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Staff Secretary, White House Office of the Miers, Harriet E. - Presidential Remarks

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Folder Title:

Cabinet Remarks - 09/14/2001 [755714]

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DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
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COLLECTION TITLE:

Staff Secretary, White House Office of the

SERIES:

Miers, Harriet E. - Presidential Remarks

FOLDER TITLE:

Cabinet Remarks - 09/14/2001 [755714]

FRC ID:

6025

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

Deed of Gift Restrictions

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Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **CTRACK**

Staff Name: **PRESIDENT**

Document Date: **09/14/2001**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: CABINET REMARKS - SEP 14
01**

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Cabinet Remarks
September 14, 2001
Draft #6

- I have discussed with members of the Cabinet our government's response to Tuesday's terrorist attack. They have informed me of the measures that our departments have taken and will take to continue operating effectively, to aid the relief efforts, and to comfort the survivors of the attacks and their families.
- I have proclaimed a National Emergency and authorized the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation to call Ready Reserve units of the Armed Forces and Coast Guard to active duty.
- Health and Human Services Secretary Thompson has released \$2.5 million in immediate emergency funding for the city of New York, to pay for temporary food, shelter, clothing, and childcare. Nearly 700 medical and emergency personnel have been dispatched.
- The Centers for Disease Control are providing 84,000 bags of intravenous fluid to the public health department of New York City.
- The Federal Trade Commission is monitoring gasoline price gouging and is ready to take prompt action whenever it is reported. Energy Secretary Abraham established a hotline for people who encounter unjustified prices.
- Housing Secretary Martinez has announced a moratorium on foreclosures for borrowers with FHA loans in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. This action ensures that families affected by the tragedy will not risk losing their homes or have their credit ruined because of problems meeting the monthly mortgage. Secretary Martinez has also called upon America's banking industry to waive late charges for private mortgageholders in the area.

- And Attorney General Ashcroft is streamlining the procedures for approving benefits to the families of law enforcement officers, firemen, emergency response squad members, and ambulance crew members killed in the line of duty.
- EPA Administrator Whitman has made available 10,000 specially equipped protective suits to protect relief and recovery workers.
- The Federal Emergency Management Agency is to be commended for its tremendous effort in coordinating the ongoing response to these disasters.
- I am very proud of how every member of this Cabinet has risen to the challenge. Every agency of the government is doing its part. And I thank them all.

*Drafted by: David Frum, Office of Speechwriting
Office: 202/456-5640*

(b)(6)

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THE PRESIDENT

National Cathedral Prayer Service
September 14, 2001
Draft #5

We are here in the middle hour of our grief. So many have suffered so great a loss, and today we express the Nation's sorrow. We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead, and for those who love them.

Just three days removed from these events, Americans do not yet have the distance of history. But our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks, and rid the world of this evil. War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder.

This Nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict, begun on the timing and terms of others, will end in a way and at an hour of our choosing.

Our purpose as a nation is firm. Yet our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed, and lead us to prayer. In many of our prayers this week there is an anger, and an honesty.

In these acts and many others, Americans showed a deep commitment to one another, and an undimmed love for our country. Today we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the “warm courage of national unity.” This is a unity of every faith, and every background. It has joined together both parties and both houses of Congress.

America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for, but not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They attack America, because we are freedom's home and defender – and this commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time.

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ADMINISTRATION ACTION SUMMARY

TOP NEWS – 9/13/01

National Airspace Reopened

Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta ordered the national airspace system re-opened to commercial and private aviation, effective at 11 a.m. Eastern time Thursday. The Department of Transportation will re-open airports and resume flights on a case-by-case basis, only after implementing more stringent levels of security. This phased approach will assure the highest levels of safety, which remains the primary goal.

HHS Takes Action in New York

The Department of Health and Human Services announced \$2.5 million in immediate funding to help New York residents in the wake of the tragedy:

- \$1 million to Community Medical Health Services to help New Yorkers affected by the tragedy with child care, elderly assistance, mental health and other community services
- \$1 million to Social/Community Services to help with temporary shelter, food, clothing, child care and to help defray costs for emergency and relief workers.
- \$500,000 to help seniors with transportation for medical appointments, meals and counseling.

Health and Human Services also:

- Dispatched more than 400 medical and emergency personnel to New York to aid local emergency crews, three mental health and crisis-response experts
- Established a toll-free hotline to help New York residents obtain needed counseling services (1-800-789-2647)
- Established a toll-free hotline to help New York recipients of Medicare, Medicaid, Child Health Plus and other social services get their benefits. (1-800-331-7767)

EPA Studies Air Quality Issues in New York

EPA sampling conducted in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn on Tuesday and Wednesday offered positive signs. EPA tested for asbestos, lead and volatile organic compounds. All proved to be at no significant level of concern.

CABINET COMMUNICATIONS TEAM - AGENCY ACTION REPORT

September 13, 2001

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- National Telecommunications and Information Administration contacted federal agencies involved in the rescue efforts to offer additional frequencies and the use of technologies. NTIA is coordinating with communications carriers and the FCC regarding the operation of local telephone networks and wireless systems in the northeastern U.S, and reviewing issues surrounding the loss of the antennas that were installed on top of the Trade Center.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology has offered the expertise of their Fire and Building Research employees to FEMA.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- EPA is acting as lead agency on environmental issues. Twenty-six responders were on the scene within hours; currently more than 50 are at the two sites.
- Sampling conducted in lower Manhattan and Brooklyn on Tuesday and Wednesday offered positive signs about air quality. EPA tested for asbestos, lead and volatile organic compounds. All proved to be at no significant level of concern.
- EPA is working with other agencies to response to hazardous substance issues at the WTC and Pentagon. Emergency response personnel stationed at WTC and the Pentagon are monitoring potential air quality issues and taking samples for asbestos and other hazardous substances.
- In order to protect the many workers and volunteers from environmental hazards, 10,000 specially equipped protective suits were loaded and awaiting shipping late Thursday. Over 3000 respirators are on their way to New York right now, along with 60 self-contained breathing apparatus machines.
- Emergency response personnel are assessing and responding to potential releases of hazardous materials and oil sampling, analyzing, and conducting air monitoring, securing and disposing of biomedical waste. EPA has worked with the state of New York and the District of Columbia to waive landfill requirements in order to expedite the removal of debris from the scenes in order to facilitate rescue efforts.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- DOE is working with ConEd and NY ISO to help restore power to New York City. DOE is dealing with energy supply issues -- bringing coal and some crude oil into the city via barge.
- DOE is also providing specialized search and rescue teams and technology to assist with the rescue efforts at the WTC site.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

- Director Allbaugh is in New York City coordinating relief efforts.
- Actions in New York City:
 - The Urban Search and Rescue base of operations in New York has been set up at the Javits Center, and an interim operations facility is being established at the FEMA Region II office in Manhattan.
 - The hospital ship USS Comfort is expected in NY by Friday.
 - A morgue has been established in Hangar Seven at La Guardia Airport.
 - The Lincoln Tunnel is reported open. New Jersey transit and Long Island Railroad service is in operation and subway service is running on a limited basis.
- Actions at the Pentagon:
 - A disaster field office will be opened in Arlington, VA shortly.
 - Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces from Maryland, Tennessee, and Virginia have been deployed to the Pentagon.
 - Disaster Medical Assistance Teams from Georgia, Maryland, and North Carolina have been deployed to the Pentagon.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

- The FTC continues to monitor price gouging of gasoline and encourages those with complaints to call 1-877-FTC-HELP.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- HHS deployed the following:
 - A National Medical Response Team (NMRT) to New York to help detect any possible industrial chemical-related problems that may result from the collapse of buildings.
 - A portable morgue from Houston, Tex., to Pennsylvania to assist in identification and preparation of bodies from the air crash near Somerset County, Pa.
 - 35 civilian medical professionals to work at Bethesda Naval Medical Center in place of the military medical staff sent to work on the Navy's hospital ship USS Comfort that is headed for New York.
 - Additional Centers for Disease Control and Prevention staff to New York City to help assess risk for diseases and other health issues related to the dust and debris.
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continued to monitor pharmaceutical and blood availability, and it reported Thursday that supplies were adequate. Secretary Thompson emphasized that blood donation requires ongoing commitment. The FDA also helped arrange deliveries of skin products for burn victims in New York and Washington, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- Secretary Martinez announced a moratorium on foreclosures for borrowers with FHA loans in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. This action ensures that families affected by the tragedy will not risk losing their homes or have their credit ruined because of problems meeting the monthly mortgage.
- Secretary Martinez also called upon America's private mortgage banking industry to honor this as well – including waiving late charges, suspending reporting of delinquencies, and other measures.
- The Secretary reached out to Hispanic Americans on Telemundo Thursday night to talk about the moratorium and the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance.
- HUD established a toll-free Housing Counseling Clearinghouse hotline (1-800-217-6970) to help residents get answers to their housing questions, and began identifying vacant HUD homes that can be used as temporary housing for the displaced

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Attorney General Ashcroft made a number of announcements:
 - Pursuant to the directive of President Bush, immediate implementation of procedures streamlining the application and approval process of claims for benefits under The Public Safety Officers' Benefits Act of 1976 provides for approximately \$150,000 in benefits to the families of law enforcement officers, firemen, emergency response squad members and ambulance crew members who are killed in the line of duty.
 - The Department of Justice and Treasury announced today the deployment of agents from the U.S. Marshals Service, U.S. Border Patrol and U.S. Customs at designated airport security checkpoints throughout the country.
 - The FBI is working over 3,000 leads.
- Ralph Boyd, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division met with various Arab-American groups today and highlighted the importance of preventing crimes, threats or violence against citizens based on their race, religion or national origin.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- OSHA experts hit the ground in NYC, checking asbestos levels in buildings near the disaster site to determine whether it will be safe for workers to return. Results are expected Friday.
- OSHA is cooperating with the FBI to provide basic training about possible onsite hazards and the use of personal protective equipment and respirators to FBI investigative personnel.
- OSHA is working with Consolidated Edison regarding safety standards for employees who are digging trenches because of leaking gas lines underground.
- The Office of Worker Compensation Claims ("OWCP") is working with GSA in New York City to expedite workers' compensation claims for eligible federal staff and emergency personnel.