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Folder Title:
Statement on NATO Vote 5/1/98

Staff Office-Individual:
Speechwriting-Blinken

Original OA/ID Number:
3380

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<td>001. email</td>
<td>Donald Bandler to Anthony Blinken re: POTUS NATO Statement (1 page)</td>
<td>04/30/1998</td>
<td>P5, P6/b(6)</td>
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**COLLECTION:**
- Clinton Presidential Records
- National Security Council
- Anthony Blinken (Speechwriting)
- OA/Box Number: 3380

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**RESTRICTION CODES**
- **Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]**
  - P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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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.
THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Palo Alto, California)

For Immediate Release May 1, 1998

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
AT DISCUSSION WITH WORKERS

Warehouse Floor
Therma Inc. Facility
San Jose, California

12:35 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. I want to think Joe and Nicki for welcoming me here. I want to thank Dan Kirby for the tour through the operations. He did a great job. (Applause.) Thanks to Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Mayor Susan Hammer, my good friends, for joining me here today. I thank the labor leaders that are here -- Amy Dean, Ray Lancaster, Mark VanDouhevel, Steve Preminger. But most of all, I thank all of you for giving me a chance to leave Washington and come out and visit the real world. It's great. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

Before I say a little more about why I came here today, I'd like to meet a brief comment on something very important to your future that did happen in Washington, D.C. late last night. Last night, an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 80 members of the United States Senate voted for a treaty that will permit us to bring Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into the NATO military alliance.

Now, why does this matter to you out here on this factory floor? I think it's very important to you and to every American. We fought two world wars and lost a lot of Americans and waged a long Cold War in a deeply divided Europe. The Berlin Wall fell, communism dissipated, giving us the chance for the first time in history, ever, to deal with a Europe that is free, democratic, and undivided. And that's important. If we can do that, that means
you will know that you'll have stable partners for trading purposes. You can sell them things, you can buy things from them, you can be a part of growing.

Even more important, it means you know that your children will likely never have to go there to fight and die in a war. And furthermore, you know that we'll be able to work together on the problems that do exist in the world to contain them.

Now, just in the last few years since I've been President, we have used NATO for those purposes. We've brought in two dozen other countries in a Partnership for Peace, and they work with us all over the world training and working with our militaries together. We made a special agreement with Russia and with Ukraine. And together, we went into Bosnia and stopped the bloodiest war in Europe since the end of World War II, with no conflicts, no shooting, no deaths. (Applause.)

So that's why this is important. Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic -- three more partners that will make our alliance stronger. If we have to do something in the future, that's three more countries that will be contributing people, sharing our burden, and building a future of strong partnership based on trade and commerce and travel and visitation, not on conflict. It's a big deal.

And I would like to thank the Senate Majority Leader, Trent Lott; the Senate Minority Leader, Tom Daschle; Senator Jesse Helms; Senator Joe Biden -- all of them. This was an unusual coalition of people -- (laughter) -- who worked together to do something that a lot of people didn't think we could do. And it's going to make a better world for our children. Ten years from now it will look like an even bigger vote than it does this morning. So I thank them.

I'd also like, before I begin, to offer my condolences to the family of the police officer, David Chetcuti, who was killed in the line of duty last Saturday, and express my gratitude for the bravery he showed when he lost his life. And in that connection, I'd like to thank the police officers from the motorcycle crew from Santa Clara County, because they had to accompany me on this visit and they're missing his memorial service that is going on this morning. So I thank them for doing that.

Now, let me tell you why I came here. Because, to me, you guys represent the future. You're good at what you do, you're
Statement by the Secretary Upon NATO Enlargement Ratification

I am deeply gratified to learn that the United States Senate has given its advice and consent to the admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to NATO.

The Senate has done the right thing at the right time. For this is a moment of relative peace in Europe, a time when freedom is ascendant. Now we can be that much more confident that peace and freedom will endure.

For me, it is also a moment of injustice undone, of promises kept, and of a unified Europe begun.

These three countries have borne the brunt of this century's most terrible wars; they have been the victims of its greatest tyrannies. Yet they have always maintained their allegiance in spirit to the family of freedom-loving European nations that NATO embodies and exists to defend.

Thanks to President Clinton's leadership and the Senate's action, they will now belong to our family in fact. We will no longer fear for their destiny, but instead rely on them to stand with us whenever there is a threat to our common destiny.

I am also gratified today because the Senate's decision has implications that go well beyond the immediate question of NATO enlargement. The debate about a larger NATO could well have provided an opportunity for skeptics to praise isolationism. Instead, it has given the American people and the Congress a chance to help bury it.

Today's vote sends a message to our old and new allies that America will continue to defend its interest in the peace and security of Europe. It will reassure all of Europe's new democracies that we are not going to treat them as second class citizens in the future simply because they were subjugated in the past. It is a signal that America will defend its values, protect its interests, stand by its allies, and keep its word.

Most of all, it demonstrates that Americans of both political parties and from every part of our country are willing to support a principled and purposeful American role in Europe and the world. The Administration and the Congress worked hand in hand to shape and advance this policy, and I hope that this spirit of constructive cooperation will continue to prevail as we face new foreign policy tests in the years ahead.
DATE:

TO: Tony Blinken

FAX: 456-9370

FROM: Cameron Munter

RE: Number of pages including cover sheet:

MESSAGE:

Looking forward to getting your statement when it's cleared.
Statement by the President
On Senate Approval of NATO Enlargement

I am delighted that the Senate voted by an overwhelming margin to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. [I just called Majority Leader Lott and Minority Leader Daschle to congratulate them for their leadership and the impressive debate the Senate held on this issue -- a model of bipartisanship and high-minded discourse.]

Today's vote is a milestone on the road to an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe. The addition of these three democracies to NATO will expand the zone of stability in Europe and reduce the chances American men and women will ever again be called into Europe's fields of battle. The message this vote sends is clear: American support for NATO is firm, our leadership for security on both sides of the Atlantic is strong, and the foundation for an active U.S. role in the world is and can still be bipartisan.

The Senate's vote builds on the numberless acts of courage that toppled the Berlin Wall and ended the Cold War. It redeems the sacrifices made by those who raised freedom's banner in Budapest in 1956, in Prague in 1968, and in Gdansk in 1980. It honors the rebellion of conscience begun by such heroes as Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel. The Senate's action validates the selfless investment of blood and treasure that the American people made in European freedom over the course of the 20th century.

I want to acknowledge the indispensable efforts of the many leaders from both parties who brought us to this milestone. This vote stands in the tradition of George Marshall, Dean Acheson and Arthur Vandenberg and the other giants who picked up the pieces after World War II and were present at NATO's creation. Their lesson then is our lesson tonight -- that strength lies in a foreign policy that is guided by the interests and values that unite us as Americans.

I especially want to thank Presidents Ford, Carter, and Bush, and all the others who held this office during the Cold War, from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan, upon whose shoulders tonight's victory stands. I appreciate the leadership in the Senate of the Majority and Minority Leader, of the Chairman and Ranking Democrat of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms and Senator Biden, and the Chairman of the Senate NATO Observer Group, Senator Roth. I also appreciate all those in the House of Representatives, including Speaker Gingrich, Mr. Gilman, and Mr. Hamilton, who have helped advance this effort. And I want to thank all those who made the case for this initiative across the country, including former national security officials, and representatives of America's veterans, businesses, unions, religious groups, and ethnic communities.

Our work for transatlantic security does not end tonight. We must pursue our efforts to strengthen NATO, maintaining its core mission of self-defense while preparing as well for new security challenges. We must continue to build closer ties with the members of the Partnership for Peace and with Russia, Ukraine, and the other states of the former Soviet Union. We must finish our effort to enable a lasting peace in the Balkans. We must achieve deeper reductions in nuclear and conventional arms levels across the continent. I will address these and other challenges as I travel to Europe next month. Tonight's vote will enable me to tell the people of Europe that, in the efforts that lie ahead, they can continue to count on the American people and the American Congress as their ally and partner.
PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON
STATEMENT ON NATO
MAY 1, 1998

Last night's overwhelming, bi-partisan vote by the Senate to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO is a major milestone on the road to an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe.

I hope the American people will reflect on the importance of this moment. Simply put, we know from the history of the 20th century that Europe's fate and America's future are joined. Fifty years ago, in the wake of Europe's devastation, a remarkable generation of Americans and Europeans imagined and then created the institutions that helped rebuild Europe -- and laid a strong foundation for peace and prosperity. The Marshall Plan. The World Bank and IMF. And the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Their vision embraced all of Europe. But the reality of their time did not.

Now, we are completing what that generation began. And NATO is at the heart of our vision. 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 for the 21st century.

The addition of these three democracies to our alliance will strengthen NATO, expand the zone of stability in Europe and reduce the chances American men and women will ever again be called into Europe's fields of battle. The message this vote sends is clear: American support for NATO is firm, our leadership for security on both sides of the Atlantic is strong, and there is still a strong bipartisan foundation for an active U.S. role in the world.

My administration first proposed opening NATO's doors to new members four years ago, during my first trip to Europe as President. Ever since, we have worked closely with our allies and with the United States Senate to move this process forward. Again, let me say how grateful I am for the indispensable efforts of the many leaders from both parties, including Majority Leader Lott, Minority Leader Daschle, Senator Helms and Senator Biden. As I said last night, this vote stands in the tradition of Harry Truman, George Marshall and Arthur Vandenberg and the other giants who kept America engaged in the world after World War II and were present at NATO's creation. Their lesson then is our lesson now -- that strength lies in a foreign policy guided by the interests and values that unite us as Americans.
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On Senate Approval of NATO Enlargement

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I want to acknowledge the indispensable efforts of the many leaders from both parties who brought us to this day, starting with Majority Leader Lott and Minority Leader Daschle. This vote stands in the tradition of George Marshall, Dean Acheson and Arthur Vandenberg and the other giants who kept America engaged in the world after World War II and were present at NATO's creation. Their lesson then is our lesson tonight -- that strength lies in a foreign policy that is guided by the interests and values that unite us as Americans.
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I am delighted that the Senate voted by an overwhelming margin to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. [I just called Majority Leader Lott and Minority Leader Daschle to congratulate them for their leadership and the impressive debate the Senate held on this issue -- a model of bipartisanship and high-minded discourse.]

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The Senate's vote builds on the numberless acts of courage that toppled the Berlin Wall and ended the Cold War. It redeems the sacrifices made by those who raised freedom's banner in Budapest in 1956, in Prague in 1968, and in Gdansk in 1980. It honors the rebellion of conscience begun by such heroes as Lech Walesa and Vaclav Havel. The Senate's action validates the selfless investment of blood and treasure that the American people made in preserving European freedom over the course of the 20th century.

I want to acknowledge the indispensable efforts of the many leaders from both parties who brought us to this milestone. This vote stands in the tradition of George Marshall, Dean Acheson and Arthur Vandenberg and the other giants who picked up the pieces after World War II and were present at NATO's creation. Their lesson then is our lesson tonight -- that strength lies in a foreign policy that is guided by the interests and values that unite us as Americans.

I especially want to thank Presidents Ford, Carter, and Bush, and all the others who held this office during the Cold War, from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan, upon whose shoulders tonight's victory stands. I appreciate the leadership in the Senate of the Majority and Minority Leader, of the Chairman and Ranking Democrat of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms and Senator Biden, and the Chairman of the Senate NATO Observer Group, Senator Roth. I also appreciate all those in the House of Representatives, including Speaker Gingrich, Mr. Gilman, and Mr. Hamilton, who have helped advance this effort. And I want to thank all those who made the case for this initiative across the country, including former national security officials, and representatives of America's veterans, businesses, unions, religious groups, and ethnic communities.

Our work for transatlantic security does not end tonight. We must pursue our efforts to strengthen NATO, preserving maintaining its core mission of self-defense while preparing as well for new security challenges. We must continue to build closer ties with the members of the Partnership for Peace across the European continent, and to further develop our cooperative partnerships with Russia and Ukraine and the other states of the former Soviet Union. We must finish our effort to enable a lasting peace in the Balkans. We must achieve deeper reductions in nuclear and conventional arms levels across the continent. I will address these and other challenges as I travel to Europe next month. Tonight's vote will enable me to tell the people of Europe that, in the efforts that lie ahead, they can continue to count on the American
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Remarks by President William Jefferson Clinton
On Senate Approval of NATO Enlargement

A few minutes ago the Senate voted by an overwhelming margin to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO. I just called Majority Leader Lott and Minority Leader Daschle to congratulate them for their bipartisan leadership and the thorough way in which the Senate addressed this important issue.

Today's vote is a milestone on the road to an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe. The addition of these three democracies to NATO will expand the zone of stability in Europe and reduce the chances American men and women will ever again be called into Europe's fields of battle. The message this vote sends is clear: American support for NATO is firm, our leadership for security on both sides of the Atlantic is strong, and the foundation for an active U.S. role in the world is and can still be bipartisan.

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Tonight I want to acknowledge the indispensable efforts of the many leaders from both parties who brought us to this milestone. This vote stands in the tradition of George Marshall, Dean Acheson and Arthur Vandenberg and the other giants who picked up the pieces after World War II and were present at NATO's creation. Their lesson then is our lesson tonight -- that strength lies in a foreign policy that rises above our partisan differences and is guided instead by the interests and values that unite us as Americans.

I especially want to thank Presidents Ford, Carter, and Bush, and all the others who held this office during the Cold War, from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan, upon whose shoulders tonight's victory stands. I appreciate the leadership in the Senate of the Majority and Minority Leader, of the Chairman and Ranking Democrat of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Helms and Senator Biden, and the Chairman of the Senate NATO Observer Group, Senator Roth. I also appreciate all those in the House of Representatives, including Speaker Gingrich, Mr. Gilman, and Mr. Hamilton, who have helped advance this effort. And I
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Our work for transatlantic security cannot end tonight. We must continue to build closer ties with Russia, Ukraine, and the other states of the former Soviet Union. We must finish our effort to enable a lasting peace in the Balkans. We must achieve deeper reductions in nuclear and conventional arms levels across the continent. I will address these and other challenges as I travel to Europe next month. Tonight's vote will enable me to tell the people of Europe that, in the efforts that lie ahead, they can continue to count on the American people and the American Congress as their ally and partner.
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COLLECTION:
Clinton Presidential Records
National Security Council
Anthony Blinken (Speechwriting)
OA/Box Number: 3380

FOLDER TITLE:
Statement on NATO Vote 5/1/98

RESTRICITION CODES

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Our work for transatlantic security does not end tonight. We must pursue our efforts to strengthen NATO, maintaining its core mission of self-defense while preparing as well for new security challenges. We must continue to build closer ties with all the members of the Partnership for Peace including and with Russia, Ukraine, and the other Eurasian states, of the former Soviet Union. We must also keep NATO's door open to those states still aspiring to membership, and actively support their efforts to realize this goal. We must finish our effort to enable a lasting peace in the Balkans. We must achieve deeper reductions in nuclear and conventional arms levels across the continent. I will address these and other challenges as I travel to Europe next month. Tonight's vote will enable me to tell the people of Europe that, in
Before I begin, let me first comment on a matter of importance to every American. Last night's overwhelming, bi-partisan vote by the Senate to admit Poland, Hungary, and the Czech Republic into NATO is a major milestone on the road to an undivided, democratic, and peaceful Europe.

I hope the American people will reflect on the importance of this moment. We know from the history of the 20th century that Europe's fate and America's future are joined. Fifty years ago, in the wake of Europe's devastation, a remarkable generation of Americans and Europeans imagined and then created the institutions that helped rebuild Europe -- and laid a strong foundation for peace and prosperity. The Marshall Plan. The World Bank and IMF. And the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Their vision embraced all of Europe. But the reality of their time did not.

Now, we are completing what that generation began. And NATO is at the heart of our vision. 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 for the 21st century.

Again, let me say how grateful I am for the indispensable efforts of many leaders from both parties -- including Majority Leader Lott, Minority Leader Daschle, Senator Helms and Senator Biden -- in seeing this effort through. This vote stands in the tradition of Harry Truman, George Marshall and Arthur Vandenberg and the other giants who kept America engaged in the world after World War II and were present at NATO's creation. Their lesson then is our lesson now -- that strength lies in a foreign policy guided by the interests and values that unite us as Americans.