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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 25, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: President
Biya of Cameroon

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1Name of Correspondent: David Chew☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Presidential Remarks: President Bingu of Cameroon**ROUTE TO:****ACTION****DISPOSITION**

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUTROLL</u>		ORIGINATOR	<u>86,02,25</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
<u>chat 18</u>		<u>R</u>	<u>86,02,25</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86,02,25</u>
		Referral Note:				<u>3pm</u>
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				
			<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
		Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
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 to be used as Enclosure

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FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
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 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.

Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).

Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 2/24/86ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ³2:00 pm, tomorrow, 2/25SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON
(2/24 - 5:00 pm draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☐	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☐	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
FIELDING 	☒	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
HENKEL	☐	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	☐	☒
KINGON	☒	☐	<u>VERSTANDIG</u>	☐	☒
LACY	☐	☐	<u>FAULKNER</u>	☐	☒

REMARKS:

Please submit your comments on the attached directly to Ben Elliott with an info copy to my office by ³2:00 pm tomorrow. Thank you.

³**RESPONSE:**

1986 FEB 27 PM 2:00

(Rohrabacher/BE)
February 24, 1986
5:00 p.m.

1986 FEB 24 11 01 17
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: PRESIDENT BIYA OF CAMEROON
DEPARTURE STATEMENT
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1986

It has been a pleasure to have as our guest President Biya of Cameroon. President Biya's visit is a milestone in the excellent relationship between our two countries. Our discussions were warm and frank, reflecting the goodwill between us and our countries as well.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to announce that yesterday a bilateral investment treaty was signed by our governments. President Biya and I are convinced this treaty will spur economic growth and greatly benefit our peoples.

Cameroon, like the United States, is blessed with rich natural resources, a vibrant private sector, and a diverse, industrious population. But resources alone do not guarantee progress, either in economic or political terms. It takes sound, dedicated leadership. President Biya exemplifies this with his energetic commitment to national unity, reconciliation, and the liberalization of his country's political institutions.

President Biya is a highly respected leader in Africa, and today, I sought his advice on a wide range of issues. We discussed our mutual concern about international terrorism and about aggression directed against some Sub-Saharan states, specifically Chad. We agreed on the importance of working together and, with other friends, countering these dangers.

The United States and Cameroon have for several decades enjoyed a high level of cooperation. Today, we have reaffirmed

our intention to continue reinforcing our positive and constructive relationship. All Americans wish President Biya continued success in his efforts to build a prosperous and democratic Cameroon. And we wish him God speed on his journey home.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 26, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Drop-By Briefing
for Columnists and Commentators

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

ID #

CU

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1Name of Correspondent: House Clerk☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Remarks: Deputy Secretary for
Comments: a Commentator**ROUTE TO:****ACTION****DISPOSITION**

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
CU HOLL		ORIGINATOR	86 10 21 26			1 / 1
		Referral Note:				
CUat 18		R	86 10 21 26		S	86 10 21 26
		Referral Note:			5pm	
			1 / 1			1 / 1
		Referral Note:				
			1 / 1			1 / 1
		Referral Note:				
			1 / 1			1 / 1
		Referral Note:				

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/26/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5:00 P.M. TODAY

SUBJECT: REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR COLUMNISTS AND COMMENTATORS

(2/26/86 - 10:30 a.m. - draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☒	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☒	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☒	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
HENKEL	☐	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	<u>VERSTANDIG</u>	☐	☒
KINGON	☒	☐	<u>FAULKNER</u>	☐	☒
LACY	☐	☐	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	☐	☒

REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 5:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Noonan/BE)
February 26, 1986
10:30 a.m.

RECEIVED
FEB 26 11 11-27
PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR COLUMNISTS
AND COMMENTATORS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1986

Thank you, all of you, for coming here today. I wanted to meet with you because this is an important time for in our history, and as the rest of the year unfurls I want you to have a sense of what's on our minds and what's guiding our actions.

Phil Graham, as you know, once said that journalism is the first rough draft of history. That's a big truth rather economically stated. You may remember the writer Gene Fowler, who was a friend of mine. He once said, "News is history shot on the wing. The huntsmen from the Fourth Estate seek to bag only the peacock or the eagle of the swift day." That's fair enough. And as you take aim over the next few months and try to bring the news down to Earth I hope you'll keep whatever insights you gain today in mind.

I think each administration undergoes a certain amount of ebb and flow in terms of which predominates at any given moment, domestic questions or foreign policy. I'm revealing no state secrets when I tell you that right now foreign policy concerns are dominating our attention.

In the Philippines we've had a very big change. And I think the real goodness of what has happened was expressed the other night by a protester in Manila. He told an American correspondent that he was going to stay where he was, in the street, and stop the government tanks. The correspondent said, can you really stop them? The protester said -- and the crowd

cheered with him as he said it -- he said, "I would die for democracy in the Philippines."

"I would die for democracy." When is the last time you heard something like that? Not, "I would die for the revolution, or for some kind of social justice" -- but "I would die for democracy." I think that's the most moving sentence to come out of that part of the world or any other part of the world in a long, long time.

You know my feelings about what has been called not by us but by others, in fact by journalists, the Reagan Doctrine. We are trying to assist and encourage those who are risking their lives for democracy, for freedom, throughout the world. And we're not embarrassed by this. We're doing the right thing.

I have told the Congress and I am eager to get across to you the fact that this, right now, is an absolutely critical time for the Nicaraguan freedom fighters. Ortega and Cuba and the Soviets have decided to make a big push now and finish off the democratic resistance. So there's the pressure from them but at the same time the Contras have never been stronger -- they have more men in the field and more backing from the people of Nicaragua -- and just as the Communists have decided this is the time to finish them off, the freedom fighters themselves have pledged they can and will win. This is the time when they can mount the charge to change the Communist regime forever.

So: we can either help them or ignore them. If we ignore them, the idea of freedom in Nicaragua will die.

The question: can we help them, peacefully, and make a difference? The answer is yes. We're asking for \$30 million in humanitarian help for the freedom fighters and \$70 million in military assistance. That money is going to make the difference between victory and defeat.

Why should we bother? Because it's nice to say nice words about freedom and democracy? No, because it's decent and it's right, and it's of supreme importance for our own security.

If we do not help the freedom fighters now, a Communist Nicaragua will, over the next few years, happily destabilize its neighbors, bring never-ending war to Central America, cause untold hardship, violence, and pain for the people there, and create what communism always creates: a huge refugee machine. If we let this happen, some awful day down the line, an American President -- not me but one of my successors -- will have to face the dreadful question of whether to commit American troops to fight in Central America.

Well, I don't ever want that to happen. And we can avoid it. It's not inevitable, it's avoidable, we can keep it from happening by acting responsibly now.

I am putting myself personally behind the effort to help the democratic resistance movement of Nicaragua. I am going to talk about it every day if I have to. I am going to argue the case for saving Central America now, I am going to join the debate on the Hill. There's nothing more important than this.

As you cover this story here in Washington and in Nicaragua -- and it's one of the major stories of our times -- as

you cover this story I urge you to keep in mind what the stakes are...and what the truth is. I am talking about the irrefutable numbers that document Soviet and Cuban and Libyan and P.L.O. involvement in Nicaragua. I am talking about a Gallup poll showing that a majority of the people in the countries surrounding Nicaragua support continued aid to the anti-Communist rebels. I am talking about the statements of the Communist Sandinistas themselves about their clear intentions to spread their revolution as fast and as far as they can.

And I want to mention something I read in the Washington Post a week or so ago, an essay on the Op Ed page by Roberto Chamorro. You know who he is -- an editor of La Prensa and the son of Pedro Chamorro, whose murder sparked the anti-Somoza revolution. Chamorro has been trying to put out his newspaper since the Sandinistas took control, and the essay he wrote was a plea from the heart, a cry to the West for attention.

They are killing freedom of the press here, he wrote, they are daily tearing up and shutting down the last free newspaper in Nicaragua and they are gagging the last free journalists. The censorship is unrelenting, he says, and the censors are capricious. Commentators cannot question the government, news of food shortages and scarcities has been outlawed. Four reporters and one photographer have been jailed, a senior editor kidnapped, five newsmen have been forced into exile. Radio Catolica has been closed. The newspaper of the Catholic Church has been confiscated.

Chamorro's message -- the message of a liberal, an intellectual, a civilized man who fought for the revolution -- His message is simple: freedom is dying here -- help!

It is not pleasant to see freedom die. There is nothing edifying in watching it wither. In this, the month of Haiti and the Philippines,

in this time when freedom has flashed out like a great astonishing light in surprising places,

in this time when democracy is the new idea, when democracy is 'the revolution' --

in this time it is a sin to see Central America fall to darkness. And we are not going to let it happen. That's all: we're not going to let it happen, not here, not now, not ever.

I am asking Congress to follow its good instincts and help put a protective arm around the democrats of Central America. I ask Congress to join me in a spirit of shared bipartisan idealism and mutual interest. I respect those men and women on the Hill; I expect to proceed with their help and support.

That's what I wanted to say to you today. I know a number of you have traveled a great deal the past week, and we do appreciate your coming today.

And now I know you have some questions. Shoot. Don't take that too literally.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 27, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS 
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Drop By
Dinner Honoring Senator Laxalt

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1Name of Correspondent: David Chew☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Presidential Remarks: Dropby Dinner
Honoring Senator Hatch.**ROUTE TO:****ACTION****DISPOSITION**

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUHOLL</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u>	<u>86102127</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
<u>CUAT 18</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>86102127</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86102127</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 / 1</u>			<u>1 / 1</u>
	Referral Note:				

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Comments: Comments directly to Ben Elliott, info.
copy to David Chew.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM**DATE:** 2/26/86 **ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:** NOON TOMORROW**SUBJECT:** PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPBY DINNER HONORING SENATOR LAXALT
(Feb. 26 - 6:00 pm draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☐	OGLESBY	☒	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☐	☐	RYAN	☐	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☐	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☒	☐	SVAHN	☐	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
HENKEL	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	<u>ELLIOTT</u>	☐	☒
KINGON	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
LACY	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please submit your comments on the attached directly to Ben Elliott with an info copy to my office by noon tomorrow. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

David L. Chew
Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

But ladies and gentlemen, Paul says he's retiring. Maybe. But just remember: he's done everything but be President -- and, tell me, did you ever meet a man from Nevada who wouldn't take a chance?

Well, Senator, I hope you'll forgive me for having a little fun here tonight. The truth is, ladies and gentlemen, this isn't the easiest set of remarks I've ever been asked to give.

That comes from someone who's had to give a fair number of speeches -- come to think of it, Paul, you've probably had to sit through more of them than either one of us wants to admit. And I know finding the right word or expression can oftentimes mean the difference between hurting or helping, between doing this job well or not so well.

But sometimes, the words just aren't there, the task really is impossible. I guess that was what Lincoln meant at Gettysburg -- when he said these are occasions when the words must be brief -- because the feelings are so deep.

This evening is one such occasion. In the first place, I'm not sure I know what I could say to add to the understanding of Paul Laxalt by those of you who know and love him so well. In Paul Weyrich's article in the current issue of The Conservative Digest, (the title, fittingly enough, is "The Character of Paul Laxalt,") there's a story about the time Barry Goldwater was scheduled to campaign in Nevada in 1964. Everyone told Paul he could probably win his race for the Senate but only if he didn't identify himself too closely with the Senator. Paul's reply:

"Listen, Barry Goldwater is my friend, if I snubbed him now I could never look him in the face again, I would rather lose."

Paul did lose; by 84 votes. But that kind of character and courage and sense of values would later make him part of the Nation's history, one of the guiding stars for a political revolution that has shaken America and the world.

All of you know, too, the story of Paul's family. Perhaps some of you have seen the book written about his father by one of his brothers -- Sweet Promised Land. There is a wonderful picture of the elder Laxalt on the cover, he is looking out across the Sierra in Nevada, "Seeing him in a moment's pause on some high ridge," Robert Laxalt wrote, "with the wind tearing at his wild thickness of iron-gray hair and flattening his clothes to his lean frame, you could understand why this was what he was meant to be."

Seeing Paul as I have -- calm in crisis, resolute in duty, warm in friendship -- I also knew why: "this was what he was meant to be," that he too had a destiny, a destiny to be a great leader of our Nation and one of the foremost Americans of our time or of any time.

I remember back in '76 Paul was a minority of one among the Republican Governors and he gave them the first of five speeches nominating me for President. So, come to think of it Senator, I've had to sit through a few of your speeches too. Anyway, recently he gathered those three speeches in a little book. And he notes that after the last one in 1984: "Back at the hotel that same evening, a man with tears in his eyes shook my hand and

said simply, 'Great speech, Paul.' The road to this had been a long one, beset by reverses and heartbreaks and finally crowned with victory. My friend's words made all the travails worthwhile. The man shaking my hand was President Ronald Reagan."

True enough. It's also true that tonight those tears again aren't very far away. "The friend who understands you creates you," a wise man said once. Paul created because he always understood, and for that I am and shall always be grateful -- but I am humbled, too, having that so often he chose to give of himself for Nancy and for me and for America, his sweet promised land. So, yes, I owe a great deal to Paul Laxalt. But how really does that make me any different from everyone else in this room and every other man, woman, and child who enjoys the blessing of freedom in this wonderful country tonight.

There's another story Paul tells in his little book. How, like anyone, he was nervous appearing in 1984 before the packed arena and a huge nationwide television audience. But he says, "The feeling quickly disappeared when I looked down from the podium and saw the Nevada State flag with the words 'Battle Born' inscribed upon it."

His story, his State's story, but our story too; and especially our century's story. Had the times been more tranquil, many of us would have preferred some other career, perhaps, or at least a little more leisure time. I know, Paul would have made a lot more trips to a place called Marlett in the Sierra. But "history did hit us with a freight train" and we

were "battle borne." The events of our century -- world wars and totalitarian governments, so momentous, so rife with human suffering -- so gravely threatened our shining city, our sweet promised land, so we could not shirk nor deny the duty we saw before us.

Tonight we thank God that we saw our duty and did it and that our efforts have been rewarded with not just a glimmer but glow of light as this dark century comes to its close. And to the scholars who someday will seek the origin of that sudden brilliance, that sudden outburst of freedom's light in the closing decades of the 20th century -- one, we pray God, will continue to grow brighter -- I say to them: look to the son of the high mountains and the peasant herders, the son of the Sierra and the immigrant Basque family, look to a man, to a friend, to an American who gave of himself so others might live in freedom; so that his country, and his father's country, might always be a light unto the nations, a shining city on a hill -- and that sweet promised land.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Drop By Briefing
For Conference of Presidents of Major
Jewish Organizations

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 1Name of Correspondent: Leanne Chell☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Remarks: Happy Birthday for
Conference of Presidents of Major
Jewish organizations

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
CUHOLL		ORIGINATOR	86.103.103			1 1
CUH 18		Referral Note: R	86.103.103		S	86.103.103 4pm
		Referral Note:	1 1			1 1
		Referral Note:	1 1			1 1
		Referral Note:	1 1			1 1
		Referral Note:	1 1			1 1

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 3/3/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 4:00 p.m. TODAYSUBJECT: REMARKS: DROPBY BRIEFING FOR CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

(3/3/86, 10:30 a.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☒	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☒	☐	RYAN	☒	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☒	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
FIELDING	☒	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
HENKEL	☒	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒
KINGON	☒	☐		☐	☐
LACY	☐	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 4:00 p.m. today. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Gilder/BE)
March 3, 1986
10:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: DROPHY BRIEFING FOR CONFERENCE OF
PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 1986

Good afternoon and welcome to the White House Complex. That's what we call these buildings -- "the White House Complex" -- it's also what you get when you've been working here too long.

I'm glad to have this chance to meet with you today. There is a vote coming up in Congress of utmost importance and I need your support. I'm talking about our request for \$100 million in humanitarian and military aid to the democratic resistance forces in Nicaragua.

To some Americans, Nicaragua may seem a small country, far away. Why, they wonder, should we care what happens there. Why should we spend \$100 million on someone else's fight. Well, today I want to talk about why we must care; why the United States has not only a moral but a vital strategic interest in supporting freedom in Central America. There are many things at stake in this vote -- the hopes of the Nicaraguan people to live in freedom and democracy; the hopes of the people of Central and South America to live in peace, free from Communist subversion.

But there is another issue that overrides all the others -- the national security of the United States. Let there be no mistake -- if we fail to provide timely assistance now, if we abandon our allies in freedom and allow the Communists to establish a permanent beachhead on the American mainland, we will be living with the consequences for a long time to come.

There's been a lot of misinformation floating around about the true character of the Nicaraguan Communists. Perhaps it would be more accurate to call it disinformation. I sometimes wonder why people don't just listen to what the Communists themselves say because, when they're not up here in Washington lobbying Congress, they are quite open about their true intentions.

For instance, take their ties to fanatical terrorist groups in the Middle East. Those ties go back decades. Tomas Borge, Nicaragua's Minister of Interior, was one of many Sandinista Communists to train in PLO camps in Lebanon and Libya. To quote Borge's own words: "We say to our brother Arafat that Nicaragua is his land and the PLO cause is the cause of the Sandinistas." Yassar Arafat returned the compliment, saying, "The triumph of the Nicaraguans is the PLO's triumph."

Or listen to what the Sandinista Communists say about Qadhafi whom they call, quote, "...our great friend..." Borge again: "Our friendship with Libya is eternal.... Libya is a people which, in accordance with our experience, has developed solidarity without frontiers." Remember that: "solidarity without frontiers." Qadhafi, meanwhile, has been openly sending them millions of dollars of arms, because, he says, the Nicaraguan Communists fight with Libya. "They fight America on its own ground."

The Nicaraguan Communists have also drawn close to the Iranians. Just last year, the Iranian Prime Minister, who is thought to control Iran's terrorist apparatus, said to Daniel

Ortega, quote, "We consider your revolutionary country as our home."

The Sandinista Communists have matched their words with actions, joining the PLO in many terrorist assaults in the Middle East, including the attempted overthrow of the Hussein Government and the hijacking of an El Al airliner. The Sandinista terrorist who was killed in that El Al hijacking, Arguello Ryan, is now revered as a hero by the Nicaraguan Government. So much so that they recently named a large power dam after him.

The Nicaraguan Communists claim that they are not anti-semitic, just anti-Zionist. As anti-Zionists, they painted swastikas on the doors of Managua's synagogue and drove the small Jewish community into exile. Isaac Stavisky, who was there, tells of the anti-Jewish Sandinista graffiti: "Death to the Jewish Pigs," with large FSLN initials next to it, and "Beware Sandinista Justice." What was the official Sandinista response when questioned about this persecution of the Jewish community? The Jews, they said, had a, quote, "bourgeois mentality" that prevented them from adjusting to communism.

The Communists have also rolled out the welcome mat for terrorists from around the world -- not just Cubans, Bulgarians, Libyans, PLO, and Iranians, but members of the infamous Baader-Mienhoff gang, the Basque ETA, and the Italian Red Brigade. These are the thugs and lunatics who now camp out on the doorstep of the United States.

Let's not kid ourselves, the Sandinistas are self-avowed, committed Communists, and Communists since the days of Lenin have

openly advocated the use of terrorism to attain political ends. If the Sandinistas are allowed to consolidate their hold on Nicaragua, we'll have a permanent staging ground for terrorism -- a home away from home for Qadhafi, Arafat and the Ayatollah Khomeini -- just 3 hours by air from the United States border. The recent terrorist attack on the Palace of Justice in Colombia, in which the Sandinista Communists were seriously implicated, is just the beginning -- the first rumblings of a Communist earthquake that could sweep Latin America.

Some still insist that the Sandinistas are "nationalists." They laugh at the idea. They are true "international Communists," who talk about a "revolution without borders" and have willingly, even eagerly, put their country at the disposal of the Cubans and the Soviet Union. Everyone who is thinking about this aid package should ask themselves one question. The Sandinista Communists have shown themselves intent on subversion throughout Latin America. If they succeed in throwing the whole area into turmoil; if the United States must contend with a growing number of hostile, aggressive Communist states close to its borders, how willing, or able, will we be to meet our commitments to other allies? Our supply lines to Israel and our NATO allies run through the Caribbean. The Soviets are already banking on this fact -- even if some in Congress would rather ignore it.

Recently, there has been an intensive effort to discredit the democratic opposition in Nicaragua. Let me say a few words about "disinformation." Some of us have been around long enough

to know that disinformation has a long history. I remember the reports of Walter Duranty from Stalin's Russia, who denied the existence of the gulags and forced famine -- even though he had witnessed, first hand, Stalin's massive genocide. I remember Lincoln Steffens' famous statement when he returned from that land of slaughter and said, "I have been over into the future, and it works." I remember Herbert Matthews' reports on Castro before he came to power, calling him a "Jeffersonian democrat." Those reports helped shape the climate in Washington that allowed us to cut off aid to Batista and facilitate Castro's march into Havana.

Likewise, we were told Ho Chi Mihn and Pol Pot were just nationalists -- this before the mass exodus of boat people and the murder of a third of the entire population of Cambodia. History moves on, the smoke screen of lies and disinformation vanishes, and the brutal reality of communism is always laid bare. But by then it is too late.

So today we see an orchestrated effort to slander the freedom fighters. But who shall we believe -- dedicated Communists, who call their supporters in this country "useful fools"? Or lifelong democrats like Arturo Cruz, Alfonso Rebelo, Adolfo Calero, who opposed the Somoza dictatorship just as they fight the Communist tyranny today? Shall we believe Communists, whose definition of "truth" is anything that furthers their political ends, who have systematically attacked every religious denomination, extinguished all civil liberties, and waged a genocidal war against the Miskito Indians? Or believe the people

putting their lives on the line for the same values we hold sacred -- democracy, freedom, pluralism and human rights.

On national television the other night, Jim Wright said that at one time the revolutionaries in Latin America -- men such as Bolivar and San Martin -- emulated our democratic revolution. Well, Representative Wright, some still do. The freedom fighters in Nicaragua fight for democracy, too. They, too, are the moral descendants of Washington and Jefferson, though the tyranny they fight against is much more brutal than anything our forefathers could have imagined.

Soon, the Congress will be making the historic decision whether or not to help these brave men and women. The ranks of the freedom fighters continue to swell. If we give them the aid they need, the Nicaraguan people can win this battle for freedom on their own. American troops have not been asked for and are not needed. We must make sure that they never are needed. We must send money and material now, so we never have to send our American boys.

But if we hide our heads in the sand and pretend the Communist/terrorist threat in Nicaragua will go away, we are courting disaster and we will have no one to blame but ourselves. If we don't want to see the map of Latin America covered in a sea of red, lapping at our borders, we must act now. With your help and the help of other freedom-loving Americans, we can succeed in turning the tide to democracy in Nicaragua. We must succeed. Nothing less than the national security of the United States is at stake.

Thank you all and God bless you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 3, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT AND
DIRECTOR OF SPEECHWRITING

FROM: JOHN G. ROBERTS
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Reception for
National Newspaper Association

Counsel's Office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks and finds no objection to them from a legal perspective.

cc: David L. Chew

ID #

CU

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☐ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD) 1 / 1Name of Correspondent: David Chew☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____

(B) _____

(C) _____

Subject: Remarks: Reception for National
Members Association

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CUHOLL</u>	ORIGINATOR	<u>86.03.03</u>			<u>1</u> / <u>1</u>
<u>Chat 18</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u>	<u>86.03.03</u>		<u>S</u>	<u>86.03.04</u>
	Referral Note:				<u>12N</u>
		<u>1</u> / <u>1</u>			<u>1</u> / <u>1</u>
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	Referral Note:				
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ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered C - Completed
B - Non-Special Referral S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

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Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUMDATE: 3/3/86 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 12:00 NOON 3/4/86SUBJECT: REMARKS: RECEPTION FOR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

(3/3/86, 12:00 p.m. draft)

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	OGLESBY	☒	☐
REGAN	☐	☒	POINDEXTER	☒	☐
MILLER	☒	☐	RYAN	☒	☐
BUCHANAN	☒	☐	SPEAKES	☐	☒
CHAVEZ	☒	☐	SPRINKEL	☐	☐
CHEW	☐	☒	STEELMAN	☐	☐
DANIELS	☒	☐	SVAHN	☒	☐
FIELDING	☐	☐	THOMAS	☒	☐
HENKEL	☐	☐	TUTTLE	☐	☐
HICKS	☐	☐	VERSTANDIG	☐	☒
KINGON	☒	☐	FAULKNER	☐	☒
LACY	☐	☐	ELLIOTT	☐	☒

REMARKS: Please give your comments/edits directly to Ben Elliott, with an info copy to my office by 12:00 p.m. tomorrow. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

(Robinson/BE)
March 3, 1986
12:00 Noon

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: RECEPTION FOR NATIONAL NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1986

Ladies and gentlemen of the National Newspaper Association, good evening and welcome to the White House. It's an honor to be able to speak to so many of the men and women whose labors keep our Nation well-informed. Addressing so many publishers and editors, I can't help thinking of my favorite journalist -- no, not Sam Donaldson, but a newspaperman called Mark Twain.

Of course we cherish Twain for his brilliant wit. It was he who said, "Clothes do make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society." On morals, Twain said simply this: "Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest." And on politics, Twain made a remark that I often find coming to mind. "It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse races."

Well, Washington today as always is beset by differences of opinion -- a hundred horse races of issues and policy going on all around us. With your permission, I'd like to focus on just one -- a great debate that will determine the shape of our foreign policy for decades to come; a debate that concerns a single country: Nicaragua.

Five years ago, the Communists in Nicaragua brought months of fighting in the countryside to an end when they marched triumphantly down the avenues of Managua, the nation's capital, and took control of the government. Thousands of Nicaraguans danced in the streets. The new Sandinista leaders claimed to

embrace the highest ideals of individual liberty, democracy, and economic opportunity. Friendly nations provided the new government with economic aid -- the United States alone contributed some \$__ million -- and Sandinista officials went on radio and television to promise free elections. Across Nicaragua, hopes ran high.

Soon these hopes were crushed.

Just months after taking power, the Communists began to oust their critics -- even many who had supported the revolution. They grasped total control of the military and began to build a totalitarian state.

Today, all news media in Nicaragua are subject to official censors. Radio Catolica, the voice of the Catholic Church, has been silenced, and La Prensa, the last privately owned newspaper, is subject to constant and often violent threats. The Communists have placed under the deadening hand of state control more than four-tenths of the nation's agriculture and over half of its industry. They have driven the Jewish community out of the country and practiced virtual genocide against the Miskito Indians, killing more than __ thousand of these gentle people. Soviet, East German, and Cuban soldiers swarm in the thousands across the country. So it is that in Nicaragua we see one of the most monstrous crimes of our century -- simply put, the murder of freedom in a nation that had the chance to become a democracy.

And the Communists have already made clear their intentions to spread communism across their borders. They are the principal suppliers of the guerillas in El Salvador. They masterminded the

recent killing of Colombia's Supreme Court Justices. And they have constantly harassed their smaller, unprotected neighbors.

They've built their original, lightly-armed force of 5,000 men into a heavily-equipped army of more than 100,000. They possess scores of long-range howitzers and rocket-launchers, hundreds of armored vehicles, and some 30 Soviet-made helicopters as massive and deadly as flying tanks. This military might represents a force far more powerful than that of any neighboring countries.

Above all, it is the national interests of the United States that are now threatened.

In purely military terms, Nicaragua could be used as a staging base for strikes against our Caribbean Sea lanes -- sea lanes that bear almost half our foreign trade and more than half our imports of crude oil. But a graver threat arises from the possibility that as the Communists continue to spread violence and unrest among their neighbors, refugees -- millions of feetpeople, and, yes, terrorists, too -- will stream toward our borders.

How many times have we seen the same tragedy enacted? Germans fleeing from East to West before the erection of the Berlin Wall. Boat people, escaping Communist terror in Vietnam. Ethiopians fleeing, sick and starving, from a famine that has been used by the Communist government of Ethiopia against whole segments of the population.

The flight from communism in Central America has already begun. Some 120,000 people have fled Nicaragua, many flooding into Costa Rica. If the Sandinistas are allowed to export

totalitarianism, the flood will grow, and our own Southern States could become awash with a tidal wave of the homeless.

The freedom fighters inside Nicaragua represent our shield of safety. They can avert this disaster and replace it, at last, with a true democracy. Today these freedom fighters number ____ -- three times more than the number who fought Somoza. To those who claim that the freedom fighters are being led by former members of Somoza's forces, we can only say, listen to the actual roll: Eden Pastora, a hero in the anti-Somoza revolution. Adolfo Calero, who was imprisoned by Somoza. Pedro Chamorro, former editor of La Prensa, the newspaper that led the press opposition to Somoza. Arturo Cruz, an anti-Somoza activist and a former member of the Sandinista junta.

Recently, there has been an intensive effort to discredit the democratic opposition in Nicaragua. Some of us have been around long enough to know that such disinformation has a long history. I remember the reports of Walter Duranty from Stalin's Russia, who denied the existence of the gulags and forced famine -- even though he had witnessed, firsthand, Stalin's massive genocide. I remember Lincoln Steffens' famous statement when he returned from that land of slaughter and said, "I have been over into the future, and it works." I remember Herbert Matthews' reports on Castro before he came to power, calling him a "Jeffersonian democrat." Those reports helped shape the climate in Washington that allowed us to cut off aid to Batista and facilitate Castro's march into Havana.

Likewise we were told Ho Chi Minh and Pol Pot were just nationalists -- before the boat people, and before Cambodia was

nearly devoured by cruel and massive starvation. History moves on, the smoke screen of lies and disinformation vanishes, and the brutal reality of communism is always laid bare. But by then it is too late.

Today we see an orchestrated effort to slander the freedom fighters. But whom shall we believe -- dedicated Communists, who call their supporters in this country "useful fools;" or shall we believe lifelong democrats like Arturo Cruz and Adolfo Calero, people who opposed the Somoza dictatorship just as they fight the Communist tyranny today?

This month, I'm asking the Congress for a mixture of military and humanitarian aid for the freedom fighters. Yes, there is congressional opposition to this proposal, but I can only call to mind what happened a year ago when the House voted against aid to the freedom fighters. The very next day, the little dictator showed his true allegiance by flying to Moscow. The Congress was forced to reconsider its decision, and this time it voted to give the freedom fighters aid. The episode reminded me of a professor who asked Mark Twain whether Twain knew that, in the entire English language, there were only two words in which the letter "s" had the sound "sh" -- sugar and sumac. Twain looked at him for a moment, then said simply, "Are you sure?"

The time has come when we can be sure -- sure that the Communists bode ill for their country and our hemisphere; sure that the freedom fighters can lead Nicaragua to a better way. Congressional defeat of this aid proposal will deliver Nicaragua permanently into the Communist bloc, creating a second Cuba on the mainland of North America. It would invite strategic

disaster and say to the world that, in an hour of need, the United States deserted an ally. Think of those brave men hiding in the hills, often living off the land, braving death. And picture the tens of thousands of children for whom this crisis will decide whether they grow up in a nation seeking prosperity through liberty, or in a poor and backward Communist state that censors the press and harasses the Church.

The freedom fighters need so little. In the name of the very ideals upon which our own Nation was founded, we must meet those needs. I ask you to help -- you who can be so persuasive by way of your editorial pages and whose opinions are so highly valued in the communities we serve. Just as we stand for freedom in the rugged land of Haiti, just as we believe in human rights for the green islands of the Philippines, let us take a stand for democracy in the mountains and plains of Nicaragua.

Thank you, and God bless you all.