Case Number: 2006-0459-F

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PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
POINTS FOR THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY
WINFIELD HOUSE, LONDON, ENGLAND
NOVEMBER 29, 1995
• Thank you all for coming. Special thank you to Ambassador Crowe, one of America’s most dedicated public servants. It’s always a daunting task to speak about Bill Crowe. He is a very straightforward fellow, but he has so many titles: Today he’s Ambassador Crowe; several years ago, when he led our Joint Chiefs of Staff, he was Chairman Crowe. Before that, he was Admiral Crowe. After getting his PhD from Princeton, he was Dr. Crowe. And, he’s been known since childhood as “that Oklahoman Crowe.” But those of us who know him well are aware that the title that means the most to him -- and has since Valentine’s Day, 1954 -- is simply, “Shirley’s Husband.”
• Ambassador Crowe's down-to-earth demeanor has helped him keep his wits in the Court of St. James. I'm told he calls the 11-acre plot on which Winfield House stands "the back yard." And he has made plain that Oklahoma University football games are "not a matter of life and death -- they're much more important than that!"

• Wonderful to be in England again. Never forget my first trip to England, back in 1968... climbing aboard the U.S.S. United States with a sack of books and a saxophone. Unfortunately, can't travel so light anymore...
• Had a productive day of meetings with Prime Minister Major, Queen Elizabeth, Tony Blair. Also gave speech at Parliament, reaffirming America’s partnership with the United Kingdom and commitment to stay engaged in Europe. All of you Americans who live here know that, despite the occasional differences, the bonds between our nations endure. If I may paraphrase the words of the immortal .007, ours is a relationship that can be neither shaken nor stirred.
• Sure many of you have followed tough budget debate back home. We have made important strides toward what I hope will be common ground. Republican leaders in Congress have agreed to find a process so we can establish our nation's priorities together. I hope we can balance the budget in a way that is true to our fundamental values -- providing opportunity but expecting responsibility; honoring our obligations to the oldest among us while making investments for the next generation; helping our families to be stronger and to stay together; and ensuring that America remains a global force for peace, democracy, and prosperity.
• Of course, we still face tremendous challenges. But America is on the move. Economy growing... 7.5 million new jobs... 15-year high in homeownership... all time high in new business formation... lowest combined rates of inflation and unemployment in 25 years.

Government shrinking -- Federal employees at a smaller percentage of the civilian work force than at any time since 1933. We are taking the lead in reducing the deficit and reducing the burden of unnecessary government while keeping a government strong enough to advance our values and our interests.
• But as I have often said, in the increasingly interdependent post-Cold War world, we cannot be strong at home unless we are willing to lead abroad.

• This means opening markets and lowering trade barriers around the world -- so American companies can compete and succeed, creating more high-paying jobs for our people.

• It means leading the fight against new threats to our security, such as terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction.
• And it means leading the global march toward peace. Already seen the results of our leadership in our own hemisphere, Haiti... in the Middle East... in Northern Ireland, where I will visit after I leave London -- the first American President ever to travel to there. Today, the prospects for a lasting peace are even brighter because of the “twin track” initiative Prime Minister Major and Prime Minister Bruton just announced. I commend both Prime Ministers for their leadership for peace.
• Now seeing results of our leadership in Bosnia. Peace agreement was product of our determined diplomacy backed by NATO’s resolve. Now, parties have made a commitment to peace. We have a responsibility to help them make it work. Our values, interests, leadership in Europe and around the world at stake.

• Parties have requested a strong international presence to give them confidence to carry out their agreement. NATO is that force; America, as NATO’s leader, must participate. Without us, hard-won peace would be lost... slaughter would resume... conflict could spread.
• As of now, expect one-third of NATO force will be American, approximately 20,000 troops. Rest will come from more than 20 other countries -- including our NATO allies -- that have expressed an interest in participating. Their mission will be clear and limited. They will have authority to meet any threat to their safety with immediate, decisive force. And there will be a reasonable time table for their withdrawal -- about one year.
• Day after tomorrow I will be visiting with our troops in Germany, who are preparing to deploy to the Balkans. Their country is asking them to perform a difficult and important mission, and I want them to know we are proud of them and we are counting on them.

• But I am counting on you as well. I don’t need to tell this group that Europe’s security and prosperity and that of the United States are bound together. You, better than anyone, appreciate the ties of commerce, culture, and community that link us and make us strong.
Each of you is a representative of the United States in this country. I am asking for your support as we undertake this mission in Bosnia -- for the people of that nation who have suffered so much... for the stability and security of Europe... for the principles we are determined to defend and the interests we are determined to protect.

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President's Remarks (Contingency) for the American Community

Sources

Geoff Chapman, Embassy London, 44-171-408-8120
Val Martinez, EUR/UBI, 647-6587

Context

This would be an opportunity for the President to meet and greet members of the broader American community resident in the United Kingdom.

Acknowledgements

Ambassador William J. Crowe would be the host (and Mrs. Crowe, Shirley). Secretary Christopher is also likely to be present.

Setting

The Ambassador's residence, Winfield House.

Contents

The President might want to refer to his own days as an American living in the UK or the general difficulties and challenges any American faces in living away from our own customs, foods and conveniences (Americans in the UK always complain about the poor and unimaginative quality of British fare).