

REMARKS FOR SWEARING-IN OF AMBASSADOR CARLA HILLS

00334455

FG006-10

INDIAN TREATY ROOM

FEBRUARY 6, 1989

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

2/6/89

THANK YOU VERY MUCH. IT IS A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE HERE FOR THE SWEARING-IN OF MY FRIEND CARLA HILLS AS UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE. THIS IS A POSITION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF OUR COUNTRY. WITH THE EMERGENCE OF A TRULY GLOBAL ECONOMY, TRADE ISSUES HAVE TAKEN ON A NEW PROMINENCE. AND I THINK, AS LORD MACAULAY SO RIGHTLY SAID, THAT "FREE TRADE [IS] ONE OF THE GREATEST BLESSINGS WHICH A GOVERNMENT CAN CONFER ON A PEOPLE...."

2

I HAVE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY, WISDOM, AND TOUGHNESS OF CARLA HILLS, WHICH IS WHY I CHOSE HER FOR THIS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT POST. THIS IS HER SECOND CABINET-LEVEL POSITION, AND SHE WON UNIVERSAL RESPECT FOR HER SERVICE AS SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT. AND I KNOW THAT SHE WILL WIN STRONG SUPPORT IN HER CURRENT ROLE.

SHE IS A SKILLED NEGOTIATOR WITH A STRONG INTERNATIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT.

TRADE ISSUES INVOLVE LISTENING TO MANY VOICES WITHIN OUR NATION, WHILE WORKING WITH THE FULL BREADTH OF GOVERNMENT AND MAINTAINING A CLEAR SENSE OF MISSION. AS I SAID WHEN I NOMINATED HER, I CAN THINK OF NO ONE BETTER SUITED TO BE AMERICA'S "TRADE MINISTER AT HOME AND ABROAD."

AND CARLA WILL HAVE A VERY COMMITTED AND TALENTED GROUP OF PEOPLE AT U.S.T.R. WHO WORK HARD AND BARGAIN HARD FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY.

I GREATLY RESPECT THEIR DEDICATION AND EXPERTISE, AND I'M GLAD SO MANY OF YOU COULD BE HERE TODAY.

AMERICA, AS THE WORLD'S NUMBER ONE TRADING NATION, HAS THE LARGEST STAKE IN THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF WORLD TRADE, WHICH HAS BEEN ONE OF THE KEY FACTORS IN OUR GROWING PROSPERITY. IN ADDITION, OUR TRADE RELATIONSHIPS ARE A VITAL FACTOR IN AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES THAT HELP SECURE FREEDOM AND STABILITY FOR SO MUCH OF THE WORLD.

WE WILL APPLY FIRMNESS TO HELP PROMOTE WHAT IS FAIR, BUT WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT OUR MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS ARE NOT AMERICA'S ENEMIES, THEY ARE HER ALLIES.

WE HAVE A LEADING ROLE TO PLAY IN MODERNIZING A TRADING SYSTEM THAT HAS SERVED THE WORLD WELL FOR OVER FOUR DECADES. THERE IS A NEW AND DYNAMIC INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY THAT OFFERS THE CHANCE FOR HIGHER LEVELS OF PROSPERITY FOR ALL NATIONS WHICH FREELY PARTICIPATE IN IT.

WE WANT TO DO MORE TO REMOVE TRADE BARRIERS, TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF AGRICULTURE, AND TO BRING THE BENEFITS OF FREE TRADE TO NEW AREAS, INCLUDING SERVICES, INVESTMENT, AND THE PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY. THE CURRENT URUGUAY ROUND OF THE GATT TALKS HOLDS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROGRESS IN MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS.

THERE IS ALSO A NEW INTERNATIONAL IMPETUS FOR TRADE EXPANSION CREATED BY THE CANADA-U.S. FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. THIS AGREEMENT CAN SERVE AS A MODEL, AND IT PROVES THAT FREER TRADE BETWEEN NATIONS IS THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOAL OF THIS ADMINISTRATION'S TRADE POLICY, SIMPLY PUT, IS TO OPEN MARKETS, NOT TO CLOSE THEM; TO FIGHT PROTECTIONISM, NOT TO GIVE IN TO IT.

WE DON'T WANT AN AMERICA THAT IS CLOSED TO THE WORLD. WHAT WE WANT IS A WORLD THAT IS OPEN TO AMERICA. WE ARE GOING TO WORK TO PROMOTE AMERICAN EXPORTS AND TO SEE TO IT THAT IN DEALING WITH THE UNITED STATES OTHER NATIONS PLAY BY THE RULES.

AS CARLA SAID DURING HER CONFIRMATION HEARINGS, WE WILL OPEN FOREIGN MARKETS WITH A CROWBAR WHEREVER NECESSARY, BUT WITH A HANDSHAKE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.

AND, CARLA, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO NOW WITNESS YOU TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE, ONCE AGAIN. [AMBASSADOR HILLS TAKES THE OATH.]

CONGRATULATIONS. I HAVE A SMALL GIFT FOR YOU AS WELL, CARLA. AS I NOTED, YOU PROMISED THE SENATE THAT YOU WILL TRY TO ENSURE FREE TRADE WITH OUR TRADING PARTNERS BY EXTENDING A HANDSHAKE, BUT IF NECESSARY, YOU'D USE A CROWBAR. I AM PLEASED THEREFORE TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL CROWBAR, FOR USE ONLY AS NEEDED IN THE LINE OF DUTY. I AM CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE AND SUBSTANTIAL NEGOTIATING SKILL WILL MAKE YOUR HANDSHAKE ALONE A POWERFUL FORCE FOR FREE TRADE.

# # #