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DRAFT: TUSKEGEE AND MORGAN STATE

Two events coming up this week offer opportunities to talk about the President's initiative on racial reconciliation:

- **Tuskegee Apology:** a ceremony recognizing the survivors of the study at Tuskegee, to be held at the White House on Friday May 16; and
- **Morgan State Commencement:** a commencement address at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland on May 18.

General

When commenting on these events you may want to make these points:

- Both events are examples of the President's commitment to the issues of racial reconciliation, and to moving beyond past discrimination to current and future practices.
- Note the President's personal leadership in these events. (This is an opportunity to deal with the commission questions -- e.g. whose on it, what is it, etc. -- make the point that these events and the idea of a commission appointed by the President are not the story.)
- These events are part a comprehensive *Presidential Initiative* in which Bill Clinton, with his personal history and commitment, is directly and regularly involved. It is a process in which he has been engaged in over the last four years (e.g. Memphis and Austin speeches) and throughout his life, and which will intensify in the near future as he calls the American people's attention to this issue.

Tuskegee Apology

- The President will issue an apology on behalf of the federal government to the survivors (including families) of the study at Tuskegee. He will then go on to make several policy announcements which will address this issue, and help ensure that future scientific research will be more inclusive of, and sensitive to, racial minorities.
- The study at Tuskegee is a shameful episode in our nation's history, and it has left a legacy of distrust between the African American community and the research community. *The right thing to do is to acknowledge and apologize for the past, and then to institute action steps for the future.* This is a model for the kinds of action you may see recommended in the President's Initiative when appropriate.

Morgan State University

- In choosing to make his first commencement address at Morgan State University, a historically-black school, the President is also addressing the issue of racial division, but indirectly in that he is *not* delivering a speech on race to an African-American audience. It will be a major address about the role of science in preparing America for the 21st century.
- Thus, instead of speaking about race to a minority audience, the President will speak at Morgan State about an issue of national interest that transcends race; and will address the topic of race at the University of California at San Diego, a college and state with many races and ethnicities. This is an example of how he hopes in the coming year to inspire dialogue and conversation both about the issue of race itself, and among Americans of different races about the issues and values that bring us together.
- Of course, there is an obvious connection, which the President will address, between the role of science, the importance of having ethics that inform and guide our approach to science, and the study at Tuskegee .

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MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21239****OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT****(410-319-3200)****September 9, 1996**

The Honorable William Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

The students, faculty and staff of Morgan State University cordially invite you to deliver the keynote address at our Commencement to be held Sunday, May 18, 1997. The program is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. in the University Stadium with an estimated 18,000 graduates, parents, relatives and University friends expected to attend.

As you may know, Morgan is one of the Nation's premier historically black institutions and the only public comprehensive historically black university north of Washington, D.C. In Maryland, Morgan leads all campuses in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded to African-Americans. The University consistently awards a large number of degrees in key fields to black students in Maryland. Of the African-Americans receiving the baccalaureate degree from Maryland public institutions in 1995, Morgan accounted for the following: industrial engineering - 100%, telecommunications - 94%, civil engineering - 74%, marketing - 72%, chemistry - 65%, physics - 64%, electrical engineering - 64%, accounting - 51%, management information systems - 42%, social work - 42% and elementary education - 41%. Also, Morgan has a long tradition of preparing students for advanced study and consistently ranks among the top ten public campuses nationally in the number of bachelor's degree recipients subsequently receiving doctoral degrees.

Mr. President, there is no question that your presence would add a unique dimension to the Commencement program. It would represent not only the first appearance of the President of the United States at one of Maryland's historically black universities, but it would also be the first occasion on which the Nation's Chief Executive has spoken at any commencement in our state (at least in recent times). We sincerely hope and trust that you will give us serious consideration.

Finally, the Morgan State University community is very active in your re-election campaign. We believe that the priorities you have set for education, the environment and an improved quality of life in communities throughout this country are consistent with our vision for a more just society with opportunity for all. We are confident that you will be victorious on November 5, 1996, and we look forward with enthusiasm to your leadership during a second term.

Sincerely,


Earl S. Richardson
President

bcc: Honorable Elijah Cummings/Mr. Donald Fowler

MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION

THE WHITE HOUSE
Morgan State University Commencement Speech Outline
WASHINGTON

I. **Acknowledgments:** Dr. Earl Richardson, President; Judge Harry Cole, board chair; Governor Glendening; Mayor Schmoke; elected officials; Members of Congress; Board of Regents; Faculty and staff; distinguished alumni: Judge Cole; Judge Robert Bell, Chief Judge of Maryland's highest court; Kweisi Mfume; Earl Graves; Richard Dixon, State Treasurer; Terry Edmonds, White House staff...

II. **Introduction:** Pleased to deliver my first commencement at an HBCU. I was pleased to meet with HBCU leaders, including Judge Cole and Dr. Richardson last February at the White House. HBCUs are a national treasure, vital to our goal of making sure the workforce of the 21st century looks like America. When the doors of college were closed to all but white students, and black people's aspirations were scorned, Historically Black Colleges and Universities gave young African Americans the high quality education they deserved and the pride they needed to rise above cruelty and bigotry. HBCUs now produce 85% of our nation's black doctors, 80% of our African American federal judges; 75% of black PhDs, 50% of our black business executives and elected officials. In my Administration, in addition to your own Terry Edmonds we have been blessed with the service of a number of HBCU graduates, including Dr. David Satcher, head of CDC; Bob Nash; and Alexis Herman, newly confirmed as the nation's 23rd Secretary of Labor.

Morgan is one of Maryland's premier universities, and one of the leading historically black universities in the nation. Leads all Maryland campuses in the total number of bachelor's degrees awarded to African American students, as well as leading in the degrees awarded to AAs in the fields of science and engineering. As Maryland's Public Urban University, Morgan is playing a critical role in improving educational opportunities and quality of life in the City of Baltimore. You embody the spirit of the recent volunteer summit in Philadelphia through your extensive outreach to young people in this area. You are leading the effort to reform science and math education in Baltimore's public schools. And I want to thank you for being one of the first universities to join America Reads, our national effort to help make sure all our children can read.

I am pleased that the State has supported your efforts both inside and outside the classroom by investing in your growth -- and we want to help. That is why we are working to increase federal funding to HBCUs. It is why we've made student loans less expensive and easier to obtain. AmeriCorps, our national service program has given tens of thousands of young people a chance to earn college tuition while serving their communities. We have increased the number of work-study positions to help students work their way through college. And we are working to build on the biggest increase in Pell Grants in 20 years.

III. **Science is Good:** The students who are getting their diplomas today are entering a new age of possibility -- brimming with change and opportunity. Much of this has been made possible by the work we have done together to strengthen our economy. Thanks in large measure to difficult decisions we made in 1993, we have already cut the budget deficit from \$290 billion to \$80 billion. Unemployment has dropped to 4.9% -- the lowest in 24 years. Economic growth is at its highest in a decade. Core inflation is at its lowest in three decades. We have seen the highest

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decline in income inequality since the 1960s. And thanks to the hard work of the American people, our economy has created 12 million new jobs.

But, as strong as our economy is, it will not sustain our leadership in the 21st century if we do not harness the forces of science and technology that have always led our progress. The health of our people, our economy, our quality of life and our national security are all linked to the innovations and investments we make in science. This was true in the time of the great mathematician/surveyor/astronomer Benjamin Banneker; it was true during the life of the phenomenal agricultural scientist, George Washington Carver; and it was true in the day of the great blood preservation pioneer, Dr. Charles Drew.

In the last half century, half of our economic productivity is attributable to technological innovation and the science that supports it. From cellular research that is unlocking the mysteries of disease to cellular telephones that we hope will not unlock your rapt attention here -- science and technology are helping save lives, providing healthier and safer foods, protecting our environment, improving transportation and making all our lives better. As we look ahead to the world of the 21st century, it is abundantly clear that science and technology will play an even greater role in our lives. Where once nations measured their strength by the size of their armies, their arsenals and their GDPs, in the world of the future, it is knowledge that will matter most.

More than 50 years ago, when the looming shadow of war was creeping across Europe and heading for our shores, this century's greatest president, Franklin Roosevelt spoke these words at the dedication of the first buildings of the National Institutes of Health. He said, "The total defense which this nation seeks involves a great deal more than building airplanes, ships, guns and bombs. We cannot be a strong nation unless we are a healthy nation. And so we must recruit not only men and materials, but also knowledge and science in the service of national strength."

IV. Basic research is good, but its application must not be divorced from human judgement and humanistic values.

Human curiosity is the driving force behind all human discovery. We must do nothing to stifle our basic quest for knowledge. It is an essential part of what makes us human. It is a fundamental principle of our democracy. In the last century, the spirit and benefits of scientific curiosity have propelled us from field to factory to cyberspace. But just as science can be a tremendous force for good, it can also be used to do harm. Science often moves faster than our ability to understand its implications. That is why we have a responsibility to move with caution and care to harness the powerful forces of science and technology so that we can reap the benefits while minimizing the potential dangers.

I believe we must be guided by some basic principles. First, science and its benefits must be directed towards making life better for all Americans, not just the privileged few. Second, technology must be used to enhance, not diminish the value, freedom and choices of the individual. Third, none of our discoveries, especially in the areas of genetics, should be used to label or discriminate against any group or individual. And finally, we must always remember that

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science is not God. Our deepest truths can never be captured or quantified by science.

Here at one of America's great HBCUs, we must say it ~~again~~ loud and clear: We must never allow our citizens to be the unwitting guinea pigs in scientific experiments without their consent, that put them at risk -- whether it is the withholding of syphilis treatment from the black men of Tuskegee or the Cold War experiments that subjected some of our citizens to dangerous doses of radiation -- we must never allow those kinds of things to ever happen again. As I have said before, our greatness is measured not only in how we do right, but also in how we act when we know we've done the wrong thing; how we confront our mistakes, make our apologies and take action.

We must never go back to those awful days when eugenics and racial stereotyping here and in Europe resulted in discrimination and worse against those judged to be inferior. This is especially important with the increased use of genetic testing. And we must resist the temptation to play God. We must temper our euphoria over the recent breakthrough in animal cloning with sobering attention to our most cherished concepts of faith and humanity. My own view is that each human life is unique, born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science. I believe we must respect this profound gift and resist the temptation to replicate ourselves. But, this is not a decision any President should make alone.

V. Policy Announcements:

That is why I asked our National Bioethics Advisory Commission to conduct a thorough review of the legal and ethical issues raised by the new cloning discovery. They will report back to me within the next few weeks.

In order to prevent a reoccurrence of the Tuskegee experiments I have called for xxx

We have made remarkable progress in our fight against AIDS. Today I am challenging our nation's scientists to find a vaccine within the next decade.

Genetic testing legislation.

VI. Conclusion