This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Folder Title:
NATO Event for Poland, Hungary, and Czech Republic 2/11/98

Staff Office-Individual:
Speechwriting-Blinken

Original OA-ID Number:
3380

Row: 48  Section: 5  Shelf: 10  Position: 1  Stack: V
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE</th>
<th>SUBJECT/TITLE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>RESTRICTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001. email</td>
<td>Daniel Benjamin to Anthony Blinken et al: re: NATO Event (1 page)</td>
<td>02/09/1998</td>
<td>P5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COLLECTION:**
- Clinton Presidential Records
- National Security Council
- Anthony Blinken (Speechwriting)
- OA/Box Number: 3380

**FOLDER TITLE:**
NATO Event for Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic 2/11/98

**RESTRICTION CODES**

**Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor’s deed of gift.

**PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).**

**RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.**

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(5) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(5) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]
Today we gather in a building that has seen many negotiations and the signing of many pacts to
end bloodshed. This time, we have come together not to sign another agreement to end a war but
to begin a new era of security and stability for America and Europe.

In a moment, I will transmit to the Senate for its advice and consent the documents that will add
Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to NATO. Their addition to the Alliance is not only a
pivotal event in the quest of their peoples for freedom and security. The enlargement of NATO is
also a major stride forward for America, the Alliance, and the stability and unity of all of Europe.

As the Senate takes up consideration of these agreements in the coming weeks, the question it
must answer is: How does adding these states to NATO advance America's national security?

There are three compelling reasons. First: Enlarging the Alliance will make NATO stronger.
The Cold War is past, but dangers remain - conflicts like the one in Bosnia, weapons of mass
destruction, threats that we cannot predict today. A NATO that embraces Europe’s new
democracies will be more capable of carrying out its core missions of defending the territory of
its members as well as addressing conflicts that threaten our common peace.

These three states will add some 200,000 troops to the Alliance. A larger NATO will be a better
deterrent against the aggressors of the future and deepen the ranks of those who will stand with
us should deterrence ever fail. I am pleased that just last week, 60 of America's top retired
military leaders - including five former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - underscored that
message when they said that these three states will make NATO stronger. They are right, and we
have already seen the proof: The Czechs, Poles and Hungarians served beside us in the Gulf
War. Their troops are also participating as we speak in NATO’s peacekeeping effort in Bosnia.
And all three countries are part of the coalition we are building for an effective strike against
Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction program -- should one prove necessary. New allies and old
allies are standing with us for one simple reason: Iraq must not be allowed to develop nuclear,
chemical and biological weapons or the missiles to deliver them. Saddam has shown the will to
use them before. We must and we will show the will to diminish his capacity to do so again.

Second: Enlarging NATO will make Europe more stable. NATO can do for Europe’s east what
it did for Europe’s west after World War II -- provide a secure climate in which democracy and
prosperity can grow. Enlarging NATO will encourage prospective members to resolve their
differences peacefully. Already, the prospect of NATO membership has helped convince countries in Central Europe to improve ties with their neighbors, settle border and ethnic disputes -- any one of which could have led to a future conflict. Enlargement will make all of Europe more stable.

Finally, NATO’s growth will erase the artificial line in Europe that Stalin drew. Behind me is a picture of the wall that for so long represented the false and forced division of that continent. It has been nearly ten years since that wall was torn down by brave people on both sides. Countries once confined by it are now truly free, with strong democracies, vibrant market economies, and a proven track record of standing up for peace and security beyond their own borders. NATO cannot maintain the old Iron Curtain as its permanent eastern frontier. It must and can bring Europe together in security, not keep it apart in instability.

In the 20th century, we have learned the hard way just how vital Europe’s security is for our own. Enlarging NATO will make America safer.

Our goal is and remains the creation of an undivided, democratic peaceful Europe for the first time in history. Bringing these three nations into the Alliance will advance this effort. So will the NATO’s new Founding Act with Russia and the broad new relationship we are building with Moscow -- which is helping us move forward on arms control...build peace in Bosnia...and achieve progress on a wide range of security challenges. So will the Partnership for Peace ... the EuroAtlantic Partnership Council...the Charter with Ukraine ... and the Charter of Partnership I signed last month with the Presidents of the three Baltic states and our Southeast Europe Action Plan, which I announced yesterday with President Stoyanov of Bulgaria. Our effort to build a new Europe also depends on keeping NATO’s door open to other qualified European democracies. History teaches us that the realm of freedom in Europe has no fixed frontiers. The United States is determined that the divisions of the past not circumscribe the boundaries of the future.

As the Senate begins its deliberations, I want to salute the indispensable role that members of both parties in both chambers in Congress have already played in bringing us to this day. I was especially pleased that a bipartisan group of members joined me at last summer’s NATO summit in Madrid as part of America’s delegation. The wide-ranging debate on this issue within Congress and across our nation is a model of the kind of thoughtful, non-partisan discussion we need -- and I commend Congress for helping to lead it. Now the decision rests with the United States Senate. I know it is in good hands.

In this room named for Benjamin Franklin -- America’s first envoy in Europe after independence -- I am reminded of the comment he made at the close of the Constitutional Convention. He noted that on the chair of the Convention’s president, George Washington, was painted a figure of the sun -- a symbol, he thought, of our new republic. He said “I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun.”

In the wake of the Cold War, some wondered whether the Alliance had a future. With the step we take today -- and the decision I am confident the Senate will take in the days ahead -- I know that our historic partnership of nations also is a rising sun and that its ascendance will bring a more stable, more democratic, more peaceful future for all who live on both sides of the Atlantic.
Revised draft with a few Blinken changes and few more Benjamin tweaks.

Russia: Have beefed up the reference. Okay now?

Europe and CEE: Have not heard from you. This must go to SRB/JS by lunchtime. Please send comments asap.
Acknowledgments: Vice President Gore; [Senator Lott; Senator Daschle; others tk] Secretary Albright; General Shelton Minister Geremek; Minister Kovacs; Minister Sedivy; Distinguished Guests:

Today we gather in a building that has seen many negotiations and the signing of many pacts to end bloodshed. This time, we have come together not to sign another cease fire ... not to end a war... but to begin a new era of peace and stability for America and Europe.

In a moment, I will transmit to the Senate for its advice and consent the documents that will add Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to NATO. Their addition to the Alliance is not only a pivotal event in the quest of their peoples for freedom and security. The enlargement of NATO is also a major stride forward for America, the Alliance, and the stability and unity of all of Europe.

As the Senate takes up consideration of these agreements in the coming weeks the question it must ask is: How does adding these states to NATO advance America's national security?

There are four reasons. First, enlarging NATO will make our Alliance stronger and thereby make our nation safer. If we have learned one lesson in the 20th century, it is that our security and Europe's stability are inevitably intertwined. The Cold War is past, but dangers remain -- conflicts like the one in Bosnia, weapons of mass destruction, threats that we cannot predict today. A NATO that embraces Europe's new democracies will be more capable of carrying out its missions: defending the territory of its members...addressing conflicts that threaten our common peace.

These three states will add some 200,000 troops to the Alliance. A larger NATO will be a better deterrent against the aggressors of the future and enlarge the circle of those who will stand with us should deterrence ever fail. I am pleased that just last week, 60 of America's top retired military leaders -- including five former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff -- underscored that message when they said that these three states will make NATO stronger. They are right, and we have already seen the proof. The Czechs and Poles served beside us in the Gulf War. Their troops, together with those of Hungary, are also participating as we speak in NATO's peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. They have made a significant contribution to our success in these missions.

Second: Enlarging NATO will help secure the gains of democracy in Europe. NATO can do for Europe's east what it did for Europe's west after World War II -- provide a secure climate in which freedom and prosperity can grow.

Third: Enlarging NATO will encourage prospective members to resolve their differences
peacefully. Already, the prospect of NATO membership has helped convince countries in Central Europe to improve ties with their neighbors, settle border and ethnic disputes -- any one of which could have led to a future conflict. Enlargement will make all of Europe more stable.

Finally, NATO’s growth will erase the artificial line in Europe that Stalin drew. Behind me is a picture of the wall that for so long represented the false and forced division of that continent. It has been nearly ten years since that wall was torn down by brave people on both sides. Countries once confined by it are now truly free, with strong democracies, vibrant market economies, and a proven track record of standing up for peace and security beyond their own borders. NATO, the cornerstone of security in an undivided Europe, cannot maintain the old Iron Curtain as its permanent eastern frontier. It must bring Europe together in security, not keep it apart in instability.

Our goal is and remains the creation of an undivided, democratic peaceful Europe for the first time in history. Bringing these three nations into the Alliance will advance this effort. So will the Alliance’s new Founding Act with Russia and the broad new relationship we are building with Moscow -- which is helping us move forward on arms control...build peace in Bosnia...and achieve progress on a wide range of security challenges. And we are also speeding our work for a new Europe by keeping NATO’s door open to other qualified European democracies...through the Partnership for Peace ... and the Charter with Ukraine and the Charter of Partnership I signed last month with the Presidents of the three Baltic states. We do not yet know what new members NATO will invite in years to come. But history teaches us that the realm of freedom in Europe has no fixed frontiers, and we are determined that the divisions of the past not inscribe the boundaries of the future.

As the Senate begins its deliberations, I want to recognize the indispensable role that members of both parties in both chambers in Congress have already played in bringing us to this day. Our consultations and the Congressional resolutions over the past four years have helped inform our efforts move them forward. I was especially pleased that a bipartisan group of members joined me at last summer’s NATO summit in Madrid as part of America’s delegation. The wide-ranging debate on this issue within Congress and across our nation is a model of the kind of thoughtful, non-partisan discussion we need -- and I salute Congress for helping to lead it. Now the decision rests with the United States Senate. I know it rests in good hands.

In this room named for Benjamin Franklin, one of the architects of the arrangements between the branches of government that we reaffirm today, I am reminded of the comment he made at the close of the Constitutional Convention. He noted that on the chair of the Convention's president, George Washington, was carved a figure of the sun -- a symbol, he thought, of our new republic. He said “I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun.”

In the wake of the Cold War, some wondered about the future of the Alliance that brought us victory in that long twilight struggle. With the step we take today -- and the decision I am confident the Senate will take in the days ahead -- I have the happiness to know that our historic partnership of nations also is a rising and not a setting sun, and that its ascendance will bring a more stable, more peaceful future for all who live on both sides of the Atlantic.

###
For review by SRB/JS: Attached is a draft of the remarks for the NATO event tomorrow. It is a cut-down, much edited version of a draft by Jeremy Rosner. This version has been cleared by Planning, Europe, Russia, Leg and Rosner.
2/8/98 12:30 P.M.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
TRANSMITTAL OF PROTOCOLS OF ACCESSION TO NATO FOR POLAND, HUNGARY, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC
STATE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, DC
FEBRUARY 11, 1998

Acknowledgments: Vice President Gore; Senator Roth; Senator Biden, Senator Helms others tk] Secretary Albright; General Shelton; Minister Kovacs [KO-vach]; Minister Geremek [guh-REH-mek]; Minister Sedivy [SHEH-dih-vee]; Distinguished Guests:

Today we gather in a building that has seen many negotiations and the signing of many pacts to end bloodshed. This time, we have come together not to sign another peace agreement... not to end a war... but to begin a new era of security and stability for America and Europe.

In a moment, I will transmit to the Senate for its advice and consent the documents that will add Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to NATO. Their addition to the Alliance is not only a pivotal event in the quest of their peoples for freedom and security. The enlargement of NATO is also a major stride forward for America, the Alliance, and the stability and unity of all of Europe.

As the Senate takes up consideration of these agreements in the coming weeks the question it must ask is: How does adding these states to NATO advance America's national security?

There are four reasons. First: Enlarging NATO will make America safer. If we have learned one lesson in the 20th century, it is that our security and Europe's stability are inevitably intertwined. The Cold War is past, but dangers remain - conflicts like the one in Bosnia, weapons of mass destruction, threats that we cannot predict today. A NATO that embraces Europe's new democracies will be more capable of carrying out its core missions of defending the territory of its members as well as addressing conflicts that threaten our common peace.

Second: Enlarging the Alliance will make NATO stronger. These three states will add some 200,000 troops to the Alliance. A larger NATO will be a better deterrent against the aggressors of the future and enlarge the circle of those who will stand with us should deterrence ever fail. I am pleased that just last week, 60 of America's top retired military leaders - including five former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff - underscored that message when they said that these three states will make NATO stronger. They are right, and we have already seen the proof. The Czechs, Poles and Hungarians served beside us in the Gulf War. Their troops are also participating as we speak in NATO's peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. They have made a significant contribution to our success in these missions.

Third: Enlarging NATO will make Europe more stable. NATO can do for Europe's east what it did for Europe's west after World War II -- provide a secure climate in which democracy and prosperity can grow. Enlarging NATO will encourage prospective members to resolve their differences peacefully. Already, the prospect of NATO membership has helped convince countries in Central Europe to improve ties with their neighbors, settle border and ethnic disputes -- any one of which could have led to a future conflict. Enlargement will make all of Europe
more stable.

Finally, NATO's growth will erase the artificial line in Europe that Stalin drew. Behind me is a picture of the wall that for so long represented the false and forced division of that continent. It has been nearly ten years since that wall was torn down by brave people on both sides. Countries once confined by it are now truly free, with strong democracies, vibrant market economies, and a proven track record of standing up for peace and security beyond their own borders. NATO cannot maintain the old Iron Curtain as its permanent eastern frontier. It must bring Europe together in security, not keep it apart in instability.

As our nation prepares to take this step, let me paraphrase something my predecessor Ronald Reagan said a decade ago in Berlin: Together, let us tear down the legacy of that wall.

Our goal is and remains the creation of an undivided, democratic peaceful Europe for the first time in history. Bringing these three nations into the Alliance will advance this effort. So will the NATO's new Founding Act with Russia and the broad new relationship we are building with Moscow -- which is helping us move forward on arms control...build peace in Bosnia...and achieve progress on a wide range of security challenges. So will the Partnership for Peace ... the EuroAtlantic Partnership Council...the Charter with Ukraine ... and the Charter of Partnership I signed last month with the Presidents of the three Baltic states and our Southeast Europe Action Plan, which I announced yesterday with President Stoyanov of Bulgaria. Our effort to build a new Europe also depends on keeping NATO's door open to other qualified European democracies. History teaches us that the realm of freedom in Europe has no fixed frontiers. The United States is determined that the divisions of the past not inscribe the boundaries of the future.

As the Senate begins its deliberations, I want to recognize the indispensable role that members of both parties in both chambers in Congress have already played in bringing us to this day. Congressional interest over the past four years and particularly recent hearings have helped inform our efforts and move them forward. I was especially pleased that a bipartisan group of members joined me at last summer's NATO summit in Madrid as part of America's delegation. The wide-ranging debate on this issue within Congress and across our nation is a model of the kind of thoughtful, non-partisan discussion we need -- and I salute Congress for helping to lead it. Now the decision rests with the United States Senate. I know it is in good hands.

In this room named for Benjamin Franklin, one of the architects of the arrangements between the branches of government that we reaffirm today, I am reminded of the comment he made at the close of the Constitutional Convention. He noted that on the chair of the Convention's president, George Washington, was carved a figure of the sun -- a symbol, he thought, of our new republic. He said "I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun."

In the wake of the Cold War, some wondered about the future of the Alliance that brought us victory in that long twilight struggle. With the step we take today -- and the decision I am confident the Senate will take in the days ahead -- I know that our historic partnership of nations also is a rising and not a setting sun, and that its ascendance will bring a more stable, more peaceful future for all who live on both sides of the Atlantic.
**DOCUMENT NO.** | **SUBJECT/TITLE** | **DATE** | **RESTRICTION**
---|---|---|---
001. | email Daniel Benjamin to Anthony Blinken et al. re: NATO Event (1 page) | 02/09/1998 | P5

**COLLECTION:**
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Anthony Blinken (Speechwriting)
OA/Box Number: 3380

**FOLDER TITLE:**
NATO Event for Poland, Hungary and Czech Republic 2/11/98

**RESTRICION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
- P4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA]
- P5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA]
- P6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor’s deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).
RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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

- b(1) National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- b(2) Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- b(3) Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- b(4) Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
- b(5) Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(5) of the FOIA]
- b(6) Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(6) of the FOIA]
- b(7) Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(7) of the FOIA]
- b(8) Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(8) of the FOIA]
2/7/98 6:15 P.M.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
TRANSMITTAL OF PROTOCOLS OF ACCESSION TO NATO FOR
POLAND, HUNGARY, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC
STATE DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON, DC
FEBRUARY 11, 1998

Acknowledgments: Vice President Gore; [Senator Lott; Senator Daschle;] Secretary Albright;
Minister Geremek; Minister Kovacs; Minister Sedivy; Distinguished Guests:

Today we gather in a building that has seen many negotiations and the signing of many pacts to
end bloodshed. This time, we have come together not to end a conflict but to speed the progress
for a peace agreement of the best kind: one that will not end fighting but help prevent the flames
of war from engulfing Europe ever again.

In a moment, I will transmit to the Senate for its advice and consent the documents that will add
Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to NATO. Their addition to the Alliance is not only a
pivotal event in the quest of their peoples for freedom and security. The enlargement of NATO is
also a major stride forward for America, the Alliance, and the stability and unity of all of Europe.

As the Senate takes up consideration of these agreements in the coming weeks the question it
must ask is: How does adding these states to NATO advance America's national security?

There are four reasons. First, enlarging NATO will make our Alliance stronger and thereby
make our nation safer. If we have learned one lesson in the 20th century, it is that our security
and Europe's stability are inevitably intertwined. The Cold War is past, but dangers remain –
conflicts like the one in Bosnia, weapons of mass destruction, threats that we cannot predict
today. A NATO that embraces Europe's new democracies will be more capable of carrying out
its missions: defending the territory of its members...addressing conflicts that threaten our
common peace.

These three states will add some 200,000 troops to the Alliance. A larger NATO will be a better
deterrent against the aggressors of the future and enlarge the circle of those who will stand with
us should deterrence ever fail. I am pleased that just last week, 60 of America's top retired
military leaders – including five former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – underscored that
message when they said that these three states will make NATO stronger, not weaker. They are
right, and we have already seen the proof. The Czechs and Poles served beside us in the Gulf
War. Their troops, together with those of Hungary, are also participating as we speak in NATO's
peacekeeping effort in Bosnia. These contributions have made a significant contribution to our
success in these missions.

Second: Enlarging NATO will help secure the gains of democracy in Europe. NATO can do for
Europe's east what it did for Europe's west after World War II -- provide a secure climate in
which freedom and prosperity can grow.
Third: Enlarging NATO will encourage prospective members to resolve their differences peacefully. Already, the prospect of NATO membership has helped convince countries in Central Europe to improve ties with their neighbors, settle border and ethnic disputes -- any one of which could have led to a future conflict. Enlargement will make all of Europe more stable.

Finally, NATO's growth will erase the artificial line in Europe that Stalin drew. Behind me is a picture of the wall that for so long represented the false and forced division of that continent. It has been nearly ten years since that wall was torn down by brave people on both sides. Countries imprisoned by the wall are now truly free, with strong democracies, vibrant market economies, and a proven track record of standing up for peace and security beyond their own borders. NATO, the cornerstone of security in an undivided Europe, cannot maintain the old Iron Curtain as its permanent eastern frontier. It must bring Europe together in security, not keep it apart in instability.

Our goal is and remains the creation of an undivided, democratic peaceful Europe for the first time in history. Bringing these three nations into the Alliance will advance this effort. So will keeping NATO's door open to other qualified European democracies... the Partnership for Peace program... the Alliance's new Founding Act with Russia, the Charter with Ukraine and the Charter of Partnership I signed last month with the Presidents of the three Baltic states. We do not yet know what new members NATO will invite in years to come. But history teaches us that the realm of freedom in Europe has no fixed frontiers, and we are determined that the divisions of the past not inscribe the boundaries of the future.

Our Administration has dedicated itself to building security for this new era. Four years ago, I and the other NATO leaders decided that our Alliance accept new members. More than seven months ago, after careful study and deliberation, we decided to invite Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to join our ranks. Throughout this period, members of the Administration have met with Congress on this issue literally scores of times and they have reached out to concerned Americans in virtually every state to discuss NATO's future.

As the Senate begins its deliberations, I want to recognize the indispensable role that members of both parties in both chambers in Congress have already played in bringing us to this day. Our consultations and the Congressional resolutions over the past four years have helped inform our efforts move them forward. I was especially pleased that a bipartisan group of members joined me at last summer's NATO summit in Madrid as part of America's delegation. The wide-ranging debate on this issue within Congress and across our nation is a model of the kind of thoughtful, non-partisan discussion we need -- and I salute Congress for helping to lead it. Now the decision rests with the United States Senate. I know it rests in good hands.

In this room named for Benjamin Franklin, one of the architects of the arrangements between the branches of government that we reaffirm today, I am reminded of the comment he made at the close of the Constitutional Convention. He noted that on the chair of the Convention's president, George Washington, was carved a figure of the sun -- a symbol, he thought, of our new republic. He said "I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun."

In the wake of the Cold War, some wondered about the future of the Alliance that brought us
victory in that long twilight struggle. With the step we take today – and the decision I am confident the Senate will take in the days ahead – I have the happiness to know that our historic partnership of nations also is a rising and not a setting sun, and that its ascendance brings a more stable, more peaceful future for all who live on both sides of the Atlantic.

###
Remarks of President William Jefferson Clinton

Transmittal of Protocols of Accession to NATO for Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic

State Department
Washington, DC
February 11, 1998

Senator Lott; Senator Daschle; Mr. Vice President; Secretary Albright; Minister Geremek; Minister Kovacs; Minister Sedivy; distinguished guests:

We meet today in a city that is full of monuments to those Americans who made sacrifices for our security in foreign conflicts. And we meet in a building that has witnessed the negotiation and signing of many peace agreements to end such conflicts. Today, we are here to sign a different sort of peace agreement... not to end a war, but to ensure that Europe is never again engulfed by war.

In a few minutes, I will transmit to the Senate for its advice and consent the documents that will add Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to the NATO Alliance. Their addition to the Alliance is not only a giant step in the bold quest of their peoples for freedom and security. This enlargement of NATO is also good for America, good for the Alliance, and good for the stability and unity of all of Europe.

Even after the end of the Cold War, Europe’s security remains a vital American interest, and NATO has proved itself to be our most effective sword and shield for protecting that interest. NATO’s assets are beyond dispute: an effective, integrated military command; a commitment to problem solving and consensus; and a political culture built on shared values. Since we’re here in the Franklin Room, I would stress that this is precisely why NATO has that one virtue that Franklin spelled out so memorably: R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

The fundamental question the Senate must address in the coming weeks is this: how does adding these states to NATO advance America’s national security interests? There are four reasons.

First, enlarging NATO will make America safer. Our country was forced to wage two world wars and the Cold War during this century due to conflicts in Europe. The world wars in particular were caused by aggressors whose acts went undeterred, and by the indifference of great powers to the fate of the vulnerable nations that occupied the heart of Europe. Now the threat of Soviet invasion is gone, but dangers remain in Europe: from weapons of mass destruction, to conflicts like the one in Bosnia, to threats that we cannot even predict today. A larger NATO can better deter future aggressors, ensure that more of Europe’s states pursue cooperative rather than competitive security policies, and provide new allies ready and willing to stand with us should deterrence ever fail.
In short, with addition of these well-qualified democracies to our Alliance, the area of Europe where wars do not happen is about to get a little bit larger, and the likelihood that American lives and interests will be endangered is about to get a little bit smaller.

Second, this is right for America because it will make NATO stronger. These three states will add about 200,000 troops to the Alliance. Over 1,000 of their forces are already serving beside our own in Bosnia, and they have performed magnificently.

Some say adding states to the Alliance that are smaller and weaker than us will dilute NATO and erode its strength. If that were true, frankly, we wouldn’t be allied with anyone.) NATO’s whole purpose is to share the burdens of security and to stitch Europe together. All these countries are asking of us is to let them be good allies, and it is in our own interest to say yes. Last week, 60 of America’s top retired military leaders, including five former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that these three states will make NATO stronger, not weaker, and I hope the Senate will heed their good advice.

Third, enlarging NATO will make Europe more stable. Just the prospect of enlargement has encouraged new democracies to accelerate reforms, strengthen civilian control of their militaries, expand ethnic and religious tolerance, and improve relations with their neighbors. All of these actions help to remove seeds of conflict that otherwise could undermine our own political and economic interests, and even draw in our troops.

Fourth, enlarging NATO will help to erase Europe’s divisions. Behind me is a piece of the wall that for too long represented the false and forced division of that continent. It’s been nearly ten years since that wall was torn down by brave people on both sides. These countries are now fully free, with dependable democracies, vibrant market economies, and a proven track record of standing up for peace and security beyond their own borders. NATO, the cornerstone of security in an undivided Europe, cannot maintain the old Iron Curtain as its permanent eastern frontier. If we were to do that, we would say that we are intent on preserving what the people of Europe themselves tore down a decade ago.

Rather, our goal should be to help build an undivided, democratic, peaceful Europe. Adding these three states will help do that. Declaring that the door remains open to other qualified European democracies will help do that. So will the Partnership for Peace program, NATO’s new Founding Act with Russia, its new Charter with Ukraine, and the Charter of Partnership I signed last month with the Presidents of the three Baltic states. We do not yet know what new members NATO will invite in years to come, nor do we know when. But history teaches us that the realm of freedom in Europe has no fixed frontiers, and that it is in our own interest to keep the door to freedom wide open.

There is a fundamental issue at stake here. All around this world, from Africa to Bosnia, too many people are suffering from conflicts because they focus more on the differences that separate them than the common humanity that unites them. One of our greatest challenges is to build and expand the institutions that empower nations to bridge those
differences, while restraining nations from adding to the problems of this world. One of our most important convictions is that these institutions have to remain open to all those who are willing to play by the rules and do their share to advance our common interests.

That is something I have said, and will continue to say, to the people of Russia and to President Yeltsin. Today we are building a new relationship with Russia. We’re moving forward on arms control, cooperating in Bosnia, and talking every day about the critical security challenges we face together. Our relationship proceeds from the belief that Russia can and should be a part of the new architecture of security we are building in Europe and around the world. But it must also proceed from a shared recognition that the Cold War is over, that Europe has changed, and that Central European countries are as free to choose their own security arrangements as any countries in the world.

My administration, and that of my predecessor, have been working to build these new relationships and arrangements since the Cold War ended and this new era began. It has been four years since I and the other NATO leaders decided that the Alliance should accept new members. Over seven months ago, after careful study and deliberation, we decided to invite these three countries to join. Throughout this period, officials in my administration have met with Congress about this issue literally dozens of times, and have spoken to Americans about this issue in the vast majority of the states in this union.

As the Senate begins its final deliberations, I want to recognize the indispensable role that members of both parties and both chambers in Congress already played to develop this policy. Your resolutions on this issue over the past four years have helped inform our policy and to move it forward. I was especially pleased that a bipartisan group of members joined me at last summer’s NATO summit in Madrid as part of the American delegation. The extensive debate we have had on this issue both within Congress and across the nation is a model of the kind of reasoned, non-partisan discussion we need to have on the role our country must play -- and I salute Congress for helping to lead it.

Now the decision rests with the United States Senate, and I know it rests in good hands.

My friends, as we prepare to leave this Franklin Room, and return to our work, I am reminded of the comment that Franklin -- Ben Franklin -- made at the close of the constitutional convention. He noted that on the chair of the convention’s president, George Washington, was carved a figure of the sun -- a symbol, he thought, of the new republic. And he said “I have the happiness to know it is a rising and not a setting sun.”

After the Cold War, some people wondered about the future and longevity of NATO and of America’s engagement in Europe. With the actions we are taking today, and the action I am confident the Senate will take in the coming days, I have the happiness to know this historic partnership also is a rising and not a setting sun, and that the result will be a more stable and peaceful future for all those who live on both sides of the Atlantic. Thank you.
All: attached for your chop is the cover for the NATO+ ratification package. Will also include the final of the POTUS letter to the Senate, when I have your comments.

Newell/Mara: I defer to you all for expertise on necessary legal/legislative items. For example, does the treaty text also have to be a part of this package?

Ed/Nicole: on format, assume you want to mention the Feb 11 signing? any other "for the record" elements that should be included?

0955 - SRB on Protocol Ratifi...
0955 - POTUS.doc
February 9, 1998

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL BERGER

THROUGH: DONALD BANDLER

FROM: NANCY MCELDOWNEY

SUBJECT: Ratification of NATO Enlargement Protocols

Attached at Tab I is your memorandum to the President, recommending that he approve the transmittal package to the Senate requesting advice and consent to the protocols amending the Washington Treaty of 1949 which will add Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to the NATO Alliance.

The President will sign the transmittal package in a February 11 event at the State Department.

Concurrence by: Jamie Baker, Mara Rudman, Tony Blinken, Steve Flanagan, Anne Witkowsky, Ki Fort, Nick Dowling

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I.

Attachment
Tab I Memorandum to the President
Tab A Transmittal Message to the Senate
Tab B Secretary Albright’s Memorandum to the President
Tab C Protocol Texts
ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: THE EXECUTIVE CLERK

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER
       LARRY STEIN

SUBJECT: Ratification of NATO Enlargement Protocols

Purpose

To sign the transmittal package to the Senate requesting advice and consent to the addition of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic to the NATO Alliance.

Background

Secretary of State Albright has forwarded three protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the accession of Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. These protocols were opened for signature in Brussels on December 16, 1997, and were signed on behalf of the United States by the Secretary of State.

Attached for your signature is your transmittal message to the Senate (Tab A) requested its advice and consent to ratification. Also attached is a State Department report on NATO enlargement (Tab B) and the texts of the Treaty Protocols (Tab C).

On February 11, you will be joined by the Vice President, your national security team, and members of Congress for a public ceremony at the State Department to highlight your signing of these documents. This event will underscore your personal commitment to fighting for congressional passage of NATO enlargement.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the transmittal package at the February 11 event at the State Department.

cc: Vice President
    Chief of Staff
Approve ________________

Disapprove ________________

Attachment
Tab A  Transmittal Message to the Senate
Tab B  Secretary of State Albright’s Report to the President
Tab C  Protocols to the 1949 North Atlantic Treaty