

FOIA MARKER

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Subgroup/Office of Origin: Domestic Policy Council

Series/Staff Member: Karin Kullman

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14401

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Church Arson Event, Rose Garden, July 2, 1996: Church Arson Event 7/2/96

Stack:

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Row:

98

Section:

3

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Position:

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	Attendance / Contact List, PII [partial] (1 page)	00/00/0000	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
Domestic Policy Council
Karin Kullman
OA/Box Number: 14401

FOLDER TITLE:

Church Arson Event, Rose Garden, July 2, 1996: Church Arson Event 7/2/96

2015-0532-F

sb833

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON

Alexis M. Herman, Director
Phone (202) 456-2930
FAX (202) 456-6218

Make an
event file
for this
Church arson
FEMA money
7/2/96

Number of Pages (including cover) 1 A

Date: 7/9

To: MELINDA E. LUND

From: CHRISTO ROBINSON

FAX Number: (703) 8385350

Office Number: _____

***** Comments *****

PROCLAMATION

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Scott Nelson

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PRESIDENT CLINTON TO ANNOUNCE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO 12 STATES TO PROTECT AGAINST CHURCH ARSON

July 2, 1996

President Clinton today will take emergency action to request authority from Congress to distribute \$6 million in federal funds to law enforcement agencies in 12 states to combat the recent rash of church burnings in the South and elsewhere in the nation.

The \$6 million will be drawn from FY '96 funds within the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance and will be made available to local law enforcement to strengthen church arson prevention efforts. The grants are to be focused exclusively on church protection efforts, but these could include a wide variety of measures, including the hiring of additional police officers, increased lighting around and intensified surveillance of churches and other religious properties, or the reimbursement of overtime expenses. Grants will be made available to the 12 states where the incidents of church burnings have been most frequent: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Virginia.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is working closely with law enforcement associations and labor organizations to develop effective programs to increase watch patrols in the vicinity of the places of worship and to reimburse overtime pay for arson and criminal investigators as part of the President's National Arson Prevention Initiative. The agency will coordinate the disbursement of today's additional funds through the Department of Justice.

President Clinton is committed to taking all steps necessary to support law enforcement efforts to solve these terrible crimes and end the rash of church arson.

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

- FEMA is coordinating the distribution of arson prevention and education materials to churches and communities around the country through the Clearinghouse for 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 on arson awareness and prevention.
- FEMA is also working with the Justice Department to enable local jurisdictions to apply for Problem-Solving Partnership Grants from DOJ's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) programs. This is a \$40 million program. FEMA is also coordinating with the nation's leading fire and emergency services organizations to organize locally-based arson watch teams and to provide on-site safety inspections to churches and other houses of worship.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 2, 1996

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
ON CHURCH BURNINGS

The Rose Garden

11:39 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. I'd like to begin today by saluting the law enforcement officers who made the arrest in Arizona yesterday to avert a terrible terrorist attack. Their dedication and hard work over the last six months may have saved many lives, and they deserve our thanks.

I'd like to offer a special congratulations to the gentleman to my right, Ray Kelly, the Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement for his role in that endeavor.

Just as we acted to prevent a vicious crime from occurring there, today I'm announcing stepped up efforts to prevent the spread of violence against houses of worship. Again, I want to thank Mr. Kelly and Nancy Gist, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, who is standing to my left, the representatives of the law enforcement organizations who are here and who have been supporting our efforts.

These attacks against African American churches and other houses of worship are an affront to our most basic beliefs of religious liberty and racial tolerance. They pose a challenge to our entire nation. I am gratified that law enforcement, government, business and religious leaders are coming together to meet this challenge. Today, attorneys general from throughout our nation are meeting at Howard University to discuss the problem.

I am also pleased that Congress acted to quickly to pass legislation making it easier to prosecute and punish anyone who burns a house of worship, and I am eager to sign that legislation as soon as possible. I'm gratified by the outpouring of private support that will help to rebuild communities that are torn apart by these actions.

But we must do more to prevent these crimes. Last week, I asked Federal Emergency Management Administrator, James Lee Witt, to take the lead in working with law enforcement to find ways to stop the burnings before they happen, and to give our communities the tools they need to help in the prevention effort.

Today, I am taking emergency action to prevent church-burnings by transferring \$6 million to communities in 12 targeted states. This emergency transfer would allow every county in the affected states to hire a new police officer for the summer to patrol the back roads, to visit the churches, to keep watch for signs of trouble.

These new officers, working with local police and community watch groups, can maintain a wall of protection to ward off people who would strike out in hate at a house of worship. Or communities can spend the money for other purposes -- installing floodlights, hiring private security guards, paying overtime for

MORE

existing officers -- whatever they believe will work best to forestall the fires.

I'm asking Congress to quickly approve the transfer through a special procedure that allows action without a time-consuming floor vote. We don't have any time to waste. With this step, the national government will be helping local police not only to investigate arson and apprehend the guilty, but to help to physically protect churches from harm in the first place.

If this emergency measure is not enough to beat back the church-burnings, we will take further steps as needed. This is a struggle against racism and religious bigotry, and we will escalate that struggle as necessary with enough people power and willpower to make sure the struggle is won. This is a test not just for law enforcement, but for all law-abiding Americans.

Earlier today, I signed a proclamation designating a national month of unity. During the month of July, I call on religious leaders of all faiths to speak from the pulpit and emphasize the need for healing. And I call on all citizens to join together, to reach out to one another, to strengthen the ideals that light our way and keep us strong.

On Thursday, we will celebrate America's Independence Day. This year, let us take this opportunity to rededicate ourselves once again to the proposition that all Americans are created equal, and that every American should be able to worship in freedom and freedom from fear. Thank you very much. Thank you.

END

11:42 A.M. EDT

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Event _____ Date _____

Room _____

		<u>FAX</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>SS</u>
Baltimore County PD				
Neil Behan	(410) 887-2211	(410) 887-4933		
Mark Spurrier	(410) 887-2211	(410) 887-4933		
Chicago PD				
Superintendent Matt Rodriguez	(312) 747-5501	(312) 747-2430		
(FLEOA) Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association				
John Pitta, Exec., VP	(516) 694-8372	(516) 249-8950		
Victor O'Boyski	(212) 385-7718	(212) 385-7731		
Walter Wallmark				
Richard Gallo	(212) 264-8400			
(FOP) Fraternal Order of Police				
Jim Pasco, Exec. Dir., Grand Lodge	(202) 547-8189	(202) 547-8190		
Bill Nolan	(312) 930 9696			
Gil Gallegos, President	(505) 266-4703	(505) 266-4470		
Mike Tenore				
(HACO) Hispanic American Command Officers Association				
Chief Arturo Venegas, Jr.	(916) 264-5121	(916) 448-4620		
(IACP) International Association of Chiefs of Police				
Dan Rosenblatt	(703) 836-6767	(703) 836-4543		
Roy Kime, Leg. Dir.				
David G. Walchak	(603) 225-8600			
(IBPO) International Brotherhood of Police Officers				
Chris Donnellan, Leg. Dir.	(703) 979-0290	(703) 979-0294		
Kenneth T. Lyons	(617) 376-0220	(703) 979-0294		
(IUPA) International Union of Police Associations				
Arthur Reddy	(703) 549-7473	(703) 683-9048		
Richard Roberts				
Bob Kliesmet, President				
Louisville PD				
Douglas Hamilton, Chief	(502) 574-7660	(502) 574-2450		
(NAPO) National Association of Police Organizations				
Beth McGee Weaver, Dir. of Comm.	(202) 842-3560	(202) 842-4396		
Thomas J. Scotto, President	(212) 349-0360	(212) 732-4863		
Robert T. Scully, Exec. Dir.	(202) 842-4420	(202) 842-4396		
(NASDEA) National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies				
Glenn Ford, President	(208) 884-7120	(208) 884-7192		
(NDAA) National District Attorneys Association				
Newman Flanagan, Exec. Dir.	(703) 549-9222	(703) 836-3195		
(NNOC) National Narcotics Officers Coalition				
John Cohen		(202) 776-5549		
(NOBLE) National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives				
Ira Harris, Exec. Dir.	(703) 658-1529	(703) 658-9479		
Hubert Bell, President	(202) 435-5234	(202) 435-5624		
Joseph Akers				
Gilbert Branche	(703) 658-1529	(703) 658-9479		
(NSA) National Sheriffs' Association				
Melinda E. Lund	(703) 838-5323	(703) 838-5350		
Charles Meeke, Exec. Dir.	(703) 836-7827	(703) 683-6541		
(NTC) National Troopers Coalition				
Mike Canning, Legislative Director	(410) 269-4237	(410) 269-7523		
James Rhinebarger, Chairman	(317) 776-0053	(317) 984-6603		
Johnny Hughes				
NYPD				
William Bratton, Comm.	(212) 374-5410	(212) 227-6861		
(PERF) Police Executive Research Forum				
Martha Plotkin	(202) 466-7820	(202) 466-7826		
Rob Chapman	(202) 466-7820	(202) 466-7826		
William Bratton, President	(212) 374-5410	(212) 227-6861		
Chuck Wexler, Exec. Dir.	(202) 466-7820	(202) 466-7826		
Clifford Karchmer				
Police Foundation				
Mary Malina	(202) 833-1460	(202) 659-9149		
Hubert Williams, President	(202) 833-1460	(202) 659-9149		

(b)(6)

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July 2, 1996

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

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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.

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- * 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.