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December 6, 1989
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CARDINALS DINNER
PENSION BUILDING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1989
___:00 P.M.

His Eminences, Reverend Clergy, Chairman Bagley, Mrs. Connelly, Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you, Reverend [[WILLIAM] Byron, for those kind words, and for inviting me to join you.

Two years ago, I had the honor of addressing the kickoff dinner of the 100th anniversary of the Catholic University of America.

((Well, tonight I'm back again. Even though I know this isn't what you have in mind when you preach about the Second Coming. // Still, I am delighted to help conclude your centennial celebration. And to salute those men who embody this University: ~~Six of the eight living~~ American Cardinals.))

((You know, this is quite a gathering. More than 1,000 voices cascading around the Pension Building. And for those of you in the back of the room, I'll try to speak up. // Cardinal Hickey warned me that the agnostics in this room are very bad.)) //

((And speaking of His Eminence, this is some head table. Six archbishops -- each near the top of his field. Notice, I said near, not at. After all, I'm reminded of the football player's response when he was traded from Phoenix to New Orleans:

"Religiously speaking, it is an advancement from a Cardinal to a Saint.")) //

~~I want~~ first, in the spirit of the evening, ^{I want make} to ~~admit to a~~ confession: // The real reason I'm here is to see if anyone has a couple of Orange Bowl tickets they're not using. //

And let me also confess that as I was looking toward tonight, I got to thinking and wondering. Thinking about how Pope John XXIII said, "Religion makes man special." // And wondering: What is it about CUA -- and these six men of God -- which makes them, in their special way, so deserving of applause?

The first reason, I think, is belief in the Almighty. For you accept the eternal teachings of the Sermon on the Mount. You believe, as I do, that life does not begin at birth -- it begins at conception. // You know that there is no State religion -- nor should there ever be -- but spiritual principles were rooted in our Nation's origins -- and always must be. //

Next, service to others. This, too, has helped the Church uphold Christ's special mission to mankind. Think of the many Catholic laymen in public life -- men like Bill Bennett, Bill Riley, and John Sununu. // Poor John. Like many Catholics, as a boy he dreamed of one day becoming Pope. It was only after having eight kids that he settled for Chief of Staff. //

Think of the Catholic charities who illumine "A Thousand Points of Light." And of individuals -- heroes, really -- like Helen Marino Connelly, this year's recipient of CUA's American Cardinals Encouragement Award. Reflecting -- as Catholics do

from Villanova to the Vatican -- the belief that we were placed on earth to do God's work. //

Then, there is a third special quality to the Catholic community: Its devotion to higher learning. Two centuries ago, America's Catholic Church hierarchy was born. And in 1887, it founded a national Catholic University to teach all branches of science and literature. Since then -- from canon law to Islamic and Judaic studies -- you have brought in, not shut out. And from the School of Nursing to the School of Music, sought -- as Lincoln said -- to enrich the Nation's soul by binding up its wounds. For a century, education has been the great equalizer, buoying the Catholic experience. Today -- more than ever, as these Cardinals show -- it remains the great uplifter. //

Finally, thinking of tonight, I thought of Catholics' fidelity to freedom. For it is freedom which brought us to America in 1789 and 1889 -- and which sustains us in 1989.

Catholics, for instance, want the freedom which allows parents, not the government, to choose the best child care for their children -- be it with a grandparent, a neighbor, or a local church. So we have sent legislation to Congress to make good on this pledge: I am determined to protect every church-sponsored care center in America. //

Catholics, too, want the freedom which allows their children to say voluntary school prayer. I share that belief. So I support a Constitutional Amendment restoring voluntary prayer. We need the Faith of our Fathers back in our schools.

*Ben Bala
P. 10/1/89*

*Maryland
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Last week, I met with Chairman Gorbachev off the coast of Malta. Where we talked of another freedom: The freedom to dismantle barriers between Nations. And how principles based on conscience can move mountains or -- as in East Berlin -- even move a wall. //

I know that many of you still have relatives in Berlin and Budapest, Warsaw and Wencelas Square. I know that you want them

to have the same freedoms with which God has blessed America. ~~So~~ ^{the} ~~the right to think and dream and worship as we please.~~ ~~we must uphold the freedoms to live where you want, and think as~~ ~~the right of free expression, the right to equal protection~~ ~~you choose to worship in a church, or synagogue, or mosque.~~

~~under the law. The right to choose our leaders and our destinies~~

Time and again, the Church has reaffirmed such freedoms. In

Eastern Europe, for example, where democracy is on the march. Or

the Phillipines, where a freedom-loving people ^{struggles valiantly} ~~oppose those who~~

^{against} ~~wish tyranny to enslave.~~

^{In this season of Peace on earth} ~~Now~~ ^{our commitment to} let us renew the principle of liberty in other parts of

^{world} ~~the globe.~~ In El Salvador, where we condemn ^{terrorism and murder} ~~abuses~~ whatever

their ~~is~~ ideology: [And we will do everything we can to bring to

justice those who murdered the six Jesuit Priests.] // And in

Nicaragua, too, we cannot rest until liberty's victory is won. //

We want this to be the first hemisphere made up entirely of free, democratic countries. So we have -- and will -- oppose exported revolution. And have -- and will -- be resolute for freedom.

Yes, we speak different languages -- attend different places of worship. But human dignity eclipses Nation. As does "Love thy

Neighbor." For the Golden Rule remains the most enobling Rule -- for our future, and the world.

Let me close, then, by returning to last week's Summit. For I met there with a man who will help shape that world. Our meeting revolved around the need for lasting peace. And as we spoke, I thought of how God does move in mysterious ways. And of ~~the meeting~~ Chairman ^{'s meeting the} Gorbachev ~~had a~~ day before with one of the great men of this, or any, age. His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

Who could have imagined -- ~~years~~ even weeks ago -- that ^{this long-awaited could} ~~their~~ meeting would occur? Or that we would hear these words from a Soviet leader? "Not only . . . should no one interfere in matters of the individual's conscience, we also say that the moral values that religion embodied for centuries can help in the work of renewal of our country, too." And then Chairman Gorbachev added: "in fact, this [renewal] is already happening."

What a wonderful message for this Christmas season -- a message of the renewal which springs from faith, hope, generosity, freedom. What a wonderful legacy to leave our ^{children} ~~kids~~ -- the knowledge that God can live without man, but man cannot live without God. //

Today, the times are on the side of peace. Because the world, increasingly, in on the side of God. // For that, I thank this college, and these Cardinals. As our Nation does. As our children will. And let me leave by thanking you for this evening. Happy birthday to Catholic University. Merry Christmas to each one of you. God bless you. And God bless the United States of America.

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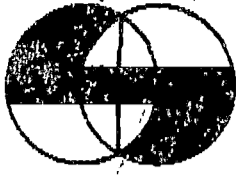
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THE ADDENDUM THAT I SPOKE ABOUT SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS:

In particular, I am
I am ~~delighted~~ ^{delighted}

I am ~~delighted~~ ^{delighted} to welcome their eminences and excellencies ^{for this memorable occasion} from Egypt and Saudi Arabia who have travelled so far to honor the Cardinals and the University. I know the Catholic University of America, celebrating its centennial, is honored by the greetings of SHEIKH GAD AL HACK--Dean of the 1200 year old Al Azar University in Egypt.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS ADDENDUM.

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