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6-12-96 Mt. Zion AME Dedication Greeleyville, SC [2]

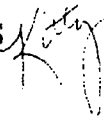
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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KITTY HIGGINS 

SUBJECT: A Call to Action

In your speech you will restate your Administration's commitment to assist state and local communities in combatting church arson and rebuilding the churches that have been destroyed. You will report on:

1. Actions already taken--See Treasury/Justice fact sheets
2. More Protection
 - U.S. Marshals will now participate as full partners in the federal task forces, both local and national, that you announced last Saturday.
 - Treasury guidelines for protective measures churches can take, will be released this week (Treasury will distribute copies if ready)
3. Enforcement
 - U.S. Attorneys and supervising agents in charge from ATF and FBI will meet in Washington tomorrow (June 13). You will challenge them to:
 - Meet a strict "Code of Conduct" for investigating these arsons
 - Report to you through the AG and Secretary of the Treasury, early next week, on the need for additional resources
4. Rebuild--You will offer three challenges to aid rebuilding
 - Challenge the private sector--to come forward with money and people to rebuild. Habitat for Humanity and the National Council of Churches have already responded with volunteers in Alabama (Habitat) and money (Council). Nations Bank also has offered a \$500,00 reward.

- Challenge the States--to use their allocations of HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through loan guarantees and other means to help local communities rebuild. HUD and Justice will provide guidance regarding church--state issues. HUD will reimburse states who use their funds with "recaptured" money. Legislative authority is needed.
- Challenge the Congress--to increase CDBG funding by \$10 million in case state and private resources are inadequate.

RECENT ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS IN CHURCH FIRES INVESTIGATIONS

JUNE 11, 1996

What has happened.

President Clinton devoted his weekly radio address to the federal commitment to solving these church arsons. He discussed four actions which the administration has enacted.

- Treasury and Justice have formalized a high-level task force, chaired by Assistant Treasury Secretary James Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Deval Patrick. ATF Director John Magaw and FBI Director Louis Freeh also will serve on the Task Force. The President has asked the task force to report its progress to him.
- Federal law enforcement has developed materials to instruct churches on protecting their churches from arsonists. The materials will be delivered directly to churches in the Southeast by ATF agents, and also will be delivered through national church organizations. *federal*
- ATF has established a toll-free number to obtain information relating to these crimes. The number is 1-888-ATF-FIRE, and is currently operational.
- The Administration has announced its support of the Hyde-Conyers bill which will expedite federal prosecution of these crimes as civil rights violations. That bill ~~is~~ *was passed* ~~scheduled for mark up~~ by the House Judiciary Committee today.
- A delegation of ministers whose churches have been burned and other concerned clergy were in Washington over the weekend. Some of the ministers were present during the President's radio address. The group met with Attorney General Reno on Sunday and with Treasury Secretary Rubin on Monday. Assistant Secretary Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Patrick were present during both meetings. The ministers' main theme at these meetings was the insensitivity of federal agents in conducting these investigations and a request for heightened federal concern to white supremacist actions.
- Assistant Secretary Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Patrick, along with representatives of the FBI and ATF, held a lengthy meeting with the ministers on Monday afternoon. Johnson and Patrick also attended a prayer service held by the ministers on Sunday evening.

Action Plan

- The Treasury/Justice Task Force will convene this afternoon to complete its plan of action for oversight of these investigations. On Thursday, the Task Force will bring to Washington every United States Attorney, and ATF and FBI Special Agent-in-Charge from the areas where these church fires have occurred, for consultations.

JUSTICE/TREASURY CHURCH FIRES TASK FORCE
Southeast Church Fires Fact Sheet
June 12, 1996

SINCE 1995

- In the Southeast there have been 43 fires at predominantly African American churches since January 1995
 - 6 have resulted in arrests (8 suspects)
 - 2 have resulted in federal prosecutions
 - Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Tennessee
 - Canaan AME Church, Tennessee
 - 8 were deemed to be accidental
- With well over 200 federal investigators -- working together with state and local authorities -- this is the largest current civil rights investigation and one of the largest criminal investigations of any kind. In a number of incidents, task forces have been established of federal, state and local authorities.
- Fires at African American churches in 9 Southeastern states

Alabama	Georgia
Louisiana	Mississippi
North Carolina	South Carolina
Tennessee	Texas
Virginia	

SINCE 1990

- Since 1990, 19 incidents of fires and desecrations at houses of worship have been prosecuted:
 - 8 have resulted in successful federal prosecutions and have been closed.
 - 5 incidents have resulted in successful prosecutions by local officials and the cases are closed.
 - Local charges have been filed in 6 other incidents.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

FAX TRANSMISSION

DATE:

June 11

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page)

5

TO:

Jack Lew

FROM:

Bruce Katz

Vicki Radd

Off. #:

John Schmidt

Off. #:

708-2713

Fax #:

Steve Newirth

Fax #:

708-2476

Dawn Chirwa

Mike Small

COMMENTS:

Urgent

Attached are the challenges/

announcements - Q's and A's on

the churches.

Michael FAX-

June 11, 1996

**Rebuilding Community Institutions
Administrative and Legislative Proposals**

Background

Over the past 18 months, 33 black churches throughout the South have been destroyed by suspected arson. Many of these churches serve important community functions in their jurisdictions. It is fully expected that many churches will face financing obstacles in their efforts to rebuild their facilities. Most of these churches are under-insured and will need access to multiple sources of capital and credit to proceed with rebuilding efforts.

The Administration is, therefore, seeking to engage the private sector -- banks, corporations, religious organizations -- in the rebuilding of these important civic institutions. To facilitate these efforts, the Administration is also seeking to invest federal resources where available and appropriate.

Challenge to the Private Sector

The Administration is reaching out to a wide variety of national, private sector institutions to help in the rebuilding effort.

The President will specifically call upon Habitat for Humanity International, a leader in the nonprofit housing world, to draw upon their most valuable resource -- their volunteers -- to reach out to communities that have had churches damaged or destroyed by acts of arson or terrorism. For 20 years, Habitat for Humanity International has been uniting people from all walks of life in its mission to eliminate substandard housing. This organization, which has rallied hundreds of thousands of individuals to build nearly 50,000 homes worldwide, is in the best position to provide leadership and motivate volunteers to rebuild the churches that have been destroyed.

It is our understanding that the Alabama Association of Habitat for Humanity affiliates has already begun coordinating volunteers in rebuilding three of the five churches that were burned in Alabama. Habitat's founder and president, Millard Fuller will be in South Carolina to challenge volunteers throughout the country to help rebuild these churches. To do that, Habitat for Humanity has established a 1-800 number -- 1-800-HABITAT -- for volunteers who are interested in joining them in meeting the national call for assistance.

Challenge to States: Use Federal Funds

The Administration is urging State governments to explore using federal Community Development Block Grant funds to assist in the rebuilding of those facilities damaged or destroyed by acts of arson or terrorism.

States receive 30 percent of CDBG funds on a formula basis. These funds are targeted for use in small communities, areas where the bulk of the arson activity has occurred. Most states set aside funds for emergencies.

CDBG allows State recipients to use federal funds for a broad range of activities including demolition, clearance, removal, acquisition, rehabilitation and reconstruction. CDBG also allows recipients to use funds in a variety of ways: as grants, low-interest loans, interest-rate write downs on market loans and loan guarantees.

Within the next week, HUD will provide guidance to States on how CDBG funds can be used in a manner consistent with constitutional provisions.

The Administration will seek legislation to permit HUD to allocate existing recaptured CDBG funds to reimburse States participating in this effort. HUD will also expedite any waiver requests -- and will provide any technical support -- that may be necessary to carry out rebuilding efforts.

Challenge to Congress: Establish a CDBG Loan Guarantee Fund

There may be situations where state funding is insufficient or unavailable. The Administration, therefore, will seek legislation to increase the Community Development Block Grant program by \$10 million. The \$10 million would be used to guarantee loans made by private financial institutions to assist in the rebuilding of community institutions damaged or destroyed by acts of arson or terrorism. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development would be given the authority to set the terms and conditions of such loan guarantees. Such terms and conditions would, at a minimum, be designed to ensure sound and prudent underwriting by private sector institutions.

announce
making
it
possible
though
HUD
includes
as
possible
to
use
block
grant

FAX to
Plane & Email

Staff
George
Cw.

and I hope
this will
serve as an
incentive
to private
lending
institutions
to help
forward
to rebuild
churches
like this
one

I have received
a statement from
my dear friend,
Ann Fried - Rev
Graham - could
he be here today -
said - brother of ethnic groups
is w/o, it is a problem of the heart.
it seems that many - Sin.

the faith that Dr.
Graham spoke
faith that we
heard from him

June 11, 1996

**Rebuilding Community Institutions
Questions and Answers**

What institutions will qualify for assistance under the Administration's proposals?

Qualifying institutions will be community institutions that have been damaged or destroyed by acts of arson or terrorism.

What are "community institutions"?

Community institutions are not for profit institutions similar to those qualified under section 501(c)(3) of the Tax Code that perform civic functions in their communities. They may or may not be religious institutions.

Is there precedent for this type of action (i.e. providing federal funds to religious institutions)?

Yes, there is precedent for this type of action. Congress appropriated \$39 million in the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing in part to support the reconstruction of damaged churches. The key issue was the act of terrorism. In this regard, assistance was provided to all damaged buildings in the vicinity of the act.

HUD proposals would similarly make funding to all qualified community institutions that are damaged or destroyed by acts of arson or terrorism, including religious institutions.

Terry Edmonds



P.O. Box 9313, Minneapolis, MN 55440-9313, U.S.A.

STATEMENT BY BILLY GRAHAM ON RECENT CHURCH ARSON FIRES

June 11, 1996

The following statement was issued today by Evangelist Billy Graham, who is undergoing a series of tests at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, prior to the opening of his crusade in Minneapolis/St. Paul next week.

I have been grieved and saddened over the recent church burnings in the South, especially in my hometown of Charlotte, North Carolina. I have written a letter to the pastor there, sent a modest personal gift to help them rebuild and will assist in helping to raise money for other churches.

I applaud President Clinton and Senator Dole for their quick response to these tragedies — at least in this one area we can be united. I am also grateful that leaders of both parties are speaking out against this type of terrorism and enacting legislation so quickly to facilitate prosecution of cases involving arson against houses of worship.

We don't yet know whether this is a conspiracy or copy-cat crime, but the problem between various ethnic groups is world wide — it is a problem of the heart. As we have seen in Bosnia and Liberia, even among people of the same race, it seems that much of the world is affected by this terrible disease, which should be called by its right name, Sin.

I think some of the speeches that the Rev. Martin Luther King made a generation ago should be restudied for their application today. Only repentance and faith in God will lead to the non-violence that Martin Luther King preached. Only God can change the human heart.

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
MT. ZION AME CHURCH
GREEELEYVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 12, 1996**

Acknowledgments: Rev. Mackey; Bishop Adams; Congressman Clyburn...

One of the fundamental tenets of Christian faith is that the church is more than a physical structure. Scripture tells us that church is "Wherever two or more are gathered in my name..." So, even as we come together here in outrage at the Godless acts of destruction that have plagued this and too many other communities, we are also here to celebrate the fact that the true church has emerged unscathed. The Bible tells us the story of Shadrach, Meschac and Aded'nego -- three men of faith, cast into a fiery furnace by the King of Babylon because they refused to worship his false gods and idols. But when the King looked into the furnace he saw "four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire." He saw they were unhurt, and proclaimed that the "form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

My friends, God saw the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed'nego and walked beside them in the fiery furnace. And they walked from the fires unharmed. So I say to you, they may burn down a building, but they can never burn down our faith. They may desecrate a structure, but they can never desecrate our souls. For we are God's people and we will not be moved.

We who are from this part of the country know all too well how people have tried to divide us by race. For years we lived with the fear that racial violence could erupt at any moment. We lived through the ugly era of division. But long ago, we said no, that is not our South. That is not our America. That is not our way. Even before Lincoln said it, scripture taught us, "A house divided against itself can not stand." As we enter a new century, we must not allow the foundation of our national house to be weakened or destroyed by hate. This recent rash of church burnings reminds us that if we want our nation's house to stand steady and strong as we enter a new century, we still have work to do. An attack on a house of worship is an attack on America's basic commitment to religious freedom. It is an attack on our national conscience. And so today, I call on every citizen to come together as one America to rebuild our churches, restore hope, and show the forces of hatred they cannot win. I call on every American, black and white alike, to smother the fires of hatred. We have seen this spirit in action recently here in South Carolina. When Alexander Sanders, the President of the College of Charleston learned that the letters KKK had been spray painted on the property of a Charleston alumnus, he organized a clean up effort involving more than 100 students, faculty and alumni. The property owner said he felt very fortunate to be a part of a family that does not tolerate this kind of behavior.

Martin Luther King once said, "What self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up." Rev. Mackey and the men and women of Mt. Zion have shown us the meaning of those words. After your church was burned to the ground last year, your

faith remained unshaken. You refused to be defeated. You have come together as a community to rebuild. And in a few days, this new church will be filled with the joyful sound of worship and thanks giving.

As I said last Saturday, I am determined to do everything in my power to get to the bottom of these church burnings. Already, more than 200 agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the FBI are working with state and local authorities to solve these crimes. There are now 33 active cases. We have closed ten cases through investigations, arrests and prosecutions.

But we, as a country, must do more. We must rise, as we always have, during our difficult moments to the challenges that we face together. We in the federal government will do our part to meet this challenge. Today I am announcing that tomorrow there will be a meeting in Washington convened by the federal task force that has been working to solve these cases. This meeting will include the U.S. Attorneys involved and the supervising federal agents. As they conduct these investigations I am holding them to a strict code of professional and personal conduct. We must pursue every lead vigorously, but with sensitivity and compassion. I am also instructing the task force to assess our investigative and prosecutorial needs in these cases and I expect Attorney General Reno and Treasury Secretary Rubin to report to me next week on the additional resources we need.

I am also announcing that I am directing the U.S. Marshall's service to join with the ATF, the FBI, the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorneys involved in our efforts to prevent these fires. And where it is appropriate, the Marshals will join other federal agents to visit churches to help them protect themselves.

But we know that this can not be done at the federal level alone. So I challenge the states to do their part. Today I challenge the states to use their Community Development Block Grant Funds to help local communities rebuild. We will work with the Congress and the states to provide the flexibility to make this challenge work.

I challenge business and community leaders to provide money and people to assist in this effort. And to help support that, I will work with the to Congress to provide a modest increase in funding through the Department of Housing and Urban Development that will help to guarantee loans by private lending institutions.

I want to note that efforts by the private sector have already begun. The Alabama Association of Habitat for Humanity is recruiting volunteers to help in rebuilding several of the churches in that state. Today, I am pleased to announce that Habitat for Humanity International, is reaching out to all the communities that have lost churches in these arson attacks to help them rebuild. Habitat's founder and president, my good friend Millard Fuller is here today and I thank him. I also want to applaud the National Council of Churches for their financial commitment to the rebuilding. And I want to thank NationsBank for stepping up to this challenge by committing \$500,000 towards rewards in these burnings.

But in the end, we know that the only way we will defeat this evil is if every American makes a commitment to be a part of the solution. So I challenge individuals to donate their money and their muscles to help these churches rebuild.

I challenge ministers and religious leaders to speak out against this violence from your pulpits. The burning of churches is a moral outrage that must be strongly denounced from every pulpit of this country.

And finally, I challenge every community in this country that has been struck by this evil and every person who is listening to be lifted up by the power of your example here. Your faith and your commitment to one another and to the values that have always made our country strong, have helped you to move past despair and on to this moment of rebirth.

My dear friend, the Rev. Billy Graham wanted to be here today, but could not. But he sent these words for all of us to reflect on. He said that "the problem between various ethnic groups is world wide -- it is a problem of the heart...It seems that much of the world is affected by this terrible disease, which should be called by its right name, Sin...Only repentance and faith in God will lead to the non-violence that Martin Luther King preached. Only God can change the human heart."

The faith that Rev. Graham spoke about is the same faith that we sang of in that anthem a few moments ago: And I want us all to remember those words now: "Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us. Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us. Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won."

That is the faith we must have as one America here at the edge of a new century.

God bless you. And God bless America.

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God bless you. And God bless America.

To: Terry Edmunds
Fr: David Dreyer
Re: MLK Quote

June 11 1996

"I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe *what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up.*"



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

FAX TRANSMISSION

DATE: June 11

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page) 4

To: Kerry Edmunds FROM: Bruce Katz
Marcia Hale

Ofc. #: Steve Herman Ofc. #: 708-2713

Fax #: _____ Fax #: 708-2476

COMMENTS: Church Burnings

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
MT. ZION AME CHURCH
GREEELEYVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA
JUNE 12, 1996

Too much
Jesus

Acknowledgments: Rev. Mackey; Bishop Adams; Congressman Clyburn...

Book ??
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Dr. ... on South ... that is not our An.
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Scripture ... (Linda) ... for our house to stand, strong as iron into me the end,
see quote from Mon.
Martin Luther King once said, "What self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up." Rev. Mackey and the men and women of Mt. Zion have shown us the meaning of those words. After your church was burned to the ground last year, your faith remained unshaken. You refused to be defeated. You have come together as a community to rebuild. And in a few days, this new church will be filled with joyful sound of worship and thanks giving.

As I said last Saturday, I am determined to do everything in my power to get to the bottom of these church burnings. And today, I want to announce a series of steps we are

taking to protect our citizens and enforce the law. [ANNOUNCE ACTIONS]

But in the end, we know that the only way we will defeat this evil is if every American makes a commitment to be a part of the solution. ~~Edmund Burke once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."~~ So I challenge individuals to donate their money and their muscles to help these churches rebuild. I am pleased that volunteers from Habitat for Humanity have agreed to work alongside church members to rebuild their structures.

set up
"Challenge"

Click

Banks

I challenge ministers and religious leaders to speak out against this violence from your pulpits. The burning of churches is a moral outrage that must be strongly denounced from every corner of this country.

I challenge the business community to donate money, services or materials to help in the rebuilding. I am pleased that NationsBank is offering to pay up to \$50,000 per incident for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for these church arsons. Every business can do something.

meets challenge

I challenge celebrities and sports stars to answer the call of football all-pro Reggie White who yesterday called on his fellow athletes to add their voices and resources to this effort.

America ^{has remained} great because of our extraordinary religious and ethnic diversity. We must never turn our backs on these blessings. We must treat them as if the very life of our country depends on them -- because it does.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Need an ending -- a story or
a line for song, to be
song there.



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NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page) 2

To: Terry Edmond FROM: Bruce Katz

Kitty Higgins

Ofc. #: Don Baer - 456-1213 Ofc. #: 708-2713

Fax #: _____ Fax #: 708-2476

COMMENTS: Role of Habitat for Humanity in
rash of arson. Urgent

Clinton Statement

I am asking Habitat for Humanity International, a leader in the nonprofit housing world to draw upon their most valuable resource—their volunteers—to reach out to the communities that have lost churches in a string of vicious arson attacks. For 20 years Habitat for Humanity International has been uniting people from all walks of life in its mission to eliminate substandard housing. This organization that has rallied hundreds of thousands of individuals to build nearly 50,000 homes worldwide is in the best position to provide leadership and motivate volunteers to rebuild the churches that have been destroyed.

It is my understanding that the Alabama Association of Habitat for Humanity affiliates has already begun coordinating volunteers in rebuilding three of the five churches that were burned in Alabama. Habitat's founder and president, Millard Fuller is here today to challenge volunteers throughout the country to help rebuild the churches.

To do that 1-800-#
established 1-800-# 1-800-Habitat-

HUD - Bruce Katz ~~703-671~~ 703-486
Chief of Staff 0484
Amy - 619-8055
FAX -



CITY OF ATLANTA

BILL CAMPBELL
MAYOR

CITY HALL
68 MITCHELL STREET, S.W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30335-0300
TEL: (404) 330-8100

FAX COVER SHEET

TO:

David Wofford

ORG:

OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER):

3

FAX

(202)

#:

456-7929

FROM: Scotty Greenwood, Office of the Mayor
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs
404-330-6028 (o) 404-658-6406 (fax)

COMMENTS:



TERR/ —

DAVID WUFFORD
OPA

NationsBank Corporation
Corporate Affairs
100 North Tryon Street, NC1-007-1501
Charlotte, NC 28255

NationsBank

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 8, 1996 - NationsBank announced today that it is creating a \$500,000 regional reward fund for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for the apparent arson of black churches.

"As a large national banking company based in the South, we are deeply troubled by the recent wave of apparent arsons affecting black churches across the country, especially the South and Southwest," said Hugh L. McCall, Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of NationsBank Corporation.

"These acts are intolerable and outrageous, and we want to assist law enforcement officials in putting those responsible behind bars."

MORE

JUN 8 '96 18:07 FROM GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

PAGE.003

Page 2

NationsBank has notified law enforcement officials that the bank is prepared to pay up to \$50,000 per incident - up to 10 incidents - for information leading to arrest and conviction of the individual or individuals responsible for black church arson committed to date in southern and southwestern states.

Individuals with information about these apparent arsons are asked to contact an FBI office in their area.

NationsBank is the fifth largest banking company in the United States with more than \$194 billion in assets and full service banks in nine states and the District of Columbia.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20410-0001

FAX TRANSMISSION

DATE: June 11

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page) 2

To: * Terry Edmond 436-5701 FROM: Bruce Katz

* Kitty Higgins - 436-6704

Ofc. #: * Don Baer - 436-1213 Ofc. #: 708-2713

Fax #: _____ Fax #: 708-2476

COMMENTS: Re: y Habitat for Humanity in
rash of arson. (Urgent)

Clinton Statement

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FAX TRANSMISSION

DATE: June 11

NUMBER OF PAGES (including this page) 2

To: X Terry Edmond 456-5709 FROM: Bruce Katz

X Kitty Higgins - 456-6704

Ofc. #: + Don Baer - 456-1213 Ofc. #: 708-2713

Fax #: _____ Fax #: 708-2476

COMMENTS: Role of Habitat for Humanity in
rash of arson. (Urgent)

Clinton Statement

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**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT
(ENFORCEMENT)**

Phone: (202) 662-0300

Fax: (202) 622-7103

Date: 6/11/96

Page 1 of 6

TO: Mr. Terry Edmunds

FAX: 456-5709

FROM: Keith Walton

SUBJECT:

MESSAGE:

As requested by David Dreyer

RECENT ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS IN CHURCH FIRES INVESTIGATIONS

JUNE 11, 1996

What has happened.

President Clinton devoted his weekly radio address to the federal commitment to solving these church arsons. He discussed four actions which the administration has enacted.

- Treasury and Justice have formalized a high-level task force, chaired by Assistant Treasury Secretary James Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Deval Patrick. ATF Director John Magaw and FBI Director Louis Freeh also will serve on the Task Force. The President has asked the task force to report its progress to him.
- Federal law enforcement has developed materials to instruct churches on protecting their churches from arsonists. The materials will be delivered directly to churches in the Southeast by ATF agents, and also will be delivered through national church organizations.
- ATF has established a toll-free number to obtain information relating to these crimes. The number is 1-888-ATF-FIRE, and is currently operational.
- The Administration has announced its support of the Hyde-Conyers bill which will expedite federal prosecution of these crimes as civil rights violations. That bill is scheduled for mark up by the House Judiciary Committee today.
- A delegation of ministers whose churches have been burned and other concerned clergy were in Washington over the weekend. Some of the ministers were present during the President's radio address. The group met with Attorney General Reno on Sunday and with Treasury Secretary Rubin on Monday. Assistant Secretary Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Patrick were present during both meetings. The ministers' main theme at these meetings was the insensitivity of federal agents in conducting these investigations and a request for heightened federal concern to white supremacist actions.
- Assistant Secretary Johnson and Assistant Attorney General Patrick, along with representatives of the FBI and ATF, held a lengthy meeting with the ministers on Monday afternoon. Johnson and Patrick also attended a prayer service held by the ministers on Sunday evening.

Action Plan

- The Treasury/Justice Task Force will convene this afternoon to complete its plan of action for oversight of these investigations. On Thursday, the Task Force will bring to Washington every United States Attorney, and ATF and FBI Special Agent-in-Charge from the areas where these church fires have occurred, for consultations.

ATF CHURCH FIRES INVESTIGATIONS

FACT SHEET

June 11, 1996

- ATF is currently investigating 27 fires that have occurred since January 1995 at African-American congregations in 9 southern states (Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Texas and Virginia).
- We are 100% committed to solving these crimes. Whatever it takes, however long, and whomever is responsible.
- More than 100 ATF agents have participated on one or more of the multi-agency task forces investigating the fires. These agents cover the entire range of ATF's arson investigative resources, including Certified Fire Investigators (CFIs), National Response Teams (NRTs), Polygraph Examiners, Accelerant Detecting Canines, Auditors, and Forensic Chemists. The multi-agency task forces are also using ATF's lead-developing computer software ASCMe (Advanced Serial Case Management) system. More agents are being detailed to these investigations as the need arises.
- These investigations have resulted in the arrests of eight persons. Two of those arrested are acknowledged members of the Ku Klux Klan. ATF is working very closely with the FBI and state and local authorities and with the Department of Justice and the local United States Attorneys to pursue leads and successfully resolve all other investigations.
- Arson investigations are typically long-term projects. ATF's clearance rate for church arson cases since 1991 is 70%, while the clearance rate nationwide for arson cases is less than 25%. ATF and Treasury are committed to solving these crimes.
- Treasury is conscious of the need of the appearance of integrity in these investigations. Accordingly, none of the ATF agents who were referred for disciplinary inquiry or counseling because of their participation in the Good O' Boys Roundups continue to work on any of the church fire investigations.
- More than 20% of the ATF 100-plus agents who have participated in these cases are African American. ATF has done an exemplary job in diversifying its Special Agent ranks--today 10% of ATF's Special Agents are African American.

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
ARSON AND EXPLOSIVES DIVISION
ARSON ENFORCEMENT BRANCH

DATE: JUNE 11, 1996

CHURCH FIRES FACT SHEET

NUMBER OF ACTIVE CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS AT
PREDOMINANTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES IN THE
SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES, SINCE JANUARY 1995:24
(SEE PAGE 3 - GREEN) IN 1995..... 5
IN 1996..... 19

FIRES BY STATE (INCLUDING THOSE SOLVED BY ARREST)

TENNESSEE	6	SOUTH CAROLINA	6
LOUISIANA	5	ALABAMA	5
MISSISSIPPI	3	NORTH CAROLINA	3
GEORGIA	1	VIRGINIA	1

NUMBER OF PREDOMINANTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN
CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS IN THE SOUTHEAST
UNITED STATES, SINCE JANUARY 1995, THAT HAVE
BEEN SOLVED BY ARREST:6

NUMBER OF PERSONS ARRESTED:8
(SEE PAGE 2 - PINK)

NUMBER OF PREDOMINANTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCH
FIRES IN THE SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES THAT HAVE BEEN
CLEARED BY ATF CERTIFIED FIRE INVESTIGATORS AS
ACCIDENTAL FIRES, SINCE JANUARY 1995:6
(SEE PAGE 2 - PINK)

NUMBER OF OPEN ATF CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS
NATIONWIDE SINCE JANUARY 1995 (ALL CHURCHES):49
IN 1995.....12
IN 1996.....37

NUMBER OF ATF CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS
NATIONWIDE SINCE OCTOBER 1991 (ALL CHURCHES):145

(PINK)
CHURCH FIRES FACT SHEET

-2-

CASES CLOSED BY ARREST

SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1995 TO PRESENT

DATE OF FIRE	NAME OF CHURCH	LOCATION	NAME OF ARRESTED-DATE
06-20-95	MT. ZION AME CHURCH	WILLIAMSBURG CO., SC	GARY COX - JUNE 95 TIM WELCH - JUNE 95
06-22-95	MACEDONIA BAPTIST	MANNING, SC	SAME AS ABOVE
08-15-95	ST. JOHN BAPTIST	LEXINGTON CO., SC	ROGER EMERSON - MAY 96 17 YEAR OLD MALE 17 YEAR OLD MALE
02-28-96	NEW LIBERTY BAPTIST	TYLER, ALABAMA	CHRIS DEER - MARCH 96
03-30-96	EL BETHAL CHURCH	SATARTIA, MS	ENOCH ADAMS -MARCH 96
06-06-96	MATTHEWS PRESBYTERIAN	CHARLOTTE, NC	13 YEAR OLD FEMALE - JUNE 1996

ACCIDENTAL FIRES

SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES - JANUARY 1995 TO PRESENT

DATE	NAME OF CHURCH	LOCATION OF CHURCH	CAUSE
12-11-95	* JERUSALEM BAPTIST	BOLIGEE, ALABAMA	ELECTRICAL
02-03-96	GRAYLAND BAPTIST	RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	ELECTRICAL
03-12-96	* MT. ROSE BAPTIST	PURDUE HILL, ALABAMA	ELECTRICAL
03-13-96	ST. JAMES CHURCH GOD	GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA	VAGRANTS
03-25-96	MISSIONARY BAPTIST	SELMA, ALABAMA	THUNDER STORM
03-25-96	KRONE BAPTIST CHURCH	RANKIN CO., MS	THUNDER STORM
04-07-96	ST. PAULS PRIMITIVE BAP.	LAUDERDALE CO., MS	CIGARETTE
06-08-96	LEXINGTON PRESBYTERIAN	LEXINGTON, SC	THUNDER STORM

* - NOT A FULL ATF INVESTIGATION (C & O BY STATE INVESTIGATOR)

(GREEN)
CHURCH FIRES FACT SHEET

-3-

ACTIVE ATF CHURCH FIRE INVESTIGATIONS
AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES
SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES

JANUARY 1995 TO PRESENT

DATE	NAME OF CHURCH	LOCATION	ATF DIVISION
01-13-95	JOHNSON GROVE BAPTIST	BELLS, TN	NASHVILLE
01-13-95	MACEDONIA BAPTIST	DENMARK, TN	NASHVILLE
01-31-95	MT. CALVERY BAPTIST	HARDEMAN CO., TN	NASHVILLE
12-22-95	MT. ZION BAPTIST	BOLIGEE, AL	BIRMINGHAM
12-30-95	SALEM BAPTIST	GIBSON CO., TN	NASHVILLE
01-06-96	OHOVAH AME CHURCH	ORRUM, NC	CHARLOTTE
01-08-96	INNERCITY CHURCH	KNOXVILLE, TN	NASHVILLE
01-11-96	LITTLE MT. ZION BAPTIST	GREEN CO., AL	BIRMINGHAM
01-11-96	MT. ZOAR BAPTIST	GREEN CO., AL	BIRMINGHAM
02-01-96	CYPRESS GROVE BAPTIST	E. BATON ROUGE, LA	NEW ORLEANS
02-01-96	ST. PAULS FREE BAPTIST	E. BATON ROUGE, LA	NEW ORLEANS
02-01-96	SWEET HOME BAPTIST	E. BATON ROUGE, LA	NEW ORLEANS
02-01-96	THOMAS CHAPEL BEN. SOC.	E. BATON ROUGE, LA	NEW ORLEANS
02-21-96	GLORIOUS CHURCH OF GOD	RICHMOND, VA	WASHINGTON
03-05-96	ST. PAUL AME CHURCH	HATLEY, MS	BIRMINGHAM
03-20-96	NEW MT. ZION BAPTIST	RULESVILLE, MS	BIRMINGHAM
03-27-96	GAYS HILL BAPTIST	MILLEN, GA	ATLANTA
04-11-96	ST. CHARLES BAPTIST	PAINCOURTVILLE, LA	NEW ORLEANS
04-13-96	ROSEMARY BAPTIST	BARNWELL, SC	CHARLOTTE
04-26-96	EFFINGHAM BAPTIST	EFFINGHAM, SC	CHARLOTTE
05-14-96	MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST	TIGRETT, TN	NASHVILLE
05-23-96	MT. TABOR BAPTIST	CERRO GORDO, NC	CHARLOTTE
05-24-96	PLEASANT HILL BAPTIST	LUMBERTON, NC	CHARLOTTE
06-03-96	RISING STAR BAPTIST	GREENSBORO, AL	BIRMINGHAM

TOTAL 24**NOTE: DOES NOT INCLUDE ACCIDENTAL FIRES OR CASES CLOSED BY ARREST**

formal
ensure a continued coordinated investigation for all of these crimes
Patrick; and our Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, James Johnson to chair a task force to bring together all of these investigations. FBI Director Louis Freeh and ATF Director John Magaw will also serve on this task force. I have asked them to report back to me if there is anything more that we can do to stop these crimes. *on this program and*
can take beyond these underway to stop these crimes.

I am also pleased that the Congress is expressing bipartisan concern on this issue. I support the goals of the legislation introduced by Congressmen John Conyers and Henry Hyde which will make it easier to bring federal prosecutions against those who attack houses of worship.

coll face
But, in the end we all must accept our share of responsibility. To the extent that these crimes are racially motivated, we all must realize that they are an outgrowth of a climate of racial hostility that still holds sway in too many hearts and minds in this country. *to end this violence we must say with MLK*
As Martin Luther King said in his eulogy for the little girls of Birmingham, these church burnings have something to say to every politician and every citizen who has fed his neighbors "the stale bread of hatred and spoiled meat of racism."

We must say to those
Religious freedom is one of the founding principles of our democracy and the black church has historically been the center of worship, outreach and community life for millions of families in this country. That is why it was so hard for Reverend Terrence Mackey to break the news to his daughter last June when they awoke to find an ash scarred field in the spot where only the day before stood their church home -- Mount Zion AME Church in Greeleyville, South Carolina. Rev. Mackey reassured his daughter with these words. He told her, "They didn't burn down the church. They burned down the building in which we hold church. The church is inside all of us." On June 15 Rev. Mackey, his daughter and his congregation will march from the site of the old church to a brand new building. And all Americans will march with them in spirit. *that is not what we must do together black & white alike that is what we must do together that is what we must do together that is what we must do together*

We must all do our part to end this rash of violence. America is a great country because for more than 200 years we have strived to honor religious freedom and the extraordinary diversity of our people. The only way we will succeed in the 21st century is if we unleash the full power of our diversity and refuse to let anything divide us.

Thanks for listening.

I am pleased that the National Council of the Churches of Christ the largest has vowed to assist in the rebuilding of damaged churches

one of the nation's foremost interfaith groups, has spoken out against these crimes & is vowing to assist in the rebuilding of damaged churches