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PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

AT THE

STATE BANQUET

GIVEN BY

PRESIDENT REAGAN

AT THE

WHITE HOUSE

ON

WEDNESDAY 16 NOVEMBER

*Not the right
introduction for the
occasion -
Perhaps we can cut
Whelan's name
2!*

Mr. President, first let me thank you from the bottom of my heart for the magnificent hospitality which you and Mrs. Reagan have extended to us this evening, and throughout the visit.

Our pleasure at the warmth of your welcome,

Mr. President, is all the greater for your having put us up in the splendour of the newly-refurbished Blair House.

I hope Antony Acland will forgive me for saying that it surpasses even that modest little log cabin up Massachusettes Avenue.

Equally, Mr. President, I hope you will forgive me for reminding you that your government's decision to buy Blair House is due in part to one of my predecessors.

Winston Churchill spent the Christmas of 1941

at the White House as a guest of the
Roosevelts.

Early, very early, one morning, Eleanor

Roosevelt found a burly, cigar-smoking
figure padding up and down the passage
outside the President's bedroom.

The Prime Minister insisted on being allowed in
immediately to discuss some matter of

utmost urgency with the President.

"No", said Mrs. Roosevelt, "you only left him three hours ago, and the President must sleep".

She held firm, and decided then and there that the President's official guests should have separate accommodation of their own. The next year Blair House was bought.

Over the years you and I have more than once
quoted to each other Thomas Jefferson's
advice to James Madison that

"A little rebellion now and then is a good
thing".

Well, tonight, I am going to rebel, and
speak for a minute or two more than the
five allotted to me by Ambassador
Roosevelt.

As I look back over the past eight years of our time in office together, what do I remember best?

I remember the dark days of the early part of this decade when both our countries were grappling with inflation and recession: and when you told me, at the British Embassy in 1981, that for all our economic difficulties, we would be home safe and

soon enough.

We can never wholly be without economic problems, but you can rightly take tremendous pride in the achievement of seventy-one continuous months of expansion of the American economy.

I remember, too, your brave words in the Palace of Westminster a year later, words which

have echoed round the world, when you
asked the question:

"What kind of people do we think we are?"

and answered it by proclaiming:

"Free people, worthy of freedom

and determined not only to remain so

but to help others gain their freedom

too".

I remember also your historic address in

another ancient hall in London almost exactly six years later.

Your report on your Summit meeting in Moscow was an inspiration to all who heard it.

But more than anything I remember the feeling of sheer joy at your election eight years ago, knowing that we thought so much alike, believed in so many of the same

things, and that together we could get our countries back on their feet, restore their values and create a safer and a better world.

Together we have been able to demonstrate the truth of Winston Churchill's words about our two peoples in the House of Commons in the last days of the war:

"As long as our people act in absolute

faith and honour to each other and to all
other nations, they need fear none and
they need fear nothing."

The British and American peoples come
together naturally and without the need of
policy or design.

That is because they speak the same
language, were brought up on the same
common law and have similar institutions
and an equal love of individual liberty."

But, Mr. President, you have been more than a
staunch ally and wise counsellor.

You have also been a friend, not only to
me, but to my country too.

A friend, whose cheerful bravery in the face of
personal danger and illness overcome we
have all admired.

And whose optimism and kindness have never,
ever, been worn down by the pressures and
preoccupations of your high office.

Ten years ago, Mr. President, in a letter to a
young Republican, you explained what it
meant to be an American.

And, in describing the personality of the
people of this land, you cited Winston
Churchill's observation that Americans

seemed to be

"The only men who can laugh and fight at
the same time."

Mr. President, you are one of those men.

A combination of true grit and gentle good
humour.

In celebrating your qualities and achievements,

I must also pay tribute to that special

person who has stood by your side through
thick and thin.

I am sure you have always felt the same as

Clark Gable when he wrote in his
autobiography:

"The most important thing a man can know
is that as he approaches his own door,
some one on the other side is listening
for the sound of his footsteps."

You do not need me to tell you, Mr. President,
that in the First Lady of the United
States you have had a consort and
companion whose charm, dignity and courage
have won the hearts of all who know her.
And the part which Mrs. Reagan has played
in the war against drugs has inspired the
young people of America.
Nancy, we salute you.

So, looking back on it all, what do we see?

I can do no better, Mr. President, than repeat your own favourite verdict on a film script:

"That story" Sam Goldwyn once said, "is wonderful.

It's magnificent.

It's prolific".

So, too, Mr. President, have been the Reagan
years.

And we draw strength from the knowledge that
the dreams that you have dreamt, and
brought to reality, will be kept alive by
one who has shared in all you have done
over the past eight years.

We congratulate you, Mr. Vice-President, on

your victory and look forward to
continuing with you down the road on which
President Reagan has set us.

Mr. President, the nature of mankind is such
that the struggle for freedom can never be
over.

But it is a tribute and a testament to
your Presidency that, as you leave office
and make your way westward back to

California, we know that in the words of
the English poet:

"And not by eastern windows only

When daylight comes, comes in the light

In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly

But Westward, look, the land is bright".

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CC PM SPEECHES: Speech at State Dept. Nov 88.

✓ CDR



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 October 1988

CDP 14 221

Dear Charles,

Prime Minister's Visit to Washington: Speeches

You asked me to let you have any comments we might have on the three draft speeches sent in Washington's series of telegrams 2522-6.

We think they are excellent drafts, and have only a few comments.

State Department Speech (telno 2525)

The list of achievements on the second page should include a reference to Afghanistan.

State Dinner Speech (telno 2526)

The reference to Westminster half-way down page 2 should read: "the Palace of Westminster", not "Westminster Hall".

You may also like to consider the following points:

(a) you might be able to work into the third para on page 1 the fact that Churchill based himself at Blair House for 3 weeks altogether (22 December to 11 January 1942). This included two side trips, to Ottawa for the "some chicken, some neck" speech, and to Florida for a short holiday - all of this at the height of the war!

(b) just over half-way down page 3 there is a Sam Goldwyn quote. You might like to consider adding to that paragraph some rather good language which was included in President Reagan's address at Commencement Exercises at the University of Notre Dame on 17 May 1981. It was a significant speech for a number of reasons: Notre Dame has the "Win one for the Gipper" connection; it was President Reagan's first trip outside Washington after the assassination attempt on 30 March; and the speech contains a firm statement of the President's patriotic vision. Of the pieces marked in the enclosure, we thought that the one at the top left of page 435 could be developed to follow the paragraph with the Goldwyn quote. It could be developed into a set of rhetorical questions along the following lines:

/- "How



- "How will history judge this recent past? How will it answer, Mr President, those questions you yourself posed near the beginning of your Presidency:
- "Did a nation born of hope lose hope?" - it did not;
- "Did a people forged by courage find courage wanting?" - they did not;
- "Did a generation steeled of war forsake honour at the moment of great climactic struggle?" - we did not.

longer ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

8118
K 20

