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(Smith/Aarhus)
Draft One
June 1, 1992
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: *A* WW II ANNIVERSARY
ROSE GARDEN
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

Fellow veterans. Fellow Americans. Welcome to the White House -- and to the observance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds. A just cause that was democracy's cause: The monumental struggle known as World War II. //

Overnight, World War II transformed America from a people at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. / It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace - - people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do their part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did it because we are Americans -- and America (is good). //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941. For the next six months of the war, news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was overrun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet

*always
will need
freedom's
defense?*

the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began what may have been the greatest naval battle of all time. /

I remember, even now. First, we broke the war code. Then, Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task forces to intercept the fleet that had been sent to attack Midway -- a small group of islands just one thousand miles northwest of Honolulu. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, four enemy carriers were sunk -- destroying their fleet. Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but inevitable. The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in. //

Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's tide of times: When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Bataan and the Bulge / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in swamps and deserts / in the sea and air / giving of themselves -- and often, of their lives. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington. Think of plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. Think of World War II's honor roll: __ Americans dead, and __ wounded. Or the 55 million worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be

divorced from Washington -- just as events in Europe and Asia affect each American today. //

Winston Churchill once said, "Never was any conflict more preventable." Today, let us recall what that lion in winter cried as a 1930s' voice in the wilderness: That no one ever walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / That weakening our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to those with the potential to wage war. //

~~The victory you helped win based on strength, must not be lost because of weakness.~~ That is why as long as I am President, the military's commitment to defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending the military. // (Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us to ~~reduce~~ ^{start reckless reductions} our defense spending.) I say: Only America's vigilance helped win that war -- just as a strong America can now help win the peace. //

That is the kind of world which by Joint Resolution 371, Congress has designated the week of May 31 through June 6, 1992, as "Week for the National Observance of the 50th Anniversary of World War II": A world where differences are solved peacefully - - not violently -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol -- once

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once the fighting stopped.
vowed to take him fishing. / I thought of the father whose son
or daughter would now know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. /
I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let America's
defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of
America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape
us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that
future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God
bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

World War II was a fight we did not seek, against enemies we
did not choose, for a cause *that is first among all* we cherish: The right of all people
to be free. In that spirit, it is my honor to sign the
proclamation designating the national observance of the 50th
anniversary of World War II.

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Call Judy, Hole

212 975 3531

(Smith/Aarhus)
Draft One
June 1, 1992
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WORLD WAR II
ROSE GARDEN
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

Fellow veterans. Fellow Americans. Welcome to the White House -- and to the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds. A just cause that was democracy's cause: The metaphor for freedom known as World War II. //

Fifty years ago this month, at a school in Massachusetts, I heard the Secretary of War give a speech. / "The American soldier," Henry Stimson said, "must be brave without being brutal / self-reliant without boasting / becoming [part] of an irresistible might without losing faith in individual liberty." //

I was 18 years old that sunglint day. I will never forget those words. Nor will a grateful world forget how the American soldier did right -- and thus God's work. As did sailors / airmen / Marines / and families of the United States of America. //

From Bataan to Bastogne, World War II etched what we are -- and what we love. Hating war, we seek only peace. / Despising tyranny, we revere human liberty. / Slow to anger, we are righteous when enraged. Why? Because we are Americans -- and America is good. //

So when attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Normandy and Corregidor / fought amid the shroud of darkness, in unknown lands, to illuminate th night. / They fought in swamps and deserts / in the sea and air / giving of themselves -- but not themselves alone. Often, they gave their lives. They died so that we might live. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington / the plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. Think of the Second World War's honor roll: __ Americans dead, and __ wounded. Or the 55 million worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be divorced from Washington -- just as events in Europe and Asia affect each American today. //

In __, Winston Churchill said of World War II, "Never was any war more preventable." Today, we recall what he cried as a 1930s' voice in the wilderness: That no one ever walks away from appeasing an aggressor. He only crawls. / That weakening our defenses during a time of peace is an open invitation to those with the potential to wage war. //

The victory you helped win based on strength, must not be lost because of weakness. That is why as long as I am President, the military's commitment to defending freedom will be matched by my commitment to defending the militaru. // Some say our victory in the Cold War allows us to reduce our defense spending. I say: Only America's vigilance helped win that war -- just as today a

strong America can help win the peace: The triumph of freedom over tyranny / plenty over want / and health over disease. //

This is the kind of world we fought for and now must work for: A world where differences are solved peacefully -- not violently -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose husband was her confidant and best friend. Or the little girl whose brother -- her idol -- would never return to teach the magic of life. / I thought of the father whose son or daughter would know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. / I thought yo myself: I will never -- ever -- let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today, I think, be proud of America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

Now, it is my honor to sign the proclamation for the national observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

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(Smith/Aarhus)
Draft One
June 1, 1992
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: WW II ANNIVERSARY
ROSE GARDEN
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

Fellow veterans. Fellow Americans. Welcome to the White House -- and to the observance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds. A just cause that was democracy's cause: The monumental struggle known as World War II. //

Overnight, World War II transformed America from a nation at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and accept its role as world leader. Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. / It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace / who, opposing tyranny, revered liberty -- people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do their part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did it because we are Americans -- and America is good. //

I was seventeen on December 7, 1941. For the next six months of the war, news from the Pacific was grim. Guam was

overruun. Bataan and Corregidor fell in the Philippines. / Yet the Battle of the Coral Sea foiled Japanese plans to invade Port Moresby in New Guinea. And fifty years ago this week, our forces began what may have been the greatest naval battle of all time. /

Even now, remember how it was. First, we broke the war code. Then, Admiral Nimitz sent his carrier task forces to intercept the fleet that had been sent to attack Midway -- a small group of islands just one thousand miles northwest of Honolulu. / For four days the fighting raged. Finally, the invasion force was driven off. While America lost the aircraft carrier Yorktown and the destroyer Hammann, four enemy carriers were sunk -- destroying their fleet. Exactly six months after Pearl, victory was not imminent -- but inevitable. The enemy's tide was running out. The Allies' tide was running in. //

Here is what history will say of the greatest war in man's tide of times: When attacked, America's sons and daughters took up arms, and bore our burden, for a cause larger than ourselves. They fought at Normandy and Corregidor / fought in unknown lands, amid the shroud of darkness, to illuminate the night. / They fought in swamps and deserts / in the sea and air / giving of themselves -- and often, of their lives. //

Think of the cemetery in Arlington. Think of plots of land in Boise / Bangor / Dallas / Des Moines. Think of World War II's honor roll: __ Americans dead, and __ wounded. Or the 55 million worldwide -- many helpless innocents. / World War II taught us that what happened in Berlin and Tokyo could not be

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This is the kind of world which by Joint Resolution 371, Congress has designated the week of May 31 through June 6, 1992, as "Week for the National Observance of the 50th Anniversary of World War II": A world where differences are solved peacefully -- not violently -- where the force of law outlasts the use of force. / It is a world I thought of last December, where on the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Barbara and I looked at the shrunken well of the USS Arizona -- tomb to more than a thousand of the greatest heroes any Nation has ever known. //

There, I thought of the wife whose best friend was her husband. Or the little boy whose brother -- his idol --once vowed to take him fishing. / I thought of the father whose son or daughter would now know him as a martyr, but never as a dad. / I thought to myself: I will never -- ever -- let America's defenses down. //

The men who died in World War II would today be proud of America. Proud of how their fate -- and faith -- stir and shape us still. / So let us honor them, remember them -- so that future generations will say of us what we now say of them: God bless this wondrous land -- the United States of America. //

World War II was a fight we did not seek, against enemies we did not choose, for a cause we cherish: The right of all people to be free. In that spirit, it is my honor to sign the proclamation designating the national observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II.

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(Smith/Aarhus)
Draft Three
June 3, 1992
WAR

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II
ROSE GARDEN
THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1992

[Acknowledgements]. Members of the civic and veterans groups who, along with local communities, will observe over the next three and a half years various anniversaries of World War II. Members of the Department of Defense's World War II Commemoration Committee. //

Welcome to the White House -- and to the observance of the 50th anniversary of an event which linked American hearts, and minds: The monumental struggle known as the Second World War. //

Overnight, World War II transformed America from a people at peace to a nation at war that would define the course of history for the rest of this century. //

The attack on Pearl Harbor forced America to abandon isolationism and take up the mantle of leadership. / Yes, World War II was fought for American soil and sovereignty. It was also fought to defend people who, hating war, sought only peace -- people everywhere who yearn for freedom, then and now. /

The year 1942 was crucial to our history. Americans came together. Each citizen sought ways to do their part. / Factories designed to build the tools of peace produced the tools of war -- ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition -- all crucial to the Allied effort. / It wasn't easy -- but we did it. We did the hard work of freedom. //

Addendum

X (To be inserted at top of page four, to precede the paragraph beginning, "The men who died in World War II would today....")

Over the next three and a half years, Americans will gather to observe the various anniversaries of the war. I've asked the Secretary of Defense to help coordinate these events, and I urge all civic and veterans groups, along with local communities *all across* *America* themselves, to join in these activities. *Commemorations.* The Department of Defense has a very active World War II Commemoration Committee, which is working to support and help all our citizens in remembering the contributions and sacrifices of our veterans and their families. By remembering and honoring this part of our history, we can help ensure a strong and free America and a better world.

It is vital
(It is vital to maintain the world is made by)

From : JPL

Bill Caldwell

X 2499

3 JUN 92

Rm 120

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE: 1 June 92

TO: Curt -

(Curt Smith)

FROM: WILLIAM B. CALDWELL, IV
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison
Room 191, OEOP, x7845

- Some proposed remarks that you might find useful in preparing the POTUS remarks for Thursday -

- Could we also mention DoD Comm.

Bill -

→ Pls. call me if I can be of any assistance -