

THE PRESIDENTIAL EDITION



Historic Issue

THE PRINT

A News Magazine

Fallston High School, Fallston MD.

December 1985

"It's Great To Be Here... The Home of The Cougar"

"You're A Pretty Outstanding High School"

by Kim Rodgers

"Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States" boomed the unseen spokesperson from back stage as President Ronald Wilson Reagan briskly walked onto stage to a tumultuous standing ovation as the Cougar band played "Hail to the Chief." Fallston High School was the place to be on December 4, 1985. Not only was the school and entire community the spotlight of national attention, but our hearts and minds were touched by the promising words of a man who represents the free world.

Preparation for this event began as early as November 21, 1984, with a letter Dr. Proffitt addressed to the White House. However, it took two years for the President to accept the invitation. The visit was originally slated for Nov. 7 but was delayed almost a month so the President could meet with Secretary of State, George Schultz, and former National Security Advisor, Robert McFarlane, concerning new developments in the Geneva Summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

As the President was greeted by over 1,120 smiling faces of students, faculty, administrators, community leaders, local and state government officials and scores of press, hundreds of hand-held American flags filled the auditorium as Alyson Moore, a freshman, introduced the President. It was at this time, 10:17 A.M., that President Reagan seemed less like the most powerful man in the world and more like a wise father as he concentrated on the minds and souls of American youth.

President Reagan indicated he was anxious about being able to speak to the youth of our high school and identified immediately with the student body, by saying, "It's great to be here... home of Cougars," and by wishing the Cougar cheerleaders good luck at their evening cheerleading competition.

"I've got a very important mission I want young people to be a part of," stated President Reagan. Before explaining his mission, however, he reflected back upon his meeting in Geneva with the General Secretary of the Soviet Union Gorbachev. He called Gorbachev a "... determined man, but one who is willing to listen." President Reagan emphasized strongly his desire for peace and that, "People don't start wars, governments do."

He also made reference to nuclear escalation, international terrorism, and "threats to peace around the world." He stated his

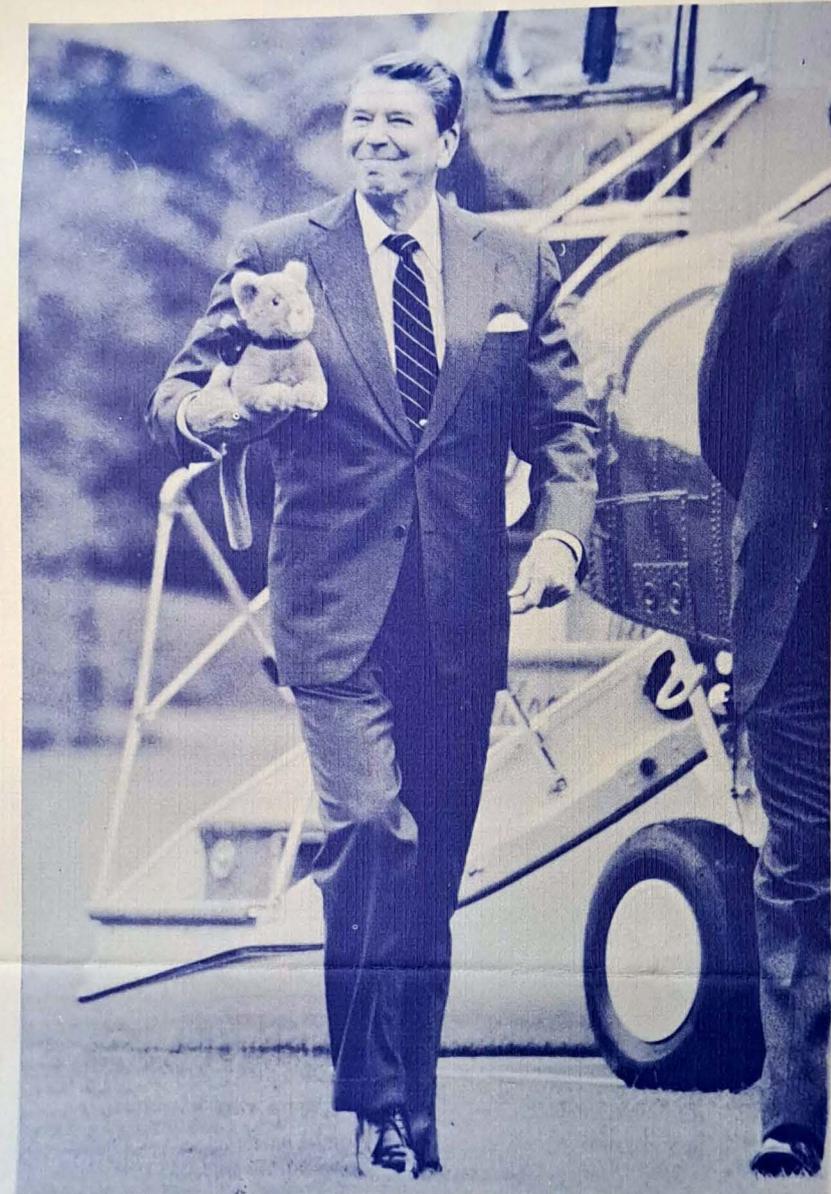


Photo credit AP

President Reagan, enthusiastically cradling Fallston's mascot given to him as a gift from the school, walks across the lawn of the White House after returning from his speech to the student body on the Geneva Summit and their role in securing world peace.

intense discussions with Mr. Gorbachev included the necessity to reduce nuclear armament, the importance of good relations with our Soviet counterparts, and "the wars of independence being waged by freedom fighters against Soviet-backed regimes around the world." Also stressed was the Strategic Defense Initiative and "the importance of recognizing this program as a friend, not foe." The SDI concept of "... a system based on protecting human life rather than destroying

it," was also brought to the audience's attention.

Despite the "differences based on opposing philosophies and values," commented President Reagan, he and Mr. Gorbachev are interested in the hope of joining these two worlds together: "I believe we made a good start."

Much of the President's speech was on the exchange program he and Gorbachev discussed at Geneva. The initiation of this program involves "people to people ex-

changes," as President Reagan stated, of excellent scholars, scientists and government officials. He expressed a desire to "allow the people of the Soviet Union and the people of the United States to get to know each other, without governments getting in the way." President Reagan also proposed to today's youth to participate in these programs as much as possible. He contended that, "Peace must be

(see speech p. 4 col. 1)

by Kelly Miksa

Forty Fallston High School students, ranging from ages thirteen through eighteen, each possessing different viewpoints, values, and aspirations; what could they possibly have in common? They all had the tremendous honor of being selected to ask the President of the United States any question that was on their mind. But what does one ask the most important political figure in the free world? The questions posed ranged from terrorism to why Fallston, of all the 26,000 schools in the nation, was selected by the President. What exactly went on behind closed doors?

The President entered the classroom at 10:50 A.M. and immediately broke the students "stage fright" by asking, "How come I'm nervous?" From that point on he wasted no time in fielding the students' questions. The first question, asked by freshman Print photographer, Bill Greer, dealt with the Geneva Summit. In response to his question, "Do you really believe we can achieve world peace with the Soviets?" the President responded, "I have to believe that we can, and I'm optimistic and hopeful of it." He went on to explain that although the Soviet Union and the United States are as different as two countries could be, we both were striving for one goal, and this was the desire for peace.

Taking the humanistic side of the Summit, one student asked of Mr. Reagan's impression of General Secretary Gorbachev. His response: "A very intelligent man." President Reagan also spoke of "having dealt with other leaders of the Soviet Union who can kind of pound the table and get excited about things. Our discussion, I must say, would be like we're having. He listened well, and I listened to him."

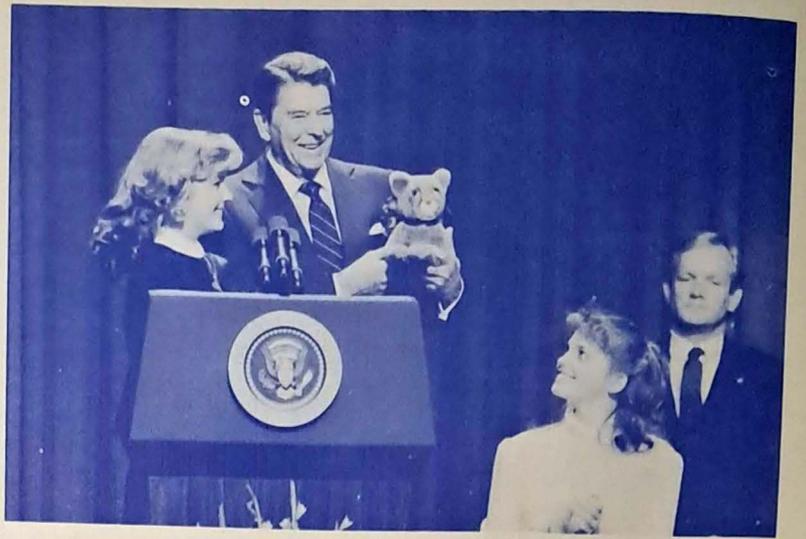
The issue to possibly accomplishing a verifiable agreement of nuclear disarmament was raised. Even if two nations signed a treaty stating "We agree to a forty percent reduction on arms," how can either nation be sure it was being upheld? Mr. Reagan believed it was possible, and that "this was the basis of one of our talks... that for us [Mr. Gorbachev and himself] to start talking, reducing arms, or doing this or that we would first have to, by deed, not just word, prove that we were losing our distrust of each other."

When a student asked the President if he felt that a nation other than the United States or the Soviet Union could start a nuclear war, he replied that there are other nations

(see seminar p. 4 col. 1)



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
Students crowd window in anticipation of the President's landing.



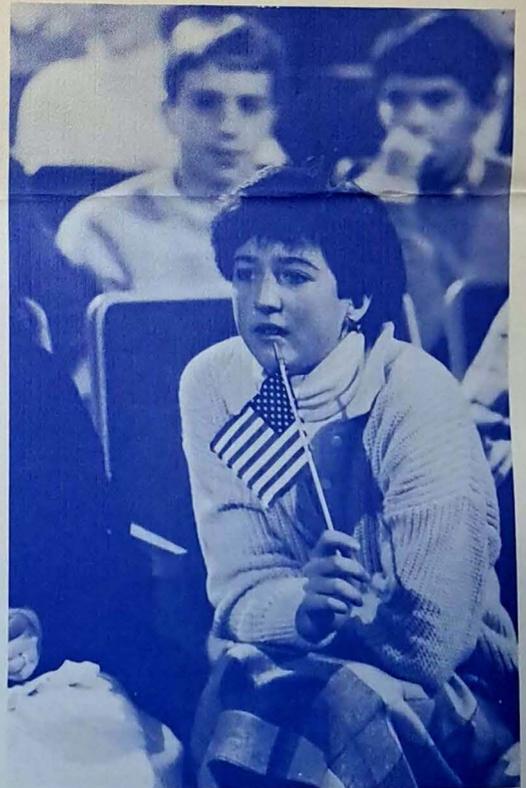
(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
Susan Wood presents a mascot gift as Alyson Moore looks on.



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
President Reagan is greeted by Governor Hughes, Senator Mathias and Congresswoman Bentley.



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
The President delivers a peace message to a stunned student body.



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
"Is that really the President of the United States a few feet away?"

STUDENT REACTION How Does It Feel?

He's Here!

by Jennifer Harrison

It was almost ten o'clock and the sound of a helicopter vibrated through the air. The moment the students of Fallston High School had anticipated was here. President Reagan had arrived. Feelings of the student body ranged from "Pinch me, I think I'm dreaming to exuberance. "He actually shook my hand! Here are some other student reactions.

"Gathered in the auditorium everyone huddled closely together, awaiting the entrance of the President of the United States. Before I knew it Mr. Reagan was standing before me. The excitement came

across so suddenly all I could do was stand up and applaud very loudly.

Jay Patton

Ronnie is my hero. I love that man so much I wouldn't even mind a dictatorship.

Jeff DiPeco

The President coming to Fallston represents a reawakening in which the team comes together to support its backbone, the school.

Steve Butz

Many students wanted him to come to their school, but he must have come to Fallston because we have something special to offer.

Chuck Brazier

"It felt like it wasn't happening. I thought he was going to put it off at the last minute, but he didn't."

John Allen

"I was working with the press... It made me feel important and proud because I was there assisting people. I saw the school through their eyes."

Bernadette Sparks

"Before Reagan came to Fallston I didn't have a high opinion of him, but after listening to his speech, seeing him in person, I felt a new respect for our President, he's truly a great man."

Sandra Harrison

"I was always afraid that he was going to demand respect, but he was relaxed when he came into the room and that made us feel calmer... he earned my respect."

Shawn Hannan

"It was a thrilling experience, beyond words."

Brian Young

by Jennifer Harrison and Gary Peters

Hearing the announcement of Ladies and gentlemen, the President of the United States, brought tears to our eyes as a finally struck many that the Presidential visit was really happening. Curious about the feelings and reactions of Fallston's youth, we questioned a wide variety of students in the immortal words of Bob Dylan: "How does it feel?"

"I felt really proud to be an American to be there to see our President."

Tracy McCannnon

It felt weird to hear him say those words of introduction because they always say that on T.V.

Debbie Pianno

Ecstatic, excited, honored

Bill Russell

It hit me then that he was really there. It was different playing for President. It was hard to concentrate on the music. I wanted to look at the President, but I had to look at the music.

Kathy R. Arle

Almost brought tears to my eyes

Eric Schmidt

The momentum just kind of took you. It was exciting.

Mandy Swinehart

It didn't hit me till he actually walked out on stage. I had tears in my eyes.

Tracey Smith

Electricity just went through me.

Jeanne Dickey

It took my breath away.

Susan Kline

The Road Taken

by Jennifer M. Harrison and Kelly M. Miksa

"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference."

Robert Frost

Two roads were offered to Fallston High School at its opening nine years ago. The path leading to mediocrity and the path leading to excellence. Choosing the path that so many had forsaken, Fallston High School has cleared the way for others to follow.

It is understandable in the White House's search for the ideal environment that Fallston High School was chosen to host President Reagan's address to the youth of America. As expected, Fallston's students rose to the occasion.

The thousands upon thousands of hours that a dedicated faculty and administration freely committed to the pursuit of excellence was realized on this historic morning. As our principal, Mr. Frank Stultz, gazed out at the sea of faces respectfully admiring our nation's leader, he smiled. This was the culmination of his dreams.

Mr. Stultz was felt the only leader affected by the warmth of the students' reception. President Reagan himself was touched. "Tell them I love them" was his final message as Marine I ascended into the heavens.

Fallston High School chose the path leading to excellence and it has made all the difference.

'Twas December The Fourth

by Kelly Miksa

'Twas December the fourth, and all through the halls Not a student was stirring—what was the cause? The theatre stage was set up with great care. In hopes that Mr. Reagan soon would be there The students were sitting restlessly in class. As visions of press clips through their heads did pass And you with your broom and me with my mop. We looked at each other—would this work ever stop? When outside the school there arose such a clatter, That I dropped my mop to see what was the matter. The football field lights were shimmering over the scene, It looked like the Astrodome—could it be a dream? Then what to my ammonia-blinded eyes should appear, But four large choppers—Mr. Reagan was here!

County Schools Are Well Represented

by Gary Peters

A major concern of some involved with the Presidential visit was that this should not have been solely a chance for Fallston to be in the limelight, but for other Harford County high schools as well. In fact, Mr. Stultz extended an invitation of participation to all other high schools in the county.

One such student was Tracey Amick, editor of Joppatowne's newspaper, On Deck, who commented, "I was so nervous the whole day!" She added that "The Fallston student body represented Harford County well." Also in attendance was David Eitel, editor of the C. Milton Wright Pony Express. "I received a warm welcome not only from the Presidential staff, but especially from the high school," he commented. Another student representative was Bel Air's Robert Kady, who is also the HCRASC President. As president he stated: "I felt there was somewhat of an oversight as HCRASC could have been better represented." He asserted, however, "I have no hard

feelings. I think the error was human and understandable."

Other student representatives from around the county included: Karen Dubree, editor of Aberdeen's paper Blue and Gold, Amanda Williams of Havre de Grace, and Chris

Stearns, editor of North Harford's The Cry of the Hawk. Edgewood chose to send three administrators instead of sending a student.

All student representatives who were questioned felt simply honored just to be there and to see the visit go so well.

People To People

by Jennifer Harrison

"That's one reason I'm here today—to encourage young people like you from across the county to take part in these people-to-people exchanges." Mr. Reagan addressed the students at Fallston High School. Did President Reagan's words inspire students with the desire to participate in the cultural exchange program as he had hoped? Only the students of Fallston High School can answer that question.

"I think I could give them an idea of my basic beliefs... my values compared to theirs."

Eugene Miller

"I would definitely like to participate, to contribute to world peace.

I would want to go to see the different view point that people have in another culture. I guess I have a broader view of democracy in general, being a British citizen."

Karen Young

"I think it's a great opportunity. We hear so much about the Soviet Union both the prejudices and the culture. The students would be able to find out for themselves."

Alyson Moore

It would be a once-in-a-lifetime experience to visit another country and discover their way of life."

Andrea Lilley

"I would like to explore and discover what the Soviet Union is like because all we hear are rumors and the like."

David Bettes

"I think when the leaders get together they have political restrictions, but as students, we can develop a trust in the Russian people and hopefully maybe later, their leaders."

Jill Meninger

I Was Touched

by Jennifer Harrison and Gary Peters

Some students were fortunate enough to be able to actually be near the President. He shook many hands and signed many autographs creating memories that will remain with Fallston's students for a lifetime.

"I didn't really believe it until I

heard the choppers. I shook his hand and I said four more years Ron, and he winked at me."

Joe DiGuardo

"I didn't touch him or anything; I just shook the hand of a person who shook the hand of a person who shook the hand of the President."

Karen Kirsheman

"When I touched his hand I could feel the power..."

Drew Bruck

"I was able to shake his hand. He looked at me. I won't forget it for the rest of my life."

Dan Coeks

"The greatest moment of his visit was when I hugged the President."

Michelle Parks

"I was honored to shake the hand of the man who holds the fate of the world in his hands."

Nissa Samaras

THE PRINT

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Fallston, Maryland

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The Home of The Cougars

Speech, from pg. 1

based on understanding." He suggested that this can become possible with people exchanges where citizens learn the values and philosophies of the other by being a part of their society. The President stated that the Soviets could realize through these exchanges, "That we do not bear the people of the Soviet Union any ill will."

To the pleasure of many teachers, President Reagan stated that the exchanges of "the best and brightest" of the U.S. and Soviet Union would take part not only with youth, but with educators from each country. The exchange programs would not only involve the exchange of Americans and Soviets in the education field, but also scientists who would be able to explore disease cures and develop "educational software."

The President also stressed the importance of reviving the spirit of the Olympics and greater media "coverage" of American and Soviet athletes. He stated, "We can't eliminate competition from our relationship, but we can channel some of it into the playing fields and courts rather than the international arena." Our competitive athletes would be our "good will ambassadors to the Soviet Union."

Mr. Reagan then went on to discuss the vital concept of peace in our world and how today's young people are the building blocks of that peace. He expressed belief in the common dreams of all young people: working and rearing families. Understanding the fear of many youth in America he stated, "A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought." Our President expressed that both he and

Mr. Gorbachev deeply recognized the importance of building a lasting friendship between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

The President then began to conclude with a promise to today's young people. He promised to make information on these exchange programs widely available. He expressed a deep interest in giving the youth of America, "the chance to meet and get to know your counterparts in the Soviet Union so that you can tell them all about this great country of ours."

"We're all God's children, wherever we may live in the world. I couldn't help but say to him [Gorbachev] just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this earth together."

President Reagan concluded his speech at 10:31 A.M. Susan Wood, Student Government Association President, presented Mr. Reagan a mounted academic letter, a symbol of Fallston's hallmark of excellence, and one of our school's original GARS (Cougars) mascots. The President then proceeded to the photo session in the music wing, and finally to the classroom session before a tremendously enthusiastic student body bid him a fond farewell as he left in Marine One, the Presidential helicopter.

Mr. Stultz saw it as "a historic moment in which our youth had the opportunity to hear the President's goals... in the focus of world attention."

A Pretty Outstanding High School

Seminar, from pg. 1

which have this power. He also stressed the fact that "Wars can start accidentally. Wars can spread across borders--regional wars--such as the one in Nicaragua. And this is why this regional conflict was one of our subjects for negotiation. We want to help in any way we can to persuade the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops."

Fielding a student's question regarding space construction, the President was questioned on his plans concerning a sky lab or space station. He had high hopes in this field of development, believing the newest frontier in the world was space. "The shuttle experiments so far have shown us so many literal miracles... we believe we need a place now not just to experiment, but to actually manufacture."

The President felt that the most important accomplishment of the meeting outside of the cultural exchange was "the very fact that we decided to continue having the meetings." They had left the United States "thinking that the Soviets might be resistant to future meetings," but found this not the case at all.

One highlight of the question-and-answer classroom session came when Scoop Kelly, a seventh grade student, asked, "Mr. President, I was wondering why Fallston High School was chosen out of the thousands of schools across the country to be honored by your visit?" The President's response was one in which the students of Fallston High will always take great pride: "Well, you're a pretty outstanding high school."

One of the last questions asked of Mr. Reagan was by Beth Bied-

ronski, a sophomore at FHS. His answer may have given us the most insight on the person behind the President. She asked, "How do you feel now that the effects of any decision you make concerning the nuclear arms race literally affects the lives of billions of people all around the world?" To this he responded, "It isn't easy, and I have come to understand very much why Abraham Lincoln once said he had been driven to his knees many times because there was no place else to go. And he said if he didn't believe that he could call on someone who was stronger and wiser than all others, he couldn't meet the responsibilities of his position for a single day. And all you can do is to try to the best of your ability and with all the input and knowledge you get, then hope that the decisions you make are based on what is morally right. And that's all you can do. As I said, I've come to understand very much what Mr. Lincoln meant."

Letters to the Editor...

Dear Editor:

Truly, it was one of Fallston's finest days! We were honored and proud that the President of the United States selected our school for his visit on December 4, 1985. It is my belief that President Reagan's presence at Fallston was a valuable educational experience for each of us.

Our students, staff, parents, and community are to be commended for their support in making the oc-

by Cindy Bystry
Helen Hatzignatiou

The President's visit to Fallston High School not only touched the students' lives, but the lives of everyone involved in the event. Teachers, staff, administration, custodians, the Fallston community, state police, local papers and the list goes on, all had the experience of a lifetime.

Although everyone seems to agree it was a great deal of work, no one has any regrets. It was well worth the time and effort just to be a part of such a memorable occasion. Even the people who didn't get to see the President felt honored in playing their part. Lewis Espey, one of the men who oversees our school's maintenance, was such a person. He participated in the preparation needed for the President's visit and was there for the cleanup afterwards, but never got to see anything of the President. "I don't regret any of it!" Mr. Espey said, expressing the fact that it was great for all of Harford County and an honor that Fallston was chosen.

Mrs. Krebs, from the front office, commented about the excitement of the day: "It was really a thrilling experience for all of us," she stated, noting that it was hard to get routines back to normal.

Mr. Vorath was "Overwhelmed!" by the whole event. He played his part in helping out by working very closely with the secret service and getting to know them very well. "It was interesting to see how they coordinated all their operations," working with the local police, the fire department, and everyone else

It was 11:15 A.M. when President Reagan was told to conclude his question and answer classroom session; the time to depart had arrived. Acknowledging this necessity, he wrapped up the questions, but, much to the students' delight, did not leave. Instead, he signed everyone's autograph (at least forty signatures) and exchanged informal conversation with all the students. When someone asked him to sign his *Time* magazine (he was pictured on the front cover), he even commented that he should have worn a different tie!

It became crystal clear to all who participated in this extremely rare event that Mr. Ronald Wilson Reagan was more than just a President. He was a man possessing genuine patience, kindness, and concern for people and their future. And speaking on behalf of this reporter, his memory and message will never fade.

casation a memorable and spectacular success.

As I said to Channel 11's Frank Bond, "The students of Fallston High School are our product. If we can't show them off and be confident that they will represent public education in the best way possible, I would be disappointed." I was not disappointed by the students of our school on December 4, 1985... or on any other day!

Sincerely,
Frank A. Stultz
Principal

What the Faculty Had to Say - And Do

involved in the security of the day. Even a "counter-terrorist team," was present as Volrath put it, and they seemed like "regular Miami Vice!"

Other teachers had their stories also. Many were involved in various aspects of the day's events. Mr. Handy took part in the classroom session; I was surprised how relaxed and informal Mr. Regan was with the students. He answered all their question and didn't leave until he signed all their autographs. He also seemed like a grandfather-figure with the kids.

Mr. Cesky was involved in filming the classroom session. "It was tremendous!" he said, "as though he was a teacher in the classroom leading a discussion with the students. It was really unique. The students' questions were well put together, and the atmosphere was just like a classroom. He sat on a desk or stood and asked questions 'around the circle.'" Mr. Cesky felt as if "The President really enjoyed it. He stayed longer than he should have. He had to be stopped and even then didn't leave until he signed everyone's autograph."

Mr. Kendall had a few stories to share also. He was an escort for the official invited guests. At one point he was asked to escort Senator Mathias to the bathroom. "I was told to take him over there and to do it as fast as I could!" Mr. Kendall got to meet some noteworthy people such as Mrs. Meyerhoff, Ms. Siedlecki and Ms. Salinas were also escorts.

"It was a fantastically well run day," said Mrs. Walker. "Everything went so smoothly. I was really pleased the middle-schools were able to participate. I thought the posters were exceptional. It's hard to get back to a normal day!"

Mr. O'Toole was also involved in a very unique capacity. "I was very fortunate to help coordinate all press functions. In particular, working with the President's personal press, was very educational. It was hard to fathom how this small group of twenty-five newsmen who travel with the President

everywhere he goes can maintain perspective of what ordinary America is all about." Because Mr. O'Toole served as Director of Press Operations that day, he had to undergo security clearance by the secret service. In his capacity this day he saw the President land, was in the orchestra pit during the President's speech, in the classroom question and answer session, saw the President depart, and had total access to the building even during the most hectic periods.

Ethelene McKinney, a custodian also thought it was exciting, but she added that it was a lot of work. "You always see it, you always hear about it, but you're never in it yourself. But this time we were. It's something you'll remember the rest of your life. Something all of Fallston will never forget." Ms. McKinney also added that "None of this could have happened without the help of God."

The Superintendent of Harford County Public Schools, Dr. Roberty, had the opportunity to greet the President on stage and attend the photo session. Dr. Roberty was impressed with the delivery and the quality of Mr. Reagan's speech. He felt that the President expressed sincere interest in the issue of nuclear warfare. He viewed President Reagan's message as very encouraging, as it stated that there exists a problem and that a solution is being sought. Dr. Roberty was quick to commend the students for their great behavior, during the address and the departure. He couldn't have been happier or more proud of the entire school system. Furthermore, he stated that he was astounded by the outpour of people who were concerned for our President's welfare. Dr. Roberty feels strongly about the issue of "people exchange" which would improve the relations and understanding of U.S. and the Soviet Union. He said, "I had the opportunity of visiting the Soviet Union eight years ago and it was very different because Americans were watched very closely." He feels this issue can open an avenue to friendly U.S. and Soviet relations.

Pinch Me, Is This Really Happening?

by Bob VandenBosche

Just as many students were involved with the arrival and visit of President Reagan, so were some members of The Print staff.

A group of eleven students, selected by Mr. Jim O'Toole, were chosen to be escorts for the press. Following a security clearance, these eleven students were briefed and directed by Heather Beldon, in charge of all visiting press, under the direction of Larry Speakes, the Press Secretary for the White House.

Each escort was given a press tag and a specific duty or task to perform during the Presidential visit. These duties included the task of escorting local and national press to and from the ceremony, checking press credentials at various locations, directing and seating media and cameramen, and running films of the address from the cameraman to their press pool counterparts who saw to it that all information reached their home offices.

This fantastic opportunity gave

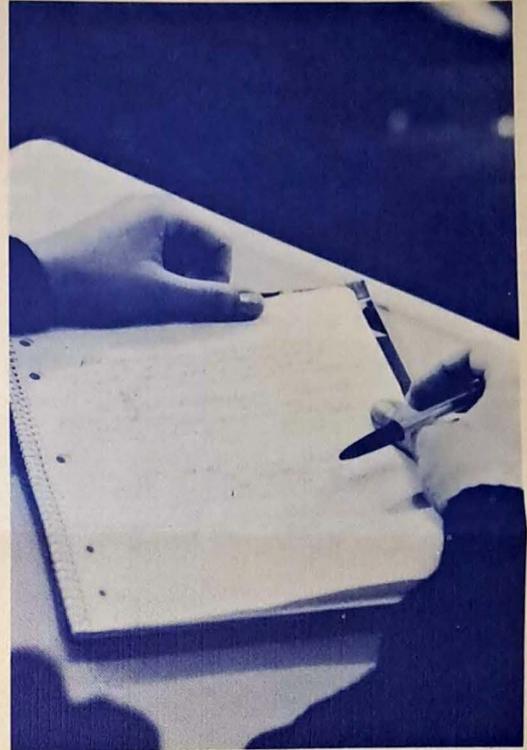
all of the students a behind-the-scenes look at what it was like to be a journalist. In addition to meeting and being interviewed by local and national reporters, these students were exposed to various restricted processes including the filing procedure whereby reporters went to the reconstructed gymnasium to write and file their stories on computers, paper or tape records.

Students selected to participate in this memorable activity included Cindy Bystry, Helen Hatzignatiou, Jodi Peebles, Robin Wagtoulcz, Bernadette Sparks, Jeff Pisano, Bob VandenBosche, Jill Meninger, Ginny Jump, Beth McMaster and Tracy Winters. Also participating in this activity was Mr. O'Toole, the faculty advisor who sponsors *The Print*. His role included extensive preparation and guidance for the President's personal press team which travel with him wherever he travels.

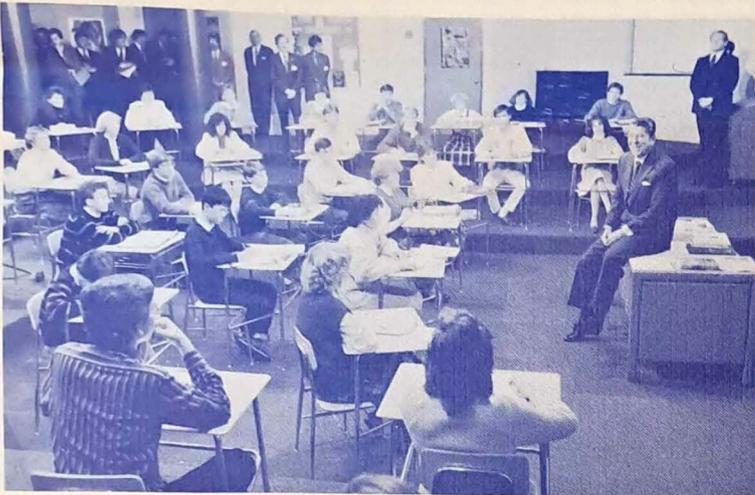
All of the escorts seemed very excited and grateful for this chance-of-a-lifetime experience that they were chosen to be a part of.



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
"We love you Mr. President!"



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
A student in the seminar gets to ask the Chief Executive a question.



"Next question please!"



(photo credit: Anderson-Mayer, Inc.)
The President leaves for home.



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
A final farewell as he said, "I love my Cougar!"



(photo credit: Jed Kirschbaum & Bo Rader- Baltimore Sun)
Windblown hair, all smiles, a fond farewell as Marine One lifts off the Cougar Pit.

The President's Visit: From Seminar to Send-off

by Kim Rodgers and Kelly Miksa

The History

To understand the roots of President Reagan's visit, perhaps one should go back to the creation of the Fallston Seminar Series. Initiated by Mrs. Melanie Nolan, a home economics teacher and sponsor of the National Honor Society interested in broadening students educational forums, it began in 1980. She was later assisted by Mr. Tony Sarcone, a social studies instructor, as they served as academic co-coordinators from 1981-83.

Through this series, Fallston High School has seen a variety of faces as speakers, ranging from an Iranian hostage to the United States Ambassador of Poland, and even a chief photographer for NASA Space Communications.

In April, 1984, the President created a national commission to investigate the quality of our nation's public schools and probe into their academic and extracurricular programs.

The highly publicized study was designed to accumulate current statistics on our national school situation. This comprehensive investigation, stated fully in a book entitled, *A Nation At Risk*, yielded an unusually high percentage of critical reports. Dr. Proffitt, after considerable study of the report, felt that the information revealed was not reflective of Fallston High School. He commented that Fallston's model students, supportive community, low drop out rate and so on served as evidence that the majority of criticism expressed in *A Nation at Risk* did not accurately reflect Fallston High School. In Dr. Proffitt's view, "It was not true of Fallston."

The Letter

He then wrote to President Reagan and made reference to the report. He discussed many of the strengths evident in Fallston High School and the Fallston Community: "We believe Fallston High School is a true public school example of excellence in which school and community are inseparably involved in promoting academic excellence. For example, over three-fourths of our 1984 graduates pursue higher education, compared to 55% in our county, and 44% in the state; approximately 52% of our high school students are enrolled in a foreign language; honors and advanced placement courses are offered in English, U.S. History, biology, chemistry, physics, computer math, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, and calculus; over \$170,000 in scholarships were offered to the 1984 graduates; the Lions' Club, Women's Club, and Optimists' Club of Fallston are deeply involved in providing funds and support; our PTSA is active and supportive and plays a critical role in our school, as do our band, choral, and athletic 'booster' groups; and our school had the highest daily attendance rate (96.2%), lowest retention rate, and lowest drop-out rate (less than 1%) in the county..."

Sending the letter to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue on November 21, 1984, it was received by the President. Shortly afterwards, Fallston received a response from the White House. They appreciated the letter, but due to pressure of time, demands of his job, and so on, the President would not be able to attend,

["thanks but no thanks"]. The letter was then filed, but not forgotten.

The Call

On the morning of Monday, October 28, 1985, Mr. Stultz received a telephone call from the White House indicating the President was interested in visiting Fallston High School. On Tuesday, October 29, the first advance team of 15 people arrived. "It was interesting 15 people showed up. The White House knows how to do things right," stated Dr. Proffitt. The advance team consisted of one communication specialist, three specialists involved in press arrangements, one of which included an engineer who examined the theater accommodations for the President, two secret service professionals, and two speechwriters who researched our school's history and its extracurricular programs and clubs.

The advance team, both very

efficient and organized, was lead by Mr. James Holley, Director of Advance, and Mr. Brent Johnson. All arrangements, accommodations, and a tentative schedule of events were established by these men. They seemed impressed with the facility in which the President would be addressing the nation's youth and over 300 press representatives, both national and international. Fallston could accommodate the President's needs.

Direction was given to the custodial staff to make needed repairs as early as three weeks prior to the Presidential visit. Since Fallston High School was scheduled for some interior and exterior general maintenance "touch ups," beforehand anyway, the custodial staff was asked to perform an accelerated program of improvements which included minor landscaping tasks, spot painting of selected walls, repair of damaged

carpet and the like. The theater was also the benefactor of several renovations. These included the readjustment of the sound system, the stripping and refinishing of the stage, and the construction of an intricate system of platforms which were used for media coverage.

Mr. Joseph Healy, head of Fallston's custodial staff commented that all the custodians "worked beyond the call of duty."

Intense Security

Upon entering the Fallston High School campus on Wednesday, December 4 a virtual "field day" of State Police and county sheriffs were stationed at the Fallston Fire House and adjacent areas. Not only did these professionals provide necessary protection for President Reagan and his entourage, but they proved to be exemplary models of Maryland's finest law enforcers.

Fallston High School and its campus grounds housed over 129

state troopers, 50 deputy sheriffs, and a SWAT team on December 4, 1985. Captain R. Martin and Captain T. Moyer were in dual command of the operation. Lieutenant Kerner, commander of the Benson Barracks, commented that he received many compliments on how smoothly the operation went. He also stated, "I was proud to be a part of it. Fallston High School is a splendid school."

Not a single detail was left to chance as extremely tight security and extensive emergency preparations were made for this historic event. The Fallston Fire House served as a command post for the 200 police and 30 fireman that were on duty for the visit.

Two weeks prior to the Presidential visit, chief officers of the fire department received counseling from secret service and White House officials. Some of the preparations included added phone line installation. Phone calls at the school were monitored by the secret service, and all of the fire and ambulance equipment was repeatedly checked as the visit neared.

On the day of the visit the fire department stationed an emergency unit from Aberdeen. One fire unit stationed on the track had several firemen clothed in flame repellant suits. This was a necessary precaution in case an accident involving an aircraft occurred.

Other preparations for the Presidential visit included a fire engine located at the north side of the campus, and an ambulance, stationed at the south entrance. Both vehicles were manned and included secret service protection.

Unsung Heroes of the Presidential Visit

Beyond the visibility of the secret service or the buzzing of the news cameras lies the story of several groups and individuals who helped to make this Presidential visit a success.

Perhaps it is the office and secretarial staff who received the brunt of the excitement, anticipation, and chaos of the President's visit. Not only did these individuals have to deal directly with the press and media, but they were responsible for seeing that the students got out of classes for specific interviews for local and national papers and programs. Indeed, they were the organizers who greeted all press corp and dignitaries with pleasant, smiling faces.

Both the Choral Department, directed by Mr. Tony Leach, and the Band Department, directed by Mr. Craig Harvey, conducted excellent presentations before the entrance of the President. The band sounded off with "Hail to the Chief," and the choral department delighted all with "God Bless America."

President Reagan was not only greeted by anxious souls and smiling faces, but by beautiful posters beaming "God Bless Our President," "We love you, Mr. President," and many others. Both Mr. Kendall and Mrs. Browning put in overtime plus, along with several of our talented artists.

Presidential Departure

At approximately 11:25, President Reagan boarded Marine One after being escorted to his helicopter by sophomore, Joe Rosensteel, who had earlier asked the President if he "could escort him to his helicopter." As the engines roared and the President lifted off the "Cougar Pit," Fallston's student body roared with "goodbyes," waved flags, and shed tears.



(photo credit: Anderson-Mayer, Inc.)

The Principal
Fallston High School
2301 Carrs Mill Road
Fallston, Maryland
21047 USA

12 August 2000

I have written this letter to request some information from you. I am an author in Canada working on a book dealing with the man who headed up the Canadian UFO Program for the Canadian Government from 1950-1954. As part of this book I have an appendix on the statements and involvements of US Presidents to the subject of UFOs. There are quite a few.

My interest in your school is the speech that was given by former President Reagan on March 4, 1985. It was the first of four alien public remarks made by President Reagan. A fifth reference to the aliens was made by Mikhail Gorbachev in a speech in the Kremlin (shortly after the President spoke at your school) in response to what Reagan said on March 4th. Ronald Reagan made other remarks related to UFOs, and to two sightings that he had prior to becoming President.

I have most of the White House Records related to the Presidents trip to your school. I am hoping you can help me with three items.

- Did you school or local paper publish a story on the visit that I might get? *enclosed*
- Is there a picture taken of Reagan at the school that I could get and use for the book? *enclosed*
- Most importantly, I would like to know if the Q and A was open or where the questions picked beforehand. *no record of Q/A. text*

In exchange I can provide a draft of the Reagan section of the appendix, once it is a bit closer to completion.

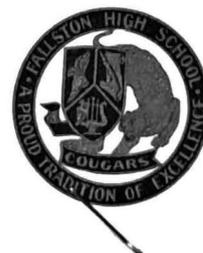
I hope you can help.

Sincerely,



Grant Cameron
649 Silverstone Ave.
Winnipeg Manitoba
Canada R3T 2V8

*Best of luck
& good fortune.
R B Pfauf*



Fallston County Public Schools

ROBERT B. PFAU
Principal

FALLSTON HIGH SCHOOL
2301 Carrs Mill Road
Fallston, Maryland 21047
Phone: (410) 638-4120

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 23, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: WILLIAM HENKEL
JAMES HOOLEY

FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FR*

SUBJECT: School Event

As we discussed, the event we have in mind for the week of November 4 would be a Presidential visit to a high school. The President could speak to a specific classroom and answer student questions, then proceed to a larger student assembly.

All four of the following schools have extended invitations to the President. Based on what we've learned, my strongest recommendation is for Fallston High School.

1. Fallston High School, Harford County, MD. This school is located approximately 20 miles north of Baltimore in Harford County. According to the invitation we received in November, 1984, the school is located in a strongly Republican area which voted four to one for the President. The Congresswoman for the county, Helen Bentley, is a Republican. 75% of the 1984 graduates went on to pursue higher education. According to Dr. Thomas Proffitt, Coordinator of Academic Affairs, the school has the highest daily attendance rate (96.2%), the lowest retention rate (loses the fewest number of students per year), and the lowest drop-out rate (less than 1% in the county). The Seminar Series which the high school sponsors has had the following speakers: Honorable L. Bruce Laingen, charges d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Iran at the time of the 1979 takeover, Former Ambassador to Poland, Richard Davies, Joseph Walters, senior member of the Goddard Space Flight Center, and Mr. Julius Westheimer, a nationally known financial consultant. The school serves 7-12 grades and has 1,470 students, 100 full-time faculty.
2. Thomas Jefferson High School, Alexandria, VA. This innovative school opened on October 20, 1985. It is described as a "model school" with an emphasis on science and technology. There are 400 freshmen who will comprise the graduating class of 1989. One hundred seniors from other schools were admitted in a "Senior Experience" program, which allows them to take advantage of the advanced course the school offers though they will not graduate from Thomas Jefferson. The school offers a four year program to serve students with special interest in and aptitude for science, mathematics, engineering, computer science, and related professional fields.



11/6/85 Dropby Briefing for Grassroots Supporters
11/7/85 Address at Fallston H. S. Fallston, MD
11/7/85 Remarks: Medal of Freedom Ceremony/Citations
11/8/85 Remarks: Luncheon with Religious Leaders
11/9/85 Charles & Diana
11/11/85 Address: Arlington National Ceremony
11/11/85 Briefing: Grassroots Supporters
Address to Nation, Nov. 14, 1985 NSC
11/14/85 Taping: 10th Anniversary of Guy Vander Jagt as NRCC Chairman
11/15/85 Taping: Ethics and Public Policy Dinner
11/15/85 Red Cross Taping
11/16/85 Radio Talk: Red Cross
Geneva Departure Statement - 11/16/85 - Timmons/Gilder
Remarks at Arrival: Geneva, Switzerland - 18 November 1985 Peter/Ro (1)(2)
RR Toast (Soviets) 11/19/85 Dana R./K. Timmons
Remarks: Toast at Dinner Hosted by [U.S., for Americans and] Soviets 11/20/85
Joint Session of Congress: 11/21/85 Timmons/Noonan (1)(2)
Radio Address on Summit 11/24/85 Timmons/Elliott
11/25/85 Taping: Message to 4-H Council Annual Meeting
11/26/85 Taping: Thanksgiving Day Parade
11/26/85 Taping: Tape Message for Tournament of Roses
11/26/85 Radio Address
12/1/85 Remarks: All-Star Party for Dutch Reagan

OA 17930

12/2/85 F.R. Luncheon for Sen. Slade Gorton
12/3/85 Disabled & Technology Ceremony
12/4/85 Address: Falston High School
12/4/85 Taping: Army-Navy
12/5/85 30th Anniversary Dinner of National Review
12/5/85 Dropby Briefing for Former Members of Congress
12/6/85 Taping: Committed for a Free Afghanistan
12/6/85 Taping: Pioneer Library
12/6/85 Taping: C-Flag PSA
12/6/85 Taping: George Burns 90th Birthday Celebration
12/7/85 Radio Talk: Agriculture
12/8/85 Kennedy Center Honors Gala
12/10/85 Address: Human Rights Day
12/11/85 Dropby Briefing: Tax Reform Action Coalition
12/11/85 Statement on Gramm-Rudman
Remarks: National Christmas Tree Lighting 12/12/85
12/12/85 Remarks: Presidential Rank Award of Distinguished Executive
12/14/85 Reagan Liberty Dinner
Christmas in Washington Concert December 15, 1985 (Gilder) (Hayes)
12/15/85 Ronald Reagan Foundation Board of Governors
12/16/85 Memorial Service for Air Crash Victims Fort Campbell, KY



nuclear arsenals with strict compliance; to help support an end to the regional conflicts that carry the seeds of wider wars; and to uphold the ideal of human rights and justice for all peoples.

Mr. Gorbachev, as the leader of the Soviet Union—the new leader—has held out the promise of change. He has said that he wants better relations between our two nations. Well, what better way than allowing people to travel freely back and forth? Let's begin, at the very least, to draw back the barriers that separate our peoples from one another. We're asking for no more than what the Soviets have already agreed to in the Helsinki accords. Freedom of movement and information, contact between peoples—the Soviet Union has already signed its name to a commitment to these things. We should have no illusions that people-to-people contacts will solve all the problems, however, that exist between us. The Soviet Union is not a democracy. The hopes and aspirations of the Soviet people have little or no direct effect on government policy. But these changes are a beginning to building a better world, one based on better human understanding. You can have a vital role in bringing about this better future, in drawing the people of our two nations closer together. It's an exciting adventure, one that will not be completed this year or next. But we must begin somewhere. And with God's help, we may reach that free and peaceful world that we all desire.

I promise the young people of America that I will see to it that information on these people-to-people exchanges is widely

disseminated. I want all of you throughout America to have a chance to meet and get to know your counterparts in the Soviet Union, so that you can tell them all about this great country of ours. And we'll continue our efforts to reach agreements for deep reductions in nuclear arsenals with strict compliance; to help support an end to regional conflicts; and to see to it that human rights are respected. Together we can build a future that will be safer and more secure for you and your children.

I couldn't help but—one point in our discussions privately with General Secretary Gorbachev—when you stop to think that we're all God's children, wherever we may live in the world, I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species, from another planet, outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries, and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this Earth together. Well, I don't suppose we can wait for some alien race to come down and threaten us, but I think that between us we can bring about that realization.

Thank you all. God bless you all.

Note: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in the school theater. He was introduced by Alyson Moore, the 9th grade student representative. Prior to his remarks, the President was presented with a stuffed cougar and the school's academic letter, given to those students demonstrating outstanding academic achievement.

Question-and-Answer Session With Students at Fallston High School in Fallston, Maryland

December 4, 1985

The President. Hello, there.

Q. The class of students here at Fallston High School have several questions prepared for you today.

The President. All right.

Q. Would you speak this morning on the Geneva summit? We'd like to—

The President. How come I'm nervous? [Laughter] We'll all be seated. Well, it's good to see you, and I'll try my best with

the questions that decided who's first.

U.S.-Soviet Relations

Q. Mr. President, Mr. Gorbachev and his proponents of your terms. It was apparent a friendship sense of mistrust really believe we with the Soviets?

The President. we can, and I'm it. In spite of the systems, I think of Soviet people and the desire for peace they underwent. Soviets lost 20 million. And that was not civilians that died their cities, like there is a great the same time that have to at least an impression that that we have them. And I tried thought by point War II ended, of that our industry rubble in the warly intact. We had and women, in only ones with were the only or that point we co to the world if we didn't. We nations in the world. And I pointed that some evidence of have hostile inter that it registered.

Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, recent outburst Middle East has and the Soviet Union. Have you Soviets and we further terrorism.

the questions that you have. And have you decided who's first?

U.S.-Soviet Relations

Q. Mr. President, my name is Bill Greer. Mr. Gorbachev and yourself are very strong proponents of your respective political systems. It was apparent that the two of you formed a friendship, but there was also a sense of mistrust between you. Do you really believe we can achieve world peace with the Soviets?

The President. Yes, I have to believe that we can, and I'm optimistic and hopeful of it. In spite of the differences between our systems, I think one thing on our side is the Soviet people are virtually obsessed with the desire for peace because of the suffering they underwent in World War II. The Soviets lost 20 million people in that war. And that was not just military; that was the civilians that died as the attacks went into their cities, like at Stalingrad and all. So, there is a great desire for peace there. At the same time there is a mistrust, and we have to at least recognize that. I got the impression that many of them do believe that we have hostile intentions toward them. And I tried to disabuse them of that thought by pointing out that when World War II ended, ours was the only country that our industry hadn't been bombed to rubble in the war. Our military was virtually intact. We had 12½ million people, men and women, in uniform. And we were the only ones with the nuclear weapon. We were the only ones who had the bomb. At that point we could have literally dictated to the world if we'd chosen to do so, and we didn't. We set out to help the other nations in the war, including our enemies. And I pointed this out to him—that we had some evidence on our side that we didn't have hostile intentions. And I can only hope that it registered.

Terrorism

Q. Mr. President, I'm Craig Hatfield. The recent outburst of terrorist actions in the Middle East has shown that both the U.S. and the Soviet Union are victims of terrorism. Have you considered some way the Soviets and we can join forces to prevent further terrorism?

The President. This is one of the things that I think could come out of these meetings that we're having, because now that they, too, have been victims of terrorism, I think that they've got a very definite reason for wanting that. We do cooperate with all the other nations in the world—or most of them. We've managed to establish a contact, exchange information, and so forth on terrorism, and I hope the same thing can happen with them.

You, and then I'll go that way.

Weapons Systems

Q. My name's Troy Baisden. Mr. President, I've been wondering what test you're putting in place to stop a \$2 billion failure like the Sergeant York program from happening again.

The President. Well, it isn't a case of putting things in place. You don't want those things to happen, and yet you must realize that in that field, as in so many others, you are going to research. And your research indicates the potential of some weapons system, and you go forward. And now and then you're going to find that defensive abilities have been developing all the time, too. And suddenly, you find that something that looked good when you first planned it and ordered it has now been overtaken by a superior defense. And I don't know any answer to that. Just try our best and see that those kinds of things don't occur.

Nuclear Disarmament

Q. My name is Andrea Hooper. Mr. President, do you believe that a verifiable agreement of nuclear disarmament can ever be accomplished?

The President. A verifiable—

Q. Agreement.

The President. —agreement?

Q. Yes.

The President. Yes, but it's going to take confidence and trust on both sides. This was one of the first things that I talked to General Secretary Gorbachev about—that for us to start talking, reducing arms, or doing this or that, we would first have to—by deed, not just word—prove that we were losing our distrust of each other. Because as long as we distrust to the point that there are

restrictions on whether you can go in and verify what the other fellow is doing, then you're going to have to be suspicious and believe that those restrictions are based on a desire to not keep the agreement. And this was the basis of one of our talks—and made it plain again that it's more than just words. There have to be deeds, both sides, to show that we mean we want to get along. And this was why I offered to them, with our Strategic Defense Initiative—I told him that their scientists could come into our laboratories if ours could come into theirs, where this research was going on, so that they could see exactly what it was we were trying to develop.

Import Quotas

Q. Mr. Reagan, my name is Brenda Cannon. Since the steel imports are still coming into the country above the quotas that were set, what steps are going to be taken to enforce these quotas?

The President. We have the quotas, and, here and there, there are violations, and sometimes there are countries that get into the steel business that haven't been there before. Our whole system is based on equity in trade between the countries, and we just have to pursue that. And wherever we find a violation, why, we then bring that case forward and nail the other country or where that violation is occurring.

I think I should maybe turn this way for a minute, if I'm going to be fair at all, shouldn't I? Yes.

Accomplishments of the Geneva Summit

Q. Mr. President, my name is Valerie Clunk. What do you feel is the most important accomplishment of the summit meeting outside of the cultural exchange?

The President. I think the most important thing was the very fact that we decided to continue having the meetings. We had thought when we left that the Soviets might be so resisting to future meetings that this alone could make the summit a success, if we could get an agreement. And we got it on the first day there, and with no problem at all. He was almost eager for that.

And I think that our agreement—you know, ever since 1946 our country has been

proposing controls of weapons and, in more recent years, the controls of nuclear weapons. And we've had negotiators—Vienna, in Stockholm, and in Geneva—on this subject. For the first time, really, now, the Soviets have actually suggested a figure to which, if we can work out the conditions, they would be willing to reduce their numbers. Up till now, we've been the only ones that have had a number and said, let's do away with a number of weapons. And there's never been, in the negotiation, of them coming back and say, well, we're willing to reduce this number, so you could then haggle about it. Now we've both come to the agreement that the idea would be, right now, to start with 50 percent of the nuclear weapons. And so, I think this was an accomplishment, also.

Visits to Educational Institutions

Q. Mr. President, my name is Steve Baliko. I was wondering, why was Fallston High School chosen out of thousands of schools across the country to be honored by your visit?

The President. Well, you're a pretty outstanding high school, and you're also here, within range of the Capital. I'd like to do this in more areas of the United States. But we just thought that this was a pretty good place to start telling your generation about our dreams of people exchanges, and with the hope that we have that it will be your generation that will start these exchanges where we can get better acquainted.

Soviet Views on Human Rights

Q. My name is Scoop Kelly. I'm wondering what position was held by the Russians about the human rights issue.

The President. I have to be a little careful here on that because I talked privately with General Secretary Gorbachev about that. They feel very strongly that they could appear to be yielding to an outside influence if they changed their laws and so forth that we think are so repressive. So, I felt that that was something that we should talk about in private. And I can tell you that he has our full view and understanding of how we feel about the differences between our two nations in that respect. But it isn't

something that because of this leadership position seeming to government. But I can't feel, and we would be a

U.S.-Soviet Relations

Q. Mr. President, you believe that the exchange will be better for the United States?

The President.

Q. Exchange

The President.

areas of trade with us. And this, to me, is a much better understanding of the conditions of the arms race that we have an evident desire to have with them than their arms exchanges—the only one on the trade but particularly in the area we want to keep it

Q. Thank you

Q. Mr. President

the issue of a trade agreement with the Soviet Union, on either side of each other

The President.

that we made this matter of trade that both sides keep building up each other's strength. On each other's behalf, we are catching up. They are ahead and have a heavy emphasis on offense. We have thought about it and why we're right now that it's not so much a threat. But time, they

something that I think you go public with because of this resistance of anyone in a leadership position in a government about seeming to give in to an outside government. But I can assure you they know how we feel, and they know what we think would be a good move.

U.S.-Soviet Relations

Q. Mr. President, my name is Kim Ey. Do you believe that in the future an economic exchange will be established between the United States and the Soviet Union?

The President. An economic—

Q. Exchange.

The President. Well, there are certain areas of trade now, as you know, between us. And this, too, would come along with this better understanding. Right now, with the conditions the way they are and the arms race that has been going on and their evident desire to be number one militarily, we've had to have restrictions on trading with them things that might help them in their arms race. And those are the restrictions—the only ones that I know—basically, on the trade between us. But there is trade, particularly in our agricultural field, and we want to keep those doors as open as we can.

Q. Thank you.

Q. Mr. President, I'm Ericka Pearce. On the issue of arms reduction, do you believe that there will ever be any significant agreement settled between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, because of the unwillingness on either side to deplete nuclear weapons out of each other's major stockpiles?

The President. I think, as I said before, that we made a pretty good start here on this matter of the nuclear weapons. I think that both sides recognize that as long as we keep building these mountains of armaments higher in an effort to stay even with each other—and here I have to say on our behalf, we are the ones who are trying to catch up. They are the ones who went out ahead and have placed their military emphasis on offensive weapons, where we have thought of them as a deterrent to war, and why we're seeking a defensive shield right now that would render nuclear missiles, if not obsolete, at least more harmless as a threat. But I believe that, for the first time, they recognize, with some of their

problems, that the arms race has helped create those problems for them. They have dwelt so much on military buildup that they've had to deny their people many of the things that you and I think are just everyday—in our ability to go down to the store and buy them. Well, they don't have such privileges. And we hope that with that as a help that maybe we can begin a reduction.

Back in 1980, when I was running for this job, there had been a number of arms agreements, but all of them were limitations on how fast and how much we would increase. And I got pretty outspoken that those weren't the kind of agreements we needed, that we needed an agreement that started reducing them. And so, for the first time, that's what we're proposing and what is going on in Geneva.

Way in the back there.

Q. My name is Jennifer Harrison. How do you and Mr. Gorbachev propose to organize a risk reduction center to prevent accidental nuclear war?

The President. Now, wait a minute. I had a little problem there.

Q. How do you and Mr. Gorbachev propose to organize a risk reduction center to prevent accidental nuclear war?

The President. How do we propose to—you've got to forgive me, I have a little problem.

Q. To organize a risk reduction center.

The President. The risk, oh. Well, this is a thing that we're trying to put together here and have proposed, and they seem very willing to go along with this. And this is to have, again, meeting places where our own military can meet with each other so that there wouldn't be danger of one or the other of us thinking that a hostile action had been taken. This is more information on maneuvers, war games, practice war games, and so forth. And we would have these centers where we could immediately communicate with each other at a military level and know what's going on. So, we are going to go forward with those. And it's kind of a new experiment, so I can't tell you exactly how they'll work out.

Q. As you've said, the Soviet people believe that Americans are looking for war.

What can we as Americans do to help change—[inaudible].

The President. I think it comes from our understanding of the basic Marxian principle, because Karl Marx had always said that socialism could never succeed until the whole world was a one-world Communist state. And so, this has caused us to view with alarm, as I say, their outright buildup of offensive weapons. Now, I think this would be one of the things and the type of deeds that we would talk about if they do not still follow that Marxian principle. If they are not aimed at expansionism and conquering or taking over the whole world, then they can help prove that by joining in arms reductions to show that they have no hostile intent. But this is one of the reasons for the basic suspicion between us.

Space Program

Q. Mr. President, Greg Romanski. I have a question concerning a different issue. Due to the success of the crew of the *Atlantis* experiments in the area of space construction, what are your plans concerning a skylab or space station?

The President. We believe that the newest frontier in the world is space, and we believe that the shuttle experiments so far have shown us so many, literally, miracles that can be performed in the weightlessness of outer space—that instead of these just shuttle flights going up with experiments, that we should see if we cannot put together out there a place where then the shuttles could carry workers. And workers in space could develop—let's take in the fields of medicines alone, we have an incurable ailment, diabetes. We have found in the experiments in the shuttle out there that a cell which, in order to have a cure for diabetes, must be able to be divided and split. We can't do it here on Earth as we could do it up there in the weightlessness of space. So, there are other medicines and things of that kind, that from the experiments already conducted, we believe we need a place now not just to experiment, but to actually manufacture. And so, this kind of a space station—I don't particularly like that name—space station. You know, I know some people are toying with things like call it a "universal space camp." "Sta-

tion," again, has a kind of a hard, possibly military, sound to it, and that isn't what it's for.

Views on the Presidency

Q. My name is Beth Biedronski. First, I'd like to thank you for mentioning the cheerleaders' competition at Rising Sun today. I'm a cheerleader. My question to you, Mr. President, is simply: How do you feel now that the effects of any decision you make concerning the Strategic Defense Initiative, or more generally the nuclear arms race, literally affects the lives of billions of people all around the world?

The President. Well, it's something anyone in this position has to live with. It isn't easy, and I have come to understand very much why Abraham Lincoln once said that he had been driven to his knees many times because there was no place else to go. And he said if he didn't believe that he could call on someone who was stronger and wiser than all others, he couldn't meet the responsibilities of his position for a single day. And all you can do is to try to the best of your ability, with all the input and knowledge you get, then hope that the decisions you make are based on what is morally right. And that's all you can do. As I say, I've come to understand very much what Mr. Lincoln meant. He's supposed to be around the White House, you know, now and then. [Laughter]

SALT II Agreement

Q. My name's Todd Pegg. I would like to know, what will the United States' position be when the SALT II agreement expires late in December?

The President. We haven't made a decision on that yet. We have compiled a report right now that shows the Soviet Union has committed 23 violations of the SALT II agreement. And we have to decide whether we can have complete agreement on both sides that we're going to abide by it, even though it has never been ratified. Or we're going to have to conduct ourselves on the basis of what they are doing also. There's no way that we could be so one-sided as to be destroying missiles and things of that kind, stay within a limit that they are violating.

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Nuclear Proliferation

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This is one of the things—when I talk about an arms buildup and where the race started—when SALT I was agreed upon, from the time of SALT I, the Soviet Union has added 6,000 warheads, nuclear warheads. And since SALT II, 3,850 of those have been added. And this is what I mean about agreements that were aimed at trying to limit the increase instead of flatly saying, "Let's get rid of some of these things." So, we have a decision yet to make on that. And it's going to, in part, depend on our negotiations with them about the present violations of that agreement.

Nuclear Proliferation

Q. Mr. President, my name is Michelle Martin. I was wondering, do you feel that a nation other than the United States or the Soviet Union could possibly start a nuclear war?

The President. That another nation other than the Soviet Union or the United States could start a nuclear war? Well, we know that there are a few other nations—some allies of ours—that have some nuclear weapons. We suspect that, here and there, there have been efforts. Whether they've succeeded yet in creating a missile or not, we don't know. But other countries—and some of them, the countries that are in the Third World and where there is a lot of hostility and instability, wars can start by accident. If you take World War I, it's been called by everyone who ever knew in history, the war that no one wanted. But it started when a terrorist, a radical, threw a bomb at a leader of a European country—assassinated the leader of the European country. And out of that came World War I, which finally included even the United States.

Wars can start accidentally. Wars can spread across borders—regional wars, such as the one in Nicaragua. And this is why this was one of our subjects also for negotiation. We want to help in any way we can to persuade the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops, that they've had there fighting for 6 years, and bring them home and then let the people of Afghanistan, within their country, settle peacefully what kind of a government they want. The present government of Afghanistan was installed there by the Soviet Union, so that's why they're

in, defending that government.

Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev

Q. Mr. President, my name is Andrew Llyd. I've heard that first impressions are very important—

The President. A little louder, there, for old dad.

Q. I feel that first impressions are very important. What were your first impressions of General Secretary Gorbachev?

The President. My first impressions of him? A very intelligent man. And, while at the same time I recognize that he, heart and soul, believed in the system that he's grown up in—he's young enough that this is all he's ever known. He grew up from even earlier than you in this system. He has faith in it and believes in it. But, at the same time, having dealt with other leaders—the Soviet Union who can kind of pound the table and get quite excited about things, no. Our discussions, I must say, would be like we're having. He listened well, and I listened to him. And we were affable in this. And it was a case of disagreeing on particular issues, but no hostility, no enmity.

And I had to believe that he believed some of the propaganda that's been going on for 70 years about us, that he—he's never been to the United States—and that his impression of us—he was ready to believe, for example, that our Strategic Defense Initiative, that we're trying to find a defense against nuclear weapons, that, really, out of that research we might develop something that would be a weapon in space for attacking them. And I countered that by telling him that if our research yielded a defensive weapon, we would sit down with them and with our allies—with all the world—and share it, and say, "Look, why don't we all have this, and then none of us have to have nuclear missiles." And I hope that that had some impact on him.

But, no, I think that I have no illusions about him suddenly turning soft about their system or not. He totally believes in—that that's the system that the people should have. And I said to him, "Look, you have your system. We don't like it. And you don't like ours. But we can each have our own systems and still get along together."

April 15, 2001

The Baltimore Sun Company
501 N. Calvert Street
P.O. Box 1377
Baltimore, Maryland 21278

Dear Mr./Ms,

I have written to purchase a photo that was taken by the Baltimore Sun on December 4, 1985 at the Fallston High School in Harford County, MD.

I have enclosed a photo copy of the photo which was reproduced in the Fallston High School paper following the event.

Could you please inform me of the cost of reproducing the photo, and the conditions about printing it. I plan to use it in a book I am writing on "Presidents and UFOs."

Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Grant Cameron
649 Silverstone Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba
Canada R3T 2V8
squishy@altavista.com

nuclear arsenals with strict compliance; to help support an end to the regional conflicts that carry the seeds of wider wars; and to uphold the ideal of human rights and justice for all peoples.

Mr. Gorbachev, as the leader of the Soviet Union—the new leader—has held out the promise of change. He has said that he wants better relations between our two nations. Well, what better way than allowing people to travel freely back and forth? Let's begin, at the very least, to draw back the barriers that separate our peoples from one another. We're asking for no more than what the Soviets have already agreed to in the Helsinki accords. Freedom of movement and information, contact between peoples—the Soviet Union has already signed its name to a commitment to these things. We should have no illusions that people-to-people contacts will solve all the problems, however, that exist between us. The Soviet Union is not a democracy. The hopes and aspirations of the Soviet people have little or no direct effect on government policy. But these changes are a beginning to building a better world, one based on better human understanding. You can have a vital role in bringing about this better future, in drawing the people of our two nations closer together. It's an exciting adventure, one that will not be completed this year or next. But we must begin somewhere. And with God's help, we may reach that free and peaceful world that we all desire.

I promise the young people of America that I will see to it that information on these people-to-people exchanges is widely

disseminated. I want all of you throughout America to have a chance to meet and get to know your counterparts in the Soviet Union, so that you can tell them all about this great country of ours. And we'll continue our efforts to reach agreements for deep reductions in nuclear arsenals with strict compliance; to help support an end to regional conflicts; and to see to it that human rights are respected. Together we can build a future that will be safer and more secure for you and your children.

I couldn't help but—one point in our discussions privately with General Secretary Gorbachev—when you stop to think that we're all God's children, wherever we may live in the world, I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species, from another planet, outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries, and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this Earth together. Well, I don't suppose we can wait for some alien race to come down and threaten us, but I think that between us we can bring about that realization.

Thank you all. God bless you all.

Note: The President spoke at 10:17 a.m. in the school theater. He was introduced by Alyson Moore, the 9th grade student representative. Prior to his remarks, the President was presented with a stuffed cougar and the school's academic letter, given to those students demonstrating outstanding academic achievement.

Question-and-Answer Session With Students at Fallston High School in Fallston, Maryland

December 4, 1985

The President. Hello, there.

Q. The class of students here at Fallston High School have several questions prepared for you today.

The President. All right.

Q. Would you speak this morning on the Geneva summit? We'd like to—

The President. How come I'm nervous? [Laughter] We'll all be seated. Well, it's good to see you, and I'll try my best with

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AND WITH GOD'S HELP WE MAY REACH THAT FREE AND PEACEFUL WORLD WE ALL DESIRE.

I PROMISE THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF AMERICA THAT I WILL SEE TO IT THAT INFORMATION ON THESE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE EXCHANGES IS WIDELY DISSEMINATED. I WANT ALL OF YOU, THROUGHOUT AMERICA, TO HAVE A CHANCE TO MEET AND GET TO KNOW YOUR COUNTERPARTS IN THE SOVIET UNION SO THAT YOU CAN TELL THEM ALL ABOUT THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS.

AND WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENTS FOR DEEP REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR ARSENALS WITH STRICT COMPLIANCE TO HELP SUPPORT AN END TO REGIONAL CONFLICTS AND TO SEE TO IT THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED. TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD A FUTURE THAT WILL BE SAFER AND MORE SECURE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

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(NSC redraft)
December 2, 1985
9:30 a.m.

RR

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS: FALLSTON HIGH SCHOOL
FALLSTON, MARYLAND
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1985

Thank you all very much. Senator Mathias and Representative Bentley, it's good to have you here.

It's great to be here at Fallston High School. I've only been out of school a few years, but they tell me things have changed quite a bit in the meantime. There's one thing I bet hasn't changed, though. When you heard that you'd have to cancel your scheduled class for a special assembly -- well, I ~~guess~~^{HOPE} you weren't too disappointed.

I know I've been looking forward to this chance to speak to you, because I've got a very important mission that I want young Americans to be a part of.

Let me first just give a little background. As you know, Nancy and I returned almost 2 weeks ago from Geneva, where I had several lengthy meetings with General Secretary Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. I had more than 15 hours of discussions with him, including 5 hours of private conversation. I found him to be a determined man, ^{but} one who is willing to listen. And I told him about America's deep desire for peace, that we do not threaten the Soviet Union, and that I believe the people of both our countries want the same thing: a safer and better future for themselves and their children.

Our meetings should be of special importance to you. I know you are concerned about the future, about the growth in nuclear arsenals, about injustice and persecution of fellow human beings,



uphold the ideal of human rights and justice for all peoples.

Mr. Gorbachev, as the new leader of the Soviet Union, has held out the promise of change. He has said he wants better relations between our two nations. What better way to do this than allowing people to travel freely back and forth? Let's begin, at the very least, to draw back the barriers that separate our peoples from one another. We are asking for no more than what the Soviets have already agreed to in the Helsinki accords. Freedom of movement and information, contact between peoples, the Soviet Union has already signed its name to a commitment on these things.

We should have no illusions that people-to-people contacts will solve all the problems that exist between us. The Soviet Union is not a democracy. The hopes and aspirations of the Soviet people have little ^{OR NO} direct effect on government policy. But these exchanges are a beginning to building a better world, one based on better human understanding. You can have a vital role in bringing about this better future, in drawing the people of our two nations closer together. It is an exciting adventure, one that will not be completed this year or next. But we must begin somewhere. And with God's help we may reach that free and peaceful world we all desire.

And we will continue our efforts to reach agreements for deep reductions in nuclear arsenals with strict compliance, to help support an end to regional conflicts, and to see to it that human rights are respected. Together we can build a future that will be, safer and more secure for you and your children.

Thank you and God bless you all.



or counteractive weapons? If it does, will the net result be greater or less security for the United States?

Shortly after President Ronald Reagan returned from his meeting with Premier Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union in Geneva in 1985, he reported on his trip to a Maryland high school audience. "I couldn't help but say to him [Gorbachev]," the president told his listeners, "just think how easy his task and mine might be if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this Earth together."

The youngsters who heard this statement might well have wondered why the leaders of their societies should have to wait for an extra-terrestrial invasion before recognizing the need to resolve differences and to arrive at a level of common safety. Nor could the schoolchildren be blamed if they concluded that psychological factors, rather than ideology or other supposedly intrinsic problems, are at the heart of the volatile antagonisms in the world today.

The president also spoke to his high school audience about "Star Wars." He said it provided both countries with a potential breakthrough in defensive weaponry that could put an end to the terror of nuclear war. He said he told Premier Gorbachev that "men of good will should be rejoicing that our deliverance from the awful threat of nuclear weapons may be on the horizon."

Scientists began calling attention to the fact that these new "weapons of peace" have *offensive* capabilities hardly less devastating than those represented by nuclear explosives. As pointed out a moment ago, the same mammoth lasers that are designed to intercept and destroy intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) could disintegrate cities within minutes, producing raging fires over hundreds of miles. A January 1986 article in *Physics and Society* warned that the levels of smoke generated by massive fires ignited by the new space weapons could be comparable to the amounts of dust and smoke resulting from a major nuclear exchange, therefore poten-

Star Wars

tially causing a "nuclear winter," that would kill ecosystems and, During World War II, the fire-bombing of Germany and Japan were mainly responsible for the civilian toll. Similarly, at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the atomic bombs were the result of uncontrollable chain reactions rather than the blast. One reason for the lack of adequate protection in a nuclear war is the depletion of the surface oxygen. Air drawn from the ground and sent into incinerators. In the argument made of its destructive power against the Soviet Union. According to a classified study by the RAND (RAND) defense think tank based in Santa Monica, California, it could eliminate conventional forces from military installations while keeping the U.S. safe from strikes—an idea which would appeal to both sides. However, should the Soviets launch a nuclear strike on their own, the U.S. would be subject to a "nuclear winter." "Anything that involves large-scale destruction for good or evil purposes," said Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer of the Kaman Aerospace Corporation on March 7, 1985. "A system of space-based weapons against a nuclear attack also may have targets in space, in the atmosphere, and on the earth." The "Star Wars" defense strategy is a new space "weapon" and represents a new arms race.

The president's enthusiasm for the program was reflected in two government-sponsored studies. One was by the Strategic Forces, headed by Retired General Brent Scowcroft, and another for the Office of Technology Assessment headed by Ashton B. Carter of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. These studies agreed that a "total nuclear attack is neither technically feasible nor defensible." A Pentagon study headed by Fred Phillips of a California-based think tank, described



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

June 17, 1987

Mr. Ronald W.J. Anstee
6565 24th Avenue
Rosemount
Montreal HIT. 3M6
Quebec CANADA

Dear Mr. Anstee:

Secretary Shultz has asked me to reply to your letter requesting a copy of President Reagan's remarks To The Students And Faculty At Fallmont High School. We appreciate your interest.

I am pleased to enclose a copy of the President's remarks which I hope will be helpful to you.

Sincerely yours,

George B. High
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Public Affairs

Enclosure.

President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports

Executive Order 12539. December 3, 1985

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States of America, including the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 1), and in order to increase the membership of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, it is hereby ordered that Section 2(b) of Executive Order No. 12345, as amended, is further amended by increasing the number of members of the Council from fifteen to eighteen.

Ronald Reagan

The White House,
December 3, 1985.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:48 a.m., December 4, 1985]

Fallston, Maryland

Remarks to Students and Faculty of Fallston High School. December 4, 1985

Thank you, Alyson, and thank you all very much. Governor Hughes, Senator Mathias, Representative Bentley, and the representatives of the board of education, the administration, the faculty, and you, the student body—believe me, it is good to be here.

It's great to be here at Fallston High School, home of the Cougars—[laughter]—and the Cougar cheerleaders, who I understand will be competing in a big contest this evening. I hope you can all get out to Sunrise for that event. I wish I could be there. [Laughter]

You know, I've only been out of school a few years, but—[laughter]—they tell me that things have changed quite a bit in the meantime. There's one thing that I bet, though, hasn't changed. When you heard that you'd have to cancel your scheduled class for a special assembly, well, I hope you weren't too disappointed. [Laughter]

I know I've been looking forward to this chance to speak to you, because I've got a very important mission that I want young Americans to be a part of. Let me first just give a little background.

As you know, Nancy and I returned almost 2 weeks ago from Geneva where I had several lengthy meetings with General Secretary Gorbachev of the Soviet Union. I had more than 15 hours of discussions with him, including 5 hours of private conversation just between the two of us. I found him to be a determined man, but one who is willing to listen. And I told him about America's deep desire for peace and that we do not threaten the Soviet Union and that I believe the people of both our countries want the same thing—a safer and better future for themselves and their children. You know, people don't start wars, governments do.

Our meeting should be of special importance to all of you. I know you're concerned about the future, about the growth in nuclear arsenals, about injustice and persecution of fellow human beings, and about threats to peace around the world. Well, it's because I shared that concern that I went to Geneva to begin a dialog for peace with Mr. Gorbachev.

We talked about many things—the need to cut the number of offensive nuclear weapons on each side, the wars of independence being waged by freedom fighters against Soviet-backed regimes around the world, human rights, and how we could improve our overall relationship. I also stressed to Mr. Gorbachev how our nation's commitment to the Strategic Defense Initiative, our research and development of a nonnuclear, high-tech shield that would protect us against ballistic missiles, and how we were committed to that. I told him that SDI was a reason to hope, not to fear; that the advance of technology, which originally gave us ballistic missiles, may soon be able to make them obsolete. I told him that SDI history had taken a positive turn, that men of good will should be rejoicing, that our deliverance from the awful threat of nuclear weapons may be on the horizon, and I suggested to him that I saw the hand of Providence in that. What could be more moral than a system based on protecting

human life rather than destroying it? I could no more negotiate away SDI than I could barter with your future. As I told Mr. Gorbachev, as far as I'm concerned, a defense shield is an insurance policy for your future, and I think he understood our sincerity on this issue.

We were realistic going into these meetings with the Soviets. The United States and the Soviet Union are as different as any two nations can be. These differences are based on opposing philosophies and values and no differences could be more profound or meaningful. It is virtually impossible for us to understand their system and how, over these—what—70 years, it has imposed a way of thinking on their people.

So, we didn't expect miracles. But we wanted these talks, if possible, to plant the seeds of hope in our relationship, the hope that some day, perhaps, might blossom into a real peace, a lasting peace, resting upon the only foundation on which a true peace can be built—the indestructible foundation of human freedom. And I was determined to see if we could begin to narrow some of our differences and even come to some agreements where there was common ground. I believe that we've made a good start.

This is the mission I've come to speak to you about. One of the most exciting developments to come out of Geneva was Mr. Gorbachev's agreement to people-to-people exchanges. We're still negotiating the specifics, and it remains to be seen how much the Soviets will be willing to open up their closed society. But our objective is massive exchange programs between private citizens in both countries—between people, not government bodies. Let's allow the people of the Soviet Union and the people of the United States to get to know each other, without governments getting in the way.

And that's one reason I'm here today—to encourage young people like you from across the country to take part in these people-to-people exchanges as never before in our history. I believe such contacts are an essential part of our building a lasting foundation for peace, because true peace must be based on openness and people talking to each other rather than about each other, and the peace must also be based on under-

standing. And that's why I proposed to Mr. Gorbachev that we let young people from each country spend time in the other's schools, universities, summer camps, and homes. Americans would be able to see for themselves what life is like in the Soviet Union, and their young people could see for themselves the freedom and openness of our society and that we do not bear the people of the Soviet Union any ill will.

So, we'll establish scholarship funds to make it possible for the best and the brightest of both countries to take part in these exchanges. We will also exchange teachers to impart a deeper understanding of our respective histories, cultures, and languages—where we have much to learn from one another. We'll resume cooperation in cancer research to combat one of the century's most hated diseases. And we can jointly prepare for the demands of the 21st century with a cooperative program for the development of educational software.

It won't be all work and no play. We'll have regular meets in various sports and increased television coverage of these sports events. We can't eliminate competition from our relationship, but we can channel some of it to the playing fields and courts rather than the international arena. These programs and others that may be worked out will not solve all the problems that exist between us, but they can be a beginning to building communities of trust and understanding. If Soviet mistrust of our country is at the bottom of some of the tension between us, then, I know that even a few hours spent with America's open and eager younger generation would dispel mistrust in even the most suspicious soul. So, those who participate in these programs will be our goodwill Ambassadors to the Soviet Union.

I know that all of you have dreams and hopes for the future. For some, there are dreams of college and a challenging career; for others, a good job, a car, a house of your own. And most of you, I'm sure, plan to marry and raise a family. All these dreams can come true if we have peace.

Twice in my lifetime I have seen world wars that robbed our young people of their dreams. And the awesome power of nuclear weapons makes me even more determined

to see that it doesn't happen again. As I've said many times before, a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.

So, I went to Geneva to set a course for enduring peace. And while I can't say that the path is clear, we've made a start. Mr. Gorbachev and I agreed to press on in several arms control areas where there is common ground, especially to achieve deep reductions in nuclear arsenals. We will also continue talking about our differences on regional issues. And we had a heart-to-heart talk about human rights.

These are the cornerstones on which peace and your future rest. You and young people like you have a vital role in bringing about a better future by keeping America strong and by helping draw the people of the United States and the Soviet Union closer together. And we will continue the dialog begun at Geneva to reach agreements for deep reductions in nuclear arsenals with strict compliance; to help support an end to the regional conflicts that carry the seeds of wider wars; and to uphold the ideal of human rights and justice for all peoples.

Mr. Gorbachev, as the leader of the Soviet Union—the new leader—has held out the promise of change. He has said that he wants better relations between our two nations. Well, what better way than allowing people to travel freely back and forth? Let's begin, at the very least, to draw back the barriers that separate our peoples from one another.

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Thank you all. God bless you all.

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