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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Keene, New Hampshire)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BREAKFAST,
ELKS HALL
DOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Since we are meeting today near the outskirts of one of the nation's finest military installations -- the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard -- let me say a few words at the outset about the future security of the United States.

When I entered the Presidency almost 19 months ago, I promised that I would do all in my power to keep America strong and at peace.

My policy since then can be summed up in three words: Peace through strength.

I know that many of you here are concerned about the future of our naval forces. As a former Navy man myself, I share your concern. We are a nation bordered on many sides by salt water. We must maintain superiority at sea.

When I recently reviewed the budget requests from the Department of Defense for the coming year, I saw the need to take a new look at the prospects for our naval forces. I therefore directed the Department to conduct for the National Security Council a sweeping review of our seapower and shipbuilding needs through 1985.

That study is now in progress. Without forecasting the precise recommendations, I think it is safe to predict that it will lead to an expanded program of modernization and building for our naval forces.

Our military power on the sea, on land and in the air is essential to a secure America. Our intelligence services also play a crucial role in protecting our National Security. The information they supply protects us against sudden military attack and provides the knowledge which is key to the soundness of our policies and the effectiveness of our diplomacy.

In the past, there have been abuses. I deplore these incidents, and I have taken action to ensure they will never happen again.

(MORE)

This week I announced my plans for the first major reorganization and reform of the intelligence community since 1947. By Executive Order, I established a new command structure for foreign intelligence. From now on, overall policy directions for intelligence will rest in only one place: The National Security Council, consisting of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense.

Management of intelligence will be conducted by a single new committee, chaired by the Director of Central Intelligence, George Bush, closely supervised by the National Security Council and by me. And I have created a new independent oversight board, made up of distinguished private citizens. This board will insure that the intelligence community operates in accordance with my Executive Order and it will report on any questions that may be raised as to illegalities or improprieties.

All three of these units will be responsible to me. I will continue to be ultimately accountable for our intelligence activities. I will continue to take further steps to improve the performance of our intelligence agencies and to restore public confidence in them.

I have already issued a set of binding guidelines which will stringently guard against abuse. Soon I will meet with Congressional leaders to map out legislation providing additional safeguards. And I will support legislation that would prohibit attempts on the lives of foreign leaders during peacetime.

Our intelligence activities must be conducted in a manner that respects the Constitutional rights of American citizens. I will tolerate no abridgement of the rights of American citizens. Neither will I tolerate attempts to cripple our intelligence capability which would threaten the right of all Americans to live securely in a world that is often hostile to our freedom. Our intelligence community must not be paralyzed, nor its effectiveness undermined.

In a nuclear age, there can be no lasting accomplishments without a lasting peace. Therefore, we must never seek confrontation where consultation is possible. Our military strength will keep us secure; a creative diplomacy can lessen tension and build cooperation. And we can maintain such a responsible foreign policy only if we have adequate and timely information on which to act. In this way we can meet our traditional role of international leadership in offering the world hope for peace with freedom.

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