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**Record Group/Collection:** George H.W. Bush Presidential Records  
**Collection/Office of Origin:** Speechwriting, White House Office of  
**Series:** Smith, Curt, Files  
**Subseries:** Chron File, 1989-1992

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**OA/ID Number:** 13888  
**Folder ID Number:** 13888-035

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**Folder Title:**  
Salinas Arrival, Washington D.C., 10/3/89

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(Smith/Blessey)  
Draft One  
September 21, 1989  
SALINAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALINAS ARRIVAL  
SOUTH LAWN  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1989

President Salinas and Mrs. Salinas, Secretaries Solana and Baker, Ambassadors Petriciolo and Negrofonte, members of the delegation and friends.

Less than one year ago, two Presidents-elect met in Houston, Texas. We met, if I might add this personal note, the day after Harvard's football Crimson fell to the mighty men of Yale.

But in our discussions, Mr. President, both sides triumphed. For even then, we began discussions about what for each of us is a major Presidential responsibility -- defining and enhancing the Mexican-U.S. relationship.

Mr. President, you and I went to Houston certain of the importance of our discussions. For ours is the world's broadest and most complex bilateral agenda. But I think it fair to say that neither of us envisioned the degree of their success.

That success was embodied by what has come to be known as "The Spirit of Houston" -- our joint commitment to create the framework of mutual trust and understanding. And in the past year, that spirit has strengthened already firm Mexican-American ties.

Together, Mexico and the United States have negotiated a solution to the debt question. And developed greater cooperation

in the war against drugs. Together, we have improved opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. And nurtured our environment. In sum, finding new ways to reaffirm old bonds.

These steps were underway when President Salinas and I met last July in Paris -- and the effect was clear: A superb bilateral relationship was now even better. For countries with such shared social, economic, and regional interests, no diplomatic feat could be more crucial.

Now, as I welcome President Salinas to our capital for his first State visit, I believe we are about to see additional proof of how Mexico and the United States understand one another. And want to work together. Toward common ends. And concrete results.

Mr. President, I know you love to jog and play tennis. So do I. The bad news is that our time may be otherwise occupied in the next \_\_\_ days. The good news is the reason: We have a full agenda to discuss.

As major trading partners, we must explore ways to expand our commerce. And as members of the Organization of American States, discuss how democracy can be restored to Panama and free and fair elections held in Nicaragua. The plague of drug use and trafficking eclipses boundary, and race; we know that what threatens one Nation in our hemisphere threatens us all.

In each case, strong bilateral cooperation is fundamental to an effective multilateral response. And thankfully, Mr. President, our countries share the good will and commitment

needed to confront, and meet, our challenges. Meet them through candor and mutual respect. And the knowledge that what unites us far surmounts what divides us.

Last night, in remarks I made to the American people (Note: Use if Mexican TV presentation is approved), I spoke of the need to recognize the "permanent importance" of the U.S.-Mexican relationship.

Mr. President, I would like to again refer to that phrase today. For U.S.-Mexican affairs are vital to our respective agendas. Our relations today are strong. They must grow even stronger. And will.

There is a Mexican phrase which goes, \_\_\_\_\_. Translated, it means "You are most welcome." On behalf of the United States of America, President Salinas, let me welcome you to the White House. And to this Nation of your friends.

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