

8/14/80
5:00 P.M.

REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT WALTER F. MONDALE
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION ACCEPTANCE SPEECH
NEW YORK CITY
AUGUST 14, 1980

MR. SPEAKER, FELLOW AMERICANS, FELLOW DEMOCRATS:

I AM HONORED TO ACCEPT YOUR NOMINATION. I AM PROUD TO
BE JIMMY CARTER'S RUNNING MATE. AND I AM PROUD TO RUN ON OUR
PARTY'S PROGRESSIVE PLATFORM.*

THE PARTY OF ALL THE PEOPLE

THIS HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY WEEK IN AMERICAN POLITICS.
WE HAVE JUST HELD THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE, MOST OPEN POLITICAL
CONVENTION IN AMERICAN HISTORY.*

LAST MONTH IN DETROIT, ANOTHER CONVENTION WAS HELD --
ISOLATED IN A BUBBLE OF PRIVILEGE FROM THE CITY THAT HOSTED
THEM.

A COMFORTABLE CONVENTION, COMPOSED OF AMERICA'S WEALTHY,
TOLD US THEY SYMBOLIZED THE NATION.

A MALAPPORTIONED CONVENTION, WHERE THE CITIES WERE DENIED
THEIR SHARE OF DELEGATES, TOLD US THEY SYMBOLIZED DEMOCRACY.

A TOKEN CONVENTION, WHOSE WORKERS AND WOMEN AND MINORITIES SAT AT THE BACK OF THE BUS, TOLD US THEY SYMBOLIZED THE PEOPLE.

THEY SPOKE OF REALISM -- AND CHEERED THE GOLD STANDARD. THEY SPOKE OF TRUTH -- AND SAID FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT CAUSED WORLD WAR II. THEY SPOKE OF MODERATION -- AND VINDICATED BARRY GOLDWATER. THEY SPOKE OF JUSTICE -- WITH A SCRIPT BY PHYLLIS SCHLAFELY. THEY SPOKE OF FAIRNESS -- WITH A TEXT BY JESSE HELMS.

BUT TONIGHT, THIS DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IS A MIRROR OF ALL AMERICA -- ALL OF IT,* BLACK AND WHITE, ASIAN AND HISPANIC, NATIVE AND IMMIGRANT, MALE AND FEMALE, YOUNG AND OLD, URBAN AND RURAL, WHITE COLLAR AND BLUE COLLAR.

WHEN WE SPEAK OF PEACE -- THE VOICE IS ED MUSKIE'S. WHEN WE SPEAK OF WORKERS -- THE WORDS ARE LANE KIRKLAND'S AND DOUG FRASER'S. WHEN WE SPEAK OF FREEDOM -- THE DREAM IS CORETTA KING'S. WHEN WE SPEAK OF COMPASSION -- THE FIRE IS TED KENNEDY'S.* WHEN WE SPEAK OF COURAGE -- THE SPIRIT IS JIMMY CARTER'S.* WHEN WE IN THIS HALL SPEAK FOR AMERICA -- IT IS AMERICA THAT IS SPEAKING.*

WHAT WE BELIEVE

TONIGHT, AT THIS DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION, LET US OPENLY DECLARE OUR FAITH: WE BELIEVE IN THE FUNDAMENTAL DECENCY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND WE BELIEVE IN STRONG, EFFICIENT, COMPASSIONATE GOVERNMENT.

WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICA'S GREATEST STRENGTH IS ITS VALUES. OUR LOVE OF FREEDOM, OUR SENSE OF FAIRNESS, OUR SPIRIT OF SERVICE; THESE BELIEFS HAVE BEEN PASSED ON IN EVERY ACCENT THAT AMERICA SPEAKS -- IN POLISH AND ITALIAN AND YIDDISH AND GREEK; AT KITCHEN TABLES IN BOSTON, ON FAMILY FARMS IN MY OWN MIDWEST.

WE DEMOCRATS BELIEVE THAT GOVERNMENT CAN SERVE THOSE VALUES. NO GOVERNMENT CAN GUARANTEE A PERFECT LIFE FOR ANYONE. NO GOVERNMENT CAN SUBSTITUTE FOR OUR FAMILIES, OUR CHURCHES, OUR SYNAGOGUES, OUR NEIGHBORHOODS, OUR VOLUNTEERS. BUT A PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT MUST DO TWO THINGS. IT MUST CREATE THE CONDITIONS TO HELP ALL PEOPLE BUILD BETTER LIVES FOR THEMSELVES. AND IT MUST DO SO EFFICIENTLY AND HONESTLY AND FAIRLY.

REAGAN'S VISION

THOSE ARE THE BELIEFS WE SHARE TOGETHER AS DEMOCRATS. BUT THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT HAS A DIFFERENT VIEW OF GOVERNMENT. HE TELLS US INSTEAD [AND I USE HIS OWN WORDS] THAT "THE BEST THING THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO IS NOTHING."

WE DISAGREE. LET HIM ASK THE AUTO WORKER IN DETROIT IF THE RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING IS "NOTHING." LET HIM ASK THE SENIOR CITIZEN IN PHILADELPHIA IF SOCIAL SECURITY INDEXED FOR INFLATION IS "NOTHING." LET HIM ASK THE FRESHMAN IN CHICAGO IF STUDENT ASSISTANCE IS "NOTHING." LET HIM ASK THE FAMIL IN BOULDER IF CLEAN AIR AND PURE WATER AND PROTECTED WILDERNESS ARE "NOTHING." LET HIM ASK THE PEOPLE OF SELMA IF THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS "NOTHING."

THOSE RIGHTS, THOSE PROGRAMS, ARE THE WORK OF THE DEMOCRATS. EVERY ONE OF THEM WAS FIERCELY OPPOSED BY THE REPUBLICANS. THEY'VE BEEN OUT OF STEP WITH AMERICA FOR 50 YEARS. AND THEIR NOMINEE IS OUT OF STEP WITH AMERICA TODAY.*

TODAY, MOST AMERICANS, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY; EVEN FOUR DECADES OF REPUBLICANS GOING BACK TO WENDELL WILLKIE; ALL OF THEM WANT THE CONSTITUTION TO GUARANTEE THE EQUAL RIGHTS OF WOMEN -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.*

TODAY, MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT WE MUST HAVE STRONG FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION AND A DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DELIVER IT -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.*

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT NO FAMILY SHOULD BE IMPOVERISHED BY MEDICAL DEBTS WHEN TRAGIC ILLNESS STRIKES -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.*

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE IN LABOR LAW REFORM TO PROTECT THE WORKER RIGHTS WE WON IN THE '30S -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE THAT WORKERS' HEALTH AND SAFETY SHOULD BE PROTECTED BY A STRONG FEDERAL LAW -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE WE NEED ENERGY CONSERVATION TO CUT OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.

MOST AMERICANS, INCLUDING THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, BELIEVE IN A JUDICIARY FREE FROM RIGHT-WING LOYALTY TESTS -- BUT NOT RONALD REAGAN.*

KEMP-ROTH

AND YET THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE WANTS US TO FORGET ALL HE STANDS FOR. FORGET FORTY YEARS OF EXTREME POSITIONS.

ALL OF A SUDDEN WE ARE TOLD THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IS FOR JOBS. THE PARTY THAT GAVE US BOTH THE GREAT DEPRESSION, AND THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT SINCE THEN, WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THEY'RE NOW FOR WORKING PEOPLE AND ARE LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.

I'VE BEEN IN POLITICS FOR MANY YEARS, AND I'VE NOTICED THAT THE CLOSER REPUBLICAN ORATORY MOVES TO FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, THE CLOSER THEIR POLICIES MOVE TO HERBERT HOOVER.*

THIS YEAR'S VERSION OF "PROSPERITY'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER" IS CALLED REAGAN-KEMP-ROTH. IT'S SIMPLE, AND IT GOES LIKE THIS: CUT TAXES BY ONE TRILLION DOLLARS BY 1987.

THAT'S IT -- THEIR ENTIRE STRATEGY. EVERY ONE OF THEIR PROMISES, YOUR NEXT PAYCHECK, YOUR GROCERY BILL, YOUR HOME -- THEY ALL HANG FROM THAT SLENDER THREAD.

IT'S A TRILLION DOLLAR TAX CUT -- BUILT ON A TWO-CENT THEORY.* EVERY LEADING ECONOMIST HAS REJECTED IT, MOST AMERICANS DISBELIEVE IT, AND FOR GOOD REASON. FIRST, IT IS OBVIOUSLY, MURDEROUSLY INFLATIONARY. EVEN BUSINESS WEEK SAID IT "WOULD TOUCH OFF AN INFLATIONARY EXPLOSION THAT WOULD WRECK THE COUNTRY."

SECOND, IT'S THE MOST REGRESSIVE TAX PROPOSAL EVER MADE -- THE OLDEST REPUBLICAN IDEA OF ALL: TAX CUTS FOR THE WEALTHY, TRICKLE-DOWN FOR THE REST OF AMERICANS. IF YOU'RE AN EXECUTIVE EARNING \$200,000 A YEAR, YOU GET BACK ENOUGH TO BUY A MERCEDES. IF YOU'RE A TEACHER, YOU GET BACK ENOUGH TO BUY A HUBCAP.* AND IF YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED OR ON SOCIAL SECURITY, YOU DON'T EVEN GET BACK BUS FARE.

KEMP-ROTH IS AN INSULT TO THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.* THE ONLY WAY TO CUT TAXES BY A TRILLION DOLLARS, ADD BILLIONS TO DEFENSE, AND BALANCE THE BUDGET ALL AT THE SAME TIME -- AS THEY PROPOSE -- IS TO DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT ROOSEVELT, AND TRUMAN, AND KENNEDY, AND JOHNSON, AND HUMPHREY, AND CARTER, AND EVERY DELEGATE IN THIS HALL HAVE ACHIEVED.

ONLY IF MR. REAGAN REPEALED MEDICARE AND MEDICAID AND ALL OUR PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOLS AND CITIES AND VETERANS AND THE UNEMPLOYED -- ONLY THEN COULD HE FINANCE HIS TAX SCHEME. ONLY IF HE DESTROYED THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND ALL WHO DEPEND ON IT -- ONLY THEN WOULD THE JOB BE DONE.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ANYONE -- EVEN RONALD REAGAN -- WOULD ACTUALLY DO THAT. AFTER ALL, WHAT KIND OF PERSON WOULD TRY TO WIPE OUT EVERY PROGRAM SINCE ROOSEVELT?

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO BELIEVES [AND I QUOTE], "FASCISM WAS REALLY THE BASIS FOR THE NEW DEAL." WHO WOULD EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN DID.*

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO CALLS THE WEAK AND DISADVANTAGED [AND I QUOTE] "A FACELESS MASS WAITING FOR HANDOUTS." WHO WOULD EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.*

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO WOULD CALL PROGRAMS THAT HELP BLACKS AND HISPANICS "DEMEANING" AND "INSULTING." WHO WOULD EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO BELIEVES [AND I QUOTE], "THE MINIMUM WAGE HAS CAUSED MORE MISERY AND UNEMPLOYMENT THAN ANYTHING SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION." WHO WOULD EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO THINKS ANTI-TRUST SUITS SHOULD BUST UP OUR TRADE UNIONS. WHO WOULD EVER PROPOSE SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO WOULD WRECK THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM BY MAKING IT VOLUNTARY. WHO WOULD EVER SUGGEST SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO WOULD DESTROY OUR FAMILY FARM PROGRAMS BECAUSE THEY "SUBSIDIZE THE INEFFICIENT." WHO WOULD EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO WOULD OPPOSE THE GREAT CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964 AS [AND I QUOTE] "A BAD PIECE OF LEGISLATION." WHO WOULD EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.*

HE'D HAVE TO BE A PERSON WHO WOULD CALL THE MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS "RHINE MAIDENS." WHO WOULD EVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT? RONALD REAGAN.*

THOSE BELIEFS ARE ALIEN TO EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT AMERICA.* THAT NEGATIVE THINKING WAS NOT PART OF THE SMALL TOWNS OF RURAL MINNESOTA WHERE I GREW UP. THAT TONE OF RESENTMENT WAS NEVER HEARD IN MY FATHER'S CHURCH. THAT CYNICISM WAS NOT WHAT I FELT IN THE HIGH SCHOOLS, THE FARMS, THE FACTORIES, AND THE HOMES THAT I'VE VISITED ALL OVER THE NATION IN THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS.

THE FACT IS THAT PEOPLE WANT TO WORK TOGETHER. THEY WANT TO BUILD. THEY'RE CONFIDENT. AND AS THE REPUBLICAN NOMINEE WILL BE SURPRISED TO LEARN IN NOVEMBER, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO TURN BACK.* THEY WANT TO MOVE FORWARD -- AND MOVING FORWARD IS WHAT WE'VE DONE OVER THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS.

THE RECORD

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS A GOOD SOLID PROGRESSIVE RECORD -- AND WE'RE GOING TO RUN ON IT, AND WE'RE GOING TO WIN WITH IT.*

IN 1976, IN THIS CITY, FROM THIS PODIUM, WE SAID WE BELIEVED IN JOBS. TODAY THERE ARE OVER 8 MILLION MORE PEOPLE AT WORK THAN ON THE DAY PRESIDENT CARTER WAS INAUGURATED. A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF WORKING-AGE AMERICANS IS ON THE JOB TODAY THAN EVER BEFORE. WE HAVE ADDED MORE JOBS TO THE WORKFORCE IN ONE TERM THAN ANY OTHER ADMINISTRATION IN OUR HISTORY.

BUT WE KNOW THERE ARE STILL TOO MANY AMERICANS UNEMPLOYED -- AND WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL EVERY AMERICAN WHO WANTS A JOB HAS ONE.*

And they should jobs for today that build for tomorrow

IN 1976, WE SAID WE BELIEVED IN EDUCATION. AFTER EIGHT YEARS OF REPUBLICAN VETOES AND IMPOUNDMENTS, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ADDED MORE SUPPORT TO EDUCATION THAN ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS AND ALREADY GOES DOWN AS THE MOST PRO-EDUCATION PRESIDENT IN OUR HISTORY.*

IN 1976, WE SAID WE BELIEVED IN DIGNITY FOR OUR SENIORS. WE RESCUED THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FROM THE BRINK OF BANKRUPTCY WHERE THE REPUBLICANS LEFT IT, AND WE MADE SURE THAT BENEFITS KEPT ON GROWING. WE INCREASED HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY BY OVER 50 PERCENT. WE DOUBLED HOUSING AID. WE ELIMINATED THE CASH DOWNPAYMENT REQUIREMENT FOR FOOD STAMPS. WE PROPOSED AND PASSED THE NATION'S FIRST PROGRAM TO HELP OLDER AMERICANS WITH THEIR FUEL BILLS.

UP AND DOWN THE PROGRESSIVE AGENDA, THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DELIVERED. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS APPOINTED MORE WOMEN AND MINORITIES TO TOP GOVERNMENT JOBS AND TO THE FEDERAL BENCH THAN ALL OF HIS PREDECESSORS COMBINED. WE CREATED THE FIRST FARMER-HELD RESERVES AND EACH YEAR BROKE ALL-TIME FARM EXPORT RECORDS. WE PASSED THE BIGGEST INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE IN OUR HISTORY. WE DOUBLED LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE POOR. WE BUILT THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACROSS-THE-BOARD PRO-CITY POLICY IN OUR HISTORY. WE BUILT THE LARGEST YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IN OUR HISTORY. AND WE DID ALL OF THIS WITHIN A TIGHT BUDGET DESIGNED TO REDUCE INFLATION.

THAT IS A GOOD SOLID RECORD. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO DESTROY IT -- AND TWO GENERATIONS OF HARD WORK -- IN THE NAME OF A MONSTROUS QUICK-FIX TAX CUT FOR THE RICH.* THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO NOT WANT TO WIPE OUT A HALF-CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN A KNOW-NOTHING SEASON OF RESENTMENT.*

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DO WANT THEIR GOVERNMENT TO BE EFFICIENT AND HONEST. AND I AM CONVINCED THEY ALSO WANT THEIR GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE. ON THAT BELIEF I WILL STAKE THIS ELECTION.*

NATIONAL STRENGTH: STRONG PRESIDENCY

WE WILL ALSO STAKE THIS CONTEST ON THE PARAMOUNT ISSUE THE REPUBLICANS TRIED TO RAISE IN DETROIT -- THE QUESTION OF NATIONAL STRENGTH. WE GLADLY ACCEPT THAT CHALLENGE.

L

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS AN ENORMOUS JOB. HE IS CHARGED WITH THE MOST SOBER RESPONSIBILITY EVER VESTED IN A SINGLE PERSON -- THE BURDEN OF NUCLEAR POWER. HE IS THE LEADER OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD. HE MUST DEFEND ITS FREEDOM. HE MUST GRASP THE COMPLEXITIES OF 150 NATIONS IN A WORLD SWEEPED BY CHANGE. HE MUST PROTECT OUR SECURITY BY FREEING US FROM DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL.

TO DO ALL THIS, OUR NATION MUST HAVE A STRONG PRESIDENT. YET LAST MONTH RONALD REAGAN SPENT TWO DAYS ON NATIONAL TELEVISION DRAWING UP A PLAN TO DIVIDE THE PRESIDENCY AND WEAKEN ITS POWERS. ANYONE WHO SEEKS THE PRESIDENCY -- AND IN HIS FIRST SERIOUS ACT CONVENES A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION IN HIS HOTEL ROOM TO WEAKEN HIS OFFICE -- FAILS TO UNDERSTAND THE CONSTITUTION, THE PRESIDENCY, AND WHAT NATIONAL STRENGTH REQUIRES.*

MILITARY STRENGTH

THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY OF A STRONG PRESIDENT IS TO DEFEND OUR NATION.

FOR THE EIGHT YEARS BEFORE WE CAME INTO OFFICE -- WHILE THE SOVIETS RELENTLESSLY EXPANDED THEIR MILITARY POWER -- REAL AMERICAN DEFENSE SPENDING FELL BY 35 PERCENT. THAT IS THE REPUBLICAN RECORD. BUT UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER, WE'VE NOT ONLY INCREASED REAL DEFENSE SUPPORT BY MORE THAN 10 PERCENT -- WE'RE ALSO INVESTING IN THE MOST SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS IN THE WORLD. TODAY, NO AMERICAN GENERAL OR ADMIRAL WOULD DREAM OF TRADING OUR DEFENSES FOR THE FORCES OF ANY OTHER NATION ON EARTH.

BUT MR. REAGAN SCOLDS US FOR CANCELLING AN OUTMODED BOMBER THAT WOULD BE OBSOLETE AND VULNERABLE THE DAY IT WAS LAUNCHED. PRESIDENT CARTER CHOSE INSTEAD THE MODERN CRUISE MISSILE -- WHICH RENDERS THE WHOLE EXPENSIVE SOVIET AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM OBSOLETE.

UP AND DOWN THE DEFENSE AGENDA, THE REPUBLICANS REPEAT THE SAME MISTAKE. THEY WANT TO RESURRECT DECOMMISSIONED SHIPS. THEY WANT TO REVIVE THE ABM SYSTEM -- WHICH EVEN RICHARD NIXON SCRAPPED. WITH OBSOLETE MISSILES, MOTHBALLED SHIPS, VULNERABLE BOMBERS, AND PETRIFIED IDEAS, THEY WOULD WASTE BILLIONS ON DEFENSE RELICS THAT WOULD ONLY DRAIN AND WEAKEN US.*

PRESIDENT CARTER DOES NOT WANT TO MIMIC SOVIET BULK. HE HAS CHOSEN TO OFFSET IT WITH OUR GREATEST RESOURCE -- THE GENIUS OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY. AS A RESULT, THIS NATION TODAY IS BUILDING SECURITY NOT FOR YESTERDAY, BUT FOR THE REST OF THE CENTURY.*

ARMS CONTROL

NATIONAL STRENGTH REQUIRES MORE THAN JUST MILITARY MIGHT; IT REQUIRES THE COMMITMENT OF THE PRESIDENT TO ARMS CONTROL.*

IF THERE IS ONE THING THAT CONCERNS ME MOST ABOUT THE WORLD OUR CHILDREN WILL INHERIT, IT IS THE FEAR THAT SOMEHOW, FOR SOME REASON THAT NO ONE WILL REMEMBER, THE WORLD WILL RESORT TO THE FINAL MADNESS OF A NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST. REASON, COMMON SENSE, AND A DECENT RESPECT FOR HUMANITY DEMAND THAT WE STALL THIS NUCLEAR ARMS RACE BEFORE IT BANKRUPTS AND DESTROYS US ALL.*

WITHOUT ARMS CONTROL, EVERYTHING IS OUT OF CONTROL. WITHOUT THE SALT TREATY TO LIMIT STRATEGIC ARMS, WE WOULD BE FORCED TO WASTE BILLIONS ON WEAPONS THAT BUY US NOTHING BUT LESS SECURITY.

AND EVEN THOUGH IT TOOK 7 YEARS TO NEGOTIATE THE CURRENT TREATY; EVEN THOUGH OUR PRESIDENT, OUR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, EVERY ONE OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, AND EVERY ONE OF OUR NATO ALLIES WANT THIS ARMS TREATY RATIFIED; EVEN THOUGH THE MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT ARMS CONTROL -- MR. REAGAN FOR THE LIFE OF HIM CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHY.*

MR. REAGAN: FOR THE LIFE OF ALL OF US, WE MUST HAVE ARMS CONTROL, AND WE MUST HAVE A PRESIDENT COMMITTED TO ARMS CONTROL, AND IN JIMMY CARTER THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE.*

FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON VALUES

ABOVE ALL, AMERICA'S STRENGTH DEPENDS ON AMERICA'S VALUES. EVERY TIME WE HAVE A FOREIGN POLICY THAT REFLECTS AMERICAN BELIEFS, WE CAPTURE THE IMAGINATION OF PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER.

LAST MONTH I WAS IN NIGERIA -- THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL BLACK NATION, AND THE SECOND LARGEST SOURCE OF AMERICAN OIL. A FEW YEARS AGO THE REPUBLICAN SECRETARY OF STATE WAS TOLD HE COULDN'T LAND HIS PLANE THERE BECAUSE HIS ADMINISTRATION REFUSED TO SUPPORT HUMAN RIGHTS AND MAJORITY RULE.

BUT I WAS WELCOMED IN NIGERIA -- BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER IS ON THE SIDE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AND TEN MONTHS AGO, WHEN NIGERIA BECAME ONE OF THE LARGEST DEMOCRACIES ON EARTH -- THEY PATTERNED THEIR NEW CONSTITUTION ON OUR OWN.

TODAY, RHODESIA HAS HAD A DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION -- AND THE SOVIETS SUFFERED A SETBACK. TODAY OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS DRAWING THE NATIONS OF AFRICA AND THE WORLD TOWARD US LIKE A MAGNET.

THE REPUBLICANS SAY THAT A STRONG NATION IS ONE THAT NEVER APOLOGIZES TO ANYONE. I SAY IT'S A NATION WHOSE LEADERS ARE NOT DOING THINGS FOR WHICH WE MUST APOLOGIZE.*

A FOREIGN POLICY THAT REFLECTS AMERICAN VALUES ADVANCES AMERICAN INTERESTS.

WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER SAW THROUGH THE RATIFICATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, WE NOT ONLY RID OURSELVES OF THE LAST VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM: WE ALSO STRENGTHENED OUR INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA. WHEN THE PRESIDENT NORMALIZED RELATIONS WITH CHINA, HE NOT ONLY TOLD ONE-FOURTH THE HUMAN RACE WE REALIZE THEY EXIST: HE ALSO ESTABLISHED A POWERFUL COUNTERFORCE TO SOVIET AGGRESSION. WHEN THE PRESIDENT DENOUNCED THE PERSECUTION OF ANDREI SAKHAROV, HE NOT ONLY AFFIRMED INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY: HE ALSO UNMASKED THE KREMLIN TO OTHER NATIONS.

TONIGHT, FELLOW DEMOCRATS, OUR NATION IS AT PEACE.* OUR ARMED FORCES ARE ENGAGED IN COMBAT NOWHERE IN THE WORLD. BUT IN HIS YEARS OF PREPARING FOR HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, MR. REAGAN HAS SUGGESTED THAT AMERICAN FORCES BE SENT TO ECUADOR. TO ANGOLA. TO RHODESIA. TO PANAMA. TO CYPRUS. TO PAKISTAN. TO NORTH KOREA. TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

I DON'T THINK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT THAT.* THEY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO'S STEADY, WHO'S SOBER, WHO'S EXPERIENCED, AND WHO'S DEMONSTRATED HE KNOWS HOW TO KEEP THE PEACE. THEY WANT A PRESIDENT LIKE JIMMY CARTER, WHO TOOK TWO NATIONS LIKE EGYPT AND ISRAEL, WHICH HAD SEEN FOUR WARS IN 30 YEARS, AND BROUGHT THEM TO CAMP DAVID TO BUILD A PEACE TREATY BETWEEN THEM. TODAY ISRAEL AND EGYPT AREN'T EXCHANGING BULLETS: THEY'RE EXCHANGING AMBASSADORS. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT THEIR PRESIDENT TO PURSUE PEACE, AND THAT'S WHY THEY'LL RE-ELECT PRESIDENT CARTER.

LET ME ADD A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT ISRAEL. ISRAEL IS OUR FRIEND, OUR CONSCIENCE, OUR PARTNER. ITS WELL-BEING IS IN OUR MORAL, POLITICAL, AND STRATEGIC INTERESTS. I STAND BEFORE YOU AND SAY THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES STAND BY ISRAEL -- IN THIS TERM, IN THE NEXT TERM, AND ALWAYS.*

AMERICA

IN THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS, YOU HAVE PERMITTED ME TO SERVE AS YOUR VICE PRESIDENT. I'VE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO REPRESENT YOU TO THE PEOPLE OF EVERY CONTINENT ON THIS EARTH. AND THE MORE I'VE TRAVELED ABROAD, THE MORE I'VE LOVED MY HOME.

I HAVE SPENT MY WHOLE LIFE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS. BUT WHEN I HEARD THE PRESIDENT OF SENEGAL QUOTE THE WORDS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, SELDOM HAVE I LOVED OUR CONSCIENCE MORE.

MY WHOLE LIFE I'VE BEEN PROUD OF THE REFUGE WE'VE BEEN TO EXILES. BUT WHEN I SAW THE MEN OF THE USS MIDWAY WHO HAD SAVED BOAT PEOPLE FROM THE SEA, SELDOM HAVE I PRIZED OUR COMPASSION MORE.

I HAVE BEEN MY WHOLE LIFE AN ADVOCATE FOR FAMILY FARMING. BUT WHEN I SPENT A WEEK IN CHINA ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT ITS TRIUMPHS, SELDOM HAVE I RESPECTED OUR GENIUS MORE.

ALL MY LIFE I'VE BELIEVED THAT AMERICA MUST BE STRONG. BUT WHEN I MET THE PEOPLE OF NORWAY WHOSE INDEPENDENCE OUR STRENGTH PROTECTS, SELDOM HAVE I BEEN MORE THANKFUL FOR OUR POWER.

LIKE EVERY AMERICAN, I VALUE FREEDOM ABOVE ALL ELSE. BUT WHEN THE U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE AND AMERICAN ATHLETES SACRIFICED FOR THE AFGHAN NATION HALF A WORLD AWAY, SELDOM HAVE I LOVED OUR PEOPLE MORE.

WE ARE BLESSED TO BE AMERICANS. WE ARE AN EXAMPLE TO THE WORLD. DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU WE'RE LESS THAN WE'VE BEEN. AND DON'T LET ANYONE MAKE US LESS THAN WE CAN BE.



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