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Folder Title:
U.S.S. Forrestal, Malta, 12/1/89

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(Smith/Blessey)
Draft One
November 22, 1989
NAVY

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: USS FORRESTAL
MALTA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1989

Hello, fellow Navy men. ^{chris} Hello, fellow enlisted men. Hello,
the sons ^{and daughters} of the USS Forrestal. Captain Thomassy --
and thank you for that kind introduction. Admiral Howe, Real
Admiral Alden, above all, friends.

((First, I want to say: As you may have noticed, I
helicoptered here today. // I was going to try a new athletic
activity on my visit to the Forrestal, but I'll confess it:
Barbara convinced me to leave my water skis at home.)) //

((Second, let me add: I'm glad I did. Just as I'm pleased
to be here. It's not that I just happened to be in the
neighborhood and thought I'd drop in. // Which is less than
true. // Or even that's there's no body of water in the world
I'll leave unexplored in my quest to catch a fish. Which is only
partially true.)) //

((Instead, I'll tell you something that is totally true.
It's wonderful to be here among America's sailors of the sea --
among my Naval family. // In fact, I haven't made a speech to
five thousand people since the last Bush family reunion. // And
I promise: My remarks will be brief. // For I know you work 18-
hour days. // So don't worry: I don't mind people falling asleep
during one of my speeches as long as they have an excuse.)) //

I know, for example, that your jobs don't leave much time for speeches. ((In that context, let me confess that I heard one of your sailors tell his buddy they were being rewarded with a visit from President Bush. The other guy said, "If this is a reward, I pray we're never punished.")) //

I know, too, that you have meals to catch. ((And in that spirit, let me say: I want President Gorbachev to get an idea of what U.S. Navy food is like, so I was wondering if it's possible to get some "sliders" to go.)) //

Finally, I'll be brief because I know you have other priorities. Like getting ready for a certain football event next Saturday. // As evidence, consider what a "Bee Bee Stacker" said when I noted that my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev moves us closer to the day when fierce adversaries will never again clash on the field of battle. "I hope you don't mean you're going to negotiate an end to the Army-Navy game." //

Well, you have my word as Commander-in-Chief. I'm not. And let me assure you: As President, I have to remain perfectly neutral in word and deed. So when Army and Navy play, I'll be watching it on television. // Not taking sides. // And patting my old dog, Millie. // And my new dog, Middie. //

Both dogs, of course, were gleams in -- what? -- their great-great-great-grandmother's eye when nearly a-half-century ago, in this very part of the Mediterranean, brave men and women helped to light the lamp of liberty. On Malta, a valiant people endured bombing from the forces of totalitaranism. Aided,

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always, by the armed forces of America and her allies -- daring greatly -- fighting valiantly -- so that freedom could prevail.

An old Indian proverb says: "No one can really know a man until he's walked in his moccasins." Well, I was your age when Malta was under assault. I'm an old Navy man. Flew a plane -- a Torpedo avenger. One of 34 planes assigned to an aircraft carrier. // Like today's F-14, they were called a "Turkey" plane. I hope no pun intended. // I've walked in your moccasins. I value your courage. I know what the Navy means to you. And even more, what you mean to the United States of America.

For more than 220 years now, the Navy has been a citadel of democracy. Declaring self-determination's victory. Living on "the tip of the spear." Think of Nimitz and Halsey and Commodore Perry. And of battles like Inchon and Leyte Gulf. Think of guys I flew with. Leo Nadeau, my rear gunner. My radioman, John Delaney. And of guys you work with. Young Americans. Heroes all.

Now, it's true, of course. Certain things haven't changed since I enlisted in the Navy as a seaman 2nd Class.

I assume maids still come into your quarters, make your beds, and leave a mint on the pillow. // I know you still have a "gator" and "snipers" and "grapes." And dinner is still called ^{dinner} the same. I'm sometimes tempted to use Navy jargon at the White House, but there are some Congressmen who would be a little leary if I called up and asked them to join me for "mid'rats."

((Then, there's the zest for off-duty hours: That, too, is constant. I hear you missed a few days of liberty sitting off the coast of France in bad weather. I'm not going to say anything about the exuberance you showed when you finally hit town, but I want to assure you that our good relations with the French are still intact anyway.)) //

((And the rivalry between attack pilots and fighter pilots -- that, too, endures. Even though you're still in good hands with an attack pilot and captain Tim "Buzzard" Thomassy. // Now, I was a fighter pilot. But as far as the rivalry goes, I have no comment. Except to note that when they drink beer, one side yells "less filling" and the other yells "Tastes great.)) //

Fellow sailors, those things haven't changed. And neither have these. Yes, it's true my generation was charged with fighting a war. Your's is charged with ~~preventing~~^{preventing the peace} a war. But both want to keep the peace. Both want to nurture freedom. Both know what real peace is not an accident. Not real peace -- the peace which lasts.

For real peace doesn't spring, as the old song goes, through "Wishing and hoping." Real peace evolves from planning, patience, and personal diplomacy. And from allies who are resolute in defense of liberty. Real peace stems from strength that is moral and intellectual, economic and military. And from Nations who use that strength to make fragile peace strong, and temporary peace permanent.

Those lessons helped my generation win World War II. And today, they bring me, and I believe President Gorbachev, to our two days of talks. A meeting for your generation -- and all the generations to come.

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time

For peace can be like a rainbow -- precious, but fleeting. We must seize it. And freedom is like a prairie fire -- today, sweeping the globe. We must fan it. And the horizons of human dignity are like the Mediteranean itself -- boundless and beautiful, eclipsing Nation and race. In Berlin and Budapest. In the tiny girl in Crakow, waving an American flag. And the Polish shopkeeper in Chicago, in love with her native and adopted lands. We must nurture these horizons, raise them. And build a future to enrich the world. A future bereft of fear and tyranny. A future which knows no war.

Don't give up

Will it be easy? Of course it won.t But humanity is on our side. For mankind's deepest impulse is to build, not destroy. And let us remember: God created us in His image to uplift, not oppress. Will we betray this legacy -- and by extension, our wives, our kids, your girlfriends, your folks? No, we will not. Because we must summon our heart and will to build a more secure and peaceful world.

President Gorbachev wants such a world. So do our allies. And so do the uniformed champions of the United States. For this I know: You have sacrificed time away from your beds so that Americans back home can sleep safely in theirs. And this I



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- San-Gee.

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believe: The walls of oppression are tumbling down because of what you have done to keep America's defenses up.

Let me close, then, with a story about Navy men. And Army. Air Force. And Marines. A moment you're too young to remember. For it occurred on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, as Franklin Roosevelt spoke a moving prayer.

"Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith."

Even as he spoke, FDR knew that thousands of America's sons would yield their lives. Yield them bravely and courageously. Yield them so that democracy could prevail. As it is today in Germany and Hungary and Poland. As it must, always, for the children of the world.

Fellow sailors, we are here to live for what those heroes died for. For you, too, are the pride of our Nation -- leading America "straight and true."

Thank you for that -- and God bless you. God bless the example of your lives. And may He protect the Nation that so dearly loves you -- the United States of America.

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(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Three
November 27, 1989
NAVY

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: USS FORRESTAL
MALTA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1989

Hello, fellow Navy men. Hello, the sons of the USS Forrestal. Captain Thomassy -- and thank you for that kind introduction. Admiral Howe, Real Admiral Alden, friends.

((First, I want to say: As you may have noticed, I helicoptered here today. // I was going to try a new athletic activity on my visit to the Forrestal, but I'll confess it: Barbara convinced me to leave my water skis at home.)) //

((Second, let me add: I'm glad I did. Just as I'm pleased to be here. I just happened to be in the neighborhood and thought I'd drop in. // It just goes to prove there's no body of water in the world I'll leave unexplored in my quest to catch fish.)) //

((It is indeed wonderful to be among America's sailors of the sea -- among my Naval family. // In fact, I haven't made a speech to five thousand people since the last Bush family reunion. // And I promise: My remarks will be brief. // Because I know you work 18-hour days. // So don't worry: I don't mind people falling asleep during one of my speeches as long as they have an excuse.)) //

I know, for example, that your jobs don't leave much time for speeches. After all, you can't afford to remain stationary

for long. ((In that context, I was warned not to stand too long in one place aboard ship. Anything that doesn't move gets painted.)) //

I know, too, that you have meals to eat. ((So let me say: Because I want President Gorbachev to get an idea of what U.S. Navy food is like, I was wondering if it's possible to get some "sliders" to go.)) //

Finally, I'll be brief because I know you have other priorities. Like getting ready for a certain football event next Saturday. // As evidence, consider what a "Bee Bee Stacker" said when I noted that my meeting with Mr. Gorbachev moves us closer to the day when fierce adversaries will never again clash on the field of battle. "I hope you don't mean you're going to negotiate an end to the Army-Navy game." //

Well, you have my word as Commander-in-Chief. I'm not. And let me assure you: As President, I have to remain perfectly neutral in word and deed. ((So when Army and Navy play, I'll be watching it on television. // Not taking sides. // And patting my old dog, Millie. // And my new dog, Middie.)) //

Nearly a-half-century ago, of course, in this very part of the Mediterranean, America -- thank goodness -- was taking sides. For on Malta itself, as a brave people endured savage attack, they were aided by the armed forces of America and her allies -- daring greatly -- fighting valiantly -- so that freedom could prevail.

An old Indian proverb says: "No one can really know a man until he's walked in his moccasins." Well, I was your age when Malta was under assault. I'm an old Navy man. Flew a plane -- a Torpedo avenger. One of 34 planes assigned to an aircraft carrier. // Like today's F-14, they were called a "Turkey" plane. I hope no pun intended. // I've walked in your moccasins. I know what the Navy means to you. And even more, what you mean to the United States of America.

For more than 220 years now, the Navy has been a defender of democracy. Living on "the tip of the spear." Think of Nimitz, Halsey, and Commodore Perry. And of battles like Inchon and Leyte Gulf. Think of guys I flew with. Leo Nadeau, my rear gunner. My radioman, John Delaney. And of guys you work with. Young Americans. Heroes all.

Now, it's true, of course. Certain things haven't changed since I enlisted in the Navy as a seaman 2nd Class.

I assume maids still come into your quarters, make your beds, and leave a mint on the pillow. // I know you still have a "gator" and "snipes" and "grapes." And dinner is still called the mess. I'm sometimes tempted to use Navy jargon at the White House, but there are some Congressmen who would be a little leary if I called up and asked them to join me for "mid'rats."

((Then, there's the zest for off-duty hours: That, too, is constant. I hear you missed a few days of liberty sitting off the coast of France in bad weather. I'm not going to say anything about the exuberance you showed when you finally hit

town, but I want to assure you that our good relations with the French are still intact anyway.)) //

((And the rivalry between attack pilots and fighter pilots -- that, too, endures. Even though you're still in good hands with an attack pilot -- your captain, Tim "Buzzard" Thomassy. // Now, I was a fighter pilot. But as far as the rivalry goes, I have no comment. Except to note that when they drink beer, one side yells "less filling" and the other yells "tastes great.))

As you can see, some things haven't changed. Yes, it's true my generation was charged with winning a war, and yours is charged with preserving the peace. But both want to protect freedom. That hasn't changed. Nor has the knowledge that real peace -- the peace which lasts -- is not an accident.

Real peace takes planning, patience, and at times, personal sacrifice. It takes a partnership with allies who are resolute in defense of liberty. Real peace stems from strength that is moral and intellectual, economic and military. And from Nations who use that strength to make fragile peace strong, and temporary peace permanent.

Fellow sailors, those lessons helped my generation win World War II. And today, they bring me, and I believe President Gorbachev, to our two days of talks. A meeting for your generation -- and all the generations to come.

You know, there is a painting in the White House which embodies this promise. It's called The Peacemakers. It hangs on

the wall of my study. And it portrays the decency -- and humanity -- of one of our greatest leaders.

I've often said that Abraham Lincoln is one of my favorite Presidents. I suppose virtually every American feels that way. This painting shows why. It pictures Lincoln and his generals, meeting near the end of a war that pitted brother against brother. Outside, at that moment, a battle rages. And yet what we see in the distance is a rainbow -- that symbol of hope, of the passing of the storm.

For me, this painting is a constant reassurance that the cause of peace will triumph. And that ours will be a future bereft of tyranny and fear. I believe President Gorbachev wants such a future. As do our allies. And all those who believe mankind's deepest impulse is to create a more secure and peaceful world.

For evidence, look to the present -- and to the extraordinary changes of the past few months. Look at the workers of Berlin and Budapest. And that tiny girl in Krakow waving an American flag. Look at the young couple embracing in Wenceslas Square as they felt ~~the first days~~ ^{those beautiful moments} of freedom -- their pose so reminiscent of the famous World War II photo of that nurse and sailor kissing in Times Square.

And, yes, look to tomorrow -- and to yourselves. For you, too, know that the horizons of democracy are like the Mediterranean -- boundless and beautiful, eclipsing Nation and race. Because of you -- and ~~your brethren~~ ^{Somebody like you} in Hungary, Poland,

Germany, Czechoslovakia -- this meeting is taking place. And
~~liberty~~ ^{Freedom} is sweeping the globe. Our meeting ^{here in Manila} will last two days.
 But ~~that liberty~~ ^{The Freedom we seek} must last forever. // ^{about the freedom}

Let me close ^{with a story} with a story that ~~symbolizes~~ ^{symbolizes} the liberty -- and respect for dignity -- that can make each one of us a "peacemaker." A moment you're too young to remember -- but which wrote a glorious page in American history. It occurred on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, as Franklin Roosevelt spoke a moving prayer.

"Our sons," he said, "pride of our Nation. Lead them straight and true. Give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness to their faith."

Like the men of D-Day, you, too, are the "pride of our Nation." As the U.S. Navy has been in wartime -- from the Battle of Lake Erie to the Atlantic Conference. And in peacetime -- spurring the space program which points us toward the stars. Keeping our hearts aflight -- and our faith unyielding. Sacrificing time away from your homes so that other Americans can sleep safely in theirs.

Today, the walls of oppression are tumbling down because of what you have done to keep America's defenses up. Thank you for that -- for writing still-new pages in the history of America and its Navy. God bless you. And may He protect the Nation that you are keeping "straight and true" -- the United States of America.

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(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Five
November 29, 1989
NAVY

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: USS FORRESTAL
MALTA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1989
1:53 P.M.

Hello, fellow Navy men. Hello, the sons of the USS Forrestal. Captain Thomassy -- and thank you for that kind introduction. Admiral Howe, Real Admiral Allen, friends.

((I'm really pleased to be here. Would you believe that I just happened to be in the neighborhood and thought I'd drop in? // No? // How about this just goes to prove there's no body of water in the world I'll leave unexplored in my quest to catch a fish?)) //

((It is indeed wonderful to be among America's sailors of the sea -- among my Naval family. // In fact, I haven't made a speech to five thousand people since the last Bush family reunion. // And I promise you: My remarks will be brief.)) //

I say that because I know your jobs don't leave much time for speeches. After all, on a ship you can't afford to stand still for long. Anything that doesn't move gets painted. //

I know, too, that you have meals to eat. ((In fact, I'd like Chairman Gorbachev to get an idea of what U.S. Navy food is like. // On second thought, forget it. We want to ease tensions.)) //

Finally, I'll be brief because I know you have other priorities. Like getting ready for a certain football event next

Saturday. // Just this morning I was talking with a "B.B. Stacker." And I told him I hope my meeting with Chairman Gorbachev means that fierce adversaries will never again clash on the field of battle. He said, "You mean you're going to negotiate an end to the Army-Navy game?" //

Well, you have my word as Commander-in-Chief. I'm not. And let me assure you: As President, I have to remain perfectly neutral in word and deed. ((So when Army and Navy play, I'll be watching it on television. // Not taking sides. // And patting my old dog, Millie. // And my new dog, Middie.)) //

Nearly a-half-century ago, of course, in this very part of the Mediterranean, young sailors like yourselves were taking sides in very different circumstances. For on Malta itself, as a brave people endured savage attack, they were aided by the armed forces of America and her allies -- daring greatly -- fighting valiantly -- so that freedom could prevail.

An old Indian proverb says: "No one can really know a man until he's walked in his moccasins." Well, I was your age when Malta was under assault. I'm an old Navy man. Flew a plane -- a torpedo bomber called the Avenger. One of 34 planes assigned to an aircraft carrier. I've walked in your moccasins. I know what the Navy means to you. And even more, what you mean to the United States of America.

For more than two centuries now, the Navy has been a defender of democracy. Living on "the tip of the spear." Think of Nimitz, Halsey, and Commodore Perry. And of battles like

Midway and Leyte Gulf. Think of guys I flew with. Leo Nadeau, my rear gunner. My radioman, John Delaney. And of guys you work with. Young Americans. Heroes all.

Now, it's true, of course. Certain things haven't changed since I enlisted in the Navy as a seaman 2nd Class.

I assume maids still come into your quarters, make your beds, and leave a mint on the pillow. // I know you still have a "gator" and "snipes" and "grapes." // You know, I love this Navy jargon. In fact, I'm sometimes tempted to use it at the White House. It's just that some Congressmen might be a little leary if I asked them to join me for "mid'rats." //

((Then, there's the sailors' zest for off-duty hours: That, too, hasn't changed. I hear you missed a few days of liberty sitting off the coast of France in bad weather. And far be it from me to criticize the exuberance you showed when you finally hit town. // Don't worry: Our good relations with the French are still intact anyway.)) //

((And the rivalry between attack pilots and fighter pilots -- that also endures. Now, I was an attack pilot. So I'm sure you'll understand why I say: You're in good hands with your captain, Tim "Buzzard" Thomassy. // And as far as the rivalry goes, I have no comment. Except to note that when they drink beer, one side yells "less filling" and the other yells "tastes great."))

As you can see, some things haven't changed. Yes, it's true my generation was charged with winning a war, and yours is

charged with preserving the peace. But both want to protect freedom. That hasn't changed. Nor has the knowledge that real peace -- the peace which lasts -- is not an accident.

Lasting peace takes planning, patience, and personal sacrifice. It takes a partnership with allies who are resolute in defense of liberty. Lasting peace stems from strength that is moral and intellectual, economic and military. And from nations who use that strength to make fragile peace strong, and temporary peace permanent.

Those lessons helped my generation win World War II. And today, they bring me, and I believe Chairman Gorbachev, to our two days of talks. A meeting for your generation -- and all the generations to come.

You know, there is a painting in the White House which captures this promise. It hangs on the wall of my study. And it portrays the decency -- and humanity -- of one of our greatest leaders.

I've often said that Abraham Lincoln is one of my favorite Presidents. I suppose virtually every American feels that way. This painting shows why. It pictures Lincoln and his generals, meeting near the end of a war that pitted brother against brother. Outside, at that moment, a battle rages. And yet what we see in the distance is a rainbow -- that symbol of hope, of the passing of the storm. The painting's name? -- The Peacemakers.

For me, this painting is a constant reassurance that the cause of peace will triumph. And that ours can be a future free of both tyranny and fear. Our fellow democracies share our hope for such a future. We want the Soviet Union to join us in building it. And that's why I'm meeting with Chairman Gorbachev tomorrow. For the times are on the side of peace. And there are important reasons why.

One of them is that forty years ago, the NATO Alliance was formed in the hope that freedom would one day belong to the millions in Europe still yearning for it. Because NATO remained vigilant, strong, and united, this meeting is taking place.

And the Alliance has been strengthened by America's enduring commitment to its protection. America has been, and remains, a champion of liberty. And because of that, this meeting is taking place.

There are other reasons, too, why freedom's victory is in our grasp. Look at the workers of Berlin and Budapest. And that tiny girl in Krakow waving an American flag. Look at the young couple embracing in Wenceslas Square in Prague as they felt the first precious moments of real hope for freedom -- their pose so reminiscent of the famous World War II photo of that nurse and sailor kissing in Times Square. Because of them, this meeting is taking place.

Finally, this meeting is taking place because you have done your duty. You have kept us strong. And helped the horizons of democracy eclipse Nation and race. Because of you, freedom is

sweeping the globe. Our meeting here in Malta will last two days. But the freedom we seek must last for generations. //

Let me close, then, with a moment you're too young to remember -- but which wrote a glorious page in American history. It occurred on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, as Dwight Eisenhower addressed the sailors, soldiers, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

"You are about to embark," he told them, "upon a great crusade . . . The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And then Ike spoke this moving prayer: "Let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God, upon this great and noble undertaking."

Like the men of D-Day, you, too, are the hope of "liberty-loving people everywhere." As the Navy has been in wartime -- and in peacetime. Keeping our hearts aflight -- and our faith unyielding. Sacrificing time away from your homes so that other Americans can sleep safely in theirs.

Today, the walls of oppression are tumbling down because of what you have done to keep America's defenses up. Thank you for that -- for writing still-new pages in the history of America and her Navy. God bless you and our "great and noble undertaking." And God bless the United States of America.

#

(Smith/Blessey)
Draft Five
November 29, 1989
NAVY

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MALTA
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1989
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don't mind people falling asleep during one of my speeches as
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for speeches. After all, you can't afford to remain stationary
for long. ((In that context, I was warned not to stand too long
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And it goes back to the top

[I say that because I know]

[I'll be brief because I know for example,

*So
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You know, there is a painting in the White House which captures this promise. It hangs on the wall of my study. And it portrays the decency -- and humanity -- of one of our greatest leaders.

I've often said that Abraham Lincoln is one of my favorite Presidents. I suppose virtually every American feels that way.

This painting shows why. It pictures Lincoln and his generals, meeting near the end of a war that pitted brother against brother. Outside, at that moment, a battle rages. And yet what we see in the distance is a rainbow -- that symbol of hope, of the passing of the storm. The painting's name? -- The Peacemakers.

For me, this painting is a constant reassurance that the cause of peace will triumph. And that ours will be a future free of both tyranny and fear. Our fellow democracies share our hope for such a future. We want the Soviet Union to join us in building it. And that's why I'm meeting with Mr. Gorbachev tomorrow. For the times are on the side of peace. Liberty's victory is in our grasp.

Some will ask: Who made this victory possible? Here is our answer: First, look to the past. Forty years ago, the NATO Alliance was formed in the hope that freedom would one day belong to the millions in Europe still yearning for it. Because of NATO, this meeting is taking place. And the Alliance has been strengthened by America's enduring commitment to its protection. America has been, and remains, ^{a champion} ~~resolute in defense~~ of liberty. And because of that, this meeting is taking place.

Then, look to the present -- and to the extraordinary changes of the past few months. Look at the workers of Berlin and Budapest. And that tiny girl in Krakow waving an American flag. Look at the young couple embracing in Wenceslas Square in Prague as they felt the first precious moments of real hope for

freedom -- their pose so reminiscent of the famous World War II photo of that nurse and sailor kissing in Times Square. Because of them, this meeting is taking place.

And, yes, finally, look to tomorrow -- and to yourselves. For you ~~you~~ have done your duty. You have kept us strong. ~~You~~ ^{And}

~~have~~ helped the horizons of democracy eclipse Nation and race.

Because of you -- and so many like you in Hungary, Poland, Germany, Czechoslovakia -- this meeting is taking place. And freedom is sweeping the globe. Our meeting here in Malta will last two days. But the freedom we seek must last forever. //

Let me close, then, with a moment you're too young to remember -- but which wrote a glorious page in American history. A moment which embodied the freedom -- and respect for dignity -- that can make each one of us a "peacemaker." It occurred on D-Day, over a nationwide radio network, as Dwight Eisenhower addressed the sailors, soldiers, and airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force.

"You are about to embark," he told them, "upon a great crusade . . . The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you." And then Ike spoke this moving prayer: "Let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God, upon this great and noble undertaking."

Like the men of D-Day, you, too, are the hope of "liberty-loving people everywhere." As the Navy has been in wartime -- and in peacetime. Keeping our hearts aflight -- and our faith

unyielding. Sacrificing time away from your homes so that other Americans can sleep safely in theirs.

Today, the walls of oppression are tumbling down because of what you have done to keep America's defenses up. Thank you for that -- for writing still-new pages in the history of America and her Navy. God bless you. God bless our "great and noble undertaking." And, yes, the Nation that we so dearly love -- the United States of America.

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