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October 6, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

**FROM: ALEXIS HERMAN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC LIAISON**

SUBJECT: OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
The Week Ending October 6, 1995

I. Overview of Office-Wide Activities

This week the Office of Public Liaison focused primarily on the Pope's arrival in Newark, New Jersey and the departure ceremony that will take place on Sunday in Baltimore. We invited over 250 guests to the arrival ceremony in Newark and orchestrated a pre-event luncheon buffet. In addition, we coordinated events leading up to the Pope's visit, including your September 8, 1995 breakfast with religious leaders, your meeting with members of the Catholic press on September 15, 1995, and your attendance at the Red Mass on October 1, 1995. Furthermore, we invited over 500 key members of our constituencies to attend a reception with the Vice President and the Pope's departure ceremony at Baltimore/Washington International Airport.

In addition, we made invitations to over 150 local supporters to attend the taping of your weekly radio address in Martha's Vineyard and made the arrangements for your telephone call to Grambling University Head Football Coach Eddie Robinson following his 400th career victory.

II. Constituency-Based Activities

A. Seniors

* Disseminated Leon Panetta's statement and White House talking points regarding spousal impoverishment to over 40 key contacts in our aging network. In addition, we obtained supportive statements from organizations for current spousal impoverishment projections, including Families USA, the American Health Care Association, and the Alzheimer's Association.

* Disseminated our analysis of the House Republican Medicare plan to our key list of

organizations, including the National Council of Senior Citizens and the National Committee.

- * The AARP has been timid in its willingness to be actively engaged against the Republican Medicare cuts but it appears that they will begin a Medicare print and radio campaign focusing on key Senators the week of October 15th.

- * Working with the Leadership Council on Aging Organizations to develop a regional/state press strategy to highlight the potential cumulative impact of federal budget cuts for programs for the elderly, including Medicare/Medicaid. The LCAO plans to move forward with this initiative within the next two weeks.

B. Hispanics

- * Invited over 20 hispanic supporters to the arrival ceremony for the Pope in Newark, New Jersey, half of which were Cuban-American and the other half Puerto Rican. It was important to include Cuban-Americans in light of the fact that you were scheduled to sign the executive order to relax the current sanctions against Cuba. They are very concerned about the implications of that potential move.

- * Participated in a conference call with sub-cabinet appointees. There is a real sense of disconnect with this group and we are working to improve our relationship with them. There will be an increased effort to have a presence in Illinois, California, New York, Florida, and Colorado for the next two months. Indeed, Secretary Pena will be meeting with 250 hispanic leaders in Colorado this week.

- * There is concern in the community over the fact that we did not send any principal to the Midwest/Northeast Voter Conference, the largest hispanic conference of the year. Over 3500 Hispanic grassroots and elected leaders from Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York were in attendance. This conference was identified last June as one of the top three priorities for the Hispanic community and we feel that this was a lost opportunity. Indeed, we sent only one cabinet member to a conference with 3500 Hispanic constituents in a key state.

C. Law Enforcement

- * Included Tom Scoto, President of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), Bob Scully, the Executive Director of NAPO, and three members of the Fraternal Order of Police's Executive Committee in the arrival ceremony for the Pope.

- * Included Vic O'boyski, the President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, in the audience at the taping of your weekly radio address in Martha's Vineyard.

- * Attended the annual principal's meeting of the Law Enforcement Steering Committee. The heads of all the major law enforcement organizations expressed great pride in the fact that congressional leadership has decided to put off debate on their revised version of our Crime Bill, changing it in favor of block grants. They feel that your strong stand and veto

threat, coupled with their unwavering support, was key in the decision not to mark up the Republican bill. In addition, they expressed concern with the mood in the country towards law enforcement. In light of the OJ Simpson trial, the Ruby Ridge hearings, and the problems concerning ATF, they are worried about the tone in the country and eagerly wish to show the nation that not all members of law enforcement are like "Mark Fuhrman."

- * Held a meeting with Dan Rosenblatt, Executive Director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The Chiefs are the one major national group who has wavered a little in regards to Republican proposals on block grants. Mr. Rosenblatt expressed that the Chiefs position is that they support our Crime Bill and that they have not seen an alternative which they like better; they are obviously feeling the pressure of being the only group not totally "in the fold."

D. Veterans

- * Conducted a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Vietnam and developed talking points which address the POW/MIA issue and the up-coming presidential mission to Vietnam.

- * Met with the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Soubahn of Laos. Coordinated with the NSC, DOD, VA, USAID, and State to provide excess government equipment to Laos in an effort to alleviate hardships created by recent flooding. Soubahn also indicated that he wishes that Laos be granted MFN status. In addition, we are working with veterans groups, the State Department, the Department of Defense, Veterans Affairs, and the NSC to put together an itinerary for the presidential delegation that will visit Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam November 27, 1995 through December 5, 1995.

- * Worked with presidential messages, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Office of Management and Budget and the World War II Committee to develop a proclamation for Veterans Day.

E. Non-Profits

- * Met with housing advocates to discuss their relationship with the administration. Many expressed concern that we did not take a stronger stance on the budget cuts being made in the housing area.

- * The groups are continuing their efforts against the Istook amendment and they appreciate your support on this issue. They are very concerned with the loss of funding that they desperately need to provide local communities with basic services which will be especially necessary if government programs are cut. They contend that local governments and communities will not have the resources to pick-up the difference. They feel that communities are not prepared for the cuts and will be overwhelmed when they are realized.

F. Education

- * Held a briefing for the American association of Community Colleges. We invited

Chancellors and Presidents of community colleges from around the country to discuss the proposed budget cuts. They have been very active in fighting the cuts and have been very supportive of the administration. The participants reiterated their support for you and for your firm stance in favor of education. However, they did voice disappointment and confusion of the possible phasing out of Title 3, Part A, Strengthening Institutions. Three-fourths of these funds go to community colleges. They see this as being skewed in favor of larger, 4-year institutions.

- * The education groups, whether primary or higher ed, continue to be supportive of your stance on the budget issue. They continue to remain active in getting the message out to their national and local communities. The organizations representing colleges and universities are particularly energized to fight the proposed cuts in direct lending.

G. Business

- * Hosted a briefing for the 70 participants of the Time, Inc. Newstour. The participants are CEO's from major companies in America who are traveling with Time as honorary journalists to meet political and cultural leaders around the world. The tour includes stops in Havana, Moscow, Hanoi, Bangalore, and Hong Kong. The briefing focused on the relationships of the United States and the countries the group was visiting. It was well-received but there were questions were raised in the press about the Cuba visit, particularly about the timing of your statement on Cuba. It should be noted that Congressman Burton is calling for an investigation of the trip for violating the embargo; many contend this was not a "newstour."

- * Met with representatives of the Direct Selling Association and the Small Business Administration to discuss Jerry Glover's submission of comments to the FTC on multi-tiered selling. DSA has a major problem with Glover's characterization of multi-tiered marketing companies as "one step removed from illegal Pyramid or Ponzi schemes." We are attempting to resolve the problem.

- * Faxed talking points on your efforts to combat violence against women and talking points regarding your Bosnia policies to over 500 key contacts.

- * Wayne Valis, a Republican head of TALC and Valis Associates who worked in Public Liaison in the Reagan administration reported that a significant portion of the DC business community is predicting that you will win re-election and they are anxious to keep the doors to the White House open so they can continue to have access. We are planning a briefing for TALC members on October 18, 1995.

G. Jewish

- * Mailed 1,700 presidential Yom Kippur greetings to community leaders, supporters and rabbis throughout the country.

III. Events/Briefings

- * Health Coalition (October 2)
- * Women Legislators (October 3)
- * Pope's Arrival in Newark, NJ (October 4)
- * Briefing for Time, Inc. (October 6)
- * Weekly Radio Address in Martha's Vineyard (October 7)
- * Call to Eddie Robinson, Grambling University (October 7)

IV. The Week Ahead

- * Pope's departure in Baltimore (October 8)
- * African American Sub-Cabinet (October 10)
- * Non-Profit Association (October 10)
- * Child Care and Child Advocates (October 10)
- * Salt Institute (October 11)
- * Women's Initiative and Outreach (October 11)
- * Inter-Agency Veterans Working Group (October 12)
- * Science and Technology Briefing (October 12)

cc: Leon Panetta
Harold Ickes
Erskine Bowles