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SRB NATO Rally Remarks 3/20/98

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Attached, draft remarks for SRB to use at tomorrow's NATO event. SRB will speak first, followed by ROA director Sandler, Shelton; Roth; Albright & POTUS. Remarks are about 2 minutes.
3/19/98  9:30 p.m.

SAMUEL R. BERGER
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS
REMARKS AT NATO EVENT
THE WHITE HOUSE
MARCH 20, 1998

Mr. President; members of the Senate; fellow members of the President's national security team; distinguished guests:

We gather today on the eve of a historic Senate vote: whether or not to invite three of Europe's new democracies -- Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic -- to join the NATO alliance. This simply put is a defining moment for this century and America's security.

Fifty years ago, in the wake of Europe's devastation, a remarkable generation of Americans and Europeans imagined and built the institutions that helped rebuild Europe and laid the foundation for peace and prosperity. The Marshall Plan. The International Financial Institutions. And the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Their vision embraced all of Europe.

But the reality of their time did not.

Now, we have it within our power to complete what that generation began. Now as then, NATO is at the heart of our vision. Now as then, it can defend freedom, strengthen democracy and temper old rivalries. But this time -- by bringing in new members, working with new partners, and reaching out to Russia and Ukraine -- NATO can help bring all of Europe together in peace and democracy.
The next step is next week. America took the lead in opening NATO's doors to Europe's new democracies. I hope the United States Senate will make us the first member of the alliance to formally invite them in.

Ladies and gentlemen, in a few moments you will hear from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Hugh Shelton; from the chairman of the Senate NATO Observer Group, Senator William Roth; from my good friend and close colleague, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright; and from the President of the United States. But first, it is my pleasure to ask the Executive Director of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States -- General Roger Sandler -- to say a few words. The ROA was one of the earliest voices to speak out in support of enlarging NATO.

And I'm delighted General Sandler is here to tell us why. General Sandler...