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9TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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TASK FORCE ON SOCIAL SECURITY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 10, 1984

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Mr. Robert F. Watts
Founder
Project America
415 South Collins Street
Plant City, Florida 33566

Dear Mr. Watts:

Thank you for your letter of November 11th.

I apologize for the long delay in my reply. The crush of legislative business toward the end of the 1st Session of the 98th Congress was great, and did not allow me to respond to all of my constituents as quickly as I would like to.

I appreciate your comments in support of the present Administration and its policies, and agree with many of your general points on the character of Americans and the dilemmas which currently face us. I also share your shock and revulsion over the Korean plane incident. I believe it was an exceedingly cowardly and brutal act which cannot be forgotten as we continue our dealings with the Soviet Union.

With regard to your central point, that is, the need for unity in this country, I believe you are correct in your assertion that such unity is needed and would provide a powerful force in our national and international affairs. There is no doubt that if all America worked toward common goals, we would gain strength as a nation.

The essential problem, however, is that our very freedom -- which is the source of our strength -- can also be the source of our division. The free market and a lack of restraint on the individual helped build this country. Free inquiry and education helped mold our society and our leaders. But as we remain free, we remain free not only to support our government, but to dissent from its policies. I think it can be fairly said that without the freedom to criticize and differ, there can be no effective freedom to support, nor gather in a great unity of purpose of the magnitude which you propose.

Mr. Watts

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In more concrete terms, I would also like to see our leaders united behind common goals and tackle the serious issues of national defense and the future direction of our economy. And, in fact, I believe there has been a limited degree of movement in this direction. The success of the bipartisan Social Security Commission and the Scowcroft Commission on the M-X indicate that it is possible for the government to move forward on some controversial issues.

However, in realistic terms, I believe we will continue to engage in the politics of division unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Quite frankly, 1984 is an election year; a year in which the two parties and outside candidates normally engage in strenuous debate and competition.

Altogether, I believe it can be said that our country benefits from the diversity of its society, yet suffers, as you point out, when different elements cannot sacrifice some of their personal interests for the common good. If we can be united, I believe it will be through the force of example, or through the exigencies of the moment. That is, I believe our country can be united through the force of leadership and the examples set by our elected representatives, or through outside forces beyond our control which threaten our security and national interests and demand concerted action. I certainly prefer the former, but can offer no precise mechanism to avoid the latter.

Once again, thank you for your letter. Again, please excuse the delay in my reply, and please keep me informed of your views.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "M. Bilirakis", written in a cursive style.

Michael Bilirakis
Member of Congress

MB;rjm

PROJECT AMERICA

FREEDOM and LIBERTY can be preserved only through Unity — Stand up for America or be buried by Communism!

Robert Franklin Watts, Founder

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Congressman (R)

M. Bilirakis

Washington, D.C.

November 11, 1983

Dear Mike,

The strength of any nation is a product of unity on the part of the grass roots people and the government of that nation working in close concert, one with the other, sharing a common goal. In order for this to be effective there must be mutual trust and respect in evidence at all times and demonstrated upon request to the point of reason, by either party. I believe that America once possessed that magic formula. This is the express reason that she became so great a nation in such a relatively short span of time.

Having made this point and to give you a general idea of the purpose of my letter I will now try to be more specific. We as Americans, are a race of people who if called upon would participate in any sensible program or project designed to strengthen our country and assure us and our children of continued freedom and liberties. There has never been a more opportune time, nor has there ever been a time of greater necessity for us to get together. As I see it our very existence depends upon it. Our people are the most resourceful, most educated, and above all the most patriotic people on earth. We have the most of everything, both material and spiritual, therefore we stand to lose the most. Everyone is aware of these facts. The problem seems to be that there is too much disharmony among our leaders. Their pride has blinded them to the point that they have lost sight of the number one priority that they were elected and sworn to oath to do, and that is to make every known effort to put America, and what she stands for

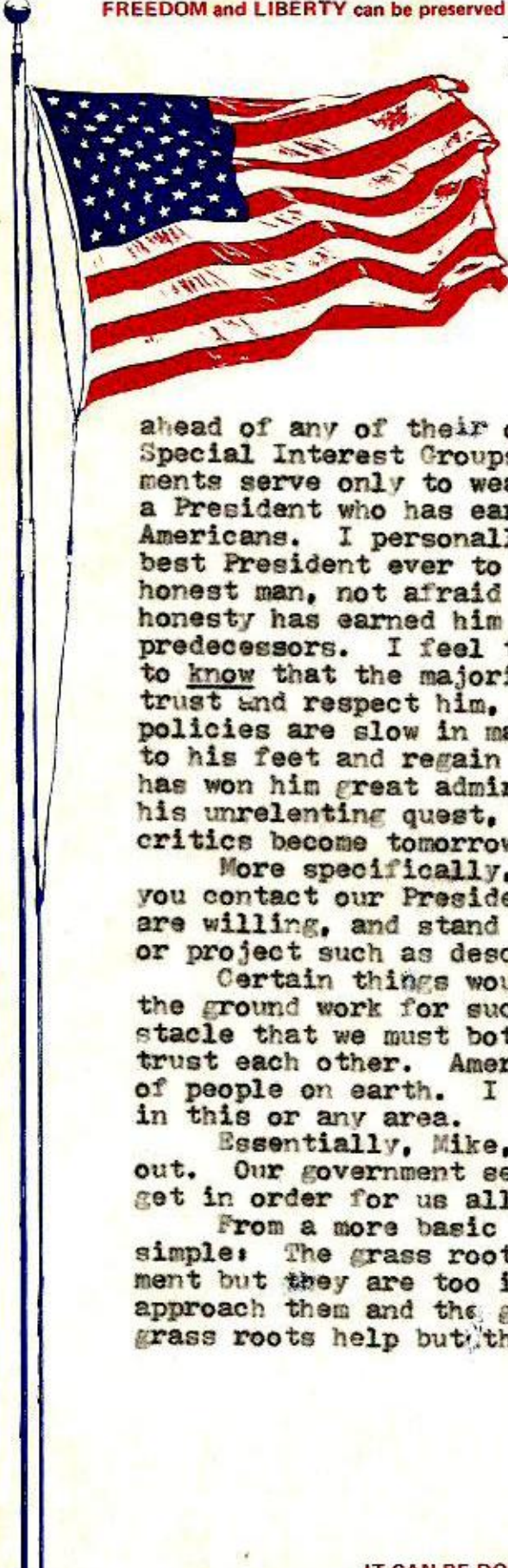
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ahead of any of their own interests, or interests of any Special Interest Groups, etc. Their constant disagreements serve only to weaken our country. We finally have a President who has earned the moral support of most Americans. I personally believe Ronald Reagan to be the best President ever to occupy the White House. He is an honest man, not afraid to follow his convictions. This honesty has earned him greater respect than any of his predecessors. I feel that it is important for Mr. Reagan to know that the majority of the American people, do indeed trust and respect him, even when it appears that some of his policies are slow in materializing. His ability to struggle to his feet and regain composure in the eyes of adversity has won him great admiration from even his critics. In his unrelenting quest, for what he believes in, today's critics become tomorrow's supporters.

More specifically, Mike, I'm proposing to you that you contact our President and let him know that Americans are willing, and stand ready to participate in any program or project such as described earlier in this letter.

Certain things would have to be done in order to lay the ground work for such ventures. I feel that the main obstacle that we must both overcome is our unwillingness to trust each other. Americans are the most forgiving race of people on earth. I don't foresee any unsolvable problems in this or any area.

Essentially, Mike, our options have just about run out. Our government seems to need as much help as it can get in order for us all to survive the threat of the Soviets'.

From a more basic perspective it all seems fairly simple: The grass roots people want to help their government but they are too ignorant to know how to properly approach them and the government desperately needs the grass roots help but they are too proud to ask for it.

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE

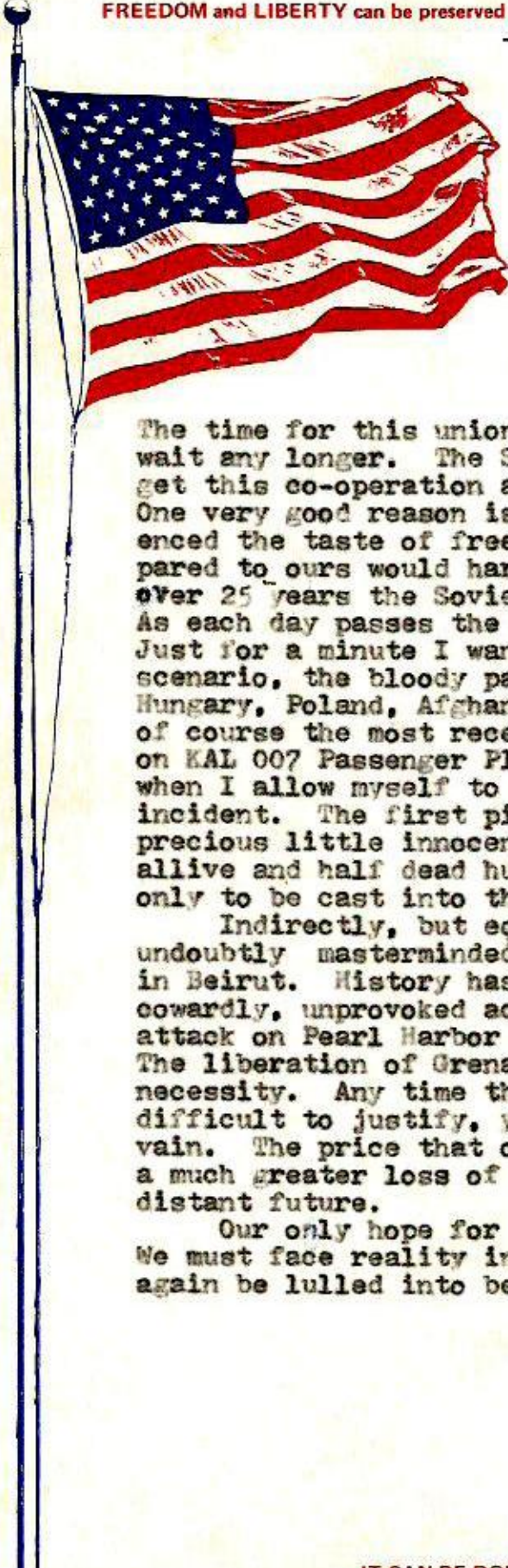
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The time for this union is now. We cannot afford to wait any longer. The Soviet government could never get this co-operation and support from it's people. One very good reason is that they have never experienced the taste of freedom. Their way of life as compared to ours would hardly be worth fighting for. For over 25 years the Soviets have been planning our demise. As each day passes the show down becomes more inevitable.. Just for a minute I want you to envision, in a realistic scenario, the bloody path that they have chartered. Hungary, Poland, Afghanistan, just to name a few, and of course the most recent, their bold and brutal attack on KAL 007 Passenger Plane. It brings tears to my eyes when I allow myself to picture the true horror of this incident. The first picture that I always see is those precious little innocent children being blown apart, half alive and half dead hurtling through the freezing air only to be cast into the sea and eaten by the sharks.

Indirectly, but equally responsible, the Soviets undoubtedly masterminded the vicious attack on our marines in Beirut. History has seldom ever recorded a more cowardly, unprovoked act against humanity. Even the attack on Pearl Harbor couldn't match this heinous deed. The liberation of Grenada was indeed an act borne of necessity. Any time that human life is lost it becomes difficult to justify, yet these sacrifices were not in vain. The price that our men paid served to circumvent a much greater loss of life and freedom in the not too distant future.

Our only hope for survival and freedom is unity. We must face reality in recognizing our enemy and never again be lulled into believing that we can co-exist

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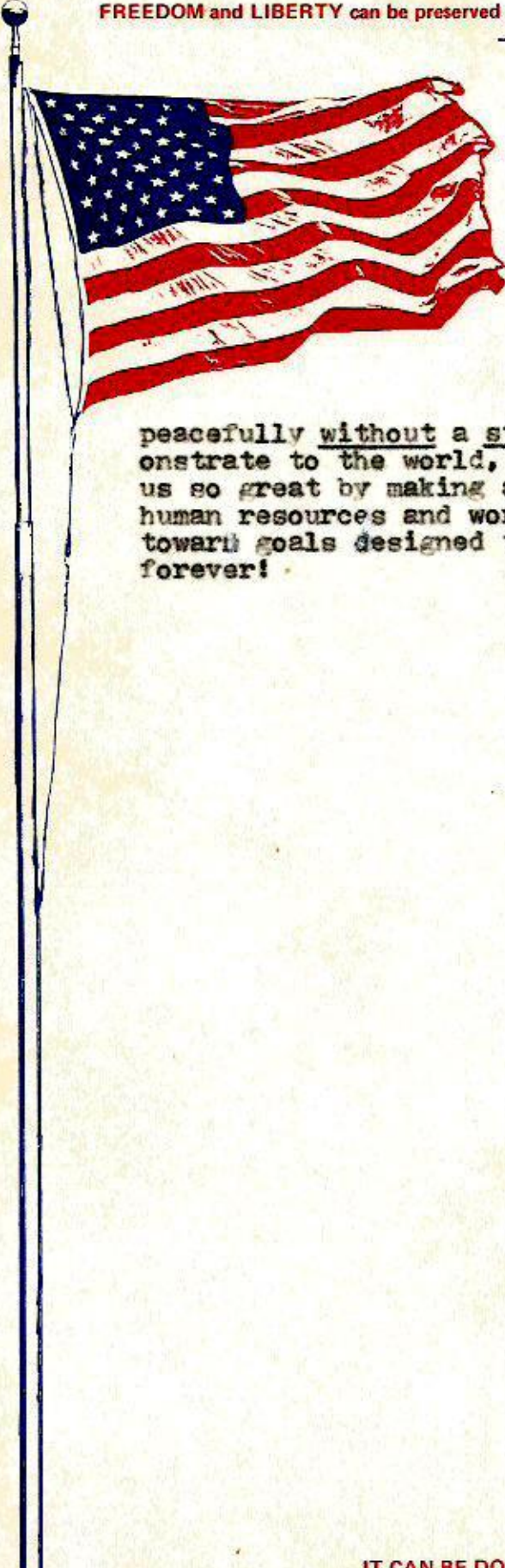
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peacefully without a strong America. Why can't we demonstrate to the world, once again, the unity that made us so great by making a supreme effort to combine our human resources and work in concert, one with the other, toward goals designed to guarantee a stronger America, forever!

Sincerely,



Robert F. Watts

IT CAN BE DONE, IT MUST BE DONE, IT WILL BE DONE