

## Office of the Governor

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Governor Whitman Addresses Nixon Library**

New Jersey Governor Christie Whitman today addressed the Richard Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California and stressed the continued importance of strong, thoughtful foreign policy to lead the United States into the 21st Century.

The Nixon Library, the country's most active and most visited Presidential center, conducts a wide range of public affairs programming, including town meetings, national foreign policy seminars and a distinguished speaker series.

Gov. Whitman addressed the Nixon Library previously in April 1995.

The text of the Governor's remarks is attached.

Remarks of Governor Christine Todd Whitman  
Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace  
Yorba Linda, California  
Wednesday, September 9, 1998

Thank you for that introduction. I am delighted to be with you this morning. Earlier I had a chance to tour the exhibits in the Library and am again reminded of Richard Nixon's visionary understanding of foreign policy. His commitment to embracing the challenges of world diplomacy, in China for example, was ahead of its time.

I would like to talk with you this morning about the continued importance of strong, thoughtful foreign policy as the United States prepares to lead the world into the 21st century. But first, if you'll permit me, I want to share with you one personal recollection.

Some years ago, I was involved in a series of televised campaign debates, including one on foreign policy. In preparation for this debate, I read countless policy papers, books, and editorials.

And, at that time, Richard Nixon, one of the world's foremost experts on foreign policy and debating, just happened to be living in New Jersey. So naturally, I asked to meet with him before my debate. He generously agreed.

The only way I can describe our meeting is this: without leaving the chair in his office, he took me on a tour of the world. His command of the challenges and opportunities facing the United States was truly amazing. Through his personal experience and wisdom Richard Nixon gave balance and direction to future American foreign policy.

Back in 1990, so many of the long-standing truths about the world were changing. The end of the Cold War left many policy experts adrift. But not Richard Nixon.

With remarkable clarity, he laid out the foreign policy issues that would confront America in the 1990s. He saw the course we should steer through the splintered interests of post- Cold War politics, and he mapped it out for me that day.

He believed that the U.S. had a duty to lead the world toward peace and progress, toward human rights and individual freedom. He understood that our position in the world demanded of us a higher responsibility and duty.

Considering current world events, I can think of no better time to remember that duty. We are faced with an increasing need to develop U.S. foreign policy that anticipates the growing tensions around the world.

From the Asian economic crisis to the recent outrage in Northern Ireland, from tension over weapons inspections in Iraq to nuclear testing in India and Pakistan, to the recent terrorist attacks against U.S. embassies in Africa, the challenges facing us around the world demand our consistent attention.

On a recent visit to Israel and Jordan, I was reminded of the importance of the United States to the world and the Middle East peace process. In fact, leaders in the region expressed their concern to me over the lack of focus in U.S. foreign policy. We must remain committed to working for peace in this sensitive area. We must build our diplomatic relationships while we still have the opportunity to do so.

We must give foreign policy the thoughtful attention it deserves before American citizens suffer the consequences. We are the world's only superpower. That may change over time, but right now we have the opportunity to shape our relationship with the rest of the world from a position of strength.

In order to accomplish this, we need strong peacetime foreign policy.

In his last book, *Beyond Peace*, President Nixon wrote:

The ultimate test of a nation's character is not how it responds to adversity in war but how it meets the challenge of peace. Our future and the future of the world depend upon whether we can meet this challenge. A strong, unified, growing America can help make the next century a century of peace and freedom.

He was right. The world needs America to lead the way toward peace and freedom. This is our challenge. To be effective, we must develop consistent policies toward our trading partners and allies. But we can't implement strong leadership internationally without a strong America at home.

How does America meet this challenge?

Domestically, we must keep our commitment to the American people. And keeping commitments is one of the most important things elected officials can do to renew American's faith in the political process.

That faith has been shaken in recent months. President Clinton's actions have left Americans with a presidency that is demoralized.

It is time to rebuild. We must present a positive message about what we want to accomplish for America.

We want to build an America that rewards hard work, encourages risk taking, and celebrates meaningful achievement.

We must build an America that inspires in our children hope for the future. We must provide an education that prepares our children to take high-skilled jobs. And we must give them the knowledge to understand America's responsibility as a world power.

We must build an America where people feel safe in their homes and in their neighborhoods and set an example for the rest of the world to follow.

And we should build an America strong enough to remain free, and confident enough to inspire others to seek freedom.

We must demonstrate the courage of our conviction that America's finest days are yet to be.

And we need to restore a strong and independent American foreign policy, not because we like to flex our muscle, but because we want to advance peace and freedom in the world - because that matters to us.

Foreign policy has historically been one of the great strengths of American leadership. In our increasingly global market place, we can not afford to ignore it. Foreign policy affects state capitals from Trenton to Sacramento as much as Washington DC. One only has to look at the world stock markets these last few weeks to know that.

In states like New Jersey and California, we understand that many of the realities of the global economy occur on the state level. Whether it is products coming in from Asian ports or immigration issues, everyday we witness the effects of globalization on our economy. It is in our best interest domestically to have well-considered foreign policy - it affects our borders, our schools, our ports.

Governor Pete Wilson recently dubbed California the "powerhouse of the Pacific," a title that demonstrates the importance of international trade to his state. This title also reveals the opportunities globalization brings to American workers.

From my perspective as governor of New Jersey, globalization offers tremendous opportunities - opportunities that give us a glimpse of what the world economy will look like in the 21st century.

That's why, in New Jersey we are doing all we can to encourage the growth of international trade. Recently, I have conducted trade missions to France, Canada, Israel, and the United Kingdom - and in a few weeks I am traveling to Mexico. This commitment has paid off; New Jersey is now the fifth leading state in foreign direct investment, and ninth in exports.

Agreements such as NAFTA have opened up markets to products. In my own state, NAFTA has resulted in a combined 21 percent increase in exports to Canada and Mexico.

However, NAFTA also provides an example of the changing nature of global trade. As foreign markets unite, as they are in Southeast Asia and South America and within the European Economic Community, we will be competing increasingly against regional economies - and that will mean changes in the way we do things.

In today's economy, the capital, commodities, and labor markets are truly internationalized. The location of a firm is more flexible. International firms can now generate the technology and capital to produce goods and manage facilities from almost anywhere in the world. That is a reality for which we must be prepared. And I believe that - in spite of the current instability we see in markets around the world.

There are those who see globalization as a danger. They point to the Asian economic crisis, or the Russian currency devaluation, and lead the call for isolationism, nativism, and unilateralism. But we should listen to the lessons of history and follow a policy of engagement.

I am reminded of an old saying, "You can't shut out the world without shutting yourself in." Much as some may want to, we can't un-invent the technology that linked the world so closely.

It has always been a proud part of our national character that we were willing to stand on the world stage and promote the common good.

The United States must continue to lead by example. And we must prepare our young people to be the leaders of tomorrow. For more than any generation before them, our children will be citizens of the world.

So just as global events affect us in the states, I'm convinced that what we do as states - especially in areas such as education - can have a profound effect on how America plays its part on the world stage.

Education is crucial to building America into a nation of leaders. A nation of leaders which recognizes that our responsibilities do not end at our borders. A nation that understands thoughtful and effective foreign policy is our responsibility as a world power.

In New Jersey, for example, while we have tied school funding to the achievement of rigorous core standards in key subjects like math, science, and even world languages, we are also ensuring that our students have an understanding of the history of their own country and the rest of the world. And we are encouraging an appreciation of diversity.

While that is important, in New Jersey - as in California - we are doing even more to prepare our students for the increasingly global world in which they will live, by bringing interactive technology into the classroom. Through our Distance Learning Network we are linking schools to each other and to the world. This makes it possible to expand our course offerings and provide learning opportunities that most of us here couldn't have imagined when we were in school. Just as ignorance can allow instability and fear to flourish, so knowledge can be the key to world peace and growth.

The United States is the world's superpower. Along with being a great power comes a duty - a responsibility to be a voice for peace, progress, and individual freedom. We have a spotlight shining upon us. We are challenged to build a stronger America domestically and lead other nations by our example.

Ladies and gentlemen, inscribed on Richard Nixon's tombstone is this quote from his 1st inaugural address: "The greatest honor history can bestow is the title of peacemaker." That is, perhaps, the greatest compliment that can ever be paid to a

leader -- and the greatest goal to which a nation can aspire. It is a goal that is most threatened by ignorance.

The search for peace is the duty of a superpower. The search for peace begins at home with a world class education and good jobs, but it, inevitably, takes us around the globe. This search is best achieved in a climate of economic growth and political stability. It is best achieved when citizens have faith in their political leaders and trust in their leadership.

We must remember that the United States stands for - and has reached -- ideals greater than many nations will ever achieve. And I am confident that Americans will continue to embrace the challenge of being "peacemakers."

Thank you.