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Pittsburg Rally Speech

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PITTSBURGH
DRAFT ONE

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Ridgely

THANK YOU, MAYOR CALIGUIRI, FOR THAT WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION.

YOU KNOW, PITTSBURGH AND THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET HAVE A LOT IN COMMON. THEY'RE BOTH FULL OF PIRATES AND STEELERS.

IN MAYOR CILGUIRI AND YOUR FINE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION, THE PEOPLE OF PITTSBURGH HAVE LEADERS THEY CAN TRULY BE PROUD OF. YOU DESERVE NO LESS.

IN FACT, YOU DESERVE MORE. YOU DESERVE PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP YOU CAN BE PROUD OF AS WELL.

YOU DESERVE A STEEL POLICY THAT BOILS DOWN TO MORE THAN "LET IT RUST." WALTER MONDALE HAS OFFERED A PLAN TO RAISE CAPITAL, RETRAIN WORKERS, MODERNIZE OUR PLANTS, AND BOOST COMPETITIVENESS. HE'LL STOP TALKING ABOUT GETTING GOVERNMENT OFF OUR BACKS AND START TALKING ABOUT GETTING IT ON OUR SIDE.

YOU DESERVE AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM THAT WILL HELP YOUR CHILDREN MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE WORLD. WALTER MONDALE AND I PROMISE TO MAKE THIS THE BEST EDUCATED GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

AFTER FOUR YEARS, YOU DESERVE AN AMERICA WITH PURER WATER AND CLEANER AIR. FRITZ MONDALE AND I WILL STOP TAKING POLLUTERS TO LUNCH AND START TAKING THEM TO COURT.

AND YOU DESERVE AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS NOT ONLY ON MADISON AVENUE, BUT ALSO ON MAIN STREET. MORE SMALL BUSINESSMEN HAVE FAILED DURING THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. AND WHILE PEOPLE IN PITTSBURGH ARE WILLING TO WORK AND CAN'T FIND JOBS, RONALD REAGAN SAYS TO CHECK THE WANT ADS. THAT'S AN INSULT TO THE DECENT MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS CITY WHO ARE LOOKING FOR A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT.

THE PRESIDENT SEEMS TO THINK UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE ARE SIMPLY LAZY. I SAY: YOU CAN'T LOOK IN THE WANT ADS FOR THE THOUSANDS OF JOBS LOST FOREVER OVERSEAS THROUGH THE INCOMPETENCE AND MISMANAGEMENT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. THE PEOPLE OF PITTSBURGH ARE SAYING IN A SINGLE VOICE: GIVE US JOBS, AND WE'LL OUTBUILD, OUT-SELL, AND OUT-COMPETE ANY WORKERS ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH.

THE PEOPLE OF PITTSBURGH ARE ALSO SAYING THAT THEY INSIST ON A PRESIDENT WHO WILL WORK FOR PEACE AND PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS -- AND AMERICAN CITIZENS -- ABROAD.

NEARLY EVERY DAY WE SEE ANOTHER REPORT THAT OUR MILITARY FORCES ARE NOT ADEQUATELY PREPARED. WITH THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION'S RAPID INCREASE IN SPENDING ON NUCLEAR PROCUREMENT, OUR CONVENTIONAL PREPAREDNESS IS SUFFERING. THE PENTAGON IS RIPE WITH INEFFICIENCIES. AND LAST WEEK IN LEBANON, WE PAID FOR ONE EXAMPLE OF MILITARY INEFFICIENCY WITH AMERICAN LIVES.

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GEORGE BUSH SAYS WALTER MONDALE IS CONDEMNING THE LACK OF SECURITY AT OUR EMBASSY IN BEIRUT BECAUSE HE IS "DESPERATE." WHAT MR. BUSH DOESN'T SEEM TO UNDERSTAND IS THAT THE CARELESSNESS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS NEEDLESSLY COST THE LIVES OF HUNDREDS OF AMERICANS. WALTER MONDALE AND I ARE DESPERATE TO SEE THAT THE MISTAKES THAT CAUSED THOSE DEATHS ARE NOT REPEATED.

PERHAPS I COULD ACCEPT IT IF WE WERE NOT FULLY PREPARED THE FIRST TIME A TERRORIST STRUCK. BUT WE WERE STILL UNPREPARED THE SECOND TIME, AND 240 MARINES WERE KILLED. AND EVEN AFTER THAT HORRIBLE TRAGEDY, EVEN AFTER WARNINGS FROM OUR INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES THAT ANOTHER ATTACK WAS PLANNED, THIS ADMINISTRATION FAILED TO TAKE THE PRECAUTIONS NECESSARY TO PREVENT ANOTHER TRAGEDY. AND LAST WEEK, TRAGEDY STRUCK AGAIN. ONLY THE CHANCE PRESENCE OF AN ALERT BRITISH GUARD PREVENTED THE TERRORIST FROM PENETRATING THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND CAUSING EVEN GREATER DEATH AND DESTRUCTION.

INSTEAD OF ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY, MR. REAGAN PASSED THE BUCK. AND NOW HE TRIVIALIZES THE DEATHS OF THESE AMERICANS. WHEN ASKED TO EXPLAIN HOW HE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE LET INSTALLATION OF ESSENTIAL SECURITY MEASURES DRAG ON WHILE AMERICAN LIVES WENT UNPROTECTED, HE ANSWERED THAT ANYONE WHO HAS EVER HAD A KITCHEN REMODELED KNOWS IT SOMETIMES TAKES LONGER THAN EXPECTED.

THAT ANSWER IS AN INSULT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND PARTICULARLY TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO WERE KILLED BECAUSE OF MR. REAGAN'S LAX POLICIES. THERE IS SIMPLY NO EXCUSE FOR LETTING THAT EMBASSY

GO UNPROTECTED AFTER TWO PREVIOUS ATTACKS AND PLENTY OF INDICATION IT WOULD HAPPEN AGAIN. MR. REAGAN'S INATTENTION TO THE DETAILS OF POLICY IS NOT PERMISSABLE. AND HIS CAVALIER ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DEVASTATION OF OUR EMBASSY, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN HIS ADMINISTRATION, IS REPREHENSIBLE.

BUT HIS NUCLEAR POLICIES ARE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS.

IN RECENT WEEKS, RONALD REAGAN HAS REVERSED HIMSELF ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES. IN CONTRAST TO HIS PREVIOUS POSITIONS, HE NOW CLAIMS TO BELIEVE THAT NUCLEAR WAR IS UNWINNABLE, THAT ARMS CONTROL IS IMPORTANT, AND THAT HE FAVORS TALKING TO THE SOVIETS.

IF THE PRESIDENT HAS TRULY CHANGED HIS MIND ON THESE ISSUES SIX WEEKS BEFORE HE IS UP FOR RE-ELECTION -- AFTER A LIFETIME OF OPPOSITION TO ARMS CONTROL AND CAVALIER STATEMENTS ABOUT WINNING A NUCLEAR WAR -- THEN I AM PLEASED TO KNOW THAT HE HAS SEEN THE LIGHT.

BECAUSE PUTTING A HALT TO THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING OUR COUNTRY.

RIGHT NOW, ON THIS PLANET, THERE ARE SOME 50,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS. AND THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE ADDING, BETWEEN US, OVER FIVE NEW WARHEADS A DAY.

THESE STOCKPILES ARE THE POTENTIAL FUEL FOR A GLOBAL HOLOCAUST.

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THE KINDLING THAT MIGHT START THAT FIRE COMES IN MANY FORMS. IT MIGHT BE AN ACCIDENT BY ONE SIDE OR THE ANOTHER. IT MIGHT BE THE ESCALATION OF A CONVENTIONAL WAR BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS.

THE POSSIBILITIES ARE REAL, DANGEROUS, AND FRIGHTENING. NEVER HAVE WEAPONS BEEN CREATED THAT WERE NOT USED. BUT NEVER CAN HUMANITY AFFORD TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

BUT MY QUESTION IS, WILL THE PRESIDENT'S NEW FOUND CONVICTIONS ABOUT THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR AND THE VALUE OF ARMS CONTROL LAST PAST THE ELECTIONS?

I BELIEVE WE MIGHT FIND A CLUE IN MR. REAGAN'S PAST RECORD ON THIS ISSUE.

RONALD REAGAN HAS OPPOSED EVERY ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT EVER NEGOTIATED. PERIOD.

IN 1963, MR. REAGAN OPPOSED THE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY; IN 1968, HE OPPOSED THE NONPROLIFERATION TREATY; IN 1972, HE OPPOSED SALT I, IN THE SAME YEAR, HE OPPOSED THE ABM TREATY, IN 1974, HE OPPOSED THE VLADIVOSTOK ACCORDS, AND IN 1979, HE OPPOSED SALT II. EVERY PRESIDENT FOR 25 YEARS HAS NEGOTIATED AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS. AND MR. REAGAN HAS SAID THAT EVERY ONE OF THOSE PRESIDENTS WAS WRONG.

LISTEN TO A FEW OF THE STATEMENTS OVER THE YEARS OF THIS MAN AND

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HIS ADVISERS. AND JUDGE FOR YOURSELF WHETHER RONALD REAGAN TRULY BELIEVES IN THE VALUE OF ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS.

IN 1981, RONALD REAGAN SAID "THE ARGUMENT, IF THERE IS ANY, WILL BE OVER WHICH WEAPONS (WE BUY) AND NOT WHETHER WE SHOULD FORSAKE WEAPONRY FOR TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS."

IN 1982, THE MAN MR. REAGAN APPOINTED TO LEAD OUR ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS SAID "MY POLICY WOULD BE TO DO (ARMS NEGOTIATIONS) FOR POLITICAL REASONS, BUT I THINK IT IS A SHAM."

IN 1984, THE MAN MR. REAGAN APPOINTED AS HIS CHIEF NEGOTIATOR SAID " WE'VE TRIED IN THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION TO DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM MAKING ARMS CONTROL THE CENTERPIECE OF FOREIGN POLICY."

IT STRAINS CREDIBILITY TO BELIEVE THAT A MAN WHO HAS OPPOSED ARMS CONTROL HIS ENTIRE LIFE HAS SUDDENLY HAD A CHANGE OF HEART FORTY DAYS BEFORE HE FACES RE-ELECTION.

I'M GLAD RONALD REAGAN FINALLY MET WITH A SOVIET OFFICIAL. BUT THAT MEETING SHOULD HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE FIRST MONTHS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION, NOT IN THE LAST DAYS OF A RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN. OVER 2500 NEW SOVIET NUCLEAR WARHEADS HAVE BEEN AIMED AT AMERICA SINCE THE DAY RONALD REAGAN BECAME PRESIDENT.

AND I MUST SAY THAT I AM WORRIED ABOUT BEING REPRESENTED AT SUCH

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A MEETING BY A PRESIDENT WITH SO LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN ARMS CONTROL, AND WITH SUCH A PROFOUND LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH OUR OWN NUCLEAR ARSENAL. IT IS DANGEROUS WHEN WE HAVE A PRESIDENT WHO TALKS OF SUBMARINE MISSILES THAT CAN BE RECALLED -- WHEN THEY CAN'T; WHO THINKS THAT ONLY LAND-BASED MISSILES HAVE NUCLEAR WARHEADS -- WHEN OTHERS DO; AND WHO DECLARES THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS SUPERIOR IN NUCLEAR FORCE -- WHEN IT'S NOT. THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAVE SAID MORE THAN ONCE THAT THEY WOULD NOT TRADE OUR MILITARY FOR THE SOVIETS MILITARY, AND IT IS NOT PRUDENT FOR THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF TO IMPLY THAT WE SHOULD.

THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT UNDER PRESIDENT MONDALE. WHEN HE SITS DOWN WITH THE SOVIETS, THEY WILL HAVE TO NEGOTIATE WITH AN ADVERSARY WHO HAS MASTERED THE COMPLEXITIES OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THEY'LL CONFRONT A LEADER WITH BOTH THE CAPACITY AND THE PLAN TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUS ARMS CONTROL.

WALTER MONDALE, UNLIKE RONALD REAGAN, HAS A LIFE LONG COMMITMENT TO ARMS CONTROL. HE BACKED THE ABM TREATY. HE FOUGHT PROLIFERATION. HE PUSHED SALT II. AND HE WAS THE FIRST OF THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO ENDORSE THE NUCLEAR FREEZE.

AND MOST IMPORTANT, HE HAS A SPECIFIC PLAN FOR ACHIEVING A MEANINGFUL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS. OUR PLAN IS BASED ON REALISM, NOT FANTASY; AND ON HOPE, NOT HATRED.

WALTER MONDALE WILL BEGIN HIS PRESIDENCY BY CALLING ON THE SOVIET

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LEADERS TO ACCEPT MUTUAL, VERIFIABLE RESTRAOINTS -- AMONG THEM, A PAUSE IN UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTING AND IN THE TESTING AND DEPLOYM,ENT OF ALL SPACE WEAPONS.

HE WILL USE THIS TEMPORARY, MUTUAL PAUSE IN ORDER TO CHALLENGE THE SOVIETS TO RETRURN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE TO NEGOTIATE A MUTUAL AND VERIFIABLE FREEZE ON THE NUCLEAR ARMS RACE, AND THEN REDUCE THE NUCLEAR STOCKPILES.

HE WILL INSIST THAT ANY AGREEMENTS ARE VERIFIABLE WITH STRONG SANCTIONS IF VIOLATIOIS ARE FOUND. AND EVERY YEAR THAT HE HOLDS OFFICE, IN GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD, HE WIOLL PLAN TO PUSH TOPWARD THOSE GOALS IN FACE TO FACE MEETINGS WITH THE SOVIET LEADERS. ON HIS VERY FIRST DAY IN OFFICE, HE WILL CALL ON THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP TO MEET WITH HIM WITHIN SIX MONTHS IN GENEVA FOR NEGOTIATIONS TO FREEZE THE ARMS RACE.

THE ONLY PLAN RONALD REAGAN SEEMS TO HAVE IS TO KEEP BUILDING MORE AND MORE WEAPONS, HOPING THAT SOMEDAY WE CAN GET SO FAR AHEAD THAT THE SOVIETS WILL STOP CHASING US.

THAT'S ABSURD.

IT'S EASY TO BUILD MORE AND MORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BUT WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL LEAD US TO PEACE, NOT FURTHER INTO THE ARMS RACE. AND THAT PRESIDENT IS WALTER MONDALE.

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AND IT'S SIMPLE TO INSULT THE SOVIETS. BUT WE NEED A PRESIDENT WHO WILL EXCHANGE PROPOSALS WITH THE SOVIETS, NOT INSULTS. AND THAT PRESIDENT IS WALTER MONDALE.

GEORGE BUSH SAID LAST WEEK THAT THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT WHICH CANDIDATE CAN PUT MORE MONEY IN YOUR WALLET.

THAT'S AN INSULT TO THE INTELLIGENCE AND THE NATURE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THE REPUBLICANS ARE APPEALING TO YOUR FINANCIAL SELF-INTEREST. BUT AMERICANS CARE ABOUT MORE THAN JUST THAT -- WE CARE ABOUT EACH OTHER, AND WE CARE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE PLANET.

EVERY GENERATION FACES ONE OVERRIDING PROBLEM. THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT WHAT THAT PROBLEM IS IN OUR TIME. IT IS TO FREEZE THE ARMS RACE AND KEEP THE PEACE. NEXT TO THAT, ALL OTHER GOALS PALE. NEXT TO THAT COMMON CAUSE, ALL OUR PRIVATE AGENDAS MUST TAKE SECOND PLACE.

LOOK AT HOW RONALD REAGAN HAS DEALT WITH THAT PROBLEM OVER THE YEARS AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM HIM IF HE IS ELECTED TO A SECOND TERM.

IN 1980, BEFORE THE ELECTION, HE PROMISED IMMEDIATE ARMS TALKS. FOUR YEARS LATER, NOT A SINGLE TEAM IS NEGOTIATING ON NUCLEAR ARMS.

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IN 1981, HE PUT ON ICE THREE OF HIS PREDECESSORS' TREATIES WHICH HAD TAKEN YEARS TO NEGOTIATE.

IN 1983, HE LAUNCHED THE ARMS RACE INTO SPACE.

NOW, SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE ELECTION, RONALD REAGAN HAS MET WITH AN OFFICIAL OF THE SOVIET UNION, AND CLAIMS TO WANT TO RENEW HIS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

BEFORE YOU VOTE FOR REAGAN IN 1984, THINK ABOUT 1985.

MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A CANDIDATE IS TO BRING THE ISSUES BEFORE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. YOURS IS TO WEIGH THE FACTS. I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL BE WITH ME OR AGAINST ME ON NOVEMBER 6TH. BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT WHEN YOU VOTE, YOU'LL VOTE INTELLIGENTLY.

THANK YOU.