

(JUDGE)

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NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
FORT McNAIR

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1988

SECRETARY CARLUCCI / ADMIRAL CROWE /
ADMINISTRATOR TURNAGE. / GENERAL HOSMER /

VETERANS OF AMERICA'S ARMED FORCES /

TODAY, WE HAVE TWO REASONS TO CELEBRATE.

I'LL SAVE THE SECOND / AND A CERTAIN BILL
SIGNING / UNTIL AFTER MY REMARKS ON THE
FIRST.

FIVE YEARS AGO, IN THE SILENCE THAT
AWAITS THE CARIBBEAN DAWN, / A UNIT OF
AMERICAN NAVAL FORCES SLIPPED ASHORE / AND
BEGAN THE RESCUE OF THE TINY ISLAND NATION
OF GRENADA.

TODAY, WE COMMEMORATE THAT MISSION/
AND THE HEROISM OF THE THOUSANDS OF
SOLDIERS, / SAILORS, / MARINES, / AND AIRMEN WHO
TOOK PART. / THE MEN OF THAT FORCE AND LATER
CONTINGENTS CAME FROM THE UNITED STATES /
YES, / BUT ALSO FROM JAMAICA AND BARBADOS /
AS WELL AS, ANTIGUA, DOMINICA,
ST. (LOU-SHUH), / ST. KITTS-NEVIS, /
AND ST. VINCENT / - THE ISLAND DEMOCRACIES
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN
STATES / THAT HAD SENT AN URGENT
S.O.S. MESSAGE TO AMERICA JUST DAYS BEFORE
THE MISSION BEGAN.

YES, / A MARXIST REGIME HAD BEEN
ESTABLISHED IN A CORNER OF THE WORLD THAT
HAD / OVER THE CENTURIES, KNOWN LITTLE OTHER
THAN PEACE.

MANY IN OUR COUNTRY DOUBTED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS / BUT NOT THOSE WHO LIVED CLOSEST TO IT. } THEY WATCHED WITH GROWING ALARM / AS THE GRENADIAN REGIME STRENGTHENED ITS TIES WITH CUBA AND THE SOVIET UNION, / AND AS BUILDING BEGAN ON AN AIRFIELD THAT APPEARED DESTINED TO BECOME A MAJOR MILITARY BASE. } AND THEN THE REGIME ITSELF BEGAN TO DISINTEGRATE, / AND AN ANARCHY BEGAN TO SPREAD IN WHICH ONLY THE MOST VIOLENT AND RUTHLESS COULD TRIUMPH. } OUR CARIBBEAN FRIENDS BELIEVED THEY COULD NO LONGER STAND BY QUIETLY / AND THAT WE SHOULD NOT EITHER. } IT WAS AS IF, IN THOSE DAYS, / THE ENTIRE EASTERN CARIBBEAN WAS CRYING OUT FOR HELP, AND WE HEARD THE CRY.

ALL AMERICANS SOON CAME TO KNOW THE
RESOLUTE PRIME MINISTER OF DOMINICA/AND
LEADER OF THE O.E.C.S., EUGENIA CHARLES/
AND HEARD FROM HER ABOUT THE NEED THOSE
SMALL FREE NATIONS HAD FOR THE HELP OF THE
UNITED STATES. HERE IN WASHINGTON,
IN THE ADMINISTRATION/WE HEARD HER PLEA
BEFORE THE REST OF THE NATION DID /-
AS THE CRISIS WAS BREAKING. WE HAD LONG
SHARED HER CONCERN ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING
IN GRENADA/AND TO THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA.
WE WERE CONCERNED, AS WELL,/ABOUT THE LIVES
AND SAFETY OF A THOUSAND AMERICANS THERE/
MOST OF THEM MEDICAL STUDENTS. AND SO WITH
THE INITIAL PLANNING CONDUCTED UNDER THE
SUPERVISION OF VICE PRESIDENT BUSH/
WE RESPONDED QUICKLY TO THE DEVELOPING
CRISIS. WITHIN HOURS, OUR FORCES WERE
MOVING TOWARD THE ISLAND.

THROUGHOUT OUR HISTORY, AMERICA'S MEN
IN UNIFORM HAVE ALWAYS BEEN READY WHEN THE
CAUSE OF FREEDOM CALLED, AND THEY'VE NEVER
LET US DOWN. I'VE OFTEN TOLD OF WHEN
GENERAL GEORGE MARSHALL WAS ASKED WHY HE WAS
SO CONFIDENT THAT WE WOULD WIN THE SECOND
WORLD WAR. "WE HAVE A SECRET WEAPON,"
HE SAID, "THE BEST BLANKETY-BLANK KIDS
IN THE WORLD." IT'S STILL TRUE TODAY.
WE STILL HAVE A SECRET WEAPON, AND IT'S
STILL THE BEST BLANKETY-BLANK KIDS IN THE
WORLD.

AND 5 YEARS AGO, IN AMPHIBIOUS CRAFT
AND IN HELICOPTERS, BY PARACHUTE AND BY
PLANE, THE BEST BLANKETY-BLANK KIDS IN THE
WORLD LANDED ON GRENADA. EVERY AMERICAN HAS
HEARD AT LEAST SOME OF THE STORIES OF THEIR
COURAGE AND RESOURCEFULNESS UNDER FIRE.

WE'VE HEARD OF HOW PLANES CARRYING
AIRBORNE TROOPS/HAD TO FLY IN LOW TO GET
UNDER THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE,/AND SO OUR
PARATROOPERS JUMPED AT JUST A FEW HUNDRED
FEET,/BARELY HIGH ENOUGH TO GET THEIR CHUTES
OPEN BEFORE THEY HIT GROUND.

WE'VE HEARD HOW RANGERS,/PINNED DOWN ON
ONE SIDE OF POINT SALINAS AIRFIELD BY CUBAN
FIRE FROM THE OTHER SIDE,/COMMANDEERED
A BULLDOZER AND USED IT AS A MAKESHIFT TANK/
FOLLOWING BEHIND IT AS THEY ADVANCED ON THE
ENEMY'S POSITION.

WE'VE HEARD HOW A SMALL UNIT
OF COMMANDOS,/ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE
GOVERNOR-GENERAL,/BATTLED A MUCH LARGER
CUBAN CONTINGENT /TO RESCUE THE
GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO SAFETY.

YET MOST OF US HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF ACTS OF KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY/ THAT OUR MEN DID FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE ISLAND DURING AND AFTER THE FIGHTING.

WHEN IT CAME TIME FOR THE LAST AMERICAN FORCE TO LEAVE GRENADA/ THE GRENADIAN PEOPLE DIDN'T WANT OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM TO GO. YES,/ THE PEOPLE OF GRENADA TREATED OUR FORCES/ THE WAY THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE TREATED AMERICAN LIBERATORS OF ANOTHER GENERATION /- AND WE'RE PROUD OF THAT.

WE'RE PROUD OF SOMETHING ELSE, TOO.

FROM THE ARGONNE FOREST TO NORMANDY,/ FROM CHOSIN RESERVOIR TO DANANG,/ AMERICA HAS ALWAYS STOOD WITH THOSE WHO STAND FOR FREEDOM. THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT WE EAGERLY JUMP INTO EVERY FIGHT.

WE DON'T /- BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN READY
TO GIVE A HAND TO THOSE STRUGGLING FOR
FREEDOM, WHEN THEY NEEDED IT.

YET IN THE YEARS AFTER WE WITHDREW FROM
VIETNAM, / OUR LEADERS SEEMED TO SHY AWAY FROM
FREEDOM'S BATTLES. IN ASIA AND AFRICA AND
EVEN IN CENTRAL AMERICA / THEY SEEMED TO
FORGET A TRUTH THAT HAS GUIDED OUR NATION
FROM ITS FOUNDING /- THAT THE CAUSE OF FREE
PEOPLES IS INDIVISIBLE. WHEN FREEDOM IS
DIMINISHED ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD / FREEDOM
EVERYWHERE IS ENDANGERED. WHEN THE
BOUNDARIES OF FREEDOM EXPAND IN ONE COUNTRY /
FREEDOM FOR ALL PEOPLES EXPANDS.

IN GRENADA, / AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE ON THE
SIDELINES, / AMERICA AT LAST STEPPED BACK INTO
FREEDOM'S BATTLES. AND IN THE YEARS SINCE,
WE'VE STAYED THERE.

AROUND THE WORLD / IN AFGHANISTAN /
ANGOLA / CAMBODIA, / AND, YES, CENTRAL AMERICA /
THE UNITED STATES TODAY STANDS WITH THOSE
WHO WOULD FIGHT FOR FREEDOM. WE STAND WITH
ORDINARY PEOPLE / WHO HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO
TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST COMMUNIST TYRANNY.
THIS STAND IS AT THE CORE OF WHAT SOME HAVE
CALLED THE "REAGAN DOCTRINE."

IMAGINE WHAT IT MEANS TO BECOME
A MUJAHIDIN / TO FIGHT FOR UNITA, / TO JOIN THE
NICARAGUAN DEMOCRATIC RESISTANCE. SOME HAVE
CALLED OUR SUPPORT FOR AT LEAST ONE OF THESE
MOVEMENTS "BIZARRE," / BUT I SAY IT'S AS
NATURAL AS WHAT MAKES US AMERICANS /
THAT THERE IS SOMETHING IN OUR SPIRIT AND
OUR HISTORY / THAT CALLS ON US TO SAY THESE
BATTLES ARE OUR BATTLES / THAT THESE FREEDOM
FIGHTERS ARE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS.

THE SOLDIERS IN EACH OF THESE MOVEMENTS
ARE MOSTLY FROM SMALL TOWNS AND VILLAGES.

MOST, AT ONE TIME, WORKED THE LAND.

THEY ARE SIMPLE AND PEACEFUL PEOPLE/WHO HAVE
STOOD FACE TO FACE WITH COMMUNIST

OPPRESSION. NO/OPPRESSION IS NOT AN

ABSTRACTION TO THEM. IT IS A FARM SEIZED/

A VILLAGE DESTROYED/ A FATHER OR MOTHER

MURDERED. IT IS AN ARBITRARY RULING ELITE/

TELLING THEM HOW MUCH THEY CAN CHARGE FOR

THEIR CROPS. IT IS A KNOCK ON THE DOOR AT

MIDNIGHT/BECAUSE SOMEONE IN THE FAMILY

CASUALLY CRITICIZED THE REGIME. IT IS THE

DEFACEMENT OR DESTRUCTION OF THE LOCAL

CHURCH OR MOSQUE OR SYNAGOGUE. IT IS THE

INTRUSION OF AN ARMED AND RUTHLESS PARTY/

INTO THE REALMS OF LIFE THAT EVERY HUMAN

BEING KNOWS IN HIS OR HER SOUL SHOULD BE

INVIOLABLE.

AND SO THESE SIMPLE FARMERS HAVE TAKEN
UP ARMS /- AN ACT OF ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE
COURAGE. / FOR TO BE A FREEDOM FIGHTER /-
WHETHER IN AFGHANISTAN, / ANGOLA, / NICARAGUA, /
CAMBODIA, / OR ELSEWHERE /-- IS TO FACE LARGE
FORCES EQUIPPED WITH SOME OF THE MOST
TERRIFYING WEAPONS ANY ARMY HAS EVER FACED /
AND TO FIGHT AGAINST ALL ODDS.

WE AMERICANS KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THAT
KIND OF COURAGE. / MORE THAN 200 YEARS AGO, /
AMERICANS CAME OUT FROM EVERY MIDDLESEX
VILLAGE AND FARM, / AND FROM VILLAGES AND
FARMS ALL OVER THE 13 COLONIES, / TO FACE THE
GREATEST IMPERIAL ARMY IN THE WORLD /-
AND TO DEFEAT IT. / WE LEARNED THEN THAT THE
GOD-GIVEN LOVE OF FREEDOM / THAT FILLS EVERY
HUMAN HEART WITH STRENGTH / IS THE GREATEST
FORCE THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.

NO EMPIRE, NO TYRANT, NO RULING PARTY CAN
RESIST IT FOREVER. TO STAND ON THE SIDE OF
HUMAN FREEDOM IS TRULY TO STAND ON THE SIDE
OF HISTORY.

AND YET WE ALSO FOUND DURING OUR OWN
REVOLUTION THAT WHEN A FREE PEOPLE ARE YOUNG
AND STRUGGLING THEY NEED FRIENDS. WE COULD
NOT HAVE WON OUR INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT HELP.

TODAY, OTHERS CANNOT WIN THEIR FREEDOM
WITHOUT HELP FROM US.

AND THANKS IN PART TO OUR HELP,
THEY ARE WINNING. TODAY IN AFGHANISTAN,
ANGOLA, AND CAMBODIA WE ARE SEEING MOVES
TOWARD PEACE AND FREEDOM THAT WOULD HAVE
BEEN UNTHINKABLE EVEN A FEW SHORT MONTHS
AGO. IN EACH COUNTRY, THE SOVIETS AND THEIR
ALLIES HAVE SAID THEY WILL WITHDRAW, AND THE
REASON IS CLEAR.

IN EACH COUNTRY / WE HELPED FREEDOM FIGHTERS
OBTAIN THE SUPPLIES THAT, TOGETHER WITH
THEIR OWN COURAGE / EVENED THE ODDS.

WE WERE STRONG AND STEADY FRIENDS, /
AND WE SEE ONCE AGAIN IN THE NEWS FROM THOSE
COUNTRIES / THAT AMERICAN STRENGTH IS INDEED
THE GREATEST FORCE FOR PEACE ON THE FACE
OF THIS EARTH.

WE COULD BE SEEING THE SAME SEEDS
OF GENUINE PEACE AND FREEDOM / SPROUTING
IN NICARAGUA TODAY / IF WE HAD SHOWN THE SAME
STEADFAST SUPPORT FOR THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS'
CAUSE. BUT DOESN'T THE FAILURE OF PEACE
PLANS / AND DEMOCRATIC OVERTURES IN NICARAGUA /
GIVE ANYONE WILLING TO LOOK AND LISTEN /
AN EXAMPLE OF THE EXCEPTION THAT PROVES THE
BROADER RULE?

WHERE WE HAVE STOOD UNFLINCHINGLY WITH
FREEDOM FIGHTERS/ PEACE AND FREEDOM HAVE
BEGUN TO TAKE ROOT AND GROW. WHERE WE
HAVEN'T, THEY HAVEN'T.

AND YET, IF THE BOOK IS FAR FROM FULLY
WRITTEN ON THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM
IN NICARAGUA, IT IS MUCH FARTHER ALONG/ AND
MUCH MORE HOPEFUL IN AFGHANISTAN, ANGOLA,
CAMBODIA/ AND, OF COURSE, GRENADA.

AND SO I SAY TO YOU THAT ON THIS DAY/ WE
CELEBRATE SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN
A MILITARY ACTION. IT IS THE IRREPRESSIBLE
SPIRIT OF FREEDOM/ THAT IS AT HOME IN EVERY
HUMAN HEART.

IT IS A GREAT AND GENEROUS SPIRIT.

AND AROUND THE WORLD TODAY -- (AS WE WERE
IN GRENADA) -- AMERICA IS ONCE AGAIN ON ITS
SIDE.

WHILE MANY WERE STILL WONDERING IF WE
HAD DONE THE RIGHT THING IN GRENADA AND IF
THE DANGER THERE HAD BEEN ALL WE SAID IT
WAS, A PLANE CARRIED THE STUDENTS WE'D
RESCUED BACK HOME. AND THEN WE SAW THESE
STUDENTS WALK DOWN THE ^{STEPS} ~~STAIRS~~ FROM THE
PLANE, FALL TO THEIR KNEES, AND KISS THEIR
COUNTRY'S GROUND.

MANY ALSO QUESTIONED WHETHER WE WERE
RIGHT ABOUT THE STRATEGIC THREAT GRENADA WAS
BEGINNING TO POSE IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN.
AND THEN WE FOUND A WEALTH OF DOCUMENTS ON
THE ISLAND THAT SHOWED THAT THE THREAT HAD
BEEN AT LEAST AS SERIOUS AS WE HAD BELIEVED.

IN A VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE/
ONE YOUNG STUDENT RESCUED IN THE GRENADA
OPERATION, JEFF GELLER, WHO IS HERE WITH US
TODAY, SAID, "LET US... REMEMBER THAT MANY
LIVES WERE LOST IN SAVING OURS. LET US
HONOR THOSE AMERICAN MEN WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES THAT SOMEDAY WE MEDICAL STUDENTS CAN
SAVE OTHERS." WELL, ALL I CAN SAY IS
"AMEN." AND I WOULD ADD, LET US REMEMBER
ALL THOSE WHO FOUGHT SO THAT FREEDOM ITSELF/
COULD ONCE MORE LIVE AND THRIVE IN THAT
SMALL NATION.

AND LET US PRAY THAT, FOR THE CAUSE
OF FREEDOM, IT SHALL ALWAYS BE SAID,
IN THE WORDS OF THE PSALMS, "THE LORD SHALL
PRESERVE THY GOING OUT AND COMING IN FROM
THIS TIME FORTH, AND EVEN FOREVER MORE."

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU.



SIGNING CEREMONY FOR V.A. DEPARTMENT BILL

AND NOW LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT
SOMETHING ELSE NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART.

ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED IN AMERICA'S
UNIFORM DESERVE THE NATION'S THANKS.

TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE, I AM ABOUT TO DO
SOMETHING I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO FOR
A LONG TIME -- SIGN THE BILL THAT CREATES
A CABINET-LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
AFFAIRS.

IT HAS BEEN 13 YEARS SINCE ARMY VETERAN
SENATOR STROM THURMOND INTRODUCED THE BILL.

WE HAVE IT THIS YEAR BECAUSE MARINE VETERAN/
CONGRESSMAN GERRY SOLOMON/WORKED TO MAKE
SURE THE JOB WOULD BE COMPLETED BEFORE
CONGRESS ADJOURNED. AND, OF COURSE,
ARMY VETERAN/CONGRESSMAN SONNY MONTGOMERY/
WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS IN THE FIGHT FOR THE
LEGISLATION.

OTHERS IN CONGRESS /- ESPECIALLY ON THE
VETERANS AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
COMMITTEES /- HELPED LEAD THE WAY.

THIS BILL GIVES THOSE WHO HAVE BORNE
AMERICA'S BATTLES / WHO HAVE DEFENDED THE
BORDERS OF FREEDOM, / WHO HAVE PROTECTED OUR
NATION'S SECURITY IN WAR AND IN PEACE /-
IT GIVES THEM WHAT THEY HAVE DESERVED FOR
SO LONG / A SEAT AT THE TABLE IN OUR NATIONAL
AFFAIRS.

I'VE SAID BEFORE / THAT AMERICA'S DEBT
TO THOSE WHO WOULD FIGHT FOR HER DEFENSE /
DOESN'T END THE DAY THE UNIFORM COMES OFF.
FOR THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION, IT MUST NOT
END. EVERY TIME A MAN OR WOMAN ENLISTS
IN THE ARMY, / NAVY, / AIR FORCE, / MARINES, /
OR COAST GUARD, / HE OR SHE IS READY TO LAY
DOWN HIS OR HER LIFE FOR OUR NATION.

WE MUST BE READY TO SHOW THAT AMERICA
APPRECIATES WHAT THAT MEANS.

I LIKE TO THINK THAT THIS BILL GIVES
CABINET RANK, / NOT JUST TO AN AGENCY WITHIN
THE GOVERNMENT / BUT TO EVERY SINGLE VETERAN.

AND SO IN SIGNING THIS BILL, / I'M SAYING TO
ALL OUR VETERANS / WHAT I SAY TO NEW CABINET
MEMBERS. "WELCOME ABOARD."

AND NOW I HAVE A LITTLE SIGNING TO DO.

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