

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 13 November 96 17:55
FROM Showalter, Victoria A.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Revised version [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Kristoff, Sandra J.
CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE
TEXT_BODY
Apologies -- it has changed a little since the version we discussed.
Changes are all on last 3 pages -- democracy, drugs, Burma... V.
[[CHULA.DOC : 4366 in CHULA.DOC]]
**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 12 November 96 13:54
**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** CHULA.DOC

11/12/96 12 PM
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
BANGKOK, THAILAND
NOVEMBER 26, 1996

[Acknowledgments]

Thank you, [Dr. Kirinandana], for this tremendous honor. As you may know, I did my legal studies at Yale University. From this day forward, I'll be proud to say I also possess a degree from Chulalongkorn University -- the Harvard of Southeast Asia.

Three years ago, in July 1993, I took my first trip overseas as President. I visited two of America's core security allies in Asia -- Korea and Japan. Now, at the outset of my second term, Asia is once again first on my list -- and so are our treaty allies. I have just come from the APEC leaders meeting in Manila, where we took further strides to open trade, protect the environment, and link our people in a true Pacific community. I also traveled to Australia, where I reaffirmed America's commitment to this region. And I am

especially pleased to join you in
Thailand in this historic year, as we celebrate the life and work
of His Majesty, King Bhumipol
[poo-mee-pon].

Today, I want to talk to you about how our two nations -- working
together -- can seize the
opportunities and meet the challenges before us at the dawn of a
new century. I can't think of a
better place for this discussion than here at Chula. This great
center of higher learning is a living
memorial to Thailand's glorious past -- yet its mission is
focused on the future. It is proudly and
distinctively Asian, but is also a window on the world -- where
ideas are exchanged among
peoples of many cultures, where problems are solved, where
innovation is embraced. And I'm
glad to speak to an audience that includes so many young people
-- because the promise and
potential of the 21st century are yours to seize and to shape.

The close ties between our two nations go all the way back to
1833, when America signed a
Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the Kingdom of Siam. Those
bonds of friendship have
been reinforced with time -- from King Mongkut's offer in 1861 to
furnish the U.S. Government
with a stock of elephants... to America's unwavering defense of
Thai independence in World War
II... to our close cooperation in Korea and Vietnam... to our
security alliance, brought to life in
"Cobra Gold" -- the largest exercise involving U.S. forces
anywhere in Asia. When it comes to
protecting our common security, America and Thailand know we can
count on one another.

Our nations are partners in prosperity as well. The United
States is proud to be Thailand's
number one export market and second largest trading partner. Our
nations enjoyed almost \$18
billion in 2-way trade last year alone [TK]. We've forged
important agreements in civil
aviation, the protection of intellectual property, and most
recently a tax treaty I was honored to
sign today.

And more than ever, our people are joined by ties of culture and
community. My country has
been strengthened by the contributions of [x] Americans of Thai
descent. From Southern

California to Houston to New York, the graceful temples, ancient traditions, and exotic flavors of Thailand have enriched the color and texture of America's national quilt.

Now we must bolster our partnership for the demands of the 21st century. When President Johnson addressed an audience at Chula 30 years ago, few could have imagined how the world would look today. Then, the world was divided into two opposing blocs. Thai and American soldiers were fighting side-by-side in a devastating conflict in Vietnam. Your nation, like so many others in the region, relied on agricultural production for its growth. Asia as a whole produced less than one-tenth of global GNP.

Today, the Cold War is over. Southeast Asia has come full circle, as ASEAN -- born in the throes of the Vietnam War -- last year welcomed Vietnam as its newest member. Thailand has transformed itself into a financial and industrial powerhouse, and the economies of East Asia are the fastest growing in the world -- producing fully one-quarter of the world's goods and services. Modern telecommunications have collapsed the distances between us. And a new global economy is transforming the way we live -- bringing tremendous opportunities for our people.

Thailand knows well the benefits of free and open markets. Your nation has recently been hailed by the World Bank as the world's fastest growing economy over the last decade. You have helped lay the groundwork for an Asia of the future -- where ancient cultures are linked by modern communications... where a vast and diverse region is joined by values of hard work and enterprise... where cooperation and integration are the watchwords of the day.

But you also know that while economic growth is crucial to all of our nations, economic growth alone -- impressive as it may be -- is not enough. Some have suggested that a nation's maturity, its world role, and even its responsibilities to its own citizens, can be determined primarily or even exclusively by economic growth, prudent economic management, and a rise in the standard

of living. Those are all certainly desirable goals. But as the people of Thailand understand so well, economic progress and democratic development must go hand-in-hand. A nation can only reach its fullest potential when the searchlight of a free press can expose corruption... when an independent judiciary protects the sanctity of contracts... when the free flow of goods is matched by the flow of ideas.

The tide of democracy that has swept the world in recent years -- from Haiti to Hungary... from Russia to South Africa -- has reached Asia's shores as well. Freely chosen governments are in place in South Korea and the Philippines. With the help of Thailand, the United States, and others, Cambodia's war is over and its people are working to build a democratic future. The people of Mongolia have cast their lot with democracy, and cast their vote in free elections.

And here in Thailand, you have made great strides toward deepening your democracy. The national elections just nine days ago confirm the degree of your success. There were winners and losers in that contest -- and as someone who has known both victory and defeat, I know that winning is more fun. But in a far more important sense, everybody wins when the basic institutions of freedom and justice are strengthened through a free electoral process.

The United States is proud to support the march of democracy across Asia. We do not aim to impose our vision of the world on others; to the contrary, we are convinced that liberty and justice are common aspirations. It is the citizens of Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan who tell us accountable government and the rule of law are essential to stability and prosperity. It is the brave reformers in Burma and Mongolia who remind us these desires know no boundaries. It is the courageous Cambodian people who prove that change is possible.

Every nation of the Asia Pacific must pursue the benefits of progress while preserving the best of its traditions. But human dignity and individual worth must never be undervalued or abused.

The United States will continue to stand with those who stand for freedom -- in Asia and around the world. We do so not only because it reflects our ideals, but because it reinforces our common interest in the safety, prosperity, and well-being of our people.

And just as democracy eases relations within nations, so it enhances relations among nations. Democratic nations generally make better neighbors, and more reliable partners in diplomacy and trade. Thailand knows this from its own experience. Your leadership in ASEAN has helped that organization earn worldwide respect for its commitment to peace and development. From supporting the Cambodian people in their quest for a better future... to helping push the Uruguay Round to its successful, historic conclusion... to building trust and security through the ASEAN Regional Forum, cooperation is paying off in growing stability and influence.

Today, this kind of partnership and spirit of common cause are more important than ever. The information and technology age has brought us all closer together and given us extraordinary opportunities to build a better future. But in this world of crumbling barriers and blurring borders, while progress spreads quickly, trouble can too.

My nation is committed to maintain our forward-deployed security presence in the region -- with 100,000 American troops to safeguard our common security. But new dangers to our safety -- from environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS... to the spread of weapons of mass destruction... drug trafficking... and organized crime -- defy traditional defenses.

The United States is working with Thailand to relieve the toll that rapid economic growth has taken on the environment. Many American environmental companies are active here, helping Thais provide clean air and water for their children and a healthy planet for future generations. Our Embassy in Bangkok is our regional center for addressing transnational environmental issues -- like air pollution, climate change, and coral reef destruction. I want to commend the Thai authorities for their efforts to strengthen Thailand's legal

framework against pollution. Earlier this month, Thailand became the first developing nation to ban production and import of refrigerators with chlorofluorocarbons [TK].

We're also working with Thai officials to help stem the spread of the AIDS epidemic -- which is now growing faster in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Thailand has set a strong example in promoting public awareness of AIDS and how to prevent it. But even with declining rates of infection, the public health problem is daunting. The U.S. Agency for International Development helped launch the "Thai Women of Tomorrow Project" in Chiang Mai, to educate young women and help them find alternatives to the prostitution that puts their lives at risk. The First Lady was honored to visit the school yesterday [TK]. USAID is also helping with community, workplace, and school-based programs to educate against the spread of this terrible disease.

But nowhere is our cooperation more important than in fighting the forces of crime and destruction -- especially because these dangerous groups increasingly are interconnected. Organizations that once operated in only one country or region, or engaged in only one type of illegal activity, now are becoming global and diversified. Drug traffickers smuggle machine guns. Terrorists sell counterfeit currency. Left unchecked, these criminal syndicates distort free economies, derail fragile democracies, and debilitate our societies with corruption and violence. No nation is immune from these dangers -- and none can defeat them alone.

Thailand and the United States are close and committed partners in the fight against drugs. We know we can do no less when the lives of our young people are at stake. As a nation that must face the challenge not only of narcotics production, but also drug refinery, transit, and trafficking, Thailand's many successful initiatives can be models for other nations. You have led the way in encouraging farmers to give up cultivation of opium poppies. Their majesties the King and Queen have inspired creative rural development projects to give people other sources of income and hope. You have drafted money laundering legislation,

which we hope will soon be passed.

And our extensive cooperation in law enforcement has paid off. In 1994, Operation Tiger Trap led to the arrest of 14 drug kingpins, two of whom have been extradited to the United States. It dealt a crippling blow to the Shan United Army -- the trafficking network in Burma. And it strengthened border controls in Northern Thailand, which has prompted a major shift in trafficking patterns. Most recently, Thai authorities helped in the provisional arrests of two individuals most responsible for shipping the largest amount of heroin ever seized in the United States. They are now behind bars in Bangkok, awaiting extradition. Thailand has sent a clear signal to the drug lords: We will find you, we will stop you, we will punish you.

All of these efforts are essential and they are working. But the problem of illegal drugs can only be defeated at the source. Burma has long been the world's number one producer of opium and heroin. Now, its dealers are also making metamphetamines -- and the biggest market for these drugs is in Thailand and other nearby states. The trends in Burma are grim: opium and stimulant production is rising, and Burma's leading narco-traffickers are buying real estate, investing in the economy, and openly courting military officials. Khun Sa himself, the most notorious opium warlord, is living comfortably in Rangoon -- and enjoys the status of an honored elder.

The entrenchment of the drug trade in economic and political life and the ongoing denial of human rights in Burma are two sides of the same coin -- devastating symptoms of the absence of the rule of law. ASEAN and the United States have agreed to disagree on the merits of "constructive engagement" with Burma... but the United States believes that "constructive engagement" has yielded little positive progress -- and the flow of drugs from Burma that puts our young people at risk is only one example.

Every nation that wants to rid its neighborhoods of drugs has an interest in pressing the Burmese authorities on this issue. Most fundamentally, every nation that

seeks a peaceful and prosperous
Pacific community has an interest in promoting a swift resolution
to Burma's political crisis --
one that will end the suppression of Burma's democratic
movements, make its military more
accountable to civilian and judicial authority, deny legitimacy
to drug traffickers, and launch a
real fight against crime and corruption. As long as Burma's
leaders turn their back on the rule
of law and their hand against their own people, our community
will never reach its fullest
potential.

Here in Thailand, the "Land of the Free," your own proud history
reflects the yearning for
freedom. Your ancestors made a long voyage from their homeland,
rather than accept
domination [TK]. Today, at the ballot box, in the marketplace,
in the classroom, you are making
your voices heard and helping your country to thrive.

I believe that working together, the United States and Thailand
can help lead the way to an Asia
Pacific region in which stunning economic success is matched by
greater political freedom and
growing opportunity. Let us reinforce our partnership for our
time -- not only to meet the
challenges we face, but also to make the most of the promise that
lies ahead.

We still have much to learn from one another -- and I am
confident we will. That is the benefit
of openness between our societies, and within our own countries.
That is the bedrock of a
Pacific community based on shared interests, shared values,
shared dreams. That is the result
of America's enduring engagement in the Asia Pacific... and our
lasting friendship with Thailand.

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M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 15 November 96 07:08
FROM Schwartz, Eric P.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Revised Bangkok draft [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Showalter, Victoria A.
CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE
TEXT_BODY

Vinca:

Who put in all that good stuff on Burma??

Eric

From: Showalter, Victoria A.
To: @PLANNING - Strat Plan & Comm
CC: /R, Record at A1; @ASIA - Asian Affairs; @GLOBAL - Global Affairs
Subject: Revised Bangkok draft [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Thursday, November 14, 1996 04:53 PM

[[CHULA2.DOC : 1871 in CHULA2.DOC]]

Attached is a revised Bangkok draft, reflecting comments received yesterday from Sandy K. Tony, let me know when I should pass it to NES and Don.

Asia and especially Global -- your earliest comments appreciated. (Sandy, I didn't add the pitch for GE -- it seemed a bit blatant. Is it necessary?)

**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 14 November 96 16:49

**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** CHULA2.DOC

11/14/96 5 PM
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
BANGKOK, THAILAND
NOVEMBER 26, 1996

[Acknowledgments]

Thank you, [Dr. Kirinandana], for this tremendous honor. As you may know, I did my legal studies at Yale University. From this day forward, I'll be proud to say I also possess a degree from Chulalongkorn University -- the Harvard of Southeast Asia.

Three years ago, in July 1993, I took my first trip overseas as President. I visited two of America's core security allies in Asia -- Korea and Japan. Now, at the outset of my second term, Asia is once again first on my list -- and so are our treaty allies. I have just come from the APEC leaders meeting in Manila, where we took further strides to link our people in a true Pacific community. I also traveled to Australia, where I reaffirmed America's commitment to and vision for this region. And I'm especially pleased to join you in Thailand in this historic year, as we celebrate the life and work of His Majesty, King Bhumibol [poo-mee-pone].

Today, I want to talk to you about how our two nations -- working together -- can seize the opportunities and meet the challenges before us at the dawn of a new century. I can't think of a better place for this discussion than here at Chula. This great center of higher learning is a living memorial to Thailand's glorious past -- yet its mission is focused on the future. It is proudly and distinctively Asian, but is also a window on the world -- where ideas are exchanged among peoples of many cultures, where problems are solved, where innovation is embraced. And I'm glad to speak to an audience that includes so many young people -- because the promise and potential of the 21st century are yours to seize and to shape.

The close ties between our two nations go all the way back to 1833, when America signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the Kingdom of Siam. Those bonds of friendship have been reinforced with time -- from King Mongkut's offer in 1861 to furnish the U.S. Government with a stock of elephants... to our struggle and sacrifice, side-by-side, in Korea and Vietnam... to our security alliance, brought to life in "Cobra Gold" -- the largest exercise involving U.S. forces anywhere in Asia. When it comes to protecting our common security, America and Thailand know we can count on one another.

Our nations are partners in prosperity as well. The United States is proud to be Thailand's number one export market and second largest trading partner. Our nations enjoyed some \$18 billion in 2-way trade last year alone. We've forged important agreements in civil aviation, the protection of intellectual property, and most recently a tax treaty I was honored to sign today.

And more than ever, our people are joined by ties of culture and community. My country has been strengthened by the contributions of tens of thousands of Americans of Thai descent. From Southern California to Houston to New York, the graceful temples, ancient traditions, and exotic flavors of Thailand have enriched the color and texture of America's national quilt.

Now we must bolster our partnership for the demands of the 21st century. When President Johnson addressed an audience at Chula 30 years ago, few could have imagined how the world would look today. Then, the world was divided into two opposing blocs. Thai and American soldiers were brothers-in-arms in a devastating conflict in Vietnam. Your nation, like so many others in the region, relied on agricultural production for its growth. Asia as a whole produced less than one-tenth of global GNP.

Today, the Cold War is over. Southeast Asia has come full circle, as ASEAN -- born in the throes of the Vietnam War -- last year welcomed Vietnam as its newest member. Thailand has transformed itself into a financial and industrial powerhouse, and the economies of East Asia are the fastest growing in the world -- producing fully one-quarter of the world's goods and services. Modern telecommunications have collapsed the distances between us. And a new global economy is transforming the way we live -- bringing tremendous opportunities for our people.

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ties, and helping all our people to live out their dreams. You are laying the groundwork for an Asia of the future -- where ancient cultures are linked by modern communications... where a vast and diverse region is joined by values of hard work and enterprise... where cooperation and integration are the watchwords of the day.

But you also know that while economic growth is crucial to all of our nations, economic growth alone -- impressive as it may be -- is not enough. Some have suggested that a nation's maturity, its world role, and even its responsibilities to its own citizens, can be determined primarily or even exclusively by economic growth, prudent economic management, and a rise in the standard of living. Those are all certainly desirable goals. But as the people of Thailand understand so well, economic progress and democratic development must go hand-in-hand. A nation can only reach its fullest potential when the searchlight of a free press can expose corruption... when an independent judiciary protects the sanctity of contracts... when the free flow of goods is matched by the flow of ideas.

The tide of democracy that has swept the world in recent years -- from Haiti to Hungary... from Russia to South Africa -- has not overlooked Asia's shores. Freely chosen governments are in place in South Korea and the Philippines. With the help of Thailand, the United States, and others, Cambodia's war is over and its people are working to build a democratic future. The people of Mongolia have cast their lot with democracy, and cast their vote in free elections.

And here in Thailand, you have made great strides on the road to a strong democracy. The national elections just nine days ago were a milestone in that journey. There were winners and losers in that contest -- and as someone who has known both victory and defeat, I know that winning is more fun. But in a far more important sense, everybody wins when the basic institutions of freedom and justice are strengthened through a free electoral process.

The United States is proud to support the march of democracy

across Asia. We do not aim to impose our vision of the world on others; to the contrary, we are convinced that liberty and justice are common aspirations. It is the citizens of Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan who tell us accountable government and the rule of law are essential to stability and prosperity. It is the brave reformers in Burma and Mongolia who remind us these desires know no boundaries. It is the courageous Cambodian people who prove that change is possible.

Every nation of the Asia Pacific must pursue the benefits of progress while preserving the best of its traditions. But surely we can all agree that human dignity and individual worth must never be undervalued or abused.

The United States will continue to stand with those who stand for freedom -- in Asia and around the world. We do so not only because it reflects our ideals, but because it reinforces our common interest in the safety, prosperity, and well-being of our people.

And just as democracy eases relations within nations, so it enhances relations among nations. Democratic nations generally make better neighbors, and more reliable partners in diplomacy and trade. Thailand knows this from its own experience. Your leadership has helped ASEAN earn worldwide respect for its commitment to peace and development. From supporting the Cambodian people in their quest for a better future... to helping push the Uruguay Round to its successful, historic conclusion... to building trust and security through the ASEAN Regional Forum, cooperation is paying off in growing stability and influence.

Today, this kind of partnership and spirit of common cause are more important than ever. The information and technology age has brought us all closer together and given us extraordinary opportunities to build a better future. Just yesterday in Manila, APEC leaders endorsed a worldwide Information Technology Agreement that will eliminate all tariffs in that sector by the year 2000. Think of it -- more than \$1 trillion in products ranging from satellite dishes to

computer software will have trade barriers dropped to zero. Imagine the benefits to students like you, as the world of ideas becomes more easy to access and add to.

But in this world of crumbling barriers and blurring borders, while progress spreads quickly, trouble can too. My nation is determined to maintain our strong security presence in the Pacific -- with 100,000 American troops to safeguard our common security. We are reinforcing our five core alliances, and helping Asia build new security structures to promote stability and peace. We know we must be a Pacific power, or we will be no power at all -- and I pledge to you that America's commitment to this region will not falter.

But new dangers to our safety -- from environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS... to the spread of weapons of mass destruction... drug trafficking... and organized crime -- defy traditional defenses. No nation is immune to these threats -- and none can defeat them alone.

The United States is working with Thailand to ease the toll that economic growth has taken on the environment -- from traffic jams that choke the air to waste that poisons your waterways. Many American environmental companies are helping Thailand preserve a healthier planet for future generations. Our Embassy here is our regional hub for working on issues like air pollution and climate change. Recently, Thailand became the first developing nation to ban production and import of refrigerators with ozone-destroying CFCs. I commend the Thai authorities for this and other efforts to strengthen Thailand's laws against pollution..

We're also working with Thai officials to help stem the spread of the AIDS epidemic -- which is now growing faster in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Thailand has set a strong example in promoting AIDS prevention. But even with declining rates of infection, the public health problem is daunting. The U.S. Agency for International Development helped launch the "Thai Women of Tomorrow Project," to help young women find better alternatives to the prostitution that puts their lives at risk. The First Lady saw the fruits of

that project yesterday [TK] in Chiang Mai. We are also working with Thai authorities to educate the public against the spread of this terrible disease [TK].

But nowhere is our cooperation more important than in fighting the forces of crime and destruction -- especially because these dangerous groups increasingly are interconnected. Organizations that once operated in only one country or region, or engaged in only one type of illegal activity, now are becoming global and diversified. Drug traffickers smuggle machine guns. Terrorists sell counterfeit currency. Left unchecked, these criminal syndicates distort free economies, derail fragile democracies, and debilitate our societies with corruption and violence.

Thailand and the United States are close and committed partners in the fight against drugs. We know we can do no less when the lives of our young people are at stake. As a nation that must face the challenge not only of narcotics production, but also drug refinery, transit, and trafficking, Thailand's many successful initiatives can be models for other nations. You have led the way in encouraging farmers to give up cultivation of opium poppies. Their majesties the King and Queen have inspired creative rural development projects to give people other sources of income and hope. You have drafted money laundering legislation, which we hope will soon be passed.

And our extensive cooperation in law enforcement has paid off. In 1994, Operation Tiger Trap led to the arrest of 14 drug kingpins, two of whom have been extradited to the United States. It dealt a crippling blow to the Shan United Army -- the trafficking network in Burma. And it strengthened border controls in Northern Thailand, which has prompted a major shift in trafficking patterns. Most recently, Thai authorities helped in the provisional arrests of two individuals involved in shipping the largest amount of heroin ever seized in the United States. They are now behind bars in Bangkok, awaiting extradition. Thailand has sent a clear signal to the drug lords: We will find you, we will stop you, we will punish you.

All of these efforts are essential and they are working. But the problem of illegal drugs can only be defeated at the source. Burma has long been the world's number one producer of opium and heroin. Now, its dealers are also making metamphetamines -- and the biggest market for these drugs is in Thailand and other nearby states. The trends in Burma are grim: opium and stimulant production is rising, and Burma's leading narco-traffickers are buying real estate, investing in the economy, and openly courting military officials. Khun Sa himself, the most notorious opium warlord, is living comfortably in Rangoon -- and enjoys the status of an honored elder.

The entrenchment of the drug trade in economic and political life and the persistent denial of human rights in Burma are two sides of the same coin -- devastating symptoms of the absence of the rule of law. Every nation that wants to rid its neighborhoods of drugs has an interest in pressing the Burmese authorities on this issue. Most fundamentally, every nation that seeks a stable and secure Pacific community has an interest in promoting true political dialogue in Burma -- that will end the repression of Burma's democratic movements, make its regime more accountable to the people, deny legitimacy to drug traffickers, and launch a real fight against crime and corruption. That is the best way to help the people of Burma -- and protect our own against drugs.

No one understands the stakes better than Thailand. And no one knows better how much can be achieved when dialogue and democracy are society's lifeblood... when policies are made through consensus, not coercion... and people are given the tools and the chance to make the most of their own lives. The very name of your country means the "Land of the Free." Your own proud history reflects the fight for freedom you have waged so bravely at home and abroad. Today, at the ballot box, in the marketplace, in the classroom, you are making your voices heard and keeping your country strong. And in APEC, ASEAN, and the ASEAN Regional Forum, you are helping the seeds of mutual cooperation to ripen and to flourish.

I believe that working together, the United States and Thailand can help lead the way to an Asia Pacific region in which stunning economic success is matched by greater freedom and growing opportunity. Let us reinforce our partnership for our time -- not only to meet the challenges we face, but also to make the most of the promise that lies ahead.

We still have much to learn from one another -- and I am confident we will. That is the benefit of openness between our societies, and within our own countries. That is the bedrock of a Pacific community based on shared interests, shared values, shared dreams. That is the result of America's enduring engagement in the Asia Pacific... and our lasting friendship with Thailand.
###

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 15 November 96 15:45

FROM Showalter, Victoria A.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Revised Bangkok!! [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Blinken, Antony J.
Gray, Wendy

CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE

TEXT_BODY
Tony -- Maybe you haven't looked at this yet. It now reflects changes from the Global drug folks and Gelbard's shop at State (Liz V sent it to them, apparently), plus additional tinkering from moi. It's gotten longer, but still on 10...

[[CHULA2.DOC : 3849 in CHULA2.DOC]]

**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 15 November 96 15:43

**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** CHULA2.DOC

11/15/96 3:45 PM
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NOVEMBER 26, 1996

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community. I also traveled to Australia, where I reaffirmed America's commitment to this region. And I'm especially pleased to join you in Thailand in this historic year, as we celebrate the life and work of His Majesty, King Bhumibol [poo-mee-pon].

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The close ties between our two nations go back to 1833, when America signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the Kingdom of Siam. Those bonds of friendship have been reinforced with time -- from King Mongkut's offer in 1861 to furnish the U.S. Government with a stock of elephants... to our struggle and sacrifice, side-by-side, in Korea and Vietnam... to our security alliance, brought to life in "Cobra Gold" -- the largest exercise involving U.S. forces anywhere in Asia. When it comes to protecting our common security, America and Thailand know we can count on one another.

Our nations are partners in prosperity as well. The United States is proud to be Thailand's number one export market and second largest trading partner. Our nations enjoyed some \$18 billion in 2-way trade last year alone. We've forged important agreements in civil aviation, the protection of intellectual property, and most recently a tax treaty I was honored to sign today.

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temples, ancient traditions, and exotic flavors of Thailand have enriched the color and texture of America's national quilt.

Today, our challenge is to deepen our partnership for the demands of the 21st century. Our countries are half a world apart, and vastly different in size. The languages we speak and the cultures we cherish are dramatically distinct. Yet for all our differences, we are more united than ever by common values and vision. Both our nations understand we have more to gain by working together than trying to make our own way. In a world grown closer, both the costs of conflict and the rewards of cooperation have risen. It serves all our interests if we can join as one in preserving peace... promoting stability... strengthening economic growth... protecting our planet... and pooling our strength against common threats to our security.

When President Johnson addressed an audience at Chula 30 years ago, few could have imagined how the world would look today. Then, the world was divided into two opposing blocs. Thai and American soldiers were brothers-in-arms in a devastating conflict in Vietnam. Your nation, like so many others in the region, relied on agricultural production for its growth. Asia as a whole produced less than one-tenth of global GNP.

Today, the Cold War is over. Southeast Asia has come full circle, as ASEAN -- born in the throes of the Vietnam War -- last year welcomed Vietnam as its newest member. Thailand has transformed itself into a financial and industrial powerhouse, and the economies of East Asia are the fastest growing in the world -- producing fully one-quarter of the world's goods and services. A technological revolution has collapsed the distances between us. And a new global economy is transforming the way we live -- bringing tremendous opportunities for our people.

Thailand knows well the benefits of free and open markets. Your nation has recently been hailed by the World Bank as the world's fastest growing economy over the last decade. You have helped make APEC a driving force in opening trade, deepening ties, and helping all our people to

live out their dreams. You are laying the groundwork for an Asia of the future -- where ancient cultures are linked by modern communications... where a vast and diverse region is joined by values of hard work and enterprise... where cooperation and integration are the watchwords of the day. And the dynamic, double-digit growth of this region has been good for America as well. Today, more than 2 million American jobs and 40 percent of our trade are tied to Asia [TK].

But you also know that while economic growth is crucial to our nations, economic growth alone -- impressive as it may be -- is not enough. Some have suggested that a nation's maturity, its world role, and even its responsibilities to its own citizens, can be determined primarily or even exclusively by economic growth, prudent economic management, and a rising standard of living. Those are all certainly desirable goals. But as the people of Thailand understand so well, economic progress and democratic development must go hand-in-hand. A nation can only reach its fullest potential when the searchlight of a free press can expose corruption... when an independent judiciary protects of contracts... when the free flow of goods is matched by the unfettered flow of ideas.

The tide of democracy that has swept the world in recent years -- from Haiti to Hungary... from Russia to South Africa -- has not overlooked Asia's shores. With the help of Thailand, the United States, and others, Cambodia has turned from the peril of war to the promise of peace, and its people are striving to build a democratic future. The people of Mongolia have cast their lot with democracy, and cast their vote in free elections.

And here in Thailand, you have made great strides in strengthening your democracy. The national elections just nine days ago were a milestone in that journey. There were winners and losers in that contest -- and as someone who has known both victory and defeat, I know that winning is more fun. But in a far more important sense, everybody wins when the basic institutions of freedom and justice are strengthened through a free electoral process.

The United States is proud to support the march of democracy across Asia. We do not aim to impose our vision of the world on others; to the contrary, we are convinced that liberty and justice are common aspirations. It is the citizens of Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan who tell us accountable government and the rule of law are essential to stability and prosperity. It is the brave reformers in Burma who remind us these desires know no boundaries. It is the people of Cambodia and Mongolia who prove that change is possible.

Every nation of the Asia Pacific must pursue the benefits of progress while preserving the best of its traditions. But surely we can all agree that human dignity and individual worth must never be undervalued or abused.

The United States will continue to stand with those who stand for freedom -- in Asia and around the world. We do so not only because it reflects our ideals, but because it reinforces our common interest in the safety, prosperity, and well-being of our people.

And just as democracy eases relations within nations, so it enhances relations among nations. Democratic nations generally make better neighbors, and more reliable partners in diplomacy and trade. Thailand knows this from its own experience. Your leadership has helped ASEAN earn worldwide respect for its commitment to peace and development. From supporting the Cambodian people in their quest for a better future... to helping push the Uruguay Round to its successful, historic conclusion... to building trust and security through the ASEAN Regional Forum, cooperation is paying off in growing stability and influence.

Today, this kind of partnership and spirit of common cause are more important than ever. The information and technology age has brought us all closer together and given us extraordinary opportunities to build a better future. Just yesterday in Manila, APEC leaders endorsed a worldwide Information Technology Agreement that will eliminate all tariffs in that sector by the

year 2000. Think of it -- more than \$1 trillion in products ranging from satellite dishes to computer software will have trade barriers dropped to zero. Imagine the benefits to students like you, as the world of ideas becomes more easy to access and add to.

But in this world of crumbling barriers and blurring borders, while progress spreads quickly, trouble can too. My nation is determined to maintain our strong security presence in the Pacific -- with 100,000 American troops to safeguard our common security. We are reinforcing our five core alliances, and helping Asia build new security structures to promote stability and peace. We know we must be a Pacific power, or we will be no power at all -- and I pledge to you that America's commitment to this region will not falter.

But new dangers to our safety -- from environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS... to the spread of weapons of mass destruction... drug trafficking... and organized crime -- defy traditional defenses. No nation is immune to these threats -- and none can defeat them alone.

The United States is working with Thailand to ease the toll that economic growth has taken on the environment -- from traffic jams that choke the air to waste that poisons your waterways. Many American environmental companies are helping Thailand preserve a healthier planet for future generations. Our Embassy here is our regional hub for working on issues like air pollution and climate change. Recently, Thailand became the first developing nation to ban production and import of refrigerators with ozone-destroying CFCs. I commend the Thai authorities for their efforts to strengthen Thailand's laws against pollution.

We're also working with Thai officials to help stem the AIDS epidemic -- which now is spreading faster in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Thailand has set a strong example in promoting AIDS prevention. But even with declining rates of infection, the public health problem is daunting. The U.S. Agency for International Development helped launch the "Thai Women of Tomorrow Project," to help young women find better alternatives

to the prostitution that puts
their lives at risk. The First Lady saw that project at work
when she visited Chiang Mai.

But nowhere is our cooperation more important than in fighting
the organized forces of crime
and destruction -- especially because these dangerous groups
increasingly are interconnected.
Organizations that once operated in only one country or region,
or engaged in only one type of
illegal activity, now are becoming global and diversified. Drug
traffickers smuggle machine
guns. Terrorists sell counterfeit currency. Left unchecked,
these criminal syndicates distort free
economies, derail fragile democracies, and debilitate our
societies with corruption and violence.

Thailand and the United States are close and committed partners
in the fight against drugs. We
know we can do no less when the lives of our young people are at
stake. As a nation that must
face the challenge not only of narcotics production, but also
drug refinery, transit, and
trafficking, Thailand's many successful initiatives can be models
for other nations. You have
led the way in encouraging farmers to give up cultivation of
opium poppies. Their majesties the
King and Queen have inspired creative rural development projects
to give people other sources of
income and hope. You have drafted money laundering legislation,
which we hope will soon be
passed.

And our extensive cooperation in law enforcement has paid off.
In 1994, Operation Tiger Trap
led to the arrest of 14 drug kingpins, two of whom have been
extradited to the United States. It
dealt a crippling blow to the Shan United Army -- the trafficking
network in Burma. And
Thailand strengthened its northern border controls, which has
helped shift trafficking patterns
away from this nation. Thailand has sent a clear signal to the
drug lords: We will find you, we
will stop you, we will punish you.

All of these efforts are essential and they are working. But the
problem of illegal drugs can only
be defeated at the source. Burma has long been the world's
number one producer of opium and
heroin. Now, its dealers are also making metamphetamines -- and

the biggest market for these drugs is in Thailand and other nearby states. The trends in Burma are grim: opium and stimulant production is rising, and Burma's leading narco-traffickers are buying real estate, investing in the economy, and openly courting military officials. Khun Sa himself, the most notorious opium warlord, lives in Rangoon and has not been brought to justice.

The entrenchment of the drug trade in economic and political life and the persistent denial of human rights in Burma are two sides of the same coin -- devastating symptoms of the absence of the rule of law. Every nation that wants to rid its neighborhoods of drugs has an interest in pressing the Burmese authorities on this issue. Most fundamentally, every nation that seeks a stable and secure Pacific community has an interest in promoting true political dialogue in Burma -- one that will end the repression of Burma's democratic movements, make its regime more accountable to the people, deny legitimacy to drug traffickers, and launch a real fight against crime and corruption. That is the best way to help the people of Burma -- and protect our own against drugs.

No one understands the stakes better than Thailand. And no one knows better how much can be achieved when dialogue and democracy are society's lifeblood... when policies are made through consensus, not coercion... and people are given the tools and the chance to make the most of their own lives. Your own proud history reflects the fight for freedom you have waged so bravely at home and abroad. Today, at the ballot box, in the marketplace, in the classroom, you are making your voices heard and keeping your country strong. And in APEC, ASEAN, and the ASEAN Regional Forum, you are helping the seeds of mutual cooperation to ripen and to flourish.

I believe that working together, the United States and Thailand can help lead the way to an Asia Pacific region in which stunning economic success is matched by greater freedom and growing opportunity. Let us reinforce our partnership for our time -- not only to meet the challenges we face, but also to make the most of the great promise that lies ahead.

We still have much to learn from one another -- and I am confident we will. That is the benefit of openness between our societies, and within our own countries. That is the bedrock of a Pacific community based on shared interests, shared values, shared dreams. That is the result of America's enduring engagement in the Asia Pacific... and our lasting friendship with Thailand.
###

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 15 November 96 17:30
FROM Showalter, Victoria A.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT Bangkok draft [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO Albert, Ronda A.
Baldwin, Kenneth
Bedell, Blair B.
Beers, Rand R.
Boynton, Peter J.
Brown, Dallas
Chen, Philip D.
Clarke, Richard A.
Daadler, Ivo H.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Kristoff, Sandra J.
Kyle, Robert D.
Lee, Malcolm R.
Lindsay, James M.
Mitsler, Elaine M.
Moran, Betsy Q.
Orr, Robert C.
Panerali, Kristen E.
Pritchard, Charles (Jack) L.
Ramsay, Martha S.
Rice, Susan E.
Roundtree, Beverly J.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Sheehan, Michael A.
Simon, Steven N.
Suettinger, Robert L.
Uriu, Robert M.
Verville, Elizabeth G.
Walsh, Helen C.
Wechsler, William F.

CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE

TEXT_BODY

FYI -- This is what the Bangkok University speech draft currently looks like. It reflects comments from Kristoff and Global, but has NOT been cleared by Blinken, Baer, Lake or Berger. I will be working the speech with the folks on the road after they leave on Sunday. If you see any errors or have any comments, please let me know. Thanks.
[[CHULA2.DOC : 4412 in CHULA2.DOC]]

ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE

15 November 96 17:27

ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME

CHULA2.DOC

11/15/96 5:30 PM
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
BANGKOK, THAILAND
NOVEMBER 26, 1996

[Acknowledgments]

Thank you, [Dr. Kirinandana], for this tremendous honor. As you may know, I did my legal studies at Yale University. From this day forward, I'll be proud to say I also possess a degree from Chulalongkorn University -- the Harvard of Southeast Asia.

Three years ago, in July 1993, I took my first trip overseas as President. I visited two of America's core security allies in Asia -- Japan and Korea. Now, at the outset of my second term, Asia is once again first on my list -- and so are our treaty allies. I have just come from the APEC leaders meeting in Manila, where we took further strides to link our people in a true Pacific community. I also traveled to Australia, where I reaffirmed America's commitment to this region. And I'm especially pleased to join you in Thailand in this historic year, as we celebrate the life and work of His Majesty, King Bhumibol [poo-mee-pon].

Today, I want to talk to you about how our two nations -- working together -- can seize the opportunities and meet the challenges before us at the dawn of a new century. I can't think of a better place for this discussion than here at Chula. This great center of higher learning is a living memorial to Thailand's glorious past -- yet its mission is focused on the future. It is proudly and distinctively Asian, but is also a window on the world -- where ideas are exchanged among peoples of many cultures, where problems are solved, where innovation is embraced. And I'm glad to speak to an audience that includes so many young people -- because the promise and potential of the 21st century are yours to seize and to shape.

The close ties between our two nations go back to 1833, when

America signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the Kingdom of Siam. Those bonds of friendship have been reinforced with time -- from King Mongkut's offer in 1861 to furnish the U.S. Government with a stock of elephants... to our struggle and sacrifice, side-by-side, in Korea and Vietnam... to our security alliance, brought to life in "Cobra Gold" -- the largest exercise involving U.S. forces anywhere in Asia. When it comes to protecting our common security, America and Thailand know we can count on one another.

Our nations are partners in prosperity as well. The United States is proud to be Thailand's number one export market and second largest trading partner. Our nations enjoyed some \$18 billion in 2-way trade last year alone. We've forged important agreements in civil aviation, the protection of intellectual property, and most recently a tax treaty I was honored to witness today.

And more than ever, our people are joined by ties of culture and community. My country has been strengthened by the contributions of tens of thousands of Americans of Thai descent. From Southern California to Houston to New York, the graceful temples, ancient traditions, and exotic flavors of Thailand have enriched the color and texture of America's national quilt.

Today, our challenge is to deepen our partnership for the demands of the 21st century. Our countries are half a world apart, and vastly different in size. The languages we speak and the cultures we cherish are dramatically distinct. Yet for all our differences, we are more united than ever by common values and vision. Both our nations understand we have more to gain by working together than trying to make our own way. In a world grown closer, both the costs of conflict and the rewards of cooperation have risen. It serves all our interests if we can join as one in preserving peace... promoting stability... strengthening economic growth... protecting our planet... and pooling our strength against common threats to our security.

When President Johnson addressed an audience at Chula 30 years

ago, few could have imagined how the world would look today. Then, the world was divided into two opposing blocs. Thai and American soldiers were brothers-in-arms in a devastating conflict in Vietnam. Your nation, like so many others in the region, relied on agricultural production for its growth. Asia as a whole produced less than one-tenth of global GNP.

Today, the Cold War is over. Southeast Asia has come full circle, as ASEAN -- born in the throes of the Vietnam War -- last year welcomed Vietnam as its newest member. Thailand has transformed itself into a financial and industrial powerhouse, and the economies of East Asia are the fastest growing in the world -- producing fully one-quarter of the world's goods and services. A technological revolution has collapsed the distances between us. And a new global economy is transforming the way we live -- bringing tremendous opportunities for our people.

Thailand knows well the benefits of free and open markets. Your nation has recently been hailed by the World Bank as the world's fastest growing economy over the last decade. You have helped make APEC a driving force in opening trade, deepening ties, and helping all our people to live out their dreams. You are laying the groundwork for an Asia of the future -- where ancient cultures are linked by modern communications... where a vast and diverse region is joined by values of hard work and enterprise... where cooperation and integration are the watchwords of the day. And the dynamic growth of this region has been good for America as well. Today, more than 2 million American jobs and 40 percent of our trade are tied to Asia [TK].

But you also know that while economic growth is crucial to our nations, economic growth alone -- impressive as it may be -- is not enough. Some have suggested that a nation's maturity, its world role, and even its responsibilities to its citizens, can be determined primarily or even exclusively by economic growth, prudent economic management, and a rising standard of living. Those are all certainly desirable goals. But as the people of Thailand understand so well, economic progress and democratic development must go

hand-in-hand. A nation can only reach its fullest potential when the searchlight of a free press can expose corruption... when an independent judiciary protects contracts... when the free flow of goods is matched by the unfettered flow of ideas.

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And here in Thailand, you have made great strides in strengthening your democracy. The national elections just nine days ago were a milestone in that journey. There were winners and losers in that contest -- and as someone who has known both victory and defeat, I know that winning is more fun. But in a far more important sense, everybody wins when the basic institutions of freedom and justice are strengthened through a free electoral process.

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Every nation of the Asia Pacific must pursue the benefits of progress while preserving the best of its traditions. But surely we can all agree that human dignity and individual worth must never be undervalued or abused.

The United States will continue to stand with those who stand for freedom -- in Asia and around the world. We do so not only because it reflects our ideals, but

because it reinforces our common interest in the safety, prosperity, and well-being of our people.

And just as democracy eases relations within nations, so it enhances relations among nations. Democratic nations generally make better neighbors, and more reliable partners in diplomacy and trade. Thailand knows this from its own experience. Your leadership has helped ASEAN earn worldwide respect for its commitment to peace and development. From supporting the Cambodian people in their quest for a better future... to helping push the Uruguay Round to its successful, historic conclusion... to building trust and security through the ASEAN Regional Forum, cooperation is paying off in growing stability and influence.

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But in this world of crumbling barriers and blurring borders, while progress spreads quickly, trouble can too. My nation is determined to maintain our strong Pacific presence -- with 100,000 American troops to safeguard our common security. We are reinforcing our five core alliances, and helping Asia build new security structures to promote stability and peace. We know we must be a Pacific power, or we will be no power at all -- and I pledge to you that America's commitment to this region will not falter.

But new dangers to our safety -- from environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS... to the spread of weapons of mass destruction... drug trafficking... and organized crime -- defy traditional

defenses. No nation is immune to these threats -- and none can defeat them alone.

The United States is working with Thailand to ease the toll that economic growth has taken on the environment -- from traffic jams that choke the air to waste that poisons your waterways. Many American environmental companies are helping Thailand preserve a healthier planet for future generations. Our Embassy here is our regional hub for working on issues like air pollution and climate change. Recently, Thailand became the first developing nation to ban production and import of refrigerators with ozone-destroying CFCs. I commend the Thai authorities for their efforts to strengthen Thailand's laws against pollution.

We're also working with Thai officials to help stem the AIDS epidemic -- which now is spreading faster in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Thailand has set a strong example in promoting AIDS prevention. But even with declining rates of infection, the public health problem is daunting. The U.S. Agency for International Development helped launch the "Thai Women of Tomorrow Project," to help young women find better alternatives to the prostitution that puts their lives at risk. The First Lady saw that dream coming to life when she visited Chiang Mai.

But nowhere is our cooperation more important than in fighting the organized forces of crime and destruction -- especially because these dangerous groups increasingly are interconnected. Organizations that once operated in only one country or region, or engaged in only one type of illegal activity, now are becoming global and diversified. Drug traffickers smuggle machine guns. Terrorists sell counterfeit currency. Left unchecked, these criminal syndicates distort free economies, derail fragile democracies, and debilitate our societies with corruption and violence.

Thailand and the United States are close and committed partners in the fight against drugs. We know we can do no less when the lives of our young people are at stake. As a nation that must face the challenge not only of narcotics production, but also drug refinery, transit, and

trafficking, Thailand's many successful initiatives can be models for other nations. You have led the way in encouraging farmers to give up cultivation of opium poppies. Their majesties the King and Queen have inspired creative rural development projects to give people other sources of income and hope. You have drafted money laundering legislation, which we hope will soon be passed.

And our extensive cooperation in law enforcement has paid off. In 1994, Operation Tiger Trap led to the arrest of 14 drug kingpins, two of whom have been extradited to the United States. It dealt a crippling blow to the Shan United Army -- the trafficking network in Burma. And Thailand strengthened its northern border controls, which has helped shift trafficking patterns away from this nation. Thailand is sending a clear signal to the drug lords: We will find you, we will stop you, we will punish you.

All of these efforts are essential and they are working. But the problem of illegal drugs can only be defeated at the source. Burma has long been the world's number one producer of opium and heroin. Now, its dealers are also making metamphetamines -- and the biggest market for these drugs is in Thailand and other nearby states. The trends in Burma are grim: opium and stimulant production is rising, and Burma's leading narco-traffickers are buying real estate, investing in the economy, and openly courting military officials. Khun Sa himself, the most notorious opium warlord, is alive and well in Rangoon and has not been brought to justice.

The entrenchment of the drug trade in economic and political life and the persistent denial of human rights in Burma are two sides of the same coin -- devastating symptoms of the absence of the rule of law. Every nation that wants to rid its neighborhoods of drugs has an interest in pressing the Burmese authorities on this issue. Most fundamentally, every nation that seeks a stable and secure Pacific community has an interest in promoting true political dialogue in Burma -- one that will end the repression of Burma's democratic movements, make its regime more accountable to the people, deny legitimacy to drug traffickers,

and launch a real fight against
crime and corruption. That is the best way to help the people of
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No one understands the stakes better than Thailand. And no one
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chance to make the most of
their own lives. Your own proud history reflects the fight for
freedom you have waged so
bravely at home and abroad. Today, at the ballot box, in the
marketplace, in the classroom, you
are making your voices heard and keeping your country strong.
And in APEC, ASEAN, and the
ASEAN Regional Forum, you are helping the seeds of mutual
cooperation to ripen and to flourish.

I believe that working together, the United States and Thailand
can help lead the way to an Asia
Pacific region in which stunning economic success is matched by
greater freedom and growing
opportunity. Let us reinforce our partnership for our time --
not only to meet the challenges we
face, but also to make the most of the great promise that lies
ahead.

We still have much to learn from one another -- and I am
confident we will. That is the benefit
of openness between our societies, and within our own countries.
That is the bedrock of a
Pacific community based on shared interests, shared values,
shared dreams. That is the result
of America's enduring engagement in the Asia Pacific... and our
lasting friendship with Thailand.

###

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 23 November 96 21:43

FROM Blinken, Antony J.

CLASSIFICATION ***** CLASSIFICATION NOT FOUND *****

SUBJECT Speeches etc...

TO Benjamin, Daniel
Blinken, Antony J.
Fetig, James L.
Gibney, James S.
Gray, Wendy
Moffett, Julia
Naplan, Steven J.
Santarcangelo, Jason M.
Showalter, Victoria A.

CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE

TEXT_BODY

[[CHULA5.DOC : 94 in CHULA5.DOC]]Julia -- attached, SRB cleared-drafts of Thai University speech and Tax Treaty. POTUS won't see till just before the events, so not good for quotation, yet.

Also, FYI: as you know, we scratched post-APEC press conference. Current thinking is to possibly/possibly open to press remarks to embassy staff Manila and do a few grafts on APEC (Tuesday, 5:15 p.m. Manila time.)

**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 24 November 96 0:9

**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** CHULA5.DOC

11/24/96 9:30 AM
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
BANGKOK, THAILAND
NOVEMBER 26, 1996

Acknowledgments: Dr. Thienchay Kirinandana (University President) [PRON]
Dr. Kasem Suwanagul (Chairman of the University Council) [PRON]
Master of Ceremonies [TK name and PRON]

I'm delighted and honored to be with you today. I've heard that

Chulalongkorn

[CHOO-la-long-korn] is sometimes referred to as the Harvard of Thailand. But speaking as a Yale man, I know that what they should really say is that Harvard is the Chula of the United States.

Three years ago, I took my first trip as President overseas. I visited two of America's key allies in Asia -- Japan and Korea. Now, shortly after my re-election, Asia is once again first on my list -- and from Australia to the Philippines to Thailand, I have again seen first hand the region's remarkable diversity and dynamism. As I told the people of Australia, and reaffirmed at APEC and in my meetings with the leaders of China, South Korea, and Japan, as we enter the 21st century, America's commitment to the Asia Pacific is greater and stronger than ever. America's future cannot be secure if Asia's is in doubt.

I've wanted to visit Thailand for quite some time -- but I'm especially pleased to join you in this historic year, as we celebrate the life and work of His Majesty, King Bhumibol [BOO-mee-pon].

The close ties between our two nations go back to 1833, when America signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the Kingdom of Siam. Those early bonds of friendship have endured the test of time -- anchored by our security alliance... strengthened through our struggle and sacrifice in Korea and Vietnam... kept sharp and ready through "Cobra Gold" -- the largest exercise involving U.S. forces anywhere in Asia. When it comes to protecting our common security, America and Thailand know we can count on one another.

Our nations are partners in prosperity as well. We enjoyed some \$18 billion in 2-way trade last year alone. We've forged important agreements in civil aviation, the protection of intellectual property, and most recently a tax treaty I was honored to witness today.

And more than ever, our people are joined by ties of culture and community. My country has been strengthened by the contributions of tens of thousands of Americans of Thai descent. From Southern California to Houston to New York, the graceful

temples, ancient traditions, and exotic flavors of Thailand have enriched the color and texture of America's national quilt.

Now, our challenge is to deepen our partnership for the demands of the 21st century. The United States and Thailand are half a world apart, and vastly different in size. The languages we speak and the cultures we cherish are dramatically distinct. Yet for all our differences, we are more united than ever by common values and vision. Both our nations share the dream of an Asia Pacific region where economic growth and democratic ideals are steadily advancing and mutually reinforcing. That dream is coming true here in Thailand today -- to the benefit of your people, our region, and the world.

Today, I want to talk with you about why that trend toward freedom -- the free flow of goods and the free flow of ideas -- is increasingly important to our common well-being on the threshold of the 21st century.

Consider how much the world has changed since President Johnson spoke at Chula 30 years ago. The Cold War is over. Southeast Asia has come full circle, as ASEAN -- born in the throes of the Vietnam War -- last year welcomed Vietnam as its newest member. Thailand has become a financial and industrial powerhouse, and the economies of East Asia are the fastest growing in the world. A technological revolution has collapsed the distances between us. And a new global economy is transforming the way we live, work and communicate -- bringing tremendous opportunities for our people.

But for all its promise, the 21st century will not be free from peril. Old temptations still exist for rogue states to launch aggression. And a host of new threats, from international criminals to drug traffickers, will menace our security.

The nations that will have the greatest advantage in seizing these opportunities and meeting these threats are those that are responsive to the needs and aspirations of their people... that devote their energies to promoting commerce instead of conflict... that are prepared to work with

others, and not against them... that have the openness and flexibility to harness the winds of change. In short, as we enter the 21st century, free market democracies are uniquely placed to thrive.

Thailand is proving that proposition every day. Yours has been the world's fastest growing economy over the last decade. You have helped make APEC a driving force in opening trade, deepening ties, and helping all our people to live out their dreams. You are laying the groundwork for an Asia of the future -- where ancient cultures are linked by modern communications... where a vast and diverse region is joined by values of hard work and enterprise... where cooperation and integration are the watchwords of the day. And the regional growth you have helped to inspire has been good for America as well. Today, more than 2 million American jobs and 40 percent of our trade are tied to Asia.

Some have suggested that a nation's maturity, its world role, and even its responsibilities to its citizens, can be measured primarily or even exclusively by economic growth, prudent economic management, and a rising standard of living. Those are all important goals. But as the people of Thailand understand so well, alone they are not enough. When economic progress is matched by democratic development, each is more likely to advance and endure. We need look no further than the economic vitality of Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan and South Korea to see the evidence in action.

A wave of democracy has swept the earth in recent years -- from Hungary to Haiti to South Africa. For the first time in history, nearly half the world's nations and two-thirds of its people are ruled by leaders of their own choosing. This democratic tide has reshaped Asia's shores. With the help of Thailand, the United States, and others, Cambodia's war is over at last and its people are striving to build a democratic future. The people of Mongolia have cast their lot with democracy, and cast their vote in free elections.

And here in Thailand, last week's national elections were another

milestone in your democratic journey -- your second successive democratic transfer of power. As always, there were winners and losers in that contest. But in the most important sense, everybody wins when the basic institutions of liberty are strengthened through free elections.

The United States is proud to have supported democracy's march across Asia. We do not seek to impose our vision of the world on others. It is our conviction that freedom and justice are the birthright of humankind. It is the citizens of Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan who show us that accountable government and the rule of law can thrive in an Asian climate. It is the brave reformers in Burma who remind us these desires know no boundaries. It is the people of Cambodia and Mongolia who prove that change is possible. Their aspirations are not Asian or American -- they are universal. They are human.

Every nation of the Asia Pacific must preserve the best of its traditions while pursuing the benefits of progress. But surely we can all agree that human dignity and individual worth must never be undervalued or abused.

The United States will continue to stand with those who stand for freedom -- in Asia and around the world. Supporting the rise of democracy not only reflects our ideals, it reinforces our ability to advance our common interests. Just as democracy promotes stability within nations, so it benefits relations among nations. A nation that respects the rights of its people is more likely to respect its neighbors as well -- to keep its word... to play by the rules... to be a reliable partner in diplomacy and trade.

Democracies also make better allies in the fight against the dangers of the future. And as we enter the 21st century, making common cause of our shared concerns is more important than ever. Here in Asia, where my nation has fought three wars in living memory, a history of regional conflict and mistrust has not fully faded away. Dangerous tensions persist along the Cold War's last frontier -- the most heavily fortified border in

the world, between North and South Korea. The region as a whole is in the midst of profound change.

The United States is determined to maintain our strong Pacific presence -- with 100,000 American troops to safeguard our common security. We are reinforcing our five core alliances, including with Thailand... and helping Asia build new security structures to promote stability and peace. The purpose of our presence is to provide a balance wheel of stability, so that people can thrive and nations can live in peace. It is not aimed at anyone -- it is to the benefit of everyone.

Safeguarding stability, however, requires more than military strength. In a world grown closer, both the rewards of cooperation and the costs of conflict have risen. [Just yesterday, we saw a real result of working together, as APEC leaders gave an important boost to a plan to cut to zero tariffs on information technology -- a trillion dollar engine of the global economy. Imagine the benefits to students like you, as the world of ideas becomes more open and accessible.]

But as barriers crumble and borders blur, while progress spreads quickly, trouble can too. Environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS... the spread of weapons of mass destruction... terrorism... drug trafficking... and organized crime -- these forces of destruction defy traditional defenses. No nation is immune -- and none can defeat these threats alone.

We need to work together, and join with others who share our goals. That's the best way to strengthen our hand, to share our burdens, and to speed our success. The United States is working with Thailand to ease the toll that economic growth has taken on the environment -- from traffic jams that choke the air to waste that poisons your waterways. Many American environmental companies are helping Thailand preserve a healthier planet for future generations. Our Embassy here is our regional headquarters for working on issues like air pollution and climate change. And Thailand is helping to lead the way. Recently, you became the first developing nation to ban production and import of refrigerators

with ozone-destroying CFCs.

We're also working with Thai officials to help stop the terrible AIDS epidemic -- which now is spreading faster in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Again, Thailand stands on the very front lines -- setting a strong example in promoting AIDS prevention. But even with declining rates of infection, the public health problem is enormous. The U.S. Agency for International Development helped launch the "Thai Women of Tomorrow Project," to assist young women in finding better prospects than the prostitution that puts their lives at risk. The First Lady visited that project yesterday when she traveled to Chiang Mai [PRON]. By joining our strength in the battle against AIDS in Thailand, we raise the chance a cure will be found that will lift people's lives worldwide.

Nowhere is our cooperation more important than in fighting the increasingly interconnected and organized forces of crime. Groups that once operated in only one country or region, or engaged in only one type of illegal activity, now are becoming global and diversified -- multinational masters of the underworld. Drug traffickers smuggle machine guns. Terrorists sell counterfeit currency. Left unchecked, these criminal conglomerates distort free economies, derail fragile democracies, and debilitate our societies with corruption and violence.

Thailand and the United States are close and committed partners in the fight against drugs. We cannot afford to rest in this struggle -- the lives of our young people are at stake. There are an estimated 600,000 heroin addicts in my country... and at least 500,000 here in Thailand. Think of all the human potential being lost to the needle every day.

Thailand is setting a strong example for other nations. With the help of Their Majesties the King and Queen, you are encouraging farmers to give up cultivation of opium poppies. You have drafted money laundering legislation, which we hope will soon be passed. You have helped deter drug trafficking through your country by toughening your northern border controls. And our extensive cooperation in law enforcement is paying off. In

1994, Operation Tiger Trap dealt a crippling blow to the Shan United Army -- a trafficking network in Burma -- enabling the arrest of 14 drug kingpins, two of whom have been extradited to the United States.

Thailand is sending a clear signal to the drug lords: We will find you, we will stop you, we will punish you. And America has a clear message for Thailand: We are with you all the way.

All of these efforts are essential and they are working. But we also must fight illegal drugs at the source. Burma has long been the world's number one producer of opium and heroin. Now, its drug gangs are also making metamphetamines -- and the biggest market for these drugs is in Thailand and other nearby states.

Every nation that wants to rid its streets of drugs has an interest in pressing the Burmese authorities on this issue. And every nation that seeks a safe and stable Pacific community has an interest in promoting true political dialogue in Burma -- one that will make its regime more accountable to the people and launch a real fight against crime and corruption. That's the best way to help the people of Burma to realize their aspirations -- and to protect our own against drugs.

Whether fighting drugs, combating AIDS, or protecting the planet we share, Thailand and the United States are putting our partnership to work for the benefit of our people. Both our nations know we have more to gain from standing together than from going it alone. And we both appreciate how much can be achieved when dialogue and democracy are society's lifeblood... when policies are made through consensus, not coercion... and people are given the tools and the chance to make the most of their own lives.

I believe that working together, the United States and Thailand can help lead the way to an Asia Pacific region in which economic success and greater freedom advance together and support one another... in which growing opportunity is matched and strengthened by increasing stability and security. Let us reinforce our partnership for our time -- not

only to meet the challenges we face, but also to make the most of the great promise that lies ahead.

We still have much to learn from one another -- and I am confident we will. That is the benefit of openness between our societies, and within our own countries. That is the bedrock of a Pacific community based on shared interests, shared values, shared dreams. That is the result of America's enduring engagement in the Asia Pacific... and our lasting friendship with Thailand.

###

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 26 November 96 13:21

FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT Bangkok: RBTP to Chulalongkorn University Community [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO

Abdulmalik, April B.
Albert, Ronda A.
Alijanil, Leyla
Andreasen, Steven P.
Appel, Edward J.
Armstrong, Fulton T.
Atlas, Edwin L.
Babcock, Douglas W.
Baker, Jane E.
Baker, James E.
Bakke, Kyle D.
Baldwin, Kenneth
Bass, Peter E.
Battenfield, Pat
Bedell, Blair B.
Beers, Rand R.
Behring, Deanna M.
Bellamy, Ralph C.
Bell, Robert G.
Bemisderfer, Dwight D.
Bendick, Gordon L.
Benjamin, Daniel
Biernacki, Eileen V.
Birkland, Andrea L.
Black, Todd F.
Blieberger, Marion H.
Blinken, Antony J.
Bolinski, Charlene C.
Boulton, Darrien D.
Boynton, Peter J.
Brennan, Steven A.
Bresnahan, Gary E.
Brooks, Jennifer
Brown, Dallas
Brown, Nancy E.
Bruton, Robert G.
Bryan, Lloyd D.
Bujold, Noelle D.
Burrell, Christina L.

Busick, Paul E.
Caravelli, John M.
Carter, Michael E.
Chen, Philip D.
Cicio, Kristen K.
Clark, Bronya
Clarke, Richard A.
Cooper, Kathleen H.
Daadler, Ivo H.
Danvers, William C.
Darnes, Victoria J.
Davis, William K.
Dimel, Marsha L.
Dobbins, James F.
Dohse, Fred J.
Dowling, J. Nicholas
Dupuy, Shawn L.
Durham, Robert J.
Edwards, Joan
Eggert, Tamara E.
Elkind, Jonathan H.
Epstein, Gerald L.
Feeley, John F.
Fetig, James L.
Ficklin, John W.
Flessas, Dan
Florio, Elaine
Fort, Jane B.
Fried, Daniel
Friedrich, M. K.
Fuerth, Leon S.
Fuhrman, Thomas A.
George, Christopher
Gerstner, Christina L.
Gibney, James S.
Gladbach, Damon J.
Glinski, David L.
Gorsuch, Robert P.
Gray, Wendy
Grummon, Stephen R.
Haines, Mary A.
Hale, John E.
Hall, James A.
Hall, Wilma G.
Hamel, Michael A.
Hamilton, Roy A.
Harding, Bruce D.
Harmon, Joyce A.
Harris, Elisa D.
Harrison, Lyle M.

Hasman, Thomas M.
Hawes, David J.
Hawkins, Ardenia R.
Heslin, Sheila N.
Higgins, David B.
Hilliard, Brenda I.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Hilty, JoAnne M.
Hofmann, Stephan D.
Houck, Baerbel K.
Huggins, Peter
Hunerwadel, Joan S.
Johnson, David T.
Johnson, Natalie A.
Jones, Kerri-Ann D.
Jordan, Donald L.
Joshi, M. Kay
Kale, Dora A.
Kelly, Sandra L.
Kessinger, Jodi
Kinser-Kidane, Brenda J.
Koehler, Marc
Kreczko, Alan J.
Kristoff, Sandra J.
Kyle, Robert D.
Lawrence, Cynthia
Leary, William H.
LeBaron, Richard B.
Lee, Malcolm R.
Letts, Kelly J.
Lindsay, James M.
Lindsey, Christine J.
Lorin, Matthew E.
Lowry, Jay E.
MacDonald, Bruce W.
Malley, Robert
Marshall, Betty A.
Marsh, Thomas S.
Martinez, Alejandro
Martinez, Valentino E.
Maxfield, Nancy H.
McCarthy, Mary O.
McCormick, Shawn H.
McIntyre, Stuart H.
Merchant, Brian
Millison, Cathy L.
Mitsler, Elaine M.
Miyaoaka, Lester H.
Moffett, Julia
Moody, Angelyn D.

Moore, Lori A.
Moran, Betsy Q.
Motherway, Daniel J.
Mueller, William (Doug) D.
Naplan, Steven J.
Natoli, Kim M.
Neil, M. Elise
Norris, John J.
O'loughlin, Kathrine
Orfini, Michael H.
Orr, Robert C.
O'Shaughnessy, Patrick
Panerali, Kristen E.
Gwyn M. Parker
Parramore, Carl W.
Parris, Mark R.
Pascual, Carlos E.
Peggins, John W.
Peters, Mary A.
Piccone, Theodore J.
Pifer, Steven K.
Porter, Gidell
Pritchard, Charles (Jack) L.
Pyatt, Geoffrey R.
Quinn, Mary E.
Ragan, Richard F.
Ramsay, Martha S.
Rice, Susan E.
Rice, Sean P.
Roach, Darren S.
Robinson, Wylma
Rosa, Frederick M.
Roundtree, Beverly J.
Rumer, Eugene B.
Salvetti, Lisa M.
Samore, Gary S.
Sanborn, Daniel R. K.
David B. Sandalow
Santarcangelo, Jason M.
Saunders, John W.
Schifter, Richard
Schmelz, Angela
Schmidt, John R.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Scott, John F.
Sculimbrene, Thomas A.
Seaton, James B.
Sens, Andrew D.
Sestak, Joseph A.
Sheehan, Michael A.

Showalter, Victoria A.
Sigler, Ralph
Simonalle, Eugene A.
Simon, Steven N.
Simons, James R.
Smith, Michael P.
Snyder, Julie A.
Sparks, John E.
Suettinger, Robert L.
Sulser, Jack A.
Szasz, Nicholas J.
Uriu, Robert M.
Van Tassel, David S.
Veit, Katherine M.
Vershow, Alexander R.
Verville, Elizabeth G.
Wadsworth, Valon J.
Waller, Robert P.
Walsh, Helen C.
Ward, JoAnn X.
Weber, Paul A.
Wechsler, William F.
Wetzel, M. Jeanne
Whitworth, Frank D.
Willis, Robin M.
Wise, William M.
Witkowsky, Anne A.
Woolston, Ann E.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
Wright, Allison M.
Wright, Jay
Yokum, Jeffrey G.

CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE

TEXT_BODY [[BANGKOKU.DOC : 3378 in BANGKOKU.DOC]]

**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 26 November 96 13:20

**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** BANGKOKU.DOC

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

(Bangkok, Thailand)

For Immediate Release November 26, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE COMMUNITY OF
CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY

Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok, Thailand

1:05 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Dr. Thienchay
Dr. Kasem; to the students and faculty who are here; citizens of
Thailand; my fellow Americans. Especially I would like to thank
the
glee club who sang. They did a marvelous job. Thank you very
much
for your music.

I am delighted and honored to be here today at a great
center of learning that is a living memorial to Thailand's
glorious
past, yet with a mission focused on the future; an institution
that
is proudly and distinctively Asian, yet reaching out to the
entire
world. And in the faces of the young people who are in this
audience, we all see the shining promise of tomorrow.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak
here today about the future of the United States, Thailand, and
the
entire Asia Pacific region we'll share in the 21st century.
Three
years ago, I took my first trip overseas as President to Japan
and
Korea. Now, shortly after my reelection, again my first trip is
to
Asia, to Australia, the Philippines, and Thailand. In Australia,
at
APEC, in my meetings with the leaders of China, South Korea,
Japan
and your own nation, I have reaffirmed America's commitment to
the

Asia Pacific region. That commitment is stronger than ever, for in the 21st century America's future cannot be secure if Asia's future is in doubt.

I wanted to visit Thailand for quite some time now, but I am especially glad to be able to join you in this historic year as we celebrate the life and work of His Majesty the King. The close ties between our two nations go back to 1833, when America signed a treaty of amity and commerce with the Kingdom of Siam. Those early bonds of friendship have endured the test of time; anchored by our security alliance, strengthened through our comradeship in Korea, in Vietnam; kept sharp and ready through Cobra Gold, the largest exercise involving United States forces anywhere in Asia.

Our nations are partners in prosperity as well. We enjoyed some \$18 billion in two-way trade last year alone. We've forged important agreements in civil aviation, the protection of intellectual property, and the tax treaty I was honored to witness just a few moments ago here in Bangkok today. More than ever, our people are also joined by ties of culture and community. My country has been strengthened by the contributions of literally tens of thousands of Americans of Thai descent. And from Southern California, to Houston, to New York, our culture has been greatly enriched by the graceful temples, the ancient traditions, the exotic flavors of Thailand, which now have a home in the United States.

Now we must deepen our partnership for the demands of the 21st century. The United States and Thailand, for all the distance and differences between us, share a common vision -- the dream of an Asia Pacific region where economic growth and democratic ideals are advancing steadily and reinforcing one another. That dream is coming true here in Thailand today, to the benefit of your people, this region, and the world.

Consider just how much the world has changed since President Johnson spoke here at Chula 30 years ago. The Cold War is over. ASEAN, born in the throes of the Vietnam War, last year

welcomed Vietnam as its newest member. Thailand has become an economic powerhouse. The economies of East Asia are the fastest growing in the world. The new global economy, spurred on by continuous explosions in information and technology, is transforming the way we live and work and communicate, collapsing the distances between us as the free flow of goods and the free flow of ideas are bringing tremendous opportunities for people throughout the world.

Of course, for all its promise, the 21st century will not be free of peril. Aggressive rogue states, global crime networks and drug traffickers, weapons proliferation and terrorism -- all these will continue to menace our security.

The nations most likely to succeed in this new world, to succeed in seizing the opportunities and meeting the threats of our time, are those that respond to the needs and aspirations of their people, promote commerce and cooperation instead of conflict, and have the openness and flexibility to harness the winds of change.

Thailand is proving that proposition every day. Yours has been the world's fastest growing economy over the last decade. You are laying the groundwork for an Asia of the future, where ancient cultures are linked by modern communications; where a vast and diverse region is joined by values of hard work and enterprise and shared benefits. This benefits the United States alone, with more than 2 million jobs and 40 percent of our trade now tied to the Asia Pacific region.

In the face of this, some have argued that democracy actually hinders economic growth in this region and in developing nations. But we need look no further than the economic vitality of Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea to see that economic growth and democratic development can go hand in hand. Indeed, in the information-based economy of today and tomorrow, free market democracies have unique advantages. Freedom and democracy

strengthen the prospects for strong and enduring economic progress.

A wave of democracy has swept the Earth in recent years. From Hungary to Haiti, to South Africa, to Cambodia, to Mongolia.

More than half the world's people now live under governments of their own choosing, for the first time in all of human history.

Here in Thailand, last week's elections were a further milestone in your democratic journey. As always in elections, there were winners and there were losers. I can say that; I have been a winner and a loser. (Laughter.) And while losing is not as good as winning, whenever power is transferred peacefully and democratically, everyone in that nation is a winner. (Applause.)

The United States is proud to have supported democracy's march across Asia. We do not seek to impose our vision of the world or any particular form of government on others. But we do believe that freedom and justice are the birthright of humankind. The citizens of Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand -- Taiwan -- show us that accountable government and the rule of law can thrive in an Asian climate.

The people of Cambodia and Mongolia proved that change is possible in difficult circumstances. The brave reformers in Burma led by Aung San Suu Kyi remind us that these desires know no boundaries. Their aspirations are universal because they are fundamentally human.

Every nation of the Asia Pacific must preserve the best of its traditions while pursuing the benefits of progress. But surely we can all agree that human dignity and individual worth must never be undervalued or abused. The United States will continue to stand with those who stand for freedom in Asia and beyond. Doing so reflects not only our ideals, it advances our interests. A nation that respects the rights of its own people is far more likely to

respect the rights of its neighbors, to keep its word, to play by the rules, to be a reliable partner in diplomacy and trade, and in the pursuit of peace and stability.

It is in that pursuit that the United States will continue to maintain our strong Pacific presences, with 100,000 American troops to safeguard our common security. We are reinforcing our five core alliances here, including our very special alliance with Thailand. We're helping Asia to build new security structures to promote stability and peace.

But let me be clear: Our presence is not aimed against anyone or any nation. Its aim is to benefit everyone and every nation through greater security and stability for all.

Safeguarding stability we know now requires more than military strength. In a world grown closer, both the rewards of cooperation and the costs of conflict have risen dramatically. Just yesterday we saw a real result of working together as the APEC leaders, with strong support from Thailand, enforced early completion of an information technology agreement which would cut to zero tariffs on products from semiconductors to software by the year 2000.

Imagine the benefits to the students in this auditorium and those just outside, and in booming countries the world over, as ideas become even more open and accessible to people, as the Information Revolution spreads to even more eager minds. Imagine the even greater benefits which will come to that one-half of the world's population which, believe it or not, are still two days' walk from the nearest telephone. They cannot participate in this world we are trying to imagine and create unless we all join together to spread the benefits of the Information Revolution to everyone, and to do it now.

But let us not be blind to the fact that as barriers crumble and borders blur and progress spreads quickly, so, too,

can
trouble spread quickly in this new world. We have only to look
at
the spread of environmental degradation, HIV and AIDS, weapons of
mass destruction, terrorism, drug trafficking, the rise of
organized
crime. These forces of destruction defy traditional defenses,
just
as traditional barriers can no longer keep out ideas, information
and
truth. No nation is immune to the forces of destruction and none
can defeat these threats alone.

Therefore, we must work together. The United States is
working with Thailand to ease the toll that economic growth has
taken
on your environment. Many American environmental companies are
working here for a healthier future not only in Thailand, but
beyond
your borders. Our Embassy here is our regional headquarters for
working on issues like air pollution and climate change
throughout
the area. Thailand is helping to lead the way. Recently you
became
the first developing nation to ban the production and import of
refrigerators with ozone-destroying CFCs, and I thank you for
that.

We are also working with Thailand to help stop the
terrible AIDS epidemic, now spreading faster in Asia than in any
other region of the world. Again, Thailand stands on the very
front
lines, setting a strong example in promoting AIDS prevention.
But
even with declining rates of infection, the public health problem
is
enormous. We in America will do our part by promoting dramatic
increases in research and development of new drugs. I am happy
to
say that in our country in the last four years the average life
expectancy for those with HIV and AIDS has more than doubled. We
will continue to do our part, but you must continue to work as
only
you can here, as well.

The United States Agency for International Development
helped to launch the Thai Women Of Tomorrow Project to assist
young
women in finding better prospects than the prostitution that puts
their lives at risk. The First Lady visited that project the day

before yesterday when she traveled to Chaing Mai to see the project started by faculty members at Chaing Mai University. Of course, this is important to try to turn these young women and their families away from destructive life habits. But as the First Lady has said all over the world, it is not enough to protect women and girls from those who would exploit them; we must all work together to open wide the positive doors of opportunity so that every person in every free society can contribute and share in its progress.

Our cooperation is nowhere more essential than in the fight against the increasingly interconnected and global forces of organized crime. For left unchecked, these criminal conglomerates, multinational masters of the underworld, will distort free economies, derail fragile democracies, debilitate our societies with corruption and violence and drugs.

Thailand and the United States are close and committed partners in the fight against drugs. We cannot afford to rest in the struggle, for the lives of too many millions of our young people are at stake. Thailand is setting a strong example for other nations. With the help of Their Majesties, the King and Queen, you have helped to give farmers the opportunity to give up the cultivation of opium in favor of other more productive crops. You have drafted money laundering legislation which we hope will soon be passed. You have helped to deter drug trafficking through your country by toughening your northern border patrols.

And our extensive cooperation in law enforcement is clearly paying off. In 1994, Operation Tiger Trap dealt a crippling blow to a major trafficking network in Burma, enabling the arrest of 14 drug kingpins, two of whom have now been extradited to the United

States. In all your work in this area, Thailand is sending a clear signal to drug lords: We will fight you; we are determined to stop you. And America has a clear signal to Thailand: We will stand with you all the way.

On behalf of General Barry McCaffrey, who leads our nation's antidrug effort and who is with me today, and all those children whose lives we are helping to save, I thank the Thai government and the people of Thailand for moving away from the scourge of narcotics.

We know we must do more to fight illegal drugs at the source. Burma has long been the world's number one producer of opium and heroin and now is also making methamphetamines. The role of drugs in Burma's economic and political life and the regime's refusal to honor its own pledge to move to multiparty democracy are really two sides of the same coin, for both represent the absence of the rule of law. Every nation has an interest in promoting true political dialogue in Burma -- a dialogue that will lead to a real fight against crime, corruption and narcotics and a government more acceptable to its people.

Whether we are fighting drugs, combating AIDS, trying to open bright new futures for our children, or working to protect the planet we share, Thailand and the United States are making our partnership work for our people. For we both know we have much more to gain from standing together than by going it alone. And we both appreciate how much can be achieved when dialogue and democracy are the life blood of two nations' relations with each other, when policies are made through consensus, not coercion, and when people everywhere are given the tools and the chance to make the most of their own lives.

Working together, the United States and Thailand can help lead the way to an Asia Pacific region in which economic success and greater freedom advance together and support one another; a

region in which growing opportunity is matched and strengthened by increasing freedom, stability, and security.

We still have challenges to meet. We still have opportunities to seize. We still have much to learn from one another.

But I am confident we will do all these things, because we know that by working together and working with others we can build a Pacific community based on shared interests, shared values, and shared dreams.

It is a great honor, therefore, to be here today to reaffirm America's enduring engagement in the Asia Pacific and our lasting and proud friendship with Thailand.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

(The Degree of Doctor of Economics is conferred upon the President.)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Let me just briefly say that -- first, to the distinguished officials of the university who voted this degree, I thank you very much. When I heard the President reading the degree citation, I have to tell you what I was thinking was I wish that they had made that available to the voters in my country before the last election. (Laughter and applause.) But I thank him for it very much. (Applause.)

I understand that in many quarters this great university, Chulalongkorn, is known as the Harvard of Thailand. Now, I never made it to Harvard -- (laughter) -- but if I had to choose, I feel so thoroughly elevated today in my wonderful robes and with my degree, I prefer to have been awarded the degree here. And I thank you. (Applause.)

I think every time I go back now to my wonderful friends in Massachusetts and at Harvard, I will always -- at least a part of me will always think of Harvard as the Chulalongkorn of the United States. (Laughter.)

Thank you very much and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

1:43 P.M. (L)

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 27 November 96 08:57

FROM Showalter, Victoria A.

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT Chula Speech ~~[CONFIDENTIAL]~~

TO Schwartz, Eric P.

CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE

TEXT_BODY

Eric -- here is the draft of the speech as it was given to the President last night. Please don't share it with anyone. It will not be considered final until the President delivers it this afternoon. Burma is mentioned twice, once in a generic paragraph on democracy ("brave reformers, led by Aung San Suu Kyi...") and at the end in a paragraph that makes the link between drugs and the regime's refusal to honor its own pledge to move to multiparty democracy as two sides of the same coin: the absence of the rule of law.

Thanks for your help on the phone. Happy Thanksgiving. Vinca.
[[CHULA5.DOC : 5415 in CHULA5.DOC]]

ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE

25 November 96 10:29

ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME

CHULA5.DOC

11/25/96 9:30 PM
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
REMARKS AT CHULALONGKORN UNIVERSITY
BANGKOK, THAILAND
NOVEMBER 26, 1996

Acknowledgments: Dr. Thienchay [TEE-en-chai] (President)
Dr. Kasem [ka-SEM] (Chairman, University Council)
Aahjaan Kalaya [AAH-jaahn gah-LEE-ya] (Master of Ceremonies)

I'm delighted and honored to be with you today. This great center of higher learning is a living memorial to Thailand's glorious past, yet its mission is focused on the future. It is proudly and distinctively Asian, yet it reaches out to the world. And in the faces of the many young people in the audience, I see the shining promise of tomorrow. I've heard that Chulalongkorn [JOO-la-lohng-gone] is sometimes referred to as the Harvard University of Thailand. But I know

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13526
White House Guidelines, September 11, 2006
By ~~YDE~~ NARA, Date 05/23/13
2007-1550-F

that what they should really say is that Harvard is the Chula [JOO-la] of the United States.

Three years ago, I took my first trip as President overseas, to visit two of America's key allies in Asia -- Japan and Korea. Now, shortly after my re-election, my first trip again is to Asia. From Australia to the Philippines to Thailand, I have seen once more the region's remarkable diversity and dynamism. As I told the people of Australia, and reaffirmed at APEC and in my meetings with the leaders of China, South Korea, and Japan, America's commitment to the Asia Pacific is stronger than ever. In the 21st century, America's future cannot be secure if Asia's is in doubt.

I've wanted to visit Thailand for quite some time -- but I'm especially pleased to join you in this historic year, as we celebrate the life and work of His Majesty, King Bhumibol [POO-mee-pon].

The close ties between our two nations go back to 1833, when America signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the Kingdom of Siam. Those early bonds of friendship have endured the test of time -- anchored by our security alliance... strengthened through our struggle and sacrifice in Korea and Vietnam... kept sharp and ready through "Cobra Gold" -- the largest exercise involving U.S. forces anywhere in Asia.

Our nations are partners in prosperity as well. We enjoyed some \$18 billion in 2-way trade last year alone. We've forged important agreements in civil aviation, the protection of intellectual property, and most recently a tax treaty I was honored to witness today.

And more than ever, our people are joined by ties of culture and community. My country has been strengthened by the contributions of tens of thousands of Americans of Thai descent. From Southern California to Houston to New York, the graceful temples, ancient traditions, and exotic flavors of Thailand have enriched the color and texture of America's national quilt.

Now, our challenge is to deepen our partnership for the demands of the 21st century. The United States and Thailand are half a world apart. The languages we speak and the cultures we cherish are dramatically different. Yet we are more united than ever by common values and vision. Both our nations share the dream of an Asia Pacific region where economic growth and democratic ideals are steadily advancing and

mutually reinforcing. That dream is coming true here in Thailand today -- to the benefit of your people, our region, and the world.

Today, I want to talk with you about why that trend toward freedom -- the free flow of goods and the free flow of ideas -- is increasingly important to our common well-being on the threshold of the 21st century.

Consider how much the world has changed since President Johnson spoke at Chula [JOO-la] 30 years ago. The Cold War is over. ASEAN -- born in the throes of the Vietnam War -- last year welcomed Vietnam as its newest member. Thailand has become an economic powerhouse, and the economies of East Asia are the fastest growing in the world. A technological revolution has collapsed the distances between us. And a new global economy is transforming the way we live, work and communicate -- bringing tremendous opportunities for our people.

But for all its promise, the 21st century will not be free from peril. Old temptations still exist for rogue states to launch aggression. And a host of new threats, from international criminals to drug traffickers, will menace our security.

The nations that will have the greatest advantage in seizing these opportunities and meeting these threats are those that respond to the needs and aspirations of their people... that promote commerce instead of conflict... that work with others, and not against them... that have the openness and flexibility to harness the winds of change. In short, as we enter the 21st century, free market democracies are uniquely placed to thrive.

Thailand is proving that proposition every day. Yours has been the world's fastest growing economy over the last decade. You have helped make APEC a driving force in opening trade and deepening ties. You are laying the groundwork for an Asia of the future -- where ancient cultures are linked by modern communications... where a vast and diverse region is joined by values of hard work and enterprise. And the regional growth you have helped to inspire has been good for America as well. More than 2 million American jobs and 40 percent of our trade are tied to Asia.

Some have suggested that a nation's success can be measured by its economic performance alone, without regard to the advance of freedom. Indeed, some people believe democracy hinders economic growth. We need look no further than

the economic vitality of Thailand, the Philippines, Taiwan and South Korea to see that economic growth and democratic development can go hand-in-hand. In the information based economy of today and tomorrow, freedom and democracy strengthen the prospects for strong and enduring economic progress.

A wave of democracy has swept the earth in recent years -- from Hungary to Haiti to South Africa. This democratic tide has reshaped Asia's shores. Cambodia's war is over at last and its people are striving to build a democratic future. The people of Mongolia have cast their lot with democracy, and cast their vote in free elections.

And here in Thailand, last week's national elections were a further milestone in your democratic journey -- yet another peaceful and democratic transfer of power. As always, there were winners and losers in that contest. But in the most important sense, everybody wins when the basic institutions of liberty are strengthened through elections.

The United States is proud to have supported democracy's march across Asia. We do not seek to impose our vision of the world, or any particular form of government, on others. But we believe that freedom and justice are the birthright of humankind. And the citizens of Thailand, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan show us that accountable government and the rule of law can thrive in an Asian climate. It is the people of Cambodia and Mongolia who prove that change is possible. It is the brave reformers in Burma -- led by Aung San Suu Kyi [ong san soo chi] who remind us these desires know no boundaries. Their aspirations are universal. They are human.

Every nation of the Asia Pacific must preserve the best of its traditions while pursuing the benefits of progress. But surely we can all agree that human dignity and individual worth must never be undervalued or abused.

The United States will continue to stand with those who stand for freedom -- in Asia and beyond. Supporting the rise of democracy not only reflects our ideals, it reinforces our ability to advance our common interests. A nation that respects the rights of its people is more likely to respect its neighbors as well -- to keep its word, to play by the rules, to be a reliable partner in diplomacy and trade.

Democracies also make better allies in the fight against future dangers. And as we enter the 21st century, making common cause of our shared concerns is more important than ever.

Here in Asia, where my nation has fought three wars in living memory, a history of regional conflict and mistrust has not fully faded away. Tensions persist along the world's most heavily fortified border, between North and South Korea. The entire region is in the midst of profound change.

The United States is determined to maintain our strong Pacific presence -- with 100,000 American troops to safeguard our common security. We are reinforcing our five core alliances, including with Thailand... and helping Asia build new security structures to promote stability and peace. The purpose of our presence is to provide a balance wheel of stability, so that people can thrive and nations can live in peace. It is not aimed at anyone -- it is to the benefit of everyone.

Safeguarding stability, however, requires more than military strength. In a world grown closer, both the rewards of cooperation and the costs of conflict have risen. Just yesterday, we saw a real result of working together, as APEC leaders endorsed early completion of an Information Technology Agreement, which would cut to zero tariffs on products from semiconductors to software by the year 2000. Imagine the benefits to students like you, as the world of ideas becomes more open and accessible.

But as barriers crumble and borders blur, while progress spreads quickly, trouble can too. Environmental degradation and HIV/AIDS... the spread of weapons of mass destruction... terrorism... drug trafficking... and organized crime -- these forces of destruction defy traditional defenses. No nation is immune -- and none can defeat these threats alone.

We need to work together, and join with others who share our goals. That's the best way to strengthen our hand, to share our burdens, and to speed our success. The United States is working with Thailand to ease the toll that economic growth has taken on the environment. Many American environmental companies are working with Thailand for a healthier future here and beyond your borders. Our Embassy here is our regional headquarters for working on issues like air pollution and climate change. And Thailand is helping to lead the way. Recently, you became the first developing nation to ban production and import of refrigerators with ozone-destroying CFCs.

We're also working with Thailand to help stop the terrible AIDS epidemic -- which now is spreading faster in Asia than anywhere else in the world. Again, Thailand stands on the very

front lines -- setting a strong example in promoting AIDS prevention. But even with declining rates of infection, the public health problem is enormous. The U.S. Agency for International Development helped launch the "Thai Women of Tomorrow Project," to assist young women in finding better prospects than the prostitution that puts their lives at risk. The First Lady visited that project yesterday when she traveled to Chiang Mai [Chang My].

It is not enough to protect women and girls from those who would exploit them. We must open wide the doors of opportunity -- so every member of society can contribute and share in its progress.

Nowhere is our cooperation more important than in fighting the increasingly interconnected and global forces of organized crime. Left unchecked, these criminal conglomerates -- multinational masters of the underworld -- distort free economies, derail fragile democracies, and debilitate our societies with corruption and violence.

Thailand and the United States are close and committed partners in the fight against drugs. We cannot afford to rest in this struggle -- the lives of our young people are at stake. Thailand is setting a strong example for other nations. With the help of Their Majesties the King and Queen, you are encouraging farmers to give up cultivation of opium poppies. You have drafted money laundering legislation, which we hope will soon be passed. You have helped deter drug trafficking through your country by toughening your northern border controls.

And our extensive cooperation in law enforcement is paying off. In 1994, Operation Tiger Trap dealt a crippling blow to a major trafficking network in Burma, enabling the arrest of 14 drug kingpins, two of whom have been extradited to the United States. Thailand is sending a clear signal to the drug lords: We will find you, we will stop you, we will punish you. And America has a clear message for Thailand: We are with you all the way.

But we also must fight illegal drugs at the source. Burma has long been the world's number one producer of opium and heroin, and now is also making methamphetamines. The role of drugs in Burma's economic and political life and the regime's refusal to honor its own pledge to move to multiparty democracy are two sides of the same coin: the absence of the rule of law. Every nation has an interest in promoting true political dialogue in Burma -- one that will make its regime more accountable to the people and spur a real fight

against crime and corruption.

Whether fighting drugs, combating AIDS, or protecting the planet we share, Thailand and the United States are making our partnership work for our people. Both our nations know we have more to gain from standing together than from going it alone. And we both appreciate how much can be achieved when dialogue and democracy are society's lifeblood... when policies are made through consensus, not coercion... and people are given the tools and the chance to make the most of their own lives.

I believe that working together, the United States and Thailand can help lead the way to an Asia Pacific region in which economic success and greater freedom advance together and support one another... in which growing opportunity is matched and strengthened by increasing stability and security. Let us reinforce our partnership -- not only to meet the challenges we face, but also to make the most of the great promise that lies ahead.

We still have much to learn from one another -- and I am confident we will. That is the benefit of openness between our societies, and within our own countries. That is the bedrock of a Pacific community based on shared interests, shared values, shared dreams. That is the result of America's enduring engagement in the Asia Pacific... and our lasting friendship with Thailand.

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MS Mail

DATE-TIME 03 December 96 08:36
FROM Sestak, Joseph A.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Dec 2 McCurry Press Briefing [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Andreasen, Steven P.
CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE
TEXT_BODY

Steve,
In case you didn't see it, START III question to McCurry on page 17.
r, Joe

From: Wozniak, Natalie S.
To: @ALLNSC - NSC Staff; @VP - VP Natl Security Affairs
CC: /R, Record at A1
Subject: Dec 2 McCurry Press Briefing [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Monday, December 02, 1996 05:00 PM

[[MIKE1202.DOC : 2122 in MIKE1202.DOC]]

**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 2 December 96 16:54
**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** MIKE1202.DOC

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 2, 1996

PRESS BRIEFING BY
MIKE MCCURRY

The Briefing Room

1:40 P.M. EST

MR. MCCURRY: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome back to the White House after, I hope, a blissful Thanksgiving weekend. Any subjects you're interested in?

Q Can you tell us if the President is getting close to naming his national security team? (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Blitzer, the President was just having a very good laugh at your most recent report moments ago. The conversation he was having with Mr. Panetta and Mr. Bowles made it manifestly clear that what you reported on the air was not true.

Q Uh-oh.

Q Which part?

Q What did he say?

Q -- being carried live on CNN. (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Blitzer was ranking the various rumored candidates for Secretary of State and got the latest speculation wrong.

Q What did the President say?

MR. MCCURRY: The President said much of what he told you earlier, that he spent four days with his family. He clearly had gone through the recommendations, the binder that Mr. Bowles had presented to him. This was the first substantive conversation the President has had with his transition leaders since last Wednesday, before Thanksgiving. And I won't change what I said earlier, that his thinking on the national security cluster is fairly well-advanced, but it was fairly clear that there is no final decisions to announce. And as the President indicated, when there are final decisions he will make the announcement accordingly. In the meantime, you're all free to speculate.

Q Do you have more on the President's schedule this week? You said there are going to be more public appearances

than
were listed in that little skeleton schedule.

MR. MCCURRY: I've got -- the only additions I have to the week in review that we've already put out are two for tomorrow.

I expect the President will have a briefing on AIDS research by Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala and by the NIH

Director Ramos tomorrow at some point. There also is an interagency

conference call concerning the civil disturbances in St. Petersburg,

a conference call that Secretary Cisneros will lead, but we expect

the President to participate at some point during that call.

Q These are public events?

MR. MCCURRY: Those are public events, yes.

Q Any travel? There has been some speculation of something like next weekend or something? Do you --

MR. MCCURRY: Travel? Haven't we had enough of that this year? I'm not aware of any, no. Do we -- no, I'm not aware of any. No travel plans that I'm aware of.

Q Mike, is President Menem coming in to see the President?

MR. MCCURRY: The President of Argentina, Carlos Menem, will be here at the White House on Thursday for a brief visit with

the President. He is here in the United States on a private visit.

The President looks forward to an exchange of views with President

Menem that will cover hemispheric issues, issues related to the growth of both democracy and market economics in this hemisphere.

Q Mike, how about the letter referenced in today's Wall Street Journal's story from Mr. Riady in 1993?

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Riady's letter -- Mr. Mochtar Riady's letter.

Q Yes. Do you have plans to -- I mean, do you intend to release that letter?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, as the President indicated we will release that letter publicly once we've made it available to Congress. We have been assembling a variety of materials for members of Congress that are interested in such matters. And I understand from the Legal Counsel's Office that they continue to work to assemble things.

One of the things they're doing is looking through presidential records, the group that manages presidential records, looking for any relevant correspondence or data or memoranda so they can make a thorough submission to Congress at the appropriate time.

Q But not today, though?

MR. MCCURRY: No, it will not be today.

Q Will the other materials be released as well to the public -- or to the press when they're submitted to Congress?

MR. MCCURRY: Our intent is to make available publicly what we make available to the Congress. Now, we have simultaneously been entertaining questions from various news organizations looking into these matters as the Journal did. They were interested in correspondence. I told them about a March 1993 letter that Mr. Mochtar Riady sent to the President that congratulated the President on his economic program, on his plans for engagement with Asia, and made some recommendations concerning policy towards Asia, contained in the letter. And as the President indicated today, nothing that was that much different from what we were hearing from others in the business community.

Q Mike, let me follow this question. In 1992 the President criticized George Bush specifically for accepting soft you contributions of \$100,000 or more, and then doing the bidding -- not the bidding, but then following the policy that these people

asked
him to do. And he said, at the very least it creates the
impression
that the White House is for rent, for sale. The President
obviously
heard a lot of sides on the Vietnam thing. But is the President
unaware that this looks exactly like what he criticized Bush for --
big contributions and then the people ask for something and then
they
get it?

MR. MCCURRY: For a policy matter that was as
contentious, as hotly debated and as thoroughly public as U.S.
relations towards Vietnam, to suggest that any particular
individual's
views, whether it be a financial contributor or not, would have a
disproportionate thinking on the work of the administration is a
little bit less than credible.

Q Well, wait a minute. What about the money, Mike?
Can't that be seen as making -- he's asking how it looks.

MR. MCCURRY: The question is about what is the impact
of contributions, and the point I would make is that there is not
any
public record that suggests that any financial contributor had a
disproportionate influence on policy.

Q Well, what about the Bush case? Where is the public
record on that?

MR. MCCURRY: As how it looks, that's up to you to
characterize. I think there is a problem --

Q How is it different in terms of how it looks from
what he criticized in '92?

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not going to characterize how things
look. You're in the business of doing that.

Q Well, the President showed no reluctance to do that
himself.

Q Let me follow. Mike, in '92, Bill Daniels bundled
soft money -- he was the cable television guy, he was a friend of
Bush. It was sort of an equivalent relationship. They went back
--
he wrote this letter saying thanks for your help on the cable
bill.
Riady had contributed \$100,000 to the Inauguration. I think John

Huang had done the same thing. Less than two months later, they get this letter. Shortly thereafter, America starts on a brand new policy towards Vietnam. Now, a lot of people think that was right, but John McCain, of course, called for this. There were a lot of voices on that side. But the impression that was created in the President's mind when he was governor by Bill Daniels' big contribution was that, at the very least, an ordinary American would think, gee, if you get \$100,000, you get what you want.

MR. MCCURRY: I believe that U.S. policy towards Vietnam throughout the last four years has been one of the most heavily covered and thoroughly accessible subjects on our entire foreign policy agenda. What interpretations you make of an individual letter from a prominent businessperson is up to you to render your own judgments about it. You can characterize that as you see fit. I would just like to stick with the facts as I've just established them.

Q How do we know for sure the \$100,000 grand had nothing to do with it? How do you know for sure?

MR. MCCURRY: Because there is a very complete public record about the administration's consideration of normalization of relations with Vietnam, as was very heavily covered --

Q There's always a large public record --

MR. MCCURRY: Very heavily covered, very heavily briefed, numerous discussions that occurred and that were briefed publicly about it. And, frankly, it is up --

Q But at the end of the day the President had to make a decision in his own mind, didn't he?

MR. MCCURRY: The President had to make a judgment based on U.S. national interests, the interests of the American people as we engage in that region.

Q Let me try this a different way. Is the President concerned that there seems to be no way to separate the appearance of possible impropriety here from the fact?

MR. MCCURRY: I think the President is largely concerned

about the appearances that arise from soft money donations.
You'll
recall that during the campaign period he spoke directly to that
subject, made a series of proposals, strongly backed legislation
which we hope will now be introduced in the 105 Congress that
would
ban exactly those types of contributions.

Q He hasn't changed his mind about how these things
look?

MR. MCCURRY: He's spoken publicly and has not changed
his point of view about the perception that exists based on these
contributions and the need to eradicate that type of contribution
from our system of campaign finance.

Q So he would agree that somebody could draw the same
kind of conclusion from his interaction with Riady that Bush --

MR. MCCURRY: He would agree with the expectation that
many of you will draw your own conclusions, and so will the
American
people.

Q Just on the documents, Mike, is your thinking about
releasing them that you want to get as many as you can, have a
complete set, rather than piecemeal day after day of documents --

MR. MCCURRY: That's exactly right. We've -- not only
the President, but we are interested in what other correspondence
that exists. We've looked through those records, we've got a
substantial amount of that available, and I've been entertaining
requests from those news organizations that have pursued some of
those questions and telling them what we know about that
correspondence.

Q Was this particular letter, though, available and in
your hands -- before the election, and shouldn't it have been
made
public, given that --

MR. MCCURRY: The existence of the letter I believe was
largely known because, if I'm not mistaken, I've heard from other
reporters that Mr. Riady's representative made reference himself
to
the letter having been sent. I think we never formally disputed
the
notion that there was such a piece of correspondence from Mr.
Mochtar
Riady, but we have not -- we did not elect to make piecemeal

disclosures of any correspondence or brief reporters in a piecemeal fashion on correspondence until we had more of the record available.

We've been able to do that within the last couple of days, as various news organizations have turned their attention to that specific question.

Q Do you maintain it had no more influence on the President than the opinions of somebody who didn't give \$100,000, and who also might have written the President about Asia policy or Vietnam policy?

MR. MCCURRY: People from the private sector who are in prominent positions in the business community can speak with some authority as to the value of U.S. engagement towards Asia. And as the President indicated this morning, he said tens of thousands, but certainly hundreds and hundreds of such leaders have written to the President, some contributors, some not contributors, some, frankly, contributors to the other party. But the authority comes from having some knowledge of the operation of U.S. economic interests in that region and the value of promoting a policy of engagement with Asia, which is one that this President actively pursued almost from the first days of the administration.

Q Are you trying to say that the amount of the contribution, certainly sizeable, had absolutely no influence on the way the request was considered?

MR. MCCURRY: I think that --

Q How can you say that?

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not saying that. I'm saying contributions are welcome. For those who have to run political campaigns, you're thankful to your supporters for rendering that kind of support. But the President has made it clear that he has the responsibility to conduct foreign policy consistent with what the interests of the American people are -- all the American people. And

that's the way he has conducted his policy towards Asia, on any of the matters that this individual has written about, or, indeed, any of the matters that affect the interests of America around the world.

Q Mike, on another subject --

Q No, can I ask one more?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes.

Q You said you don't want to make piecemeal disclosures, but the impression coming out from you and the White House was that it was a social relationship with Riady.

MR. MCCURRY: I don't believe that's true. I believe that there were some in the White House who characterized meetings that the President had with Mr. Mochtar Riady's son as being social. And the record, I think, stands up pretty well that that's an accurate characterization.

Q An accurate --

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, an accurate characterization. They were largely social visits. The President has spoken publicly on the occasions in which there may have been a policy element to those conversations. But you can't escape the fact that by and large they appear to have been social visits by two individuals who had known each other for some time.

Q You said the full set of letters won't be ready today for release. Do you have a sense of when it is going to be ready? Will it be this week?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, there are questions well beyond correspondence. I mean, we've been briefing news organizations as to the number of visits that Mr. James Riady and some of his associates had here at the White House, the nature of the contact that existed between the President and Mr. Riady -- this would be Mr. James

Riady -

- other aspects of this. And we're in a position to help news organizations inquiring in this, because the President has directed all of us to be forthcoming and candid in responding. But as to documentation we think it's more appropriate to provide the documentation first to Congress and then to release it publicly.

Q Do you think that's going to be this week, or do you have some sense of the timing?

MR. MCCURRY: I can check for you. First of all, remember that, because Congress is just forming itself for the work it will do in its 105th session, there has been no formal schedule of hearings or formal calling of particular witnesses at this point. We imagine they will be setting about that work very shortly.

Q The Chief of Staff earlier took action with respect to Mark Middleton and questions about the appearance of whether he was trading in on his White House relationship after leaving. The L.A. Times over the weekend had the story about this Chinese American in Los Angeles. Is the White House considering any sort of broader review of its policies about -- to prevent this kind of problem?

MR. MCCURRY: These matters have occasioned that type of review, and have led to very strict admonition by the Chief of Staff to all the department heads of the White House to be very conscious of the admission of outside individuals to the White House who may appear to use their access to the White House for their own private commercial gain. He's cautioned all of us to just know who we are admitting to the White House complex, and for what purpose, and who will accompany them on those occasions.

Q If these people were higher up they'd be covered by the revolving door law, isn't that correct?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, no, we're talking in this case about

visitors from the outside. If there are White House officials who are -- or former White House officials who are no longer working here, they are covered by the administration's voluntary ethics guidelines that apply to those with the rank of deputy assistant to the President, or assistant to the President, or who earned in excess of \$100,000 a year. Now, that would not cover the individual you mentioned, Mr. Mark Middleton, but there is some sense here that we should look at that issue and make sure that even those who are at more junior levels in the White House staffing structure are not in a position to appear to use their access for any of their own personal private purposes.

Now, as you know, Mr. Middleton has denied that he has done that in a statement that he can make available to you, or he has made available to many of your news organizations.

Q Does the President think it's a good idea for James Carville to be mounting his attacks on Ken Starr?

MR. MCCURRY: The President has not rendered any opinion on that. Mr. Carville is certainly someone who speaks for himself and has made it clear he will speak for himself, regardless of what the White House says.

Q Earlier today you said --

Q Does the President believe that if he asks Mr. Carville to desist that Mr. Carville would continue?

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Carville has indicated that, first, he has not discussed the matter with the President, and second, he will pursue the course of action that he thinks he needs to pursue, regardless of what anyone at the White House, including the President, has to say.

Q This morning you were going to ask the President -- you said you asked him and he said he has no opinion, or he has yet to -- you were going to try to find out what he thought about

this
matter.

MR. MCCURRY: I told you he has not rendered an opinion on the subject.

Q Are you saying here that what Mr. Carville is saying does not represent the President's thinking?

MR. MCCURRY: That does not represent the President's thinking. The President on this matter will speak for himself or instruct those of us who speak on his behalf to indicate whatever he wants said, and he's indicated that the work of the Independent Counsel ought to be treated respectfully and with the proper "no comment."

Q Well, wouldn't it be appropriate if he thinks that to ask one of his dear friends and a man who has been his chief political advisor to knock it off if that's what he thinks?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, as I just said, Mr. Carville is an outspoken individual and has made it clear that he intends to speak out.

Q Regardless of what the President says?

MR. MCCURRY: Regardless of what anyone at the White House says.

Q Do you seriously believe that? Do you expect the public to believe that?

MR. MCCURRY: The public can believe whatever the public wants to believe.

Q Do you believe that?

MR. MCCURRY: Do I believe that?

Q Yes, do you believe that?

MR. MCCURRY: I believe that Mr. Carville would continue to make whatever points he felt compelled to make regardless of what anyone at the White House thought about it.

Q Even if the President asked him to stop? Are you serious?

MR. MCCURRY: I am serious, yes.

Q Did you ask the President about this today? You said you were going to.

MR. MCCURRY: I had a very brief conversation with him.

Q And what was his response?

Q What did he say?

MR. MCCURRY: I think I've just reflected his sentiments.

Q He said, I don't have a response to that?

Q I'm not going to render any --

Q Has the President discussed it with Carville at all?

MR. MCCURRY: Not to -- he has not had a discussion with Mr. Carville about it.

Q About it -- or about Carville's plans? I mean, he knew nothing about it?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, it's been -- Mr. Carville has been very public about his intentions to speak out.

Q If he doesn't like what he's doing, why doesn't he ask him to stop?

MR. MCCURRY: Just he's not in a position to dissuade Mr. Carville from pursuing the course that Mr. Carville has --

Q He's the President of the United States of America.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, Mr. Carville, the most prominent political consultant in America, has made it clear that's what he's going to do.

Q -- this is not helpful to you, or do you think it is helpful to you? What do you think of Carville's --

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not rendering an opinion on it.

Q Has Carville talked to someone other than the President here at the White House about this endeavor?

MR. MCCURRY: I haven't asked every individual here at the White House. I don't -- he may have. I just don't know.

Q What about those you have asked?

MR. MCCURRY: Of those that I have, no one, to my knowledge, had any extensive discussion with Mr. Carville about the merits of --

Q Well, wait a minute. What does that mean?

MR. MCCURRY: -- pursuing this course of action.

Q Did they have any discussions, and if so who, and what was said?

MR. MCCURRY: Brit, I don't -- I'm not going to answer a question that I don't have 100 percent information on. I haven't gone around and canvassed every single person who knows --

Q Well, what about those you have canvassed?

MR. MCCURRY: I haven't found anyone --

Q We'll accept your version of those you have talked to about it.

MR. MCCURRY: I haven't found anyone who said that they tried to dissuade James from doing what he's doing.

Q I'll bet. But the question is, has anybody encouraged him, to your knowledge?

MR. MCCURRY: Not to my knowledge.

Q Has anybody in any sense discouraged him?

MR. MCCURRY: Not to my knowledge.

Q It's a remarkable, look-ma-no-hands operation here that Carville is carrying on, isn't it?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you can characterize it as you see fit, and I'm sure you will.

Q Mike, you said that Carville had no extensive discussions with anyone at the White House. Did he have any not extensive discussions with someone at the White House about it?

MR. MCCURRY: Again, Susan, there are a lot of people who work here. There are 1,500 people who work at the White House.

Q That you know of.

MR. MCCURRY: There are a lot of people who know James. I haven't gone and talked to each individual who knows James and said, what was the nature of your conversation with Mr. Carville on a given date. So I want to be very careful --

Q What about those you have talked to?

MR. MCCURRY: I just -- you just asked and answered those questions.

Q Asked and not answered.

Q Do you think anybody has made it clear to him how wretchedly miserable it's made your lot here today? (Laughter).

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Carville is aware of how wretchedly miserable my pitiful life is, I'm sure. (Laughter.)

Q The President has to make some decisions on cutting back Social Security for disabled children. Do you know when he's going to make that decision? Certain categories of disabled kids.

MR. MCCURRY: You mean related to welfare reform fixes? There's no change in what we told you last week. That's an issue that's got budgetary impact for FY98. It is being looked at very carefully by the President and his economic and budget advisers. The President is interested in addressing those shortcomings that he found in the welfare reform bill -- significant discussions underway about how best to do that and what the likely budget impact will be.

Q Are you going to change your mind on that after what Moynihan had to say about potential -- a likelihood of changes in welfare reform?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, Senator Moynihan is a distinguished member of the Senate, particularly on this subject, but it doesn't

necessarily reflect the sentiments of all 100 senators.

Q But you have essentially the Democratic leadership on that issue, in Moynihan and Nickles, up there saying, it's done, nothing is going to be considered.

MR. MCCURRY: Of who and who?

Q Nickles and Moynihan, both of them.

MR. MCCURRY: I think there are a lot of sentiments within the Democratic Caucus in the Senate that shortcomings in the welfare reform bill ought to be addressed. Senator Moynihan's view is that that was not likely to occur, but that is not necessarily the only view that exists within the Senator Caucus or here at the White House.

Q And those shortcomings will be addressed within the context of a budget proposal on the legal --

MR. MCCURRY: There's budgetary impact on those issues and we continue to assess how best to address those issues.

Q Is the White House still discussing 25 percent replenishment of the funds that were already designated --

MR. MCCURRY: We are taking steps. I'll have to look into that. We are looking at some specific steps on addressing those more emergency type situations and that can be done within current budget authority. I think there has been some reporting on that already.

Q He's talking about the Times story.

MR. MCCURRY: Oh, you mean the differential that exists between the President's balanced budget proposals and the impact of the welfare reform bill? They made a -- there is sort of a rough calculation for initial policy discussion purposes that was made and the figure I think is in the neighborhood of \$13 billion. That does not necessarily equate to the price tag of those things that

would be recommended by the President. Again, those discussions are still underway.

Q What is your view that legal immigrants could receive benefits simply by becoming U.S. citizens?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, those legal immigrants who go through the process of naturalization are entitled as U.S. citizens to a different range of benefits. I mean, that's the law.

Q No, but I mean as an answer rather than trying to make changes --

MR. MCCURRY: Well, that seems to be occurring. I mean, there are -- it seems in practice that that process is speeding up because there are some cases where people have had legal residence status are attempting to convert to legal citizenship status, in part, it is believed by some experts, because of the impact of this law.

Q Mike, over the weekend Secretary Perry signed a series of agreements in Japan designed to reduce the impact of the U.S. military presence on Okinawa, including what is most important in the eyes of the Japanese of moving a Marine helicopter base off-shore. How does the White House feel about the accords, and will these issues related to the military presence on Okinawa continue to get White House attention?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, we are obviously pleased that we have been able to work with the government of Japan to reduce the burden on Okinawa in ways that do not fundamentally alter the U.S.-Japan security relationship or affect the readiness of our forward-deployed troops in that region.

The satisfactory arrangement that was concluded by the Secretary of Defense really works through a lot of those recommendations from the Special Advisory Committee on Okinawa which looked at the question, particularly the Futenma facility.

They've arrived at what the Secretary believes is an adequate conclusion, an agreement that satisfies our own security interests and also our strong force posture in the region, a commitment that the United States has made and will continue to make to the security of that region.

Q Mike, will the President endorse the recommendation of the panel looking at the CPI and will he implement them?

MR. MCCURRY: The Boskin Group has made a recommendation or is about to make a recommendation on CPI calculations. There are a number of people in the area of labor, economics and economists looking at the question of how best to measure inflationary impacts across the economy. The Boskin Group has certainly been impaneled to do that by a congressional committee. BLS has been looking at much the same issue with respect to how best to take into account inflationary pressures when you calculate things like benefits to individual Americans under entitlement programs. All of these expert opinions will be very carefully considered by the administration because the President believes this is a decision that ultimately is one best based on scientific economic expert calculation as opposed to some political measurement with respect to the budget.

Q Isn't this a scientific panel? Isn't this what this is? And doesn't he have --

MR. MCCURRY: Well, that group is -- was asked by I believe the Senate Finance Committee, right, to look at CPI calculations. BLS has been doing much the same thing. There are others. It's been a very vibrant debate in the academic community about how best to calculate and measure the impact of inflation, and we are going to consider all those views as we look at their work.

Q Is it accurate to say the administration is willing to consider the Boskin Group's recommendations as far as they might call for changes in the technical procedures made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, but that something along the line of what

Moynihan
wants to do legislatively is something you would oppose?

MR. MCCURRY: That's a technical question beyond my ability to answer. There is a variety of ways which you go about calculating that. I think we're going to look at the whole question of how best to measure inflationary impacts, what that suggests with respect to the CPI, how you apply the CPI to the calculation of benefit increases and then make some judgments accordingly.

Q But in their interim report, this group suggested that the CPI is inflated by about one percent and --

MR. MCCURRY: There have been different measurements of what the over-estimation of the inflationary effect have been. And Senator Moynihan's got a different view. The BLS economists are looking at much the same question. I'm not going to speculate on where the number will come out.

Q Mike, bipartisan commission on Medicare reform -- how's the President going to make that happen?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, it's -- a couple of different stages in the process. There's health care -- the provision of health care commission, which he's pledged to appoint and which we have not yet named -- correct? -- that is under consideration. The President has also suggested in the short-term we need to proceed with Medicare savings by slowing the rate of increase in spending for those programs consistent with what he's put forward in his balanced budget proposal. Now, that would extend the solvency of the trust fund into the next century by a number of years.

And then the longer-terms questions related to Medicare solvency are ones which during the campaign period the President suggested might be amenable to consideration by a bipartisan panel. Now we are much farther down the road in looking at the quality of health care, looking at what the short-term budgetary impacts are going to be on the solvency of the Medicare fund and then the longer range issues that kick in. The President will address at a later

date
on how you begin to structure a bipartisan commission if, in
fact,
we continue to see sentiment for doing that as we work with
Congress.

Q Well, are you seeing any sentiment? It didn't sound
like there was a whole lot.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, it's been mixed. There are some
leaders in Congress who said they don't think that's an idea
that's
worth exploring at this point. There are others that have said
that's the only practical way we're ever going to get at the
issue of
entitlements. And I'm sure the President will consider these
views
and it will be a subject that will certainly be a part of our
economic decision-making in the coming term.

Q Mike, there's growing concern among many arms
control analysts about the fate of START II in the Russian
Parliament.
And in that connection, there's a proposal floating around to
have
the President and Yeltsin take an initiative to get it off dead
center and spell out what a START III treaty might look like in
terms
of lower limits so that the Russians don't have big expense on
the
START II of reconfiguring their land-based -- is there anything
along
these lines under consideration, or is the President merely
waiting
for the Russians to do their thing in the Duma?

MR. MCCURRY: No, we have had a very active dialogue
with the Russian Federation on the question of START II
ratification
by the Duma. I would not suggest that we've been waiting for
some
plan to try to get it off dead center. The President has
actively
encouraged President Yeltsin to do so. We have engaged a number
of
diplomats at a high level from the Russian Federation on that
subject
and stressed the importance of ratification by the Duma of START
II.

But there have also been discussions among arms control experts on both sides about how to structure further arms reductions and limitations consistent with a START III approach. The momentum that would be created by a START II ratification would lend itself to further arms control efforts. But I'm not aware of any specific plan to structure that one-two step as you said, other than to say that there have been a very consistent effort on the part of our side to stress the importance of Duma ratification.

Q Mike, many women's groups are eager that a woman fill one of the upcoming vacancies on the President's national security team. As he looks at the candidates, is that a factor at all, or is it not a factor compared to experience and whatever other qualities he's looking for?

MR. MCCURRY: There are a number of factors that go into the consideration, and the President, as he has said publicly, is stressing how the team works together. Obviously, there is rampant speculation at least one of the candidates under serious consideration is of the female gender, so we'll have to wait and see.

Q Is that a positive attribute for that candidate in addition to the other things, as far as being --

MR. MCCURRY: It is an attribute, and how people work together is driven I think more by personality than by gender. And we just happen to have someone who is a very highly qualified, successful candidate for one of those positions, or at least we have rumors to that effect, and I wouldn't dissuade you from thinking that.

Q As the President adds up the pluses and minuses, is gender considered a plus, or is it not a factor?

MR. MCCURRY: I think diversity has always been considered a plus as the President considers appointments. But I don't want to apply that to any specific consideration.

Q Speaking of diversity, is the President going to meet with the rest of the Cabinet that has not resigned, and specifically when is he meeting with Janet Reno?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes. He will continue his one-by-one discussions with members of the Cabinet, those that he has not yet seen -- I think he's seen about half the Cabinet so far, and we'll let you know when he sees individual members. I'm not aware of any schedule for the remainder of those consultations at this point.

Q Getting back to this Social Security thing, this is a question that I've been asked to ask. Apparently --

Q Whoa!!!

Q My editors made me do it. (Laughter.)

Q Give the disclaimer. (Laughter.)

Q What are the families of those disabled kids --

MR. MCCURRY: Leo put you up to this question, didn't he?

Q When are the families of the disabled kids who are no longer going to receive certain Social Security benefits for their disabilities going to be notified that they're no longer going to get a Social Security supplemental check?

MR. MCCURRY: I have no idea. We'll have to look into that. Do you know? It's all part of the review of how you address the welfare reform legislation.

Q They're certainly reviewing -- whether to tell them.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you have to know what to tell them before you --

MR. TOIV: The Social Security Administration is reviewing individual cases.

MR. MCCURRY: Mr. Toiv tells me that the Social Security Administration is looking at individual cases on a case by case basis.

Q That will keep them busy for a long time, won't it?

MR. MCCURRY: Why don't we come back to that, Wolf, when I can get more information.

Q Just to follow John's question about diversity. I mean, is having a Cabinet that looks like America as important this time as it was last time, or has it somehow shifted and --

MR. MCCURRY: It's important to the President to have a Cabinet that looks like America and to have diversity reflected in his appointments.

Q So last time he spent an inordinate amount of effort making sure that that happens.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, last time it was a new administration after a period in which Democrats had not occupied the White House and there had to be more effort to reach out to people who are not instantly on the radar screen for appointment. We've now had four years, four successful years in office in which a number of candidates present themselves having served in the administration in various capacities. It's a different equation this time because it's an incumbent administration. I think you have to take into account it's a different situation.

Now, that said, the transition team that the President empaneled has -- one of the results of their work, reaching out around the country and generating new names, was to really present the President with some options for Cabinet appointment that he's now in the process of considering that do reflect considerable gender, racial, ethnic diversity.

Q Is that less a consideration than it was four years ago?

MR. MCCURRY: It's a consideration, but we're four years later, it's an incumbent administration. There are people that

now
have had experience serving in the first term that, you know,
because
of that experience, rise to the top of those who might be
considered, clearly. So it's a different -- somewhat different
kind
of equation, but not any more or less important than it was four
years ago.

Q You're suggesting that that could push gender or
racial considerations out of the picture.

MR. MCCURRY: No, I'm not at all. I said that diversity
continues to be a very important guidepost for the President as
he
considers these appointments.

Q Mike, can we go back to Starr for a minute? He's
kind of gone on a counteroffensive. He sat down with Newsweek
for
three hours. I believe his deputy in Little Rock, Hickman Ewing,
said an attack like Carville's is a sign of guilt. Do you think
it's
helpful to have Carville out attacking?

MR. MCCURRY: I've repeatedly refused to render a
judgment on that and I won't do it again. Mr. Starr has to speak
for
himself. Mr. Carville has to speak for himself. And all of
their
debate will be judged in the court of public opinion, no doubt.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END 2:15 P.M. EST

#279-12/02

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 03 December 96 16:24

FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.

CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED

SUBJECT RBTP at AIDS Research Briefing [UNCLASSIFIED]

TO

Abdulmalik, April B.
Albert, Ronda A.
Alijanil, Leyla
Andreasen, Steven P.
Appel, Edward J.
Armstrong, Fulton T.
Atlas, Edwin L.
Babcock, Douglas W.
Baker, Jane E.
Baker, James E.
Bakke, Kyle D.
Baldwin, Kenneth
Bass, Peter E.
Battenfield, Pat
Bedell, Blair B.
Beers, Rand R.
Behring, Deanna M.
Bellamy, Ralph C.
Bell, Robert G.
Bemisderfer, Dwight D.
Bendick, Gordon L.
Benjamin, Daniel
Biernacki, Eileen V.
Birkland, Andrea L.
Black, Todd F.
Blieberger, Marion H.
Blinken, Antony J.
Bolinski, Charlene C.
Boulton, Darrien D.
Boynton, Peter J.
Brennan, Steven A.
Bresnahan, Gary E.
Brooks, Jennifer
Brown, Dallas
Brown, Nancy E.
Bruton, Robert G.
Bryan, Lloyd D.
Bujold, Noelle D.
Burrell, Christina L.

Busick, Paul E.
Caravelli, John M.
Carter, Michael E.
Chen, Philip D.
Cicio, Kristen K.
Clark, Bronya
Clarke, Richard A.
Cooper, Kathleen H.
Daadler, Ivo H.
Danvers, William C.
Darnes, Victoria J.
Davis, William K.
Dimel, Marsha L.
Dobbins, James F.
Dohse, Fred J.
Dowling, J. Nicholas
Dupuy, Shawn L.
Durham, Robert J.
Edwards, Joan
Eggert, Tamara E.
Elkind, Jonathan H.
Epstein, Gerald L.
Feeley, John F.
Fetig, James L.
Ficklin, John W.
Flessas, Dan
Florio, Elaine
Fort, Jane B.
Fried, Daniel
Friedrich, M. K.
Fuerth, Leon S.
Fuhrman, Thomas A.
George, Christopher
Gerstner, Christina L.
Gibney, James S.
Gladbach, Damon J.
Glinski, David L.
Gorsuch, Robert P.
Gray, Wendy
Grummon, Stephen R.
Haines, Mary A.
Hale, John E.
Hall, James A.
Hall, Wilma G.
Hamel, Michael A.
Hamilton, Roy A.
Harding, Bruce D.
Harmon, Joyce A.
Harris, Elisa D.
Harrison, Lyle M.

Hasman, Thomas M.
Hawes, David J.
Hawkins, Ardenia R.
Heslin, Sheila N.
Higgins, David B.
Hilliard, Brenda I.
Hill, Roseanne M.
Hilty, JoAnne M.
Hofmann, Stephan D.
Houck, Baerbel K.
Huggins, Peter
Hunerwadel, Joan S.
Johnson, David T.
Johnson, Natalie A.
Jones, Kerri-Ann D.
Jordan, Donald L.
Joshi, M. Kay
Kale, Dora A.
Kelly, Sandra L.
Kessinger, Jodi
Kinser-Kidane, Brenda J.
Koehler, Marc
Kreczko, Alan J.
Kristoff, Sandra J.
Kyle, Robert D.
Lawrence, Cynthia
Leary, William H.
LeBaron, Richard B.
Lee, Malcolm R.
Letts, Kelly J.
Lindsay, James M.
Lindsey, Christine J.
Lorin, Matthew E.
Lowry, Jay E.
MacDonald, Bruce W.
Malley, Robert
Marshall, Betty A.
Marsh, Thomas S.
Martinez, Alejandro
Martinez, Valentino E.
Maxfield, Nancy H.
McCarthy, Mary O.
McCormick, Shawn H.
McIntyre, Stuart H.
Merchant, Brian
Millison, Cathy L.
Mitsler, Elaine M.
Miyaoka, Lester H.
Moffett, Julia
Moody, Angelyn D.

Moore, Lori A.
Moran, Betsy Q.
Motherway, Daniel J.
Mueller, William (Doug) D.
Naplan, Steven J.
Natoli, Kim M.
Neil, M. Elise
Norris, John J.
O'loughlin, Kathrine
Orfini, Michael H.
Orr, Robert C.
O'Shaughnessy, Patrick
Panerali, Kristen E.
Gwyn M. Parker
Parramore, Carl W.
Parris, Mark R.
Pascual, Carlos E.
Peggins, John W.
Peters, Mary A.
Piccone, Theodore J.
Pifer, Steven K.
Porter, Gidell
Pritchard, Charles (Jack) L.
Pyatt, Geoffrey R.
Quinn, Mary E.
Ragan, Richard F.
Ramsay, Martha S.
Rice, Susan E.
Rice, Sean P.
Roach, Darren S.
Robinson, Wylma
Rosa, Frederick M.
Roundtree, Beverly J.
Rumer, Eugene B.
Salvetti, Lisa M.
Samore, Gary S.
Sanborn, Daniel R. K.
David B. Sandalow
Santarcangelo, Jason M.
Saunders, John W.
Schifter, Richard
Schmelz, Angela
Schmidt, John R.
Schwartz, Eric P.
Scott, John F.
Sculimbrene, Thomas A.
Seaton, James B.
Sens, Andrew D.
Sestak, Joseph A.
Sheehan, Michael A.

Showalter, Victoria A.
Sigler, Ralph
Simonalle, Eugene A.
Simon, Steven N.
Simons, James R.
Smith, Michael P.
Snyder, Julie A.
Sparks, John E.
Suettinger, Robert L.
Sulser, Jack A.
Szasz, Nicholas J.
Uriu, Robert M.
Van Tassel, David S.
Veit, Katherine M.
Vershbow, Alexander R.
Verville, Elizabeth G.
Wadsworth, Valon J.
Waller, Robert P.
Walsh, Helen C.
Ward, JoAnn X.
Weber, Paul A.
Wechsler, William F.
Wetzel, M. Jeanne
Whitworth, Frank D.
Willis, Robin M.
Wise, William M.
Witkowsky, Anne A.
Woolston, Ann E.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
Wright, Allison M.
Wright, Jay
Yokum, Jeffrey G.

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[[AIDS.DOC : 4151 in AIDS.DOC]]

**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 3 December 96 16:19

**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** AIDS.DOC

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 3, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT BEGINNING OF BRIEFING ON AIDS RESEARCH

The Oval Office

11:45 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: This is World Aids Awareness Week -- and you also know I'm a little hoarse. I'm very excited about the progress we've made in the last four years. I'm determined to keep pressing until we have a vaccine and ultimately a cure.

And I'd like to ask the Vice President to sort of take over for me with the opening remarks, and then we'll hear from Secretary Shalala. We have some of our nation's top health officials, our top public health officials here. I thank them for coming, for their work, and I'd like to ask the Vice President to speak.

VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

As you can tell, the President needs to conserve his vocal cords a little bit. He's had quite a lot to say about this topic of AIDS over the last four years, especially internally with this tremendous team that Secretary Shalala has pulled together and led on the President's behalf. And this is one of several briefings that the President has had periodically on the progress our country is making against HIV/AIDS.

And the experts here will provide some statistics to back these assertions, but let me just briefly, on behalf of the President, note that this administration has presided over a 40 percent increase in NIH-supported AIDS research, a 158 percent increase in Ryan White AIDS Treatment grants, a 24 percent increase in CDC-HIV prevention activities, a 96 percent increase for HUD's

housing opportunities for people with AIDS program. He has greatly strengthened the office of AIDS research at NIH and, as a result of public health service guidelines recommending the use of AZT by HIV-positive pregnant women and their newborns, there has been a very encouraging 17 percent drop in the number of infants with perinatally acquired HIV infections -- those are the last statistics available from '94 to '95 -- also responding rapidly to FDA approval of a new class of AIDS therapies called protease inhibitors, with increases in funding for state AIDS drug assistance programs.

We have eased Social Security disability rules to speed approval of eligibility. And, of course, the President created the Office of National AIDS Policy at the White House and the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Last year, at the White House Conference on HIV and AIDS, the President asked me to preside over an effort to look for ways to overcome obstacles in developing new therapeutics, vaccines, and microbicides to combat HIV and AIDS. And we have achieved a great deal since last year. Working with this team here today, we convene meetings that led to the establishment of the Forum for Collaborative HIV Research. And I'm proud that the participants in this forum -- AIDS clinicians, researchers, drug companies, insurance companies, and patient advocacy groups -- have all expressed their belief that this has become an unprecedented and productive forum for discussing the future of HIV research.

These new scientific advancements in HIV and AIDS treatment -- optimism and hope in the AIDS community for people with AIDS and their families. So this is a very positive report this year. And many of us now feeling that there is cause for more optimism in the near future.

Through collaborative efforts like this new forum, and the cooperative efforts of the government and private sector researchers, we'll continue the fight for better and more affordable prevention strategies, vaccines, and microbicides. We will not forget the children. The President is personally committed to focusing this research effort on the crying need to develop pediatric applications of these prevention and treatment strategies and products. And we've all talked a great deal about how to do that.

Working with our team assembled here and with our partners in research, we will continue to knock down every barrier to the development of successful therapeutics, vaccines, and microbicides until we knock down the last barrier of all -- the HIV virus itself.

Now, on behalf of the President, I want to turn this over to Secretary Donna Shalala to expand on the administration's efforts to defeat this terrible disease.

SECRETARY SHALALA: Thank you very much, Mr. Vice President.

Mr. President, before I start I'd like to present you with this card. It's actually a thank-you card from the leaders of public health in the United States. It was presented to me yesterday, and it says: Dear Mr. President, essentially, thank you, thank you, thank you for everything that you have been able to do. And they all signed it. It's in honor of World AIDS Day, which, of course, was yesterday.

Thank you. Let me begin by first thanking Patsy Fleming. I know she's announced that she is not going to continue with us for the second term, and she has done a tremendous job for you and for the American people.

THE PRESIDENT: She sure has.

SECRETARY SHALALA: She has actually been our coach. I think all of us would say that Patsy has coached us. She has

spent
her career on the AIDS issue, and she spent a lot of time
coaching us
to make sure that we had a very focused strategy for this
administration.

The Vice President has outlined some of the successes in
the increase in funds for AIDS. I'd actually like to start with
a
chart back there, but I'm not sure I'm going to get to it.

Q Mr, President, can you tell us how you feel about
James Carville's effort to mount an offensive on your behalf?

THE PRESIDENT: I can't comment.

Q You're not going to talk to him about it?

Q How's the Cabinet going?

Q Any decisions, sir?

Q When can we expect an announcement? Are you glad
you've lost your voice? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: It's a hoax. (Laughter.)

Q We suspected as much, sir. (Laughter.)

END 11:52 A.M. EST

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 04 December 96 09:25
FROM Fort, Jane B.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT FW: Dec 3 McCurry Press Briefing [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Rumer, Eugene B.
CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE
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From: Wozniak, Natalie S.
To: @ALLNSC - NSC Staff; @VP - VP Natl Security Affairs
CC: /R, Record at A1
Subject: Dec 3 McCurry Press Briefing [UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Tuesday, December 03, 1996 03:26 PM

[[MIKE1203.DOC : 2351 in MIKE1203.DOC]]

**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 3 December 96 15:14
**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** MIKE1203.DOC

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 3, 1996

PRESS BRIEFING BY
MIKE MCCURRY

The Briefing Room

1:15 P.M. EST

Q Any reaction to this report from these doctors about the 25th Amendment and that if the President becomes incapacitated?

They're about to release their recommendations.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, first and most appropriately to say, we don't anticipate invoking the 25th Amendment anytime soon. But the President did have a good opportunity to meet with Dr. James Toole, with Professor Arthur Link, with former Senator Birch Bayh, along with Dr. Connie Mariano, the President's personal physician, to review the work of this independent council that has been here. They are doing very important work to flush out recommendations on what to do, should the 25th Amendment ever need to be invoked. That, of course, deals with orderly succession from the President to the Vice President when the President is incapacitated for whatever reason.

And that is a serious work involving a lot of thoughtful deliberations over the last two days by this panel of outside experts made up of presidential scholars, doctors, former physicians and Dr. Mariano representing the White House as the President's physician. The President thanked them for their work over these last two days so that he would await the final recommendations that they have deliberated on over the last two days. They're getting ready to hold a press conference shortly -- but he told them that he highly values their work, that this White House like previous White Houses does have a set of understandings about how we would address those questions should those questions arise, and that first and foremost in the President's mind is the need for protecting the public's right to know in the event that that type of situation arises -- that there be an orderly process and an orderly report to the public on whatever conditions might arise.

It is some serious business. We would all pray, of course, that we would not need to see that amendment invoked during the time any President is in office, but it's important to have contingency plans available.

Q Is there no system now of succession if anything happens?

MR. MCCURRY: There is, like most White Houses, a set of understandings about how that question would be addressed and there will be some recommendations that certainly the White House will review coming from the work of this outside council on how to formalize a process of reviewing those issues should the need arise.

Q Who will do that? Is that a Counsel's Office thing?

MR. MCCURRY: It will be -- a number of people will want to look into it. The Press Office will have an interest in how we handle timely public reports in that type of event. The Counsel's Office will be interested in the constitutional issues. Dr. Mariano, as head of the White House Medical Unit, will be interested in the role that the President's physician plays in making those types of determinations. So there will be a number of people who will look at the recommendation.

Q If anything happened right now, there would be a system?

MR. MCCURRY: There's a set of understanding in place -- a contingency plan in place that is, in fact, classified because of the national security implications related to command and control. But it has been reviewed and is reviewed on occasion to assure that it protects the interests of the American people.

Q But is it the President's Chief of Staff -- or who is that has the overall responsibility for saying, okay, here's

what
the Press Office will do, here's what this office will do?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the President's Chief of Staff certainly would be the one that would formalize any recommendations that we would accept and any procedures that would be changed. In fact, Erskine Bowles also thanked the group as they left the Oval Office for their work and said he, too, would be interested in the report that they will issue.

Q When do you expect to review the procedures you have set up when these new final recommendations come out to see if you might --

MR. MCCURRY: I don't want to say. That may be entirely the case that the contingency plans that we do have available meet some of the recommendations of the group. But we'll certainly look at the group and see whether they conform to the procedures we have in place.

Q Is this some kind of a regular review process, or was there a feeling that some changes needed to be made in this decision?

MR. MCCURRY: No, the Working Group on Presidential Disability, which is the group that's been meeting the last few days, grew out of, if I'm not mistaken, grew out of a recommendation developed at the Carter Center in Atlanta, stimulated by the council of former President Jimmy Carter. And they have now met three times -
- this was their third occasion to gather and they include -- we can get you the list of people -- include folks like those that I just mentioned -- Senator Bayh, who is, himself, the author of the 25th Amendment, Professor Link, who is the world's leading scholar on Woodrow Wilson; Dr. Toole, who is the Director of Stroke Research at Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University. So they're practicing people from the medical community. There are also

former
White House physicians included in the working group.

So it's really -- they have no formal affiliation with the White House, but they are a group of recognized experts on these questions that are lending their time and their wise counsel to make sure that the right procedures are in place.

Q Are you making the Riady letter available to members of Congress today?

MR. MCCURRY: My understanding is, we fully intend to do that and we'll send it -- there are now I think at last count, about 11 congressional committees looking at those issues and they've made probably close to 100 requests. But they do intend to make that available, maybe even sooner rather than later.

Q You said you were going to make it available to use simultaneously -- or how will that work?

MR. MCCURRY: We'll figure out the right way to release it once it's gone to Congress.

Q Mike, are you saying 11 committees want that one Riady letter --

MR. MCCURRY: No, I think there are 11 different committees that have made requests and many of them are overlapping. And because Congress -- in part because Congress is still in formation for its 105th session, I don't think they've separated out who's going to do which part of the work on this particular issue. But we certainly will cooperate and provide the information in a candid and forthright manner to those dually deputized to look into it.

Q I'm still not clear what it is that's going to be turned out to the Hill today.

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not clear that anything will be turned over today. I'm saying at some point this correspondence will go to whoever we think is the appropriate congressional entity.

Q It's not just that letter, it's the bulk of the correspondence that you've uncovered and that's been in the papers?

Q Sooner rather than later doesn't mean today. Sooner rather than later means --

MR. MCCURRY: Not necessarily, although it may -- if it goes up today, we might turn it over today.

Q But are there other letters from other businesses?

MR. MCCURRY: There are a number of them, yes.

Q Apparently, one of the businesses, Mike, is Protective Life Insurance. What did the administration do for that insurance company?

MR. MCCURRY: They requested a letter in support of a joint venture that they had with the Lippo Group. The Vice President sent a letter to James Riady, a fairly standard congratulatory letter, on a joint venture project they had.

Q Did the administration give a letter of recommendation to the insurance company?

MR. MCCURRY: There is a letter of -- not a letter of recommendation, a letter of --

Q Introduction?

MR. MCCURRY: -- I think congratulations for a joint venture that they had publicly announced that had already been undertaken, if I'm not mistaken. I can go back and check that.

Q Would they be able to use that letter to open doors with other elements of the administration?

MR. MCCURRY: Not to my knowledge.

Q Protective Life operates a PAC, and all of its life it's given money only to Republicans. We're told they gave \$50,000 to the Democratic Party this year for the first time. There would be no relationship?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know anything about a contribution made, and I have been told by others that they have traditionally been strong contributors to the Republican Party.

Q Mike, could you give us any insight into why the President gave the "no comment" response to Bill's question about James Carville's project, since it seems to be pretty controversial?

MR. MCCURRY: Mostly because he didn't have anything to say on the subject.

Q He certainly has --

Q Well, he did actually have something to say -- talk to him.

Q He said that he wasn't going to speak to him.

Q Said he wasn't going to speak to him. I asked him if he was going to talk to him, and he said no.

MR. MCCURRY: So that was the exchange.

Q He just thinks it's -- can you tell us why he's decided not to address this?

MR. MCCURRY: Can't amplify on the exchange. I think I covered that in some detail yesterday.

Q But that was before the President had been asked about it personally.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, I briefed on that yesterday.

Q So, basically, by his no comment, the President is giving tacit approval to Carville to do whatever the hell he wants.

MR. MCCURRY: I don't believe that's a proper interpretation.

Q Why shouldn't we draw that inference?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you will draw the inferences as you see fit. You report the news.

Q But you must think we shouldn't. What's the proper inference? What's the fair inference?

MR. MCCURRY: The fair inference is there was an exchange in which the President declined comment on the subject that he was asked about. Those are the facts.

Q But I know, but he said he wasn't going to speak to the guy about it who --

MR. MCCURRY: -- kind of stick with the facts, you usually come out right.

Q Mike, was there an agreement between the U.S. and EU that resulted in the organization's call for more democracy in Cuba?

MR. MCCURRY: Well, there's a very strong effort on the part of the United States to encourage all countries to express concern about the status of democracy and human rights in Cuba. The European Union has spoken of its own initiative to the question of democracy in Cuba, and we are encouraged that they have lent a very strong common voice to the call for democratization and liberalization in Cuba. But that is a decision that the European Union, of course, had to take on its own, judging the merits.

Q Did the EU receive any assurances or suggestions the President would contain or suspend the lawsuits under Helms-Burton if --

MR. MCCURRY: No, although I will suggest that we have had a very active dialogue with them about Cuba. Certainly, they have had a very active dialogue with us about Helms-Burton. I don't believe you could say that the strong views they have on that legislation have changed markedly. But, of course, the United States welcomes the statement calling for greater democracy and freedom in Cuba.

Q Does it -- if I can ask one more question -- does it make it likely or more likely the President will decide to continue to suspend the lawsuits?

MR. MCCURRY: We had -- when we talked at the time of signing the bill about the kinds of things we would pursue we

certainly indicated we would pursue active diplomacy with the Europeans and others, furthering the objectives of the legislation itself, which was to bring international pressure to bear on Castro to change the nature of his regime. So it is certainly a factor to be considered, but I don't want to say that it settles the matter.

Q Do you have any information or reaction on the explosion in the subway in France?

MR. MCCURRY: No, we are getting most of our information at this point through news accounts. We will be getting a briefing as it's available from Embassy Paris. We're certainly are concerned about the rescue effort, treating those who are injured. We'll immediately check to see if there are any American citizens involved. We're not aware of any at this point, but we'll be probably working very directly with the embassy and then certainly with the government of France if there's any reason for us to be directly involved with them.

Q This year in college football, Navy and Army both beat Air Force, which means that the Commander-In-Chief's Trophy will be awarded for the first time in a long time to the winner of the Army-Navy game on Saturday. Does the Commander-In-Chief have any plans to attend the game?

MR. MCCURRY: There is a large group going because I know the Pentagon is organizing an excursion up there, and he would mightily enjoy that. (Laughter.) Road trip.

Q Is that a yes?

MR. MCCURRY: No, I don't know. I have no idea, but I'll ask him. It's a great idea.

Q Has the President intervened at all with Milosevic in terms of personally --

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, we have had -- he has not personally raised the issue, he has not had direct contact that I am aware

of
with President Milosevic, but there has been a very active
dialogue
with him, including the Secretary of State's most recent meeting,
but
obviously also very strong diplomatic presentations not only by
the
United States, but by other governments within the Contact Group
related to the democratic process that ought to exist in Serbia.

It would be a real setback for Serbia's desire to join
the community of nations, to expand its contact with Europe, to
seek
greater trade benefits and commercial benefits with other nations
if
they were to suppress what is clearly a rising of the Serbian
people
in the interests of a democracy -- and the great concern being
expressed in the streets of Belgrade and elsewhere about the
municipal
elections that were held last month.

Q But does the U.S. have any clout?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, we do have clout.

Q I mean, the protestors seem to think the Americans
have not done their share to promote democracy.

MR. MCCURRY: They are well aware, no doubt, that one of
the chief objectives of President Milosevic has been the removal
of
the so-called outer wall of sanctions that exist on Serbia.
Those
remain in place. They are attached to different types of issues --
for example, the status of Kosovo and other issues. But
certainly it
would be a real setback to Serbia's desire to see those outer
wall
sanctions removed if there was to be any violent repression of
the
dissent now taking place in Belgrade and elsewhere in Serbia.

Q Any reaction to the news that Mr. Kamarck will not
seek reappointment at the Ex-Im Bank?

MR. MCCURRY: Has Mr. Kamarck's letter been made public?
His service at the Ex-Im Bank has been highly valued by the
President. He provided excellent leadership. He has set forth
his

own reasons for leaving in a letter that he has delivered to the White House. I'm not aware that the President has seen it yet, but he certainly greatly values the service that Kamarck rendered to the nation and his leadership of the Ex-Im Bank itself.

Q Is the President under pressure from women's groups to name women to important national security positions?

MR. MCCURRY: No. (Laughter.)

Q Wait, whoa, whoa, Mike.

MR. MCCURRY: To be under pressure one must feel pressure. The President has had a good, active dialogue with leaders of various communities -- or, I should say, actually the White House has. The Vice President has had good meetings with leaders of various groups who represent the interests of women in America, and the spirit of those conversations does not suggest pressure.

Q What would you call it? Is he being importuned?

MR. MCCURRY: He's been --

Q Strongly encouraged?

MR. MCCURRY: He's certainly been encouraged and consulted with, and a spirit of amicability pervades the dialogue.

Q Last Monday, eight days ago the Vice President met with about a hundred women of various groups who supposedly -- I wasn't there -- supposedly strongly --

Q Why not? (Laughter.)

Q -- encouraged him to convey to the President their concern that women are not getting the kinds of jobs that they deserve.

MR. MCCURRY: I'm surprised at your lack of ubiquitousness. What was the question again? (Laughter.)

Q How would you describe that Gore meeting with 100 women who came --

MR. MCCURRY: Fruitful, productive, candid, delightful.

Q Weren't they trying to pressure him into getting women into these kinds of positions?

MR. MCCURRY: I think I just answered that question a moment ago.

Q No, the question is a little different. Weren't they trying to pressure him?

MR. MCCURRY: The spirit of that meeting is, as I suggested to you, is a good faith effort by the Vice President, continuing an effort by the White House generally to consult with a wide group of American people, American organizations, leadership of various constituencies as the President assembles a team for a second term. And the spirit of those conversations has been something that doesn't suggest pressure. It suggests they've got strong views and strong desires and we hear them and listen to them and enjoy their counsel.

Q Well, does the President -- that isn't how -- how would they apply pressure if not by such a meeting? What do they have to do -- have to have a march? What do they do?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, go out and have a demonstration. I don't know. How do people pressure? What do people do to pressure?

Q Come on, Mike --

MR. MCCURRY: -- having a good, straightforward --

Q Strange credulity, as Jim Wright used to say, that he's meeting with these large groups who have this single interest in mind and then not putting pressure on.

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you were there. Wolf wasn't there, but you were. If the spirit of the meeting was friendly and amicable, that wouldn't suggest strong-arm pressure tactics, would it?

Q Why not?

Q Absent the atmosphere of pressure, does the President have any desire, feel any commitment to put women in key jobs?

MR. MCCURRY: Yes, as I indicated yesterday, of course.

Q Has the Vice President met with other groups about the transition process, or are the women the only ones?

MR. MCCURRY: Has the Vice President met with others? I would have to check. I think he's probably had as wide a range of consultations as the President himself has. The President, prior to losing the ability to telephone more vigorously, had talked to, I'd say, probably dozens of people, including representatives of various organizations, including people on Capitol Hill about the set of personnel choices he's had. And there's been a very active effort by the White House transition team to reach out, as well.

Q Mike, I think while we were gone Cisneros was quoted as saying that he expected -- that Clinton gave him assurances that there would be the same number of Hispanic Americans in the Cabinet in the second term as there were in the first. Is that true? Was he accurately reflecting the President's view?

MR. MCCURRY: That sounds too mathematical. I think that the President probably assured Secretary Cisneros that he sees the importance of involving Hispanic Americans in central roles in this administration.

Q Following the AIDS research meeting with the President, one of the officials said that there would be guidelines coming out in early '97 on cocktail mix drugs. Do you know anything more about that?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know anything more about -- was that Secretary Shalala or one of the other public health officials

there? I'd have to check it.

Q It sounds like it would be coming --

MR. MCCURRY: I'd have to check at HHS. I'm just not familiar with the issue.

Q Is any of the President's doctors changed the diagnosis on the voice as far as the cause or the level of concern?

MR. MCCURRY: No. I spoke to Dr. Mariano this morning and she was going to talk to him about it again. He sounded a little worse today than he did yesterday to me. But I certainly am not in a position to provide clinical diagnosis. I think she was going to talk to him later on today and see if he's been following his regime -
-

Q Are there any other symptoms besides loss of voice?

MR. MCCURRY: None that the President has reported.

Q If he can't talk how can he report it?

MR. MCCURRY: None that the President croaked.
(Laughter.)

Q None that he'd written down?

Q Do you know what he was drinking in the photo op, Mike? Did he have a cup of tea or --

MR. MCCURRY: He's been drinking a lot of hot tea to try to keep the vocal cords loose. He also said that -- you noticed that he stood when you all came in the room. He said it is -- frankly, it's easier for him to speak when he's standing.

Q This is not having an effect on the pace on the national security? (Laughter.)

MR. MCCURRY: Stretch! No.

Q Mike, can you also talk about the President's contacts with people in the Hispanic community?

MR. MCCURRY: I can't detail them for you. I know that

he's had at least several. And they had been designed to reach out to get ideas on people that might be available for appointment; also to consult about particular people who might be available for particular assignments. I'm hesitant to sort of detail a list. I wouldn't want to leave people out, and I think the President's also entitled to make some of these calls in private.

Q To get back to John's question, it's not really a stretch, though, is it, because he said himself he couldn't do any work on it this weekend because he couldn't work the phones?

MR. MCCURRY: I guess the only -- he wasn't in a position over the weekend to call people on the telephone, but that was, frankly, by orders of the doctor. She had suggested that he try to avoid using his voice.

Q That's part of the question. Have the voice problems slowed it down at all, or is that --

MR. MCCURRY: I don't know. I think he was more interested in spending Thanksgiving weekend with his family, in any event.

Q Mike, does the President sense any sense of urgency at all in naming his national security team, or is it just --

MR. MCCURRY: No, because, as you know, they wouldn't be able to take office until confirmed by the Senate, and the Senate wouldn't be in a position to do that until next year in any event.

He is moving along at a pace that he feels is proper, because he's going to have to pick a Cabinet that he will work with for four years and he wants to make decisions that will put him in a position of enjoying the kind of continuity that he's enjoyed with his first-term Cabinet.

Q So there's no artificial deadline, like Christmas or anything like that?

MR. MCCURRY: As I said, I still am sticking with the general time line -- decision-making in December, vetting of candidates in December, public announcements in January, ready to go January 20.

Q Is he uncomfortable at all, though, with the kind of frenzied speculation that people float up and they float down and you have this public effort to jockey into position involving --

MR. MCCURRY: He knows most of that is inconsequential, because a lot of it is off the mark, so it doesn't bother him very much.

Q But it does affect people's reputations, and it does affect people's --

MR. MCCURRY: Well, you should think about that when you report, because if you're not reporting accurately on who is under consideration or who is up, who is down, then you're doing that damage yourself through your reports. The President's not doing that damage.

Q But is he concerned about that?

MR. MCCURRY: Of course. He doesn't want anybody to be put in a position that there is unwanted speculation or unnecessary speculation about who is up, who is down. Every single person that I've seen reflected are great people who have rendered good service to their country and who are exactly the kind of person the nation would honor by assuming that they would be the kind of person under consideration for Cabinet positions.

Q Is there any damage to or consequences to the President and his administration that it looks uncertain? There had been a lot of talk initially about not repeating errors made four years ago and so on. No?

MR. MCCURRY: It's conceivable there could be, but the way to deal with that would be for all of us to just take some time

off and not deal with this until the President's made some decisions
that he's going to announce. How about that? Take a break and don't
speculate idly and don't talk to people who don't know what they're
talking about to begin with, and then there won't be any of those concerns to worry about, will there?

Q What fun would we have?

Q One more variation on the voice. Whether dealing with the transition or anything else, is the President's voice hindering him in terms of getting any of his work done? He suggested
yesterday, if I read the transcript correctly, that he had tried to
do work over the weekend, but found that his voice was shot and that's why he stopped.

MR. MCCURRY: The only thing that he was not able to do over the weekend was to get on the telephone and talk to people. And
for those who were at home with their families over Thanksgiving, that was probably just as well anyhow. He might otherwise have been
in a position to make phone calls to continue some of the outreach
that he's had underway, but he's in a position to do that and, of course, he's assisted by people who are doing some of that for him
now.

Q How has the President reacted to the continuous flow of articles in the newspaper and on the editorial pages about the Riady connection to the White House? How is the President reacting
to those? Day after day these reports are coming out.

MR. MCCURRY: He's instructed us to continue to answer questions candidly and forthrightly, which he knows will occasion additional reporting.

Q Mike, what kind of venue do you expect for the Yeltsin meeting next year?

MR. MCCURRY: Date and place and venue have not been determined. There were some preliminary discussions about that between the Vice President and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. There

will have to be more work done by both sides to finalize any arrangements.

Q Would there likely be a visit in Washington by President Yeltsin?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't want to speculate.

Q What is the President looking for in a new AIDS czar, and is there any discussion of that being elevated to Cabinet-level status?

MR. MCCURRY: There has been some discussion because it has been raised. I don't know what the President's thinking on that is. I don't believe he's turned his attention to that post yet. There is a significant effort underway to deal with AIDS, to deal with AIDS prevention specifically, as you heard outlined by the Vice President today. There are a number of public health officials in the administration who are working on that -- do very good work, as you saw reflected in some of the briefings earlier today. But that is a very key post. It is treated seriously because of the seriousness of the disease itself, and the President will find someone superbly qualified to take the position.

Q But you don't have any special requirements?

MR. MCCURRY: We're not -- Paul, I'd suggest we're not that far down that road yet to be working on that type of appointment, is my impression.

Q Mike, Carville says that he wanted to launch a campaign against Kenneth Starr some time ago and that he was talked out of it by White House officials. Do you know who that was?

MR. MCCURRY: I don't.

Q Do you know anything more about whether or not officials have had any contacts with Carville in recent days?

Q No, it's just what I reported yesterday.

Q You talked about being ready to go on January 20th.

Have you been assured that the Senate will be ready to confirm --

MR. MCCURRY: Well, the Senate -- the President did raise that subject with Senator Lott. And by the way, we should check and see -- my guess is that the President will telephone or send telepathically some message of congratulations to Senator Lott later today. So just double-check on that and we'll report that to you when that happens. But, obviously, the White House congratulates Senator Lott on his reelection today and Senator Daschle on his reelection as Minority Leader.

Q What's his relationship to Daschle now?

MR. MCCURRY: He and Senator Daschle have worked very closely on a number of issues throughout the entire term of the President's service here. I'd say it couldn't be a closer working relationship.

Q Does the President support Senator Daschle's suggestion the MFN for China be placed on a permanent footing?

MR. MCCURRY: That is not a position that the President has taken. There are lots of people who express that sentiment, both in Congress and within the business community, because they believe it will lead to more secure economic engagement with China. But the administration has not taken a position on the merits of those arguments.

Q Senator Lott said today that because of Attorney General Reno's decision not to appoint a special prosecutor to look into Democratic contributions, there is more need for Congressional hearings. Republicans agree up front they'll be partisan and fairly contentious. What do you expect out of this and how are --

MR. MCCURRY: I expect that those predictions are correct.

Q How would you --

MR. MCCURRY: Did the Senator say that there would not

have been hearings had an independent counsel been appointed? I didn't hear him say that.

Q How will you deal with this, and do you expect --

MR. MCCURRY: In the honest, straightforward, candid way the President has directed.

Q Well, let me ask you one more question. Right after the election, especially in Little Rock there was this atmosphere of bipartisanship. Both the White House and Congress seemed to be talking about the need to work together, and they were down-playing the hearings. In fact, Speaker Gingrich said that that would not necessarily be the way to promote a better atmosphere. Do you see a change in that, and why?

MR. MCCURRY: As the President said yesterday, if the congressional leadership chooses to focus their work and their energy and their enthusiasm on that subject, that's what they will do. The President will be working on the agenda he laid before the American people during the fall, and that's where his energy and enthusiasm will be while we simultaneously cooperate with whatever inquiries are underway on the Hill. It will be up to the congressional leadership to decide if they want to put their chips in that particular block on the table.

Q Do you think that's a bad use of their time?

MR. MCCURRY: I think they have to decide how to use their time themselves.

Q What do you think prompted him to also add that he thought an independent counsel might be appointed?

MR. MCCURRY: I have no idea. You should ask him that question.

Q You had said that the President is not focusing on an AIDS czar. Is he focusing at the moment on any of the domestic --

MR. MCCURRY: I didn't say he's not focused, I said we're just -- there's, no doubt, a process underway related to that position, but I think that that will be one chronologically the President will address after he gets through Cabinet selections.

Q I guess my question is, is he focusing yet on any of the domestic appointments, or is he still primarily concerned with the national security team?

MR. MCCURRY: He has started focusing on some of the domestic appointments as well.

Q What's your best guess for a national security announcement?

MR. MCCURRY: Any guess I made would be wrong, and then you would yell at me for having guessed wrong, so I'm not going to guess.

Q Do you expect confirmation by the Inauguration, or do you expect that these people will begin to function subject to confirmation?

MR. MCCURRY: No, you can't function subject to confirmation. You have to be confirmed, and it will be up to the Senate to decide what the confirmation schedule is.

Q Thank you.

MR. MCCURRY: Wait. We've got one more back here.

Q Will he meet with Janet Reno this week?

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not aware of any plans for a meeting.

Last one, over there.

Q Mike, is there any reaction from the White House to the decision of the Attorney General of Mexico?

MR. MCCURRY: No particular reaction. The constitution of the Cabinet in Mexico is up to the President's discretion. We had great admiration of the existing Attorney General. The newly -- or rumored-to-be-appointed Attorney General is a known human rights

activist. We would hope that in the work that we do bilaterally with the government of Mexico on so many issues of importance, including those that fall within the province of the Justice Ministry, that we would continue the close cooperative working relationship we've had with the current Attorney General.

Q It is true that this puts in jeopardy the high-level contact meeting that's going to take place next week here in Washington?

MR. MCCURRY: I'm not familiar with that meeting, but the appointment of a new Attorney General would not diminish any need for the United States and Mexico to cooperate together on those issues that we've identified for bilateral cooperation. And we have a number of them and most of them fall within the province of a binational commission of which the Attorney General of the United States and the Attorney General of Mexico were both lead participants.

Q Thank you.

Q Does the President have bronchitis or laryngitis?

MR. MCCURRY: No.

Q I mean, is he taking any antibiotics?

MR. MCCURRY: No.

END 1:45 P.M. EST

#280-12/03

M S M a i l

DATE-TIME 17 December 96 16:46
FROM Wozniak, Natalie S.
CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT SBTP re First Ever National AIDS Strategy [UNCLASSIFIED]
TO Benjamin, Daniel
Blinken, Antony J.
Fetig, James L.
Gibney, James S.
Gray, Wendy
Johnson, David T.
Moffett, Julia
Naplan, Steven J.
Showalter, Victoria A.
Wozniak, Natalie S.
CARBON_COPY NO CC's on THIS MESSAGE
TEXT_BODY [[AIDSSTRA.doc : 4119 in AIDSSTRA.doc]]
**ATTACHMENT
FILE DATE** 17 December 96 16:41
**ATTACHMENT
FILE NAME** AIDSSTRA.doc

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release December 17, 1996

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased today to receive the first ever National AIDS Strategy. In the fifteen years of this epidemic, we have never had such a unified strategy. This strategy represents an important milestone in the history of the fight to defeat this epidemic.

The National Strategy reiterates our administration's and our nation's commitment to winning the battle against AIDS. It establishes six major goals for our national efforts: to find a cure and a vaccine; to reduce new HIV infections; to assure people living with HIV and AIDS access to high quality care; to fight AIDS related discrimination at every turn; to lead the global fight to end AIDS; and to translate our research advances into treatment as quickly as possible.

These goals will help to guide our work in the coming term, and more specifically in the coming year. We have made significant progress in the last four years. Researchers working toward a cure and a vaccine are reporting encouraging news and giving us hope. New treatments, approved by the FDA in record time, are producing some very encouraging results in terms of the quality of people's lives and the potential for extending the length of life.

This progress results from more than a decade of investment in AIDS research, prevention, and care. I am very proud that in the four budgets my Administration has produced, funding for AIDS programs has increased by 55 percent. We have also strengthened the Office of AIDS Research at NIH and tripled funding for AIDS drug assistance programs.

Despite this progress, we must recognize that the AIDS epidemic is not over. Far too many of our sons and daughters are still losing their lives to this epidemic every day. Far too many are still becoming infected. We will win the battle against HIV, but to do so we must stand shoulder to shoulder in the fight and we must build on the strides we have made. I am confident that my Administration will do its part and that we have taken yet another step forward in that battle today.

