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John Major Arrival Statement, Washington D.C., 6/6/92

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(Smith/Aarhus)
June 3, 1992
BRIT

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: JOHN MAJOR
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1992

Ladies and gentlemen. In this -- the week of America's observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II -- let me welcome Prime Minister Major, and say how pleased I am with today's talks. /

The Prime Minister and I spent many hours discussing our countries' special relationship. / We responded to each other not with just the formal handshake of two allies -- but with the warm embrace of two friends. //

We spoke of how we are joined by a common culture, heritage, and civilization. Recalling how Dwight Eisenhower -- beloved in Britain and America -- once said of freedom: To preserve it, "A Londoner will fight. So will a citizen of Abilene." //

Forty-eight years ago today, Ike and Monty -- Churchill and FDR -- Allied soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen -- heroes all -- forged the greatest armada in the history of man. Our goal was the legacy of peace. To win it, we first had to win a war. June 6, 1944 told the world: Aggression will not stand. //

In Korea, Viet Nam -- over the 40-year era of the Cold War -- we reaffirmed our relationship. Then came the Persian Gulf -- where again we stood fast so that liberty could stand tall. / "Operation Desert Storm" showed why years from now, men will marvel at British and American heroism in the Gulf. //

They will talk of the 82nd Airborne and Desert Rats -- as we do today of El Alamein and Burma Road and Utah Beach. / They

will salute Britain's help in forging our great coalition -- its belief that life means nothing without fidelity to principle. / They will note how the last year reaffirmed our alliance of the rule of law / the fact that there will always be an England / and England will always be our friend. //

Our Nation sprang from England's belief in the sanctity of the individual. Today, that belief has never been stronger -- our alliance never firmer -- our desire never deeper to build a free and peaceful world. / So the Prime Minister and I talked of cooperation economically / intellectually / militarily. / Discussing how resolve in the cause of liberty can best lift and transform the globe. //

Think of the qualities which nurture liberty: steel, integrity, creativity, and conviction -- that indelibly British mix known as character. / Our challenge is now to use those qualities to achieve what another Prime Minister asked in 1943, as the tide turned toward the Allies. //

Addressing the Congress, Winston Churchill said: "By singleness of purpose, by tenacity and endurance such as we have so far displayed -- by these, and only by these, can we discharge our duty to the future of the world and to the dignity of man."

Mr. Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, like Margaret Thatcher, like you -- are the stiff upper lip on the face of freedom. / Let me thank you for your duty, and for our talks today. / Now, we'll be glad to answer questions.

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Talk to McG or
an for
Verbal
Comments
(Smith/Aarhus)
Draft Two
June 3, 1992
BRIT

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MAJOR ARRIVAL STATEMENT
SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1992

Ladies and gentlemen. In this -- the week of America's observance of the 50th anniversary of World War II -- let me welcome Prime Minister Major to the White House. //

((First, let me say I was interested to learn that the Prime Minister's father was once a member of a circus. And having said that, I'll resist the temptation to make a joke about Congress.))

((I should also note that John's dad played minor-league baseball here in the U.S., so John has a connection to two great sports. / He was going to explain cricket to me, but his visit lasts only two days.)) //

Today, the Prime Minister and I will talk about our countries' special relationship. / Already, we have responded to each other not with just the formal handshake of two allies -- but with the warm embrace of two friends. //

We meet as leaders of nations joined by a common culture, heritage, and civilization. Recalling how Dwight Eisenhower -- beloved in Britain and America -- once said of freedom: To preserve it, "A Londoner will fight. So will a citizen of Abilene." //

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