIANS, AND FOUND THE FACE OF CHRISTMAS EVEN IN A GODLESS LAND.

IN MY FIRST WINTER AS VICE PRESIDENT, POLAND WAS CUT OFF FROM THE WORLD, SILENCED BY THE IRON FIST OF MARTIAL LAW. THAT CHRISTMAS EVE, WE KEPT A CANDLE BURNING ALL NIGHT IN THE WHITE HOUSE, IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE POLISH PEOPLE.

TODAY FIFTY WINTERS HAVE COME AND GONE. AND TODAY THAT LONE CANDLE HAS GROWN TO FILL THE COBBLED SQUARES OF ANCIENT EUROPE, AND GIVE BIRTH TO A NEW SEASON OF HOPE.

AND LAST MONTH, AS LECH WALESZA CAME TO AMERICA, THE WALL CAME TUMBLING DOWN. \\\

AND AS ANOTHER WINTER DESCENDED ACROSS EUROPE -- SPRING RETURNED TO PRAGUE. \\\

TODAY AT THE WALL A NEW SOUND RINGS OUT. NOT THE HAMMER AND SICKLE -- BUT THE HAMMER AND CHISEL. \\\

AND THE GLAD SOUND YOU HEAR IS NOT ONLY THE BELLS OF CHRISTMAS -- BUT ALSO THE BELLS OF FREEDOM. \\\

UNCONQUERABLE PEOPLE. \ \ UNQUENCHABLE DREAMS. \ \

LIKE THE ALLIED VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II, TODAY'S NEW SEASON OF HOPE WAS NOT FOREORDAINED. IT IS THE RESULT OF HARD WORK,

COMMITMENT, AND FARSIGHTED LEADERS WHO LOOKED BEYOND THE HORIZON,
AND SAW AN IMAGE OF A WORLD THAT COULD BE.

TODAY THE TRIUMPH THAT LOOMS IS LIKE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS.
IT IS NOT A TRIUMPH FOR ONE PARTICULAR COUNTRY OR ONE PARTICULAR
RELIGION -- BUT A TRIUMPH FOR ALL HUMANKIND. \ \

IT'S SAID THAT THE CHRISTMAS TREE BEGAN MORE THAN 500 YEARS
AGO, WHEN MARTIN LUTHER WAS WALKING THROUGH THE WOODS AND WAS
STRUCK BY THE SIGHT OF BRILLIANT, WINTER-WHITE STARS TWINKLING
THROUGH THE SNOWY BRANCHES OF AN EVERGREEN TREE.

AND SO IT IS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE THAT WE GATHER THIS YEAR
TO LIGHT A LIVING TREE, A TREE WHOSE BRANCHES ARE HUNG WITH A
THOUSAND STARS, A THOUSAND POINTS OF LIGHT.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE A TIME OF LAUGHTER AND CHILDREN. A TIME
WHEN SONGS FILL THE AIR, AND HOPE FILLS OUR HEARTS.

WE'VE WORKED HARD THIS YEAR TO HELP BUILD A BETTER AMERICA,
TO MAKE THIS A KINDER, GENTLER NATION. BUT THERE REMAINS A WORLD
OF NEED ALL AROUND US. AND WHEN WE SAY THE TIMES PRESENT
OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREAT AND HISTORIC CHANGE, IT'S NOT ONLY IN
EASTERN EUROPE, BUT RIGHT HERE AT HOME, WHERE "PEOPLE POWER" CAN
ALSO DO A WORLD OF GOOD.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, REACH OUT TO SOMEONE RIGHT WHERE YOU
LIVE. THE HUNGRY AND THE AFFLICTED. THE LONELY, THE AGED AND
THE YOUNG. THOSE WHO ARE ILLITERATE. AND THOSE WHO, LIKE MARY
AND JOSEPH, SIMPLY HAVE NO PLACE FOR THEIR FAMILY TO SLEEP.

BECAUSE FROM NOW ON IN AMERICA, "THERE'S NO ROOM AT THE INN"
IS SIMPLY NOT AN ACCEPTABLE ANSWER. \ \

AND FROM NOW ON IN AMERICA, ANY DEFINITION OF A SUCCESSFUL LIFE MUST INCLUDE SERVING OTHERS. \\\

FOR CHRISTMAS IS MEASURED NOT BY WHAT'S BENEATH YOUR TREE, BUT BY WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR HEART. \\\

IN THE DEEP DECEMBER DUSK OF CHRISTMAS EVE, THE CHURCHES AND THE STREETS EMPTY OUT INTO THE NIGHT, AND A WINTER STILLNESS DESCENDS GENTLY ACROSS THE LAND. DRIVING BY THE FARMS AND THE CITIES AND TOWNS, THE WINDOWS ALL LOOK THE SAME, TV'S GLOWING BLUE IN THE WINTER TWILIGHT.

BUT INSIDE EACH HOUSE THERE ARE PEOPLE WITH STORIES TO TELL, THERE ARE FAMILIES BOUND TOGETHER IN THE JOY AND THE STRUGGLE OF LOVE.

AND EACH CHRISTMAS EVE, IN MANY OF THOSE HOUSES, FAMILIES GATHER FOR A MODERN FABLE ABOUT LOVE, FAITH, AND THE IMAGINATION. THE MOVIE IS CALLED IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, AND IT COMES WITH A MESSAGE AS SIMPLE AS CHRISTMAS ITSELF:

EVERY MAN'S LIFE IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT TOUCHES SO MANY OTHER LIVES.

AND IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT, IN THE FADING GLOW OF THE FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE AND THE RICH, WARM-WAX SMELL OF CANDLES JUST GONE OUT, PARENTS STAND ALONE BESIDE THEIR SLEEPING CHILDREN. THERE'S HOPE IN THEIR HEARTS. A WHISPERED PRAYER ON THEIR LIPS. THEY BRUSH THE HAIR FROM THE EYES OF THE INNOCENTS. AND IN THAT MOMENT, PERHAPS, WE SEE WHAT IS ETERNAL IN CHRISTMAS -- AND IN OURSELVES. \\\

THIS YEAR, THE SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAYS IS AT LONG LAST
MATCHED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.

AND TONIGHT THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM AND THE CANDLES OF THE
MENORAH STILL CAST THEIR LIGHT IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD, WITH
A TIMELESS MESSAGE OF HOPE AND RENEWAL THAT RADIATES TO PEOPLE OF
ALL FAITHS. \\

IT IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW DECADE -- AND THE END OF AN OLD
CENTURY. WHATEVER YOUR DREAM, WHATEVER STAR YOU'RE FOLLOWING --
THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT WITH POSSIBILITIES. \\

THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM GREETING ON THIS COLD WINTER'S
NIGHT. GOD BLESS YOU ALL THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON. AND NOW, LET'S
TURN ON THE NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE. \\\

#

Grant/Simon
December 5, 1990
A: XMASINDC
2:00 p.m.

**BRIEF REMARKS: CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON PROGRAM
THE PENSION BUILDING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1990
6:00 p.m.**

Thank you, John [Denver]. And to all the performers: What a wonderful program this year -- Barbara and I really enjoyed the magnificent singing, the glorious music, and the warm Christmas spirit that has filled this fabulous room.

We all know that in the hubbub of the holidays, it's easy to forget that Christmas is more than just how many presents we get ... or how big the tree is this year.

Christmas is remembering the story from 2000 years ago, of Mary and Joseph being turned away from the inn on a cold winter's night. It's reaching out -- 365 days a year -- to the hungry, the lonely, the aged, the illiterate, and those, like Mary and Joseph, who simply have no place to sleep.

And Christmas reminds us of the star of Bethlehem, leading the three kings toward the Child in the manger. Over the past year, the light of liberty began to shine around the world -- and Christmas in cities far away from ours will be **different** this time -- cities like Prague, Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and even Moscow, where not only the bells of Christmas but the bells of **freedom** ring out proud and true.

This year, the wish of the heavenly angels to the frightened shepherds -- "**peace on Earth**" -- holds special meaning. To all

the men and women serving in the Persian Gulf, defending freedom and keeping the peace: know that you are in our thoughts every day, and your safe return home is in our prayers every night.

Christmas fills our hearts with hope for the future -- one of peace, goodwill, and freedom for all mankind. **May this coming year be the best ever for all of us.**

This evening has been such a treat. From the Bush family to your family -- **Merry Christmas.** And thank you very, very much.

#

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ITEM #32
OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN
INTROS PRESIDENT
BUSH
(Olivia Newton-John)

(OLIVIA IS AT THE C/S PODIUM
WITH THE ENTIRE CAST DOWNSTAGE)

OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

Now it is my great pleasure to
welcome to our stage... the
President of the United States
and Mrs. Bush.

John Denver - intro

aretha Franklin

Reba McEntire

Barbara Hendricks - opera

Naval academy Glee Club

Eastern HS choir

(PRESIDENT AND MRS. BUSH ASCEND THE STAIRS
AND CROSS TO C/S PODIUM)

*Sing Hark the
Herald Sing*

(INTO: PRESIDENT MESSAGE)

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ITEM #22
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(President Bush)

PRESIDENT BUSH

Thank you very much.

(APPLAUSE)

Please... well Olivia, thank you very much. You know Barbara and I don't often see this many stars together all at once. I think finally -- somebody understood what I meant by a "thousand points of light".

You know we've been thrilled by tonight's program, the musical inspiration, the wonder, the Christmas excitement and it has really given our holidays a magnificent beginning.

For all of the kids and the families that are here; and for our own family; and for many watching across the country, this will be a very special Christmas.

(MORE)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(CONT'D)

PRESIDENT BUSH (CONT'D)

It is a time when we think about giving more of ourselves. We understand that the value of our lives is not measured by our possessions, but by the good we do for others and each of us can be a "point of light" in someone else's life - making the holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

Christmas is always a time to celebrate the birth of God's love on earth. But this year, Christmas has a powerful new meaning. For people around the world, Christmas in 1989 will be a moment to be remembered. A moment of new faith in freedom. New hope for peace.

For forty years the world has known only a grim and joyless peace - as hard and cold as a long winter night.

(MORE)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(CONT'D)

PRESIDENT BUSH (CONT'D)

But now, everywhere, we see signs
of a warmer, more hopeful peace,
like a candle that flickers in a
distant window and it beckons,
encourages, casts a bright glow in
the world's darkest corners.

Changes come, and challenge us.

Freedom comes, and lights a candle
that must never be put out. And
so let's pray to God to give us
the strength to help bring peace
and freedom to a hopeful, changing
world.

We can see new possibilities for
prosperity. And a new peace,
within our reach, within this
century.

(MORE)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(CONT'D)

PRESIDENT BUSH (CONT'D)

So let every candle we light,
every hand we offer, symbolize the
hope of a new century, the hope of
mankind: that there will indeed be
peace on earth, good will, and the
blessings of freedom, for all
people.

Thank you.. and thank you for this
special treat, all of you. And
merry Christmas to all. Thank you
very, very much.

(APPLAUSE)

(INTO: "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS")

(MORE)

CHRIST IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM
WITH THE ANGELIC HOST PROCLAIM
JOIN THE RHYTHM OF THE SKIES--
C. JOYFUL ALL YE NATIONS RISE
GOD AND SINNERS RECONCILED
PEACE ON EARTH AND MERCY MILD--
GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING

B. HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

ALL

(4)

A. (ORCH)

MUSIC: "HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING"

HARK THE HERALD
ANGELS SING
(D) EDWARD GIBSON, VICE
PRESIDENT, DIVISION OF
MUSIC, THE NATIONAL
ACADEMY OF ARTS, WASHINGTON, D.C.
H. S. GIBSON, US NAVY
ACADEMY GLEE CLUB, WASHINGTON
JOHN, JAMES GIBSON, WASHINGTON
6, MICHAEL SMITH, WASHINGTON
MRS. BUSH)

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