Superintendent

General Moorman - please be seated

REMARKS Gentlemen

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

General Smith - Commandant of Cadets

Gen McDermott - Dean of Faculty

Gen Strother - Commander Hqtrs

Gen Thatcher - Commander Air Defense Command

Col Hallenbeck - Academy Chief of Staff

THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

APRIL 15, 1966

Greetings from General McConnell Chief of Staff Air Force Sec't Harold Brown

Although only the Air Force is represented here today, I must, in my position, attempt to avoid partiality!

In this regard, I am reminded of the remark of General Malin Craig, Army Chief of Staff in the 1930's to President Franklin D. Roosevelt:

"Sir, I don't mind when you speak of the Army as 'them', but I find it disturbing that you always refer to the Navy as 'us.'" #

It was seventy years ago this May that Samuel Pierpont Langley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute,

as Chr of Space Council - I present to the Air Force Academy 3 Books of Photographs taken of the Moon by Ranger 6 and 7

launched his sixteen-foot, steam-powered model airplane off the Potomac River and flew a half a mile in the incredible time of 90 seconds.

Langley's plane was a model. It did not carry a man. We had to wait until 1903 and Kitty Hawk for that.

But it all began 70 years ago.

Seventy years -- in the larger scheme of history -- is not a very long time.

~~But though those~~ While seventy years are but the average length of a full American life, they reach back into an incredibly distant world -- a world that has receded from us by a quantum of change that no other period in the vast sweep of human history can surpass.

One measure of that change is flight itself.

I flew here this morning from Washington -- nonstop -- in 3 hours and 20 minutes.

Had I made the flight from Washington to Colorado Springs in Langley's plane, it would have required 127 days -- and we would have had to make 2,987 fuel stops along the way.

I think you will admit that even for a well-traveled Vice President that would have constituted the ultimate in whistle-stopping. !! (I've traveled over 300,000 miles since Jan 1965 - about 90 trips!)

300,000 miles in 16 mo.

The world of 1896 -- the world in which powered flight began -- was not entirely a peaceful world, nor a completely comfortable one. There were crises, and there were confrontations.

But the problems of national security then were small compared to those today.

You have lived most of your lives in a world in which national security was equated with the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States.

As recently as two and one-half years ago, the attention of the world focused on the direct nuclear confrontation between Washington and Moscow over Cuba. Only a few months earlier, American and Russian tanks had stood face-to-face in Berlin.

Today the nuclear confrontation of the superpowers has given way to less obvious, but not less important, confrontations stretching from Vietnam to Santo Domingo, from Laos to the Congo.

We have moved from a period of dangerously-abnormal simplicity into a period of more-normal diversity.

But the conflicts we face -- the challenges we confront -- are no less important for our national security.

The strong Western nations face "wars of national liberation," international subversion, border conflicts, and many smaller + weaker nations —

and internal rebellions without the unifying cement of fear which bound us into an effective cohesive alliance -- from the days of the Greek-Turkish crisis of 1947 to the missile crisis of October 1962.

Since then we have witnessed conventional warfare in the Himalayan Mountains between China and India.

We have seen a surge of subversion in Latin America through guerrilla training and launching, sabotage and infiltration.

We have painfully observed and met head on the systematic campaign of terror and military aggression launched by Communist forces against the government of South Vietnam.

These situations are a peril to both the peace of the world and the security of unstable nations. They carry with them the possibilities of great power intervention and of rapid escalation.

Our national security is no longer primarily a question of holding back Soviet-directed imperialism across national boundaries.

It is a matter of meeting another -- and still expansionist communism -- in Southeast Asia.

It is, most important of all, a matter of helping the small, weak nations of the world strengthen themselves -- economically, politically, socially -- so that they can withstand a thousand varied assaults on their national integrities.

It is a matter of helping these nations, in many cases, build stable and democratic institutions from the ground up — nation-building - slow, costly - preserving

It is a matter, too, of helping mobilize our Western partners to the effort — sharing the burden.

This is the world you will enter: A world in which "duty" may mean manning a Minuteman site -- or working

in shirtsleeves with illiterate peasants in a country which came into being after you were born.

You will be challenged not only by problems of aerodynamics, but also by problems of containing and transforming the wellsprings of war itself into stable societies -- societies at once strong enough to defend themselves against outside aggression; and healthy enough to throw off the internal infection of insurgency and revolution.

We can, I think, agree with Mao Tse-tung that the next great series of conflicts which threaten our national security are most likely to erupt across the arching span of Asia, Africa, and Latin America -- in the restless new world of developing nations.

Not only in Vietnam, but in all the predictable insurgencies of the future, the American military man must know how to inject the antibodies of social reconstruction

into the diseased and Communist-infected bloodstream of a disabled nation. We must build - Create - Construct

Tomorrow you will have to deal with an incredibly complex technology -- a technology so galloping that even now the new scientific information published worldwide each single day would be enough to fill seven complete 24-volume sets of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

You will have to be more than an expert technician. You will have to be not only a competent natural scientist, but a competent social scientist as well.

That is why, in leafing through your Academy catalog, I am so encouraged to find not only courses such as "Matrix Vector Analysis;" "Orthogonal Expansions and Analytic Probability;" and "Astrodynamics;" but courses as well in "Western World Literature;" "Great Issues in American History;" "Economic Problems of Developing Areas;"

"Political Parties and the Democratic Process;" "Labor-Management Relations;" and "Philosophical Analysis."

It is precisely this carefully balanced mixture of science and the arts, technology and the humanities that makes your curriculum so strong -- and [redacted] so well calculated to prepare you for the un-simple world ahead.

I know there are some older officers -- though only a minority -- who believe that the younger officers of today should spend less time in the classroom, and more time in the cockpit.

I don't doubt that you yourselves, on occasion, would trade the quiet grey of the study hall for a little more of the wild blue yonder.

But if you are really going to tame that wild blue yonder -- and today it is a lot more yonder than yesterday -- you will need every ounce of academic excellence you can acquire. Plus flying skill!

It is not a case of classroom versus cockpit. It is much more a case of excellence versus mediocrity in all things.

So I urge you to take every possible advantage of the magnificent opportunities that lie ahead for you in an Air Force career.

Some 85 per cent of those who have graduated from this Academy have elected to remain in that career.

It is a career that will help preserve -- and help build -- in the broadest sense our national security, and the security of freedom in a volatile, restless, changing world.

I wish you well in it.

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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT H. HUMPHREY AT THE
AIR FORCE ACADEMY, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO,
APRIL 15, 1966

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Our national security is no longer primarily a question of holding back Soviet-directed imperialism across national boundaries.

It is a matter of meeting another -- and still expansionist communism -- in Southeast Asia.

It is, most important of all, a matter of helping the small, weak nations of the world strengthen themselves -- economically, politically, socially -- so that they can withstand a thousand varied assaults on their national integrities.

It is a matter of helping these nations, in many cases, build stable and democratic institutions from the ground up.

It is a matter, too, of helping mobilize our Western partners to the effort.

This is the world you will enter: A world in which "duty"may mean manning a Minuteman site -- or working in shirtsleeves with illerate peasants in a country which came into being after you were born.

You will be challenged not only by problems of aerodynamics, but also by problems of containing and transforming the wellsprings of war itself into stable societies -- societies at once strong enough to defend themselves against outside aggression; and healthy enough to throw off the internal infection of insurgency.

We can, I think, agree with Mao Tse-tung that the next great series of conflicts which threaten our national security are most likely to erupt across the arching span of Asia,

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Not only in Vietnam, but in all the predictable insurgencies of the future, the American military man must know how to inject the antibodies of social reconstruction into the diseased and Communist-infected bloodstream of a disabled nation.

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I wish you well in it.

[Transcript]

REMARKS BY
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
AT THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY
APRIL 15, 1966

Thank you.

Gentlemen, please be seated.

General Moorman, officers and cadets of the Air Force Academy, first may I take just a moment to make a presentation to the Air Force Academy of some documents that I hope will be of interest.

Beside me are three large books of photographs. Pictures not of these beautiful Rocky Mountains, nor of this lovely area around this Academy site, but nontheless important pictures of the moon taken by Rangers 6 & 7. It is my privilege to present to the Air Force Academy the three books of photographs.

As you know, Ranger 7 was launched on July 27, 1964 and the photographs taken on that occasion contain new and important data relating to the surface and the environment of the moon. I have a strong feeling that there are men in this room who will visit the moon in the not too distant future. At first, it will be a long trip for such a short stay, but a marvelous experience. Later we will stay longer.

Gentlemen, it's my first visit to the Academy -- I want to express my appreciation to the honor guard that greeted us today and to the band that selected one of the most important pieces of music ever written -- "Hail to Minnesota." There were times when it always was the sound of victory. There are times now that I wish I heard it a little more often and as of old. Mrs. Humphrey and I had the priviledge this morning with Congressman Evans of this Congressional District of Colorado to visit some of your classes and observe some of the scientific experimentation being accomplished here. More important -- to see the greatest asset of our country -- the young men that are here in this academy and are symbolic and representative of this nation.

Now, members of the Air Force will have to be a bit tolerant with me -- I am not Dr. Brown the Secretary of the Air Force, its Chief of Staff General McConnell, but I do bring to you their greetings.

As your Vice President, I shall attempt to avoid any interservice partiality because I intend to visit Army, Navy, and Marine Corps bases a little later, and there is a way that word gets around as to what you've said at the last place.

I recall a remark of General Malin Craig who was Army Chief of Staff in the 1930's and General Craig was visiting with then President of the United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt. And here is the report of the conversation at least on the part of General Craig of the Army.

He said, "Sir, I don't mind when you speak of the Army as 'them,' but I do find it disturbing that you always refer to the Navy as 'us.'"

Gentlemen, my remarks today are for that great team - the military forces.

It was just seventy years ago this May that Samuel Pierpont Langley, who at that time was Secretary of the Smithsonian Institute, launched his sixteen-foot steam-powered model airplane over the Potomac River. It flew a half a mile in the incredible time of 90 seconds -- a speed equal to one mile in a hundred and eighty seconds. You have that model here in your museum.

Langley's plane was just a model. It did not carry a man and it didn't have any electronic equipment. We waited until 1903 for the Wright Brothers and their Kitty Hawk for a manned flight.

The flight at Kitty Hawk was on December 17, 1903 and that first flight lasted 12 seconds -- less than 110 feet of actual flight distance. The maximum speed was 40 miles an hour. Seventy years and 63 years ago -- those wonderful successful experiments occurred.

Neither seventy years, or 63 years, in the larger scheme of history is a very long time.

While seventy years are today the average length of an American life, that time span reachs back into an incredible distant world. During it, there has been a quantum of change in technology that no other period in the vast sweep of human history can even equal or surpass.

Now one measure of the change taking place in this world is flight itself. In fact, a measurement of that change is this Academy -- a new academy which represents a recognition on the part of this country of the invaluable resource of airpower, of knowledge of aerodynamics and indeed of space flight itself.

I flew here this morning from Washington in a Lockheed Jetstar -- nonstop -- in about 3 hours and 10 minutes.

Had I made the flight from Washington to Colorado Springs in Langley's plane, it would have required 127 days -- and we would have had to make 2,987 fuel stops along the way.

I think that you will have to admit that to even a well-traveled Vice President, this would have constituted the ultimate in whistle-stopping. I may not have made it -- there might have been a few people at each stop that I had to talk to or wanted to talk to or shake hands with.

I asked our pilot today, Major Drummond, and my military aide, Colonel Paffel, how many miles have I traveled by plane since I became Vice President less than 16 months ago. They replied, "Over 300,000 miles and you have made over 90 trips." The amazing change of communication and transportation makes this all possible.

The world of 1896 -- Langley's world in which powered flight began -- wasn't a very peaceful world either nor was it a completely comfortable one. There were then as now crises, and there were confrontations of great military powers.

But the problems of national security in that day were small compared to those of today.

You've lived most of your lives in a world in which national security, when it's spoken of or discussed, was equated with the relationship between the Soviet Union and the United States. As recently as two and one-half years ago, the attention of the entire world was focused on the direct nuclear confrontation between Washington and Moscow over Cuba. I was called into that conference by the late and beloved President Kennedy. I remember being in my home state of Minnesota -- of being called back and being told and shown the photographic evidence of the placement of nuclear missiles in Cuba by the Soviet Union. It was one of the most serious moments of our current history.

Only a few months before that, American and Russian tanks had stood face-to-face in Berlin.

Today the nuclear confrontation of the superpowers has given way to less obvious, but no less important, confrontations stretching from Vietnam to Santo Domingo, from Laos to the Congo.

We've moved from a period of dangerously-abnormal simplicity into a period of more-normal, yet dangerous, diversity.

But the conflicts that we face -- and the challenges that we confront -- are no less important to our national security than was the challenge at Cuba or in Berlin a little less than three years ago.

The strong Western nations, and indeed, many small and weaker nations, face wars which are called "wars of national liberation," in the form of international subversion, border conflicts and internal rebellions. Their struggle will be the unifying cement of fear which bound us into an effective cohesive alliance from the days of the Greek-Turkish crisis of 1947 to the missile crisis of October 1962.

We are witnessing the recent developments in Europe and NATO. One of our partners now feels sufficiently secure to withdraw that country's forces from the NATO command. It only represents the vast change that's taken place in the world today,

the rehabilitation of other nations -- the new strength that's found in Western Europe. I might also add, the security which many nations find under the protective umbrella of American power -- American power that's committed to the defense of many nations and millions of people throughout this earth.

Since the earlier days of the late 40's and in early 1900's we have witnessed conventional warfare in the Himalayan Mountains between China and India.

We've seen a surge of subversion in Latin America through guerilla training and launching, sabotage and infiltration. We have a troubled world.

And we've painfully observed and have met head on the systematic campaign of terror and military aggression launched by Communist forces against the government of South Vietnam.

And may I digress for a moment to say that I visited that area not long ago and every member of the Air Force should stand just a little taller, be a little prouder and indeed a little more deeply committed to our nation because of what our men in arms are doing in that beleaguered part of the world.

I take this moment to commend and congratulate the officers and the men of the United States Air Force and indeed of every branch of our service that are in Vietnam. They are the finest fighting men that any nation ever put on the field of battle. The finest citizens that any nation ever offered to another country. They are living examples of good conduct, of bravery, of courage and of ability second to none. That's the kind of men that we have today in Vietnam. You should be proud of them and I know you are.

Now these situations that I previously referred to are a peril to both the peace of the world and the security of weak and unstable nations. They carry with them the possibilities of great power intervention and rapid escalation.

Our national security, to which you have given your commitment, is no longer primarily a question of holding back Soviet-directed imperialism across national boundaries. To be sure, that threat is ever present, but it is not the only threat. It is a matter of meeting another expansionist communist movement in Southeast Asia -- indeed throughout Asia.

Most important of all, it is a matter of helping the small, the weak nations of the world to strengthen themselves -- economically, politically, socially -- so that they can by themselves withstand varied assaults on their national integrities and national boundaries.

It is a matter of helping these nations, in many cases, build stable and democratic institutions from the ground up.

Today America is not only engaged in the defense of other lands; your America is engaged in helping other lands build nations and build the spirit of national unity. This is a slow and costly and difficult process. It will test the patience of this nation as never before.

It is also a matter of helping mobilize our Western partners to the effort, asking them to share the burdens and not to leave this to us alone.

This is the world that's yours, it's a difficult world, but it has more tools, more resources to do the job that needs to be done than any other time in this world's history.

It's a world in which "duty" may mean manning a Minuteman site, as some of you will -- or working in shirtsleeves with illiterate peasants in a country which came into being as a country after you were born.

You'll be challenged not only by problems of aerodynamics, but also by problems of containing and transforming the wellsprings of war into stable societies -- societies that must be strong enough to defend themselves against outside aggression. Healthy enough to through off the internal infection of insurgency, rebellion and revolution.

We can, I think, agree with the leader of Chinese Communism, Mao Tse-tung, that the next great series of conflicts which threaten our national security and world peace are most likely to erupt across the arching span of Asia, Africa and Latin America, in the restless new world of the developing nations. May I encourage every young man here to know about that part of the world. One of the great tragedies of America today is our lack of knowledge about Asia, Africa and Latin America. We're a European oriented people. We've looked to Europe. Most of us have our forebears from Europe and our literature, our music, our art. I submit to this generation of young Americans -- your life will depend more on what happens in Asia, in Latin America, and Africa than any other part of this world. Therefore, to study it, to know it, to become acquainted with these vast areas of this globe is a matter of survival. It's a matter of your life or death. It is no longer just an academic exercise.

I'm one of those men in public life that happens to believe that much of the difficulty we presently find ourselves in might well have been avoided had we have known more about the world in which we live. We're a world power with a half-world knowledge, and you cannot be a good world power, my fellow Americans, with a half-world knowledge. You cannot be the leader of free peoples, which we did not ask for but which we are by the facts of history, and know only about the peoples of Europe -- important and vital to us as they are.

Our future is greatly dependent upon the kind of social, economic, and political conditions that will prevail in the area of the world where better than two billion of God's children live -- the Asian area, the African area, the Latin American area.

Just the other day when we were visiting with Madame Ghandi, the prime minister of India, I happened to note in my study in preparation for that visit that the total population of Africa and South America alone is less than the population of India. We need to know about India, Japan, China, Southeast Asia and the sub-continent.

We need to know before it's too late because "the lights can go out" unless we understand the dynamics of survival and of progress in this world.

So there is a restless world that we need to know and that restlessness is not only in Vietnam, but in all the predictable insurgencies of the future; the American military man must know how to inject the antibodies of social reconstruction into the diseased and Communist-infected bloodstream of a disabled nation.

You are, in a very real sense, doctors called upon to inject these antibodies of social reconstruction and reform into areas of the world that are infected with a disease that can consume all of us unless it can be checked.

We are the builders, my fellow Americans, not the destroyers. We seek to construct, we seek to give life, not to take it, and we also seek to defend life when it's under attack.

Tomorrow you will have to deal with an incredibly complex technology -- you already know more about it than many of your elders -- a technology so galloping that even now the new scientific information published worldwide each single day would be enough to fill seven complete 24-volume sets of Encyclopedia Britannica. That's the rapid rate of accumulation of technological knowledge in the world today.

You will have to be more than an expert technician. You will have to be not only a competent scientist -- natural scientist, physical scientist -- but a competent social scientist as well.

And that is why, in leafing through your Academy catalog, I'm so encouraged to find not only courses such as "Matrix Vector Analysis," (which would confound me any day); "Orthogonal Expansions and Analytical Probability" (of which I know little or nothing), and "Astrodynamics" (which at least rings a bell or two), but I also found important courses such as "Western World Literature," "Great Issues in American History," "Economic Problems of the Developing Areas," "Political Parties and the Democratic Process," "Labor-Management Relations," and "Philosophical Analysis."

It is precisely this carefully balanced mixture of the science and the arts, of technology and the humanities, that makes your curriculum so strong -- and so well calculated to prepare you for the infinitely complex world ahead.

I know there may be some older officers -- though only a tiny minority -- who believe that younger officers of today should spend less time in the classroom, and more time in the cockpit.

Now I don't doubt that you yourselves, on occasion, would trade the quiet grey of the study hall for a little more of the wild blue yonder.

But let me say, gentlemen, if you are really going to tame that wild blue yonder in the professional sense -- and today it is a lot more yonder than it was yesterday -- you will need every ounce of academic excellence that you can acquire, plus flying skill that exceeds any degree of skill known by any other group of men.

It is not a case of the classroom versus the cockpit. It's not a case of the book versus machine. It is much more a case of excellence versus mediocrity in all things. My fellow Americans, we have to be better than anyone else. There are fewer of us. We cannot have less than excellence.

Because, remember this -- anybody can do what's just about right. Anybody can do what's possible. The difference between a great man and an ordinary man and the difference between a great nation and an ordinary nation is that the great nation and the great man does what some people think is impossible.

And the United States of America has built its history upon the achievement of the impossibilities of our time. And when I hear people say that it is impossible to obtain peace in a troubled world, then all I can say is: If it's impossible, then there is no world. So it must become possible. The impossibility must become our minimum standard. And when I hear people say that it will be impossible to explore the universe, that, to me, is but a challenge to make sure that it is done sooner than later.

It's my privilege to serve as chairman of the National Aeronautics and Space Council coordinating the space activities of this government. The future that lies in great unknown of outer space is, to me, the most dramatic, exciting challenge of discovery that any generation or future generations ever faced or will face. It makes what others have tried to do and done seem as but a preface to the main study or the main event.

So I urge everyone of you to take every possible advantage of the magnificent opportunities that are yours -- the opportunities that lie ahead for you in this academy, in advance study and in the Air Force career.

The Air Force career is an honorable profession, highly respected, and one that prepared you for the fullness of life in many areas of human activity.

Some 85 percent of those who have graduated from this fine Academy have elected to remain in that career of the Air Force, and we owe then an eternal debt of gratitude because they've helped man the ramparts of freedom.

I believe that it is a career that will help preserve -- and help build -- in the broadest sense our national security, and the security of freedom in a volatile, restless and changing world.

I truly envy this generation because never has a group of men and women have been given so much to do in such a short period of time and yet with so much to do it with. Whole new areas of discovery are at our fingertips and vast new openings of the mind and the spirit are present today. I believe that the men who are in this room right now will see a world, not of ashes, but of promise, and will find a world in which human dignity is enhanced rather than destroyed.

I say I believe that because this is our commitment, and whatever may be your doubts about your country or whatever may be your concern or even your fears about this world, do not underestimate the capacity of man to preserve himself. Do not underestimate the power -- the strength -- the ability -- the political

ability -- the military power -- the industrial wealth and the spiritual wealth of this nation, the United States of America that gives leadership not only to this continent but is privileged to give leadership to men all over the world that believe in freedom and aspire to its benefits.

Gentlemen, I want to thank you for the privilege of being with you. It's a high honor for me and I salute you and commend you on behalf of the people of the United States for your willingness to give of your time, your mind, your heart, your body, your life to the welfare of this republic.

Thank you.

END

Minnesota
Historical Society