

RESERVE  
~~RETIRED~~ OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

APRIL 26, 1980

I WISH I COULD COME HERE THIS EVENING AND TELL EACH OF YOU THAT EVERYTHING'S FINE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. I WISH I COULD TELL YOU THAT THE SACRIFICES YOU HAVE MADE FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR NATION ARE EQUALED BY THE COURAGE OF THOSE IN POWER. I WISH I COULD TELL YOU THAT OUR FLAG HAS NEVER FLOWN MORE PROUDLY, NOR WON GREATER RESPECT AS A SYMBOL OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

I WILL NOT DWELL ON THE FAILURE OF THE RESCUE MISSION IN IRAN THIS WEEK. EACH ONE OF US CAN ONLY RESPOND TO THAT TRAGEDY WITH DEEP SYMPATHY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES. AT THIS TIME, THE PRESIDENT HAS ACCESS TO INFORMATION THAT WE DO NOT, AND I WILL NOT RAISE MY VOICE FOR ONE MINUTE TO UNDERCUT HIM IN WHAT IS, WITHOUT A DOUBT, A GRAVE INTERNATIONAL CRISIS. IN THE DAYS AHEAD, THERE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE QUESTIONS RAISED ABOUT THE NATURE OF THE MISSION, ITS ULTIMATE FAILURE AND OUR OWN FAILURE TO CONSULT WITH ALLIES. BUT THAT'S NOT FOR US TO PONDER TODAY.

WHAT WE MUST CONFRONT IS A LARGER FAILURE OF WILL AND DIRECTION.

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WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A GREAT NATION. WELL, WHY DON'T WE START ACTING LIKE ONE. A GREAT NATION DOESN'T TURN ITS BACK ON OLD ALLIES ACROSS THE GLOBE. A GREAT NATION DOESN'T TRY TO PLACATE IMPLACCABLE MOBS. A GREAT NATION DOESN'T SLASH HER MILITARY CAPACITY, NOR DAWDLE FOR MONTHS IN THE FACE OF INTERNATIONAL BLACKMAIL. A GREAT NATION DOESN'T SIGN AWAY THE CANAL SHE BUILT AND OPERATED IN PANAMA. A GREAT NATION PREFERS COMPETITION TO SURRENDER. LATELY, DUE TO

AND A GREAT NATION KNOWS THAT SHE HAS RESPONSIBILITIES TO THOSE IDEALS WHICH GIVE HER CHARACTER. SHE KNOWS THAT SHE MUST SPEND DOLLARS FOR DEFENSE - OR SHE WILL BE DOOMED TO SPILL BLOOD IN COMBAT.

### THE WASTE OF WAR

YOU AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE BATTLEFIELD. WE KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO SEE YOUR BEST BUDDY GUNNED DOWN AT YOUR FEET, AND WATCH BOYS BECOME HEROES AMIDST THE SCREAM OF BULLETS. WE KNOW WHAT A WASTE WAR INVOLVES, AND WE DON'T EVER WANT OUR CHILDREN OR GRANDCHILDREN TO PAY AGAIN FOR WHAT WE HAVE PAID SO DEARLY FOR.

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WE'RE NOT WARMONGERS - JUST THE OPPOSITE. WE KNOW THE HORRORS OF WAR FIRST-HAND. MANY OF US CARRY PHYSICAL OR EMOTIONAL SCARS THAT WILL REMIND US OF THOSE HORRORS AS LONG AS WE LIVE. SO WE HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR IN INSISTING THAT THIS COUNTRY NEVER LET DOWN HER GUARD.

BUT THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS HAVEN'T BEEN GOOD ONES FOR AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD. WE'VE COMPROMISED WITH EVIL, AND VACILATED IN THE FACE OF ENEMIES. WE'VE GIVEN NO CLEAR SIGNAL TO OUR FRIENDS, AND TO OUR FOES WE HAVE PREACHED RECONCILIATION WHILE THEY WENT ON INEXORABLY BUILDING UP THEIR ARMENTS OF DESTRUCTION.

WE HAVE ALLOWED WISHFUL THINKING TO SUPPLANT COLD, HARD LOGIC - AND AS A RESULT WE FIND OURSELVES NO BETTER THAN EVEN WITH A SOVIET JUGGERNAUT THAT ROLLS SERENELY ON, CONFIDANT THAT NO AMERICAN PRESIDENT WILL DARE TO RALLY HIS OWN PEOPLE BEHIND A POLICY OF CONTAMINMENT AND MILITARY SUPERIORITY.

## FUELING THE SOVIET JUGGERNAUT

TODAY, THE SOVIET UNION SPENDS \$60 BILLION MORE THAN WE DO ON DEFENSE - EACH AND EVERY YEAR. THEIR MILITARY BUDGET CONTINUES TO GROW AT A STEADY 3% CLIP, WHILE OURS, ALLOWING FOR INFLATION, WILL ACTUALLY DECLINE THIS YEAR. AIR FORCE GENERAL JONES, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS HAS TOLD THE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE THAT THE CARTER DEFENSE BUDGET IS NOT ENOUGH - AND I'M INCLINED TO GO ALONG WITH HIS ESTIMATE.

LOOK AT OUR NAVY. THE RUSSIANS START CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GENERAL-PURPOSE SUBMARINE ABOUT ONCE EVERY FIVE WEEKS. WE START ONE A YEAR. COMPARED TO 1964, OUR FLEET IS ABOUT HALF ITS FORMER SIZE. JUST TO KEEP PACE, WE NEED TO BUY 17-18 SHIPS AND 330 AIRCRAFT EACH YEAR - AND WE'RE FALLING SHORT OF EVEN THAT MINIMAL GOAL.

THEN THERE'S THE INDIRECT AID WE ACTUALLY PROVIDE TO THE SOVIETS IN THEIR RELENTLESS CAMPAIGN TO ACHIEVE MILITARY SUPERIORITY. OVER THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS, WESTERN TRADE AND CREDITS HAVE AMOUNTED TO ABOUT SEVENTY BILLION DOLLARS FOR ALL EASTERN BLOCK NATIONS. THAT'S SEVENTY BILLION DOLLARS FREED UP FOR MILITARY INVESTMENT.

ACCORDING TO ONE COMMON MARKET HIGH COMMISSIONER, QUOTED RECENTLY IN NEWSWEEK, "THERE IS NO WAY THE SOVIET UNION COULD CONTINUE TO SPEND 13-15% OF ITS GNP ON THE MILITARY WITHOUT WESTERN ASSISTANCE."

HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE. IF YOU WANT A SPECIFIC EXAMPLE, JUST LOOK ACROSS THE AFGHANISTAN FRONTIER. YOU'LL FIND THE SOVIETS ARE USING TRUCKS AND TANK ENGINES IN THEIR INVASION THAT WERE MANUFACTURED IN THEIR KAMA RIVER TRUCK PLANT - UTILIZING 130 U.S. LICENSES. WESTERN EQUIPMENT PRODUCES 80% OF RUSSIA'S POLYETHYLENE, 75% OF ITS CHEMICAL FERTILIZER AND 40% OF ITS CEMENT.

#### A CLEAR AND DEADLY TREND

THE FACT IS, WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE HELPING TO FUEL THE RUSSIAN JUGGERNAUT. IN THE MISGUIDED HOPE THAT THE HARD-LINERS IN THE KREMLIN MIGHT ONE DAY CALL OFF THEIR PLANS FOR INTERNATIONAL DOMINATION, WE'RE LENDING THEM THE TOOLS TO MAKE DOMINATION A REALITY. THAT'S THE KIND OF FUZZY-HEADED THINKING THAT HAS PERMEATED THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, AND WHICH MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE THAT WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT, WITH A NEW SENSE OF THE SOVIET THREAT.

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THE TREND IS CLEAR AND DEADLY; SINCE SALT I WAS PASSED, THE RUSSIANS HAVE OUTSPENT US ON MILITARY HARDWARE ALONE BY MORE THAN A HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS. THEY SPEND ONLY A QUARTER OF THEIR MILITARY BUDGET ON PERSONNEL COSTS; WE SPEND HALF OF OURS FOR PERSONNEL. IF WE HAD THAT HUNDRED BILLION DOLLARS WE HAVE CONCEDED TO THE SOVIETS SINCE SALT I, IT COULD HAVE PAID FOR ALL THE B-1 BOMBERS ORIGINALLY PLANNED FOR, PLUS ALL THE MX MISSILES AND SHELTERS, PLUS ALL PROGRAMMED TRIDENT MISSILES AND SUBMARINES, PLUS ALL XM-1 TANKS, F-14'S, F-15'S, F-18'S AND MORE.

NOW WE HAVE SEEN SOME GESTURES IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS THAT SUGGEST EVEN THE CARTER WHITE HOUSE IS WAKING UP TO THE CRISIS WE CONFRONT. REGISTRATION OF YOUNG MEN HAS BEEN PROPOSED AND THE CONGRESS WILL AGREE TO THIS IDEA. STATE DEPARTMENT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT OPENING NEW BASES IN THE CRITICAL INDIAN OCEAN AREA, AND SOME AID MAY BE EXTENDED TO ALLIES LIKE PAKISTAN WHO ARE STARING THE SOVIET BEAR STRAIGHT IN THE FACE.

## GESTURES AREN'T ENOUGH

BUT TALK IS CHEAP. EVEN THE OLYMPIC BOYCOTT, WHICH I SUPPORT AS A LEGITIMATE PROTEST AGAINST THE WANTON INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, IS BY ITSELF LITTLE MORE THAN A POPULAR PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE UNLESS IT IS BACKED UP BY A COHERENT PROGRAM OF MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC REBUILDING.

AND THAT MEANS A MAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE UNTARNISHED BY THE FAILURES OF THE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS. IT MEANS A MAN WHO WOULDN'T FEAR TO USE AMERICA'S IMMENSE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL WEAPONS THE MOMENT AN INTERNATIONAL THREAT DEVELOPS. IT MEANS A MAN WHOSE APPROACH TO THE WORLD IS REALISTIC WITHOUT BEING CYNICAL, HOPEFUL WITHOUT BEING BLIND TO THE DANGERS FROM WITHOUT.

IT MEANS A MAN WHO ISN'T AFRAID TO STAND UP TO STREET MOBS AND SO-CALLED STUDENT MILITANTS. IT MEANS A MAN WHO VALUES HISTORIC ALLIES AND WILL NEVER HAUL DOWN THE AMERICAN FLAG WHERE BRAVE MEN HAVE FOUGHT AND BLED AND DIED TO RAISE IT.

IT MEANS A MAN WHO BRINGS COMMON SENSE TO THE OVAL OFFICE, AND AN UNDYING DEVOTION TO THE PRINCIPALS THAT MADE THIS COUNTRY RESPECTED AS WELL AS ENVIED. WE HAVE BEEN RESPECTED, NOT FOR OUR WEAPONS, BUT FOR OUR IDEALS. AND IT IS OUR IDEALS, EVEN MORE THAN OUR WEAPONS, THAT HAVE BECOME RUSTY THESE LAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS.

WE TALK ABOUT PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS - BUT WE RAISE NO OBJECTION TO VIOLATIONS OF THOSE RIGHTS IN CHINA. WE TALK ABOUT THE SANCTITY OF AMERICAN LOYALTY - BUT IF YOU'RE THE SHAH OF IRAN, YOU HAVE TO CONTRACT CANCER TO BE ADMITTED TO THE COUNTRY. WE TALK ABOUT STANDING UP FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS - BUT WE SEEM MORE ACCOMPLISHED AT NEGOTIATING AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL.

#### DASHED HOPES AND BROKEN HEARTS

IT HAS BEEN A HEARTBREAKING TIME FOR AMERICANS, OF ALL PARTIES AND CREEDS. WE HAVE HAD OUR HOPES DASHED AGAIN AND AGAIN, AND SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, MANY OF US BEGAN TO ASK IF OUR PRESIDENT REALLY WAS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE WORLD IN ITS CURRENT STATE OF CRISIS?

SO LET US SAY NO MORE ABOUT JIMMY CARTER, OTHER THAN HE IS A DECENT MAN IN A TIME WHEN DECENCY ALONE WILL NOT ADVANCE AMERICA'S LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO COMBINES DECENCY WITH A HARDHEADED VISION OF THE WAY THE WORLD REALLY IS, AND WHO WILL NEVER FORGET THAT AMERICA CAN ONLY BE HERSELF WHEN SHE IS NUMBER ONE IN THE WORLD.



RONALD REAGAN AND A FRESH START ABROAD

WE NEED A NEW PRESIDENT. WE NEED A STRONG PRESIDENT. WE NEED A PRESIDENT WITHOUT ROSE-COLORED GLASSES. WE NEED RONALD REAGAN.

GOVERNOR REAGAN MEANS A FRESH START FOR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY - OR, MORE PRECISELY, A RETURN TO THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS. PRESIDENT REAGAN WOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO STAND UP FOR OUR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS ABROAD, NOR TO CEMENT AS NEVER BEFORE THE ALLIANCE OF FREEDOM LOVING NATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION AND HER CLIENT STATES.

THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, HE HAS STOOD FOR AN AMERICA WHOSE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH MATCHED THE STRENGTH OF HER IDEALS. ISN'T THAT THE KIND OF MAN WE NEED IN THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY? ISN'T IT TIME WE HAD A LEADER WHO WASN'T AFRAID TO SAY TO THE RUSSIANS, ENOUGH AND NO MORE? ISN'T IT TIME WE ALL FELT PROUD AGAIN, AS YOU AND I FELT PROUD IN SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN TIME OF BATTLE?

I'VE NEVER BEEN PROUDER OF AMERICA'S YOUNG PEOPLE THAN OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS, AS I'VE WATCHED THEM CARRY OUR FLAG AND LEAD THE PROTEST AGAINST IRAN'S ILLEGAL AND MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE SEIZURE OF OUR TEHERAN DIPLOMATS. THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE YOUR CHILDREN AND MINE, THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY, OUR LAST BEST HOPE AGAINST A WORLD PERMANENTLY ENSLAVED.

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TO THEM, WE MUST GIVE MORE THAN A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT. WE MUST GIVE THEM CONCRETE ACTIONS TO BACK UP OUR WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT. WE MUST GIVE THEM HOPE THAT WE WILL TAKE THE STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN SO THAT THEY WILL NEVER HAVE TO GO OFF TO FIGHT IN A FOREIGN WAR, AS SO MANY OF US DID. RONALD REAGAN CAN BE THAT KIND OF PRESIDENT. HE CAN GIVE HOPE TO THE YOUNG, REASSURANCE TO THE PATRIOT, AND RESOLUTE DIPLOMACY TO FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE. MOST OF ALL, HE CAN GET THIS COUNTRY MOVING AGAIN, AND THAT'S WHY I'M PROUD TO STAND HERE AND ASK FOR YOUR VOTE FOR RONALD REAGAN FOR PRESIDENT.