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The President's new speech
SEPTEMBER 26, 1986

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VISIT TO NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT MEADE, MARYLAND

I'M DELIGHTED TO BE HERE TODAY.

BY THE WAY, I MENTIONED TO GENERAL ODOM AND
BILL CASEY THE UNSEASONABLY WARM WEATHER
PREDICTIONS FOR TODAY BUT THEY TOLD ME /

"WEAR YOUR TRENCH COAT ANYWAY," AND THEN

WHEN I ASKED FOR DIRECTIONS TO THIS GREAT
NEW BUILDING ALL THEY WOULD SAY IS /

"MR. PRESIDENT, LEAVE THE WHITE HOUSE,
GO TO 17TH AND K AND WAIT FOR THE PHONE TO
RING."

I EVEN OFFERED TO BRING OVER SOME WHITE
HOUSE CUFF LINKS AS SOUVENIRS FOR ALL OF YOU
BUT I WAS TOLD YOU PREFER THE N.S.A. CUFF
LINKS -- YOU CAN TUNE IN THE REDSKINS GAME.

BUT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I DIDN'T COME HERE
TODAY TO TELL A LOT OF "SPEAK INTO THE
POTTED PLANT" JOKES. I DO HAVE SOME FAIRLY
HIGH-GRADE INTELLIGENCE THOUGH.

WE'VE JUST LEARNED THAT FROM NOW ON K.G.B.
AGENTS HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO DO ALL THEIR
WORK IN GROUPS OF THREE'S. ONE AGENT TO
TAKE NOTES AND WRITE THE REPORT / THE OTHER
TWO TO KEEP AN EYE ON THE INTELLECTUAL.

IF I MAY BE SERIOUS, I DO HAVE ANOTHER
STORY FOR YOU TODAY. IT GOES LIKE THIS.
IN THE SPRING OF 1942, SHORTLY AFTER PEARL
HARBOR, / THE JAPANESE WERE PLANNING A
DECISIVE NAVAL ENGAGEMENT THAT WOULD CRUSH
AMERICAN POWER IN THE PACIFIC AND OPEN
HAWAII AND OUR WEST COAST TO ATTACK.

TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, THE JAPANESE ASSEMBLED
THE MOST POWERFUL ARMADA IN HISTORY /
AGAINST THEIR CRUISERS, BATTLESHIPS,
AND CARRIERS / THE UNITED STATES COULD
ASSEMBLE REALLY ONLY THREE AIRCRAFT
CARRIERS / - ONE OF WHICH WAS STILL BADLY
DAMAGED FROM THE BATTLE OF THE CORAL SEA.

AWARE THAT THE JAPANESE WERE PREPARING FOR THIS DECISIVE BATTLE / THE COMMANDER OF THE PACIFIC FLEET (CHESTER NIMITZ) KNEW THE ODDS AGAINST HIM AND UNDERSTOOD THAT HIS ONLY CHANCE OF VICTORY LAY IN THE SKILL AND DARING OF HIS OUTNUMBERED SAILORS AND FLIERS /-- AND IN HIS SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES.

ALTHOUGH AWARE OF JAPANESE PREPARATIONS / THE AMERICANS DID NOT HAVE THE ANSWER TO THE ALL-IMPORTANT QUESTION OF WHERE THE JAPANESE WOULD ATTACK. / A YOUNG NAVAL OFFICER WHO HAD, (WITH A SMALL GROUP OF CRYPTOGRAPHERS) BEEN MONITORING JAPANESE TRANSMISSIONS, SUCCESSFULLY DECIPHERED THEIR CODE.

FROM HIS INTERCEPTS, COMMANDER JOSEPH (ROACH-FERT) KNEW THE TARGET OF THE PLANNED ATTACK WAS A PLACE THE JAPANESE WERE CALLING "A.F." / AND IN HIS OWN MIND, HE FELT CERTAIN HE KNEW WHAT "A.F." WAS / AN ISLAND NOT FAR FROM HAWAII; IT WAS CALLED MIDWAY.

BUT, AS ALWAYS, THERE WERE THOSE WHO DISMISSED HIM, / WHO SCOFFED AT THE NOTION THAT INTELLIGENCE BASED ON RADIO OR ELECTRONIC DATA COULD BE ACCURATE OR RELIABLE. (FORTUNATELY, FOR AMERICA AND FOR FREEDOM, / ADMIRAL NIMITZ HAD NO SUCH DOUBTS. HE AUTHORIZED A MESSAGE SENT FROM MIDWAY, / A MESSAGE THEY KNEW THAT THE JAPANESE COULD DECIPHER AND WOULD BE SURE TO TRANSMIT TO THEIR OWN INTELLIGENCE SERVICES.

THE MESSAGE REPORTING WATER PROBLEMS AT
MIDWAY WENT OUT / AND COMMANDER JOSEPH
ROCHEFORT AND HIS DEDICATED CRYPTOGRAPHERS
LISTENED AS THE JAPANESE INTELLIGENCE
SERVICES REPORTED TO TOKYO NAVAL
HEADQUARTERS THAT "A.F." REPORTED A WATER
SHORTAGE. / COMMANDER ROCHEFORT HAD HIS
CONFIRMATION / MIDWAY WAS THE TARGET.

THE REST -- (AS THE SAYING GOES) -
IS HISTORY. / AND WHAT HISTORY IT WAS AND IS.
BECAUSE OF THAT CRITICAL INTELLIGENCE /
NIMITZ PLACED HIS OUTNUMBERED CARRIERS ON
THE JAPANESE FLANK / AND WITH SEVERAL
DEVASTATING STRIKES NOT ONLY DEALT A BLOW
THAT GUARANTEED NAVAL SUPERIORITY TO THE
UNITED STATES / BUT MADE MIDWAY ONE OF THE
MOST DRAMATIC AND DECISIVE NAVAL BATTLES IN
ALL OF HISTORY.

AND WHILE FEW AMERICANS KNOW THE STORY
OF COMMANDER ROCHEFORT AND HIS COLLEAGUES,
ALL OF US ARE IN THEIR DEBT.

INDEED, IT'S HARD TO THINK OF ANY GROUP THAT
MADE A GREATER CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY IN
WORLD WAR II.

YOU OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY ARE
LIKE THEM, PART OF A PROUD TRADITION /
A TRADITION WHICH IS, IN FACT, OLDER THAN
THE NATION / A TRADITION THAT HAS ITS
BEGINNINGS WITH GEORGE WASHINGTON AND THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION. / AND YOU, TOO, MAKE
HISTORY QUIETLY / -- SILENTLY / -- AWARE THAT
YOUR GREATEST MOMENTS, YOUR GREATEST
VICTORIES, IF EVER KNOWN AT ALL / WILL BE
DIVULGED ONLY TO GENERATIONS MANY YEARS FROM
NOW.

THIS DOES NOT DETER YOU; / YOU HAVE
CHOSEN THIS WORK BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT IN
A WORLD WHERE THE DANGERS TO OUR NATION'S
FREEDOM AND SECURITY ARE GRAVE AND GREAT /
YOU PROVIDE A VITAL LINE OF DEFENSE.

YOU UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE WORLD WAR II,
ACCURATE, "UP-TO-THE-MINUTE" INTELLIGENCE
HAS SAVED LIVES/AVERTED WAR/AND KEPT ALIVE
THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM.

YOU ALSO UNDERSTAND
THAT THE LOSS OF OUR OWN SENSITIVE
INFORMATION CAN UNDERMINE THE VERY
FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FREE SOCIETY.

AND,
YOU WORK TO MEET THESE TWIN CHALLENGES BY
PROVIDING THE CRUCIAL INTELLIGENCE/AND
SAFEGUARDING THE SECURITY OF OUR OWN
COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONIC NETWORKS.

TODAY, YOUR WORK CONTINUES NOT ONLY
TO PREVENT CONFLICT BUT TO FIGHT TERRORISM/
PROTECT OUR SECURITY FROM HOSTILE
INTELLIGENCE THREATS/GUARD THE MEN AND
WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES AROUND THE WORLD/
AND GENERALLY PROTECT THE VALUES THAT WE,
OUR FRIENDS, AND OUR ALLIES HOLD DEAR.

WITHOUT THE PRODUCT OF YOUR PAINSTAKING
AND DEDICATED EFFORTS/WE WOULD --(IN A
DANGEROUS WORLD)-- BE BLIND AND DEAF.

WITHOUT YOUR LONG HOURS OF SELFLESS DUTY/
OFTEN IN FAR AND FORGOTTEN CORNERS OF THE
WORLD/WE COULD NEITHER PROTECT AMERICA NOR
ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM. WITHOUT YOUR
SUCCESS IN GUARDING OUR VITAL
COMMUNICATIONS/INFORMATION/AND TECHNOLOGY/
OUR ADVERSARIES WOULD ROB US OF THE SECRETS
WE NEED TO BE STRONG AND SECURE.

THE SIMPLE TRUTH IS/ WITHOUT YOU,
I COULD NOT DO MY JOB/NOR COULD SECRETARY
SHULTZ CONDUCT DIPLOMACY/NOR COULD
SECRETARY WEINBERGER, NOR ADMIRAL CROWE
MUSTER THE FORCES THAT DEFEND US.

AND SO, WHILE YOU SERVE IN SILENCE/
WHILE YOUR SUCCESS MUST GO WITHOUT
RECOGNITION/OFTEN EVEN BY YOUR OWN
FAMILIES/WHILE YOU CANNOT SHARE WITH THEM,
OR YOUR FELLOW AMERICANS/ THE PRIDE YOU FEEL
IN PROTECTING AND GUARDING THEIR FUTURE/
LET ME TODAY, IN THIS PLACE, SPEAK FOR ALL
OF THEM/ WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR WHAT
YOU DO/ FOR THE SACRIFICES YOU MAKE/ FOR
YOUR SELFLESS COMMITMENT TO OUR COUNTRY/ AND
FOR THE LIMITATIONS ON YOUR PERSONAL FREEDOM
WHICH YOU ACCEPT SO YOUR COUNTRYMEN CAN LIVE
THEIR LIVES IN FREEDOM AND PEACE. WE
UNDERSTAND YOUR BURDEN, AND WE SALUTE YOU,
YOU CARRY ON THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM/
YOU, TOO, ARE HEROES. AMERICA IS PROUD OF
YOU. WE THANK YOU.

OF COURSE, YOU CANNOT PERFORM YOUR WORK
WITHOUT PROPER SUPPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT
OF DEFENSE/ THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE/ THE WHITE HOUSE/ AND THE
CONGRESS. TODAY WE ARE CELEBRATING AN
EXAMPLE OF THAT SUPPORT/ A NEW BUILDING
COMPLEX/ THE MOST MODERN OF ITS KIND IN THE
WORLD. I WANT TO CONGRATULATE YOU ALL/
CAP WEINBERGER, BILL CASEY, BILL ODOM,
AND THE MEMBERS OF THE INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS/ WHO COOPERATED
SO EFFECTIVELY TO MAKE THIS BUILDING
POSSIBLE.

WHEN WE TOOK OFFICE 5-1/2 YEARS AGO,
WE PROMISED TO MAKE AMERICA STRONG AGAIN/
TODAY, WE SEE A MONUMENT TO THAT REASSERTION
OF AMERICAN STRENGTH AND SECURITY.

AND YET WE ARE ALSO AWARE TODAY OF A
GROWING THREAT TO THAT SECURITY.

ESPECIALLY IN THE ESPIONAGE TRIALS OF THE
LAST SEVERAL YEARS YOU HAVE GLIMPSED THE
TERRIBLE DAMAGE ESPIONAGE DOES, AND AS
EVENTS OF RECENT DAYS HAVE HIGHLIGHTED,
THE INTELLIGENCE THREAT TO OUR COUNTRY
REMAINS VERY REAL. OUR ADVERSARIES ARE
EMPLOYING ALL THE MEANS WE ASSOCIATE WITH
SPIES/ INCLUDING ELECTRONIC ESPIONAGE
AGAINST SENSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS AND DATA
BASES.

OUR MOST SENSITIVE DEFENSE SECRETS AND
MOST ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY HAVE BEEN STOLEN/
GIVEN TO OUR ADVERSARIES OUT OF MISGUIDED
MOTIVES OR ATTEMPTS AT FINANCIAL GAIN. SUCH
LOSSES ELIMINATE THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANTAGE
ON WHICH OUR DEFENSE RESTS. SIMILAR EFFORTS
TO INFILTRATE LONG-TERM AGENTS INTO
SENSITIVE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND
AGENCIES ARE UNDERWAY.

THOSE AROUND THE WORLD WHO WOULD SEEK
TO STEAL OUR SECRETS AND TECHNOLOGY/ TO
SUBVERT OUR VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS/
AND TO VIOLATE THE PRIVACY OF OUR
COMMUNICATIONS MUST REALIZE THIS FACT/
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NO LONGER TOLERATE
THIS CONDUCT.

ALREADY WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO
DEMONSTRATE THAT WE WILL NOT ALLOW OUR
ADVERSARIES TO ABUSE THE GREAT FREEDOMS OF
THIS COUNTRY TO OUR DETRIMENT. THE RECENT
FLURRY OF ESPIONAGE INDICTMENTS AND
CONVICTIONS EXPRESSES OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO
TOLERATE BETRAYAL OF THE SPECIAL TRUST GIVEN
TO THOSE WHO GUARD THE NATION'S SECRETS.
SO, TOO, RECENT EFFORTS BY N.S.A. HAVE
HELPED THE PRIVATE SECTOR MAKE IT PROFITABLE
TO PROVIDE SECURE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO BOTH GOVERNMENT AND
INDUSTRY.

BUT ON THE ISSUE OF ESPIONAGE, LET ME SAY AGAIN, WE WILL ROOT OUT SPIES, WE WILL PUNISH THEM SEVERELY, ON THIS POINT, LET ME ASSURE YOU, WE HAVE BROAD BIPARTISAN SUPPORT IN THE CONGRESS AND THE OVERWHELMING BACKING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND LET ME ADD, NOR WILL WE TOLERATE THE IMPRISONMENT OF INNOCENT AMERICAN CITIZENS IN RETALIATION FOR PROTECTING OURSELVES FROM ESPIONAGE.

SO TO YOU ALSO FALLS THE TASK OF BEING ESPECIALLY VIGILANT AGAINST THREATS FROM HOSTILE ESPIONAGE SERVICES, AS WELL AS OTHER UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURES OF THE INFORMATION YOU HOLD IN SAFEKEEPING, PROFESSIONAL HONOR, THESE ARE YOUR CODE WORDS, YOU PROTECT THE SECRETS AND HOLD THEM IN TRUST FOR YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS, AND THERE CAN BE NO EXCUSE FOR BREAKING THAT TRUST.

LET US REMEMBER THAT THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE IT ON THEMSELVES TO DECLASSIFY VITAL INFORMATION ENDANGER ALL OF OUR LIVES, OUR FREEDOM, AND OUR WAY OF LIFE.

SO, YOU REMAIN THE GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM, LET NOTHING SWAY YOU IN THIS NOBLE ENDEAVOR, NO MATTER HOW TRYING THE STRUGGLE, HOW LITTLE THE REWARD, KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE SUPPORT YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS AND REST EASIER BECAUSE OF YOUR DEVOTION TO COUNTRY.

AS THE WORDS ON YOUR NEW BUILDING SAY (POINT TO NEW BUILDING): IN GRATEFUL TRIBUTE TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES TO THE SERVICE OF THEIR NATION.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.

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