FOIA MARKER

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Folder Title:
Independence Day Event 7/3/97

Staff Office-Individual:
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Original OA/ID Number:
3389

Row: 48  Section: 6  Shelf: 2  Position: 1  Stack: V
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Schedule Proposal

TO: Stephanie Streett
FROM: Samuel Berger
REQUEST: That the President participate in a Veteran's endorsement event prior to his trip to Europe.
PURPOSE: To use the July 4th holiday as a thematic pivot to set up the President's trip to Madrid and receive the endorsement of NATO enlargement by the American Legion and the National Reserve and Active Duty Officer Association.
BACKGROUND: This event will allow the President to begin articulating his themes for the Europe trip in the presence of some of our nation's war heroes. The benefits of enlargement -- in reducing the future risks of war and strengthening NATO -- are important incentives for most veterans groups to support our policy. This event will allow the President to receive two important endorsements while honoring the American values of freedom, democracy and security most associated with Independence Day.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPATION:

DATE AND TIME: July 3 at 2:30 p.m.
BRIEFING TIME: 15 minutes.
DURATION: 45 minutes.
LOCATION: The East Room.
PARTICIPANTS: The President; Vice President; Secretary Albright; Secretary Cohen; General Shalikashvili; Samuel Berger; Veterans Leaders; Leaders of Ethnic American community.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS: The Vice President will open the program followed by VA Deputy Secretary Gober and the endorsements of the two veterans leaders. The President will be introduced by Judge Waters, American war hero from the Battle of Falaise Gap (France) at the end of WW II. The President will conclude the program.

REMARKS REQUIRED: To be provided by NSC Strategic Planning.

MEDIA COVERAGE: Open Press.

FIRST LADY'S ATTENDANCE: Not required.

VICE PRESIDENT'S ATTENDANCE: Will be there.

RECOMMENDED BY: NSC

CONTACT: Antony Blinken 6-9371

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL: NSC

SECOND LADY'S ATTENDANCE:
June 27, 1997

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ANTONY BLINKEN

FROM: DAVID LEAVY

SUBJECT: POTUS Participation in Veteran's Endorsement Event Prior to European Trip

The proposed event will allow the President to begin articulating his themes for the Europe trip in the presence of some of our nation's war heroes. The benefits of enlargement -- in reducing the future risks of war and strengthening NATO -- are important incentives for most veterans groups to support our policy. This event will allow the President to receive two important endorsements while honoring the American values of freedom, democracy and security most associated with Independence Day.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the schedule proposal at Tab I.

Attachment

Tab I Schedule Proposal
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 3, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT NATO SUMMIT SEND-OFF BY AMERICA'S VETERANS

The East Room

3:29 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I know a good doctor. (Applause.) United States Navy. (Laughter.)

Mr. Vice President, Commander Frank, Colonel Harmon, Secretary Albright, Secretáry Cohen, Ambassador Richardson, Mr. Berger, General Shalikashvili and General Ralston and members of the Joint Chiefs; to the distinguished veterans and community leaders here, especially to Judge Waters. You know, when he told that horse story, I nearly fell out of my chair. (Laughter.) But you didn't know what I was thinking. (Laughter.) I was thinking, there have been several days here in the last four and a half years when I would be grateful just to have been called what that doctor called him. (Laughter and applause.)

Before I begin, I would like to state what I hope is obvious now, but I've never said it formally, and that is that I intend to nominate Deputy Secretary Gober to be the next Secretary of Veterans Affairs. (Applause.) We have been friends for many years. He did a superb job as the State Director of Veterans Affairs in our home state. He was a good partner and support to Jesse Brown, who fulfilled his promise to me to be a Secretary for, as well as a Secretary of Veterans Affairs. And I believe that Hershel will serve in that great tradition, and I thank him for agreeing to do so.

Tomorrow, as the Vice President said, we will commemorate Independence Day and the Declaration of Independence -- which I recommend everyone read every Independence Day. The words still ring out of our abiding belief in the inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
And we have a lot to celebrate on this July 4th. We are at peace. We are more prosperous than we have been in a generation, our liberty more secure than ever. And for the first time throughout the world -- for the first time in our time, there are more people living under governments of their own choosing than are living under dictatorships. That is an astonishing thing, that the dream of our founding fathers, articulated so powerfully 221 years ago tomorrow, has now come within the reach of more than half the people on the globe.

Next week we will take an historic step to secure that freedom for people than ever before at home and abroad when we invite new democracies from Central Europe to join our alliance at the NATO summit in Madrid. I thank those who have spoken before me for their support. Together with our efforts to build NATO's ties to Russia and to Ukraine, and through the Partnership for Peace with so many of other of Europe's democracies, we're working to create a continent of Europe that is undivided, democratic, and at peace for the first time since nation states appeared on that continent.

Our nation has labored and sacrificed for this goal for more than five decades now, and now it is within reach. So in Europe next week we'll have the chance to strengthen the values we all hold dear -- freedom, democracy, security. Our work in Madrid will be a capstone of our nation's leadership throughout the 20th century and a cornerstone for a new age of possibility in the 21st century.

I saw on one of the papers today a poll that said that only six percent of the American people felt that they followed events in NATO closely and thought they knew a lot about it. In a way, that is a stunning tribute to the success of NATO, for no NATO member has ever been attacked. If it had not been so, a lot more people would know about NATO.

Now the time has come for us to make sure more Americans understand the significance of NATO to our security, understand the role it can play in the future, and understand why it is profoundly in the interest of the American people to go forward with this expansion. And all of the people on this stage today and all of you in this room today have helped to make a significant contribution to that work. But I hope when you leave here, you will continue to speak about it -- to your friends and neighbors, to the members of your organizations, to the people with whom you come in contact.

There are four reasons why NATO enlargement is consistent with our values and supports our interests. First, it will make our Alliance stronger and better able to address the challenges
to Europe's security. As has already been said, if we haven't learned a single, solitary other lesson from the 20th century, surely we have learned that our future and Europe's are inevitably intertwined.

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. The Czechs and Poles served beside American soldiers in the Gulf War. Already, the Czech Republic -- Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Baltic states and many other Central European countries that seek to join NATO are contributing troops to our NATO peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

Indeed, we could not have deployed our troops to Bosnia as smoothly and swiftly as we did without the critical help of Hungary and our staging ground at Taszar, which I had the privilege to visit shortly after it was established. By bringing new and capable democracies into NATO and deepening our cooperation with others who are not members at this time, but are part of our Partnership for Peace, we build a stronger alliance for all future challenges to transatlantic security.

Second, enlarging NATO will plainly help to 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 the kind of climate necessary for freedom and prosperity to survive and to grow and flourish.

Third, enlarging NATO clearly will encourage prospective members to resolve their differences peacefully, and that will reduce the chances of further conflicts in Europe. Already, the very prospect of NATO membership has helped to convince countries in Central Europe to improve ties with their neighbors, to settle border and ethnic disputes -- any one of which could have led to a conflict in a different time and under different circumstances.

Finally, enlarging NATO will erase the artificial line in Europe drawn by Stalin at the end of World War II. And NATO will now help Europe to come together in security, not be kept apart in instability. NATO's doors will remain open to all those willing to shoulder the responsibilities of membership so that we do not replace an old division in Europe with a new one. And this is also critically important. The decision the NATO allies will make in Madrid must not be a one time decision.

Today, let me again say I thank the American Legion for its support. As the largest American veterans organization, many of your members fought to liberate Europe or to defend freedom there during the Cold War. And you know that this makes it less likely
that future generations will be called to fight and die in Europe.

I thank the Reserve Office Association. Your endorsement speaks clearly to the American people because it is you who could be called out of your civilian lives to make good on our commitments. And you have recognized that enlargement will make us safer and stronger.

There are those who say the Central European nations who will be invited to join NATO are not ready to stand shoulder to shoulder with us. But, with all respect, they are wrong. The nations we are considering for membership share our values and our aspirations. They have shown that time and again. They also have the capacity to do what is required of NATO members.

As you have heard today, in 1944, in the weeks after D Day, American and allied troops in Normandy sought to encircle 20 of Hitler's finest divisions, and some of the fiercest fighting of the war resulted. Our forces raced to seal the final gap between them and to prevent the enemy from escaping into the French countryside. Two units got the job done: one an American infantry division, the other a Polish armored division -- survivors of the invasion of their land who joined forces with the allies.

That gap was closed when the Poles finally linked up with the U.S. 90th Infantry at Chambois. The first American they encountered was the man who introduced me today, Captain Laughlin Waters. Now, once the pocket was shut there was another furious battle as the panzers tried to break out. The Polish First Armored Division held a critical hilltop against a wave of counterattacks. When the Poles ran out of anti tank rounds, they moved forward and repelled the enemy with only their rifles and their courage. After the Battle of Falaise Gap, 325 Polish soldiers were buried near where they fell. By these graves in the heart of Western Europe, allied soldiers raised a simple sign of tribute which said in English: A Polish Battlefield.

Judge Waters, your presence here today, 53 years later, reminds us of the character of those we are about to add to NATO, of the values and interests I talked about before. They remind us of our own freedom, democracy, and security. They, too, have fought and died for freedom and democracy, for ours as well as their own. They have fought and died for the freedom and democracy we celebrate tomorrow. Our ties, therefore, have been forged in blood. And just as they were strong allies in World War II, they will be again.
So, Judge Waters, just as you and your men closed the Falaise Gap at Chambois, we must now close another gap -- the gap of hope that has divided Europe since the end of World War II. We must give Europe a chance to live free and undivided for the first time ever. That is what we will do next week and in the months and years ahead, as we continue to work with Europe's democracies, strengthen NATO, and adapt it to the missions of the 21st century.

Your presence here today has made our success much more likely, and, therefore, you will have something else to celebrate tomorrow on our Independence Day.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

END

3:45 P.M. EDT
Planning is moving along smoothly for the Independence Day event to be held from 2:30pm - 3:15 pm in the East Room on July 3.

The 150 member audience will consist of primarily Central European and American veterans as well as congressional members, ethnic leaders and supporters of NATO enlargement. The suggested list of invitees includes Sec. Cohen, Sec. Albright, Gen. Shali., Sec Brown, Hershel Gober, Gen. McCaffrey, and possible Amb. Richardson. The Office of Public Liaison, in conjunction with the NSC, is pulling together the list to ensure all the ethnic and veteran groups are properly represented. Possible inviting Dr. Brzezinski was discussed but not decided on.

The proposed program will include Hershel Gober (to welcome), John Summer (American Legion), Gen. Sandler (Reserve Officer’s Association), Judge Water (the Battle of the Falaise Gap veteran), and POTUS. The VPOTUS attendance is still unknown.

NATO enlargement endorsement letters are expected from both the American Legion and the Reserve Officer’s Association.

Dan Benjamin is writing the POTUS remarks. He will have a draft to you on Tuesday, July 1.

I will update you next week as plans are solidified.
MEMORANDUM FOR SAMUEL R. BERGER

THROUGH: ANTONY BLINKEN

FROM: DAVID LEAVY

SUBJECT: POTUS Participation in Veteran's Endorsement Event Prior to European Trip

The proposed event will allow the President to begin articulating his themes for the Europe trip in the presence of some of our nation's war heroes. The benefits of enlargement -- in reducing the future risks of war and strengthening NATO -- are important incentives for most veterans groups to support our policy. This event will allow the President to receive two important endorsements while honoring the American values of freedom, democracy and security most associated with Independence Day.

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WASHINGTON

Schedule Proposal

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FROM: Samuel Berger
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DURATION: 45 minutes.
LOCATION: The East Room.
PARTICIPANTS:
The President; Vice President; Secretary Albright; Secretary Cohen; General Shalikashvili; Samuel Berger; Veterans Leaders; Leaders of Ethnic American community.

OUTLINE OF EVENTS:
The Vice President will open the program followed by VA Deputy Secretary Gober and the endorsements of the two veterans leaders. The President will be introduced by Judge Waters, American war hero from the Battle of Falaise Gap (France) at the end of WW II. The President will conclude the program.

REMARKS REQUIRED:
To be provided by NSC Strategic Planning.

MEDIA COVERAGE:
Open Press.

FIRST LADY’S ATTENDANCE:
Not required.

VICE PRESIDENT’S ATTENDANCE:
Will be there.

RECOMMENDED BY:
NSC

CONTACT:
Antony Blinken 6-9371

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL:
NSC

SECOND LADY’S ATTENDANCE:
Schedule Proposal

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FROM: Samuel Berger
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VICE PRESIDENT’S ATTENDANCE: Will be there.

RECOMMENDED BY: NSC

CONTACT: Antony Blinken 6-9371

ORIGIN OF THIS PROPOSAL: NSC

SECOND LADY’S ATTENDANCE:
To follow up on your concerns-

Over 26 different veterans groups will be represented in the audience at the July 3 event. The following is a list of people Jeremy Rosner suggested be invited as well. THESE PEOPLE HAVE NOT BEEN INVITED PENDING YOUR SIGN OFF.

Ronald Lauder - CEO, Estee Lauder
Adrienne Karatnycky - Freedom House
Steve Cambone - CSIS
Richard Kuglar - RAND
Bruce Jackson - US Committee to Expand NATO
Sally Painter - US Committee to Expand NATO
Robert Liber - Georgetown University
Stephen Hadley - US Committee to Expand NATO
Barry Jacobs - AJC
John Fox - Open Society Institute
Jeffrey Gedmin - New Atlantic Institute
Edward Rowney - Ambassador Meyera Obelderf - Mayor of Virginia Beach, VA
Saul Ramirez, Jr: - Mayor of Laredo, TX
Adrienne Basora - retired Ambassador

The Office of Public Liaison also suggests inviting Dr. Brzezinski.

Do you agree that these people should be invited?

AGREE _______ DISAGREE _______ NEED TO DISCUSS _______

Do you have other suggestions?

-----Original Message-----
From: Cicio, Kristen K.
Sent: Friday, June 27, 1997 3:30 PM
To: Elkon, Nicole L.
Cc: @NSA - Natl Security Advisor; @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary; @PLANNING - Strat Plan & Comm
Subject: FW: update on July 3 veteran's event [UNCLASSIFIED]

Nicole,

SRB notes: "We need to make sure (a) this does not have appearance of ethnic event; emphasis on vets (b) are there other 'notables' besides our Cabinet that we could get to attend? Check w/Rosner. Thanks."

-----Original Message-----
From: Elkon, Nicole L.
Sent: Wednesday, June 25, 1997 9:15 PM
To: Berger, Samuel (Sandy)
Cc: @EXECSEC - Executive Secretary; Blinken, Antony J.; Leavy, David C.
Subject: update on July 3 veteran's event [UNCLASSIFIED]

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NATO enlargement endorsement letters are expected from both the American Legion and the Reserve Officer's Association.

Dan Benjamin is writing the POTUS remarks. He will have a draft to you on Tuesday, July 1.

I will update you next week as plans are solidified.
Draft Remarks -- for Presidential “sendoff” to Summit on NATO Enlargement

Here’s our draft for the July 3 event. Please let us know (Jim Holley at 273-5712, or Bob Putnam at 273-4813) re. necessary changes, questions, etc.
Notes/Observations
The Hon. Hershel Gober
Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Presidential Departure
Enroute to the NATO Summit

The White House
July 3, 1997
*****
Mr. President;

Mr. Vice President;

Members of Congress;

Distinguished leaders of our government, our armed forces* and our nation’s veterans organizations;
*(If military is represented)

Honored guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I feel especially privileged to be here today ... because this is one of those special moments when the stage is set for events that will shape the future of the world for years to come.
On the eve of America's Independence Day, our Commander-in-Chief is poised to leave for a historic international summit ...

... which has great implications for the security and independence of Central Europe.

It is something the President alluded to on an earlier trip -- when he attended ceremonies in Normandy for the 50th Anniversary of D-day.
Mr. President, on that occasion, veterans appreciated the heartfelt manner in which you expressed America’s thanks for their service and sacrifice.

It was a touching moment when you said, “they may walk with a little less spring in their step, and their ranks are growing thinner ...

... but let us never forget: when they were young, these men saved the world.”
Then, it seems you looked ahead to events that are just unfolding now.

You said: today, “freedom rings from Prague to Kiev” but “we cannot stand still ... our mission is to expand freedom’s reach forward.”

Freedom’s reach is going forward -- with expansion of the NATO alliance, which has been our major safeguard for so many years.
Mr. President, because of the open lines of communication and the candor that have existed between veterans organizations and this Administration ...

... you know where veterans stand on this issue.

You know that no-one better understands the importance of this alliance and the value of its expansion than our nation’s veterans.
As I ask two of our nation's prominent veterans groups, represented here today -- the American Legion and the Reserve Officers Association --

-- to come forward to briefly express their views, let me just add that I believe all of America's veterans are:

Proud of the achievements that laid the foundation for this alliance;

Proud of the significant role you played in making this expansion possible; and
Proud of America -- for her never
ending quest to expand freedom's
reach.

Mr. President, the nation's veterans
wish you Godspeed.
1st introduction (by Acting Sec. Gober)

The American Legion -- our nation’s largest veterans organization -- selected Joseph J. Frank, of St. Louis, as their National Commander.

While serving as a U.S. Army combat engineer in Vietnam, he was seriously wounded by a land mine.

When he came home, he continued serving his nation and his community -- a fact attested to by two Presidential Certificates of Achievement.
Commander Frank has held a series of key positions in the Legion -- including chairing the Foreign Relations and National Economic Commissions.

He currently serves on the Executive Board of the President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

National Commander Frank ...
2nd Introduction (by Legion Nat'l Cdr. Frank)

It's now my pleasure to introduce one of my colleagues in veterans affairs -- who also happens to be a fellow Vietnam veteran.

The leader of the Reserve Officers Association served as an infantry officer in Vietnam, and was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon and the Purple Heart.

He continues to serve today -- as a Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve -- and he has been President of the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association.
Colonel Harmon also is the managing partner of a Washington, D.C., law firm, and a former president of the D.C. Bar Association.

Colonel Harmon ...
Additional item -- for Presidential "sendoff" to Summit on NATO Enlargement

Draft of suggested intro of Judge Laughlin Waters -- for use by ROA President Herb Harmon.

Again, contact Jim Holley at 273-5712, or Bob Putnam at 273-4813 re. questions.
Introduction of Judge Laughlin E. Waters
(by ROA President Herb Harmon)

I'm honored to have the opportunity to introduce someone who stands today at a compelling intersection of history.

On D-Day, 1945, a young Army captain came ashore on Utah Beach, and participated in the 90th Division's drive from Normandy to Chambois ("Sham-bway"), France.

In the weeks of hard fighting that followed, this young officer earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart -- both with clusters for multiple awards.

On August 19, 1944, Captain Laughlin Waters commanded G Company of the 359th Infantry -- the first U.S. troops to link up with Polish forces.

That historic meeting -- between the 359th and the 10th Polish Dragoons -- closed the "Falaise ("Fal-aze") Gap" on the enemy -- a major turning point in the European campaign.
Today, it seems fitting for Laughlin Waters to be on center stage -- as the U.S. and Poland again play a part in "closing a gap" in European security -- and world peace.

Like many other young Americans who served in World War Two, Captain Waters returned home to start a family and make a contribution to his community.

He has succeeded admirably in both goals: he and his wife have raised a son and four daughters; and he has become a distinguished jurist -- serving today as a U.S. District Court Senior Judge.

Among the many highlights in a long and notable career, are election to the California Legislature, service as a U.S. Attorney, and partnership in a major law firm. And -- we should not overlook this -- a member of the American Legion.

Ladies and gentlemen -- Judge Laughlin Edward Waters.
Date 7/1/87

FOR: Tony Blinken  
Fax # 456-9370  
Phone # 456-9371

From: Bob Putnam  
Phone :(202) 273-4813  
Fax: (202) 273-7521

"Gap" -- what Falaise Gap?  

Revised intro of Judge Waters -- per discussion.
Introduction of Judge Laughlin E. Waters
(by ROA President Herb Harmon)

It's my pleasure to introduce, as the next speaker, someone who has special feeling about the peace and security issues we've been talking about.

On D-Day, 1945, a young Army captain came ashore on Utah Beach, and participated in the 90th Division's drive from Normandy to Chambois ("Sham-bway"), France.

In the hard campaign that followed, this young officer was a company commander in the 359th Infantry -- a unit that faced some of the toughest fighting on that front. Captain Laughlin Waters earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart -- both with clusters for multiple awards.

Like many other young Americans who served in World War Two, Captain Waters returned home to start a family and make a contribution to his community.
He has succeeded admirably in both goals: he and his wife have raised a son and four daughters; and he has become a distinguished jurist -- serving today as a U.S. District Court Senior Judge.

Highlights in a long and notable career include election to the California Legislature, service as a U.S. Attorney, and partnership in a major law firm. His continuing contributions to his nation include service as consultant to the Department of State, and as a member of the White House Conference on Aging.

The Judge's memberships in fraternal organizations and professional societies are many, prominently including the American Legion.

Ladies and gentlemen -- Judge Laughlin Edward Waters.