

# FOIA MARKER

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**Collection/Record Group:** Clinton Presidential Records

**Subgroup/Office of Origin:** Cabinet Affairs

**Series/Staff Member:** Anne McGuire

**Subseries:**

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**OA/ID Number:** 13172

**FolderID:**

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**Folder Title:**  
Churches [1]

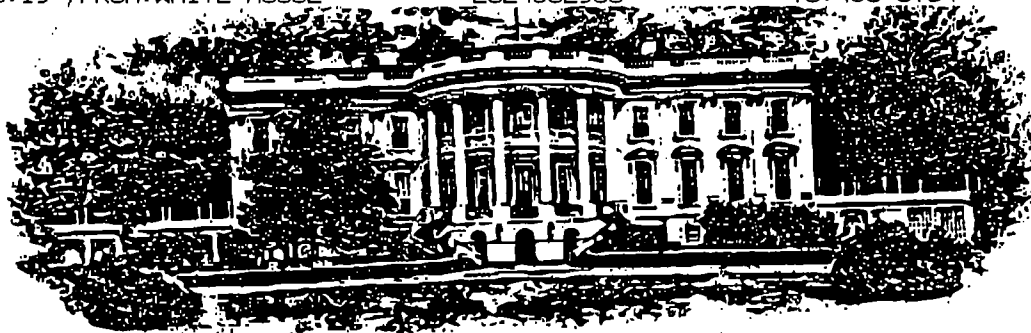
**Stack:**  
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**Row:**  
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**Section:**  
**1**

**Shelf:**  
**10**

**Position:**  
**2**



**THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS**

Room 160 OEOB  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Telephone: (202) 456-2572  
Facsimile: (202) 456-6704

**FAX COVER SHEET**

DATE: 28 June '96

TO: Anne McGuire

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Liz Toohy

4

NO. OF PAGES:  
(Including Cover Sheet)

PRIORITY:  Y  N

MESSAGE: URGENT - per Kitty's  
request

*fax # 6-6704***THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

June 27, 1996

**MEMORANDUM FOR:**

FIRST LADY'S STAFF (MELANNE VERVEER)  
TODD STERN (PHIL CAPLAN)  
JACK QUINN (KATHLEEN WALLMAN)  
✓ KITTY HIGGINS  
JOHN HILLEY  
CAROL RASCO  
DOUG BOSNIK  
ALEXIS HERMAN  
JODIE TORKELSON  
ANNE HAWLEY/STEPHANIE STREETT - FYI

**FROM:**

Lana Dickey/Julia Bator  
for JIM DORSKIND

**SUBJECT:**

(Draft Proclamation)  
A National Month of Unity, 1996

Attached for your review is the above-mentioned proclamation designating July 1996, as "A National Month of Unity."

It was drafted and edited/revised by the Presidential Letters and Messages Office.

**IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED.** Written or oral response required by no later than Noon, Friday, June 28, 1996. **IF WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM YOU BY 12:00 p.m., WE WILL ASSUME THAT THE DRAFT IS ACCEPTABLE TO YOU.**

For questions, discussion, or routine clearance, contact Lana Dickey, extension 67487, or Julia Bator, extension 65518, via phone or interoffice mail, in room 91. Thank you.

cc: Tim Saunders

**A NATIONAL MONTH OF UNITY, 1996****BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA****A PROCLAMATION**

From the earliest days of our Republic, Americans have cherished a commitment to both individual rights and shared ideals. We are a country that celebrates personal achievement and team effort, a land built by the twin forces of entrepreneurial drive and community spirit. Our national voice has long been a chorus of unity -- varied by differing intonations, but carried and lifted by a rich harmony.

Today, our dedication to finding common ground is challenged in ways that our founders could never have anticipated. The United States is now the most multi-ethnic, multi-religious democracy in history, and we must find new ways to make the most of this great diversity. But too often our progress is threatened by forces that tear at the very fabric of our society. Burned and defaced houses of worship, the bombed Federal building in Oklahoma City, and images of violence in war-torn regions across the world are stark reminders of the hatred and alienation that continue to darken our daily experience.

And so we must look into our hearts as we approach the new century, pledging to devote our energies and reinvigorate the shared values that will enable us to embrace the future together. We must never go back to the terrible days of racial and ethnic division, nor can we afford to dismiss our problems by ascribing them to isolated groups or areas of the country. Instead, let us join hands to lighten our burdens and build bridges between people and communities so that we can be one America again -- a Nation of extraordinary possibility with opportunities, freedom, and respect for all.

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NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. CLINTON, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July, 1996, as A National Month of Unity. I ask all the people of the United States to observe this occasion by working together to heal divisions and to promote understanding; by reaching out to one another in a spirit of fellowship; and by seeking to strengthen the fundamental ideals of equality and community that have helped generations of Americans to move this country forward.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this  
day of . . . in the year of our  
Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of  
the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

# 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:

Anne McGuire

DATE:

July 1st

with Cabinet Affairs

FAX:

456-2525

FROM:

Rachael A. Rowland

SUBJECT:

for Jane

Please Share with Kitty!

Number of Pages Including Cover

3

**PRESIDENT ASKS AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE \$6 MILLION  
IN JUSTICE FUNDS TO SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS  
TO COMBAT CHURCH BURNINGS**

**July 2, 1996**

President Bill Clinton announced today that he will request authority from Congress to use \$6 million in federal funds to be distributed to law enforcement agencies in 12 targeted states as part of the National Arson Prevention Initiative ordered by President Clinton to support efforts to combat the recent rash of church burnings in the South and elsewhere in the nation.

The \$6 million will come from the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and will be made available to state and local officials to facilitate church arson prevention efforts. Those efforts could include a wide variety of measures -- for example: heightened enforcement of the law, intensification of surveillance of churches and other religious properties, hiring of additional employees, or the reimbursement of overtime expenses.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating the disbursement of these funds through the Department of Justice to the 12 states where the incidence of church burnings has been most frequent.

We estimate that this funding will provide enough resources for each of the counties in the 12 affected States to hire one additional law enforcement officer for the remainder of the Summer. It is within the local jurisdiction's prerogative to decide whether to apply these funds toward overtime expenses or other surveillance costs.

FEMA is working closely with law enforcement associations and labor organizations to develop effective programs to increase watch patrols in the vicinity of places of worship and to reimburse overtime pay for arson and criminal investigators.

The President is committed to supporting local and state efforts to solve these terrible crimes and to prevent burnings in the future.

In addition to the \$6 million in grants from the Justice Department (which is dependent on congressional notification for the transfer of the necessary funds from other accounts), the Administration has undertaken the following efforts as part of the National Arson Prevention Initiative:

- \* FEMA is also coordinating the distribution of arson prevention and education materials to churches and communities around the country through the Clearinghouse for the Arson Prevention Resources. The number for the National Clearinghouse is 1-888-603-3100.
- \* FEMA will conduct a national Public Education Campaign on arson prevention and is developing and distributing a series of radio and television Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on arson awareness and prevention.
- \* FEMA is also working with the Justice Department to enable local jurisdictions to apply for up to \$40 million in Problem-Solving Partnership grants from DOJ's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs. FEMA is coordinating with the Nation's leading fire and emergency services organizations to organize local based arson watch teams and to provide on-site safety inspection to churches and other house of worship.

**QUESTION: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE \$6 MILLION FROM DOJ ANNOUNCED TODAY AND THE \$40 MILLION ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK FROM DOJ?**

**ANSWER:**

The \$6 million from the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is a special program focused exclusively on the church arson problem. These funds will be made available to State and local governments in 12 States to intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts around vulnerable houses of worship.

We estimate that this funding will provide enough resources for each of the counties in the 12 affected States to hire one additional law enforcement employee for the remainder of the Summer. It is within the local jurisdictions prerogative to decide whether to apply these funds towards overtime expenses or other surveillance costs.

Last week, DOJ announced that its existing Problem-Solving Partnership grant program, which is administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is available for possible 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, thus, 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.

**BJA/CHURCH PROTECTION ASSISTANCE**

- The \$6 million church protection effort is a new initiative focused exclusively on church arson prevention.
- Under the church protection funds announced today, each of the 810 counties in the 12 most vulnerable States will receive approximately \$7,400.
- Through the end of the Summer, the funds announced today are to boost efforts during what is already a heightened level of awareness.

**COPS**

- COPS is an existing program with an newly adapted focus for a portion of the available funds.
- COPS funding must be applied for through an existing application process.
- The COPS funding is focused on longer term solutions to local crime problems.

**PRESIDENT PROVIDES \$6 MILLION IN JUSTICE FUNDS TO  
SUPPORT LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO COMBAT CHURCH BURNINGS  
July 2, 1996**

President Bill Clinton announced today that he has requested authority from Congress to use \$6 million in federal funds to be distributed to law enforcement agencies in 12 targeted states as part of the National Arson Prevention Initiative ordered by President Clinton to support efforts to combat the recent rash of church burnings in the South and elsewhere in the nation.

The \$6 million will come from the Bureau of Justice Assistance of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and will be made available to state and local officials to intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts and to allow for reimbursement for law enforcement overtime.

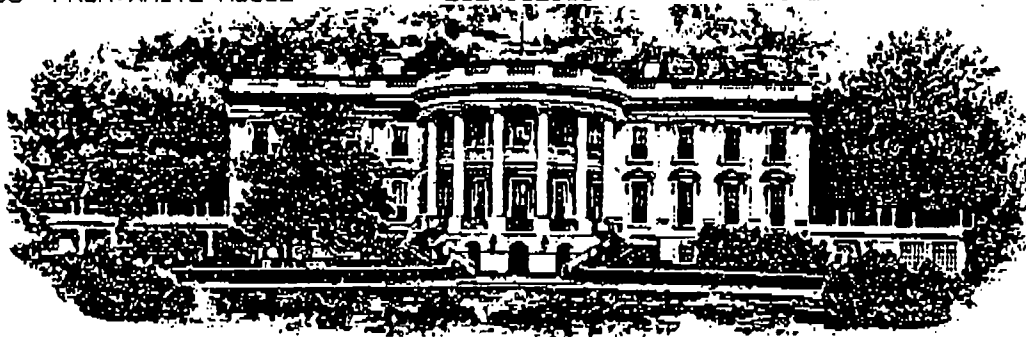
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is coordinating the disbursement of these funds through the Department of Justice to the 12 states where the incidence of church burnings has been most frequent.

FEMA is working closely with law enforcement associations and labor organizations to develop effective programs to increase watch patrols in the vicinity of places of worship and to reimburse overtime pay for arson and criminal investigators.

The President is committed to supporting local and state efforts to solve these terrible crimes and to prevent burnings in the future.

In addition to the \$6 million grant from the Justice Department, the Administration has undertaken the following efforts as part of the National Arson Prevention Initiative:

- \* FEMA is also coordinating the distribution of arson prevention and education materials to churches and communities around the country through the Clearinghouse for the Arson Prevention Resources. The number for the National Clearinghouse is 1-888-603-3100.
- \* FEMA will conduct a national Public Education Campaign on arson prevention and is developing and distributing a series of radio and television Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on arson awareness and prevention.
- \* FEMA is also working with the Justice Department to administer \$40 million in Problem-Solving Partnership grants from DOJ's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs in coordination with the Nation's ten leading fire and emergency services organizations to organize local based arson watch teams and to provide on-site safety inspection to churches and other house of worship.
- \* On July 8, Vice President Al Gore will meet with representatives from the nation's insurance industry to discuss the church burnings issue and to explore how the insurance industry and local insurance officials can get involved in preventing future incidents.



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**Room 160 OEOB  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Telephone: (202) 456-2572  
Facsimile: (202) 456-6704**

***FAX COVER SHEET***

DATE: 1 July '96

TO: Anne McGuire

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: Kitty Higgins

NO. OF PAGES: 2  
(Including Cover Sheet)

PRIORITY: ( Y ) N

MESSAGE: URGENT - Jane Bullock sent  
this one pager over for tomorrow's  
announcement. DoJ is still  
reviewing.

# 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:

ANNE MCGUIRE

DATE: July 8th

FAX:

FROM:

Rachael A. Rowland

SUBJECT:

Draft one pager to be included  
in letters to governors and  
members of Congress

# **DRAFT**

## **♦ 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.*

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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.

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### **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:

- ① The Department of Justice's existing Problem-Solving Partnership grant program, which is administered by the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), is making available to State and local governments up to \$40 million 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. 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.
- ① 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. Drug Elimination Grant technical assistance funds (\$10 Million for FY 1996) can be used for training residents and the development of community strategies against crime. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funding can be also used to help prevent crime or arson directed against churches.
- ① 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.

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### **Church Security and Protection**

The President has also requested authority from Congress 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.

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

**1-888-603-3100**

# DRAFT

## NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE COMPONENTS

	FEDERAL ACTION			COMMUNITY ACTION	
	CLEARINGHOUSE	PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN	ARSON TRAINING GRANTS	GRASSROOTS ARSON PREVENTION	CHURCH PROTECTION/WATCH
<b>GOAL OR DESIRED OUTCOME</b>	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
<b>AUDIENCE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Churches</li> <li>▪ Schools</li> <li>▪ Voluntary Organizations</li> <li>▪ State/local officials</li> <li>▪ Community leaders</li> <li>▪ Fire Departments</li> <li>▪ General Public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ General Public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ States and rural communities</li> <li>▪ State Fire Marshal</li> <li>▪ State Fire Training</li> <li>▪ Fire Departments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fire Departments</li> <li>▪ Law Enforcement</li> <li>▪ Churches</li> <li>▪ Voluntary Organizations</li> <li>▪ State/local officials</li> <li>▪ Community Leaders</li> <li>▪ Teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ State/local law enforcement</li> <li>▪ State/local officials</li> </ul>
<b>LEAD AND SUPPORT RESPONSIBILITY</b>	Lead: USFA Support: OP, PTE, OFA, and fire service organizations	Lead: Public Affairs Support: USFA, OP	Lead: FEMA Regions & States Support: USFA/NFA, OP	Lead: OP & Fire Service Support: DOJ, USFA, Ed, HUD, CNCS	Lead: OP & DOJ Support: USFA, CNCS
<b>TIMING</b>	Begin: June 26, 1996 End: Ongoing	Begin: June 28, 1996 End: August 15, 1996	Begin: June 26, 1996 End: September 30, 1997	Begin: June 26, 1996 End: Ongoing	Begin: July XX, 1996 End: ??

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROGRAM ELEMENTS</b></p>	<p>Respond to incoming requests for information and assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Send "concerned citizen" letter with packet of materials (including ATF brochure</li> <li>▪ Coordinate training, workshop, and technical assistance requests</li> <li>▪ Provide information on OFA points of contact</li> <li>▪ Utilize WWW site to respond to and provide arson prevention information</li> </ul> <p>Make available information through proactive efforts directed towards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Churches</li> <li>▪ Emergency Food and Shelter Boards</li> <li>▪ Schools</li> <li>▪ National religious organizations</li> </ul>	<p>Develop national public education and awareness campaign comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Service Announcements - Radio and TV (include tags for Governors, fire groups)</li> <li>▪ Tour of sites/kickoff of initiative, PSAs, etc.</li> <li>▪ Reproduction of existing brochures or other materials</li> <li>▪ Support delivery of arson prevention workshops developed by the IAAI (Arson investigators)</li> <li>▪ Send Dear Fire Department Letter</li> <li>▪ Outreach to religious media</li> </ul>	<p>Deliver \$774,000 for arson training for investigation and prevention activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Targeted additional assistance granted to Southern states, with baseline amount available to all States</li> <li>▪ 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</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Must actualize Fire Group commitments to work within communities to promote prevention</li> <li>▪ Deliver DOJ/COPS money to develop community-based anti-arson organizations. Capitalize on USFA experience in this regard.</li> <li>▪ Make available and deliver Juvenile Firesetter Workshops in areas that request them</li> <li>▪ Deliver Safe and Drug Free Schools money to support community task force efforts</li> <li>▪ Public Housing Assistance funds may be used to support community efforts</li> <li>▪ Community Development Block Grant funds may be used to support prevention activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver \$2 million from FBI to support overtime of arson investigation task force members</li> <li>▪ Announce and deliver \$6 million protective services money from DOJ for targeted southeastern States.</li> <li>▪ Develop system for weekly reporting on watch and patrol efforts</li> <li>▪ Develop Arson Watch team technical assistance materials for communities</li> <li>▪ Coordinate Insurance Committee on Arson Control's commitment to provide on-site inspections to any church that requests</li> </ul>
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<b>COST TO SERVE (RESOURCES)</b>	<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>  - \$40 million from DOJ - \$2 million from Ed - PHA and CDBG from HUD	<u>Pass-through:</u>  - \$6 million from DOJ - \$2 million from FBI
	<u>Contributions:</u>  ▪ Toll-free number (\$x) ▪ Postage and materials (\$x) ▪ Staff time/summer interns (\$x)	<u>Contributions:</u>  ▪ Brochure reproduction (\$x) ▪ Ogilvie Contract and its expansion (\$x + \$x) ▪ Other contractor costs -PSAs (\$x) -Campaign costs (organize and travel) (\$x) ▪ Prevention workshops – delivery support to IAAI (\$x)	<u>Contributions:</u>  ▪ Attendant staff and equipment support for training delivery	<u>Contributions:</u>  ▪ Delivery of Juvenile Firesetter Workshops (\$x) ▪ Delivery of Arson Prevention Workshops (see public education) ▪ Delivery of Train the Trainers for both to AmeriCorps volunteers (\$x)	<u>Contributions:</u>  ▪ Arson watch material development (\$x) ▪ Argonne contractor support cost (\$x)

**KEY:**

- FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency
- USFA - FEMA's United States Fire Administration
- OP - FEMA's Office of Policy and Regional Operations
- PTE - FEMA's Preparedness, Training, and Exercises Directorate
- NFA - FEMA/USFA's National Fire Academy
- 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

# 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: Ms. Anne McGuire (WH Cab. Affairs) DATE: July 4<sup>th</sup>

FAX: (202) 456-6704

FROM: Rachael A. Rowland

SUBJECT:

The following 3-page draft matrix  
has been prepared in an attempt to synthesize  
all the various elements of the National Arson  
Prevention Initiative. Please add to/delete/  
modify this draft.

Look forward to discussing this with you on Monday  
at 1:00pm!

Number of Pages Including Cover 4 (3 legal size + header)

## NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The leaders of the major national fire and emergency services organizations have joined today to sign a resolution denouncing the senseless acts of church arson and committing themselves and the memberships of their organizations nationwide to not just fight these fires -- but to fight what *causes* these fires. They have committed to:
  - Work within each of their communities to organize and support grassroots, community-based arson prevention watch teams.
  - Offer Arson Prevention Workshops for churches and other houses of worship -- wherever requested -- nationwide.
  - Provide on-site safety inspections of churches and other houses of worship -- wherever requested -- nationwide.
- In order to coordinate and implement all of the commitments these organizations have made, as well as the commitments of the Administration to this effort, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established a Clearinghouse for Arson Prevention Resources available by a toll-free "800" number for community leaders, local and State officials, and other interested parties.
  - Coordinated through this Clearinghouse will be information on arson prevention training, public education materials, and technical assistance available from the Federal government and other public and private sources.
  - The number for the Clearinghouse is 1-800-<sup>88</sup>XXX-XXXX
- ~~Communities must have the resources made available to them to protect their houses of worship. Community-based prevention and protection efforts must be accomplished through a partnership of church leaders, the fire community, the law enforcement community, teachers, and residents. \$40 million dollars will be made available through the Department of Justice's Community Policing (COPs) Program to communities across this country to develop and implement "neighborhood watch" arson prevention and protection programs.~~
- FEMA is releasing to States today \$773,000 for arson training programs to increase the capability within States, and particularly in rural areas, to investigate arson fires.
- Beginning this Friday, FEMA will release the first in a series of Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on arson prevention to be distributed nationwide.

*Protection*

**The President's Partnership for Fire and Arson Prevention**

**Resolution**

Whereas, the United States of America was founded upon principles of tolerance, equity, and justice, and the recent series of church fires in the United States calls into question the commitment of some within our society to these founding principles and thereby strains the fabric of our communities;

And whereas, the intentional burning of houses of worship endangers not just the physical structures of our communities and the physical lives of our public servants, the firefighters called upon to extinguish these fires, but also threatens the emotional, social, historical, and spiritual well-being of our communities;

And whereas, arson is already a leading cause of fire damage and loss of life in our nation;

And whereas, the political, civic, and spiritual leaders of our communities, in union with all those who labor for peace and justice, have called upon the resources of government, the private sector and each citizen to combat the plague of arson against our houses of worship;

Now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that we the undersigned leaders of the fire and emergency services community are committed to the following:

- ◆ To urge federal, state and local leaders to develop and promote arson awareness and prevention within our communities by initiating programs to assist churches in identifying practical measures which reduce their risk of becoming arson targets;
- ◆ To re-emphasize to members of the fire and emergency services the importance of preserving evidence during firefighting operations and working with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to identify and prosecute those who threaten our communities by their cowardly acts of violence;
- ◆ To bring to bear the combined resources of our respective organizations in assisting members of the fire and emergency services and government, civic, business and spiritual leaders in a united effort to prevent and eliminate acts of arson through public awareness, training, public education and mitigation programs; and
- ◆ To work with elected officials in all levels of government as well as civic, business and spiritual leaders to promote understanding, reconciliation, and tolerance within our communities.

Approved this 26th day of June of the year Nineteen Hundred and Ninety-six.

Witnesseth:

Alliance for Fire and  
Fire and Emergency  
Management and International  
Society of Fire Service Instructors

International Association  
of Arson Investigators

**International Association of  
Black Professional Firefighters**

**International Association  
of Fire Chiefs**

**International Association of  
Fire Fighters**

**National Fire Protection  
Association**

**National Association of  
State Fire Marshals**

**National Volunteer Fire  
Council**

## NATIONAL ARSON PREVENTION INITIATIVE: CLEARINGHOUSE COMPONENT

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Establish an arson prevention information clearinghouse to provide a national focal point -- accessible by State and local governments, community leaders, and appropriate private sector elements -- for obtaining information, assistance and guidance on arson prevention training, public education, and technical assistance.

The Clearinghouse will function through a variety of vehicles:

- Toll-free/800 telephone number released to appropriate entities
- FEMA's Internet WWW site
- Broadcast facsimile

The Clearinghouse will operate out of the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland. FEMA employees and employees of other Federal agencies will provide staff support to this initiative. It is anticipated that the Clearinghouse will operate on daily on a regular schedule.

The Clearinghouse information will be assembled in partnership with:

Federal Agencies  
State Governors and other State officials  
Local elected and appointed officials  
International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Association of Fire Fighters  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
International Association of Arson Investigators  
National Association of State Fire Marshals  
The Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management  
National Fire Protection Association  
National Emergency Management Association  
National Coordinating Council on Emergency Management  
Insurance industry and its associations  
Private sector entities

The clearinghouse will:

- Serve as a source of information about arson prevention to provide communities with "one stop shopping" for reports, media campaign materials, program summaries, training materials, and research findings, as appropriate, for the development and delivery of local and State anti-arson campaigns.

- Serve as a central registry of sources of relevant arson prevention information.
- Collect and track sources of current information by searching appropriate electronic information services such as DIALOG, LEXIS/NEXIS, Internet, national Technical Information Service, and subject-specific electronic resources.
- Coordinate a technical assistance program for local and State government organizations who wish to initiate or improve arson prevention programs.
- Share data about the incidence and impact of arson prevention.

Federal Investigations of Incidents of Violence  
Against Houses of Worship Since May 1990  
(Based on information compiled as of June 18, 1996)

Alabama

1. Bucks Chapel Church
2. Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church
3. Pine Top Baptist Church (Coatopa) -- Between February 4 and 5, 1995, these three African-American churches were vandalized causing an estimated \$10,000 in damage. A local prosecution resulted in guilty pleas by two of three defendants. The two were sentenced to 4 1/2 years in prison. The third defendant committed suicide. The investigation is closed.
4. Islamic Center (Huntsville) -- On July 16, 1995, this house of worship was burglarized and vandalized.
5. Jerusalem Baptist Church (Boligee) -- This African-American church was damaged by fire on December 11, 1995. The fire was caused by a furnace fire and the investigation was closed.
6. Mount Zion Baptist Church
7. Little Zion Baptist Church
8. Mount Zoar Baptist Church (Boligee) -- Between December 22, 1995, and January 12, 1996, three African-American Baptist churches were destroyed by fire.
9. New Liberty Baptist Church (Tyler) -- This African-American church was completely destroyed by fire on February 28, 1996. State charges have been filed.
10. Missionary Baptist (Selma) -- On March 25, 1996, this predominantly African-American church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.
11. Rising Star (Greensboro) -- On June 3, 1996, this predominantly African-American church was burned causing nearly \$250,000 in damages.

Arizona

12. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Student Center (Tempe) -- On November 21, 1994, the student center at this church was vandalized. This investigation was closed.
13. First Southern Baptist Church (Tucson) -- On February 9, 1996, a fire at this racially mixed church caused \$1,000,000 in damage.

Arkansas

14. St. James Missionary Baptist
15. Oak Grove Missionary Baptist
16. Love Rest Baptist (Watson and Gillett) -- On May 17, 1992 these three African-American churches were burned to the ground by two white males. They were prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney of the E.D. of Arkansas and convicted of one count each of conspiracy, 18 U.S.C. §371. Each subject was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison.

California

17. Davis Community (Davis) -- On October 4, 1993, this church was burned. Arrest made.
18. River City Metropol (Sacramento) -- On March 27, 1994, this church was burned.
19. Islamic Center (Yuba City) -- On September 1, 1994, this mosque was burned.

Colorado

20. Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral (Glendale) -- On May 20, 1990, two skinheads spray-painted anti-semitic slogans on the outside wall of this house of worship, believing the building to be a synagogue. The two pled guilty to state charges. This investigation is closed.

Delaware

21. B'nai Israel (Wilmington) -- On May 7, 1995, this synagogue was burned.
22. Slaughter Neck Methodist (Milford) -- On May 2, 1996 this church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.

Florida

23. Church of Christ (Gainesville) -- On October 22, 1991, this church was burned. Arrest made.
24. United Church of Gainesville (Gainesville) -- On October 22, 1991, this church was burned. Arrest made.
25. North Central Baptist (Gainesville) -- On October 22, 1991, this church was burned. Arrest made.
26. Church of Christ (Gainesville) -- On October 23, 1991, this church was burned. Arrest made.

27. First Baptist
28. First Presbyterian (Ocala) -- On October 24, 1991, these two churches were burned. Arrest made.
29. First Lutheran (Gainesville) -- On October 25, 1991, this church was burned. Arrest made.
30. Mirror Lake Christian (Tampa) -- On October 30, 1991, this church was burned. Arrest made.
31. First Church of Christ
32. McDowell Baptist (St. Augustine) -- On November 7, 1991, these two churches were burned. Arrests made.
33. First Baptist (Jacksonville) -- On November 8, 1991, this church was burned.
34. St. Augustine (Gainesville) -- On November 12, 1991, this church was burned. Arrest made.
35. St. Helen's Catholic Church (Verro Beach) -- On December 19, 1991, this church was burned.
36. Tabernacle Pentecostal (Homestead) -- On December 23, 1991, this church was burned.
37. St. Mary's Missionary (Mims) -- On December 29, 1991, this African-American church was burned. Arrests made.
38. St. Francis Episcopal (Tampa) -- On January 23, 1992, this church was burned.
39. Grace United Methodist (Gainesville) -- On June 26, 1992, this church was burned.
40. Holy Trinity Episcopal (Gainesville) -- On June 26, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.
41. First Baptist (Hudson) -- On July 26, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.
42. Blessed Trinity Catholic (Ocala) -- On September 3, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.
43. St. Judes United (St. Petersburg) -- On January 31, 1993, this church was burned.
44. First Born Church (Tallahassee) -- On May 6, 1995, this church was burned. Arrest made.

45. **Evangelistic Temple Church of God (Mariana)** -- On June 12, 1996, an associate pastor discovered two burn marks on a pew in this African-American church (approximately \$300 damage).

#### Georgia

46. **Trinity Methodist (Savannah)** -- On October 7, 1991, this church was burned.

47. **Holy Church of God (Savannah)** -- On January 28, 1994, this African-American church was burned.

48. **Springfield Baptist Church**

49. **Elam Baptist Church (Madison)** -- On July 20, 1994, the Springfield church (African-American) was completely destroyed by arson and the Elam church was also burned. These matters were investigated by state and local officials, and four males were convicted of burglary and arson and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

50. **Gays Hill Baptist Church (Jenkins County)** -- On March 27, 1996, this African-American church located in a rural area of Jenkins County was totally destroyed by fire.

51. **Pine Lake Baptist Church (DeKalb County)** -- On June 17, 1996, this church was burned.

#### Idaho

52. **Second Baptist Church (Fort Dodge)** -- On August 15, 1993, a cross was burned in the yard of this African-American church.

#### Illinois

53. **Temple Am Echod (Waukegan)** -- One defendant was sentenced to 110 months in prison for conspiring to interfere with the rights of black and Jewish citizens stemming from the June 1992, bombing of a roller rink frequented by black patrons and the vandalism of this synagogue. This case is closed.

54. **14335 Marshfield (Dixmoor)** -- On August 24, 1994, this African-American church was burned.

55. **Islamic Society of Greater Springfield Masjid (Springfield)** -- On June 6, 1995, this Islamic center was burned. The investigation is closed.

56. **Charleston Community (Charleston)** -- On August 9, 1995, this church was burned.

57. **Revival Center (Chicago)** -- On November 7, 1995, this African-American church was burned.

58. **First Baptist Apostle (Chicago)** -- On January 8, 1996, this African-American church was burned.

59. **Oak Forest Baptist Temple (New Pilgrim) (Oak Forest)** -- On May 1, 1996, this predominantly African-American church was vandalized with racist graffiti.

#### Indiana

60. **St. Mary's Catholic (Ft. Wayne)** -- On September 2, 1993, this church was burned.

61. **Free Holiness (Crown Point)** -- On May 2, 1994, this church was burned.

#### Kentucky

62. **Barren River Baptist (Bowling Green)** -- On June 8, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.

63. **Corinthian Baptist Church (Newport)** -- On January 10, 1993, racial slurs were painted on this church. No subjects could be identified and this investigation was closed.

64. **Harlow Chapel (Barren County)** -- On June 5, 1994, this African-American church was burned.

65. **Pleasant Rocky Baptist (Butler County)** -- On June 17, 1994, this church was burned.

66. **Cash Creek Baptist Church (Henderson)** -- On April 10, 1996, this church was totally destroyed by fire resulting in total damage of \$262,000.

#### Louisiana

67. **Harvester (Rogers)** -- On October 29, 1991, this church was burned.

68. **Progressive Baptist (New Orleans)** -- On July 3, 1992, this African-American church was burned. Arrest made.

69. **Sacred Heart Catholic (Lacombe)** -- On September 11, 1993, this church was burned. Arrest made.

70. **Starlight Baptist Church (Morganza)** -- On October 16, 1993, a cross was burned at this church.

71. **Assembly of God (Westwego)** -- On April 15, 1995, this church was burned. Arrest made.

72. Cypress Grove Baptist Church  
 73. St. Paul's Free Baptist Church  
 74. Sweet Home Baptist Church  
 75. Thomas Chapel Benevolent Society (Zachary and East Baton Rouge) -- On February 1, 1996, these four African-American churches, located within a six mile radius of each other, were burned, resulting in partial destruction to Cypress Grove and minimal damage to the other three churches.

76. St. Charles Baptist Church (Paincourtville) -- A fire occurred at this African-American church on April 11, 1996.

#### Maine

77. Sacred Heart Catholic (Portland) -- This church was burned on June 14, 1996.

#### Maryland

78. Celestial (Hyattsville) -- On January 13, 1993, this African-American church was burned.

79. Seventh Day Adventist (Frederick) -- On February 28, 1993, this church was burned.

80. Fruitland First Baptist Church (Fruitland) -- On January 30, 1996, this church was burned causing an estimated \$150,000 in damage.

81. William Watters Meeting House of the Society for Friends (Quakers) (Bel Air) -- On March 21, 1996, this Quaker church was burned.

#### Massachusetts

82. Epiphany (Walpole) -- On October 19, 1991, this house of worship was burned.

83. Fellowship Baptist (Hanover) -- On November 6, 1992, this church was burned.

84. Holy Ghost (Whitman) -- On February 5, 1994, this church was burned. Arrest made.

85. Calvary Baptist (Lawrence) -- On April 3, 1994, this church was burned. Arrest made.

86. **Temple Beth Emunah (Brockton)**
87. **Temple Young Israel (Randolph)** -- In June 1994, four defendants, members of a racist Skinhead group were charged in federal court with conspiring to interfere with the rights of African-American and Jewish individuals. One defendant later pled guilty and the three juveniles were convicted in connection with the desecration of two synagogues and other acts of harassment. The four defendants were sentenced to terms of incarceration ranging from 4 to 46 months. These cases are closed.

#### Michigan

88. **Islamic Center (East Lansing)** -- On August 20 or 21, 1995, a rock with a threatening note was thrown through a window of the Islamic Center. On August 29, 1995, a bottle of lighter fluid was found next to the building with another threatening note.
89. **New Hope Missionary Baptist Church (Wayne)** -- On an unknown date in May, 1996, racist stickers were placed on the outside of this predominantly African-American church.

#### Mississippi

90. **Springhill Baptist Church**
91. **Rocky Point Missionary Baptist Church (Amite County and Pike County)** -- Three defendants pled guilty to federal conspiracy charges arising from the arson of two African-American churches in April of 1993 on the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. The defendants were sentenced to 46 months and 37 months in prison.
92. **Cistern Hill Church (Como)** -- On August 9, 1994, the Cistern Hill Church, a semi-rural church with a predominantly African-American congregation, was completely destroyed by fire.
93. **New Life Christian Church**
94. **Triumph Church (Vicksburg)** -- In March 1995, these racially mixed churches were vandalized.
95. **St. Paul's Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (Smithville)** -- A fire causing nominal damage to an African-American church occurred on March 5, 1996.
96. **Mount Zion Baptist Church (Ruleville)** -- On March 20, 1996, a fire inside this African-American church resulted in the burning of two church pews and extensive smoke damage.
97. **Krone Baptist (Rankin County)** -- On March 25, 1996, this African-American church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.

98. **Elbethel M.B. Church (Satartia)** -- On March 30, 1996, an African-American church under construction was burned resulting in minor damage. Local charges have been filed.

99. **St. Paul Primitive Baptist Church (Meridian)** -- On April 7, 1996, this African-American church was totally destroyed by fire. Investigators determined the fire was caused by a cigarette and have ruled the fire accidental. This investigation is closed.

100. **Mount Pleasant Church (Mount Missionary)**

101. **Central Grove M.B. Church (Kossuth)** -- On June 17, 1996, these African-American churches were burned.

#### Missouri

102. **Church of Christ (West Plains)** -- On January 21, 1990, a cross was burned up against the front porch of this predominantly African-American church. Successful local prosecution. This investigation is closed.

#### Montana

103. **Church of Latter Day Saints (Butte)** -- On November 2, 1992 this church was burned.

#### Nebraska

104. **Friends United Church (Goehner)** -- On June 16, 1996, this church was burned. The fire was ruled accidental.

#### Nevada

105. **Our Lady of Las Vegas (Las Vegas)** -- On June 16, 1996, this church was burned.

#### New Jersey

106. **Islamic Center of Passaic County (Paterson)** -- On September 16 and 17, 1995, this Islamic Center was vandalized with hate graffiti.

107. **Voice Center Baptist Church (Tinton Falls)** -- On February 13, 1996, the interior of this predominantly African-American church was completely destroyed by fire.

#### New Mexico

108. **Bryce Presbyterian (Los Alamos)** -- On March 2, 1992, this church was burned.

109. **Indian Hills Baptist (Silver City)** -- On June 13, 1994, this church was burned.

110. Indian Hills Baptist (Silver City) -- On June 16, 1994, this church was burned.

111. Bernalillo Baptist (Albuquerque) -- On March 27, 1996, this church was burned.

New York

112. Bishop Grimes High (East Syracuse) -- On February 27, 1992, this structure was burned. Arrests made.

113. Our Lady of God (Warners) -- On February 29, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.

114. Community Baptist (Inwood) -- On February 27, 1993, this church was burned.

115. Congregation Derech (Rockaway) -- On July 12, 1994, this synagogue was burned. Arrest made.

116. Young Israel (Far Rockaway) -- On September 14, 1994, this synagogue was burned. Arrest made.

117. Ikhwa Mosque (Brooklyn) -- On October 25, 1994, this mosque was allegedly firebombed. This investigation is closed.

118. Temple Beth El (Rockaway) -- On January 13, 1995, this synagogue was burned. Arrest made.

119. Temple Derech Emuch (Rockaway) -- On April 30, 1995, this synagogue was burned. Arrest made.

120. Yeshiva of Belle (Belle Harbor) -- On May 6, 1995, this Jewish center was burned. Arrest made.

121. St. Edmunds Catholic (Breezy Point) -- On June 15, 1995, this church was burned.

122. St. Edmunds Catholic (Breezy Point) -- On June 21, 1995, this church was burned.

123. Church of Jesus Christ (Glenville) -- On March 5, 1996, this church was burned.

124. River View Missionary (Kingston) -- On April 19, 1996, this African-American church was burned.

125. Seventh Day Adventist Church (Queens Village) -- On June 17, 1996, "KKK" was burned into the lawn and a swastika was scrawled on the plastic casing of the sign of this African-American church.

North Carolina

126. **Moore's Chapel Baptist Church** (Boger City) -- On July 4, 1990, this African-American church was burned causing approximately \$2,000 in damage. A local prosecution resulted in two convictions. One defendant was sentenced to nine years in prison while the other was sentenced to two years in prison.
127. **West Burlington** (Burlington) -- On April 21, 1992, this church was burned.
128. **Brown's Chapel** (Wilson) -- On December 2, 1994, this African-American church was burned.
129. **Mount Moriah Baptist Church** (Efland) -- On December 25, 1995, this African-American church was burned.
130. **Ohova Ame** (Orrum) -- On January 6, 1996 this African-American church was burned.
131. **Hebron United Methodist** (Vail) -- On April 26, 1996, this church was burned.
132. **Mt. Tabor Baptist Church** (Cerro Gordo) -- On May 22, 1996, this predominantly African-American church was burned.
133. **Pleasant Hill Baptist** (Lumberton) -- This African-American church was burned on May 24, 1996.
134. **Matthews-Murkland Presbyterian Church** (Charlotte) -- This African-American church was set afire either late in the night June 6, 1996 or early in the morning of June 7. The entire historic frame building was gutted. The church building was not in use. An arrest has been made.
135. **Hills Chapel** (Rocky Point, Pender County) -- On the morning of June 17, 1996, this predominantly African-American church was burned.

Ohio

136. **First United Methodist** (Akron) -- On April 29, 1994 this church was burned.

Oklahoma

137. **St. Paul's Methodist** (Muskogee) -- On December 25, 1991, this church was burned.
138. **First Missionary Baptist** (Enid) -- On June 12, 1996 this African-American church was burned. An arrest has been made.

Pennsylvania

139. **Community Presbyterian** (Ben Avon) -- On October 22, 1991, this church was burned.
140. **Rising Sun Baptist** (Philadelphia) -- On January 28, 1994 this African-American church was burned.
141. **Glenwood United Methodist** (Smithton) -- On June 4, 1995, this church was burned.
142. **Church of the Mediator** (Allentown) -- On June 17, 1996, this church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.

South Carolina

143. **Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church** (Greeleyville)
144. **Macedonia Baptist Church** (Clarendon City) -- These African-American churches burned on June 20 and 21, 1995. Two subjects have been arrested.
145. **St. John Baptist Church** (Dixiana) -- In August 1995, this predominantly African-American church was completely destroyed by fire. A juvenile and two adults, age 18 and 19, were charged with state arson charges.
146. **Islamic Center** (Greenville) -- On October 21, 1995, this mosque was burned.
147. **St. Paul A.M.E. Zion** (Harleyville) -- On January 25, 1996, this African-American church was burned.
148. **Church (name unknown)** (Kingstree) -- On April 11, 1996, an African-American church was burned.
149. **Mount Olivet Baptist Church**
150. **Allen's Chapel**
151. **Rosemary Baptist Church** (Barnwell County) -- Fires occurred at these three churches, including one African-American church, (Rosemary Baptist) on April 13, 1996. The pulpit at the predominantly African-American Rosemary Baptist church was completely destroyed.
152. **Effingham Baptist Church** (Effingham) -- On April 26, 1996, this 114 year-old African-American church was burned. As a result, the sanctuary was completely destroyed and the meeting hall was partially damaged.
153. **Lexington Presbyterian** (Lexington) -- On June 8, 1996 this church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.

Tennessee

154. **West End Synagogue** (Nashville) -- Three defendants, including the Grand Dragon of the Tennessee Ku Klux Klan, a Klan and Aryan Nation associate and a juvenile Skinhead member, were charged federally with conspiring to interfere with the rights of Jewish individuals by firing shots into a synagogue that caused significant property damage in June 1990. Two of the defendants pled guilty and the third was convicted at trial. Two of the defendants were sentenced to 27 months and 42 months in prison while the juvenile defendant received probation. This case is closed.

155. **St. Johns Episcopal** (Knoxville) -- On October 9, 1992 this church was burned.

156. **Pilgrims Hope Baptist** (Memphis) -- On December 26, 1992 this African-American church was burned. Arrest made.

157. **Heartland Little** (Townsend) -- On January 6, 1993 this church was burned.

158. **New Wright's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church** (Shelby County) -- On September 6, 1994, a fire burned this African-American church.

159. **Arlington Church of Christ** (Arlington) -- In January, 1995, this church was burned.

160. **Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church** (Fruitvale)

161. **Johnson Grove Baptist Church** (Madison County) -- On January 13, 1995, during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday weekend, both African-American churches were totally destroyed by fire.

162. **Mt. Calvary Baptist Church** (Hardeman County) -- On January 31, 1995, this African-American church burned and was partially destroyed by fire.

163. **Friendship Missionary Baptist Church**

164. **Canaan African Methodist Episcopal Church** (Maury County) -- Three defendants pled guilty in October of 1995 in federal court to conspiring to firebomb and either burn or erect crosses at these two African-American churches in February 1995. One defendant was sentenced to 57 months in prison while the two other defendants were sentenced to 46 months in prison. These cases are closed.

165. **St. Mary's Episcopal School** (Shelby County) -- On October 16, 1995, this building was burned.

166. Holy Communion School (Shelby County) -- On November 30, 1995, this school was burned.
167. United Methodist Church (Shelby County) -- On December 5, 1995, this church was burned.
168. Emmanuel United Methodist (Shelby County) -- On December 8, 1995, this church was burned.
169. Salem Baptist Church (Fruitland) -- On December 30, 1995, fire partially destroyed this African-American church.
170. Inner City Church (Knoxville) -- On January 8, 1996, the sanctuary of this African-American church was destroyed by fire, and racial slurs were spray painted on the doors and walls.
171. Emmanuel Bnai Noah (Athens) -- This house of worship was burned on March 25, 1996. The fire was determined to be accidental.
172. Calvary Baptist Church
173. Shady Grove Presbyterian (Shelby County) -- On April 20, 1996, these churches were burned.
174. Friendship Baptist Church (Greeneville) -- On April 26, 1996, racist graffiti was spray-painted on this African-American church.
175. Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church (Tigrett) -- On May 14, 1996, this African-American church was burned.
176. First United Pentecostal (Brownsville) -- This church was burned on May 28, 1996. The fire was determined to be accidental.
- Texas
177. Mi Casa de Oracio (Dallas) -- On September 16, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.
178. Pleasant Ridge (Arlington) -- On November 10, 1992, this church was burned.
179. New Life Christian (Dallas) -- On July 22, 1993, this African-American church was burned. Arrest made.
180. Weaver Chapel (Bristol) -- On March 13, 1994, this church was burned. Arrest made.
181. First Korean Presbyterian (Garland) -- On September 2, 1994, this church was burned.

182. **Marble Falls United (Marble Falls)** -- On April 4, 1995, this church was burned. Arrest made.

183. **Fellowship Bible (Plano)** -- On July 25, 1995, this church was burned.

184. **Cypress Trails United Methodist Church**

185. **Resurrection Lutheran Church (Spring)** -- On January 27, 1996, these two churches, located approximately five miles apart, burned.

186. **Kingdom of God in Christ (Dallas)** -- On February 10, 1996, a hole was punched into the back of this racially mixed church. Silverware and furniture were stolen, obscenities, racial epithets, and references to KKK were written on the walls.

187. **Church of God in Christ (Dallas)** -- On April 6, 1996, this African-American church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.

188. **Covenant Baptist (Hillsboro)** - On April 18, 1996, this church was burned.

189. **Heights Christian Church, Lambert Hall (Houston)** -- On April 19, 1996, Lambert Hall, a building owned by Heights Christian Church, was burned causing extensive damage.

190. **New Life Missionary Baptist Church (Houston)** -- Between April 28 and May 2, 1996, this African-American church was forcibly entered and vandalized. Racial epithets were spray painted in the church.

191. **New Light House Church of Prayer (Greenville)** -- On June 9, 1996, this predominantly African-American church was burned. Local arrests have been made.

192. **Church of Living God (Greenville)** -- On June 10, 1996, this predominantly African-American church was burned.

193. **Our Lady of Lourdes (Hitchcock)** -- On June 16, 1996, this church was burned.

194. **Oakwood Baptist Church (Dallas)** -- On June 17, 1996, this church was burned.

Utah

195. **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Davis County)** -- On March 1, 1993, and continuing through the spring of 1993, vandalism targeted at Mormon churches as well as random vandalism in several neighborhoods occurred. Windows and doors were broken and satanic graffiti was spray painted. Successful local prosecution.

196. **Templo Casa De Oracion (Salt Lake City)** -- On March 28, 1996, this church was burned.

Virginia

197. **Lebanon Baptist Church (Richmond)** -- On September 5, 1993, racial and satanic messages were painted on this church and two cemetery head stones were destroyed.

198. **Tikvat Israel (Richmond)** -- On February 14, 1994, this synagogue was burned.

199. **Korean Baptist Church**

200. **St. Mary's Catholic Church**

201. **St. Clare's Mission Church (Fairfax)** -- On November 6 or 7, 1994, these churches were vandalized and spray-painted with hate slogans. Successful local prosecution.

202. **Galilee Baptist Church (Appomattox)** -- On February 11 and 26, and April 4, 1995 this predominantly African-American church was desecrated.

203. **Grayland Baptist (Richmond)** -- On February 3, 1996 this African-American church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.

204. **Glorious Church of God in Christ (Richmond)** -- On February 21, 1996, this African-American church was destroyed by fire resulting in damage in excess of \$250,000.

205. **Denbigh Assembly of God (Newport News)** -- On May 1, 1996, this church was burned. This fire was determined to be accidental.

Washington

206. **Ebenezer African Methodist Church (Seattle)** -- In November 1991, a racially mixed church located in a predominantly African-American area was significantly damaged by fire. Arrest made.

207. **St. James Cathedral (Seattle)** -- On March 7, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.

208. **Unity** (Seattle) -- On October 3, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.
209. **Living Waters Christian** (Lynnwood) -- On October 7, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.
210. **Living Center Christ** (Lynnwood) -- On October 7, 1992, this church was burned. Arrest made.
211. **Grace Pentecostal Church of God in Christ** (Bremerton) -- On July 19, 1993, racial epithets were spray-painted on the front of this church. Successful local prosecution.
212. **Full Gospel Pentecostal Church** (Seattle) -- On July 28, 1995, a racially mixed church located in a predominantly African-American area was destroyed by fire.
213. **Whidbey Island Naval** (Oak Harbor) -- On January 21, 1996, this church was burned.
214. **Our Most Sorrowful Mother Catholic Church**
215. **Community Evangelical Church** (Soap Lake) -- On June 10, 1996, Our Most Sorrowful Mother Catholic Church was burned and destroyed by fire. Damage is in excess of \$90,000. On June 14, 1996, the Community Evangelical Church was burned and received minor damage estimated at less than \$1,000. An arrest has been made.
216. **Eritrean Community Church** (Seattle) -- On June 15, 1996, there was a fire at this African-American church. The fire reportedly began by someone holding a flame to trash which was adjacent to the church building while the congregation was in the church. There was approximately \$20,000 damage to the building.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KITTY HIGGINS 

SUBJECT: A Call to Action

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

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

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

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

SINCE 1995

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


Alabama	Georgia
Louisiana	Mississippi
North Carolina	South Carolina
Tennessee	Texas
Virginia	

SINCE 1990

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

# RECENT ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS IN CHURCH FIRES INVESTIGATIONS

JUNE 11, 1996

## *What has happened.*

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

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

## *Action Plan*

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

June 11, 1996

## Rebuilding Community Institutions Administrative and Legislative Proposals

### Background

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

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

### Challenge to the Private Sector

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

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

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

### **Challenge to States: Use Federal Funds**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Challenge to Congress: Establish a CDBG Loan Guarantee Fund**

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

June 11, 1996

**Rebuilding Community Institutions  
Questions and Answers**

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

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

What are "community institutions"?

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

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

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

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

*Terry Edmunds*



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

**STATEMENT BY BILLY GRAHAM ON RECENT CHURCH ARSON FIRES  
June 11, 1996**

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

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

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

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

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

## CHURCH ARSON PREVENTION

- In response to the church burnings across the South, the Congressional Fire Services Caucus held a press conference on June 16, 1996, to announce an arson prevention program. Representative Curt Weldon (R-PA) was joined by members from both sides of the aisle and leaders from the fire service community at this press conference.
- The Arson Prevention program announced at that press conference is a product of the cooperative effort of the *International Association of Arson Investigators*, the *Insurance Committee for Arson Control*, the *Church Mutual Insurance Company*, and the *Congressional Fire Services Institute* (which represents 64 major national fire service organizations).
- The program has three phases:
  - 1) Church Action Packs - comprised of fact sheets and brochures. A sample pack was distributed by a "Dear Colleague" letter from Rep. Weldon to Members of Congress on June 20, 1996. (Sample materials follow.) Members are urged to request as many of these packets as they need for distribution to religious institutions in their district.
  - 2) Educational Opportunities - arson prevention seminars conducted by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI). These half-day workshops are free of charge. Members can request these seminars on behalf of churches by calling the IAAI at (314) 624-1966. The first seminar was conducted in Houston, Texas, last Monday, and a seminar will occur in East St. Louis for 75 churches this weekend.
  - 3) Loss Prevention Inspections - conducted by local insurance companies and their loss prevention experts. The Insurance Committee for Arson Control (ICAC) has arranged for their members to conduct on-site loss prevention inspections of churches and synagogues to identify potential problem areas and recommend solutions to church officials. Members can request these seminars on behalf of churches by calling the ICAC at (212) 669-9245.
- The Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), the IAAI, and the ICAC have been coordinating closely with the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Within the next week, they plan to announce a "National Reward Fund." The National Insurance Crime Bureau has offered the use of their "800" for the establishment of this fund.

**DRAFT**

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 19, 1996

Dear Colleague,

We all share a sense of anger and frustration over the recent wave of arson fires targeting places of religious worship. As a former fire chief and insurance official, I have years of experience in arson related incidents and realize the difficulties in prosecuting these cases. This experience taught me that the best protection against arson is prevention. Conducting thorough reviews of a facility can reduce the threat of potential attacks.

Last week, the Congressional Fire Services Caucus held a press conference to announce an arson prevention program that is designed for the religious institutions in your district. Over ten of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle joined me to express their support for this initiative. When acts of aggression terrorize our communities, we need to stand up to the perpetrators and demonstrate our resolve to end the crisis.

The enclosed packet represents the first phase of the Church Arson Prevention Program. It contains important information prescribed by leading arson investigators about arson prevention. This information, although simple as it may seem, is often overlooked, making a church an easy target.

The second and third phase involve private sector participation. The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) is offering to conduct arson prevention seminars in local communities. These half-day workshops are free of charge and can be arranged by contacting the IAAI headquarters at 314-624-1966. Depending on the interest level among your constituents, the IAAI can either conduct a seminar at a selected church or other site. You should, however, take the lead in hosting the event.

Finally, the Insurance Committee for Arson Control (ICAC) has arranged for local insurance companies to conduct on-site loss prevention inspections. Following much of the information contained in the packets, these specialists will inspect churches and synagogues for potential problem areas and review their findings with the appropriate church officials. Another service provided free of charge, the inspection can be arranged by calling the ICAC at 212-669-9245.

To minimize the confusion and maximize your involvement, both the IAAI and ICAC ask that you designate a person in your office as a point of contact. As such, your staff person will serve as the liaison between these two organizations and your constituents in coordinating activities. Please do not forward the

**DRAFT**

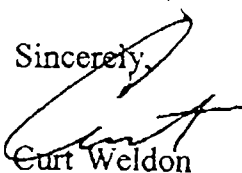
aforementioned numbers to your constituents. Rather, your staff person should compile a list of clergy and organize a major arson prevention seminar for them. The prescribed approach for the inspections is to compile a separate list of the same churches that also request inspections and forward the list to the ICAC. Please include each church's name, address, phone and fax number in the profile.

You can receive additional prevention packets by contacting the Congressional Fire Services Institute at 202-371-1277. In addition, CFSI has included a sample letter that describes the content of the arson prevention package. Please consider using this letter in the mailings to your constituents.

As you know, these church fires have drawn attention to a national crisis of great proportion. As the enclosed National Fire Protection Association fact sheet states, arson causes over \$2 billion in property damages in a typical year. Most disturbing is the fact that in only three percent of arson cases are the criminals caught and prosecuted.

By becoming involved in this program, you can demonstrate your leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Webb, CFSI Executive Director.

Sincerely,



Curt Weldon

Founder, Congressional Fire Caucus

- FRONT -

- *Promote neighborhood watches and educate the neighbors with the lighting arrangements (motion lights, etc.).*

Initiate an arson hotline.

Educate neighbors on recognizing unusual activities.

Encourage neighbors to make note of strangers spending time in the neighborhood, either on foot or in vehicles. Write down the license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles and inform the proper authorities.

Have all guests register and remove registry from church each night.

Raise public awareness through the news media that the problem exists.

Be aware that individuals may pose as service technicians to get into the church.

Arsonists may be carrying a liquid accelerant in an inconspicuous container, such as a beverage container.

- *Do not advertise on church signs or bulletins when church will not be in use.*

- *Involve your insurance agent.*



International Assn. of Arson Investigators  
 300 South Broadway, Suite 100  
 St. Louis, MO 63102  
 (314) 621-1966

**GRINNELL MUTUAL.**  
 FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

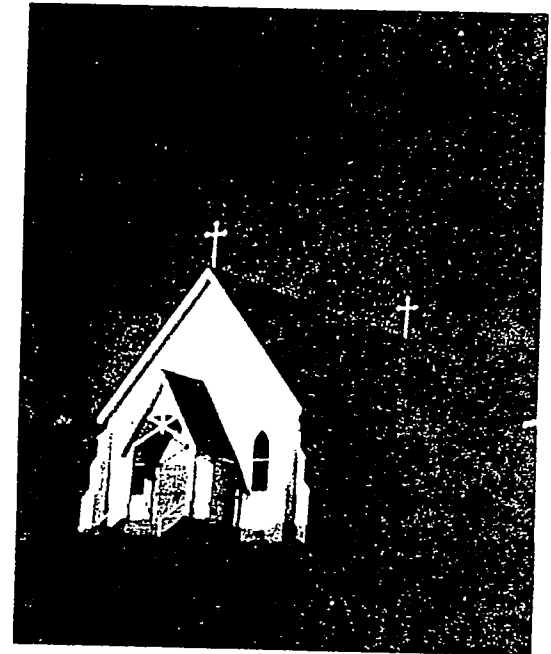
4211 Highway 146 • Grinnell, IA 50112 • (515) 236-6121

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# ARSON PREVENTION



**FOR AMERICA'S  
CHURCHES AND  
SYNAGOGUES**

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## SECURING THE BUILDING

### EXTERNAL SECURITY

*Arsonists, like burglars, fear light.*

- Illuminate the exterior and entrances.
- Use motion-activated lighting near doors and windows.
- Keep shrubbery and trees trimmed so building can be observed by passing patrols.
- If in a rural setting, ensure crops are far enough away to allow proper illumination of the area.
- Do not allow church signs to block the view of the building.
- Many churches have basement entries that are hidden from view. These should be secured with locking ground-level doors when church is not in use.
- Ladders, external stairways and fire escapes allowing access to roof should be secured.
- Painting the building white or constructing it with light-colored brick makes a human figure more readily seen at night.
- Consider fencing the areas or sides that are not readily visible to patrols or neighbors.

### INTERNAL SECURITY



- Use properly installed deadbolt locks on all exterior doors.
- Windows that can be opened should have adequate locks on them.
- Consider decorative or wrought iron protection for windows. (Windows used as emergency exits must still be able to be opened in an emergency.) Doors should have similar protection.
- Installation of a combination burglar and fire alarm with a phone dialer should be considered.
- If there is a private security firm in your area, consider a contract with them as they will check the building at unscheduled intervals.

- Keep a current list of all individuals that have access to church keys and change locks periodically.

## COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND COOPERATION

- *Keep church leaders informed of problems.*

Be aware of individuals who may be disgruntled or likely to cause damage to church property through arson or vandalism.

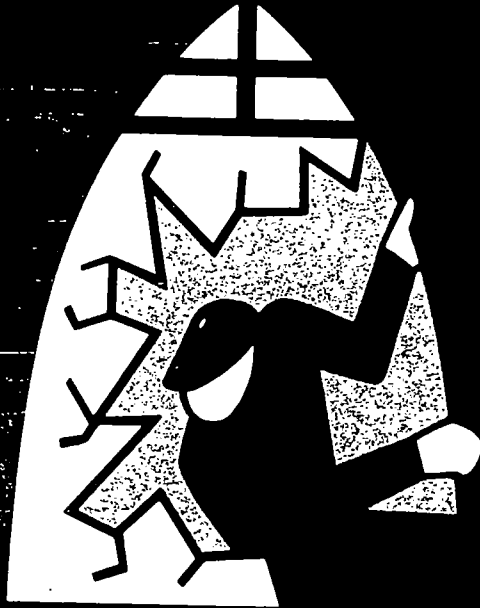
Be aware that vandalism may precede arson!

- *Open avenues of communication with fire and law enforcement officials regarding the arson problem churches are facing.*

Appoint a person from the church to be a liaison with law and fire officials.



**The Church Mutual  
Protection Series**



**CRIME-PROOF  
YOUR CHURCH**

*off-the-shelf brochures*

**The Church Mutual  
Protection Series**



**FIRE SAFETY  
FOR  
YOUR CHURCH**

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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS, INC.**

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4211 Highway 146, P.O. Box 790 Grinnell, IA 50112-0790 Telephone: 515/236-6121, ext. 4265 Fax: 515/236-2800

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, ALAN CLARK

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**PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE**  
*Special Edition - June 17, 1996*Update on Church Arsons:

In an effort to bring as many IAAI members up to date on the fast breaking events of the past week, I am sending this to all U.S. chapter presidents in hopes that the presidents can help disseminate the following information to the membership and to keep the chapter presidents up to speed as well.

On Monday, June 10, I represented the entire IAAI membership on a live coast-to-coast interview on National Public Radio (NPR) based in Washington, DC. The five minute interview went well and centered on arson in general, although the show focused on the recent wave of church fires.

On Wednesday, June 12, I was notified that Congressman Curt Weldon (R-PA) was holding a news conference on the steps of the Capitol in Washington, DC at 2:00 PM EST on Thursday, June 13. I was requested to attend and to put forward measures the IAAI would do to help prevent arson fires from occurring. With the help of Steve Austin, Bill Buxton and Benny King, along with the able assistance of 1st Vice President Phil Horbert and 2nd Vice President Judy Maydew, the IAAI was able to respond quickly.

During the Washington press conference, which was covered by ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, C-SPAN, National Public Radio and print media, I spoke second after Congressman Weldon.

I announced the IAAI would immediately put together (up to) a 1/2 day seminar that would help local church and synagogue leaders learn how to help prevent an arsonist from attacking their place of worship. Bill Buxton, Chairman of the Training and Education Committee, has now put together an outline that any IAAI member can use to put on the program in their area. This is immediately available to all chapter presidents upon request.

I also announced a cooperative effort between IAAI and Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company on the production of a four-color brochure titled "Arson Prevention for America's Churches and Synagogues" that can be used throughout the United States. Grinnell Mutual has completely underwritten the printing cost for these brochures. ABC placed a portion of my remarks up on their satellite uplink for ABC stations to use locally.

On Friday, June 14, Benny King and I did numerous interviews for reporters from newspapers calling from various parts of the country. During these interviews we also made referrals to IAAI members in the area of the newspaper for a local comment to be made.

On Saturday, June 15, a news conference was held in Des Moines with Congressman Jim Ross Lightfoot (R-IA). During that news conference Congressman Lightfoot announced 12 million additional dollars would be provided to the ATF for arson investigation and I was once again able to represent the IAAI.

On Monday morning, June 17, IAAI Director David Sneed was scheduled to meet with Texas Governor Bush to distribute the new brochure and to discuss the recent wave of arsons targeting American churches and synagogues.

Please assist in placing as many members as possible on alert to these developments and ask them to assist in any way possible to help end this national tragedy.

Thank you for your assistance. I will continue to keep you informed.



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ARSON INVESTIGATORS, INC.

4211 Highway 146, P.O. Box 790 Grinnell, IA 50112-0790 Telephone: 515/236-6121, ext. 4265 Fax: 515/236-2800

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, ALAN CLARK

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE *Special Edition- June 20, 1996* *Church Fire Update # 2*

As a further update on current and breaking events concerning the church arsons and IAAI's response, I am sending this to all IAAI chapter presidents.

On Monday, June 17, 1996, Director David Sneed represented the IAAI at a large meeting in Houston, Texas, attended by Rick Gilman, ICAC; U.S. Attorney (Southern District); Congresswoman Sheila Lee; Houston office of the FBI; Justice Department representatives; and the Houston Police Department, along with others. Our brochure on Church Arson Prevention and our offer of up to four hour seminars on the same topic were well received. There was also a great deal of media coverage.

The IAAI office, Bill Buxton, T & E committee chair; Steve Austin, IAAI Government Affairs Liaison, and I continue to field calls from CNN, ABC, CBS, USA Today, AP News Service, and others. I also know that past presidents, such as Jack Ward, have also been receiving calls. Bill Buxton has been asked to be featured on a news package for Channel 4 in St. Louis on June 21, 1996, concerning the church arson problem.

The IAAI office has updated our home page on the internet to get information out on what we are doing in response to the church arson issue.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, June 24, 1996, Steve Austin, IAAI Government Affairs Liaison; George Mason, Immediate Past President Pennsylvania chapter; Congressman Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania; and members of the Delaware County Pennsylvania clergy will appear on the Fox Morning News in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Thursday, June 27, 1996, Bill Buxton and I will be speaking at one of IAAI's Arson Prevention Seminars in East St. Louis, Illinois, being sponsored by the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department and St. Mary's Hospital. Between 75 and 100 clergy are expected, along with a large contingent of press. Our brochure will be used, along with overlays, for the program.

July 1, 1996, a summit on church fires is being held in Southeast Michigan, sponsored by Congresswoman Lynn Rivers. Attendance of 60 to 70 ministers is expected. Bill Buxton and I will attend and will use the East St. Louis program, and again our brochure.

As a side note, requests have been received from all over the country for the color Arson Prevention for America's Churches and Synagogues brochure. Requests are being honored for the Colorado chapter, Florida chapter, and many others. If your chapter would like a supply of brochures, please contact Benny in the International office.

I will continue to keep you updated. Please advise the International office of any activities you or your chapters are participating in regarding the church arson issue.





# Fire Safety News Source

## FACT SHEET ON ARSON FIRES AND CHURCH FIRES IN THE U.S.A.

- Arson is America's #1 fire cause for property damage, causing more than \$2 billion of direct damages in a typical year, or about one of every four dollars lost to fire.
- There are more than 500,000 reported fires per year that are estimated to be arson, most of them outdoor trash or brush fires, or about one of every four reported fires per year.
- Arson and associated losses have declined for most of the past two decades. Since the late 1980s, the declines in arson fires in buildings have been more modest and less consistent, year-to-year.
- Churches and related properties are not a major part of the U.S. arson problem, accounting for well under 1% of reported incendiary and suspicious fires in structures.
- However, arson is the leading cause of fire in churches and related properties, accounting for more than one of every four reported church property fires and two-fifths of the reported property damage in those fires.
- There have been just under 600 reported incendiary or suspicious fires per year in churches and related properties in recent years. The trend has been very favorable, from 1,420 arson fires in churches and related properties in 1980 to 520 such fires in 1994, the lowest level recorded in that decade and a half. Related property damage was \$16 million in 1994, compared to \$20-30 million in most recent years.
- The trend has also been steadily favorable for reported fires of all causes in churches and related properties, declining from an average of 2,600 fires per year in 1985-1989 to an average of 2,100 fires per year in 1990-1994. There are more than 300,000 churches in the U.S. (counting reported churches from religious bodies reporting at least 200,000 members), which means each year there is roughly one reported fire for every 150 churches.
- Fires in church properties can be particularly difficult to fight (see attached example).
- There is no typical church arsonist. Arson fires documented in NFPA's package on church fires include such diverse circumstances as fires set to conceal burglaries, juvenile firesetting to retaliate for church school punishments, and fires set by adults impaired by chronic abuse of alcohol.

June 13, 1996  
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)  
Public Affairs Office 617-984-7274

**The nonprofit source for expert advice, technical information, and timely statistics on all aspects of fire.**

National Fire Protection Association • Public Affairs Office • One Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101

Call Jane Bullock AND Ann Maguire

Chief of Staff

FEMA, 500 C Street, SW,

Washington, DC 20472



Date: 4/21

Number of pages including cover sheet: 3

**FAX**

To: Steve S

Ann 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

Attached is 1 pager on Fire/Arson meeting proposed for Monday + a list of fire orgs that will participate - Copy sent separately to Kitty -  
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.

Raise Public Awareness.

IF we don't do this now we are missing an opportunity to - S

Uh oh. — JLW said announcement w/ President.

Key is getting to the Grassroots.  
State and local level.

- Arson Prevention

USFA??

\* identify the role each organization can contribute is the next step.

"We will find the money some place"

What "W".  
What everyone is doing — make sure coordinated effort.

Joint Resolution — 7 fire organizations  
Law Enforcement     seriously unacceptable.  
by tomorrow

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

Insurance Industry inspecting churches  
(very limited insurance market)

Continually look but really focus on juveniles  
copycats

Local fire inspector doing courtesy inspections w/ local  
police to secure buildings

↓  
800 Resource center

Find out steps that they have already in place.

Reach those communities where the small-town police  
departments don't have the manpower to do courtesy inspections  
↳ everyone in the room needs to chip in.

National Fire Prevention - (primarily focused on churches)

United Front - We are serious about this

PSA's would go a long way.

"never been a serious crime, except for those that deal w/ it"

opportunity to talk about church fires

This is a national epidemic.

Arson is used to cover up other crimes.

JLW calling Governors - what they would like us to do.

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

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax phone: \_\_\_\_\_

CC: \_\_\_\_\_

From:

Jane Bullock

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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 Mtg and a list of FIRE GRPS attendees.

cc  
TO Steve + Anne

Jane

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

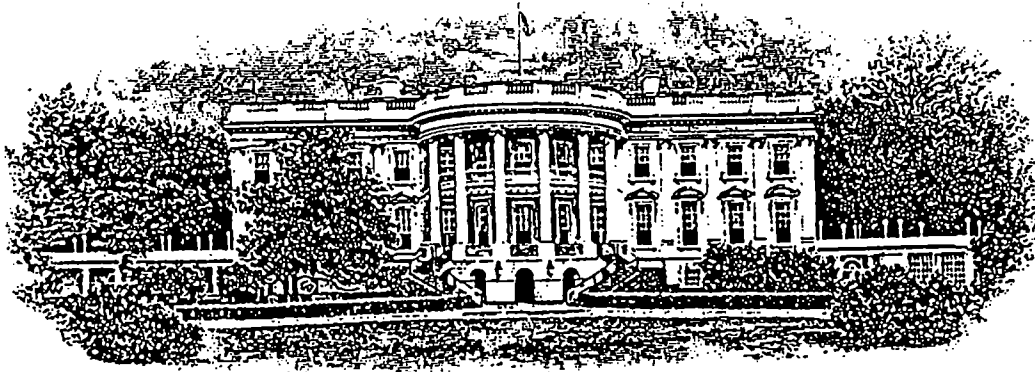
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International Association of Fire Chiefs  
International Association of Black Professional Firefighters  
International Association of Arson Investigators  
National Association of State Fire Marshalls  
National Volunteer Fire Council  
Alliance for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



THE WHITE HOUSE  
OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS

Room 160 OEOB  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Telephone: (202) 456-2572  
Facsimile: (202) 456-6704

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

June 19, 1996

PRESS BRIEFING  
BY VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE,  
DEVAL PATRICK, ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR CIVIL RIGHTS;  
JAMES JOHNSON, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY FOR ENFORCEMENT;  
AND  
BRUCE KATZ, CHIEF OF STAFF,  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The Briefing Room

3:55 P.M. EDT

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Hello. I want to acknowledge my colleagues here who are going to respond to your questions -- Deval Patrick, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights; James Johnson, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement; and Bruce Katz, Chief of Staff at the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

President Clinton and I have just concluded a very productive and heartening meeting with a number of governors from states where there have been burnings of houses of worship. We were joined in this meeting by several of the members of Congress in both parties who have been most active on this issue. Also, members representing the leadership of the Judiciary Committee and the leadership of the Congressional Black Caucus.

The dialogue which took place in the Cabinet Room just now was, if not unprecedented, certainly extraordinary. There was not a trace of any partisanship -- I want to add "of course," because the mood of the meeting was completely antithetical to any hint of partisanship. There was a very creative and productive discussion of a wide range of options for catalyzing a full fledged, nationwide all-out response to this issue.

The rash of church burnings and burnings of other houses of worship that has swept particularly across the south represents an affront to religious liberty and racial tolerance. I'm particularly saddened, may I say personally, and angered that so many of these cowardly acts have occurred in my home state of Tennessee. I was glad for the presence of and comments by Governor Don Sundquist of Tennessee.

It was heartening to hear leaders from both parties and from all across the nation find common ground in our shared determination to stop these crimes. Our first response was to intensify enforcement and to ensure the cooperation, completely devoid of competition, between federal and state and local authorities so that we can find out effectively and quickly what happened in each of these instances and, wherever possible, arrest and punish anyone who may be responsible. Hundreds of federal agents are now in the field working closely with state and local officials. I'm pleased that in an increasing number of these cases arrests are being made. Just yesterday an arrest was made in the burning of a church in Enid, Oklahoma last week.

Second, we have encouraged communities across America to come together to help rebuild the houses of worship that have been burned and desecrated. We're particularly pleased that groups ranging from the National Council of Churches to Habitat For Humanity, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Christian Coalition, the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai B'Rith and many others -- the Laborers Union -- are joining in this mobilization of conscience. We agreed that we will ask all Americans to redouble our efforts to help our neighbors rebuild. Part of the message coming out of today's meeting to anyone who would burn a house of worship is, you will not win.

The houses of worship will be rebuilt. And in each case, the community will become stronger in the process. The profession of faith by those who worship in these churches and synagogues and mosques will continue.

As important as enforcement and rebuilding are, it is of course far better to prevent these churches and other houses of worship from being burned in the first instance. As we discussed with the governors and members of Congress, and also state attorneys general who joined the President and his Cabinet for this discussion, we must turn our attention to prevention as the best and most lasting community response to these outrages.

Today, on behalf of the President, I'm announcing that President Clinton has directed James Lee Witt, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, along with Attorney General Janet Reno and Treasury Secretary Bob Rubin, to work with the governors to frame a national prevention initiative, state by state, using federal, state and private sector resources. We will help churches with surveillance, security, house of worship watch groups, and efforts to identify and spot risks.

The governors were uniformly enthusiastic about this initiative. We look forward to working closely with them in the coming days. And President Clinton's message is very, very clear: All Americans have the freedom to worship wherever and whenever they choose. We will not let people of faith be terrorized by practitioners of hate.

Now I would like to turn the podium over to Deval Patrick and James Johnson and Bruce Katz to answer any questions you have about the meeting and the National Prevention Initiative.

Q Vice President Gore, some of the governors were talking about a national day of worship. Was there any formal setting of a date for something like that or agreement on something like that?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: I anticipate you will hear further announcement about that at a later time.

Q Vice President Gore, the three dozen black churches, is the common denominator racism?

THE VICE PRESIDENT: The investigation is still underway, and the question of organized conspiracies for some or any number of these churches and other houses of worship remains an open question. But someone was quoted in an article analyzing this situation this morning as saying the conspiracy is racism itself. My personal view is that there will be at the end of the day a number of different motivations found for different cases; but that for a very large number of them what you will find, ultimately, I predict, is that a common thread of underlying racism is present and individuals in different circumstances and with different additional motivations at times become a part of the larger pattern.

But let me stress that the investigation is still continuing and such conclusions are premature. I do feel on safe ground in saying that for a large number of them the quote I mentioned earlier is accurate, the conspiracy is racism itself.

Thank you.

MR. PATRICK: Thank you, Mr. Vice President. We thought we would summarize briefly the different presentations we made and then take your questions, if you have any.

As co-chair with Mr. Johnson of the National Task Force, we briefed the governors on what our sense today is of the scope of the problem. We handed out a state-by-state breakdown of fires and desecrations in houses of worship over the last six years that have been investigated by federal authorities. There are 216 on that list, based on the information we've compiled so far, of which we have solved about a third.

The dramatic increase has occurred in the last 18 months. Half of that number of 216 have occurred in the last 18 months; 70 percent of those represent fires in the southeast of black churches. The investigation, however, is not limited to black churches; it includes white churches, synagogues and mosques, as well.

churches would set up things like telephone trees to set up rotations of people who might drive past a church, that's the kind of thing you'd envision so that if the church is in a rural area, then people take responsibility for Wednesday afternoon going past, and Thursday morning and someone else on Thursday? Is that type of

--

MR. JOHNSON: Clearly, that's the sort of thing that can happen and could be more helpful. The more eyes you have watching these churches, the better it is to maintain the church's security.

Q During the civil rights movement, local law enforcement used to be intimately involved in a lot of these attacks, even leadership elements in racial attacks. Is it better now dealing with local law enforcement? Do you find the problem is better now than it was during the civil rights movement?

MR. JOHNSON: We have local and federal law enforcement, still some hurdles to overcome in terms of the perception of sensitivity to racial issues. And we've learned that from the ministers who visited Washington about a week and a half ago. But what we also have found on the ground is that there has been tremendous cooperation between and among federal officials and state officials in many, many of these cases. So I would say that it's significantly better than it was years ago.

Q Mr. Johnson, you have stressed cooperation repeatedly here. Did any of the governors express any concern that your federal efforts might somehow supersede local law enforcement?

MR. JOHNSON: No. One of the goals was -- there was an expression of concern, but the commitment that came out of the meeting was that we would work together. In fact, the Attorney General made clear that to the extent that there are local task forces already in place working on these problems, that the federal task forces would not compete with or replace them. The only way that we're going to get on top of this problem is that if we all work together. And that was a clear commitment from all participants in the meeting.

Q A concern was expressed by someone?

MR. JOHNSON: The question was raised.

Q By a governor?

MR. JOHNSON: Was it a governor?

MR. PATRICK: I don't think so.

MR. JOHNSON: I don't think it was a governor, but there were also -- there were also state and law enforcement representatives there.

MS. GLYNN: How about saying something, Bruce Katz --

MR. KATZ: Let me talk briefly about the third component of the response to the church bombings, which is the effort to rebuild the churches. The Secretary -- Secretary Cisneros briefed the governors. I'm Bruce Katz, Chief of Staff at HUD.

Secretary Cisneros briefed the governors on the efforts that are underway to date. As the Vice President has mentioned, there's been a huge outpouring of private support, which has basically taken two forms. There is effort to raise donations to rebuild the churches being spearheaded by the National Council of Churches, which has set a goal of \$4 million. There is also an effort to engage the volunteer network of Habitat, of many religious institutions, of many unions to also help rebuild the churches.

In terms of the federal role, the administration is seeking to establish a national loan guarantee fund. This fund would enable the Department of Housing and Urban Development to guarantee up to \$10 million in private loans that would be provided to these institutions that have been damaged by arson or terrorism. There would be no new appropriations sought to capitalize this fund. Rather the department would basically reprogram existing funds, which are no longer necessary.

So the effort to rebuild has basically combined public-private sector effort with principal focus on donations and volunteer efforts. And where we will be needed, the federal government will help back some of the private loans that may be necessary to help rebuild these institutions.

Thanks.

Q Is the loan guarantee program, is that the only monetary commitment that the White House made today?

MR. KATZ: That would be the only commitment that was made in regard to the rebuilding effort.

Q Okay, what about the other efforts? Has money actually been committed?

MR. KATZ: I think on the -- you might want to talk to the prevention task force.

MR. PATRICK: One of the responsibilities of FEMA in joining the task force is to identify existing federal resources that may be available to support local law enforcement in prevention. For example, there is a concern, naturally, that there might be requirements for overtime pay by local or state law enforcement. And there may be resources that are available now that could be brought to bear to support that. We have to identify those, make sure we deal with all the legal issues that may arise

and then act. But our charge is to get on with it and resolve those issues as quickly as possible.

Q Mr. Patrick, could you address a hotline -- state hotlines? Is that something that the federal government has suggested, too, or is that something states are doing on their own?

MR. PATRICK: Many are doing it on their own. There is a national hotline, which is -- I think you said today they've received, as of the time of the meeting, over 700 calls -- information and leads concerning the incidents. That's important.

We obviously have to make that information available to our state and local counterparts who are working with us to solve these crimes, and the same thing in the reverse -- that we have to have access to the information that is gathered by the state.

Q Is that new? The hotline, the national hotline, is that something that has recently been started?

MR. PATRICK: The President announced that a week ago, 10 days ago.

Q How would you characterize race relations in this country?

MR. PATRICK: In a word?

Q No, a sentence.

MR. PATRICK: We have made extraordinary progress in this country in my short lifetime, 40 years. We have some distance to go, and we are not going to become the country we have dedicated ourselves to become unless we bear down and express in tangible ways and symbolic ways our determination to go the rest of the distance.

Q Mr. Patrick, I understand a number of young people have been arrested or are suspects in some of these cases, these church burnings. If so, what do you think that that says, and is that going to be a problem at all in prosecuting them? I know Congress is proposing legislation to crack down, to increase federal involvement, taking these cases to federal court. But if they're juveniles, what will that mean?

MR. PATRICK: Well, there have been juvenile arrests. I won't say anything more about the facts of those arrests because they're juveniles. But in general terms, in all of these prosecutions we are making a judgment in cooperation with the state and local law enforcement about what is the best form to deal with that case, what is in the best interest of that case. In some cases, this is not a generalization, in some cases it is going to be more effective and more prompt and more to the point to deal

with the juvenile matters in the state courts rather than the federal courts, but we're making that judgment on a case-by-case basis.

Q What does it say to you if growing numbers of young people are actually responsible for this?

MR. PATRICK: That adults have to work harder.

Q Are you confident, Mr. Patrick, that you are on top of the problem now, that it is going to subside, this problem? It seems to be growing in the last few weeks.

MR. PATRICK: I'm very concerned about the continued rise. I have been concerned about that rise for almost two years now and this is the largest federal civil rights investigation going and one of the largest criminal investigations of any kind and that has been true for more than a year now.

I'm not going to be satisfied, and I don't think citizens and communities are going to be satisfied until we get to the bottom of more of these cases.

MS. GLYNN: Last question.

Q Mr. Patrick mentioned some numbers earlier -- 216 fires over the last six years. It's hard sometimes to reconcile the numbers of investigations that the ATF has been doing -- 36 in the last 18 months versus what sounded like from you many more. Is there a way for us to help readers understand these numbers and how they differ?

MR. PATRICK: Sure, yes. I can say a couple things about the numbers. First of all, because the agencies have had different responsibilities, the ATF and the FBI, different responsibilities for different kinds of investigations -- straight arsons versus civil rights, for example -- there have been different tallies. Many, many of the fires are never even reported to the federal authorities.

The numbers I quoted earlier are part of a blending of the information between the ATF and the FBI, together with the information we have in the Civil Rights Division, where we have traditionally worked mainly with the FBI. So the church arsons task force, one of our jobs in getting a handle on the scope of the problem is trying to -- is just that, is trying to make sure that we have one focus on all of the matters that have come to the attention and been investigated by the federal authorities.

Q Our all 216 of those black church burnings, or is that everything?

MR. PATRICK: Absolutely not. No, no. No, that is -- first of all they're not just fires; they're fires and

desecrations, okay? They're not just in the southeast; they're around the country. They're concentrated in the southeast, but they are around the country, as far-flung as Washington state, upstate New York, Chicago. They are black churches, white churches, synagogues and mosques -- all of the suspicious fires and desecrations in houses of worship that have been under federal investigation in the last six years.

And we are now, through a survey that the FBI is helping to lead as a part of the task force, trying to get a handle on what other matters may be out there that have not been reported, that have been handled exclusively as a local matter but that may bear on the investigation.

Q What is the breakdown on the 216?

MS. GLYNN: Can we wrap up the briefing? Maybe you can ask him individually --

MR. PATRICK: Thank you.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

4:28 P.M. EDT

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TO: backup@wilson.ai.mit.edu@INET  
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TO: Natalie S. Wozniak  
TO: usia01@access.digex.com@INET  
TO: 1=US@2=WESTERN UNION@3=@5=ATT.COM@\*ELN\62955104@MRX@EOPMRX  
TO: 62955104@eln.attmail.com@INET  
TO: 73030.21@compuserve.com@INET  
TO: Manager Infomgt  
TO: newsdesk@usnewswire.com@INET  
TO: usnwire@access.digex.com@INET

At Table

The President

The Vice President

Attorney General Janet Reno

Secretary of Treasury Robert Rubin

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Henry Cisneros

Secretary of Education Richard Riley

Deval Patrick, Assistant Attorney General for civil Rights

Jim Johnson, Treasury

Leon Panetta, Chief of Staff

Governor Paul Patton, KY

Governor Parris Glendening, MD

Governor George Allen, VA

Governor Don Sundquist, TN

Governor David Beasley, SC

Governor Jim Hunt, NC

Governor Gaston Caperton, WV

Lt. Governor Buddy McKay, FL

Senator Edward Kennedy

Senator Lauch Faircloth

Senator Carol Moseley Braun

Rep. Henry Hyde

Rep. John Conyers

Rep. Donald Payne

Rep. Cleo Fields

In room but not at table

John Bailey, State Police Chief AR

Attorney General Ben Chandler KY

Attorney General Joseph Curran Jr., MD

Attorney General James Gilmore, VA

Attorney General Charles Condon, SC

Attorney General Charles Burson, TN

Attorney General Mike Easley, NC

Attorney General Darrell McGraw, WV

Attorney General Robert Butterworth, FL

Secretary of State Tom Cole, OK

Commissioner of Public Safety Jim Ingram, MS

Georgia Bureau of Investigation Chairman, Buddy Nix

Superintendent of Public Safety, Williams Whittington, LA

TX -sub

MO- sub

DE -sub

Marcia Hale

John Emerson

PRESIDENTIAL MEETING WITH GOVERNORS  
CONCERNING CHURCH FIRES  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1996  
1:30 P.M. TO 2:45 P.M.

PROPOSED AGENDA

- I. Welcoming Remarks by the President
- II. Welcoming Remarks by the Vice President
- III. Presentation from the Responsible Agencies
  - A. Enforcement Issues - Department of Justice
  - B. Security/Prevention Issues - Department of the Treasury
  - C. Rebuilding - Department of Housing and Urban Development
- IV. Legislation
  - A. Faircloth-Kennedy-Hyde-Conyers legislation
  - B. Additional resources for enforcement
  - C. HUD Authorization to provide loan guarantees for church rebuilding
- V. Open Discussion with Governors
- VI. Concluding Remarks by the President

June 18, 1996

**Church Arson Task Force  
Expanding Community Policing Efforts**

**Guidance to Public Housing Authorities**

The nation's public housing program currently provides affordable housing for more than 1.2 million families. The program is administered by some 3400 public housing authorities located in cities and counties throughout the country.

Close to 50 percent of public housing residents are African-American. Many public housing developments are located near churches and other religious institutions. These institutions play a critical role in the civic and social life of urban and rural neighborhoods.

Public housing authorities use a wide variety of resources - drug elimination grants, operating subsidies, capital funds -- to carry out crime prevention activities on or near developments. Many hire residents to form community watch groups or partner with local law enforcement to create community policing programs.

The Department is preparing guidance for public housing authorities on the extent to which anti-crime activities can be extended to church properties.

**Challenge to States: Use Federal Funds**

The Administration is urging State governments to explore using federal Community Development Block Grant funds to assist in the protection of churches that are threatened with arson or vandalism.

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

CDBG allows State recipients to use federal funds for a broad range of anti-crime activities including community policing, neighborhood watch efforts and resident patrols.

Within the next week, HUD will provide guidance to States on how CDBG funds can be used for anti-crime activities.

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TO: <sup>KITTY HUGHES</sup> Ann McGuire  
 Fr: Cecilia Calvo

456-6704 12525

THIS WAS SENT TO  
 Pam Van WIE.

To: Pam  
 From: Steve

DRAFT

Please note, Harris has not seen this yet so we definitely want you to view this as a tentative proposal. Thanks.

### Phoenix Corps

Create a Summer "Phoenix Corps" of 100 AmeriCorps-VISTAS – partially recruited from area historically black colleges – to work with local communities to implement their own strategies for responding to the fires. Such approaches might include: helping to organize community volunteers to run 24-hour arson watches to prevent future burnings; organizing community meetings to design long-term responses; working with local schools to prepare curricula to help students understand and react constructively to the tragedy; help replace and restore social services that had been run out of the church (child care, soup kitchens, etc.). The goal in all cases is to help something positive and strong to grow from the ashes.

Due to time constraints, I re-wrote the following on NC:

In North Carolina, the state commission is putting together a team of AmeriCorps members <sup>in the Charlotte area</sup> to assist with clean-up activities once the criminal investigation has been completed.

ACMS can NOT take part in religious activities or rebuild sanctuaries or religious structures.

UNOFFICIAL AT 12 differential

1995:

*Baligee*  
 OPEN:  
 Mt. Zion (Obligee, Alabama)  
 Mt. Moriah (Efland, North Carolina)  
 Macedonia (Fruitvale, Tennessee)  
 Johnson Grove (Madison County, Tennessee)  
 Mt. Calvary (Hardeman County, Tennessee)  
 Salem Baptist Church (Fruitland, Tennessee)

CLOSED:  
 Jerusalem Baptist (Obligee, Alabama) (accid.; furnace fire)  
 Friendship Missionary (Tennessee; Federal prosecutions)  
 Canaan AME ( " " )

1996:

OPEN:  
 Little Zion (Obligee, Alabama)  
 Mount Zoar (Obligee, Alabama)  
 New Liberty Baptist (Tyler, Alabama) (STATE ARREST)  
 Rising Star (Greensboro, Alabama)  
 Gays Hill (Jenkins County, Georgia)  
 Cypress Grove (Louisiana)  
 St. Paul's Free (Louisiana)  
 Sweet Home (Louisiana)  
 Thomas Chapel (Louisiana)  
 St. Charles Baptist (Paincourtville, Louisiana)  
 New Mt. Zion (Ruleville, Mississippi)  
 El Bethel (Sartartia, Mississippi) (LOCAL ARREST)  
 St. Paul's (Smithville, Mississippi)  
 Voice Center Baptist (Tinton Falls, New Jersey)  
 River View Missionary (Kingston, New York)  
 Mt. Tabor Baptist (Cerro Gordo, North Carolina)  
 Rosemary Baptist (Barnwell County, South Carolina)  
 Effingham (Effingham, South Carolina)  
 Mt. Zion AME (Greeleyville, South Carolina) (ARREST)  
 Macedonia (Clarendon, South Carolina) (ARREST)  
 St. Paul's Baptist (Dixiana, South Carolina) (ARREST)  
 Inner City Church (Knoxville, Tennessee)  
 Mt. Pleasant (Tigrett, Tennessee)  
 Glorious Church of Christ (Richmond, Virginia)

CLOSED:  
 St. Paul Primitive (Lauderdale, MS) (accid.; cigarette fire)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Office of Cabinet Affairs

DATE: 6-17

NOTE TO:           STEVE SILVERMAN  
                      KRIS BALDERSTON  
                      ANNE McGUIRE  
                      DAVID BEAUBAIRE  
                      RONDA JACKSON  
                      LORI KELLER

FROM:               KITTY HIGGINS

COMMENTS:       FYI  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

14-Jun-1996 06:55pm

TO: (See Below)  
FROM: Tracey E. Thornton  
Office of Legislative Affairs  
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

*Carroll McE...  
7/8/96  
C.C.A.S.*

We have reviewed both the Hyde/Conyers and Faircloth/Kennedy drafts and have not found any incurable problems in either. The ATF problem identified in section 4 authorizing additional investigators has been solved in a new draft. There is a section dealing with CDBGs and we are hoping to reconcile it with our proposal which is being circulated by OMB. If we're able to accomplish this it would be substantial progress on the most problematic issue on the table. The fact that Faircloth has signed on to doing it conceptually helps this a great deal. HUD is talking to Kennedy's people about our approach and we are promising to get them language Monday morning.

Justice and Treasury are preparing a side-by-side and summary of the bills for Monday. Hal, will you please call Ellen Davis at DOJ to plug into this process for HUD's piece?

The current Senate plan is to introduce the bill and do a press conference on Tuesday and try to pass the bill Wednesday. All along, they'll be working with the House to try to craft the final product, hoping to get it to POTUS by next Friday. Senate Judiciary is planning a hearing Tuesday, June 25.

Also on Monday, I have scheduled a meeting with Kennedy's folks to review the bidding. It's at 3pm in room 234 DSOB. We need the same cast of characters from Treasury, DOJ and HUD. John and Kathy, will we have our paper by then to hand out?

One final matter is that the Senate is going to try to add Hate Crimes Statistics Act to the bill to try to force the House's hand on this legislation. (The Senate has already passed it by voice vote). We have told them that if the House takes it that's fine but if they balk at the idea, we'd ask the Senate to drop it.

Distribution:

TO: Kathleen M. Wallman  
TO: John C. Angell  
TO: Peter Jacoby  
TO: FAX (96220534,linda robertson)  
TO: FAX (96220534,art cameron)  
TO: FAX (97083794,hal decell)  
TO: FAX (97083794,john sheiner)  
TO: Jacob J. Lew  
TO: John Hilley  
TO: Elisa M. Millsap  
TO: Kathryn Higgins  
TO: FAX (95145499,ellen davis)  
  
CC: Tracey E. Thornton

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1996

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: KITTY HIGGINS 

SUBJECT: A Call to Action

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

1. Actions already taken--See Treasury/Justice fact sheets
2. More Protection
  - U.S. Marshals will now participate as full partners in the federal task forces, both local and national, that you announced last Saturday.
  - Treasury guidelines for protective measures churches can take, will be released this week (Treasury will distribute copies if ready)
3. Enforcement
  - U.S. Attorneys and supervising agents in charge from ATF and FBI will meet in Washington tomorrow (June 13). You will challenge them to:
    - Meet a strict "Code of Conduct" for investigating these arsons
    - Report to you through the AG and Secretary of the Treasury, early next week, on the need for additional resources
4. Rebuild--You will offer three challenges to aid rebuilding
  - Challenge the private sector--to come forward with money and people to rebuild. Habitat for Humanity and the National Council of Churches have already responded with volunteers in Alabama (Habitat) and money (Council). Nations Bank also has offered a \$500,000 reward.

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

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

SINCE 1995

- In the Southeast there have been 43 fires at predominantly African American churches since January 1995

6 have resulted in arrests (8 suspects)

2 have resulted in federal prosecutions

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Tennessee  
Canaan AME Church, Tennessee

8 were deemed to be accidental

- With well over 200 federal investigators -- working together with state and local authorities -- this is the largest current civil rights investigation and one of the largest criminal investigations of any kind. In a number of incidents, task forces have been established of federal, state and local authorities.

- Fires at African American churches in 9 Southeastern states

Alabama  
Louisiana  
North Carolina  
Tennessee  
Virginia

Georgia  
Mississippi  
South Carolina  
Texas

SINCE 1990

- Since 1990, 19 incidents of fires and desecrations at houses of worship have been prosecuted:

8 have resulted in successful federal prosecutions and have been closed.

5 incidents have resulted in successful prosecutions by local officials and the cases are closed.

Local charges have been filed in 6 other incidents.

# RECENT ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS IN CHURCH FIRES INVESTIGATIONS

JUNE 11, 1996

## *What has happened.*

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

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

## *Action Plan*

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

June 11, 1996

## **Rebuilding Community Institutions Administrative and Legislative Proposals**

### **Background**

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

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

### **Challenge to the Private Sector**

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

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

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

### **Challenge to States: Use Federal Funds**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Challenge to Congress: Establish a CDBG Loan Guarantee Fund**

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

June 11, 1996

**Rebuilding Community Institutions  
Questions and Answers**

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

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

What are "community institutions"?

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

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

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

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

*Terry Edmunds*



**Billy Graham  
Evangelistic Association**

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

## **STATEMENT BY BILLY GRAHAM ON RECENT CHURCH ARSON FIRES June 11, 1996**

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

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

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

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

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

June 12, 1996

## **Rebuilding Churches Administrative and Legislative Proposals**

### **Background**

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

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

### **Challenge to the Private Sector**

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

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

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

**Challenge to Congress: Establish a CDBG Loan Guarantee Fund**

The Administration will seek legislation to authorize a \$10 million loan guarantee fund under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The fund will be used to guarantee up to \$10 million in loans that will be made by private financial institutions to assist in the rebuilding of community institutions damaged or destroyed by acts of arson or terrorism. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development would be given the authority to set the terms and conditions of such loan guarantees. Such terms and conditions would, at a minimum, be designed to ensure sound and prudent underwriting by private sector institutions.

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