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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . . January 8, 1976

TALKING POINTS: RESERVE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP
PRESENTATION, JANUARY 9, 1976

Let me welcome each of you to the White House this morning.

As a former Navy officer and a member of the Naval Reserve for the past 21 years, it is a great honor for me to be the one hundred thousandth member of the Reserve Officers Association of the United States.

The R-O-A has, for more than half a century, served this Nation and its defense community very well.

With more than 900 chapters in all the fifty states and several foreign countries, the Association has been instrumental in helping achieve greater recognition and appreciation for the men and women of America's military reserve forces.

In addition, your work in the Association has contributed substantially to a better public understanding of the vital need for a strong, national defense.

Elements of the Army and Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, the Air National Guard, the Public Health Service and others with an interest in the national defense have joined forces in an admirable way to make your association a strong and effective advocate for our defense needs.

For two centuries, the American people willingly have paid the full price of freedom. They know that, without strength, there is no freedom. Without freedom, there is no peace. But with strength, we can have a world in which there is both freedom and peace.

Like you, I will never accept second best in defense nor reject my full commitment to our armed forces. It is my solemn duty to the American people.

I know all members of the Reserve Officers Association share this commitment. I know you are working hard to make sure America maintains its strength.

I commend your good work -- and I deeply appreciate the
very special honor you have conferred upon me.

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