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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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December 1, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN JOHNSON

SUBJECT: OFFICE ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE FOR ONE AMERICA
WEEKLY REPORT

ACTIONS

Colorado Minority and Women's Career Fair--Last week in Denver, Colorado, we gave the keynote address at the 2000 Diversity Awards Luncheon of the Colorado Minority and Women Chambers' Coalition. This event was co-sponsored by the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, the Rocky Mountain Indian Chamber, the Denver Hispanic Chamber, the Colorado Women's Chamber, the Colorado Black Chamber, and the Asian Chamber. The 500-person audience of local business leaders was very enthusiastic about your One America agenda, and some asked for more information about your Corporate Call to Action and the BusinessLINC program.

CONSTITUENT OUTREACH

Arab-American Concerns: As you noted from a recent *Washington Post* article, the Muslim community is deeply concerned about a range of issues including: reports of schools refusing to accommodate students' needs during Ramadan (several incidents have occurred in Michigan), secret evidence, ethnic profiling, stereotyping, and increased discrimination stemming from the recent events in the Middle East. We have found that these concerns are not limited to Muslims and they resonate throughout the entire Arab American community. Generally, the Arab American community remains misunderstood. According to a recent poll, most Americans did not realize that 40% of Muslims in the United States are African American.

CABINET RACE INITIATIVE WEEKLY

Department of Education

Spanish-Speaking Outreach Program: On December 5, DOEd and the National PTA will present a live via satellite, interactive teleconference, where Secretary Riley and National PTA President Ginny Markell will host a discussion for schools and parent-

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teacher associations on how to involve Spanish-speaking parents in their children's education.

UN World Conference Against Racism: On December 5-7, Judith Winston, DOEd's Acting Under Secretary and General Counsel, will attend the regional meeting of the Americas in Santiago, Chile, preparing for the August 2001 UN World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, which will take place in South Africa. The UN conference will review progress in the fight against racism and related intolerance, reappraise barriers to further progress, and make recommendations to overcome those obstacles.

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Ethnic Harassment Reduction in Boston: HUD recently released a report finding that the Boston, MA, Housing Authority has made "substantial progress" in acting on recommendations made by HUD to address racial and ethnic harassment in housing authority properties. The report documents progress made in the area of civil rights violations and housing discrimination that have become a major focus at HUD during the past four years as a result of your One America Initiative. The report also noted that some of the recommendations, although started, have not been completed. HUD will also continue to review the Authority's practices and procedures until all the recommendations are completed and will continue to provide technical assistance to the Authority.

Department of Justice

Capital Punishment Report: On December 10, DOJ's Bureau of Justice Statistics plans to release *Capital Punishment 1999*, which presents characteristics of persons under sentence of death on December 31, 1999, and of persons executed in 1999. The report summarizes the movement of prisoners into and out of death sentence status during 1999, as well as numerical tables on offenders' sex, race, Hispanic origin, education, marital status, age at time of arrest, legal status at time of capital offense, methods of execution, trends, and time between imposition of death sentence and execution. Historical tables present executions since 1930 and sentencing since 1973.

Office of Personnel Management

Increasing Minority Federal Employment: On November 29, Director Lachance signed an agreement with the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education aimed at increasing the employment and educational opportunities for African-Americans in the federal government.

Environmental Protection Agency

Fairness and Diversity at EPA: On November 29, EPA announced that it has retained the services of the nationally recognized law firm of Holland & Knight to review workplace fairness and diversity practices. Leading Holland & Knight's team will be Washington, DC attorney Weldon Latham, well-known for his pivotal role in helping some of America's largest corporations, including Texaco, Coca-Cola, and General Motors, strengthen their diversity practices. These actions are a part of EPA's ongoing efforts to build a culture that is fair and equitable.