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PRESERVATION

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Deputy Chief of Staff

Mr President:

We (Bruce Reed, Beth Nolan, et al.) met with Civil Rights coalition on Conyers' bill. They walked us through what they would like to see enacted. We made clear that we were not in a position to express a view on the bill at this time (it will be introduced later this week). Bruce Reed and Beth Nolan will coordinate a policy process to develop (quickly) an appropriate response and also look at H. Price's letter.

MARIA

cc: Bruce Reed ✓
Beth Nolan
John Podesta

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

FROM: BEN JOHNSON

SUBJECT: OFFICE ON THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE FOR ONE AMERICA
WEEKLY REPORT

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Podesta
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ACTIONS

Meeting with Minority Journalist: We met with Dorothy Gilliam, a journalist with the Washington Post, and former president of the National Black Journalists Association. The meeting was a forerunner to one on diversity that we are planning to have with the leaders of all minority journalist associations. Ms. Gilliam was very helpful in advising us on how to engage the print media on diversity. She also said that if you plan to speak before the American Society of Newspaper Editors in April, it would be useful to highlight the need for more diversity in the newsrooms of daily newspapers.

We learned that 40% of all newspapers do not have any people of color in their ranks. She has agreed to provide us with statistical information on the number of minorities working for daily newspapers, both at the staff level and in decision-making management positions.

Army Corp of Engineers: Congressman James Clyburn sent you a letter citing his concerns about recent news accounts regarding the Army Corp of Engineers. I have attached the letter for your review. Aside from the points made in his letter, it appears that there is concern on the part of some CBC members that Lt. General Ballard is just doing his job and is not being supported strongly enough by civilian appointees in the Defense Department. Ballard is the highest-ranking African American general in the army.

Racial Profiling Legislation: Congressman John Conyers is preparing a bill, "Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act of 2000" that goes a lot farther than his previous Bill on racial profiling. Along with amending sections of pre-existing law to increase avenues for relief, the bill would require the Justice Department to establish a task force to coordinate the investigation, prosecution and enforcement efforts of federal, state and local governments in cases related to law enforcement misconduct. Additionally, the Bill creates a commission to investigate civil rights complaints against INS and Customs Service and requires the Attorney General to perform an initial analysis of accreditation standards for law enforcement and recommend areas for more standards.

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charged in the case. Civil Rights organization leaders will also call on Congress this month to introduce and pass a law enforcement bill that requires the AG to perform an analysis of existing law enforcement accreditation standards and recommend areas for the development of national standards for accreditation of law enforcement agencies. Organizational leaders will meet with the Administration on Monday to discuss the proposed Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act of 2000.

National Urban League's Hugh Price urges you and your administration to utilize its regulatory and financial leverage to compel local police departments to reform their policies and practices. After a Friday press conference in Washington, DC, Price sent a letter to you recommending: 1.) promulgate a series of best personnel and firearms practices based on real world experiences; 2.) require local police departments that receive federal assistance to institute and adhere to the best practices as a condition of continued receipt of federal aid; 3.) suspend federal funding for local departments that experience and fail to address serious problems of police brutality and abuse; and 4.) terminate federal aid to local departments that steadfastly refuse to implement best practices. Price is concerned that after last week's Diallo verdict, the African American community has lost a significant amount of faith in the ability of state courts to dispense justice and the capacity of local police departments to police themselves.

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AGRICULTURE OUTREACH

Leland Swenson re-elected as president of NFU. On Saturday, February 26, delegates to the National Farmers Union's (NFU) 98th Anniversary Convention in Salt Lake City, UT re-elected president Leland Swenson and elected Alan Bergman as the organization's new vice president. Swenson, who ran unopposed, has served as president of the NFU for 12 years. Bergman, who succeeds Ohio Farmers Union President Charlie Nash, has served as president of the North Dakota Farmers Union from 1986 and 1996 and is a third-generation family farmer, raising small grains and livestock near Judd, North Dakota.

Do Congress

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN OUTREACH

OPL Hosts Meeting with Bangladeshi American Community on Trip to South Asia. A dozen Bangladeshi American leaders met with OPL, NSC and the State Department to share ideas regarding your upcoming trip to South Asia. The leaders expressed their hope that the President would highlight the need for conflict resolution among political factions and cautioned not to be perceived as supporting either the current government leadership or the opposition. They also asked that your trip focus on the issues of health and the environment (i.e. major problem with arsenic in water supply) and expansion of business and trade between the U.S. and Bangladesh.

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Beckhardt
(for copy)

GAY/LESBIAN OUTREACH

Virginia M. Apuzzo, will serve as interim National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Political Director. Apuzzo is the current holder of the Virginia Apuzzo Chair for Leadership in Public Policy at the NGLTF Policy Institute and the former Executive Director. She will be in charge of NGLTF's program efforts, which include state and federal advocacy, communications operations and local organizing and training, including NGLTF's annual "Creating Change" conference.