

Remarks on Signing the Proclamation Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Peace Corps

March 1, 1991

We've got all the suspects lined up here. Thank you very much. [*Laughter*]

Listen, please be seated. And welcome to the White House, a very special ceremony. And it's great to see so many familiar faces and distinguished former Directors of the Peace Corps, including especially the founding Director, Sarge Shriver. I'm also delighted to see the representatives from the Congress—Senator Pell; Senator Lugar; Congressman Broomfield; my old friend, Jim Leach—an especially warm welcome to you.

It's our pleasure, all of ours, to be here today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Peace Corps. I'm very proud to have standing at my side our very able Director, Paul Coverdell.

The Peace Corps has come a long way and expanded a great deal in its proud history. Today the volunteers come from a more diverse population of Americans than ever before, and they're reaching out to an ever-widening circle of countries.

The Peace Corps has long had three important goals. First, to help the people of host countries meet their needs for skilled men and women. Second, to help promote abroad a better understanding of our country—of America. And third, to promote a better understanding by Americans of other peoples throughout the world.

And it has been exciting to watch as our volunteers, our ever-dedicated volunteers, continue to provide important training and skills in 73 countries that we are currently serving. And that is, incidentally, the highest number of countries that the Peace Corps has ever been active in at one time. It's particularly rewarding to note that the programs have been established in 19 new countries since the beginning of our administration, and I understand that number may reach as high as 30 by the end of 1992. In fact, the first set of volunteers will leave to begin their work in Romania just next week.

I'm pleased to have with us today Ed

Pizack, Chairman of the Liberty Bell Foundation; several of his colleagues. Because of the Liberty Bell Foundation's great generosity and effort, the Peace Corps will be able to send an additional 60 volunteers to Poland to teach English. What an historic example of a successful public-private partnership.

In recent times, our second goal of helping to promote understanding of Americans abroad has been particularly important. Peace Corps volunteers have, and will, continue to promote a better understanding of the American people in the countries in which they serve. I've seen them in action many, many times—and as everybody in this room has—and it is inspiring.

I'm also very proud of the Peace Corps efforts of their equally important, yet probably less known third goal. And that is to teach Americans about the world beyond our own borders.

Today, all 50 States are participating in the recently established World Wise School program. This program assists over 60,000 students in learning geography, acquiring international knowledge, and in inspiring good citizenship.

The Fellows/USA program allows returned volunteers to earn master's degrees while serving as teachers in our nation's neediest inner-city schools and then in the rural schools as well. Twelve universities are currently participating in this program.

In each of these important tasks, consistently for 30 years, so many thousands of volunteers have done a superb job in so many countries. Because the Peace Corps has served with characteristic American generosity and ability, I am proud to offer my congratulations on this very important 30th anniversary and my strong support and best wishes for the future.

Thank you all for coming down here, and now I'd like to ask the former Directors to join me as I sign this proclamation. I'm grateful for the work all you have put into this.

Note: The President spoke at 10:01 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to R. Sargent Shriver, founding Director of the Peace Corps; Senators Claiborne Pell and Richard G. Lugar; Representatives William S. Broom-

field and Jim Leach; Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell; and Edward Pizack, chairman of the Liberty Bell Foundation. The proclamation is listed in Appendix E at the end of this volume.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher of Germany

March 1, 1991

As I mentioned earlier to the first wave, we are very grateful to Germany for its support for the operations in recently concluded Desert Storm. We've got to work together now, and we will, to help enhance the peace. And so, I think we're all in a better position to do that. And I just want you to know, and please convey to Chancellor Kohl that we're—as I'm sure Jim has told you—determined to play our part in

all of this. So, it's a big problem, but anyway, one we've got to tackle.

Thank you all. It's been a great pleasure.

Note: The President spoke at 10:35 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany and Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

Remarks to the American Legislative Exchange Council

March 1, 1991

Thank you so much for that warm welcome, and welcome back to the White House. I just had a chat with Ellen Sauerbrey outside and delighted to see her and all of you; Sam Brunelli, the executive director. And, of course, I'm delighted to be side-by-side today, as I have been for the last couple of years and especially the last few months, with our very able Secretary of Defense.

I know Dick feels, as I do, that when you get a nice reception like that, people are really expressing their gratitude to the fighting men and women of the United States halfway around the world. What a job they've done! And nobody, no individual, deserves more credit for all of that than the man sitting over here behind me, our able Secretary of Defense. I will always be indebted to him, and so will our country.

I understand that you've heard from Mary McClure and Deb over here—Deb Ander-

son, and Richard Haass will be speaking to you in a minute. He has had a key role, is a key member of our National Security Council, every step of the way in what's happened over in the Gulf. So, you're going to be hearing from one upon whom I have relied heavily, upon whom General Scowcroft relies heavily. So you'll get the facts from him, and I'm sandwiched in between these two experts. [Laughter] But when I mention Deb and Mary, of course, I'm talking about two of your own—two State legislators, and both proof, if ever there was, of Finley Dunne's rule "Every now and then an innocent person gets sent to the State legislature." [Laughter]

So, I hope that you found these visits with our other—Dick Thornburgh and I don't know whether John Sununu has been over yet or not. I guess he has. And Jack Kemp is coming on. So we want you to hear in detail about our program—our legislative pro-