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Head Start, 25 Years, 5/24/90

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over the past 12 months. Approximately 17,000 Chinese nationals received U.S. visas to emigrate from the mainland in 1989, most for the purpose of family reunification.

The commercial opportunities created by MFN trade status give millions of Chinese workers and thousands of enterprises a stake in China's market-oriented reforms and opening to the West. They also make possible a wide range of contacts with Americans and American institutions that expose Chinese students, workers, teachers, and officials to our free enterprise system and political values. MFN status is essential for maintaining our commercial relationship with China and to avoid a costly trade war that will hurt business interests and consumers in both countries. In 1989 U.S.-China trade amounted to \$18 billion, and China was our 10th largest trading partner worldwide.

MFN also bolsters confidence in Hong Kong's free enterprise economy, which is heavily dependent on U.S.-China trade and the health of industries in southern China. Not to continue MFN for China would deliver a terrible blow to Hong Kong, costing as many as 20,000 jobs and reducing the colony's GNP by as much as 2.5 percent. Hong Kong should not be the innocent victim of our disappointment with the Chinese administration.

We have also heard support expressed for continuation of China's MFN status from Taiwan, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Japan, and others in the Asian-Pacific region.

As we approach the anniversary of the tragedy in Beijing, we pay tribute to its victims by continuing to sustain as high a level of people-to-people contact and commerce as we can. The U.S. Government intends to press vigorously during the coming year for significant improvement in China's human rights practices. We want to see China's people enjoy the full scope of human rights to which people all over the world are entitled.

In the notification to Congress, the President reaffirmed that the sanctions against China he authorized in June 1989 remain in force. They include suspension of arms exports, the suspension of high-level government exchanges, and opposition to all multi-

lateral development bank loans to China except those aimed at addressing basic human needs. U.S. policy remains that normal relations with China are not possible until China takes further major steps to respect human rights and returns to the path of reform.

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on President Bush's Meeting With Provisional President Ertha Pascal Trouillot of Haiti

May 24, 1990

President Bush met at 10 a.m. in the Oval Office with Ertha Pascal Trouillot, Provisional President of Haiti. President Bush expressed admiration and respect for President Trouillot and welcomed her commitment, and that of the Haitian people, to hold a free and fair election. In this regard, President Bush took note of the invitation by the Haitian Government to the U.N. and OAS to provide technical assistance and election observers. President Bush expressed hope that an election date be set soon and that the Haitian Government and Armed Forces take all necessary steps to enhance respect for human rights and ensure a secure environment for the election campaign and the balloting. President Bush said the United States will support Haiti's transition to democracy with election aid.

The two Presidents also discussed Haiti's economic situation and U.S. assistance. We have announced \$18 million in PL-480 food assistance to Haiti (\$6 million now and \$12 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 1991) and are examining other ways to assist Haiti's development.

Remarks at a White House Ceremony Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Head Start

May 24, 1990

Well, good morning, and welcome to this beautiful morning in the Rose Garden. And

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Representative Kildee's here. I appreciate your coming, sir. And to others, welcome. It's a great pleasure to have you here. Connie Horner, Mary Gall, great to see both of you. Let me congratulate you, Connie, as number two in this enormous HHS for what she's doing, and, Mary, to your continued commitment to our young.

First of all, happy 25th birthday to Head Start. Like all birthday parties, today we celebrate both where we've been and where we will be tomorrow.

In May 1965, on a beautiful spring day right here in the Rose Garden, a great idea came into being. President Lyndon Johnson first spoke of a new initiative that he would soon propose: Head Start. And he said then that the program would—here were his words—"rescue these children from the poverty which otherwise could pursue them all their lives. The project," he went on, "is designed to put them on an even footing with their classmates as they enter school."

Since that day, Head Start has reached over 11 million children, providing comprehensive development services to nearly half a million low-income children every year. Head Start provides these children not only with preschool education and social skills but with health and nutrition services as well. Virtually all of the children enrolled in Head Start get the medical attention they need, and for many children, Head Start gives them their best meal of the day.

Everyone agrees Head Start is a program that works for children by enhancing their educational performance and really fostering success in life. Head Start also works for families by offering child care and child development programs for parents, which builds self-confidence, and by encouraging a commitment to improve their lives and the lives of the children. And it works for the thousands of communities nationwide where Head Start graduates give so much right back to society by helping to build strong families and strong neighborhoods.

Today almost a third of the 80,000 Head Start staff members across America are current or former Head Start parents themselves—80,000—parents like Eugenia Boggus, here with us today, who is now

president of the National Head Start Association. Where is she? You stand up. Thank you.

Or Claude Endfield of White River, Arizona. When she enrolled her child in a White Mountain Apache Indian Head Start program in 1973, she was unemployed. She became a volunteer at the Head Start center, then a Head Start teacher, and today is program chairman of the early child development department at Northland Pioneer College in Arizona. Head Start, you see, gave her the skills and confidence she needed to turn her whole life around.

But as vital as the parents and the staff are to the success of Head Start, we must especially congratulate the kids. Many—some of you kids here are grown up now—but they are grown up now, and because they were given an equal chance at the starting block, they crossed the finish line on their own and most of them winners.

Seba Johnson, for example, attended Head Start as a child in the Virgin Islands and, at the age of 14, became the first black woman skier to participate in the winter Olympics, representing the Virgin Islands. Today she lives in Nevada, where she is training for the next winter Olympics, and is volunteering her time to help celebrate Head Start's 25th anniversary.

Carlos Jimenez of Meadville, Pennsylvania, who was a Head Start student back in 1977. This year Carlos is graduating from high school, third in his class of 320. A National Honor Society member, Carlos will attend college in California this fall.

Or another example, Carl Brenner, who is with us today. Carl? Where's Carl? Right here. Oh, here's our man, right here. He's now going to be performing. Also a Head Start alumnus. Graduated first in his high school class. Now a senior cadet out at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado.

These kids earned a lot of attention with their brilliant success stories, but there are also quiet ones, special children that otherwise might get overlooked. Take the example of Timothy Combs from Buffalo, West Virginia, a child born with Down's syndrome who wasn't yet talking when he en-

rolled in Head Start at the age of 3. Head Start provided Timothy with speech therapy, help for his hearing problem. And 2 years later, Timothy was able to enroll in public school, where he continues to get the special attention that began in Head Start.

There are so many stories to tell and so many Americans to thank in Head Start centers all around the country: In fact, over 600,000 committed volunteers, each one a Point of Light, are giving their all to make Head Start a national treasure. The kids we have with us today are from Head Start programs throughout the Washington area. And by getting them ready to learn today, we ensure that they too will have success stories to share tomorrow.

It's because of children like these, and parents and staff like many of you here, that at the historic education summit last September in Charlottesville I asked every Governor in the Nation to join in our commitment to quality programs like Head Start and give every poor child a chance to start school ready to learn. We proposed—our administration—the largest one-time funding increase in the history of Head Start, a half a billion dollars. And I know that the Congress will join me in giving Head Start the best 25th birthday present possible, enough—and I salute Representative Kildee in this regard—enough money to enroll as many as 180,000 more children in this successful program.

As they say, that's a gift that keeps on giving by enriching the lives of the kids, strengthening our families, and building our communities. To everyone who has supported Head Start for so many years, thank you, and God bless each and every one of you. Thank you very, very much.

Note: The President spoke at 11:04 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Constance Horner and Mary S. Gall, Under Secretary and Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services at the Department of Health and Human Services, respectively.

Proclamation 6140—25th Anniversary of Head Start, 1990

May 24, 1990

By the President of the United States of America.

A Proclamation

Since its inception 25 years ago, Head Start has helped to put millions of disadvantaged children on the path to success. Offering comprehensive health and nutrition programs, as well as educational and social services, Head Start helps to ensure that these children enter school ready to learn.

Too often, children from low-income families begin school with significant physical needs, as well as a lack of optimism and self-confidence. Head Start not only emphasizes proper nutrition and the early identification and treatment of health problems, but also offers disadvantaged children a variety of learning experiences designed to help them grow in curiosity and self-esteem. Promoting the intellectual and emotional growth of these children, as well as their physical well-being, Head Start has been a model for child development programs.

Head Start has effectively included children with disabilities and assisted them in obtaining the social and cognitive skills needed for achievement in school. Currently, more than 13 percent of Head Start participants are children with disabilities. Head Start staff members cooperate with other community agencies as they work to meet the special needs of these children.

An essential element of every Head Start program is the sustained involvement of parents. Because they are their children's first and greatest teachers, parents play a very important role in planning and implementing Head Start programs—either through membership on Head Start Policy Councils or through participation in classroom activities. In fact, parents of present and former students constitute more than one-third of Head Start's paid staff.

While government leadership is important, the caring and dedication of parents

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BRIEF REMARKS: 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START
THE ROSE GARDEN
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1990
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((Acknowledgements))

First of all, Happy 25th Birthday to Head Start! Like all birthday parties, today we celebrate both where we've been and where we are headed.

In May, 1965, on a beautiful spring day right here in the Rose Garden, a **great idea became a working reality** -- President Lyndon Johnson signed the law that created Head Start. He said then that the program would "rescue these children from the poverty which otherwise could pursue them all their lives. The project is designed to put them on an even footing with their classmates as they enter school."

Since that day, Head Start has "rescued" **over 11 million children**, providing comprehensive development services to nearly half-a-million low-income children and their families every year. Head Start provides these children not only with preschool education, but with health and nutrition services as well. Ninety-nine percent of the children enrolled in Head Start get the medical attention they need. And for many children, Head Start gives them their best meal of the day.

Everyone agrees Head Start is a program that **works for children** -- by enhancing their school performance, fostering success in life, and bringing children with disabilities into the

mainstream that much faster. Head Start also works for families -- by offering educational and career opportunities for parents, by building self-confidence in parents who participate in the programs, and by encouraging a commitment to improve their lives. And it works for the thousands of communities nationwide where Head Start "graduates" give so much back to society, by building strong families and solid neighborhoods.

Today, over a third of the 80,000 Head Start staff members across America are former Head Start parents themselves. Parents like Eugenia Boggus, here with us today, who is now president of the National Head Start Association.

Or Claude Endfield -- when she enrolled her child in the White Mountain Apache Indian Head Start program in 1973, she was unemployed. She became a volunteer at the Head Start Center, then a Head Start teacher, and today is program chairman of the Early Childhood Department at Northland Pioneer College in Arizona. Head Start gave her the skills and confidence she needed to turn her life around.

But as vital as the parents and the staff are to the success of Head Start, we must congratulate the kids too. Many are grown up now, and because they were given an equal chance at the starting block -- they crossed the finish line on their own, and most of them winners.

Seba Johnson, for example, attended Head Start as a child in the Virgin Islands and, at the age of fourteen, became the first black woman skier to participate in the winter Olympics,

representing the Virgin Islands. Today she lives in Nevada, where she is training for the next winter Olympics -- ((presumably with the Jamaican bobsled team)) -- and is volunteering her time to help celebrate Head Start's twenty-fifth anniversary. And Carlos Jimenez who was a Head Start student in Pennsylvania in 1977. This year, Carlos is graduating from high school, third in his class of 320. A National Honor Society member, Carlos will attend college in California this fall. Or Carl Brenner, also a Head Start alumnus, who graduated first in his high school class and is now a senior cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

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