

TALKING POINTS  
TO CREW OF THE "USS INDEPENDENCE"

- I AM DELIGHTED TO JOIN ALL OF YOU ON THE "INDY."
- I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE LEADERSHIP OF:
  - ADMIRAL TIM WRIGHT (COMMANDER OF THE SEVENTH FLEET)
  - ADMIRAL BERNIE SMITH (COMMANDER OF THE BATTLE FORCE SEVENTH FLEET);
  - CAPTAIN DENNY IRELAN (COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE "INDY");
  - CAPTAIN KEN HEIMGARTNER (COMMANDING OFFICER OF AIR WING FIVE)
  - CAPTAIN HUGH BUTT (COMMANDER OF DESTROYER SQUADRON FIFTEEN)
- WHAT YOU HAVE HERE IS TRULY IMPRESSIVE. THE "INDY" IS NOT JUST A SHIP. IT IS:
  - A CITY,
  - AN AIRPORT,
  - A MILITARY BASE, AND
  - ABOVE ALL, BOTH THE REALITY AND THE SYMBOL OF AMERICA'S STRENGTH FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD.
- THE "INDY" HAS BEEN CALLED "FREEDOM'S FLAGSHIP" — AND IT DESERVES THE NAME. TIME AND AGAIN, THE "INDY" AND OTHER AIRCRAFT CARRIERS HAVE PROVEN THEIR VALUE AS THE BACKBONE OF AMERICA'S SEAPOWER.
- BUT, EVEN WITH THE LATEST HIGH TECHNOLOGY, SHIPS DON'T SAIL AND PLANES DON'T FLY UNLESS THERE ARE PEOPLE TO DO IT. THIS SHIP, AND THESE PLANES, ARE ONLY AS GOOD AS THE PEOPLE WHO WORK ON THEM — AND YOU ARE THE BEST. AND WE NEED YOU.
- DESPITE THE END OF THE COLD WAR, WE STILL LIVE IN A COMPLEX AND DANGEROUS WORLD. THERE ARE STILL PLENTY OF TROUBLE SPOTS.
- IN THE LAST HALF CENTURY, THREE MAJOR WARS HAVE BEEN FOUGHT IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC. FORTUNATELY, IN RECENT YEARS THIS REGION HAS BEEN ABLE TO ENJOY RELATIVE PEACE. BUT THE ONGOING SITUATION IN NORTH KOREA IS A REMINDER OF THE REAL TENSIONS AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS THAT CAN ARISE.
- THAT IS WHY THIS FORWARD-DEPLOYED BATTLE GROUP BASED ON THE "INDY" IS SO IMPORTANT. YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE SECURITY AND WELL-BEING OF THIS CRITICAL REGION.
- SECRETARY OF STATE CHRISTOPHER WAS IN JAPAN LAST WEEK. IN HIS MEETINGS WITH THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEFENSE MINISTER, THE SECRETARY REAFFIRMED AMERICA'S SECURITY COMMITMENTS IN THE ASIA-

PACIFIC REGION. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE WILL MAINTAIN A SUBSTANTIAL FORWARD-DEPLOYED PRESENCE IN THIS REGION AS THE LINCHPIN OF OUR SECURITY COMMITMENTS. (WE WILL SOON HAVE AS MANY MILITARY PERSONNEL STATIONED IN EAST ASIA AS IN EUROPE.)

- TO FURTHER REINFORCE OUR SECURITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE REGION, WE HOPE TO HAVE DEFENSE SECRETARY PERRY OUT HERE NEXT MONTH, AS WELL AS NAVY SECRETARY DALTON.

- I AM IMPRESSED BY THE DISTINGUISHED HISTORY OF THE "INDY":

- SINCE IT WAS COMMISSIONED IN 1959, THIS SHIP HAS BEEN DEPLOYED AROUND THE WORLD — IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN, THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, AND THE PERSIAN GULF.

- THE INDY WAS PART OF THE NAVAL BLOCKADE OF CUBA DURING THE MISSILE CRISIS IN 1962.

- IN 1990, AS PART OF THE DESERT SHIELD OPERATION, THIS WAS THE FIRST CARRIER TO ENTER THE PERSIAN GULF SINCE 1974.

- I UNDERSTAND THAT, DURING THIS MOST RECENT DEPLOYMENT, YOU PARTICIPATED IN "OPERATION SOUTHERN WATCH" — PROVIDING THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER PRESENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS-AUTHORIZED NO-FLY ZONE OVER SOUTHERN IRAQ.

- TOMORROW, YOU RETURN TO YOUR HOME PORT AT YOKOSUKA. I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD TO BE AWAY AT SEA FOR WEEKS AND MONTHS — FAR AWAY FROM HOME AND FAMILY.

- AS AMBASSADOR, I WANT TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO YOUR BASE IN JAPAN. I HOPE THAT EACH OF YOU — AND YOUR FAMILIES — ARE HAVING A GOOD TIME IN JAPAN — WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO TRAVEL AND MEET PEOPLE. IN THIS WAY, EACH OF YOU CAN BE AN "AMBASSADOR" HELPING TO STRENGTHEN THE U.S.-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP AT THE PERSONAL, SOCIAL, AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS.

- THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND SERVICE TO YOUR COUNTRY. WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING YOU DO TO HELP MAKE OUR COUNTRY STRONG AND TO GUARANTEE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THIS CRITICAL REGION OF THE WORLD.



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