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THE PRESIDENT'S
TALKING POINTS

Opening Comments

One of the most critical problems we will face in the future is the maintenance of an adequate military force level. Today there is widespread resentment against the draft and it is increasing. We have reformed the draft, and we can do more. But the fact remains that even a reformed draft is unfair--for some go, and some do not.

Last year, at this time, I appointed a Commission to look into the feasibility of moving toward an all-volunteer force and ending the draft completely. Initially, many members of the Commission were either opposed or highly skeptical of the concept--including the Chairman, Tom Gates, and Generals Grunther and Norstad. But, as you know, the Commission, after a year of intensive study, changed its mind and unanimously recommended to me that "the nation's interests will be better served by an all-volunteer force, supported by an effective standby draft, than by a mixed force of volunteers and conscripts."

At the same time, it seems clear that the draft will be with us for some time. And while it is with us, we should strive to make it as equitable as possible. An NSC review group has prepared an excellent study on interim draft reform and I welcome the opportunity to discuss it today.

Nothing else sent to
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