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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *d.g.*

TALKING POINTS:

WOMEN'S FORUM OF NATIONAL SECURITY

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1975

IT IS A PLEASURE AND A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE HERE

THIS MORNING BEFORE THIS DISTINGUISHED GROUP. WE SHARE THE

SAME VISION FOR AMERICA -- A FREE, THRIVING DEMOCRACY.

AND WE ALSO SHARE THE AWARENESS THAT ONLY A STRONG AMERICA

CAN STAY FREE.

THE THEME OF YOUR GATHERING -- PEACE -- A COMMON

PURPOSE -- IS A LINK THAT BINDS US TOGETHER -- KEEPING AMERICA

STRONG AND PREPARED IN ORDER TO KEEP THE PEACE.

LET ME EXPRESS MY THANKS TO YOU FOR YOUR PAST EFFORTS  
TO BOLSTER TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. I RECALL MEETING WITH  
MANY OF YOU BEFORE AND AM DELIGHTED TO BE WITH SO MANY FRIENDS  
TODAY. YOU, AND THE TWO AND A HALF MILLION WOMEN IN ALL OF  
THE FIFTY STATES, THE PHILIPINES, PUERTO RICO AND PANAMA WHICH  
YOU REPRESENT, ARE ONE OF THE MOST POTENT, EFFECTIVE GRASS ROOTS  
LOBBIES WE HAVE FOR A PEACEFUL, SECURE AMERICA. YOU ARE  
DOING A GREAT JOB. YOU HAVE MY SUPPORT. AND YOU ALSO  
HAVE MY GRATITUDE. THANK YOU, LADIES, FOR WHAT YOU ARE  
DOING FOR AMERICA.

I KNOW YOU WILL KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK. FOR MY PART,

I PROMISE NOT TO WAVER FROM MY PERSONAL COMMITMENT

TO THE CONVICTION THAT PEACE DEPENDS UPON A STRONG DEFENSE.

THE NEW DEFENSE BUDGET I HAVE REQUESTED FOR 1976 IS NO MORE --

AND NO LESS -- THAN WHAT AMERICA NEEDS TO MAINTAIN A CREDIBLE

POSTURE OF SELF-DEFENSE AND TO CONTINUE LEADERSHIP OF THE FREE

WORLD. TO SLASH THAT BUDGET IS TO GAMBLE WITH OUR FUTURE

SECURITY, OUR FREEDOM, AND -- IF I MAY BORROW YOUR THEME --

TO WEAKEN THE CHANCES FOR OUR COMMON GOAL OF PEACE.

IN MY YEARS AS A CONGRESSMAN, I LEARNED VERY EARLY  
THAT THERE ARE FEW LOBBIES IN THE WORLD MORE EFFECTIVE THAN  
MOTIVATED, INFORMED AMERICAN WOMEN. YOU KNOW THE FACTS.  
YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT THIS ISSUE IS TO AMERICA. I DEPEND  
ON YOU TO HELP ME STATE THE CASE -- AND WIN THE SUPPORT --  
FOR A LASTING PEACE BASED ON A STRONG AND STABLE AMERICA.

YOUR EFFORTS WILL HELP TO ASSURE THAT NEVER AGAIN WILL  
ANY AMERICAN WOMAN RECEIVE A TELEGRAM FROM THE GOVERNMENT AT  
A TIME WHEN A LOVED ONE IS SERVING IN COMBAT OVERSEAS.  
ENOUGH TEARS HAVE BEEN SHED.

THE TIME HAS COME TO REAFFIRM OUR COMMON BELIEF THAT  
THE GREATEST THREAT TO PEACE IS A UNILATERAL COP-OUT FROM OUR  
DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES. I KNOW THAT AMERICA CAN COUNT  
ON YOU TO CONVEY THAT MESSAGE.

AND I THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT