

FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:

Chron File - July 1993 #2 [6]

Staff Office-Individual:

Defense Policy-Bell, Robert

Original OA/ID Number:

46

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31	3	2	2	V

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001a. memo	For Thomas Weston et al From Robert Bell. Subject: July 8 Meeting Follow-up. (2 pages)	07/16/1993	P1/b(1)
001b. cable	re: May 1993 [Nuclear Planning Group] Ministerial Meeting. (4 pages)	05/28/1993	P1/b(1)
001c. briefing paper	"Counterproliferation" A Briefing for the NATO Nuclear Planning Group. (12 pages)	05/26/1993	P1/b(1)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Defense Policy and Arms Control (Robert Bell)
OA/Box Number: 46

FOLDER TITLE:

Chron File - July 1993 #2 [6]

2016-0152-F

vz4438

RESTRICTION CODES

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

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

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]

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b(9) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

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.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 19, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: ROBERT BELL *RGB*

FROM: KEITH HAHN *kh*

SUBJECT: Bottom Up Review Recommendations

The Secretary of Defense is nearing completion of his Bottom Up Review and there is already considerable speculation in Congress and the media about the impact that some of its force structure recommendations will have on U.S. national security strategy. It is important that we highlight and focus the major issues raised by this review in their strategic and budgetary context to assist the President in making final decisions with regard to the Secretary's recommendations. We propose to work with OMB to set up a series of senior staff-level briefings and discussion by principals before the President meets with Secretary Aspin and the Joint Chiefs to discuss this review.

OMB concurs in this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I and forward it to Leon Panetta for signature and subsequent transmittal to Secretary Aspin.

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum for Signature

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE LES ASPIN
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: Bottom Up Review Recommendations

As your Bottom Up Review approaches completion, we feel that it is important that the President is fully apprised of the national security and budgetary implications of the Review's recommendations. We would like to work with you to develop a review process that will lead to Presidential decisions where needed and Presidential approval of the recommendations of the Review. We propose a series of briefings at the senior staff level this week, leading to a principal's meeting early the following week. We would then envision a final presentation by you to the President in a meeting attended by the Joint Chiefs early in August.

Next week's initial briefings would focus on a discussion of:

- The strategy underlying the Review, the force structure that results and its overall affordability (i.e., the strategy/force/budget match-up).
- The implications of the Review for specific high-profile modernization programs and modernization strategy.
- The foundation or building blocks suggested by the Review, including such areas as infrastructure, acquisition reform, industrial base and Guard and Reserve programs.

We ask that you designate Ted Warner to work with Bob Bell and Gordon Adams to set up the initial briefings.

Anthony Lake
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Leon Panetta
Director of the Office of
Management and Budget

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 19, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: ROBERT BELL *KB*

FROM: KEITH HAHN *KH*

SUBJECT: Letter to the President from Senator Mikulski RE:
Support for the U.S. Flag Fleet

At Tab II Senator Barbara Mikulski has written to express her concern that two major U.S. shipping companies have decided to shift their fleets to foreign flags. The two companies made this move after hearing reports that the NEC interagency working group on Maritime Revitalization had decided against supporting Transportation's proposed package of subsidies for the U.S. shipping industry.

The Principals Committee agreed on an options package which included DoT's proposal (which is almost identical to the proposed Merchant Marine Security and Competitiveness Act of 1993 put forward by Congressman Studds). However, by a 15 to 1 margin, the Principals supported another option that would have DoD identify and fund its sealift requirements and that would not continue to subsidize this industry. This Decision Memorandum on maritime issues is currently awaiting the President's consideration.

The letter at Tab A assures Senator Mikulski that this issue has received attention at the highest levels and that the needs of the maritime industry will be considered in the context of overall U.S. domestic and national security requirements.

Concurrence by: *In draft*
Jeremy Rosner

RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum to the President at Tab I.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum for the President
Tab A Letter to Senator Mikulski
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE
HOWARD PASTER

SUBJECT: Letter from Senator Mikulski RE: Support for the
U.S. Flag Fleet

Purpose

To respond to a letter from Senator Mikulski in which she expresses her concern that the Administration is not doing enough to support the U.S. shipping industry.

Background

Two U.S. maritime shippers recently decided to shift their ships to foreign flags because of the cost of employing U.S. mariners and adhering to U.S. regulations. Senator Mikulski is concerned that the U.S. will not be able to rely on these ships in crises if they are not manned by Americans. There are two ongoing interagency working groups currently looking into maritime issues. The Maritime Revitalization working group recently forwarded a decision memorandum to you on options for sustaining the shipping industry. A second group is reviewing options for supporting the U.S. shipbuilding industry for a report which is due to Congress on October 1.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letter to Senator Mikulski at Tab A assuring her that this issue is receiving attention at the highest levels and that the needs of the maritime industry will be considered in the context of overall U.S. domestic and national security requirements.

Attachments

Tab A Letter to Senator Mikulski
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Barbara:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of U.S. shipping to our Nation's economic and security needs.

The challenges now facing U.S. maritime industries vividly illustrate the difficulties confronting a wide range of industries as we move beyond the Cold War. While the Nation will ultimately benefit as economic resources are freed for use in meeting civilian needs, making the transition from military to civilian markets can involve substantial dislocation for many workers and communities.

As you know, I have established interagency groups to review both the role of the U.S. flag fleet in meeting our Nation's defense needs and the role that the government could play in helping the U.S. merchant marine and U.S. shipyards become more competitive in world markets. I expect to receive their conclusions and recommendations in the near future.

As we develop a roadmap to provide long-term, sustainable economic opportunities for all Americans, I will continue to rely on the expertise that you and your colleagues can provide.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

5139

BARBARA A. MIKULSKI
MARYLAND

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

SUITE 709
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003
(202) 224-4854
TTY: (202) 224-5223

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2003

July 1, 1993

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my outrage and deep dismay at reports that the two largest American-flag shipping companies have decided to remove a number of their vessels from the United States flag.

I was not re-elected to the United States Senate last November to see the U.S. merchant marine scuttled by wonks and green eyeshade types in the White House and the Pentagon. I believe our national security depends upon our moving a maritime revitalization bill in this session of the Congress to keep our U.S.-flag fleet sailing. We need leadership from the White House on this vital national security issue.

I am informed that the Pentagon has given advice to two major shipping companies to reflag their ships with the Marshall Islands. The crews on these ships will come from all over the world. I appreciate our treaty agreements with our friends in foreign countries, but I lack confidence that foreign nationals will have the same commitment to place their lives on the line, if necessary, that our U.S. Merchant Marine have.

You have moved slowly and deliberately on your review of maritime policy -- I hope the Administration will not move quickly now in the dismantling of the U.S. flag fleet.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

BAM:gll

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 19, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM H. ITOH

THROUGH: • ROBERT BELL *RB*FROM: KEITH HAHN *KL*SUBJECT: Transportation Draft Bill Clarifying Application
 of Spousal/Child Abuse Payment Benefits

At Tab II Transportation seeks to amend the FY94 Defense authorization bill to provide for the payment of benefits to victims of spousal or child abuse for Coast Guard families on the same basis as such benefits are currently paid by the other armed services. There is no increase in costs associated with this proposal and no adverse policy implications.

Concurrence by: Jeremy Rosner *JR*RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I concurring in the draft Transportation bill.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum for Signature
Tab II Incoming Correspondence

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES J. JUKES

FROM: WILLIAM H. ITOH

SUBJECT: Transportation Draft Bill Clarifying Application
of Spousal/Child Abuse Payment Benefits

The National Security Council staff concurs in the draft bill.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
Washington, D.C. 20503**

7 PAGES
52 JH

July 19, 1993

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

**LRM #D-314
DRAFT #304**

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer -

**DEFENSE - Samuel T. Brick, Jr. - (703)697-1305 - 325
JUSTICE - Sheila F. Anthony - (202)514-2141 - 217
HHS - Frances White - (202)690-7760 - 328
OPM - James N. Woodruff - (202)606-1424 - 331
NSC - William H. Itoh - (202)395-3723 - 249**

**FROM: JAMES J. JUKES (for) *Ji*
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference**

**OMB CONTACT: Jim BROWN (395-3473)
Secretary's line (for simple responses): 395-3454**

**SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION Draft Bill Clarify Application
of Spousal/Child Abuse Payment Benefits**

DEADLINE: 5:00 P.M. TUESDAY July 20, 1993

COMMENTS: This draft bill is designed to provide for the payment of benefits to victims of spousal or child abuse, with respect to the Coast Guard, on the same basis as such benefits are currently paid by the other armed services. DOT wishes to forward this draft bill for consideration in connection with the Defense authorization bill. If we do not hear from you by the deadline, we will assume that you have no comment.

OMB requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

Please advise us if this item will affect direct spending or receipts for purposes of the the "Pay-As-You-Go" provisions of Title XIII of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

CC:

**Tom Stanners
Chris Bertram
Ray Kogut
Mike Goad
Bob Damus
Ed Rea
Art Stigile
Howard Paster**

*C. Walker
J. Kroger*

8/7/19/93 12:10 UMB LRD/ESGG 003

The Honorable Ronald V. Dellums
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Before the Committee completes its work on H.R. 2401, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1994, the Department of Transportation wishes to draw its attention to an oversight that occurred in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, and request consideration of an amendment to this year's authorization act correcting that oversight.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993 amended section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, to provide specifically for payments to a spouse or former spouse who was the victim of abuse and who was married to the member at the time of the abuse, or who is the parent of an abused dependent child of the member, if that member loses entitlement to retired pay. Language used in the new section 1408 cites the Department of Defense only, however, while section 1408 in all other respects applies to all members of the armed forces, including the Coast Guard. Therefore, in order to entitle Coast Guard abused spouses and children to payment benefits, section 1408 should be amended as follows:

"Subparagraph 1408(h)(2)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding 'and the Secretary of Transportation for the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy' after 'Secretary of Defense'; and paragraph 1408(h)(8) is amended by adding 'or funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation for Coast Guard military retirement payments' before the period at the end."

There are no personnel or budgetary increases associated with this proposed amendment because amounts normally appropriated for retired pay would be available for payments to these abused dependents.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the submission of this proposed amendment to Congress.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Kaplan

07-19-93 10:25AM

TO 9/395-3109

P005/008

D.173-96

A BILL

"To amend section 1408 of title 10 United States Code to clarify application of spousal/child abuse payment benefits to all affected members of the armed forces."

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Section 1. Subparagraph 1408(h)(2)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding "and the Secretary of Transportation for the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy" after "Secretary of Defense"; and paragraph 1408(h)(8) is amended by adding "or funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation for retirement payments" before the period at the end.

Coast Guard military

07-19-93 10:25AM

TO 9/395-3109

P006/008

D.103-096

COMPARATIVE TYPE

(Deleted material is in brackets; new material is underlined)

10 U.S.C §1408(h) (Pub. L. 102-484, §653)

§1408. Payment of retired or retainer pay in compliance with court orders

* * * *

(h) BENEFITS FOR DEPENDENTS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF ABUSE BY MEMBERS LOSING RIGHT TO RETIRED PAY.--(1) If, in the case of a member or former member of the armed forces referred to in paragraph (2)(A), a court order provides (in the manner applicable to a division of property) for the payment of an amount from the disposable retired pay of that member or former member (as certified under paragraph (4)) to an eligible spouse or former spouse of that member or former member, the Secretary concerned, beginning upon effective service of such court order, shall pay that amount in accordance with this subsection to such spouse or former spouse.

(2) A spouse or former spouse of a member or former member of the armed forces is eligible to receive payment under this subsection if--

(A) the member or former member, while a member of the armed forces and after becoming eligible to be retired from the armed forces on the basis of years of service, has eligibility to receive retired pay terminated as a result of misconduct while a member involving abuse of a spouse or dependant child (as defined in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation for the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy); and

(2)(B) through (7) Unchanged

(8) Payments in accordance with this subsection shall be made out of funds in the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund established by section 1461 of this title or funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation for retirement payments.

(9) through (10) Unchanged

Coast Guard military

07-19-93 10:25AM

TO 9/395-3109

P007/008

ANALYSIS

This bill would amend section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, which provides for payments to the spouse or former spouse of a servicemember pursuant to a court order. Section 653 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1993, Pub. L. No. 102-484, added new subsection (h) to 10 U.S.C. §1408. It specifically provides for payments to a spouse or former spouse who was the victim of abuse and was married to a member or former member at the time of the abuse, or who is a natural or adopted parent of an abused dependant child of the member or former member, if the member has lost eligibility for retired pay due to misconduct involving abuse of a dependent.

~~Some~~ Language used in the new subsection (h) cites the Department of Defense only, while section 1408 in all other respects applies to all members of the armed forces, including the Coast Guard. Therefore, the new provision should be amended to conform with the balance of the section.

Thus, this bill would amend section 1408 of title 10, United States Code, by substituting appropriate terms clarifying the application of subsection (h) to all members of the armed forces, thereby making subsection (h) consistent with the balance of section 1408. The Secretary of Transportation should be designated as the responsible official for members of the Coast Guard, when the Coast Guard is not operating as a service in the Navy, by inserting "and the Secretary of Transportation for the Coast Guard when it is not operating as a service in the Navy" after the Secretary of Defense, in regard to promulgating

07-19-93 10:25AM

TO 9/395-3109

P008/008

regulations under subparagraph (h)(2)(A). Funds appropriated to the Department of Transportation for retirement purposes would be designated in paragraph (h)(8) for payments to dependents of former members of the Coast Guard.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

July 19, 1993

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ANTHONY LAKE

THROUGH: ROBERT G. BELL *RG*
FROM: STEVEN R. JONES *sj*
SUBJECT: Letters to President RE: Military Base Closure
Decision

This is the third batch of letters from Members of Congress asking the President for special consideration for bases in their districts prior to his base closure decision.

Based upon our analysis and the recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, President Clinton approved the recommendations of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission and forwarded them to Congress on July 2.

A summary of the Members' letters follows:

Package #5225 - Simon and Moseley-Braun: Illinois. Urges you to accept the Base Closure Commission recommendations.

Package #5228 - Bacchus, et al: Florida. Urges the President to reject the Commission's recommendation to close the Orlando Naval Training Center and Orlando Naval Hospital (Note: you have already responded to Senators Graham and Mack on this issue in NSC #5157).

Package #5229 - Wise: West Virginia. Asks that the Naval Air Station in Martinsburg, which was a late add by the Commission, not be terminated.

Package #5232 - Jeffords: Vermont. Asks the President to reconsider the Commission's recommendation on Plattsburgh Air Force Base which reversed the original Air Force and DoD recommendation.

The letters are tailored to specific concerns, including your July 5 meeting with local officials in San Francisco and recent meetings the DoD Office of Economic Adjustment have had with northern Virginia officials. Transition Coordinators are specifically referenced only for those areas where they have been assigned.

The NSC Executive Secretary requested that due to the volume of inquiries, responses be processed in groups rather than individually.

Concurrences by: Jeremy *[Signature]* *In draft*, Keith Hahn, David Lane *In draft* (NEC)

RECOMMENDATION

That you send a joint memo with Howard Paster and Bob Rubin to the President (Tab I) recommending his signature at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab I Memorandum for the President
Tab A Letters to Members of Congress
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ANTHONY LAKE
HOWARD PASTER
ROBERT RUBIN

SUBJECT: Letters RE: Military Base Closure Decision

Purpose

To respond to letters from Members of Congress asking for special consideration for military bases in their districts prior to your base closure decision.

Background

You approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress. The proposed response at Tab A, similar for all congressional inquiries regarding your base closure decision, focuses on your announced 5-point plan to speed base reuse planning, environmental cleanup, property disposal and worker transition in communities with bases recommended for closure or realignment.

The letters are tailored to specific concerns, including your July 5 meeting with local officials in San Francisco and recent meetings of the Office of Economic Adjustment with local officials in northern Virginia. Transition Coordinators are specifically referenced for areas where they have been assigned.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the letters at Tab A.

Attachments

Tab A Letters to Members of Congress
Tab B Incoming Correspondence

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Paul:

Thank you for your letter urging that I accept the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report and their recommendations concerning the military bases in Illinois.

After careful review, which included the analysis and recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, I found the recommendations contained in the Commission's report on balance to be acceptable. Accordingly, I approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress in accordance with the law. The Congress now has 45 days to act upon the base closure list.

I am aware of the difficult choices inherent in this process and the impacts on local communities having a long and proud military tradition. This is, however, a necessary process to eliminate excess infrastructure and ensure the quality of our future military forces. It is now time to focus on how we can aggressively assist those communities and people in their base reuse and economic redevelopment activities.

As you know, I announced on July 2 a five-point plan to revitalize communities adversely affected by base closure and realignments. The plan will speed economic development planning, environmental cleanup, property disposal and worker transition. Transition coordinators are being assigned to hard hit communities to be full-time advocates, trained to cut through red tape and speed redevelopment.

I appreciate your concern regarding base closures. We must take the actions necessary to ensure the strength and readiness of our future military forces. I look forward to working with Congress to make our base revitalization efforts a success.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Paul Simon
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Carol:

Thank you for your letter urging that I accept the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report and their recommendations concerning the military bases in Illinois.

After careful review, which included the analysis and recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, I found the recommendations contained in the Commission's report on balance to be acceptable. Accordingly, I approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress in accordance with the law. The Congress now has 45 days to act upon the base closure list.

I am aware of the difficult choices inherent in this process and the impacts on local communities having a long and proud military tradition. This is, however, a necessary process to eliminate excess infrastructure and ensure the quality of our future military forces. It is now time to focus on how we can aggressively assist those communities and people in their base reuse and economic redevelopment activities.

As you know, I announced on July 2 a five-point plan to revitalize communities adversely affected by base closure and realignments. The plan will speed economic development planning, environmental cleanup, property disposal and worker transition. Transition coordinators are being assigned to hard hit communities to be full-time advocates, trained to cut through red tape and speed redevelopment.

I appreciate your concern regarding base closures. We must take the actions necessary to ensure the strength and readiness of our future military forces. I look forward to working with Congress to make our base revitalization efforts a success.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Carol Moseley-Braun
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Jim:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report and their recommendations to close Orlando Naval Training Center and Orlando Naval Hospital.

After careful review, which included the analysis and recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, I found the recommendations contained in the Commission's report on balance to be acceptable. Accordingly, I approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress in accordance with the law. The Congress now has 45 days to act upon the base closure list.

I am aware of the difficult choices inherent in this process and the impacts on local communities having a long and proud military tradition. This is, however, a necessary process to eliminate excess infrastructure and ensure the quality of our future military forces. It is now time to focus on how we can aggressively assist those communities and people in their base reuse and economic redevelopment activities.

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I appreciate your concern regarding base closures. We must take the actions necessary to ensure the strength and readiness of our future military forces. I look forward to working with Congress to make our base revitalization efforts a success.

Sincerely,

The Honorable James Bacchus
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Representative McCollum:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report and their recommendations to close Orlando Naval Training Center and Orlando Naval Hospital.

After careful review, which included the analysis and recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, I found the recommendations contained in the Commission's report on balance to be acceptable. Accordingly, I approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress in accordance with the law. The Congress now has 45 days to act upon the base closure list.

I am aware of the difficult choices inherent in this process and the impacts on local communities having a long and proud military tradition. This is, however, a necessary process to eliminate excess infrastructure and ensure the quality of our future military forces. It is now time to focus on how we can aggressively assist those communities and people in their base reuse and economic redevelopment activities.

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I appreciate your concern regarding base closures. We must take the actions necessary to ensure the strength and readiness of our future military forces. I look forward to working with Congress to make our base revitalization efforts a success.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Bill McCollum
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Representative Mica:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report and their recommendations to close Orlando Naval Training Center and Orlando Naval Hospital.

After careful review, which included the analysis and recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, I found the recommendations contained in the Commission's report on balance to be acceptable. Accordingly, I approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress in accordance with the law. The Congress now has 45 days to act upon the base closure list.

I am aware of the difficult choices inherent in this process and the impacts on local communities having a long and proud military tradition. This is, however, a necessary process to eliminate excess infrastructure and ensure the quality of our future military forces. It is now time to focus on how we can aggressively assist those communities and people in their base reuse and economic redevelopment activities.

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I appreciate your concern regarding base closures. We must take the actions necessary to ensure the strength and readiness of our future military forces. I look forward to working with Congress to make our base revitalization efforts a success.

Sincerely,

The Honorable John L. Mica
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Bob:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report and their recommendation to close the Naval Air Station in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

After careful review, which included the analysis and recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, I found the recommendations contained in the Commission's report on balance to be acceptable. Accordingly, I approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress in accordance with the law. The Congress now has 45 days to act upon the base closure list.

I am aware of the difficult choices inherent in this process and the impacts on local communities. This is, however, a necessary process to eliminate excess infrastructure and ensure the quality of our future military forces. It is now time to focus on how we can aggressively assist those communities and people in their base reuse and economic redevelopment activities.

As you know, I announced on July 2 a five-point plan to revitalize communities adversely affected by base closure and realignments. The plan will cut through red tape and speed economic development planning, environmental cleanup, property disposal and worker transition.

I appreciate your concern regarding base closures. We must take the actions necessary to ensure the strength and readiness of our future military forces. I look forward to working with Congress to make our base revitalization efforts a success.

Sincerely,

The Honorable Robert E. Wise, Jr.
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Senator Jeffords:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's report and their recommendation to close Plattsburgh Air Force Base in New York.

After careful review, which included the analysis and recommendations of Secretary Aspin and General Powell, I found the recommendations contained in the Commission's report on balance to be acceptable. Accordingly, I approved the Commission's recommendations on July 2 and transmitted them to Congress in accordance with the law. The Congress now has 45 days to act upon the base closure list.

I am aware of the difficult choices inherent in this process and the impacts on local communities having a long and proud military tradition. This is, however, a necessary process to eliminate excess infrastructure and ensure the quality of our future military forces. It is now time to focus on how we can aggressively assist those communities and people in their base reuse and economic redevelopment activities.

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I appreciate your concern regarding base closures. We must take the actions necessary to ensure the strength and readiness of our future military forces. I look forward to working with Congress to make our base revitalization efforts a success.

Sincerely,

The Honorable James M. Jeffords
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1302

5225

July 1, 1993

President Bill Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing about your upcoming consideration of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's (BRAC) findings on 258 military installations. By July 15, you will have an opportunity to either accept BRAC's findings on these installations, or reject them and resubmit them to BRAC with recommendations. We urge your acceptance of BRAC's findings.

Four military installations in Illinois were affected by BRAC's decisions this year. Two bases are scheduled to close, while two are scheduled to expand. Although we would have preferred to see no Illinois base on BRAC's list, we are prepared to accept BRAC's findings and work closely with the communities and the military on the dispensation of these bases. BRAC commissioners provided a fair, open, and thorough forum for communities and individuals to present their cases. In the end, BRAC's recommendations are in the best interests of our national security and fair to those communities affected.

You will be under tremendous pressure by various groups to modify BRAC's work. Unfortunately, there will be individuals and communities who will be negatively affected by base closures. Recent experience has shown, however, that most communities affected by base closures have been able to convert military property in a way that effectively replaces government functions with private sector activity.

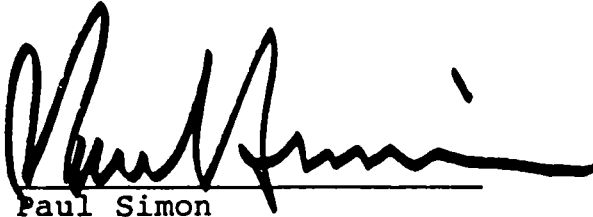
In addition, Secretary Aspin and Congress are committed to making this transition as smooth as possible. Secretary Aspin is determined to help communities avoid the bureaucratic delays associated with past base closures, and last year Congress appropriated \$1.5 billion to fund defense conversion programs.

Page Two
Base Closures

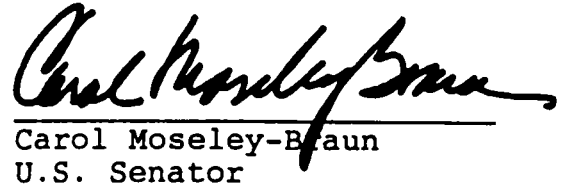
Finally, the strongest argument in favor of accepting BRAC's findings relates to military readiness. Our new base force structure will give you the best combination to carry out your duties as Commander-in-Chief, while saving our country billions of dollars.

Our best wishes.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Simon", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Simon
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Moseley-Braun", written over a horizontal line.

Carol Moseley-Braun
U.S. Senator

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 09, 1993

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE PAUL SIMON

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO ACCEPT THE FINDINGS
OF THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND
REALIGNMENT COMMISSION (BRAC)

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
HOWARD PASTER		ORG	93/07/09		C 93/07/09
REFERRAL NOTE:					
ANTHONY LAKE		RSA	93/07/09		
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					
REFERRAL NOTE:					

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 1 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1210
MAIL USER CODES: (A) D IL (B) (C)

*ACTION CODES:	*DISPOSITION	*OUTGOING	*
*	*	*CORRESPONDENCE:	*
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION	*A-ANSWERED	*TYPE RESP=INITIALS	*
*C-COMMENT/RECOM	*B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL	*OF SIGNER	*
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE	*C-COMPLETED	*CODE = A	*
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET	*S-SUSPENDED	*COMPLETED = DATE OF	*
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC		*OUTGOING	*
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *			*
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE *			*
*X-INTERIM REPLY *			*

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

SCANNED

BILL McCOLLUM

8TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

VICE CHAIRMAN
REPUBLICAN CONFERENCECOMMITTEE ON
BANKING, FINANCE AND
URBAN AFFAIRSCOMMITTEE ON
THE JUDICIARY

02712/

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0908

2200 RAYMOND OFFICE B
WASHINGTON, DC 18-01
(202) 225-2178DISTRICT OFFICE:
SUITE
806 EAST ROBINSON STREET
ORLANDO, FL 32801
(407) 872-1
TOLL FREE FROM KANSAS
831-3422

JUL 1 P6:41

July 1, 1993

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear President Clinton:

We are writing to request that you thoroughly review the deliberations of the Defense Base Closure Realignment Commission with respect to its decision to sustain the recommendation of the Navy to close Orlando Naval Training Center (NTC Orlando) and Orlando Naval Hospital. If after your review you agree with us that the Commission grievously erred in passing on this recommendation to you we request that you return the report to the Commission with a recommendation that it reconsider NTC Orlando and Orlando Naval Hospital and remove them from the closure list.

It is without question that the Navy deviated from several of the Department of Defense selection criteria, and although no recorded vote occurred on this point, it clearly appears from the Commission records and the final deliberation hearing that the Commissioners and their staff understood this. However, Commission staff chose to disregard critical data and misrepresented and presented in a misleading way other critical data at the final hearing on June 27, all of which gave the Commissioners a false picture of the differences in military value among the three NTC's and the comparative cost and savings resulting from the two principal closing options considered, to wit: Close NTC Orlando and NTC San Diego or close NTC Great Lakes and NTC San Diego. Furthermore, the Navy withheld critical data requested by both Congressman McCollum and the Commission which if it had been supplied could have had a very considerable impact on the Commissioners' ultimate decision. All of this resulted in the majority of the Commissioners coming to the incorrect conclusion that the deviation by the Navy, while there, was not substantial.

As you are aware there were eight Department of Defense selection criteria, and the charge of the Commission was to determine whether or not the Navy substantially deviated from any of these criteria. If even one of the criteria was substantially deviated from, the duty of the Commission was to set aside the closure recommendation. In the case of Orlando, we believe that there was substantial deviation from the first four "military value" criteria and Criteria 5 concerning return on investment. However, of these the clearest and most obvious deviations occurred with respect to Criteria 4 and 5. Criteria 4 is cost and manpower. There is no question that the Navy failed to consider and compare the operating costs and overhead of the three NTC's. There also is no question that the Navy failed to do COBRA computer model runs on closure scenarios involving NTC Great Lakes and NTC San Diego so that it never made the return on investment study and comparison to properly evaluate return on investment as required by Criteria 5. It only ran a COBRA model on a close Orlando and San Diego scenario.

A proper analysis of the facts and data concerning operation costs and overhead at the

Honorable Bill Clinton

Page 2

July 1, 1993

respective NTC's clearly shows that the operating costs and overhead at NTC Orlando is and will be very much lower than at NTC Great Lakes which the Navy recommended leaving open and which the Commission has now endorsed. Unfortunately the Commission's staff presentation during the final hearing confused and obscured this bottom line fact.

With respect to return on investment it is equally clear that proper analysis of the data demonstrates that when NTC Orlando and Naval Hospital Orlando together with NTC San Diego are closed there will be very little, if any, cost savings as measured in terms of the twenty year Net Present Value (NPV) savings which is the official COBRA measuring device of savings. In contrast, proper analysis of the data shows that closing NTC Great Lakes and Naval Hospital Great Lakes and NTC San Diego yields a twenty year savings of at least \$400 million using the Commission staff's own numbers and we believe if the staff had not erroneously chosen to disregard critical cost data, this would show a savings of more than \$800 million. The Commission members never realized this dramatic difference in savings because of decisions to disregard critical data and because of the very confusing manner of presenting this subject matter to them at the final hearing. Especially egregious in the presentation was the failure of the staff to integrate the return on investment data on closing the Orlando Naval Hospital with the data on closing NTC Orlando and NTC San Diego. There are huge additional costs created in closing Orlando Naval Hospital that offset savings derived from closing NTC Orlando, and since the hospital is a follower and automatically is closed when the NTC is closed the two have to be considered together, but the critical cost and return on investment bottom line was not presented in a coherent form to the Commission members during their deliberations.

It is obvious from the comments during the final deliberations that the Commissioners for the most part saw the two bases, NTC Orlando and NTC Great Lakes, as a toss up because they did not have a clear picture of the cost and savings differences described above. Consequently, while they saw the Navy had deviated in its analysis from the selection criteria they were unwilling to find "substantial" deviation and let the decision of the Navy prevail. This was egregiously wrong.

Tomorrow you will receive a video tape of the final deliberation hearing which we encourage you and your staff to review because it demonstrates the problems inherent in the presentation especially regarding the hospital issues and the failure to integrate numbers to show the effect even of the figures used by the staff with which we do not agree. In other words, even using staff numbers the Commission should have been able to see the "substantial" deviation and the great differences between Orlando and Great Lakes, but they did not because of the manner of the presentation especially the part with respect to failing to integrate the hospital numbers with the NTC numbers. Also we are furnishing you with this letter a detailed analysis of all of this in a "brief" format.

The Honorable Bill Clinton

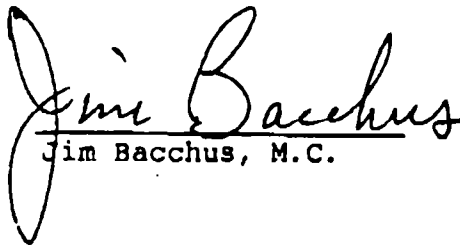
Page 3

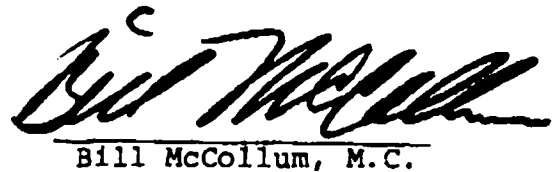
July 1, 1993

This is a very, very serious matter. The entire case for saving NTC Orlando has been based upon the conviction of those involved that the Navy erred because it failed to recognize the cost/savings differences between keeping open NTC Orlando and NTC Great Lakes which are enormous. We believe that when you finish a review you will conclude the same thing. Please do justice in this case by sending the report of the Commission back to it for further review and to correct this terrible mistake.

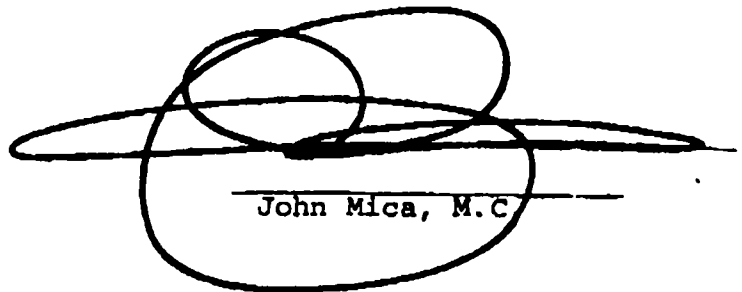
Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Jim Bacchus, M.C.


Bill McCollum, M.C.


Corrine Brown, M.C.


John Mica, M.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
ORM OPTICAL DISK NETWORK

ID# _____

☒ Harcopy pages are in poor condition (too light or too dark).

☒ Remainder of case not scanned.

☐ Oversize attachment not scanned.

☒ Report not scanned.

☒ Enclosure(s) not scanned.

☐ Proclamation not scanned.

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☐ Proposal not scanned.

☐ Statement not scanned.

☐ Duplicate letters attached - not scanned.

☐ Only table of contents scanned.

☐ No incoming letter attached.

☐ Only tracking sheet scanned.

☐ Photo(s) not scanned.

☐ Bill not scanned.

☐ Resolution not scanned.

Comments:

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 09, 1993

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BILL MCCOLLUM

SUBJECT: REQUESTS THE PRESIDENT REVIEW THE
THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE
REALIGNMENT COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ITS
DECISION

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
HOWARD PASTER	ORG	93/07/09		C 93/07/09
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
ANTHONY LAKE	ORG	93/07/09		
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				
REFERRAL NOTE: _____				

COMMENTS: ALSO REQUEST THE PRESIDENT RETURN THE REPORT
TO THE COMMISSION WITH A RECOMMENDATION THAT
IT RECONSIDER NTC ORLANDO AND ORLANDO NAVAL
HOSPITAL & REMOVE THEM FROM THE CLOSURE LIST

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: 3 MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1240 _____
____ MAIL USER CODES: (A) R FL (B) _____ (C) _____

*ACTION CODES: *DISPOSITION *OUTGOING *
* * *CORRESPONDENCE: *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL * OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE *C-COMPLETED * CODE = A *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC * OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY * * *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE * * *
*X-INTERIM REPLY * * *

REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

SCANNED

BOB WISE
2D DISTRICT WEST VIRGINIA

COMMITTEES
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING
COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE
ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4802

5229
027/18
WASHINGTON OFFICE
2434 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4802
(202) 225-2711
DISTRICT OFFICES
107 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
CHARLESTON, WV 25302
(204) 342-7170
102 E. MARTIN STREET
MARTINSBURG, WV 25401
(304) 284-8811

June 30, 1993

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express my deep concern over the decision by the Base Closure and Realignment Commission to eliminate the Naval Air Station in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

The Martinsburg facility was not recommended for closure by the Navy. It was not recommended for termination by the Secretary of Defense. Rather, it was added at the last minute to the list of bases to study for possible closure as an alternative to the recommendations of your Administration.

I understand that the Commission was reluctant to endorse new construction while shutting down other bases, but this project has both economic and military justification. The Air Station in Martinsburg, which will be used to base C-130 aircraft, was first endorsed in a Navy study conducted in 1986. It was chosen above other sites because Martinsburg is centrally located and is well-positioned to service the fleet, unlike some other existing Naval Air Stations. In addition, the Naval Air Station will complement the National Guard C-130 unit that is currently operating out of the Martinsburg airport. Finally, this new facility will offer better service to the fleet for less money.

I recognize the need to trim U.S. military facilities and understand that this process will cause dislocations in affected communities. However, I believe that the proposed Naval Air Station in Martinsburg clearly stands on its merits and should not be terminated. As you consider the entire package I ask that you include the decision on the Martinsburg Air Station in your deliberations.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Bob Wise
U.S. Representative

BW:djr

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 09, 1993

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE BOB WISE

SUBJECT: EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER THE DECISION BY THE
BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION TO
ELIMINATE THE NAVAL AIR STATION IN
MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACTION		DISPOSITION	
		ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
HOWARD PASTER		ORG	93/07/09		C 93/07/09
ANTHONY LAKE	REFERRAL NOTE:	RSA	93/07/09		
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COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA: L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1230 _____
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*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION *A-ANSWERED      *TYPE RESP=INITIALS
*C-COMMENT/RECOM      *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL *OF SIGNER
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED      *CODE = A
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET *S-SUSPENDED      *COMPLETED = DATE OF
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                  *OUTGOING
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                  *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE      *                  *
*X-INTERIM REPLY      *                  *
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
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MANAGEMENT.

SCANNED

5232

07-01-93 04:11PM FROM FROM SEN. JEFFORDS TO 04560020

FOIb

06/21/20

JAMES M. JEFFORDS
VERMONT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4503

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS
ARMING SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS
LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES
ARMING SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS
AND HUMANITIES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

July 1, 1993

The President
The White House
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Today the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission is sending you its recommendations on facilities that should be closed or realigned. I am a supporter of the effort to downsize our domestic and foreign-based defense establishments and have endorsed the work of the commission in the past.

I write to you today because I am deeply troubled by a decision that was made by the commission last week. In reviewing the Secretary of Defense's recommendations for base closures and realignments, the commission agreed with a request from supporters of Griffiss Air Force Base and McGuire Air Force Base to consider closing Plattsburgh Air Force Base. The Secretary had recommended not only that Plattsburgh AFB be kept open; he indicated that Plattsburgh was the Air Force's choice to be the new East Coast Mobility Base.

The commission heard testimony from all three bases, and I have included my statement before the commission for your review. On June 24, the commission overruled the Secretary's recommendation to close McGuire AFB, and decided that it would become the home for the East Coast Mobility Base. Having deprived Plattsburgh of this new mission, the commission then decided, without further consideration of other options for Plattsburgh, that the base be closed.

Like every community whose base has been put on the closure list, this decision came as blow to Lake Champlain region. Unlike every other community faced with a closure, Plattsburgh had little warning, as the Secretary wanted to expand Plattsburgh's mission. It is, to my knowledge, the first time that a base slated for level funding, indeed expansion, by the Secretary, was subsequently closed by the commission. I can understand the commission's disagreeing with the details of the Secretary's recommendations, but I am shocked that it felt it had sufficient information to completely reverse the considered judgement of the Armed Forces. I heard nothing in the testimony that would support such a stunning deviation from the Secretary's judgement.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

WASHINGTON OFFICE
513 HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4503
(202) 224-5141

BURLINGTON OFFICE
SUITE 100
95 ST. PAUL STREET
BURLINGTON, VT 05401
(802) 898-8001

RUTLAND OFFICE
LINCOLN BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR
2 SOUTH MAIN STREET
RUTLAND, VT 05701
(802) 773-3275

MONTPELIER OFFICE
98 STATE STREET
MONTPELIER, VT 05602
(802) 223-5213

JAMES M. JEFFORDS
VERMONT

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4803

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS

ARMING SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS

LABOR AND HUMAN RESOURCES

ARMING SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
AND HUMANITIES

VETERANS' AFFAIRS

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Statement by Senator James M. Jeffords

Before the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

June 16, 1993

Dear Commissioners:

I come before you today with a great sense of urgency in response to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission's decision to add Plattsburgh Air Force Base to the list of bases under consideration for realignment or closure.

This decision comes at a pivotal time for the Champlain Valley region of Vermont and New York. IBM, one of the area's largest employers, is substantially downsizing its workforce. General Electric, now Martin Marietta, has reduced its employees by two-thirds, and further cuts may follow. And the region was stunned to learn this week that St. Johnsbury Trucking will close, costing us thousands of good-paying jobs. Times are tough right now, and a decision to close Plattsburgh Air Force Base would have a devastating impact on the area.

As this commission knows, I have been a strong and consistent supporter of the creation of the base closure commission to break the political juggernaut that for years prevented the closure of any outdated military bases. The commission is designed to objectively review the Pentagon's statement of its military needs and ensure that the process is not unduly infused with politics.

In mid-March, after a thorough review of current U.S. military facilities and projected military needs, Defense Secretary Aspin drew up a list of recommended base closures and realignments. I'm sure this was not an easy list to compile, but it represents the best collective judgement of each service, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense. While the commission's mandate requires it to take into consideration local economic and social impacts, I would urge it not to stray too far from the solid military evaluation of the Secretary's report. I believe there was a very sound basis for Secretary Aspin's decision not to include Plattsburgh Air Force Base on his list of bases recommended for closing. In fact, the Pentagon endorsed the Air Force's request that Plattsburgh become the new home for its 83-plane Northeast Air Mobility Wing.

The Secretary had very sound reasons for exempting Plattsburgh from realignment or closure. It has excellent facilities and support services, surpassing Griffiss and McGuire Air Force bases in its fuel storage capacity, number of fuel hydrants, area of aircraft parking aprons and superior housing facilities.

PLEASE APPLY TO

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Ladies and Gentleman, I do not envy your position. You will have to make difficult decisions that will have profound consequences for thousands of people and many communities around the country. For my part, I ask that you carefully evaluate the testimony of the residents of the Champlain Valley and take to heart their messages. And I urge you to adhere closely to the mandate of this commission -- to rise above politics and to identify those bases that are most valuable, most cost effective and essential to our national defense and those that must be closed. We cannot afford to stray from this criterion.

Thank you.

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DATE RECEIVED: JULY 09, 1993

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE JAMES M. JEFFORDS

SUBJECT: URGES THE PRESIDENT TO EXAMINE THE
RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE PLATTSBURGH AFB AND
SUGGEST RETURNING THE REPORT TO THE
COMMISSION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER

		ACTION		DISPOSITION	
ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY	(STAFF NAME)	ACT CODE	DATE YY/MM/DD	TYPE RESP	C COMPLETED D YY/MM/DD
HOWARD PASTER		ORG	93/07/09		C 93/07/09
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
ANTHONY LAKE		RSA	93/07/09		- - - / - / -
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				
	REFERRAL NOTE:				

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 1220 _____
 _____ MAIL USER CODES: (A)R VT (B)_____ (C)_____

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*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  *          OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE      *C-COMPLETED          *          CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *          OUTGOING  *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE        *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY        *                      *                      *
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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
 (ROOM 75,OEOb) EXT-2590
 KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
 LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
 MANAGEMENT.