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New Jersey Freeze Voters Speech: Rough Draft

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THANK YOU FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION, AND FOR THIS TERRIFIC RECEPTION.

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK IN NEW JERSEY. AND LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING: I'M MORE CONVINCED THAN EVER THE POLLSTERS AND PUNDITS WHO SAY THIS ELECTION IS OVER ARE WRONG -- ONCE AGAIN.

BUT LET ME TAKE MY OWN, OBJECTIVE POLL RIGHT HERE. CAN WE WIN THIS ELECTION?

WILL WE PUT WALTER MONDALE IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND SEND RONALD REAGAN BACK TO HIS RANCH?

I THINK SO TOO.

AND ONE OF THE REASONS WE'RE GOING TO WIN IS BECAUSE OF THE HARD WORK OF ORGANIZATIONS LIKE NEW JERSEY FREEZE VOTERS. EVERY TIME YOU REGISTER A NEW VOTER OR GET SOMEONE MOTIVATED TO VOTE, WE'RE THAT MUCH CLOSER TO VICTORY.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan was elected because millions of people stayed home. They did not vote. They let someone else decide for them. This time around,

this year
AND PEOPLE ARE SIGNING UP TO VOTE IN RECORD NUMBERS, BECAUSE THEY KNOW THAT THE DECISION THEY MAKE THIS NOVEMBER MAY MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

RONALD REAGAN RECENTLY SAID THAT THIS ELECTION PRESENTS THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WITH THE CLEAREST CHOICE THEY'VE HAD IN FIFTY YEARS. AND FOR ONCE, HE'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.

AND THE ISSUE IN THIS CAMPAIGN IS THE ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE.

RIGHT NOW, AT LEAST THIRTEEN WARS AND CIVIL WARS ARE BEING WAGED AROUND THE WORLD. INKAMPUCHEA, AFGHANISTAN, THE HORN OF AFRICA, THE WESTERN SAHARA, CHAD AND ELSEWHERE, A TOTAL OF TWO MILLION PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING AND DYING AS WE MEET HERE TODAY. CENTRAL AMERICA HAS BECOME AN ISTHMUS OF INSTABILITY. LEBANON IS A LAND OF DISTRUST, DISCORD, AND MORE VILENCE SINCE THE CRUSADES. IRAN AND IRAQ ARE KILLING A WHLE GENERATION OF YOUNGSTERS.

BY THIS TIME IN THE CARTER/MONDALE ADMINISTRATION, WE HAD THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, THE DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION OF RED CHINA, AND THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY -- ALL OF WHICH REAGAN FOUGHT. BY THIS TIME IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, WE HAVE THE TRAGEDY OF LEBANON, A SEMI-SECRET SHAMBLES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE WORST RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS SINCE THE COLD WAR.

THE ONLY DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS RONALD REAGAN HAS HAD IN HIS FOUR YEARS IN OFFICE IS FIRING AL HAIG.

RONALD REAGAN'S FOREIGN POLICIES HAVE NOT ONLY FAILED TO HELP BRING PEACE TO A TROUBLED WORLD, ^{they have} ~~HE HAS~~ FANNED THE FLAMES OF WAR IN EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE. THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS INCREASED ITS SPENDING ON MILITARY AID FIVE TIMES AS FAST AS IT'S SPENDING ON DEVELOPMENT AID. AND THAT'S A DISGRACE.\

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US FEEDING THE HUNGRY, NOT JUST ARMINING THE WARRIORS. I WANT US TO STOP BEATING OUR PLOUGHSHARES INTO SWORDS.

THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS ABANDONED OUR COUNTRY'S COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS.

WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO OPPOSES MILITARY INTERVENTION IN NICARAGUA JUST AS HE DOES IN AFGHANISTAN.

WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO STANDS UP FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS JUST AS HE DOES FOR SOVIET REFUSNIKS.

AND WE WANT A PRESIDENT WHO SENDS IN THE DIPLOMATS BEFORE HE SENDS IN THE MARINES.

SADLY, WE'RE NOT DOING THAT TODAY. IN CENTRAL AMERICA, WE ARE MILITARIZING A CONFLICT WHICH MIGHT BE RESOLVED BY PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION. AND WE ARE AMERICANIZING A CONFLICT WHICH IS PRIMARILY LOCAL. FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL WORK WITH THE CONTADORA NATIONS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT TO THE WAR IN EL SALVADOR. WE'LL CONDITION AID TO THAT COUNTRY ON PROGRESS TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE. AND WE'LL STOP THE COVERT AID TO THE CONTRAS IN NICARAGUA.

TODAY, BLACK SOUTH AFRICANS ARE DEMANDING THEIR RIGHTS, AND IN RECENT DAYS, MANY OF THEM HAVE DIED FOR THEIR RIGHTS -- BUT THIS ADMINISTRATION DOESN'T HEAR THEM. IN SOUTH AFRICA, A MINORITY WHITE GOVERNMENT TELLS BLACK PEOPLE WHERE TO LIVE, WHERE TO WORK, WHERE TO GO TO SCHOOL, AND WHOM THEY CAN MARRY. AND IT DOESN'T LET THEM VOTE. YET OUR COUNTRY SUPPORTS THAT GOVERNMENT.

THIS INDIFFERENCE TO THE PLIGHT OF OTHERS IS SHORT-SIGHTED AND IT IS WRONG. AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY ONCE SAID, "THOSE WHO MAKE PEACEFUL REVOLUTION IMPOSSIBLE WILL MAKE VIOLENT REVOLUTION INEVITABLE."

FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL PROMOTE THAT PEACEFUL REVOLUTION BY BACKING HUMAN

RIGHTS. AND WE'LL TELL THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THAT IF THEY WANT LONG-TERM, FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES, THEN APARTHEID MUST END. PERIOD.

RONALD REAGAN'S VIEW OF THE WORLD IS VERY APPROPRIATE FOR THE YEAR 1984. WHITE IS BLACK, UP IS DOWN, AND WAR IS PEACE. IN RONALD REAGAN'S WORLD, THE BAD GUYS WEAR BLACK HATS, AND THE GOOD GUYS RIDE IN ON HORSES AND SAVE THE DAY. I HAVE NEWS FOR RONALD REAGAN. YOU'RE NOT IN HOLLYWOOD ANY MORE, MR. PRESIDENT. THIS IS THE REAL THING.

WITH 50,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS ENCIRCLING THE GLOBE, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LEAVE RONALD REAGAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

RONALD REAGAN BELIEVES ARMS CONTROL IS A SIGN OF WEAKNESS. FRITZ MONDALE AND I BELIEVE IT TAKES STRENGTH AND VISION OF KNOW THAT ARMS CONTROL IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO OUR NATION'S FUTURE. WE'D RATHER TALK TEN TIMES THAN FIGHT ONCE.

RONALD REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE HERBERT HOOVER TO REFUSE TO EVEN MEET WITH HIS COUNTERPART IN THE SOVIET UNION. FRITZ MONDALE WILL BE THE FIRST PRESIDENT WHO WILL HOLD ANNUAL SUMMIT MEETINGS WITH HIM.

RONALD REAGAN IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT SINCE THE DAWN OF THE NUCLEAR ERA WHO HAS NOT NEGOTIATED A SINGLE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS. ON HIS FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, FRITZ MONDALE WILL CHALLENGE THE SOVIETS TO BEGIN TALKS ON A NUCLEAR FREEZE AGREEMENT.

FRITZ MONDALE UNDERSTAND THAT AN ARMS RACE DOES NOT LEAD TO PEACE -- IT LEADS ONLY TO AN ARMS RACE.

AMERICANS BELIEVE IN STRENGTH AND MILITARY READINESS. WE HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT THE SOVIETS. BUT AMERICANS NOT ONLY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL STAND UP TO THE SOVIETS. THEY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND NEGOTIATE AN END TO THE ARMS RACE.

AMERICANS DON'T WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL TURN THE HEAVENS INTO A BATTLEGROUND. THEY WANT A PRESIDENT WHO WILL END THE ARMS RACE HERE ON EARTH.

TOGETHER, WE CAN LIFT THE SHADOW OF FEAR AS WE STEP BACK FROM THE NUCLEAR BRINK.

IN THE NEXT FIFTY FIVE DAYS, GIVE US YOUR ENERGIES, YOUR EFFORTS, AND YOUR ENTHUSIASM, AND TOGETHER WE CAN WIN THIS ELECTION.

IT MAY, QUITE LITERALLY, MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END.