

**PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
VIDEOTAPED REMARKS FOR
COLIN POWELL TRIBUTE
June 2, 1998**

When Colin Powell retired from military service, he told me that he wanted to spend more of his time giving more of our children the chance to make the most of their lives. And that is exactly what he has done these past five years. He has been very busy realizing his dream of helping young people to reach their own dreams through citizen service.

One year ago, I was proud to stand with General Powell, along with Presidents Bush, Carter, and Ford, at the Presidents' Summit for America's Future in Philadelphia. ~~with~~ ~~everyone who was there that day -- and here we have the same people~~ young and old, public servants and private citizens -- felt a renewed sense of excitement about citizen service, and how it ~~can~~ ^{could} help us to ensure that every child in America has the resources they need to thrive: A caring adult, a safe place to live, a healthy start, an effective education, and a chance to give back to their communities.

General Powell
~~Colin~~, the enthusiasm we saw that day, the revival of interest in serving our children and our communities that is taking hold all over the country, is due in large part to your tireless efforts. You are setting a standard of citizen service -- and humanitarianism -- that is an inspiration for us all. I know I join with all Americans in congratulating you on this honor from the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Diana Fortuna

05/05/98 01:11:11

PM

Record Type: Record

To: June Shih/WHO/EOP

cc: Stacie Spector/WHO/EOP, Anne E. McGuire/WHO/EOP, Christa Robinson/OPD/EOP

Subject: comments on text of Powell video

There are things in the Powell video text that Powell won't love that much. Basically, the current text puts our "service" gloss on the summit and Powell's work, rather than the "children" gloss that he much prefers. So if our main goal is to make Powell feel good, then we should make changes as I've suggested below. Also, if there is any way to work in a reference to Powell's followup group to the summit called "America's Promise", he would really like that. But I don't know whether that's appropriate legally or otherwise in this context.

When Colin Powell retired from military service, he told me that he wanted to spend more of his time giving more of our children the chance to make the most of their lives. And that is exactly what he has done these past five years. He has been very busy realizing his dream of helping young people to reach their own dreams, through citizen service.

One year ago, I was proud to stand with General Powell, along with President Bush, President Carter, and President Ford, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, at the first-ever Presidents' Summit on Service **[It was officially titled the "Presidents' Summit for America's Future", which is what Powell prefers. We tend to call it the service summit, because we like to emphasize the service angle. Powell believes it was about children at risk, not service. So I would change it to the actual title.]** I think everyone who was there that day -- and there were thousands of people, young and old, public servants and private citizens -- felt a renewed sense of excitement about citizen service, and what it can help us to achieve for our children, our communities, and our country. **Here, instead of "what it can help us to achieve for our children, our communities, and our country", I would just stress children. I would say "how it can help us to ensure that every child in this nation has the key resources they need as they grow up -- a caring adult, a safe place, a healthy start, an effective education, and a chance to give back." These are Powell's 5 goals, and he loves them. The more general service goals are not what he thought the summit was all about -- that's our line.**

Colin, the enthusiasm we saw that day, the revival of interest in serving our communities **I would say "children"** that is taking hold all over the country, is due in large part to your tireless efforts. You are setting a standard of citizen service -- and humanitarianism -- that is an inspiration for us all. I know I join with all Americans in congratulating you on being honored by the Boys and Girls Club of America.

VIDEO REQUEST PROPOSAL**TODAY'S DATE 04/27/98**

☒ ACCEPT ☐ REGRET ☐ PENDING

TO: Stephanie Streett
Assistant to the President and Director of Scheduling

FROM: Mike McCurry

REQUEST: Videotaped message honoring General Colin Powell.

PURPOSE: For the President to honor General Powell.

DATE AND TIME: June 2, 1998

SOURCE OF PAYMENT: Boys and Girls Club of America/Fox News Channel

BACKGROUND: The Boys and Girls Club of America is presenting General Powell with the "Herbert Hoover Humanitarian of the Year Award." Others participating in the video tribute are: President Bush, Dick Cheney and General Schwarzkopf.

DURATION: 1-3 minutes

REMARKS: Suggested script to be forwarded.

STAFF CONTACT: Brenda Anders x6-5654

ORIGIN OF PROPOSAL: Fox News Channel



620 Avenue of the Americas, 6th Floor
New York, New York 10011

cc: Anders
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Stott

April 27, 1998

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am producing a video tribute to General Colin Powell, pro bono, for the Boys & Girls Club of America. He will be honored and awarded with the "Herbert Hoover Humanitarian of the Year Award" by the Club on June 2, 1998. General Powell is aware of the award, but not that a video tribute of his life will be shown that night.

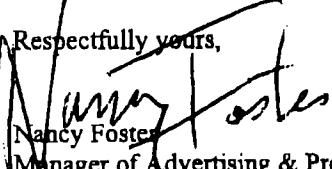
To that end, I have set out to find people that General Powell would be touched to see say nice things about him. In speaking with The Generals Executive Assistant Colonel Smallen, he suggested that General Powell would be "tickled pink" to have you say a few words in tribute.

So far I am delighted to say that we have already received tributes from former President Bush, Dick Cheney, and General Norman Schwarzkopf.

I would like to request the opportunity to have you say something in honor of Colin Powell, on camera, to add to this video tribute. You are certainly encouraged to say whatever you feel is appropriate and to speak however long and/or short you wish. The focus of the tape is General Powell's life and times, and most importantly his dedication to charitable works and the young people of America.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Respectfully yours,


Nancy Foster
Manager of Advertising & Promotion

cc: Mike McCurry

Fox News
45 West 18th Street
6th Floor
New York, NY 10011
(212) 462-5674

Sample tribute:

Colin Powell is the embodiment of humanitarian of the year. His years of service to his country and to others are well documented. Upon retirement, General Powell has taken his notoriety and put it to good use. He has dedicated his life to helping children. Children, who are less fortunate than others. Children, our society has forgotten. General Powell's charity knows no bounds. He flies across the country to meet and talk with these children. His own charity and his association with others charities have made a tremendous impact of the lives of young people. I know of no other individual more deserving of this award than Colin Powell. (Personal close directly to Colin.)

President Bush's tribute to General Powell:

"Well the Boys and Girls Club of America have done it again, you've made the perfect choice for humanitarian of the year. I cannot think of a single American who would be a better recipient of this coveted award. Colin Powell has dedicated much of his life to serving others. We all know of his service to the military, but now retired from the military he served with such honor, he's dedicating most of his life to helping others in the conviction that there can be no definition of a successful life without service to others. The Boys and Girls Club has made the right choice, you're honoring a man who gives so much of himself every single day to help others. Congratulations Colin and to all assembled."

President Bush did not wish to be interviewed, he preferred to script something himself.

Draft 5/4/98 5:00pm

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June 2, 1998**

When Colin Powell retired from military service, he told me that he wanted to spend more of his time giving more of our children the chance to make the most of their lives. Well, since then, he has been very busy realizing his dream of helping young people to reach their own dreams, through citizen service.

One year ago, I was proud to stand with General Powell, along with President Bush, President Carter, and President Ford, at Independence Hall in Philadelphia, at the first-ever Presidents Summit on Service. I think everyone who was there that day -- and there were thousands of people, young and old, public servants and private citizens -- felt a renewed sense of excitement about citizen service, and what it can help us to achieve for our children, our communities, and our country.

Colin, the enthusiasm we saw that day, the revival of interest in citizen service that is taking hold all over the country, is due in large part to your tireless efforts. You are setting a standard of citizen service -- and humanitarianism -- that is an inspiration for us all. I know I join with all Americans, in congratulating you today, as you are honored by the Boys and Girls Club of America.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 24, 1997

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON
FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH ,
GENERAL COLIN POWELL, AND SECRETARY HENRY CISNEROS
IN NATIONAL SERVICE SUMMIT ANNOUNCEMENT

The East Room

2:52 P.M. EST

I thank the Vice President and the First Lady for their remarks. Obviously, I am delighted to have President Bush, General Powell, and Secretary Cisneros back. Henry's only been off the payroll a day or two. (Laughter.) I didn't really know if he'd come. (Laughter.)

I thank so many people here who have advocated national service and citizen service of various kinds for a long time. Especially I'd like to acknowledge, in addition to Harris Wofford and Bob Goodwin, Eli Segal and Ray Chambers; Al From with the Democratic Leadership Council; Charles Moskos, the national scholar of citizen service, who was for all this years before the rest of us knew it was an issue. Thank you, sir, for all your lifetime of work devoted to the proposition that the American people can forge their own destiny and solve their own problems. We thank you.

This is an extraordinary collection of Americans who have gathered here, not only on the stage but out here in the room, to advance the cause of citizen service. Much of the work of America cannot be done by government. Much other work cannot be done by government alone. The solution must be the American people through voluntary service to others.

The challenges we face today, especially those that face our children, require something of all of us -- parents, religious and community groups, business, labor organizations, schools, teachers, our great national civic and service organizations, every citizen.

One of my proudest moments as President was signing the bill creating the Corporation for National Service and AmeriCorps. During the last three years, about 50,000 Americans have earned aid for college by serving in their communities, doing real work to address critical problems, cleaning up rivers, working with the police to make the streets safe, helping children

learn to read, and doing many, many more things in every state in the country.

These AmeriCorps members and even larger numbers of Senior Service Corps and student volunteers have really helped to revive the spirit of service in America. I noticed just a few days before the Inauguration the publication of a national poll -- I can mention that now and you think I have not self-interest, you see -- (laughter) -- the publication of a national poll that said that young people are serving in their communities in far higher percentages than just a few years ago.

I think is a culmination of years and years of effort. When President Bush held this office, he understood that so much of what is good in America has to be done, and is being done, by people who are outside Washington and outside the federal government. And we share his hope that by holding up examples of ordinary Americans engaged in extraordinary service, by holding up those 1,000 Points of Light, they will grow by the power of their example into millions of points of light. And we thank you for that. (Applause.)

Citizen service belongs to no party, no ideology. It is an American idea which every American should embrace. Today I am pleased to announce that we are taking an important step to give more Americans the opportunity to fulfill that promise.

On April 27th, in Philadelphia, with the support and leadership of the Corporation For National Service, the Points Of Light Foundation, General Colin Powell and Secretary Henry Cisneros, President Bush and I will convene the first President's Summit On Citizen Service. Our goal is to mobilize America's citizen power in a united effort to solve our common problems, especially those that threaten our young people.

Leaders from a broad spectrum will come with commitments in hand, concrete pledges of support and volunteers to solve their local problems. In preparation for the summit some of our most prominent corporations and service organizations have already stepped forward. Big Brothers-Big Sisters has pledged to double their mentoring relations, matching 200,000 deserving young people with caring adults through the 2000. And they have pledged to compound their efforts by having these adult volunteers actually do other citizen service projects with the young people they mentor. They not only will be serving the young, but calling on the young to serve.

Lens Crafters will provide one million needy Americans, especially children, with free vision care by the year 2003. Columbia HCA, a leading health care company, has committed to immunize one million children through their health care facilities by the year 2000. And that is just the beginning.

I am delighted that General Colin Powell, who has served our country is so very many ways, has agreed to serve once again, this time as general chair of the summit.

General, we're grateful that you're joining us. And I remember well when you had your retirement ceremony, you said that you were going to devote more of your life to helping young

people to have better lives and better futures. There is nothing, nothing you could do that would have a bigger impact on that goal than this. And we are very grateful to you, sir. (Applause.)

All of you know that I believe Henry Cisneros is the finest HUD Secretary who ever served our country. He had a special way of getting people to take responsibility for their own lives of generating real interpersonal human contacts in places where they had been too long absent. He just has a great new leadership job at Univision, and I am very grateful that he was willing to take substantial time out of an already very busy schedule in a new and fulfilling in some ways more rewarding life -- (laughter) -- to do what I know he loves best, which is to help people realize their own promise. Thank you, Henry, for doing that. (Applause.)

Finally, let me say I am deeply honored to be embarking on this joint venture with President Bush. As far as I know, there's not much of a precedent for this sort of thing, at least in recent history, but there should be. It must be true that the things which unite us as citizens are bigger than any one person, one party, one election, or one ideology. They can only be solved if we come together in partnership to lift each other up -- a person at a time, a family at a time, a neighborhood at a time, a school at a time.

The organizers of this effort have wisely chosen Philadelphia as the site of the summit, for the reasons that the Vice President said.

I'm reminded at the close of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin made an observation about a design of the sun that was hanging low on the horizon in the chair that General Washington sat in to preside over the Convention. And after the Constitutional Convention was over, he said there had been a lot of speculation about whether it was a rising or a setting sun; having seen the Constitution he could say that it was definitely a rising sun.

I believe we can look at this assemblage today, look forward to Independence Hall in Philadelphia, and say this is a rising sun.

I thank all of you. I thank especially those who are here on this platform. And I'd like to ask all of you to join me as we hear from our speakers. First, President Bush; to be followed by General Powell and Henry Cisneros.

Mr. President, welcome back. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you, all. Mr. President, thank you, sir. (Applause.) Thank you all very much. Mr. President, thank you, sir, and Hillary -- Mrs. Clinton, our First Lady, for this wonderful welcome back and for your extraordinarily kind and overly generous remarks.

Of course, I'm pleased to be here, joining the President, Colin Powell -- my old dear friend, comrade-in-arms, you might say -- and, of course, Henry Cisneros, who I knew before most of you did, back when he was the Mayor of San Antonio -- to salute all on this Summit on Volunteerism. Of course, we have here volunteer organizations. And I wish I could single out every single one of them, every single individual who's volunteering.

Mr. President, I hope that our joining together, the fact that our predecessors and their spouses -- previous Presidents have also indicated support for this summit, sends a simple and a strong message. And that is that when it comes to addressing many of the problems we face as a nation, it isn't a question of partisan politics, of one side against another, it's a question of all pulling together for the common good.

And during the four previous that I was privileged to serve in this magnificent house, one of the most rewarding experiences that I had was meeting with the different groups, thousands of people, who got involved in their communities and helped to make them better places to live -- senior citizens monitoring school kids in Texas, or a local foundation offering medical services to at-risk families in Ohio; then there was a homeless shelter in California. And every day, it was a different story, from a different place, but the premise was always the same -- somebody cared and somebody acted.

The point is, after all the stories, you realize there isn't a problem that we face in America that isn't being solved by someone somewhere -- and that's drug abuse or illiteracy -- volunteers of all ages and from all walks of life are claiming society's problems as their own and they're making a difference. They're literally changing our country. And, of course, each of cares about these issues. The difference is volunteers take the next step. And not only do they care, they roll up their sleeves and they do something about it.

The challenge we face today, then, is getting more people to take that next step. And this is what the Philadelphia Summit On Volunteerism is all about. It's about citizens pulling together and leading by example and lifting lives.

And, Mr. President, as we all remember, you touched on this in your inaugural address on Monday. The President spoke of a new sense of responsibility and a new spirit of community. And such is our purpose today.

And I'm very pleased to join in this unique effort. Already we've got a great team coming together. I see my fellow Houstonian, Phil Carroll, over here with Shel. Shel has made a corporate-wide commitment -- I just singled him out, we could talk of others -- a corporate-wide commitment to support all five goals of the summit -- this emphasis on helping kids, young people -- through expanded employee volunteering, through targeted corporate philanthropy and promotional support.

And so many others are joining in this effort under the profoundly capable leadership of Colin, helped by Henry. And, of course, Ray Chambers, Mr. Volunteer. He really has assumed - - for me, at least -- the mantle of George Romney, who devoted the last years of his life to that, to nothing else but volunteerism.

So, Mr. President, I'm very proud to be a part of this and proud to be at your side in this noble effort. Thank you, sir. (Applause.)

GENERAL POWELL: Mr. President, Mrs. Clinton, President Bush, Vice President Gore, and my friend of 30 years duration, Henry Cisneros. It's a great pleasure for me to be here this afternoon and to be a part of this program as the general chairman for the summit, but not only for the summit but for the follow-on program that will come after the summit. Because this isn't just one event, a flash in the pan. This is something we're going to be building on in the years ahead, so that when the turn of the century comes, the things we're talking about here today will have taken on concrete forms and we're going to see positive results from our efforts.

Americans are a caring and compassionate people. We show our compassion in many ways. We show our compassion in what we do for the members of our own family and our extended family. We show our compassion in what we expect our government to do for those of our fellow citizens who are in need.

But most importantly, we show our compassion in an extraordinary way -- in the volunteer efforts of Americans around the country. We're the most generous country with respect to what we do for each other. We are a philanthropic nation. But we need to do more. We need to do a lot more. Because the need is so great. Because at this time in our nation's history, there are many people, and especially many, many young people, who are in despair, who are wondering if the American Dream is there for them, who are wondering whether anyone cares, will anyone come around to touch my life, to make my life a little better.

And the answer we give today, and the answer we will give in the summit, and the answer we will give in the years that follow is, yes, your fellow Americans care.

We're not asking for a government program. We're not looking for an appropriation. We're looking to scale up and leverage up all the wonderful programs that are underway around the country, whether it's the Boys and Girls Clubs, or Big Brothers and Big Sisters, or Children's Health Fund, or the Urban League, or all the other programs that are represented here today. We've got to scale them up; we've got to leverage them up.

Because the solution to the problems that affect our young people, and the solution to the problems that affect other of our fellow citizens who are in need is for us to do something about it. We have divides in our country of a social, economic and racial nature. Those divides must be bridged by efforts such as the one we are undertaking today. And I'm so very, very proud and honored to have been asked to play a role in this.

President Clinton and I had a conversation in the Oval Office a few years ago while I was still Chairman. And the President remarked on the quality of the young men and women in uniform that he saw as he went about his duties. And we got to musing about how we were able to do that. And in our musing we said, you know, these young men and women that we bring in from all over the country, look what we do for them. We give them a safe and secure place to be. We put structure in their life. We give them role models. We give them leaders to look up to. We give them health care. We make sure that they are taken care of. And then we ask them, in return, to give us service.

If only we could take that model and make it available to every youngster in the country. And that's what we're starting out to do today. And that will be the focus of the summit in Philadelphia.

So this is a great adventure. I look forward to it. I'd like to thank those corporations and organizations who are here present today who have already made a positive commitment. And I specially want to thank the gentlemen who have already been introduced who have been working on this effort for the last few years, and especially Ray Chambers, who I think has been the spark plug behind it all.

This is about volunteerism. This is about Americans getting off the sidelines and getting onto the playing field. This is about each and every one of us who have been blessed by the wealth of this country sharing that blessing by reaching down and reaching back and lifting up somebody in need. That's what America is all about; that's what being American is all about.

So I'm proud to be part of this effort. I am especially proud to have as the vice chair of the effort a distinguished American, Henry Cisneros. (Applause.)

SECRETARY CISNEROS: Thank you, General Powell.

Mr. President, President Bush, Vice President Gore, Mrs. Clinton, for the last four years I've had the honor of serving as President Clinton's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. And from the very first conversation we had on the subject he stressed that the priority was dealing with those Americans who are homeless. After all, they are the most unhoused of Americans, and should be the priority for a department whose name begins with housing.

The President has been very strong in his insistence on work on homelessness and backing it with appropriate budgeting. But the work of the federal government in the field of homelessness is basically about budgets and distant support, because the federal government doesn't pull out one cot at night or fix one bed or prepare one meal. That work is done by people all across America --volunteers largely -- every single night. They're the ones who put the beds out as the evening settles in. They're the ones who prepare the meals. They're the ones who make the connection with the food banks. They are church volunteers opening up the basements of churches. They are people who are making available shelters when the winter sets in. These are volunteer Americans all across the country.

The federal government stands behind them as a partner, but the work is done by Americans of all ethnic groups and income groups in every community across America. And I have noted over the last four years that we've been able to make a real dent in the problem of homelessness as a result of the harnessing of this partnership.

This partnership, this principle of partnership, exists in many other fields, as has been cited here today -- in literacy work, in counseling for young people, youth work in recreational settings all across the country, in settings where there have not been for years Boy Scouts and

Explorer Scouts and Girl Scouts and Boys and Girls Clubs. Volunteers are doing that work and saving children's lives.

I've noted also that as many lives as are touched among those who are helped, just about as many lives are touched in those who do the work. I've seen the light in people's eyes and faces as they acknowledge the work that they, themselves, have done. I've been to Thanksgiving Day dinners for the elderly where people have stepped away from their own Thanksgiving Day lunch with their families in order to spend a few hours feeding the elderly on a day when they otherwise would have only something out of a can in a cold place. And I've seen the effect on them.

This is clearly a way in which we can multiply the sense of community and goodwill across our country and create a new mathematics -- a mathematics of two plus two equals five or six or seven as we redouble our efforts.

Erskine, it's not a mathematics that OMB approves of, but I've tried my best as Secretary of HUD to persuade that this is the way ought to budget -- (laughter) -- the housing budget.

Let me in closing say just two things. One is that this is completely in keeping with what the President said in his inaugural remarks last Monday -- that government is not the problem; government is not the solution; the American people are the solution. And as one who has served for the last four years, I have seen over and over again across the country the work of the American people at the grass roots, really making a difference in people's lives.

Finally, let me say, Mr. President, and President Bush, you selected well in selecting one of the most distinguished Americans of our time to head this effort. And I am very honored to be asked to support him and his efforts in every way that I can. I will do my best.

Thank you. (Applause.)

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I'd like to thank President Bush and General Powell and Secretary Cisneros and all the rest of you for being here; especially the members of Congress, members of the administration, the mayors and others who are here.

We are going to adjourn now and have a reception. But as we leave I'd like to just ask that we keep in mind the last point that Secretary Cisneros made. I imagine that Ray Chambers was a happy and successful man before he decided to give his whole life over to other people's welfare. But I can't imagine that he emanated the glow that he does today that we all see -- and that you see in the lives of other people who give.

And I guess -- you know, our wealth and power are very important in America and they must be maintained. But the pursuit of happiness involves more. And it really is true that in giving, we receive. So if we give a lot, we'll get a lot, and our country will enter this new century in wonderful, wonderful shape.

Thank you all and God bless you. We're adjourned. (Applause.)

END

3:17 P.M. EST

Science and Technology and other guests, although I hope I've named everyone by now. It's a great privilege for us to have you here today. I haven't been exposed to this much knowledge of science and technology since I named Al Gore to be my running mate last year. [Laughter]

I'm glad to salute all of you who are winners, whose discoveries advance our standard of living and the quality of our lives, our health, our understanding of the world and our own place in it.

I know that the achievements we honor today will improve our ability to communicate with one another, to increase the productivity of our people, and to secure our place in the global economy and hopefully to help to preserve in common our planet.

It's especially important to me that we find ways to preserve what is important to us and to succeed in this global economy, because I know we cannot win the fight that we are in by continuing to do what we have done, which is to have our working people work harder and harder for less and less.

Yesterday we celebrated two achievements of science and technology, and a great gamble besides, by announcing, as some of you noticed, an unprecedented joint research venture with the Big Three automakers, our national defense labs, and our other Federal scientific research facilities to try to triple the fuel efficiency of cars by the end of the decade. And then we announced that we were removing export controls on 70 percent of America's computers, both regular computers and supercomputers, in ways that we believe will add billions of dollars.

indeed, tens of billions of dollars to our exports.

Today, we honor people who are the dreamers, the pioneers, the risk takers, who remind us that the things we celebrated yesterday were once just a gleam in the mind's eye of a brilliant scientist or an engineer. You, too, will have that pleasure some day. But today we honor people who are the new scouts in our timeless urge for adventure.

Forty years ago, J. Robert Oppenheimer said in a lecture, "Both the man of science and the man of art live always at the edge of mystery, surrounded by it. Both, as the measure of their creation, have always had to do with the harmonization of what is new with what is familiar, with the balance between novelty and synthesis, with the struggle to make partial order in total chaos." That sounds like my job. [Laughter] "This cannot be an easy life," he said. Well, it may not be an easy life, but clearly it is a life worth living, and today, a life worth honoring.

I thank all of you so much for helping this country and this administration move toward the 21st century.

Daniel Boorstin wrote in his book, "The Discoverers", "All the world is still an America. The most promising words ever written on the map of human knowledge are *terra incognita*, unknown territory." Your discoveries of unknown territory are for the rest of us most promising, and your country salutes you for them.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:05 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

Remarks on the Retirement of General Colin Powell in Arlington, Virginia September 30, 1993

Thank you very much, Secretary Aspin, President and Mrs. Bush, General and Mrs. Powell, distinguished Members of Congress, distinguished leaders of United States military forces, my fellow Americans.

Today, a grateful Nation observes the end of a distinguished career and celebrates 35 years of service and victory: a victory for the United States military that gave young Colin Powell a

chance to learn and to grow and to lead: a victory for the military and political leaders who continue to elevate him based on their complete confidence and sheer respect; a victory for a Nation well served and, in a larger sense, a victory for the American dream: for the principle that in our Nation, people can rise as far as their talent, their capacities, their dreams, and their discipline will carry them.

A long time ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "The Creator has not thought proper to mark those in the forehead who are of stuff to make good generals." The Creator has not thought proper to mark them by the color of their skin or the station of their birth or the place they were born. Thank God for the United States that that is so.

From my first meeting with Colin Powell, before I became President, I knew that one thing I would never have to worry about was having a strong and wise, a forthright and honest Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His knowledge and judgment were a source of constant support. The fact that he enjoyed the respect of all of his troops, from the people first entering the service to his colleagues on the Joint Chiefs of Staff; his remarkable balance of prudence and courage and his unfailing sense of humor have been there through the difficult times of now two Presidencies. And he clearly has the warrior spirit and the judgment to know when it should be applied in the Nation's behalf.

General Powell has been a rock of stability in our Nation's military during a time of profound change. He has understood more clearly than virtually any other American the enormous resource that the young men and women in our uniform have been for our Nation. He has been determined to give them the security that knowledge and skills and capacity bring, so that together they could take the changes that we have seen in the last few years.

As the Secretary has noted, he was the first Chairman to begin his tenure under the Goldwater-Nichols act, and he has clearly set a standard by which all future Chairs of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be judged.

During his term the cold war ended. We began to grapple with the consequences of that, mostly good and some bad. We have seen world-changing events force us to reexamine our missions, our force structures, and our commands. We have also seen a leader in Colin Powell, who has not only responded to those great challenges but one who could be trusted to feel in his heart the awesome responsibility for the lives and livelihood, for the present and future of every man and woman who wore the uniform of the United States of America.

So today, General Powell, I speak for all of them who thank you for guiding and protecting their lives, even as you advance the cause of freedom around the world. I speak for their

families who entrusted you with their sons and daughters. I speak for the young children who sent their mothers and fathers under your command in the Gulf, in Somalia, and elsewhere. For all of them I say you did well by them as you did well by America.

We take great pride in what you have done for your country. You have exemplified the military ethic in serving in whatever mission and in getting the job done.

When we marched around the field today, I was glad to hear the long litany of Colin Powell's career, to remind us that in the spotlight and far away from the spotlight, as a young soldier and a not-so-young soldier, he was always first and foremost a good soldier, a role model for those in our military and now a role model for all young Americans, someone we can appreciate for having done a job day-in and day-out, year-in and year-out, with ferocious dedication.

In recognition of your legacy and service, of your courage and accomplishment, today, General Powell, I was honored to present you with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, with distinction. I want to tell all those here in attendance that this was the second Medal of Freedom you have received, the first from President Bush in 1991. And today, you became only the second American citizen in the history of the Republic to be the recipient of two Medals of Freedom.

I want to thank you, too, sir, for your advice and counsel in the work I had to do in selecting your successor. It was a job I think many people were afraid to even contemplate. For you are truly a hard act to follow. I know you share my opinion that we could not have done better than General Shalikashvili.

I also want to say a special word of appreciation to Mrs. Powell for her inspiration and her support, her good-humored endurance of all the times when you could have been either with her, your daughters, or your automobiles, and had, instead, to be at the White House with me or someone else importuning on your time. I thank her, and I thank your family for their sacrifices in your public service.

When you proposed and married Alma Johnson and moved with her to Birmingham, Alabama, and before the year were already sent off as a young captain to serve in Vietnam, that year was 1962. In that same year, General Douglas MacArthur gave his famous farewell speech at West Point. He spoke the following

words of praise to all those who serve in our military. I repeat them today because they apply especially well to you. MacArthur said, in reference to the American soldier, "I regarded him as one of the world's noblest figures, not only as one of the finest military characters but also as one of the most stainless."

In closing, General Powell, I am reminded of the words of another young valiant warrior, spoken when, like you, he was finishing one journey and beginning a second. John Bunyan wrote in *Pilgrim's Progress* of the warrior valiant at the end of his life, as he prepared to present himself to the Almighty, "My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage

and my courage and skill to him that can get them. My marks and scars I carry with me to be a witness for me, to Him who shall be my rewarder."

General Powell, your reward is a grateful Nation and a bright future. Your reward is a stronger Nation, safer and better today for your sword, your courage, and your skill. From the bottom of my heart, on behalf of every man and woman, every boy and girl in this great country, I thank you and wish you Godspeed.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:30 p.m. at Fort Myer.

Message to the Congress on Restriction of Weapons Proliferation Activities September 30, 1993

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(b)) and section 301 of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1631), I hereby report to the Congress that I have exercised my statutory authority to declare a national emergency and to issue an Executive order, which authorizes and directs the Secretary of Commerce, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules, regulations, and amendments thereto, and to employ such powers granted to the President by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, as may be necessary to continue to regulate the activities of United States persons in order to prevent their participation in activities, which could contribute to the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and the means of their delivery.

These actions are necessary in view of the danger posed to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States by the continued proliferation of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, and of the means of delivering such weapons, and in view of the need for more effective controls on activities sustaining such proliferation. In the absence of these actions, the participation of U.S. persons in activities contrary to U.S. nonproliferation ob-

jectives and policies, and which may not be adequately controlled through the exercise of the authorities conferred by the Export Administration Act of 1979, as amended (50 U.S.C. App. 2401 *et. seq.*), could take place without effective control, posing an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

The countries and regions affected by this action would include those currently identified in Supplements 4, 5, and 6 to Part 778 of Title 15 of the Code of Federal Regulations, concerning nonproliferation controls, as well as such other countries as may be of concern from time to time due to their involvement in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, or due to the risk of their being points of diversion to proliferation activities.

It is my intention to review the appropriateness of proposing legislation to provide standing authority for these controls, and thereafter to terminate the Executive order.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
September 30, 1993.

NOTE: The Executive order is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Senate go on and do it. I feel very strongly about it. I also associate myself with the other remarks of the Attorney General. I think it's the beginning. It's not the end of the process by any means.

Q. What would you like to see on handguns?

The President. Well, I think extending the ban on imported handguns is important, which I will do today. Then Congress is debating this whole issue of assault weapons generally, broad definition, and we'll see what we can come out with. But you know, there's a bill in the House; there's a bill in the Senate. And I'd like the crime bill to pass, and then I'd like for that to be debated.

Q. Would you do the Brady bill separately?

Q. Yes, would you do the Brady bill separately or as part of the crime—

The President. It's fine with me, whatever—[inaudible]—done. I would prefer to get it as quickly as possible, but I think the important thing is that it be passed in a strong and clear and unambiguous form.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:43 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The memorandums on gun dealer licensing and importation of assault pistols are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

Remarks Announcing the Nomination of General John Shalikashvili To Be Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff August 11, 1993

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. It's a great honor for me to be here today with the Vice President, Secretary Aspin, and General Powell to introduce to you and to our Nation the person whom I have selected to replace Colin Powell as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General John Shalikashvili. He's widely known to his friends as General Shali. And since we're going to be seeing a lot of each other and you're going to have to write a lot about him, I think I'll just start using the shortened version of his name.

General Shali is superbly well qualified for this position. He is a soldier's soldier, a proven warrior, a creative and flexible visionary who clearly understands the myriad of conflicts, ethnic, religious, and political, gripping the world, as well as the immense possibilities for the United States and for the cause of freedom that are out there before us.

He has shown a proven ability to work with our allies in complex and challenging circumstances. He has shown me a real concern for the ordinary men and women who have enlisted in our armed services and who are living through this difficult and challenging period of downsizing. He understands how to downsize the Armed Forces and still maintain the strongest military in the world, with the equipment and, most important, the trained force with the

morale we need to always fight and win when we have to.

And finally, I am convinced that he is in a unique position to be an advocate for the men and women in the armed services and for the national security of the United States to the Congress, to the country, and to our military allies throughout the world.

General Shali entered the United States Army as a draftee and rose through the ranks to his current position of Supreme Allied Commander in Europe and the commander in chief of all United States forces there. He's demonstrated his outstanding military talents repeatedly throughout a distinguished career from the day he was first drafted into the Army. He's a decorated Vietnam veteran. He ran Operation Provide Comfort in Iraq. He served on the Joint Chiefs of Staff as General Powell's assistant. He has the deep respect of both the troops who have served under him and the military leaders who have worked with him.

I selected him because I believe he has the ability to lead and to win any military action our Nation might ask of him. Above all, I am confident that in every instance he will give me his absolutely candid and professional military advice, which as President I must have.

He is also a shining symbol of what is best about the United States and best about our

armed services. There is much more to his life than most Americans now know. It is a great American story. It began as so many American stories do, in another land. General Shali was born in Warsaw, Poland, the grandson of a Russian general in the Czar's army, the son of a Georgian army officer—that's the Georgia over there not over here—the heir of a family caught in a crossfire of the kinds of ethnic and national rivalries that now trouble so much of our world. In 1944, when he was 8 years old, his family fled in a cattle car westward to Germany in front of the Soviet advance. He came to the United States at the age of 16, settled in Peoria, Illinois, and learned English from John Wayne movies so that he could take a full course load from his first day in school. Now I intend to nominate this first generation American to the highest military office in our land, on the strength of his abilities, his character, and his enormous potential to lead our Armed Forces. Only in America.

I intend to nominate him, in particular, because his skills are uniquely well suited to the security challenges we face today. He helped revamp NATO to be a more flexible military and political force. He created a NATO Rapid Reaction Corps to undertake peacekeeping missions that are significantly different from our cold war challenges. He's been a leader in persuading NATO members to consider missions outside traditional alliance boundaries, a very, very important step in the recently announced NATO posture with regard to Bosnia. The end of the cold war has created many opportunities for our security and many new threats that lurk among the world's continuing dangers. General

Shali is the right man to lead our forces in this challenging era.

Our Nation is blessed with the finest military on the face of the Earth and the best military we have ever had. That was made clearer to me than ever as I approached this selection, for the top ranks of our Nation's military are an impressive bastion of talent, patriotism, and vision. Nothing illustrates that better than the great soldier whom General Shali will replace as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. And I want to take this opportunity before all of America to personally thank General Colin Powell for the magnificent service and leadership he has rendered to this country for so many years, to thank him especially for the last several months of difficult and challenging decisionmaking we have done together, for always giving me his most candid advice, and for the wonderful job he has done of working with the other service chiefs to come to consensus on challenging and very difficult issues. He has contributed a great deal to a grateful Nation. And I know that we all wish him well.

I think there is no greater way for me at least to express the respect we all feel for General Powell than to name as his successor such a outstanding leader of such caliber, General John Shalikashvili.

I now invite him to the podium for whatever remarks he might wish to make. General Shali.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:40 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. Following his remarks, General Shalikashvili made brief remarks and responded to questions from reporters.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on Trade With Peru

August 11, 1993

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 203 of the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) (19 U.S.C. 3202), I wish to inform you of my intention to designate Peru as a beneficiary of the trade-liberalizing measures provided for in this Act. Designation will entitle the products of Peru, except for products excluded statutorily, to duty-free treatment for a period ending on December 4, 2001.

Designation is an important step for Peru in its effort to fight against narcotics production and trafficking. The enhanced access to the U.S. market provided by the ATPA will encourage the production of and trade in legitimate products.

My decision to designate Peru results from consultations concluded in July 1993 between this Administration and the Government of Peru

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

For Immediate Release

April 28, 1997

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON,
PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH, PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER,
PRESIDENT GERALD FORD, GENERAL COLIN POWELL,
MRS. NANCY REAGAN, AND VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE

Independence National Historical Park
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

9:49 A.M. EDT

GENERAL POWELL: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You look wonderful out there this morning. They were worried last night that the rain would wash this out, and as early as this morning there were calls flying around town at 5:00 a.m. in the morning, should we move it. The answer was, it will not rain, not on this parade, not today, not with what we've got going on. And it did not and it will not. (Applause.)

Over 200 years ago, a group of volunteers gathered on this sacred spot to found a new nation. In perfect words, they voiced their dreams and aspirations of an imperfect world. They pledged their lives, their fortune and their sacred honor to secure inalienable rights given by God for life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness -- pledged that they would provide them to all who would inhabit this new nation.

They look down on us today in spirit, with pride for all we have done to keep faith with their ideals and their sacrifices. Yet, despite all we have done, this is still an imperfect world. We still live in an imperfect society. Despite more than two centuries of moral and material progress, despite all our efforts to achieve a more perfect union, there are still Americans who are not sharing in the American Dream. There are still Americans who are not sharing in the American Dream. There are still Americans who wonder: is the journey there for them, is the dream there for them, or, whether it is, at best, a dream deferred.

The great American poet, Langston Hughes, talked about a dream deferred, and he said, "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun, or fester like a sore and then run? Does it stink like rotten meat or crust and sugar over like a syrupy sweet? Maybe

it just sags, like a heavy load. Or, does it explode?"

For too many young Americans, that dream deferred does sag like a heavy load that's pushing them down into the ground, and they wonder if they can rise up with that load. And as we see too often in our daily life, it does explode in violence, in youngsters falling dead, shot by other youngsters. It does explode, and it has the potential to explode our society.

So today, we gather here today to pledge that the dream must no longer be deferred and it will never, as long as we can do anything about it, become a dream denied. That is why we are here, my friends. (Applause.) We gather here to pledge that those of us who are more fortunate will not forsake those who are less fortunate. We are a compassionate and caring people. We are a generous people. We will reach down, we will reach back, we will reach across to help our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Above all, we pledge to reach out to the most vulnerable members of the American family, our children. As you've heard, up to 15 million young Americans today are at risk. They are at risk of growing up unskilled, unlearned or, even worse, unloved. They are at risk of growing up physically or psychologically abused. They are at risk of growing up addicted to the pathologies and poisons of the street. They are at risk of bringing up children into the world before they, themselves have grown up. They are at risk of never growing up at all. Fifteen million young lives are at risk, may not make it unless we care enough to do something about it.

In terms of numbers, the task may seem staggering. But if we look at the simple needs that these children have, then the task is manageable, the goal is achievable. We know what they need. They need an adult caring person in their life, a safe place to learn and grow, a healthy start, marketable skills and an opportunity to serve so that early in their lives they learn the virtue of service so that they can reach out then and touch another young American in need.

These are basic needs that we commit ourselves today, we promise today. We are making America's promise today to provide to those children in need. This is a grand alliance. It is an alliance between government and corporate America and nonprofit America, between our institutions of faith, but especially between individual Americans.

You heard the governors and the mayors, and you'll hear more in a little minute that says the real answer is for each and every one of us, not just here in Philadelphia, but across this land -- for each and every one of us to reach out and touch someone in need.

All of us can spare 30 minutes a week or an hour a week. All of us can give an extra dollar. All of us can touch someone who doesn't look like us, who doesn't speak like us, who may not dress like us, but, by God, needs us in their lives. And that's what we all have to do to keep this going.

And so there's a spirit of Philadelphia here today. There's a spirit of Philadelphia that we

saw yesterday in Germantown. There is a spirit of Philadelphia that will leave Philadelphia tomorrow afternoon and spread across this whole nation -- 30 governors will go back and spread it; over a 100 mayors will go back and spread it, and hundreds of others, leaders around this country who are watching will go back and spread it. Corporate America will spread it, nonprofits will spread it. And each and every one of us will spread it because it has to be done, we have no choice. We cannot leave these children behind if we are going to meet the dreams of our founding fathers.

And so let us all join in this great crusade. Let us make sure that no child in America is left behind, no child in America has their dream deferred or denied. We can do it. We can do it because we are Americans. We are Americans who draw our strength from this place. We are Americans who believe to the depth of our hearts that this is not a land that was put here by historic accident, it is a land that was put here by Divine Providence who told us to be good stewards of the land, but especially to be good stewards of each other. Divine Providence gave us this land, blessed it and told us always to be proud to call it America.

And so we go forward. Let's go save our children. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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VICE PRESIDENT GORE: Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you, Oprah. To all of the distinguished guests; President and Mrs. Clinton, and former President and Mrs. Bush; former President Ford; Mrs. Reagan; General Powell and Mrs. Powell; to the governors and mayors and senators and congressmen and Cabinet members; and most of all, the volunteers: This is an historic day. And I want to thank you, Oprah, and once again thank you, General Colin Powell, for organizing this project and for standing strong for America's children. We're grateful to you, the whole country is. (Applause.)

In the Bible, Proverbs counsels us, "Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act." And later in Isaiah, we learn, "If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry, and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noon day."

Today, in America, more and more citizens are realizing that it is within our power to act. And across America, noon day is spreading a warm light of compassion and commitment, a new spirit of service in America. We're seeing it right now in North Dakota, where tens of thousands of relief workers and volunteers responded instantly and selflessly to those terrible floods. President Clinton and I have seen these quiet American heroes in action firsthand, and we have all been inspired by what they are doing right now to help neighbors in distress. That's the American way.

We saw this spirit of service six days ago on Earth Day, Americans of today honoring their duty to Americans of tomorrow by pledging to be good stewards of the environment -- to

make sure subsequent generations inherit air, water and land that is clean, healthy and safe.

We saw it 10 days ago on NetDay, when tens of thousands of Americans came together to pull cable, install software, hook up computers and connect America's classrooms to the Information Superhighway. And we saw it last year, especially throughout the South, when neighbors, black and white, joined hands to hold back the forces of hate and rebuild churches and synagogues and other houses of worship that had burned to the ground, and say, we won't stand for it here in the United States of America. We're one nation, one community, under God and we're coming together to help one another. (Applause.)

And we saw it yesterday here in Philadelphia on Germantown Avenue. This spirit service is both rich with tradition and fresh with possibility. It is as timeless as Independence Day and as modern as NetDay, as old as America and as young as AmeriCorps. And we, all of us, must do everything we can do to keep this spirit growing.

The work of this summit is just beginning. Its goal, of course: to provide 2 million young Americans access to opportunity and opportunity and the fundamental resources they need by the year 2000 -- 2 million by 2000. We can begin by eally hearing what others have to say. Indeed, sometimes the greatest act of service we can perform is to listen carefully, especially when we listen to our children.

So let's listen to them now. Two weeks ago, the summit invited young playwrights and students from all over America to create an open letter that would tell grownups how they see the goal of this summit. Here now is a peek behind the scenes at these young Americans wrestling with the same issues that confront us all.

(A film is shown.)

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PRESIDENT FORD: As we meet at this historic hall to begin this crusade of giving, sharing and caring for the American family across the land, especially the 15 million young girls and boys who need our help, we should be optimistic, not pessimistic.

Sadly, every day the news media reports the growing number of broken homes, inadequate single family problems, drug problems rampant in our schools and on our streets, with gang warfare loose in metropolitan communities. Should we surrender? Should we capitulate to the worst elements and the challenges in our society? The answer is, emphatically, no. (Applause.)

We in America, thank goodness, have the tools to win this war. The solution is local and personal with generous financial support across the land. Yes, in our hometowns, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Canadian border to the Caribbean, people and organizations can

turn disasters to success.

I personally am optimistic because I've seen firsthand a Boy Scout scoutmaster take a tenderfoot or a troop from the worst circumstances and redirect their lives. The same, of course, is true with the Girl Scouts, the Campfire Girls. Again, as mentors we see identical benefits, from the Big Brothers, Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Clubs throughout America. During the terrible economic Depression of the 1930s, I witnessed firsthand the uplifting impact of an athletic coach on a player or on a team when their families were on welfare or actually in bread lines. Today, the parent coaches of Little League teams do a superb jobs as mentors, teaching not only teamwork, but athletic skills and healthy habits.

A pat on the back and sound advice can help a troubled boy or a troubled girl in despair. A top-notch mentor can combine winning the game and winning the life. Our churches and synagogues, from the pulpit to the Sunday school teacher, can reach out, embrace the youth in their congregation. I've always admired the wonderful, unselfish work of the individual members of the Salvation Army. Today they are successful mentors because of their spotless dedication to helping America's youth.

A major goal of this summit is to recruit voluntary mentors who are willing to listen to and stand by a youth through joys as well as frustrations. Our mentors must have that unique ability to help the child discover and develop his or her talents. Right now, young Americans need 2 million volunteer mentors who will be caring adults. We warmly welcome volunteers from all walks of life in this great land to join in this critical crusade. By stepping forward in this crisis, you can have a tremendous impact and a tremendous benefit in the challenge to save our youth. What we do here and what you do in this decade can make a better America for the next century.

I say to all of you throughout the land, the door of opportunity is wide, wide open. Please join Colin Powell and all the others at this historic summit. This is truly a call to national service. Thank you. (Applause.)

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PRESIDENT CARTER: (speaking by videotape.) -- to a child finding his or her way in the world, this should not be a privilege, it should be a right. If your street isn't safe, fear is your constant companion. If your school and playground aren't safe, your focus is on surviving, not learning. If your home isn't safe, you have nowhere else to go. This summit recognizes this by designating a safe place one of the five fundamental resources. Kids need a place where they can just be kids, where they can play, learn, grow without constantly looking over their shoulders.

At the Carter Center, we have a program called Atlanta Project, founded on the bedrock of volunteerism. A couple of years ago thousands of volunteers fanned out across some of Atlanta's poorest neighborhoods. Going door to door, these volunteers asked their neighbors to

list their major concerns and to suggest ways to improve their quality of life. It will not surprise you to learn that the number one concern was safety.

It's true in cities across our nation. Activities that most of us take for granted, such as going out to play ball or sitting in a school classroom are fraught with peril for children and their parents. Let me share with you some of the stories I heard. One woman said that she never goes out after dark and doesn't allow her children to go out, either. "We are," she said, "prisoners in our home." Another mother told Rosalyn and me that she has knots in her stomach from the time her young son leaves for school until he returns. Because of the violence of her community, she's waiting for the day when he doesn't come home at all. "It won't really surprise me," she said.

That was one of the saddest statements I've ever heard. Several young people, both boys and girls, talked about the pressure they feel to join gangs. Without his gang to protect him, one young man said, he was sure he would be dead. A 12-year-old boy said his ambition in life is to own a semiautomatic machine gun. "I don't expect to live past the age of 20," he told us, "so why does it matter what I do with my life?"

Finally, we spoke with several young women -- children, really -- pregnant with their first, second, or even third child, who are resigned to a life of poverty and fear. These are children whose spirits have been broken, who feel there's no hope for a brighter future. They and their parents do not have confidence in the very institutions -- law enforcement, the judicial system, schools -- that were set up to serve all people.

This summit can be the beginning of a renewed commitment to our children. But the real revolution will take place only if we carry this new spirit of Philadelphia back to our own neighborhoods and turn it into action. The divisions between those of us who have many opportunities and those who feel they have none are growing deeper. Children are dying, in body and spirit.

I urge you to reach out from the safety and security of your life and extend a helping hand to someone who really knows only fear. Hand in hand, we can create a network that will ensure that our children will do more than just survive, they will thrive. Thank you. (Applause.)

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MRS. REAGAN: Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much. Thank you, Christina, and thank you very much for asking me here today to help begin this wonderful campaign.

I wish so much that my husband could be here. He would remind us that we're celebrating the best of America, that unique heritage that has always inspired us -- individuals and organizations have banded together since our nation began to help when there was a need.

Some have been at it for years. For instance, Save The Children began in 1932, and is continuing to help all over the world.

You know, in my experience, whether it was the foster grandparents program in California, or the private sector initiative in Washington, or the Just Say No campaign to stop drugs, I've always found that when I give I received tenfold in return.

Ronnie's dream remains that America will be that shining city on the hill, and to make that dream come true we must never fall short in our efforts to ensure that every child in America can fly as high as his or her dreams will take them.

Ronnie is such a caring person. He's always been moved by human kindness. So, for him and for me, I ask a special favor of everyone watching or listening today. From this day forward, when someone asks you to help a child, just say, "yes." (Applause.) Thank you. (Applause.)

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PRESIDENT BUSH: The American Dream is one of the most stirring phrases I know, and it means so many things to so many people all over the world. It means the freedom to worship your own God in your own way without fear of persecution. It means freedom of speech and assembly, and, perhaps most importantly, the freedom to vote. And these are wonderful freedoms. But sometimes I'm afraid we all take them for granted.

And, yet, the American Dream also means something else. It means the opportunity to go as far in life as your abilities will take you. Anyone in America can aspire to be a doctor, a teacher, a police officer or even, as Oprah said, a President. But you can't get any of those important jobs if you don't have the opportunity to acquire the skills you need. You need to learn your job, whatever your dream, before you can do your job. And that's why I believe that the key to the American Dream is education.

And at the most basic level, it gets down to one "R" -- reading. Barbara and I are deeply troubled to know that 2,300 teenagers drop out of school every day. And this is more than a terrible loss to America, it's an epidemic. It just seems wrong that 6.5 million American kids between kindergarten and the 3rd grade are growing up illiterate. Something has gone wrong.

But I am thankful that something right is starting to happen at this summit, because Americans are starting to take it upon themselves to point our kids in the right direction on the road that leads to the American Dream. And the commitments made toward this end are simply terrific. Continental Cable Vision is going to provide free Internet connections to 3 million youngsters by the year 2000. Another great organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, is establishing volunteer tutoring and literacy centers in 6,500 towns and cities across this country. (Applause.) And another, Scholastic Books, will donate one million books to the

American Reads project to help us reach our goal of a hundred percent literacy for every child by grade three. (Applause.)

You know, humanity has produced few documents more beautiful than the one that Jefferson, Madison and the other founding fathers sweated over here in Philadelphia some 220 years ago -- life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are magnificent words to live by. But you can't understand them if you can't read them.

Thank you very much. (Applause.)

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PRESIDENT CLINTON: Thank you very much. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to begin by taking Matthew and Teevee (phonetic) and Christina and Jamil (phonetic) and Christy (phonetic) for introducing the Presidents and Mrs. Reagan. They reminded us of what this summit is all about.

I thank President and Mrs. Bush, President and Mrs. Carter, President Ford, Mrs. Reagan, Vice President and Mrs. Gore for their devotion to this endeavor. I thank Harris Wofford and Bob Goodwin, the President of the Points of Light Foundation; Henry Cisneros and Linda Robb; and all the others who have worked for this day. I say a special word of thanks to all the public officials who have come from all over our country -- members of Congress, governors, lieutenant governors and others. But, particularly, I want to thank General Colin Powell.

At our last meeting, when he was about to retire as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I asked him if there was another mission which might bring him back into public life. He said he wanted to help children who didn't have what they needed to succeed in life and who needed the chance to serve America.

Well, General, this may be your most important mission, and I want to thank you for reenlisting. Thank you. (Applause.)

I thank my friend, Mayor Rendell, and the wonderful people of Philadelphia; Governor Ridge and the people of Pennsylvania who have made us feel so welcome.

We come here before the house where America was born. The place where we, the people, took the first step on our centuries-old journey to form a more perfect union. On the last day of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin walked out of this hall and encountered a woman anxious to know what had gone on inside. She asked him, "Well, Doctor, what have we got? A monarchy or a republic?" Mr. Franklin replied, "A republic --if you can keep it."

For more than 200 years, we have struggled to keep this republic. It is an enduring and

endless challenge, for endemic in human nature and human frailty are successive generations of problems. But we have always succeeded in making our union more perfect. Consider how imperfect it was when we had people in this country who weren't even treated as people, but slaves. Consider how imperfect it was when children could be forced to work long hours into the night in dangerous conditions. Consider how imperfect it was when women, now more than half the population of America, could not even vote.

So when you get discouraged, remember, we have succeeded in over 200 years in forming a more perfect union. (Applause.) We have succeeded because we've had a brilliant free enterprise system. We have succeeded because we had flexible constitutional, evolving, effective government at every level. But we have succeeded mostly because in the gaps between what is done by government and what is done by the private economy, citizens have found ways to step forward and move our country forward, and lift our people up. Citizen service is the story of our more perfect union.

Now we live in one of the great moments of change in our history, more full of promise, as President Ford said, than any period of America's past. More of these children behind me, and more of these children out here on these streets of Philadelphia, will have more chances to live out the future of their dreams than any generation of American children in history if the citizens of this country step forward to fill the gaps in their lives and in our national life to form a more perfect union. (Applause.)

But let us not be blind to the facts. Even with all the progress that together we have made -- with 12 million new jobs and a record drop in welfare rolls and years of dropping crime rates -- you and I know that millions of our children are being left behind in lives of too much danger, too many drugs, too little hope and not enough opportunity. You and I know that too many people are out there doing the very best they can and still not keeping up, much less moving forward.

Yes, there are things that the government should do. None of us stand here, President and former Presidents, to say that we must not do our responsibility. Of course, we should do better with our schools. Of course, we should open the doors of college to everyone. Of course, all our children should have health care coverage. Of course, we can do more to make our streets safer. But even if we do everything we should, you and I know that a lot of the problems facing our children are problems of the human heart -- problems that can only be resolved when there is a one-on-one connection, community by community, neighborhood by neighborhood, street by street, home by home, with every child in this country entitled to live out their God-given destiny. You know it is true. (Applause.)

I am proud of the fact that because of the computer and microsolutions to problems we don't need big government bureaucracies to do some of the things that used to be done. But as I have said repeatedly, the era of big government may be over, but the era of big challenges for our country is not, and so we need an era of big citizenship. That is why we are here, and that is

what we should promise ourselves we will do. (Applause.)

Let me say one other thing, too. Look at these kids behind me. They're America's future -- all of them. And when you think of what is tearing the world apart today -- the racial, the ethnic, the religious hatreds, from Bosnia to Northern Ireland to the Middle East to Africa -- and you look at the children behind me and you realize what a gift from God our diversity is, you know that if we know each other, if we serve each other, if we work with each other, one of the things that will happen is, we will make sure that our diversity is a rich resource to make our union more perfect, not an instrument of our national undoing in the 21st century. (Applause.)

We cherish our citizen volunteers. There are already more than 90 million of us, and after this summit there will be more. Especially because General Powell, Ray Chambers and others have organized a follow-up to this. And the really important work of this summit will begin after my talk's over, when you go into the workshops and the meetings and make a commitment that in every community there will be a systematic, disciplined, comprehensive effort to deal with the five areas outlined as the challenges for our young people. That is what really matters here.

Young people, above all, however, have the time, the energy and the idealism for this kind of citizen service. Before they have their own families, the young can make a unique contribution to the family of America. In doing so, they can acquire the habit of service and get a deeper understanding of what it really means to be a citizen. That is the main reason, perhaps, we are here.

In Philadelphia, the Superintendent of Schools is working to make service the expected thing in elementary and middle schools. Maryland has required it in high school. And I challenge every state and every school in this country at least to offer in a disciplined, organized way every young person in school a chance to serve. A recent survey said if they were just asked, over 90 percent of them would do it. We ought to be ashamed of ourselves if we don't give them the chance to do that. (Applause.)

Let me also say, of course, that we need some of them to serve full-time. They do, you know, in the Peace Corps. And -- (applause) -- we have some former Peace Corps volunteers out there applauding. But we should all applaud them because they have helped to change the world for the better. (Applause.) And they do in AmeriCorps, the national service program that was started in our administration. (Applause.) The idea behind AmeriCorps was to instill an ethic of mutual responsibility in our children so that young people could improve their own lives in return for improving the life of America.

Since its creation, 50,000 young Americans have earned college tuition by serving their communities in many ways. And we know that the typical full-time community servant recruits at least a dozen more volunteers. I saw that in North Dakota when I went to see what the Red River had done to Grand Forks and to the rest of North Dakota and Minnesota. I saw our

young AmeriCorps volunteers and I knew that because they were able to serve full-time they'd be there when the waters receded, the mess was there, the people had to put their lives back together and the cameras were gone. I saw it again yesterday when we were working on the streets and on the stadium and on the schools.

The will to serve has never been stronger and more of our young people want to serve full-time. But there's a limit to what we can do now. And, yet, there is a solution -- ironically, one I came to right here in Philadelphia. For here in Philadelphia a minister who is a friend of mine, Reverend Tony Campolo, is helping to organize a movement among churches to get churches to sponsor 10,000 full-time youth volunteers to take a year off from college or defer a year from college under the sponsorship of their churches.

The churches will do what we do in AmeriCorps, helping to provide for the living expenses of the young people. But I think we ought to say to them, at the very least, it shouldn't cost you any money to serve. And so if you've got a college loan and you take a year off to serve under the sponsorship of a religious organization, I'm going to propose legislation to say during that year no interest should accrue on that college loan. It should not cost you any money to serve your country. (Applause.)

But we can do more. We can double the impact of AmeriCorps with the help of our religious and charitable institutions. I want to challenge every charity, every religious group, every community group and their business supporters to give young people the support they need to do a year of community service. If you do that, then in our budget now we will be able to give every one of them the scholarship that AmeriCorps volunteers get for their year of community service. Work with your churches, work with your community organizations, and we can provide that to young people. (Applause.)

Put them to work as mentors, as teachers, as organizers of other volunteers, and we can double the number of full-time youth volunteers by adding another 50,000. By the year 2000, that would mean that in eight years, more children will have served full-time on our streets than have worked in the entire history of the Peace Corps around the world. We can change America, folks, if we'll do it together, hand in hand, community by community. (Applause.)

The same thing is true of the police corps, which offers young people a chance to pay for their college education if they'll be police officers for four years. We can triple the number of young people who do that, and I intend to try. We need more young people going as teachers into our schools. And we must support them in that.

We have to understand that we need a balance between volunteers on a part-time basis, volunteers on a full-time basis, and there is no conflict between the two. We have to understand that we value America's free enterprise system, we know we need our government, but there will never be a time when we need citizen servants more than we need them today, because these children have got to be saved one by one. (Applause.)

And let me say to all of you, the most important people here today are not the Presidents or the General or the governors or the senators. The most important people are those who teach the student to read; who save the health of the infant; who give help to families when all help seems gone. The most important title today is not Senator, Vice President, General, Governor or President. It is, as Harry Truman reminded us so long ago, the most important title any of us will ever hold in this country is the title of citizen.

This is our republic. Let us keep it. Thank you. (Applause.)

And now, I would like to call upon Mrs. Reagan and my fellow Presidents to join me in signing this Summit Declaration, "A Call to Citizen Service to Fulfill the Promise of America." We do this in the hope that in the weeks and months to come, millions and millions and millions of you will join us in putting your names to the declaration, devoting your lives to the mission and beginning the era of big citizenship for the United States.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause.)

END

10:59 A.M. EDT