

Sunday - July 4th

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 2, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO MRS. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON

FROM: Reta J. Lewis, Political Affairs

RE: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Political Briefing

THE PHILADELPHIA LIBERTY MEDAL

Background. The Philadelphia Liberty Medal was established in 1988 to honor those individuals and/or organizations "demonstrating leadership and vision in the pursuit of liberty or freedom from oppression, ignorance or deprivation." The award is administered by the non-profit, non-political organization, *We the People 2000*.

Previous recipients are: Polish Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (1988); former President Jimmy Carter (1990); former Costa Rican President and Nobel Laureate Oscar Arias and the French medical and human rights organization Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders) (1991); and the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall (1992).

We the People 2000. This organization is a group of civic and business leaders in Philadelphia who were involved in the Bicentennial celebration of the Constitution. This group expanded its efforts to establish the Liberty Medal Award to honor "today's champions of liberty." The award is presented annually on July 4th in Philadelphia. The President of the United States has been invited each year to participate.

Selection of Recipients. A special International Commission was established to select the recipient(s) of the award. No other individual or group has a role in, or veto power over, the Commission's annual selection. Members of the Commission are leaders in government, education, business and industry.

1993 Recipients. This year will mark the first time that two individuals have been honored jointly with the award. President of South Africa Frederik Willem de Klerk and ANC President Nelson Mandela were chosen on the basis of their efforts to reform the South African political system and create a unified country. President de Klerk and Mr. Mandela will receive the Philadelphia Liberty Medal as a part of Philadelphia's Welcome America and Independence Day celebrations. In addition to the Medal, the co-recipients will share a \$100,000 cash award.

Planned Protest. The Philadelphia Freedom Committee, under the direction of Congressman Lucien Blackwell, has planned an extensive protest against President de Klerk. The group will demand that the Liberty Medal not be given to de Klerk in conjunction with Mandela. The committee members will meet at the "Love Statue" by City Hall and march to Independence Hall. They have received permits from the city to protest in the Judge Lewis Triangle, which is north of the Convention Center and will be within the President's view during the awards ceremony.

POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Governor Robert Casey. Governor Casey is recuperating well from his June 14th heart-liver transplant, and has been described by the press as "chipper." The transplant surgery was a last hope effort for Casey, who suffers from amyloidosis, a genetic disease that destroys the body's internal organs. A second series of tests performed this week show no sign of rejection from the transplants. The operation took place at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Lt. Governor Mark Singel has assumed Casey's duties during his recovery. Both the House and Senate recessed in June for the summer, leaving only one major piece of legislation in Singel's hands--which is workers'-compensation reform. Singel is likely to sign the bill into law.

U.S. Senator Arlen Specter. On the same day that Governor Casey underwent his operation, Senator Arlen Specter underwent surgery to remove a benign brain tumor. The two and one half hour operation took place at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. The tumor was discovered by doctors four days prior to the surgery and diagnosed as a slow-growing tumor that is rarely cancerous. Since the surgery, Specter has not experienced any loss of memory or difficulty with words or numbers. He is reportedly recovering well and will carry out some of his senatorial duties from Philadelphia.

RECENT NEWS ITEMS

The Guinier Nomination. The Philadelphia press has been "welcoming" Guinier back to the University of Pennsylvania Law School following her failed nomination. The Philadelphia Tribune labelled the nomination process "a great injustice" and "a sad loss to the entire nation." The Philadelphia Inquirer featured a full-page editorial by Guinier in their Sunday, June 27th paper in which she uses a county in your home state of Arkansas (Phillips Co.) to illustrate the need for stronger support of Voting Rights Act policy. Phillips County is an example of a white minority population still maintaining the majority of elected positions.

Philadelphia Housing Authority. The recent takeover of the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) by HUD has created new controversy resulting from allegations that racism played a role in the dismissal of a disproportionate number of African American employees during personnel adjustments. The majority of new employees hired throughout the adjustment process are white. HUD Regional Director Michael Smerconish appointed Elton Jolly, an African-American, to run the PHA following the takeover, and Jolly has testified that he made all of the new hiring decisions.

Convention Center. The Coalition for Justice in Philadelphia is a group of homeless advocates and community/neighborhood activists who are protesting the development of projects in downtown Philadelphia. The group feels that such development is occurring "at the expense of poor people and poor neighborhoods." You should be prepared for possible protest from this group on Sunday.