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First Lady (Porter Rose) (1991)

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**Walker's Point
Kennebunkport, Maine**

August 8, 1991

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TO: Susan Porter Rose



Susan, I have talked to Barbara about this. George Shultz wants her to speak at Stanford University for their big anniversary on Tuesday, October 1. She would follow appearances by President Salinas of Mexico and Prime Minister Mulroney of Canada.

Barbara will probably be talking to you about this, but since Shultz showed an interest, it is important that we get back to him.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 8, 1991
(Kennebunkport)

Dear George:

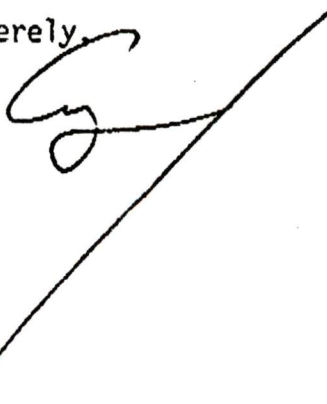
Thank you for that wonderful phone call Tuesday. As soon as we hung up, I called Kathy Super, our scheduling czar, asking her if we could possibly do what you suggest. The problem I described is insurmountable. Not only do I have to be in Orlando at 11:00 Monday morning, but we may have scheduled an event in Georgia for Saturday the 28th. So it simply is not going to work.

I regret this very much, since I think the world of both Mulroney and Salinas, and since you recommend it so highly.

I passed along your "seconding the motion" for Barbara's invitation; and though I know she plans to be with me on the 28th, she is checking further.

Sorry to let you down. Our love to O'bie.

Sincerely,



The Honorable George P. Shultz
Distinguished Fellow
Hoover Institute on War,
' Revolution and Peace
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305-6010

bcc: John Sununu
Kathy Super
Susan Porter Rose

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Thurs, 2/14/91

Governor Sununu,

2 Here are the press reports of
Mrs. Bush's commercial airline trip
this a.m. Thought you'd be interested
to see them.

8
susan

Thu 14-Feb-91 9:49 EST

1st Lady Takes Commercial Flt.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Barbara Bush arrived here on a commercial flight Thursday, shunning her usual government plane, to show the American public "I'm not afraid to fly" and that air travel is still safe.

The first lady said she and President Bush had discussed the fact that air travel was dramatically down, apparently due to concerns about possible terrorism since the start of the Persian Gulf War.

"It just seemed like an important thing to do," she said of her decision to fly on a regularly scheduled commercial airliner.

Mrs. Bush, referring to talk of possible anti-U.S. terrorism, said "I'm not going to be held hostage by this at all."

"I'm not afraid fly," Mrs. Bush said. "You want people to have confidence. We want people to feel good about flying."

On another matter, she said she and the president have talked about the problem of military families in which both parents are serving in the Persian Gulf War and have children at home.

"We're working that out. This is a new world we live in. We've got to sort it all out," she said when asked what should be done about that problem. She declined to elaborate, saying "I suggest you wait and see what the government comes up with."

Mrs. Bush was to visit a veterans hospital in Indianapolis and an Air Force base in Peru, Ind.

She was accompanied by her normal retinue of security agents, and several other police officers dotted the terminal as she walked to the gate at Washington National Airport for the early morning flight. She sat in the front row of the coach section. The 128-passenger plane was about half full.

Mrs. Bush's usual government jet was flying to Indianapolis to bring her back to Washington.

"I want people to know that airports are secure," Mrs. Bush told reporters aboard the plane.

"I almost passed out when I saw her there," said Suzanne Horne of Alexandria, Va., who was flying to Phoenix via Indianapolis. She said she had earlier decided against a trip to London, in part because of the possibility of terrorism. "But seeing Barbara makes it better," she said.

Mrs. Bush created a stir in the Indianapolis terminal as her entourage strolled through. Onlookers stopped, gaped and applauded as they recognized her. She was greeted by Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., who walked through the airport with her.

Mrs. Bush wore red heart earrings for Valentine's Day and a deep purple suit.

Before departing, she played with an electronic dictionary-thesaurus that she said was a Valentine's Day gift from her husband. Mrs. Bush said the president had left the electronic gadget in the car along with a valentine message that said "I love ya."

POOL REPORT

Mrs. Bush Flies Commercial

Barbara Bush flew from Washington, D.C. to Indianapolis appearances by commercial airline, her first flight by commercial plane since Bush became President. The flight is intended to dramatize her confidence in the safety of civilian transport, she said.

As she arrived at Washington National shortly before 7:00 a.m., the public address system was warning passengers about tight security rules and cautioning passengers about leaving bags untended. "We regret the inconvenience which is necessitated by current world events," the announcer said at the modernistic USAir terminal.

"What is this beautiful place?", Mrs. Bush said as she arrived, using her cane more like a flagger stick than a leaning post. Wearing a purple suit, heart shaped earrings and a lapel brooch that had crossed U.S. flags. Asked why she was flying commercial, she said, "My husband and I talked about it. It just seemed like an important thing to do." Asked why she thought people might be afraid to fly, "I don't know but they'll know I'm not. I'm not afraid to fly". Reminded that she had talked earlier in the administration about her wish to go out in public more, the fact that she was not mobbed or even approached by the public in the airport might bode well. "I hope so. I'm not going to be held hostage."

In the terminal she was asked about civilians in Baghdad and insisted U.S. intelligence showed the target was military and said she believed civilians were placed there deliberately. "Yes, I do", she said, "any civilian death is a tragedy. We all feel badly." She was also asked about the situation of young children whose parents who are sent into combat areas. She declined to give her personal views but said, "I think we're working that out. It's a new world we live in."

The flight, USAir #257, a scheduled one hour and 21 minute trip to snowy and cold Indianapolis, was half full with 64 passengers in 128 seats. Mrs. Bush was in seat 3A, the window of the first row in coach. She said she did not know she was flying coach but hoped so. During the flight she remained in her seat, but spoke briefly to flight attendant Tracy Joos of Raleigh NC, who wore a yellow ribbon on her uniform for her stepbrother Tanker Sgt. Fritz Teich of Kansas City, who is in Saudi Arabia. The pilot, Capt. Dennis McGinn, said no special procedures were taken. There was, however, a secret service agent in the cockpit with him.

Mrs. Bush's travelling party totalled nine people, including Press Secretary Anna Perez, Photographer Carol Powers, Personal Assistant Peggy Swift and her security detail. In the terminal just before she left, she walked away to speak to White House nurse Lt. Col. Paula Trivette.

Frank Murray, Washington Times (dictated)

Thu 14-Feb-91 9:44 EST
Latest Gulf War News in Brief
By The Associated Press

War developments in brief:

— The allied air war pressed on without pause Thursday despite the hundreds of civilian deaths claimed by Iraq in a U.S. air strike on a Baghdad bunker the Pentagon says was a military command center. The attack that Iraqi officials said killed up to 500 people stirred anger in much of the Arab world. "Death to America!" angry demonstrators in Jordan shouted.

— Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is responsible for the deaths of civilians in a Baghdad bunker hit by American bombs, say U.S. officials who insist that only military targets are under threat of allied aerial attack.

— A key Iraqi command post in Baghdad is safe from allied bomb attack because it's in the basement of a major downtown hotel, where many civilians, including foreign journalists, are staying, a U.S. government official said.

— Two American airmen were killed in the crash of a U.S. EF-111A electronic jamming and radar-detection jet.

— Iraq made its first Scud strike on the northern Saudi city of Hafr al-Batin Thursday, but was foiled by a Patriot missile interceptor. An allied "Scud patrol" also reported possible hits on three more Scud launchers.

— President Bush should set aside any plans to intensify the Persian Gulf War, a group of liberal members of Congress said.

— First lady Barbara Bush arrived in Indianapolis on a commercial flight Thursday, shunning her usual government plane, to show the American public that air travel is still safe despite concerns about possible terrorism.

— At the United Nations, the allies have succeeded in ensuring that the first wartime Security Council meeting would be held behind closed doors, arguing that Saddam might be encouraged by the spectacle of a U.N. debate.

— A letter found near the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, Germany, after it was raked with gunfire claimed responsibility on behalf of leftist terrorists and decried U.S. Middle East policy as imperialist. No one was hurt in the attack late Wednesday, in which 15 shots hit the outside wall of the embassy.

Thu 14-Feb-91 9:33 EST

Barbara Bush Takes Commercial Flight to Demonstrate Air Travel Safety

By RITA BEAMISH

Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Barbara Bush arrived here on a commercial flight today, shunning her usual government plane, to show the American public "I'm not afraid to fly" and that air travel is still safe.

The first lady said she and President Bush had discussed the fact that air travel was dramatically down, apparently due to concerns about possible terrorism since the start of the Persian Gulf War.

"It just seemed like an important thing to do," she said of her decision to fly on a regularly scheduled commercial airliner.

Mrs. Bush, referring to talk of possible anti-U.S. terrorism, said "I'm not going to be held hostage by this at all."

"I'm not afraid fly," Mrs. Bush said. "You want people to have confidence. We want people to feel good about flying."

On another matter, she said she and the president have talked about the problem of military families in which both parents are serving in the Persian Gulf War and have children at home.

"We're working that out. This is a new world we live in. We've got to sort it all out," she said when asked what should be done about that problem. She declined to elaborate, saying "I suggest you wait and see what the government comes up with."

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Before departing, she played with an electronic dictionary-thesaurus that she said was a Valentine's Day gift from her husband. Mrs. Bush said the president had left the electronic gadget in the car along with a valentine message that said "I love ya."

Mrs. Bush's trip was one of series of morale-building visits to

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military installations to meet with families of service people. She said she has placed a large yellow wreath in the upstairs window of the White House to show support for the troops. But when she drove by the residence, she noticed it could not be seen from the street, so she has ordered it placed outside the window, in a more visible location.

"I want to make a statement, so does George, that we're supporting the troops," she said.

Thu 14-Feb-91 9:51 EST

First lady flies commercial to dramatize safety

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Barbara Bush flew on a commercial airliner to Indiana Thursday to prove "I'm not afraid to fly" in wartime.

Mrs. Bush, on a commercial plane for the first time since she became first lady, said that she and her husband "talked about it and it seemed an important thing to do" to encourage Americans that despite the Persian Gulf war there is enough security to travel.

The major airlines have suffered a drop in tourism particularly since the start of the war nearly a month ago. Anna Perez, the first lady's press secretary, said Mrs. Bush "wanted to make a point" to show that air travel is safe these days.

"I'm not afraid to fly," Mrs. Bush said moments before she boarded USAir flight 257 at National Airport for the 7 a.m. EST flight to Indianapolis, Ind. Her plane landed in snowy, cold Indianapolis with 64 passengers in 128 seats after an 81-minute flight.

Mrs. Bush sat in seat 3A, the window of the first row in coach.

"I'm not going to be held hostage," during wartime, said Mrs. Bush, accompanied by her contingent of Secret Service agents, one of whom sat in the cockpit with the pilot, Capt. Dennis Mc Ginn.

McGinn said no special procedures were taken.

Mrs. Bush said she will continue to go out in public and will fly commercial airlines "when I want to." However, she planned to return to Washington aboard a military aircraft.

Mrs. Bush made the trip to visit the Richard L. Roudebush Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Indianapolis and Grissom Air Force Base near Peru, Ind.

Mrs. Bush, dressed in a lavender wool suit with heart shaped earrings in honor of Valentine's Day, arrived 15 minutes before her flight and chatted with reporters before boarding her plane.

Asked about the U.S. bombing of a fortified building in Baghdad Wednesday in which scores of Iraqis, mostly women and children, were killed, Mrs. Bush echoed the position taken Wednesday by Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney and White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater: "I believe it clearly was a command post" for the Iraqi government.

She said her judgment was based on the word of the "intelligence experts."

Asked if she thought the civilians were placed there deliberately, she said: "Yes, I do."

"Any civilian death is a tragedy," she said. "We all feel badly about it."

Mrs. Bush was also asked about the policy of sending both military parents of young children to the combat area and replied:

"I think we're working it out. It's a new world we're living in."

"I suggest you wait and see what the government does," she told reporters.