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DOC NO	Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions	
1	LETTER	NICHOLAS GAGE TO MRS. REAGAN RE FILM "ELENI" (OPEN IN WHOLE)	1	12/11/1985	B6	860

COPY - Reagan Presidential Record

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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37 Nelson Street
No. Grafton, MA 01536
December 11, 1985

COPY - Reagan Presidential Record

Dear Mrs. Reagan,

It was a delight and a privilege to see you and President Reagan last Sunday night in the magical setting of the White House decked in its Christmas splendor. Joan and I were very grateful to be included among the glittering crowd attending the Kennedy Center Honors reception. I had visited the White House only once before, in 1963 when I was presented a writing award by President John F. Kennedy, but saw just the Oval Office at that time. Last weekend we were privileged to have Ambassador Roosevelt show us all the stately rooms and magnificent works of art, and I don't think anyone has had a better guide since Dante met Virgil. In one room we found Walter Annenburg sitting alone, staring pensively at a portrait of Benjamin Franklin that he gave to the White House at the prodding of Mrs. Kennedy a long time ago. "I lived with him for so long, I always come to pay a visit when I'm in the White House," he said.

That was just one of the special moments that filled a night we will never forget. The highlight of the evening, of course, was meeting you and the President again. We were deeply touched that you remembered us so graciously and asked how the film "Eleni" is doing. Although it's attracting good audiences in the four cities where it is now playing and has received good reviews from the leading television critics, it will open nationally at the end of January with the handicap of negative reviews from the leading New York newspaper and magazine critics. They criticized "Eleni" for the same reasons that they have attacked "White Nights" and other films that dramatize Communist abuses, saying that it evokes cold war hostility. "Communists haven't been depicted as such unredeemable curs in a mainstream movie since the '50s," was a typical comment, echoed in various forms in most of the New York print reviews.

That's why the film needs a strong push when it is released nationally, and we hope to provide it with a benefit premiere to be held in Washington at the end of January. There is nothing that would do more for the film than to hold the premiere under your patronage. If you would lend your name as honorary patron to this event, which will benefit the Children's Hearing and Speech Center of Children's Hospital and the Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage, both based in Washington, you would be doing a magnificent service not only to these good causes but also to the memory of my mother's sacrifice so that her children could be free. Some of the city's leading citizens will join the effort to make the premiere memorable, but the only guarantee of success is your personal support. If you can give it, you will have the lasting gratitude of myself and my family, as well as the many victims of totalitarian regimes who identify with Eleni's struggle.

I look forward to hearing from you and I wish you, President Reagan and all the members of your family a joyous holiday season filled with love.

Sincerely,


Nicholas Gage