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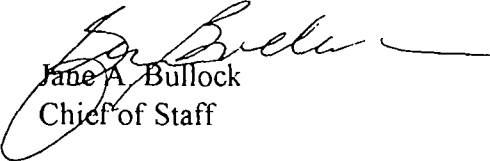
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

July 26, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: Kathryn O'L. Higgins
Secretary to the Cabinet

FROM:


Jane A. Bullock
Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: National Arson Prevention Initiative Status Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to coordinate the activities of the President's National Arson Prevention Initiative. Under this initiative, FEMA has been working, in partnership with the US Departments of Justice, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development, to coordinate available public and private resources and materials for arson prevention.

The following is a summary of major prevention initiatives of the Federal agencies, fire service organizations and police organizations:

- During the past two weeks, FEMA has sent 35,000 letters to all the Nation's Fire Chiefs, informing them of the President's Partnership on Fire and Arson Control and the National Arson Prevention Initiative, to encourage their participation and to announce the resources available through FEMA's Arson Information Clearinghouse in Emmitsburg, Maryland. A similar letter will be sent to over 8,000 Police Chiefs within the next two weeks.
- As of July 24, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) had delivered 18 Arson Prevention workshops and is receiving additional requests daily. The IAAI will deliver a presentation at the meeting of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters in Chicago next week.
- Beginning July 25, 100 AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteers will be trained by IAAI to conduct arson prevention outreach activities in 67 rural counties in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is conducting a comprehensive analysis of church fires through their association; NASFM is polling their membership to capture data from all States.
- To date, FEMA has received approximately 200,000 requests for arson prevention materials. We met several hundred of these requests with existing stock of publications and have recently printed additional materials to fill the remaining orders.

- Director Witt has offered to make grants of up to \$10,000 available to the major fire service organizations to assist with costs associated with activities which support the National Arson Prevention Initiative.
- On July 11, Vice President Gore and Director Witt met with leaders of the insurance industry to discuss the difficulties experienced by many churches in obtaining or retaining insurance.
- Director Witt met with leaders of major law enforcement organizations on July 9 and with leaders of fire service organizations on July 22. These organizations are supporting the National Arson Prevention Initiative by encouraging their membership to: provide free church risk-assessment inspections, conduct arson prevention training sessions, support community watch organizations, and help to provide information about the initiative to local communities.
- As an example of the large audience reached by these organizations, the National Fire Protection Association's Fire News magazine, which carried an article about the National Arson Prevention Initiative, reaches about 68,000 members. The Fraternal Order of Police will reach their 278,000 members with a similar article in their next newsletter. All National Police and Fire organizations are running similar articles in their publications.
- FEMA met with the President's Crime Prevention Council on July 19, and with leaders of major church organizations and voluntary organizations on July 23, to provide information about the National Arson Prevention Initiative and invite the organizations' participation in the Initiative.

Projected Activities:

- FEMA plans to meet with or hold conference calls with leaders of:
 - * Education institutions (as coordinated with the Department of Education)
 - * Other crime prevention organizations, such as the National Crime Prevention Council;
 - * Youth organizations, such as the Boys and Girls clubs of America; and
 - * Community organizations, such as the National Association of Neighborhoods.
- The National Black Police Association (NBPA) is working with the Congress of National Black Churches to develop crime and arson prevention programs that will be implemented through the south in areas impacted by church fires.
- The NBPA is also working with the National Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters to develop national crime prevention education programs. These will be implemented through the pastors of black churches in the South.

ON SCENE

reprint from July 1, 1996

Fire service, churches, federal agencies battle arson wave

Nearly 40 churches hit in 18 months

In response to the recent series of church burnings, the IAFC is taking a proactive approach to the prevention of these violent acts. "The IAFC does not tolerate this type of action by any individual or group toward another," said IAFC President Lamont Ewell. (See related article on this page.) The IAFC, the Congressional Fire Services Institute, the International Association of Arson Investigators and the insurance industry are working to further a congressional effort led by Rep. Curt Weldon (R-PA), to create a nationwide awareness campaign about arsons involving churches.

Not just a Southern issue

Newsweek reports that there are approximately 600 cases of arson against church buildings each year. This overall trend is down, but not against black churches in the rural south. There have been at least 38 fires at predominantly black churches since January 1, 1995. Of these, 24 are active arson investigations, six were cleared with the arrests of suspects and eight were ruled accidental fires. (Although the recent wave of church fires has been primarily in southern

states, an arson fire destroyed the sanctuary of a church in Portland, Oregon, on June 20; it was the first such incident in the Northwest recently.)

Racial motivation in nine arsons

Although a number of the suspicious church fires in recent weeks have been cleared as accidental, generally caused by electrical problems, many are being investigated as arson. Racism is a key component in some of the investigations, but investigators point out that arson has many causes. Local, state and federal investigators said that both white and black suspects have been arrested in connection with separate church fires.

As with any act of arson, investigators are struggling to find those responsible — and their motivations. Federal officials investigating fires at black churches have found evidence of racially motivated arson in nine of 39 cases, the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* reported. Christian churches are not the only places of worship targeted for arson. The South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division has investigated 27 church fires in that state since 1991. "There were 15 black

churches [burned], 10 white churches, an Islamic mosque, and a church with a Hispanic congregation," a division spokesman told the *Washington Times*. Synagogues are also regular targets for acts of violence.

"The destruction of a place of worship is a depraved act of violence," said Dave Paulison, chief of Metro Dade Fire Rescue and IAFC's first vice president. "These acts are reprehensible, and we expect every elected official and fire chief at the local, state and federal levels take a public stand denouncing these senseless acts of violence in our institutions of faith. I encourage every fire chief in the country to lend full support to investigate such incidents and bring these arsonists to justice."

Prevention is key to stopping arson

The IAFC and other fire service organizations are offering fire departments the tools necessary to help their communities prevent arson in places of worship. Expanding current neighborhood watch programs, performing pre-fire safety inspections and parking fire department vehicles at potential targets are just a few steps

ON SCENE

Arson, continued

the IAFC recommends to reduce the threat of arson (see sidebar next page).

Community involvement is essential in preventing arson in vulnerable areas. Public education programs involving clergy and congregations, as well as donations of such security items as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and deadbolts, are just two of the many ways communities can protect themselves from arsonists.

Fire chiefs are urged to work with police departments, local government leaders and church leaders to spearhead prevention efforts. High visibility news conferences and news releases should be used to alert citizens and offer them the opportunity to get involved.

Another important step in the prevention of arson is to ensure the security of church buildings. This involves deadbolt locks, locked windows, solid hinges and brightly-lit exteriors. These measures can slow down or deter arsonists. Other measures as simple as driving apparatus past churches when returning from calls increases the visibility of the fire department, thereby reducing the target appeal of such patrolled churches.

Resources for combatting problem

In response to the crimes, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) created a church threat assessment guide that profiles vulnerable buildings. The IAAI is offering a community action brochure.

Both documents are available from CFSI by calling 202-371-1277. The IAAI is offering expert assistance with a series of regional seminars. Call 314-621-1966 for more information.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is another group with a vested interest in church burnings. For information on how to protect historic structures and rebuild those that have been attacked, call David Socolow at 202-673-4000 for information about local preservationists.

Others have contributed money to rebuild arson targets. Pledges to the Burned Churches Fund, which now totals \$2.7 million, came from the Andreas, Annenberg, Ford, Rockefeller, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur, W.K. Kellogg and Charles Mott foundations. The Pew Charitable Trust, a Philadelphia-based foundation, contributed \$200,000 toward rebuilding churches destroyed by fire. ✽

IAFC President Lamont Ewell pledges support for ATF, FBI efforts

by Chief Lamont Ewell

As president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, I would like to take a moment to discuss the recent string of church fires now plaguing the United States. I am pledging all of the resources that the IAFC has available to help the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigation find the people who are carrying out these attacks. The IAFC is lucky to have such a large resource base of knowledge — and that is you, our members.

We have worked entirely too hard to ensure the passage of the recent anti-terrorism bill, which helps to curb international terrorism on U.S. soil. We cannot capitulate to this form of

domestic terrorism that is creating fear in our nation's churches. Whenever someone uses arson, or any other scare type tactic, to try and bring any religious or ethnic group to its knees, we as a community cannot tolerate such acts.

I ask you, the leaders of the fire service, to please read the suggestions on page four and take the actions that you believe are appropriate for your community. We must be proactive to combat this unseen, cowardly enemy. ✽



Did you miss this important article when it was first published?

Get your own subscription to "IAFC On Scene"!

For a sample issue and details about our twice-monthly publication, call 703-273-0911!

Blueprint for preventing church arson

Following is a recommended checklist for preventing church arson. Help church leaders assess security exposures, both outside and inside. The first step is to identify security strengths and weaknesses. These suggestions are not intended to be all inclusive. Be creative, and be sure to share your prevention techniques with your colleagues and the IAFC headquarters.

Fire department involvement

- Plan response in the event of a fire
- Encourage local businesses to donate necessary items such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, locks, and lights
- Conduct on-site safety evaluations (concentrate on reducing risk of arson, not necessarily citing all infractions; these can be discussed later)
- Consider a policy of driving by at-risk churches when returning from all calls; random vigilance from the fire department may dissuade arson

Work with members of area churches

Members of churches, particularly those that fit the profile of those targeted in recent months, should set up a network to share information about suspicious activity with each other. Someone planning to set a fire likely will visit different sites looking for an opportunity. Suggest they consider installing burglar and fire alarm systems and sprinklers.

Using neighborhood watch groups

- Enhance and expand existing neighborhood watch programs, then post signs at entrances
- Consider parking civilian or fire department cars overnight in church parking lots

Work with police and civic groups

- Fire department assumes role of safety advisor
- Police department assumes role of security
- Work with elected officials, the media, local chambers of commerce, councils of churches and other civic service groups

Where can an arsonist hide?

- Shrubs or other items can allow an arsonist to hide or work without being seen
- Exterior stairs to below-grade entry
- Is there more than one access point to the

property? Include pedestrian access

- Are approach routes open to observation?
- Is the building exterior well-illuminated at night? If so, the arsonist risks being seen
- Light each entrance with a 40-60 watt bulb
- Place higher wattage lights at corners to illuminate building walls
- If electrical service box is outside, secure with a strong lock.
- Are grounds illuminated at night?
- Lighting parking lots and approaches are deterrents
- Is building isolated from direct observation by neighbors, passersby?
- Do the parking lot entrances have gates? Locked gates slow down arsonists and reduce the ability to scope out potential targets

Check exterior exposures

- Where can an arsonist start an outside fire that will extend to the interior? Check for combustible siding; doors with glass; windows reachable from ground level; low roof lines with overhanging eaves; and combustible material nearby that can be used easily for fuel
- Where can an arsonist gain access to the interior? Most of the recent fires have been started with materials in the church. Locked doors and windows are obstacles and elicit the noise of breaking glass, forcing a lock, etc.
- Doors need secure locks, preferably ones with double-deadbolts.
- Use long screws for hinges and for mounting locks. These will better resist splintering
- Solid doors without glass are more secure.
- Are windows accessible from ground level?
- Check the locks on the windows for tightness. If they are the type that can be forced from the outside, add locks that resist this. Always be careful to ensure that windows can be opened from the inside in case of fire.
- For sliding doors, place a piece of wood or pipe along the bottom.

Check interior exposures

- Interior walls that are wood or paneled.
- Areas with combustible items, including classes
- Storage rooms for choir gowns, etc.
- Minister's office



About the International Association of Fire Chiefs

The International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) has both a rich history and a strong commitment to the future when it comes to the fire service. It was the first national fire service organization in the United States and is one of the oldest professional management organizations.

Today, the IAFC includes a membership of more than 11,000 fire chiefs and chief fire officers in 40 countries worldwide. Of those members, more than 8,000 are fire chiefs who hold primary responsibility in their communities for ensuring the highest possible level of fire protection for their citizens. IAFC members provide fire, EMS and other emergency services to approximately 70 percent of the United States population.

The IAFC has a structure of geographical divisions and topical sections that enables members to interact with each other about current topics and issues. Section and task force members research and act upon a wide range of issues, including:

- fire fighter health and safety
- automatic and built-in fire protection systems
- hazardous materials
- building codes
- emergency medical services
- cultural diversity
- fire prevention
- fire service accreditation
- voluntary standards
- training
- education
- arson investigation

The association was established in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1873 as the National Association of Fire Engineers. At the 54th annual conference in New Orleans in 1926, the name of the organization was changed to the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

P. Lamont Ewell of Oakland, California, is president of the IAFC. Headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, the IAFC has a professional staff that provides a variety of services to the association's members and the fire service as a whole. This staff is led by Executive Director Garry L. Briese, CAE.

**International Association of Fire Chiefs
4025 Fair Ridge Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22033
(703) 273-0911 • FAX: (703) 273-9363
ICHIEFS: IAFCHQ**

Chief of Staff

FEMA, 500 C Street, SW,

Washington, DC 20472



FAX

Date:

6/21

Number of pages including cover sheet:

3

To:

Kitty Higgins

Phone:

Fax phone:

CC:

From:

Jane Bullock

Phone:

202/646-3923

Fax phone:

202/646-3930

REMARKS:

☐

Urgent

☐

For your review

☐

Reply ASAP

☐

Please comment

Attached is 1 pager on FIRE ARSON
initiative w/ty and a list of FIRE
GRPS ATTEN DING.

CC
TO STEVE +
Anne

Jane

Proposed Meeting with National Fire Service Organizations In Support of the President's Arson Prevention Initiative June 24,1996.

- o The suspicious burning of African-American and other churches has prompted a major Administration initiative on Arson Prevention.
- o James Lee Witt, along with Secretaries' Cisneros, Reno and Rubin, has been tasked with leading an effort to coordinate Federal resources to implement arson prevention activities at the State and local level. The initial focus will be on the 12 impacted States, but we expect this will expand into a Nation-wide effort.
- o One of the constituencies most responsible for arson prevention activities at the local level is the fire services community.
- o FEMA is proposing that we partner with the eight major fire service organizations to have them implement a National grass-roots campaign on arson prevention. These organizations represent front-line firefighters to top level fire policy decision makers, including over three million fire personnel at all levels of government and the private sector..
- o FEMA will convene a meeting of these organization on Monday, June 24, 1996 to propose that these organizations work at the local level to:
 - Develop community partnership action plans on arson prevention, education and outreach
 - Implement specific strategies to address the church arson problem
 - Coordinate and leverage resources available to communities for these programs
- o This concept has already won the endorsement of several of these groups. The Monday meeting will be to finalize the agreement with the fire organizations and to announce the kick-off of this grass roots campaign to the press.

Action Recommended: Director Witt would like President Clinton to meet briefly with the fire service representatives and/or participate in the announcement of this initiative to the press.

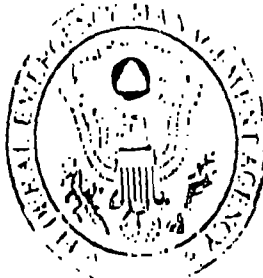
The announcement can be done on Tuesday or Wednesday as well.

The Fire Organizations that will be represented at the meeting are:

- National Fire Protection Association
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Black Professional Firefighters
- International Association of Arson Investigators
- National Association of State Fire Marshalls
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

500 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20472



Office of Policy and Regional Operations
- *Intergovernmental Affairs*

PHONE: (202) 646-2889

FAX: (202) 646-4215/3949/4176

TO: _____

DATE: 7-22-96

FAX: _____

FROM: *Rachael A. Rowland/Carl McCoy*

SUBJECT: **National Arson Prevention Initiative**

Please call Carl McCoy (202) 646-4125 with questions or

comments.

Number of Pages Including Cover _____

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GUIDANCE FOR CLEARINGHOUSE OPERATORS

Please keep mind that the caller may know nothing about the Federal Government, FEMA, or the U.S. Fire Administration. The caller may not know what to ask for or how to ask for what they want. To many of the callers this may simply be a fact-finding mission. They are calling you (the expert) to request materials or to ask whether there are grants or other programs for which they may qualify. To the caller you represent the Federal government. The impression you make reflects upon all of us. Make sure that your voice and manner reflects friendly caring service. You are not in a hurry. You are here to provide the caller with as much information, on as wide a variety of programs, related to the arson problem, as possible.

In order to be able to provide the caller with adequate information related to all initiatives and programs that may be of interest to them, you have to first establish a rapport with him/her. How many times have you hung up the telephone and immediately remembered something you intended asking or discussing? We want the caller to feel sufficiently comfortable that they get all of their questions answered.

Be prepared to ask leading, probing questions to identify the status of the caller and the potential applicability of various programs. You need not ask the questions in a direct or systematic manner. We want to avoid the impression that we are interviewing the caller. They called to ask us about available programs. When you first answer the telephone feel free to chat with the caller regarding the weather in their part of the country or any other subject that will put them at ease and let them know that you are there for the express purpose of talking with them. Always answer the telephone with "Hello, Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention. My name is ____." Some good lead-ins include:

"How may I help you?"

"How may I serve you?"

"Are you aware of the money available from...?"

"Are you aware of the _____ program?"

"How may I be of service?"

If possible, early in the conversation try to discover who they are and what organization/agency they represent. During your conversation with the caller you may advise,

"There are several programs that I should make you aware of, depending on what agency you are associated with."



This is important because it enables you to begin identifying programs in which they may have a particular interest. Get the caller's name and phone number early in the conversation. If you paid close attention to what they said when you answered the telephone you may already have learned that they are:

- a. an elected or appointed official;
- b. an employee of a State or local government;
- c. a member of an emergency management, police, or fire service organization;
- d. a representative of some other agency or institution;
- e. a member of an arson task force;
- f. a part of a community watch group or citizen patrol;
- g. a representative or member of a church group, or a volunteer agency; or
- h. a concerned citizen.
- i. other: _____

NOTE: If this is a media inquiry, refer the call to FEMA Public Affairs at: (202) 646-4600
Refer questions about NETC campus and programs to 800-238-3358.

Be prepared to answer questions such as:

How can we:

- ⇒ Prevent these Fires;
- ⇒ Get funding to set up a neighborhood watch program;
- ⇒ Train and support a local watch team;
- ⇒ Get funding to install lights, motion detectors, etc., in our church
- ⇒ Pay for surveillance for our church;
- ⇒ Train our police and fire departments in arson investigation;
- ⇒ Get funding to rebuild our church; or
- ⇒ What funding programs are available

Although many of these questions may not relate to the true purpose of the Clearinghouse, you should be prepared to help callers with these inquiries.

Be prepared also to transfer the caller to the appropriate telephone number. Be prepared to provide them with the telephone number of: The State Fire Training Director; The State Emergency Management Director; and other key State and Federal telephone numbers.

Remember to advise the caller that there are several excellent sources of information locally: The Office of their Senior Elected Official; Local Arson Prevention Task Forces; Local Neighborhood Watch Groups; Police Chief, Fire Chief, Emergency Manager, (Civil Defense) American Red Cross, others.



Before you let the caller off the telephone make certain that you have a complete name, address, telephone # and FAX number, if you have promised to fax information. Please also try to fill as many of the blanks on the computer screen as possible. All of this information is important in assessing the threat of arson and the value of State and local initiatives.



PROTOCOL FOR PLACING CALLS

Common courtesy for placing calls requires that you identify yourself, your agency and the purpose for your call: "Good morning, this is _____ with the Federal Emergency Management Agency calling for Mr. or Ms. or Chief _____." Normally the person who screens incoming calls will ask what the purpose of the call is, or the subject of the call. Be prepared to answer with, "I am calling from the National Clearinghouse to make him/her aware of information, materials and Federal funding for several Federal programs related to the President's National Arson Prevention Initiative.

When the person called answers the telephone always begin the conversation by identifying yourself, your agency, and the purpose of your call as described above. Follow this with,

"Do you have a few minutes to talk?"

Always give the person an opportunity to let you know that they are in the middle of a meeting or have some other emergency at the moment. They will be much more receptive to what you have to say if they have the time and the inclination to listen to you. If they excuse themselves from the call by asking that you call again, try to get a specific time for your next attempt, but don't try too hard. If they say they are busy and can't talk now either ask for permission to call again at a time you specify or ask whether they have a preferred time for your next call.

"When would be the best time for me to call you again?"

An acceptable alternative is to ask,

"Would you prefer that I speak to a member of your staff?"

Some good lead-ins to the meat of your conversation are such questions as :

Q. "Are you aware of the President's National Arson Prevention Initiative?"

On June 19, 1996, the President announced a National Arson Prevention Initiative in response to the recent series of tragic church burnings.

This is a national initiative. FEMA is working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Treasury and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate resources and materials on arson prevention.

Q. "Do you have questions about the initiative that I can attempt to answer for you?"

Q. If the person called is a member of a fire department:

0000

"Have you received the letter from FEMA Director, Witt, related to the National Arson Prevention Initiative? It was mailed to every fire department in the United States during the week of July 16."

The letter explained the National Arson Prevention Initiative and materials available through the Clearinghouse, and outlined several sources of funding for arson initiatives.

- Q. "Are you interested in receiving any of the materials or information from the Clearinghouse?"
- Q. "Have you had church fires in your jurisdiction within the past 5 years? What was the date and the cause of the fire?"
- Q. "Have there been Neighborhood Watch groups formed in your community?"
- Q. "Do you have questions about the initiative that I can attempt to answer for you?"
- Q. "Do you have questions related either to funding?"

Go to the appropriate TAB for information related to the subject of the request.



ARSON LEGISLATION

The Departments of Justice and the Treasury, working with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms are investigating all fires at houses of worship. The federal government has authority under several statutes to investigate and prosecute suspicious fires at houses of worship. They include the Anti-Arson Act of 1982, which makes it a Federal crime to use fire to destroy property involved in interstate commerce, and 18 U.S.C. ss 241, 247, and 248 (A) (3) which make it a federal crime to desecrate religious property or a house of worship or to conspire to deprive people of their civil rights.

On July 3, 1996 the President signed the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, which amends 18 U.S.C. 247, to strengthen the criminal law against church burning and desecration.

H.R. 3525 -- CHURCH ARSON LEGISLATION

1. Removes excessive proof requirements,
2. Eliminates the \$10,000 damage threshold,
3. Makes illegal, damage motivated by the racial or ethnic character of members of the church.
4. Provides compensation for victims of the crime who suffer personal injury,
5. Increases the penalty and statute of limitation,
6. Authorizes additional resources for ATF investigators and for community mediation, and
7. Extends the Hate Crime Statistics Act until 2002.

NOTE TO OPERATOR: You have copies of the 1996 Act available to provide to callers, upon request. See tab k.

FEDERAL FUNDING

Available Arson Training for Fire and Police Departments and Communities

1. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has released \$774,000 in funding to the States for the purpose of enhancing the capability of States and local governments to train police, fire, and other personnel in arson prevention, investigation and prosecution. All States have received a portion of these funds. Several States in the southeastern United States have received some additional targeted training assistance. Contact your local or State Director of Fire Training.

NOTE TO OPERATOR: Be prepared to provide the caller with the telephone number and address of the State Fire Training Director. See tab j.

Free Arson Seminars

The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) is offering half-day arson prevention seminars free of charge. We, here at the Clearinghouse, will serve to coordinate these seminars for you. If you desire to have a seminar in your community please let us know:

- a) Who will constitute the audience; number committed to attend;
- b) where you would like to hold the seminar, and
- c) several potential dates on which you would like the seminar. We will contact the IAAI's main office in St. Louis, Missouri to arrange scheduling for you.

The IAAI telephone number is (314) 624-1966.

Juvenile Fire Setter Workshops

The US Fire Administration delivers these workshops free of charge through a contractor. The agency desiring to host a Juvenile Fire Setter Workshop contacts the FEMA Region who coordinates the request with the USFA. A minimum of 75 participants is required. The audience is generally composed of fire prevention personnel, police, social workers, and teachers. This is a two and one-half day course, with all materials (8 books for each participant) provided at no cost to the hosting agency. The USFA currently delivers approximately 8 of these courses per year throughout the United States.

Anyone desiring to host a Juvenile Fire Setter Workshop should contact the USFA Fire Management and Control Division at (301) 447-1021



2. **Department of Justice (DOJ)** - The President announced on June 26, 1996, that the Department of Justice's existing Problem-Solving Partnership grant program, which is administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), is available for use by State and local governments, in connection with church arson prevention efforts. In general, these grants are intended to promote cooperative efforts between law enforcement and community institutions to solve local crime issues. The Problem-Solving Partnership is uniquely suited to focus on public safety challenges that result from an arson or threats to a religious institution. It will enable police forces to team-up with local organizations to identify the sources and root cause of the crime, craft prevention strategies, and in the end, work to bring communities together again. In evaluating applications, COPS will give special consideration to law enforcement agencies and communities that seek to use these funds to address problems visited upon their communities by the arson of a religious institution. The application period has two phases, with grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

To obtain an application or for more information, call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770. The full application and guide are also available on the Internet via the COPS Office web site at: <http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/>.

3. **The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**: has indicated that Community Development Block Grants funding that State and local governments have already received may be used for arson prevention activities. Further HUD has also announced that Public Housing Assistance funds may be used by Public Housing Authorities in their efforts to prevent hate crimes by training residents and staff to develop place-based crime prevention strategies.

4. **The Department of Education**: makes up to \$2 million of Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities, National Activities funds available for grants to school districts and community groups to develop and implement strategies and programs for preventing and responding to hate-related incidents. The Department will also help disseminate materials produced by the grantee and host a meeting of school officials to examine hate-related incidents. On July 2, 1996, Education published the grant announcement and application in the Federal Register.

5. **Church Arson Prevention Grant Program**: On July 2, 1996, President Clinton announced a new component of the National Arson Prevention Initiative, the Church Arson Prevention Grant Program. This is \$6 million in grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) which will be made available to county governments in the following 13 targeted States, to facilitate church arson prevention efforts: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. There are 1291 Counties in these States that will receive a one time direct payment of \$4,600 from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) upon receipt and approval of a completed application. These funds can only be applied for by the senior elected official of the County.

These funds can be used for:

- (1) Enhancing security measures in and around churches,



including improving street lighting, security systems, contracting for private security services or other activities which enhance church arson prevention;

- (2) Hiring a part-time law enforcement officer to increase patrol and surveillance of churches, and to work with the community to establish or expand neighborhood watch efforts; or
- (3) Paying overtime to presently employed law enforcement officers for the purpose of increasing the number of hours worked, increasing surveillance of churches to prevent arson.
- (4) These funds can be used for law enforcement activities directly related to preventing arson at houses of worship. Extra gasoline for extra patrol cars, etc., would be allowable.



INVESTIGATING CHURCH ARSON FIRES

In May, 1996, the President asked Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Deval Patrick and Assistant Secretary for Enforcement, James Johnson to Co-Chair a task force to oversee the conduct of all these investigations.

TREAT THESE FIGURES CAUTIOUSLY: ADVISE THE CALLER THAT THE FIGURES ARE CONSTANTLY BEING UPDATED BY THE FBI AND BATF. ANY REFERENCE TO ACTUAL NUMBER OF CHURCH ARSON FIRES MUST HAVE AN "AS OF" DATE AND SHOULD INCLUDE A SPECIFIC PERIOD, i.e., January 1, 1995 to ____.

Since January 1, 1995 Federal agents have responded to 61 suspicious fires or acts of desecration at African American churches. Of those, 53 were in the Southeast, which included the following states: Tennessee, South Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Florida, Texas, and Oklahoma. Of these 53 incidents, 47 were fires; 4 of which preliminary have been determined to be accidental.

You may wish to contact local law enforcement authorities or your local U.S. Attorney's office for additional information.

"If you believe that you have evidence to offer regarding a church fire you should report it to 1-888-ATF-FIRE. Both the ATF and FBI are offering rewards for information in arson cases." (See list).

NOTE TO OPERATOR: Encourage the caller to contact the ATF but take down all the information and follow up with a call to the ATF to insure that the caller did contact them.

CHURCHES AND OTHER HOUSES OF WORSHIP SAFETY INSPECTIONS

If the caller would like to have their church inspected for fire and safety or vulnerability hazards, their first contact should probably be with their local fire department. All major fire departments have a fire prevention section that will be pleased to work with you to inspect your church for fire and safety hazards. If your fire department does not have a fire prevention section, call your police department. Generally the capacity exists either in your community or in a neighboring community to inspect your church and to make recommendations regarding its vulnerability to fire.

The Insurance Committee for Arson Control (ICAC) has arranged for their member insurance companies to conduct on-site loss prevention inspections of churches free of charge, to identify potential problem areas and recommend solutions to church officials. Church members can request these inspections by calling the Clearinghouse. We will coordinate with the Insurance Committee for Arson Control on your behalf to arrange for your church inspection.



I will need the name and telephone number of the person who should be contacted to schedule an inspection. I will call the Insurance Committee and either they or I will be in touch with you as soon as possible, to schedule an inspection.

The telephone number of the Insurance Committee for Arson Control is: (212) 669-9245.

I will send you some material that contains recommendations for improving the security of your church.

You may wish to form a community watch group. I would be pleased to send you information on how to set up such a group.

The "FUNDING" section describes various funding sources for financing increased surveillance and church security measures.



NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization whose mission is to enable people to prevent crime and build safer, more caring communities.

Contact the National Crime Prevention Council, 1700 K Street, NW, Second Floor, Washington, DC 20006-3817, Phone (202) 466-6272. If your community is one of the 105 Empowerment Zones, insure that your arson prevention efforts are coordinated with the local Zone.

The NCPC is the secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition, more than 130 national, federal, and state organizations committed to preventing crime. The National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign is substantially funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

To request materials related to crime prevention contact the Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20850, 1-800-688-4252. Please review the material I am sending you before contacting this number.

For information on this and other programs call the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1-800-421-6770 or access the BJA home page at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA>.



HOW CAN I HELP WITH THE REBUILDING EFFORT?

The Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996, authorizes a HUD loan guarantee program that can be used for church rebuilding. Up to \$10 million of guarantees are available for the rebuilding of houses of worship.

There may be some assistance available through the National Council of Churches.

As of July 12, 1996, the National Council of Churches has raised \$7.7 million through donations from their 33 denomination member agencies, from private foundations (the Andreas Foundation gave \$1 million and the Coalition of Foundations gave \$1.7 million) individual donations, and several significant donations of materials from lumber, paper, and building supply companies.

They are receiving donations at their National Council of Churches, Burned Churches Foundation, 475 Riverside Drive, NY, NY 10115-0050 or contributions can be made by telephone at 1-800-762-0968. Their Grants Committee meets to review applications and award grants. They do conduct on-site visits of applicants.

Religious Organizations

Congress of National Black Churches
Washington, DC
Reverend Mike Lemmons
202-371-1091

Southern Baptist Convention
Nashville, TN
Jack Wilkerson
615-244-2355

Southern Christian Leadership Conference
Reverend Joe Lowry, President
404-522-9468

Nat'l Black Evangelical Ass'n & Nat'l Ass'n of Evangelicals
Wheaton, IL
Mr. Aaron Hamlin
800-535-LIFE



Anti Defamation League
New York, NY
Mr. Mark Edelman
Director of Marketing and Communications
212-885-7744

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee
Grand Rapids, MI
Lee Word
800-552-7972

National Conference of Christians and Jews
New York, NY

National Baptist Convention
Dr. Henry Lyons, President
813-327-0554

Progressive National Baptist Convention
Reverend Tyrone Pitts, General Secretary
202-396-0558

AME Church
Bishop John Hurst Adams
703-691-0771

According to the USA Today, more than \$5 million has been donated to rebuild churches that arsonists burned. Most of the funds are directed to the 67 Southern churches burned since Jan. 1, 1995. Among the groups collecting money or coordinating volunteers:

Save the Churches Fund
c/o the Christian Coalition
P.O. Box 1990
Chesapeake, VA 23327

Promise Keepers Church Response Fund
P.O. Box 103001
Denver, CO 80250-3001

Alabama SCLC Burned Church Fund
P.O. Box 385
Eutaw, AL 35462



VOLUNTARY AGENCIES

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives (FSC) is a non-profit, resource and advocacy association involving 25,000 low-income rural families, organized into 100 cooperatives, and community-based economic development groups across the South. Americorps/VISTA has initiated a project with the FSC to provide assistance to communities in the rural south that have been impacted by recent church burnings. VISTA will mobilize resources for the development and implementation of arson prevention and community watch programs... They are targeting 61 counties throughout the States of Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. They are planning to have teams comprised of 40 Full-year employees including VISTA leaders and 60 Summer Associates. Americorps has already begun recruiting volunteers to run anti-arson vigils to support prevention efforts in communities.

On June 26, 1996, major National Fire Service organizations signed a joint resolution, The President's Partnership for Fire and Arson Protection, in which they committed their organizations to assist in a united effort to prevent and eliminate acts of arson through public awareness, training, public education, and mitigation programs. Specifically, the fire National Fire Organizations pledged to work with their membership, within their communities, to organize and support grassroots community-based arson prevention watch teams; offer arson prevention workshops for religious congregations, and provide on-site safety inspections to churches and other houses of worship. Signing this resolution were:

International Association of Arson Investigators;
International Association of Fire Fighters;
International Association of Fire Chiefs; The International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters; The National Association of State Fire Marshals;
National Volunteer Fire Council;
National Fire Protection Association, and
The Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management and International Society of Fire Service Instructors.

It is anticipated that the initiatives of members of these agencies will greatly enhance local grassroots efforts.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CLEARINGHOUSE

The National Arson Task Force has prepared a Church Threat Assessment Guide. This guide will help churches, especially rural ones, to take steps to protect themselves from criminal arsonists and vandals.

The International Association of Arson Investigators has also developed a brochure entitled Arson Prevention for America's Churches and Synagogues.

The Church Mutual Insurance Company has an excellent brochure, "Fire Safety for Your Church". In addition, The National Fire Protection Association has provided the Clearinghouse with free copies of their Fire Safety News Source bulletin: Fact Sheet on Arson Fires and Church Fires in the USA. They have also made copies available of their NFPA 912 standard, Fire Protection in Places of Worship, 1993 Edition.

Several organizations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have many excellent articles and aids available. Their "Training Key #384", dealing with Prohibitions Against Racial Religious and Ethnic Violence, and Training Key #409, Investigating Hate Crimes, are excellent examples of material available from such sources. In addition, the IACP has provided us with copies of their National Law Enforcement Policy Center documents: Evidence Control and Model Policy; Hate Crimes and Model Policy; Civil Disturbances and Model Policy; and Model Policy for Major Crime Scenes and Bomb Threats and Searches.

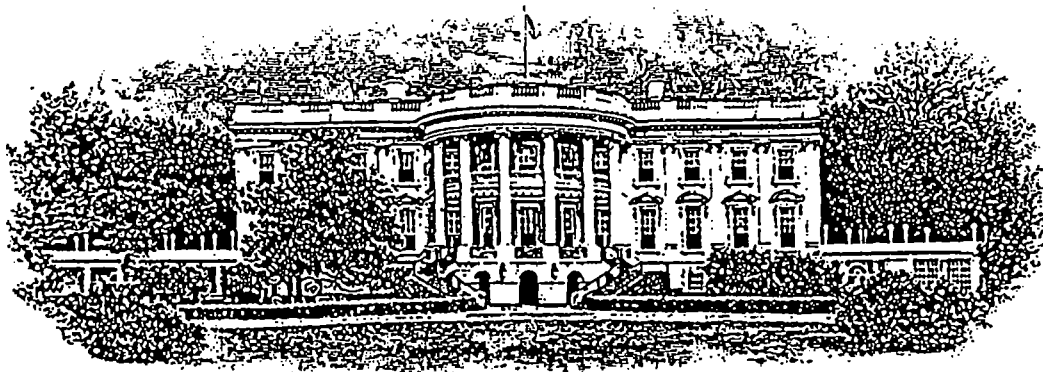
The IACP also provided us with a copy of an exemplary program describing the activities of the State of Florida and Dade County's programs: A brochure entitled "Florida Churches, a Guideline to Aid in the War Against Arson", sponsored by the Division of State Fire Marshal, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and the Department of the Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, is an excellent example of a local and State collaborative effort. This brochure outlines what can be done to protect churches against arson and how to get the community involved in church-watch programs.

We have released one radio PSA and are in the process of developing several others, one specifically oriented toward African-American radio stations. We are also developing Television PSA's.

Radio Stations may call the FEMA Radio Network toll-free at 1-800-323-5248 to obtain recorded actualities with FEMA Director Witt and leaders of several national fire and emergency services organizations.

FEMA has added a special section on its World Wide Web site (<http://www.fema.gov>) in support of the National Arson Prevention Initiative.





THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

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Washington, D.C. 20500
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FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 7/1/96

TO: Rachel Rolland

PHONE: _____

FAX: 646-2889

FROM: Anne McGuire

NO. OF PAGES: _____
(Including Cover Sheet)

PRIORITY: Y N

MESSAGE: Speech from Church Leaders Breakfast



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TO: 65709

PAGE: 02

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

26-Jun-1996 04:52pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Margaret M. Gamm
Press Secretary6-06-26rbtp ecumenical brkfst inter*Jerry
Edmonds**6-5709**FAY*

HOUSE

Press Secretary

InternJune 26, 1996PRESIDENT
AL BREAKFAST

The State Dining Room

8:55 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. First of all, let me thank all of you for coming and coming on such short notice. As you might imagine I believe we could have filled the White House today with representatives of all faiths across our country but what we wanted to do was to have a reasonably small but generally representative group of people come here to discuss this matter and to offer your ideas.

I had a very, very fine meeting last week with a bipartisan group of governors from states which had been affected by the church burnings, and we talked about things we could do together in trying to, you know, run the cases down but also working on rebuilding and on prevention.

I wanted to talk to you today because I believe based on the evidence we've seen so far that there is no conspiracy throughout the country but that there is something in the atmosphere that is changed that makes more people believe that one of the things they can do to live out whatever frustration or anger that they have is to

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bring down a house of worship. I think it's important, if I might, just to look at the facts. In the last year and a half to two years, there has been a huge increase in the number of African American churches burned, primarily in the states of the southeast but not exclusively.

You should also know there have been an increase of about two and half times in the number of white churches burned. It's a smaller number, to be sure, and a much smaller percentage of the whole but still it's alarming to see a big increase like that. There have been a large number of synagogues defaced and there have been three or four mosques and Islamic centers that have been burned.

MORE

This is especially troubling in the United States where we have more houses of worship per capita than any other place in the world. A nation that was literally founded and the First Amendment to the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of association and freedom of religion. And a lot of people came over here in the first place so they could practice their religion.

So, it is a deeply troubling thing. Now, the Vice President said a lot of what needs to be said here. I do want to say that I think Mr. Patrick and Mr. Johnson and the federal authorities are doing a good job in trying to run down the cases and find out who did what and bring them to justice.

I think a profoundly important effort is being made, partly organized and partly just welling up from the good impulses of the American people to help rebuild these churches. We may want to say more about that in a minute. Dr. Campbell is here from the National Council of Churches. They've agreed to be kind of a clearinghouse for money raised and they've raised quite a lot of money -- a few million dollars already. We can talk more about that

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in a moment. It would help to close the gap between an insurance policy and what it costs to rebuild a church or for churches with no insurance policies. Other groups -- I just heard at our table here about the Assembly of God helping to rebuild a church in Richmond. So, other groups are doing other things. As you know the Habitat for Humanity has volunteered to bring people in to work on any church that needs to be rebuilt. And there's a lot of other things going on. That's encouraging.

In addition to that, we have given a lot of thought to prevention efforts. I talked to the governors quite a lot about that. And I said that we would add to the federal task force James Lee Witt, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency --you know, one of the privileges of being President is dealing with a natural disasters and I have been exceedingly privileged in that regard since I've been President. (Laughter.) We've had earthquakes and fires and, you know, the whole thing and the 500-year flood in the Middle West and, therefore, our FEMA have, I think, become the most well-organized community-connected unbureaucratic operation in the federal government. So, I asked Mr. Witt to think about what we could do to work with local communities on prevention efforts because one of the things that we hope will come out of this and that will build a new spirit is a new sense of cooperation in each one of these communities.

You know, I went to Greeleyville, South Carolina the other day. It's a little town, fewer than 1,000 people, and I learned that the pastor of this church that burned and the mayor of the local community, who was a very impressive young man who had just come to Greeleyville and they said we want you to be the mayor. You're the youngest, most energetic young leader in town, here it is -- (laughter) -- I wish this job worked that way -- (laughter) -- anyway I found out that believe it or not the church had been burned months ago, they rebuilt the church. I went down there to celebrate the rebuilding of the church. The mayor and the pastor of this church had their first meeting in the President's car. I put them in a car with me and we rode from the place where the church had burned to the place where the new church was. Well, I can't do that in every community but that's what ought to be happening in every community. This whole desegregation of religious facilities should lead to a new sense of unity across racial and religious lines in each of these communities. That's one of the things that I hope will happen.

Well, anyway, what Mr. Witt has done to try to help that and to try to actually have a practical impact of helping to prevent these burnings, which is not easy. I mean a lot of these churches are down country roads, they're old and wooden and easy to burn and churches often don't even have -- the small ones don't have full-time staff and certainly can't afford a full-time, 24-hour a day security person. I should say, again, based on what we know, almost any church with a 24-hour a day security person is going to be safe because most of these people are not coming in heavily armed trying to hurt somebody or shoot somebody or prepared to take violence. Most

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of these people appear to be frustrated people with personal difficulties of one kind or another.

Reverend Jackson and I were talking about that yesterday. A lot of these people -- that's another question -- but if we have a lot of community outreach we might be able to reach some of these people and head off some of this stuff in the first place. But, anyway, what we've been trying to figure out how as a practical matter could we do anything to help prevent more of these burnings. And Mr. Witt has established an arson-prevention clearinghouse with a toll-free number to give ministers and communities access to information on arson prevention training.

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The Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Service has put out a terrific brochure giving churches basic information about what to do to increase prevention. And we gave some of the governors and we're prepared to print another batch and do whatever we can to make sure -- we're going to try to literally send one to every church in all the areas. But I would just say to you that I hope you will encourage -- if you have churches in the states where this is going on, they should get one of these brochures. I hope you will encourage them, number one, to look for it in the mail and to use it because we're going to send it to them. Or if you don't, we'll get some to your denomination so you can send it to them. And then, number two, know what the toll-free number is for the arson prevention clearinghouse. It is 1-888-603-3100. We'll give it to you again later.

I also want to say that Mr. Witt and FEMA have put together a remarkable coalition of national fire and emergency services organizations who are going to make available their services in every community and country that wants them. A lot of communities already have community outreach programs, community watch programs, but these people are specially trained and I think in total these organization, I think you said, represent 3 million firefighters throughout the United States who have committed, these organizations have committed all of their people to work in community watch groups and to try to help them set up operations that will maximize the chance that arson can be prevented. The arson investigators, firefighters, state fire marshals, fire chiefs, the Volunteer Fire Council, the Association of Black Professional Firefighters, the Emergency Management people -- this is amazing. There are 3 million of these people and all their organizations say that they will work in any community in the country with any community watch groups to try to increase prevention. So, I want to thank you for putting that together within a week.

We've also identified some more federal assistance we can make available to these communities. We have resources now for the communities that need it. We're going to put 100 Americorps-Vista volunteers out there, and I thank Senator Wofford for being here today. They can organize volunteers. That's one of the things our young Americorps people do. On average we get 12 volunteers, extra volunteers for every Americorps person we put in a community working on a problem. So, we have saved out 100 of our volunteers to do this work in communities across the south that need it and ask for it.

And we also are going to provide some more funds through the Justice Department, the Attorney General's Cops Program, to try to help with increasing security in communities that need it. One of the things that had happened when we went to Greeleyville, it was interesting, since the church burned they had gotten a couple of police officers under our cops program and they had cut their crime rate by more than 50 percent and were able to do patrols, something they had actually never done before. So, we're going to try to move some more of that money out there.

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So, those are some of the things we're doing. But let me say, finally, I believe that in the end this is still an affair of the heart, and I believe that this should be viewed as an opportunity, as has already been said. And I think it should be purely an American issue. It is not a province of any particular religious faith or any political party. I thank Secretary Kemp for being here today, and for his long and constant commitment to the cause of equal rights. (Applause.)

I'll just close with this statement. I've been ending all my talks lately by saying that for the last two weeks my life has been dominated by flames, the flames in the churches and the Olympic
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flame that we welcomed here. I think it's a remarkable contrast, you know. We know what the church flames mean and one of the best things that has happened about having the Olympics in America, and I don't know who thought up the idea but it's a brilliant idea, there are something like 10,000 American citizens have carried that torch for a kilometer each. Some of them carried it in wheelchairs, some of them were 90 years old, some of them were just kids and every one of them was picked because they were extraordinary citizens that represented the best of this country in the sense of unity of this country. We were here the flame was brought in by a Catholic nun who had devoted her life to community service and by I. King Jordan who is the first deaf President of our national deaf university, Gallaudet, who a couple of days after he ran it in and he's four or five years older than I am, he ran a 100 mile race just a few days after he was here.

And the flame was carried out by a man named Lang Brown who has devoted his life to saving troubled children, and who brought 12 of the children whose lives he was trying to save up toward the Vice President and Hillary and Tipper and me and this guy was just weeping carrying the Olympic flame. And he gave it to Carla McGee a young woman who was an All-American basketball player at Tennessee whose life was almost taken in an accident. Her body was totally crushed, she didn't know if she would ever walk again, her career was over, they told her to forget about it. And by sheer force of willpower and the grace of God, she won another national championship. And she's one of the leaders of our Olympic team now.

Those people represent where we ought to be going in this country. And, so, that's what I want you to think about. And I want you to think about what else we can do to make this an opportunity to reach out to troubled people, including some of those people who might do something stupid like this but could be headed off if they were part of a community effort and they knew whatever was bothering them mattered to us as well. You see this all over the world now.

The central security problem of the world today is that there are -- the Cold War may be over and there may be no overarching appeal to communism but there is still something in human nature that makes us all so vulnerable to defining ourselves in terms of what we aren't instead of what we are, in terms of who we can hate instead of what we love and believe in. And that's what's going on in Bosnia, that's what's going on in the Middle East. We have probably 23 or more dead American patriots in uniform because of that, because of what happened in Saudi Arabia yesterday. It's why you know some factions of the IRA still want to plant bombs even though 90-some percent of the people of Ireland want to live in peace with one another. Most of them can't even remember why they were fighting now. It's why the Hutus and the Tutsis have killed each other with reckless abandon in Rwanda and Burundi.

You know, it's why our mission to Bosnia may or may not succeed, people just can't give this up. But this is something that's in every heart -- our vulnerability -- it's in every heart. And somehow we have to find a way to make this come out right because

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the United States is now the most diverse, multi-ethnic, multi-religious democracy in human history and we have proved that we could make it go. If you look at Russia trying to struggle to establish freedom and what happened in Chechnya, and you realize how many different languages are spoken within Russia. If you want them to come out all right, if you don't want -- if you want the Chinese to be able to resolve their problems with Hong Kong and Taiwan peacefully, if you want all these things to work out all right, we have to be the model. We have to prove we're better than they. We have to prove we can beat back those destructive influences.

And that's why this issue should matter to every American. So, we need you. And I would like to spend the rest of
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the time hearing from you, if you have any other ideas about what we should do on the rebuilding, on the prevention and on building community bridges which, I think, in the end is the most important thing we can do to try to prevent this from occurring.

Thank you. (Applause.)

Distribution:

TO: Gabrielle M. Bushman
TO: Steven A. Cohen
TO: Mary Ellen Glynn
TO: Julia R. Green
TO: Peggy A. Lewis
TO: Evelyn S. Lieberman
TO: Marlene A. MacDonald
TO: Julie E. Mason
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TO: Virginia M. Terzano
TO: Barry J. Toiv
TO: Allison Wilkie
TO: Natalie S. Wozniak

THE WHITE HOUSE

To Kathy Wallman
John Angell

From: Anne McGuire

cc: Kitty Higgins

Proposed POTUS letter
and op-ed for your
comment —

Proposed

7/19/96

OP ED SUBMISSION TO USA TODAY

By James Lee Witt

When Americans think of disaster, they think of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and tornadoes. But day-in and day-out, arson claims more lives, and costs more money in property losses than natural disasters. Compounding this national tragedy -- arson is preventable.

Arson is the leading cause of dollars lost to fire, and is the second leading cause of fire deaths. Twenty-five percent of all fires are started by an arsonist.

Arson is not only a national problem. It is a national disgrace. That's why President Clinton has directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency, along with the Justice Department, the Treasury Department, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to work for the first time in cooperation with fire departments, police, community leaders, clergy, volunteer groups, and concerned citizens across the USA to put an end to this menace.

More than 35,000 fire departments are supporting us in the President's new "National Arson Prevention Initiative." This long-term grassroots campaign is not only designed to protect and prevent arson at churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship, but also will combat arson as a national problem.

In recent months, numerous media outlets, including USA Today, have unearthed valuable information about dozens of recent burnings of white and African-American churches, most of them in the South. ~~Whether motivated by racism -- and there is evidence that some of the burnings of African-American churches were hate crimes -- or motivated by acts of revenge, vandalism, or insurance fraud,~~ ^{WHAT EVER THE MOTIVATION} these acts of arson are serious crimes that have tragic consequences.

Arson leaves long-lasting scars that threaten the social, historical, economic and spiritual well-being of our communities. Arson is an ugly crime that deserves a tough response.

For too long in our country, we have expected fire departments -- rural and urban -- to educate the public about arson and fire prevention. But the truth is, many fire departments -- especially in rural areas -- are run by a cadre of volunteers. And even urban departments are perpetually strapped for funds. Most firefighters inspect local businesses and work on preparedness and training for natural disasters in addition to fighting accidental blazes and wildfires.

Arson prevention must be a national priority. Here's how the President's Arson Prevention Initiative will make a difference in the next six months:

- FEMA has released \$774,000 in new funding to all states to enhance arson investigation and prevention training.

- The Department of Justice is providing \$6 million to 13 targeted Southern States to enhance law enforcement efforts and intensify surveillance of houses of worship.
- Leaders of the major fire service organizations in the USA signed the President's Partnership for Fire and Arson Protection on June 26. They have pledged to work at the grassroots level to promote arson prevention and education across the country.
- FEMA's National Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention has resources available through a toll-free number at 1-888-603-3100.
- The Corporation for National Service [AmeriCorps/VISTA] is recruiting volunteers to promote prevention efforts within communities.

The Federal government does have a role in arson prevention, but the ultimate solutions reside in communities, where local officials, businesses, and each citizen must pull together to decide how to use our resources to tackle the job.

Americans can be actively involved in reducing the chance that arson will strike a place of worship in our communities:

- Contact FEMA's Clearinghouse at our toll-free number to request materials set up an on-

site inspection for your house of worship or to help put on an arson prevention workshop.

- Contact your local fire department to receive arson prevention materials and to develop or join community-based arson prevention neighborhood watch teams.
- Online, check FEMA's Website for information about the National Arson Prevention Initiative at <http://www.FEMA.gov>.

In times of trouble, Americans quickly resolve our differences, no matter our skin color, or religious beliefs. Join with us to end arson as a menace to our friends, co-workers, and fellow Americans. Arson need not be a national problem. It can be prevented.

James Lee Witt is the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

DRAFT

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Thank you for showing your concern about the criminal acts against our houses of worship, our communities, and our quality of life. While our public safety officers work to identify those responsible for these heinous crimes, you can help prevent future fires.

On June 19, 1996, I announced a National Arson Prevention Initiative to involve all Americans in preventing these fires. Fire service experts say that prevention is the best protection against arson. After all, the more we know about a problem, the more we can do to prevent it. I hope you will use the tools available through the Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention Resources to initiate prevention efforts throughout your entire community.

A united community effort can make "fire safe" churches and homes a reality. When you organize neighborhood arson watch teams, you move your community one step close to this goal. When you offer arson prevention workshops for religious congregations, you empower your neighbors to fight arson. Most of all, prevention captures the spirit of America because it involves teamwork, cooperation, and partnership.

God bless you in your efforts.

Sincerely, The President

**NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE
STATUS REPORT**

July 12, 1996

I. OVERVIEW

In the wake of the recent series of tragic church burnings, the President announced a National Arson Prevention Initiative on June 19, 1996. President Clinton asked Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Director James Lee Witt to direct this effort. FEMA is working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate available public and private sector resources and materials for arson prevention. This Initiative is to be directed at all States with special emphasis on those States already affected by these terrible crimes.

Preventing Church Fires

Within 24 hours of the President's announcement of the National Arson Prevention Initiative, the involved Federal agencies met at the White House to organize the effort. Director Witt briefed the Cabinet that afternoon, and the following day the agencies met once again at FEMA. A conceptual framework for the effort was discussed, and the agencies agreed to examine available resources that could be contributed to this effort.

In the intervening two weeks since the initiative was announced, a great deal has been accomplished. The National Governors' Association, Southern Governors' Association, National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, International City/County Management Association, and U.S. Conference of Mayors have been involved and kept up to date on the prevention initiative activities. A variety of fire, law enforcement, and emergency management constituency organizations have also been in regular contact with FEMA regarding these efforts. Correspondence outlining the initiative to every Governor and Member of Congress is ready to be dispatched.

FEMA has established a Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention Resources that is accessible by a toll-free number, as well as through FEMA's World-Wide Web Homepage. FEMA has also initiated a public education and awareness campaign that will include both radio and television public service announcements.

Arson training grants have been disbursed nationally by FEMA to help address existing arson investigation and prevention training needs. The major fire service organizations signed a joint resolution committing themselves and their members to work at the grassroots level in communities to prevent arson. And, last week, the President announced his plans to distribute \$6 million to communities in 13 of the most affected States to help local law enforcement in connection with arson prevention efforts.

A summary of the major prevention initiatives follows this section in Figure I-A.

Solving the Problem

Preventing arson is something that we must accomplish together. We may never be able to fully measure how successful we are --- but we will certainly know if we are not. Much of the emphasis of the prevention initiative naturally falls then to communities and individuals. The President intended that this initiative focus on finding ways to stop the burnings before they happen, and give communities the tools they need to help in the prevention effort. The Federal government can identify and provide resources to assist communities and their leaders in preventing church burnings, however the grassroots efforts necessary to combat this crime must begin within communities.

This report provides an outline of the major components of the National Arson Prevention Initiative and the resource commitments to this effort. Current, projected, and ongoing activities related to each component are described with resources noted. The conclusion identifies the next steps to be taken as part of the initiative.

Figure I-A

♦ National Arson Prevention Initiative ♦

On June 19, 1996, the President announced a National Arson Prevention Initiative in response to the recent series of tragic church burnings. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is working in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Treasury and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate available Federal resources and materials for arson prevention and provide these to not only the States already affected by these terrible crimes, but every State throughout the country.

Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention Resources

The Clearinghouse is intended to serve as a focal point to provide state and local governments with information, guidance and technical assistance in arson prevention, including available grants, training, and public education programs. The Clearinghouse will coordinate the delivery of arson prevention and juvenile firesetter workshops. It will also serve as a registry of resources of available data and publications such as arson reports, public education materials available from all private and public sector agencies, research findings, exemplary programs, training materials, etc. Access the Clearinghouse by calling toll-free: 1-888-603-3100. In addition FEMA has added a special section to its World Wide Web site (<http://www.fema.gov>) in support of the National Arson Prevention Initiative.

Arson Prevention Public Education Campaign

Public Service Announcements (PSA) on arson prevention for radio and television are under development. The first radio PSA was released June 28, 1996, and is available through FEMA's Radio Network. To obtain recorded actualities, call the FEMA Radio Network toll-free at 1-800-323-5248.

Arson Training Grants

FEMA has released \$774,000 in funding to States for the purpose of enhancing the capability of States and local governments to train police, fire and other personnel in arson prevention, investigation and prosecution. Nationwide, all States will receive some portion of the funding. Several States in the southeastern United States will receive some additional targeted training assistance.

Community-Based Prevention Efforts

The leaders of the major fire service organizations have committed themselves and their memberships to working at the grassroots level within their communities to promote arson prevention. The Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps has already begun to recruit volunteers to prevent arson. In support of community-based prevention efforts, the following resources have been identified:

- ❖ The Department of Justice's existing Problem-Solving Partnership grant program, which is administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), can provide assistance to State and local governments for use in connection with church arson prevention. These grants are intended to promote cooperative efforts between law enforcement and community institutions to solve local crime issues. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$150,000, with an average award of \$50,000. Up to **\$40 million** in grants will be awarded. Special consideration will be given to organizations that seek to use these funds to address problems visited upon their communities by the arson of a religious property.
- ❖ The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has authorized the use of HUD crime prevention funding to help prevent arson or other crimes directed against churches. This will include hiring residents to form community watch groups. Public Housing Assistance funds may be used for training residents and staff in the development of place-based crime prevention strategies. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding can be also used to help prevent crime or arson directed against churches.
- ❖ The Department of Education will make up to **\$2 million** of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Activities funds available for grants to school districts and community groups to develop and implement strategies and programs for preventing and responding to hate-related incidents. The Department will also help disseminate materials produced by the grantee and host a meeting of school officials to examine hate-related incidents.

Church Security and Protection

The President has also taken steps to provide **\$6 million** from the Department of Justice through the Bureau of Justice Assistance to communities in 13 targeted southern states. These funds can be used to support efforts to enhance law enforcement, intensify surveillance of churches and other religious properties, hire additional employees, or reimburse overtime expenses.

**Additional information on the Arson Prevention Programs
described in this document are available through the
Clearinghouse**

1-888-603-3100

**If you have information that may aid in the
investigation of church arsons please call the
Department of the Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol,
Tobacco and Firearms at**

1-888-ATF-FIRE

II. NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE COMPONENTS

The chart that follows this section synthesizes the major components of the National Arson Prevention Initiative and the key lead and support elements (Figure II-A). All of the major partners in this Initiative are involved in virtually every element of these activities.

Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention Resources

Current Activities

In order to identify and coordinate the variety of arson prevention resources available from both the public and private sectors, FEMA began operating a Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention Resources. The President announced the establishment of the Clearinghouse on June 26, 1996, and it has been operational during weekday business hours ever since. The Clearinghouse can be accessed by State and local officials, community and church leaders, fire and law enforcement officials, and the general public by calling toll-free: 1-888-603-3100. In addition FEMA has added a special section to its World Wide Web site (<http://www.fema.gov>) in support of the National Arson Prevention Initiative.

Information available through this Clearinghouse includes arson prevention pamphlets and brochures, developed by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI), the National Fire Protection Association, the Church Mutual Insurance Company, and FEMA's United States Fire Administration. Callers can request arson prevention workshops or on-site safety inspections of houses of worship. Arson prevention workshops are being conducted by the IAAI. Safety inspections are being coordinated by the Clearinghouse and delivered through the Insurance Committee on Arson Control and many local fire departments. Arson investigation training and other training opportunities can be coordinated through the Clearinghouse. Information on available grant programs, particularly those announced within the last couple of weeks is accessible through the Clearinghouse effort. Additionally, technical assistance on how to set up neighborhood/church watch teams is being provided by the Clearinghouse.

Projected Activities

In addition to efforts to promote the Initiative to State and local officials and the general public through the media and other means, this week the Clearinghouse staff will begin an aggressive outreach to churches, community groups, and volunteer organizations in targeted areas. Through calls to church and community leaders, staff will make known the arson prevention resources available as part of the National Arson Prevention Initiative and the Clearinghouse.

Resources will be continually identified for inclusion and availability through the Clearinghouse. Within the next week, printing will begin on a number of the public

education materials on arson prevention. Demand for packets of prevention materials exceeds 175,000, with requests from the National Council of Churches and the IAAI accounting for the majority.

The toll-free telephone number 1-888-603-3100, has not yet received widespread distribution. As a result, the total number of calls to the Clearinghouse have averaged less than a dozen per day. As the number and services of the Clearinghouse become more widely known, the staff will be "surged" to support this effort. Contractor support will likely augment permanent staffing in such a case.

Public Education and Outreach

Current Activities

As part of an overall communications and outreach effort to promote arson prevention, FEMA released its first arson prevention radio Public Service Announcement (PSA) on June 28, 1996. This is the first in a series of PSAs for radio and television that are currently under development. In addition to its direct media distribution, FEMA is making this PSA available through FEMA's Radio Network. To obtain recorded actualities, call the FEMA Radio Network toll-free at **1-800-323-5248**.

FEMA has met and been in continual contact with the major elected and appointed officials organizations noted in the Overview section. Many of these, including the National League of Cities and the International City/County Management Association plan to highlight the National Arson Prevention Initiative in their upcoming weekly and bi-weekly publications.

Projected Activities

Within the next week, FEMA will send letters outlining the Initiative to the approximately 35,000 fire departments in the country, every Governor, and every Member of Congress. FEMA is also considering other avenues for promoting this initiative through direct correspondence, including writing directly to all of the churches and houses of worship in targeted geographical areas. Outreach to religious media and African-American media outlets figure prominently in the public education efforts over the next few weeks. FEMA Director Witt plans to meet with church leaders in the near future, as well as with the executive directors of the "big seven" elected and appointed officials organizations.

An umbrella communications strategy for the National Arson Prevention Initiative will be developed within one week, and a contractor secured to lay out a complete public education campaign program. Such a campaign will likely include senior level visits with key officials in targeted States.

Arson Training Grants

Current Activities

On June 26, 1996, the President announced that FEMA had released \$774,000 in funding to States for the purpose of enhancing the capability of States, and particularly rural areas, in arson investigation and prevention. Nationwide, every State will receive a \$12,000 baseline amount. Twelve targeted southern States will receive a total award of \$26,000. These funds have been allocated through an existing Performance Partnership Agreement with each State, and will be transferred from the State Emergency Management Agency to the appropriate State arson training organization. The performance period for these grants will extend through September 30, 1997.

Projected Activities

Because States have been afforded the flexibility to determine their priority for training -- be it investigation or prevention -- there will be greater need in the future for coordinating the demand and delivery of the existing arson prevention workshops. In an effort to broaden the impact of the IAAI arson prevention workshops, FEMA's Emergency Education Network will broadcast this workshop to State and local governments, and other interested parties, sometime in August.

Grassroots Arson Prevention

Current Activities

The leaders of the major fire service organizations signed the President's Partnership for Fire and Arson Protection on June 26, 1996. This resolution committed these organizations and their members to working at the grassroots level within their communities to promote arson prevention. The organizations signing the resolution included: the Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management, the International Association of Arson Investigators, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Association of State Fire Marshals, the National Fire Protection Association, and the National Volunteer Fire Council.

From fire chiefs, to fire marshals, to volunteers, to career firefighters, there was universal agreement that the fire community would pull together and work at the grassroots level to prevent church arson. Through many of their publications and annual summer conferences, this commitment and theme have been expressed and reinforced to their memberships and the over 2 million people in the fire service in the United States.

The President announced on June 26, 1996, that the Department of Justice's existing Problem-Solving Partnership grant program, which is administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is available for use by State and local governments in connection with church arson prevention efforts. In general, these grants are intended to promote cooperative efforts

between law enforcement and community institutions to solve local crime issues. The Problem-Solving Partnership is uniquely suited to focus on public safety challenges that result from an arson of or threats to a religious institution. It will enable police forces to team-up with local organizations to identify the sources and root cause of the crime, craft prevention strategies, and in the end, work to bring communities together again. In evaluating applications, COPS will give special consideration to law enforcement agencies and community organizations that seek

to use these grant funds to address problems visited upon their communities by arson of a religious institution. The application period has two phases, with grant awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has indicated that Community Development Block Grants funding that State and local governments have already received may be used for arson prevention activities. Further, HUD has also announced that Public Housing Assistance Funds can be used by Public Housing Authorities in their efforts to prevent hate crimes by training residents and staff to help develop place-based crime prevention strategies.

The Department of Education will make up to \$2 million of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Activities funds available for grants to school districts and community groups to develop and implement strategies and programs for preventing and responding to hate-related incidents. On July 2, 1996, Education published the grant announcement and application package for this program in the Federal Register.

The Corporation for National and Community Service's AmeriCorps has already begun to recruit volunteers to run anti-arson vigils and supplement social services that had been operating out of churches affected by fires.

Projected Activities

Efforts will be made to "tie-in" grant award recipients with volunteers and other community leaders as part of the grassroots prevention initiative. Greater community outreach is anticipated over the next several weeks, with FEMA and Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance working together to promote neighborhood watch and other community prevention efforts.

FEMA will coordinate the delivery of arson prevention training to newly recruited AmeriCorps volunteers in Epps, Alabama, on July 22, 1996. The Agency will also explore conducting "train-the-trainer" training for these prevention workshops and FEMA's existing juvenile firesetter workshops.

A reporting mechanism for tracking the involvement and local level activities of the fire community will be established with the major fire service organizations. Further, a means to coordinate with arson investigation task force activities will be established to further the prevention message at the community level. These task forces are currently working within communities on the investigation of church fires.

Church Protection and Watch

Current Activities

On July 2, 1996, the President announced that he has taken steps to provide \$6 million from the Department of Justice through the Bureau of Justice Assistance to communities in 13 targeted southern states. These funds can be used to support efforts to enhance law enforcement, intensify surveillance of churches and other religious properties, hire additional employees, or reimburse overtime expenses. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is working on a one-page application for each participating county.

Projected Activities

Within 10 days of Congressional approval of the DOJ reprogramming request, the Bureau of Justice Assistance plans to mail the application kit to the county executives of all eligible counties. Although the submission date will be 30 days from the date the application kit is mailed, no applications will be penalized for missing the deadline. Individual county awards in the amount of \$4,600 will be made to approximately 1,291 counties in the targeted States.

FEMA Director Witt met with representatives of the major law enforcement organizations on July 10, 1996, to discuss opportunities for them to pursue arson prevention activities, particularly in partnership with the fire community.

Opportunities to promote neighborhood and church watch efforts will be explored, including the possibility to reworking existing Justice materials to address arson prevention/church watch efforts. Continued emphasis and encouragement will be offered to organizations providing on-site safety inspections, particularly local fire departments.

Figure II-A

NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE
COMPONENTS

	FEDERAL ACTION			COMMUNITY ACTION	
	CLEARINGHOUSE	PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN	ARSON TRAINING GRANTS	GRASSROOTS ARSON PREVENTION	CHURCH PROTECTION/ WATCH
<i>GOAL OR DESIRED OUTCOME</i>	Provide a focal point for the request and distribution of arson prevention information	Create a greater understanding by the public of actions they can take to reduce the incidence of arson	Enhance the capability of States, and particularly rural areas, to identify and investigate arson fires	Involve community leaders and concerned citizens in grassroots efforts to prevent arson as a crime	Monitor and protect potentially vulnerable churches and other houses of worship from arson
<i>AUDIENCE</i>	▪ Churches ▪ Schools ▪ Voluntary Organizations ▪ State/local officials ▪ Community leaders ▪ Fire Departments ▪ General Public	▪ General Public	▪ States and rural communities ▪ State Fire Marshal ▪ State Fire Training ▪ Fire Departments	▪ Fire Departments ▪ Law Enforcement ▪ Churches ▪ Voluntary Organizations ▪ State/local officials ▪ Community Leaders ▪ Teachers	▪ State/local law enforcement ▪ State/local officials
<i>LEAD AND SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITY</i>	Lead: FEMA Support: DOJ, Treasury (ATF) and fire service organizations	Lead: FEMA Support: DOJ, Treasury (ATF)	Lead: FEMA Support: DOJ, Treasury (ATF)	Lead: Communities Support: FEMA, DOJ, Treasury (ATF), Ed, HUD, CNCS	Lead: Communities Support: FEMA, DOJ (BJA), Treasury (ATF) CNCS
<i>TIMING</i>	Begin: June 26, 1996 End: Ongoing	Begin: June 28, 1996 End: August 31, 1996	Begin: June 26, 1996 End: September 30, 1997	Begin: June 26, 1996 End: Ongoing	Begin: July 2, 1996 End: ??

PROGRAM ELEMENTS	Respond to incoming requests for information and assistance ▪ Send "concerned citizen" letter with packet of materials (including Task Force brochure) ▪ Coordinate training, workshop, and technical assistance requests ▪ Provide information on OFA points of contact ▪ Utilize WWW site to respond to and provide arson prevention information. Make available information through proactive efforts directed towards: ▪ Churches ▪ Emergency Food and Shelter Boards ▪ Schools ▪ National religious organizations	Develop national public education and awareness campaign comprised of: ▪ Public Service Announcements - Radio and TV (include tags for Governors, fire groups) ▪ Tour of sites/kickoff of initiative, PSAs, etc. ▪ Reproduction of existing brochures or other materials ▪ Support delivery of arson prevention workshops developed by the IAAI (Arson investigators) ▪ Send Dear Fire Department Letter ▪ Letters to Governors and Members of Congress ▪ Letters to Churches ▪ Outreach to religious media	Deliver \$774,000 for arson training for investigation and prevention activities. ▪ Targeted additional assistance granted to Southern states, with baseline amount available to all States ▪ Funds intended to be used to enhance field deliveries of arson curriculum developed by the National Fire Academy, as well as for arson training available from other sources -- including prevention training	▪ Must actualize Fire Group commitments to work within communities to promote prevention ▪ Deliver identified DOJ/COPS money in support of community-based anti-arson organizations and efforts.. ▪ Make available and deliver Juvenile Firesetter Workshops in areas that request them ▪ Deliver Safe and Drug Free Schools money to support community task force efforts ▪ Public Housing Assistance funds may be used to to train residents and staff to help develop place-based crime prevention strategies ▪ Community Development Block Grant funds may be used to support prevention	▪ Announce and deliver \$6 million protective services money from DOJ for targeted southeastern States. ▪ Develop system for weekly reporting on watch and patrol efforts ▪ Develop Arson Watch team technical assistance materials for communities ▪ Coordinate Insurance Committee on Arson Control's commitment to provide on-site inspections to any church that requests
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<i>COST TO SERVE (RESOURCES)</i>	<u>Pass-through:</u> N/A	<u>Pass-through:</u> N/A	<u>Pass-through:</u> ▪ \$774,000 grant through PPA	<u>Pass-through:</u> - Up to \$40 million from DOJ (COPS) - \$2 million from Ed - PHA and CDBG from HUD	<u>Pass-through:</u> - \$6 million from DOJ through the Bureau of Justice Assistance
	<u>Contributions:</u> ▪ Toll-free number ▪ Postage and materials ▪ Staff time/contractor support	<u>Contributions:</u> ▪ Brochure reproduction ▪ PSA Contract and its expansion ▪ Other contractor costs for campaign(organize and travel) ▪ Prevention workshops -- delivery support to IAAI	<u>Contributions:</u> ▪ Attendant staff and equipment support for training delivery	<u>Contributions:</u> ▪ Delivery of Juvenile Firesetter Workshops ▪ Delivery of Arson Prevention Workshops (see public education) ▪ Delivery of Train the Trainers for both to AmeriCorps volunteers	<u>Contributions:</u> ▪ Arson watch material development

KEY:

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

DOJ - Department of Justice

ATF - Department of Treasury's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Ed - Department of Education

HUD - Department of Housing and Urban Development

CNCS - Corporation for National and Community Service

IAAI - International Association of Arson Investigators

COPS - DOJ's Community Oriented Policing Services program

III. RESOURCE COMMITMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The chart that follows this section outlines the financial resources available to State and local governments to encourage and promote church arson prevention activities (Figure III-A). Other tangible and intangible resource commitments have been made by FEMA to this effort that do not involve pass-through funds. Many of the resources necessary to fulfill the support elements will be redirected from existing FEMA programs. The contribution the private sector could make in furthering the prevention message will also be explored.

Staff Resources

To date, FEMA has contributed the in-kind staff effort of employees. This includes at a minimum one full-time permanent employee and one contractor in Headquarters, and eight U.S. Fire Administration and Regional staff. The estimated staff cost for the two-week effort is \$40,000.

It is projected, at a minimum, that three full-time employees will be involved in coordination activities in FEMA Headquarters, seven for U.S. Fire Administration and regional activities and outreach. The estimated staff cost for each week is \$10,000.

Contractor Resources

Contractor support has been secured for the Clearinghouse and will be secured for the Public Education support effort. The estimated cost of contractor support for the Clearinghouse is \$400,000. This includes staff and mailing support. In start-up costs for the Clearinghouse alone, FEMA has expended approximately \$12,000.

The estimated cost of contractor support for the Public Education campaign effort is \$200,000. This is in addition to an estimated \$150,000 necessary for production and distribution of television PSAs and radio PSAs. To date, FEMA has expended almost \$7,000 in production efforts related to PSAs.

Based upon FEMA's experience and success in delivering juvenile firesetter workshops, it is anticipated that a number of communities will request such deliveries. At an estimated cost of \$15,000 per delivery, to conduct two workshops in each of the 13 States, the cost of targeted deliveries is approximately \$390,000. Additional deliveries in other States will only add to the tally.

Cooperative agreements may need to be executed to provide assistance to fire organizations offering unique prevention resources like the IAAI workshops. The cost of such cooperative agreements is entirely unknown at this point.

Administrative Resources

As a result of the Agency's commitment to reproduce major quantities of public education materials, including those produced by the ATF and private sector organizations, printing estimates exceed \$60,000 for an initial printing of 200,000 of all materials to meet current requests of more than 175,000 items. Depending upon demand, reproduction costs could reach several hundred thousand dollars. Coupled with these costs are the postage and mailing material costs that exceed \$150,000.

Travel for FEMA regional staff to participate in task force activities in the States will be necessary. At a minimum, \$50,000 can be expected to be dedicated to travel activities associated with the National Arson Prevention Initiative.

Figure III-A

NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE RESOURCE COMMITMENTS

SOURCE/AMOUNT	ADMINISTERED BY	PURPOSE	ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS	STATUS
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) \$774,000	FEMA	Enhance Arson Prevention and Investigation Capability of States, and particularly rural areas.	State Arson training delivery contacts. Training to be delivered to local and State students. Nationally distributed with targeted additional assistance provided to southeastern States	Funds transferred to Regions for States on June 26, 1996. Performance period through September 30, 1997.
Department of Justice (DOJ) Up to \$40 Million	DOJ Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)	Problem Solving Partnership grant program to bolster community crime prevention and cooperative solutions to local crime problems	Law enforcement agencies Community based anti-arson organizations Nationwide competitive grant for amounts between \$5,000 and \$150,000.	Announced June 26, 1996. First application period closes July 22, 1996. Second Application period closes August 15, 1996.
Department of Justice (DOJ) \$6 Million	DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance	Supplement pay for local law enforcement personnel to intensify surveillance efforts	County Governments in 13 States	Announced July 2, 1996. Program Application package under development
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD Public Housing Assistance Funds	Assist Public Housing Authorities to prevent hate crimes by training residents and staff to help develop place-based crime prevention strategies	Local public housing occupants Nationwide	Funding already in communities
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	HUD Community Development Block Grants	CDBG funds may be used for local crime prevention efforts	State and local governments Nationwide	Funding already in communities
Department of Education (Ed) \$2 Million	Ed Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities	Develop and implement strategies for preventing and responding to hate-related incidents	School districts and community groups Nationwide	July 2, 1996, Federal Register Notice announced the grant program availability

IV. NEXT STEPS IN PREVENTING CHURCH FIRES

Arson continues to be a serious national problem. Efforts undertaken as part of the National Arson Prevention Initiative will likely be institutionalized as part of everyday FEMA efforts to prevent arson. In order to measure the success of this effort, it is necessary to identify a single goal and work towards it.

In six months, there should be a greater recognition by the public and local officials of efforts they can undertake than can affect their community's vulnerability to church burnings. Over the next six months, every effort should be made to reach out to targeted and other States to promote prevention. This means aggressive outreach efforts by every Agency. This means including prevention messages in traditional law enforcement forums.

Each Agency must play a significant role in terms of recognizing that the end goal of prevention is not just prosecuting the criminals or fighting the fires --- it's fighting what causes the fires.

July 9, 1996

STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR RESPONSE TO CHURCH ARSONS

INITIATIVE	SOURCE OF FUNDS/COST	STATUS	COMMENTS
PREVENTION			
Information Clearinghouse	FEMA	1-888 number in place. Callers provided information on arson prevention.	Admin costs
Public Education Campaign	FEMA	FEMA will reprint ATF brochure, develop PSAs, provide delivery support for prevention workshops.	Admin/contractor costs
Arson Training Grants	FEMA USFA/\$774,000	Funds released to States 6/26.	Grants to States
Grassroots Arson Prevention	DoJ COPS/up to \$40m	Round I applications due 7/22. Round II applications due 8/15.	Grants to States or locals
	DoEd/\$2m	DoEd will hold a competition to award grants to address hate crimes in areas affected by the church burnings. Grants to be awarded in August.	Grants to local school boards and communities
	HUD PH Drug Elimination Grants/up to \$10m	HUD has provided information for public housing authorities (PHAs) in affected communities on potential use of Drug Elimination Grants technical assistance funds to help prevent crime or arson directed against churches.	Grants to PHAs
	HUD CDBG	HUD has provided information to affected States on how CDBG funding can be used for crime- and arson-prevention activities, including neighborhood watch and community policing efforts.	Grants to States
	FEMA USFA	Training/workshops will be delivered.	Admin/training costs
	CNCS/\$250,000	CNCS has met in targeted communities with potential sponsors and is actively recruiting at local colleges and in the communities. The 100 VISTA volunteers are not on board yet, but will be in the next few weeks.	Training costs

INITIATIVE	SOURCE OF FUNDS/COST	STATUS	COMMENTS
Church Protection/Watch	DoJ OJP/\$6m	Congressional approval of transfer pending.	Grants to local agencies, organizations, and individuals
REBUILDING			
Loan Guarantees for Reconstruction	HUD/up to \$10m in guaranteed loans	Loan guarantee authorizing legislation enacted on 7/3. HUD has worked with financial institutions and nonprofit organizations in the affected communities to develop terms and conditions for the loan guarantee program, consistent with local needs. HUD plans to issue a regulation and request applications in July. HUD expects loan guarantee commitments for completed applications to be provided starting in August/September.	Guaranteed loans
LAW ENFORCEMENT			
Overtime Reimbursement	DoJ FBI/\$2m	Congressional approval of transfer pending.	Reimbursement to States and locals
National Church Burning Task Force	DoJ Civil Rights Division/\$2m	Congressional approval of transfer pending.	Interagency task force
Community Conciliation	DoJ CRS/\$0.25	Congressional approval of transfer pending.	Travel and per diem costs of conciliators
Investigation	Treasury ATF/\$12m	FY96 Supplemental; House has also provided \$12m in FY97 appropriations bill.	Personnel and travel

Note: The Department of Justice has spent \$6.75 in 1996 base resources for the investigation of church burnings (FBI: \$5.1m, U.S. Attorneys: \$0.9 m, Civil Rights: \$0.7m, Civil: \$0.3m).

The Department of Treasury (ATF) has spent \$19.1m in 1996 base resources for the investigation of church burnings.

Chief of Staff

FEMA, 500 C Street, SW,

Washington, DC 20472

**FAX**

Date:

7/26/96

Number of pages including cover sheet:

3

To:

Anne Maguire

Phone:

Fax phone:

CC:

From:

Jane Bullock

Phone:

202/646-3923

Fax phone:

202/646-3930

REMARKS:

☐ Urgent☐ For your review☐ Reply ASAP☐ Please comment

Anne -
Latest status report on ARS
initiative - Copies also turned to
Kitty + Kathy Wallman -

Jane



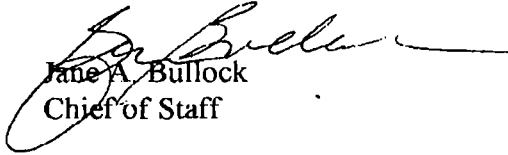
Federal Emergency Management Agency

Washington, D.C. 20472

July 26, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR: Kathryn O'L. Higgins
Secretary to the Cabinet

FROM:


Jane A. Bullock
Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: National Arson Prevention Initiative Status Report

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) continues to coordinate the activities of the President's National Arson Prevention Initiative. Under this initiative, FEMA has been working, in partnership with the US Departments of Justice, Treasury and Housing and Urban Development, to coordinate available public and private resources and materials for arson prevention.

The following is a summary of major prevention initiatives of the Federal agencies, fire service organizations and police organizations:

- During the past two weeks, FEMA has sent 35,000 letters to all the Nation's Fire Chiefs, informing them of the President's Partnership on Fire and Arson Control and the National Arson Prevention Initiative, to encourage their participation and to announce the resources available through FEMA's Arson Information Clearinghouse in Emmitsburg, Maryland. A similar letter will be sent to over 8,000 Police Chiefs within the next two weeks.
- As of July 24, the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) had delivered 18 Arson Prevention workshops and is receiving additional requests daily. The IAAI will deliver a presentation at the meeting of the International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters in Chicago next week.
- Beginning July 25, 100 AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteers will be trained by IAAI to conduct arson prevention outreach activities in 67 rural counties in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.
- The National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is conducting a comprehensive analysis of church fires through their association; NASFM is polling their membership to capture data from all States.
- To date, FEMA has received approximately 200,000 requests for arson prevention materials. We met several hundred of these requests with existing stock of publications and have recently printed additional materials to fill the remaining orders.

- Director Witt has offered to make grants of up to \$10,000 available to the major fire service organizations to assist with costs associated with activities which support the National Arson Prevention Initiative.
- On July 11, Vice President Gore and Director Witt met with leaders of the insurance industry to discuss the difficulties experienced by many churches in obtaining or retaining insurance.
- Director Witt met with leaders of major law enforcement organizations on July 9 and with leaders of fire service organizations on July 22. These organizations are supporting the National Arson Prevention Initiative by encouraging their membership to: provide free church risk-assessment inspections, conduct arson prevention training sessions, support community watch organizations, and help to provide information about the initiative to local communities.
- As an example of the large audience reached by these organizations, the National Fire Protection Association's Fire News magazine, which carried an article about the National Arson Prevention Initiative, reaches about 68,000 members. The Fraternal Order of Police will reach their 278,000 members with a similar article in their next newsletter. All National Police and Fire organizations are running similar articles in their publications.
- FEMA met with the President's Crime Prevention Council on July 19, and with leaders of major church organizations and voluntary organizations on July 23, to provide information about the National Arson Prevention Initiative and invite the organizations' participation in the Initiative.

Projected Activities:

- FEMA plans to meet with or hold conference calls with leaders of:
 - * Education institutions (as coordinated with the Department of Education)
 - * Other crime prevention organizations, such as the National Crime Prevention Council;
 - * Youth organizations, such as the Boys and Girls clubs of America; and
 - * Community organizations, such as the National Association of Neighborhoods.
- The National Black Police Association (NBPA) is working with the Congress of National Black Churches to develop crime and arson prevention programs that will be implemented through the south in areas impacted by church fires.
- The NBPA is also working with the National Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters to develop national crime prevention education programs. These will be implemented through the pastors of black churches in the South.

July 24, 1996

NOTE TO: ANNE McGUIRE

FROM: KITTY HIGGINS

I think this look fine.

THE WHITE HOUSE

To Kathy Wallman
John Angell

From: Anne McGuire

cc: Kitty Higgins

Proposed POTUS letter
and op-ed for your
comment —

Approved
for
this is fine
IC

7/19/96

Proposed**OP ED SUBMISSION TO USA TODAY****By James Lee Witt**

When Americans think of disaster, they think of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and tornadoes. But day-in and day-out, arson claims more lives, and cost more money in property losses than natural disasters. Compounding this national tragedy -- arson is preventable.

Arson is the leading cause of dollars lost to fire, and is the second leading cause of fire deaths. Twenty-five percent of all fires are started by an arsonist.

Arson is not only a national problem. It is a national disgrace. That's why President Clinton has directed the Federal Emergency Management Agency, along with the Justice Department, the Treasury Department, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to work for the first time in cooperation with fire departments, police, community leaders, clergy, volunteer groups, and concerned citizens across the USA to put an end to this menace.

More than 35,000 fire departments are supporting us in the President's new "National Arson Prevention Initiative." This long-term grassroots campaign is not only designed to protect and prevent arson at churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship, but also will combat arson as a national problem.

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In recent months, numerous media outlets, including USA Today, have unearthed valuable information about dozens of recent burnings of white and African-American churches, most of them in the South. ~~Whether motivated by racism -- and there is evidence that some of the burnings of African-American churches were hate crimes -- or motivated by acts of revenge, vandalism, or insurance fraud,~~ ^{WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION} these acts of arson are serious crimes that have tragic consequences.

Arson leaves long-lasting scars that threaten the social, historical, economic and spiritual well-being of our communities. Arson is an ugly crime that deserves a tough response.

For too long in our country, we have expected fire departments -- rural and urban -- to educate the public about arson and fire prevention. But the truth is, many fire departments -- especially in rural areas -- are run by a cadre of volunteers. And even urban departments are perpetually strapped for funds. Most firefighters inspect local businesses and work on preparedness and training for natural disasters in addition to fighting accidental blazes and wildfires.

Arson prevention must be a national priority. Here's how the President's Arson Prevention Initiative will make a difference in the next six months:

- FEMA has released \$774,000 in new funding to all states to enhance arson investigation and prevention training.

- The Department of Justice is providing \$6 million to 13 targeted Southern States to enhance law enforcement efforts and intensify surveillance of houses of worship.
- Leaders of the major fire service organizations in the USA signed the President's Partnership for Fire and Arson Protection on June 26. They have pledged to work at the grassroots level to promote arson prevention and education across the country.
- FEMA's National Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention has resources available through a toll-free number at 1-888-603-3100.
- The Corporation for National Service [AmeriCorps/VISTA] is recruiting volunteers to promote prevention efforts within communities.

The Federal government does have a role in arson prevention, but the ultimate solutions reside in communities, where local officials, businesses, and each citizen must pull together to decide how to use our resources to tackle the job.

Americans can be actively involved in reducing the chance that arson will strike a place of worship in our communities:

- Contact FEMA's Clearinghouse at our toll-free number to request materials set up an on-

site inspection for your house of worship or to help put on an arson prevention workshop.

- Contact your local fire department to receive arson prevention materials and to develop or join community-based arson prevention neighborhood watch teams.
- Online, check FEMA's Website for information about the National Arson Prevention Initiative at <http://www.FEMA.gov>.

In times of trouble, Americans quickly resolve our differences, no matter our skin color, or religious beliefs. Join with us to end arson as a menace to our friends, co-workers, and fellow Americans. Arson need not be a national problem. It can be prevented.

James Lee Witt is the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

DRAFT

Dear Concerned Citizen:

Thank you for showing your concern about the criminal acts against our houses of worship, our communities, and our quality of life. While our public safety officers work to identify those responsible for these heinous crimes, you can help prevent future fires.

On June 19, 1996, I announced a National Arson Prevention Initiative to involve all Americans in preventing these fires. Fire service experts say that prevention is the best protection against arson. After all, the more we know about a problem, the more we can do to prevent it. I hope you will use the tools available through the Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention Resources to initiate prevention efforts throughout your entire community.

A united community effort can make "fire safe" churches and homes a reality. When you organize neighborhood arson watch teams, you move your community one step close to this goal. When you offer arson prevention workshops for religious congregations, you empower your neighbors to fight arson. Most of all, prevention captures the spirit of America because it involves teamwork, cooperation, and partnership.

God bless you in your efforts.

Sincerely, The President

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 10, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON THE CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION ACT

The Rose Garden

9:20 A.M. EDT

Thank you very much and good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I want to join first with the Vice President in thanking Senator Kennedy, Senator Faircloth, Congressman Hyde and Congressman Conyers, and all the members of Congress for supporting this legislation in such a vigorous and such a prompt way.

I think all of you know that we are here today to emphasize publicly our solidarity with this cause and with this piece of legislation. Ordinarily we would be here at a signing ceremony, and I want to say a special word of appreciation to the members of Congress, especially to the sponsors, because this bill came down to the White House while the Congress was out of session, and every member we discussed this issue with said, go on and sign the bill, Mr. President, because we don't want to lose a single day when this bill will not be the law of the land. And I thought it was important for you to come down here so that America could see the breadth and depth of support in the Congress, among religious leaders who are here and community leaders, for this legislation and for this cause.

This act makes destructive hate crimes against houses of worship a federal crime. It doubles the maximum sentence for these crimes that cause injury to people. It increases the statute of limitations from five to seven years. It passed unanimously and that is a great tribute to the depth of conviction in the Congress about this issue.

We all know that burning churches is an outrage. Since January of '95 -- listen to this -- more than 190 incidents of fire or desecration of houses of worship have been reported in the United States. While many have been targeted at black churches in the South, there have also been attacks on synagogues, mosques, and white churches in all parts of this country. When these attacks are motivated by hate, they are an affront to our basic commitment to religious liberty and racial tolerance, and in so doing they pose a challenge not just to those whose houses of worship are desecrated or burned but to the entire nation and to our future as a common community.

These attacks, as the Vice President said, may be intended to divide Americans, but they have had just the opposite effect. We all know when someone burns a house of worship it must mean that the person committing the crime views the people who worship in that house as somehow fundamentally less human. And that is wrong. We know it's wrong, and we know it violates everything that this country was founded upon. We see a spirit today with Republicans and Democrats here that rejects that and says America is better than that.

The National Church Arson Task Force which we have created is mobilizing the forces of the Departments of Justice and Treasury, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other federal agencies, working with communities all over our country to catch and

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to prosecute arsonists, to prevent further burnings, and to help communities to rebuild. I have directed FEMA to coordinate a prevention effort and we have taken steps to provide \$6 million for the Bureau of Justice Assistance to law enforcement and other community efforts in 13 targeted states.

It's also important to know that arrests are being made. In the last three weeks arrests have been made in connection with fires and North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Washington, and Missouri. Tomorrow Vice President Gore is meeting with leaders of the insurance industry here at the White House to build on their pledge to work in partnership with all of us to prevent these crimes.

And while, I say again, not all these crimes are racially motivated, a significant number of them are. We have to continue our struggle against racism and religious bigotry. I want to compliment all the religious organizations and other groups in this country that have agreed to come together to help to rebuild these churches, showing that we can reach across lines of race and religion and region to bring all law-abiding Americans together in this rebuilding effort.

Recently I declared this month of July "National Month of Unity," calling on religious leaders of all faiths and citizens from all walks of life to reach out to one another to strengthen the ideals that light our way as Americans and keep us strong. In recent days here on the lawn of the White House we have seen another sort of flame in America -- the Olympic flame, which symbolizes the best of the human spirit. The other flames of these awful church burnings symbolize the worst instincts of those who would take us back to a time of terrible division and hatred. But it's the Olympic flame, carried by American citizen heroes all over our country, which is now burning throughout the South, making its way to its final destination in Atlanta.

As the world looks to our nation as the host country of the 100th Olympic Games, let us resolve anew to extinguish the flames of bigotry and intolerance and keep the flame of religious freedom and ethnic diversity and respect for all Americans burning brightly in this Olympic season.

Thank you all for your contribution to that effort, and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

9:25 A.M. EDT