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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

March 31, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

At 6:15 this morning, the President left the recovery room for the intensive care ward. Dr. Daniel Ruge, the President's personal physician, said, "The President's vital signs are all in the normal range. He's in exceptionally good condition." Dr. Ruge indicated that the President was talking and writing notes.

On James Brady's condition, Dr. Ruge said, "It is serious, but improving. It's too early to make a prognosis. He is somewhat responsive."

Dr. Ruge also said that Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy's condition is "very fine."

Doctors at the Washington Hospital Center said the condition of D.C. policeman Thomas Delahanty is serious, but the prognosis is good.

At 5:30 this morning, Michael Reagan, Maureen Reagan, and Patti Davis arrived at the White House. Ron Reagan and his wife, Doria, arrived last night. All of the children will be staying at the White House.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

MARCH 31, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Dr. Daniel Ruge, the President's personal physician, made the following statement at 5:00 pm:

The President continues on the road to recovery. He is doing extremely well. After sleeping this morning, he has spent the day reading newspapers. From time to time he is sitting up in bed. He is converting from non-oral to oral feeding and tolerating it very well. He has had clear liquids such as soup and gelatin. He continues on intravenous fluids and antibiotics. His vital signs are in the normal range.

The President was informed about Jim Brady, Agent Tim McCarthy and Officer Thomas Delahanty shortly after noon. He was very saddened and expressed sorrow.

The physicians attending Jim Brady are pleased he has continued to be more responsive. Although he is seriously ill, they are optimistic.

Secret Service Agent Tim McCarthy continues to improve.

Officer Thomas Delahanty is improving at the Washington Hospital Center. He is listed in fair condition and will be moved from intensive care today. There are no plans as of today to remove the bullet from his neck.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

MARCH 31, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that James Brady remains in critical but stable condition. He is being observed closely for possible complications for which he is at significant risk. Mr. Brady is responsive and continues to move the right side of his body in response to voice command. It is clear that Mr. Brady understands voice command, implying retention of significant brain function. Physicians are encouraged by Mr. Brady's progress thus far but he remains in guarded condition.

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. McCarthy, Secret Service agent who was shot in an assassination attempt on the President, continues in good condition as his vital signs remain stable. He is awake and alert and is receiving routine care. His prognosis is excellent and he will most likely be moved to a surgical ward within the George Washington University Hospital sometime tomorrow.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 1, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Dr. Dennis O'Leary, Dean for Clinical Affairs at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, reported at 5:00 pm that Press Secretary James S. Brady continues to make very satisfactory progress. Mr. Brady continues to play catch and is responsive to command. There is no evidence of complications at this time.

Dr. O'Leary also reports that Special Agent Timothy McCarthy of the United States Secret Service is in good condition. Agent McCarthy was transferred out of intensive care this morning and is in a private room. Agent McCarthy underwent a scan of his liver to exclude the possibility of blood collection there and Dr. O'Leary reports that everything looks very good. Agent McCarthy is doing extremely well and is stable.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

APRIL 1, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following surgical rounds at the George Washington University Hospital, physicians report President Reagan's condition continues to improve as well as can be expected. The President was moved from the Intensive Care Unit to a surgical ward last evening. The President will increase his food intake beginning today as his diet is changed from liquid to solid food.

Mrs. Reagan visited the President until 11:00 pm and they watched part of the Academy Award presentation.

The President is in good condition but is experiencing some pain and fatigue in response to his injury. The President slept well during the night and is up and walking this morning.

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Following surgical rounds at the George Washington University Hospital physicians report Mr. James Brady's condition continues to improve as he remains in critical condition. Mr. Brady is able to speak, can move his left arm and leg, and it is anticipated that he may be able to sit up in his hospital bed in a few days. During Mrs. Brady's visit last night she and Mr. Brady played catch, demonstrating his ability to move in spite of his weakened condition. Physicians continue to be cautiously optimistic as Mr. Brady's neurological condition continues to improve. Mr. Brady is breathing well without the assistance of a respirator.

* * * * *

Agent McCarthy's condition continues to improve. He will undergo some diagnostic liver scanning tests this morning and it is anticipated that he will be relocated within the hospital to a surgical ward later today.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 2, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following morning surgical rounds at George Washington University Hospital, physicians report President Ronald Reagan's progress to be satisfactory. He remains in good condition with vital signs and temperature well within normal limits.

The President is experiencing some pain as anticipated in response to his injury and surgical care, but he is able to walk around the Presidential surgical suite. His appearance reflects the effect of a peaceful night's sleep.

Chest x-rays show that the President's injured lung is expanded, and he is coughing well, a favorable indication of his continued progress and recuperation.

For breakfast the President had fresh orange juice, honeydew melon, two soft-boiled eggs, whole wheat toast and honey, and decaffeinated coffee. He ate about 8:30 am.

This morning the President watched some of the morning television shows, read newspapers and the White House news summary, and also some of the National Review.

* * * * *

Following morning surgical rounds at George Washington University Hospital, physicians report that Mr. James Brady's post-operative progress continues to improve and his vital signs are stable. He remains in critical condition in the intensive care unit. A routine post-operative CT scan confirms Mr. Brady's steady progress, physicians report, and rudimentary vision and cognitive test results are satisfactory. The post-operative drainage tubes placed at the site of the injury at surgery have been removed. Mr. Brady is able to cooperate in his nursing care through working with the nurses to position himself for standard treatment.

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Following morning surgical rounds at George Washington University Hospital, physicians report Mr. Timothy McCarthy's condition as good, as he experiences some anticipated "third day" soreness.

X-rays show Mr. McCarthy's chest to be clear, and his vital signs are stable.

9:30 am
April 2, 1981

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 2, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following afternoon surgical rounds at the George Washington University Hospital, physicians report President Ronald Reagan continues to make excellent progress. His condition is good, with respirations, heart rate, and other vital signs well within normal limits.

The President is now exercising regularly by walking in the Presidential surgical suite four times each day. He continues to receive briefings in person and in writing.

* * * * *

Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians report that Mr. James Brady's post-operative status continues to improve and that he appears clearer mentally. He held a restricted conversation with his physician this afternoon. When asked how he was feeling, Mr. Brady replied with a thumbs up sign and said, "Fine, fine."

Mr. Brady is also now performing breathing exercises on instructions and has gained some minimal voluntary movement of the proximal muscles of his left arm and leg.

* * * * *

Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians report that Mr. Timothy McCarthy's condition is good, and that his vital signs remain stable.

Mr. McCarthy's chest tube has been removed, and his injured lung remains fully expanded. He is now obtaining some mild exercise by walking around his hospital room.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

April 3, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that President Ronald Reagan's condition is satisfactory. The previously-reported temperature elevation again became moderately elevated. A fiberoptic-bronchoscopy was then performed, and several small bronchial plugs as well as some dormant blood were successfully removed. The President has been restarted on the broad spectrum antibiotic which he had received following surgery, pending the results of specific cultures. All blood and urine studies performed thus far are normal.

The President has received several visitors through the day and remains alert and generally comfortable.

* * * * *

Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady's condition continues to improve. He has now been moved from the critical list but remains in the Intensive Care Unit. His vital signs are stable and there have been no further temperature elevations.

This afternoon when Mr. Brady's physician asked him what his job was, he replied, "Press Secretary at the White House."

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Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. Timothy McCarthy continues to do well. His digestive system appears to be functionally normal and his chest x-ray is clear.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 4, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians at the George Washington University Hospital report that President Ronald Reagan continues to progress satisfactorily. His temperature has slowly ebbed through the day and is normal at this time. Although all culture results are still negative, the President continues on antibiotic coverage as a precautionary measure.

At 12:12 pm, the President was visited by Special Agent Timothy McCarthy and his wife, Carolyn. Mrs. Reagan visited with the President at that time. When Special Agent McCarthy arrived, the President was seated in a chair having lunch and rose to shake hands with Mr. McCarthy. They discussed their treatment in the hospital for about 10 minutes. As the McCarthys were preparing to leave, Mrs. McCarthy mentioned their children would be visiting their father on Sunday. The President said: "You tell them their father put himself between me and that guy. I'm glad there are guys around to do those kind of jobs."

The President had lunch at 12:00 noon and ate cream pea soup, relishes, crackers, lemon custard, decaffeinated coffee and water. He ordered the following for dinner: lamb chops, yellow squash, peas, cucumber salad, bannana cake with ice cream, water and decaffeinated coffee. The President had a bannana milkshake at 3:30 pm and at 2:05 pm, he visited briefly with Counsellor Edwin Meese. The President has otherwise spent the day napping occasionally and visiting with Mrs. Reagan and her brother, Dr. Richard Davis. He has also taken several walks during the day.

Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians at the George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady's general level of alertness has improved further and that he has been transferred from the intensive care unit to a private room on the neurosurgery service. With effort, he can now partially open his right eye. He has also begun to speak spontaneously.

-MORE-

Following afternoon surgical rounds, physicians at the George Washington University Hospital report that Special Agent Timothy McCarthy continues to recuperate uneventfully. His condition remains good.

Thomas Delahanty's condition is good and he is making satisfactory progress. He was moved from the intensive care unit last night. He has some pain, which is to be expected, but the prognosis is good. He has been walking around. His vital signs are stable.

6:00 pm

* * *

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

April 4, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that President Ronald Reagan's condition is good. He is responding very well to routine chest physical therapy, and his temperature is only mildly elevated. The last chest tube was removed this morning and his chest x-ray has improved.

The President is very alert, telling stories and laughing.

The President met with Dr. Ruge, Dave Fischer and Jerry Parr at 9:25. He was given an update on the condition of the others. "That's great news, just great, especially about Jim." He also said, "We'll have to get four bedpans and have a reunion."

He awoke at 6:30 a.m. For breakfast, the President had orange juice, kiwi fruit, soft-boiled eggs and whole wheat toast.

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Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues to make excellent progress. He is now trying to open his eyes and mild intermittent temperature elevations have been easily controlled.

When asked this morning by his physicians what his job involved, he replied "I answer questions." His physician said "who for?" Brady responded "anyone who asks them."

In follow up to earlier FBI reports that the bullet which struck Mr. Brady may have exploded on impact, physicians agree that the entry wound is compatible with such a thesis but doubt that much if any of the lead azide explosive actually penetrated the skull. Physicians also comment that surgical debridement of the missile track was sufficiently thorough to assure that any remaining chemical would have been removed at surgery.

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Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. Timothy McCarthy's condition remains good. He has been started on a liquid diet.

Mr. McCarthy is scheduled for further routine post-operative tests early next week.

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9:45 a.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

APRIL 5, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

After morning surgical rounds at the George Washington University Hospital, physicians report that President Ronald Reagan continues his convalescence after sleeping most of the night. His temperature was intermittently elevated to moderate levels through the evening but is again normal this morning.

Earlier this morning, the President was transported to the radiology department for standard posterior-anterior and lateral chest x-rays. These films show persistent lung infiltrates along the bullet track, findings which would be expected to resolve quite slowly. Physicians continue to monitor the President's clinical course carefully.

The President remains alert and in good spirits, and is expected to receive Vernon Jordan as a visitor later today.

It is anticipated that no further reports concerning the President's condition will be issued today.

* * * * *

After morning surgical rounds at the George Washington University Hospital, physicians report that Mr. James Brady spent a good night and continues to make satisfactory progress. He is now eating solid foods and sipping water. Although intermittent temperature elevations continue, all cultures performed thus far are negative.

Mr. Brady has been informed by his wife as to the President's injury and is aware that the President is also hospitalized at George Washington. Mr. Brady's speech is becoming more sophisticated and he clearly recognizes his wife both by sound and vision.

Last night Mr. Brady commented on his injury by remarking, "The 'Bear' was certainly in the wrong place that time."

* * * * *

Mr. Timothy McCarthy continues to make excellent progress.

* * * * *

Officer Thomas Delahanty is in good condition at Washington Hospital Center. He was walking around today and took a shower. The hospital spokesman said that Officer Delahanty had a moderate elevation in temperature and is receiving antibiotics although there is no evidence of infection.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 6, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that President Ronald Reagan spent a restful night as he continues to recuperate. Intermittent moderate temperature elevations have persisted through the past 24 hours.

A portable chest x-ray this morning shows modest clearing of the previously-described lung infiltrates when compared to earlier portable chest film. Existing cultures and review of specimen smears show no evidence of bacterial infection. However, as a precautionary measure, antibiotic coverage was broadened further yesterday.

The President continues to be alert and in good spirits.

* * * *

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues his thus far uncomplicated recovery. Vital signs, including temperature, are normal. Motor function is essentially unchanged, but Mr. Brady is able to open both eyes, the left still with some difficulty. The facial swelling is gradually receding.

Mr. Brady's thinking processes and speech continue to improve. He now makes quips and jokes spontaneously. After his first look at his neurosurgeon, Dr. Arthur Koblner, Mr. Brady remarked, "Not a bad job, doc."

* * * *

Mr. Timothy McCarthy continues to make excellent progress.

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Physicians at the Washington Hospital Center report that Thomas Delahanty's condition continues good. He is up and around and eating well. His temperature is normal.

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April 7, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that President Ronald Reagan's condition has improved further. His temperature returned to near normal last night and has remained at this level.

Standard x-ray facilities were temporarily established in the Presidential Suite yesterday. Posterior-anterior and lateral chest x-rays since that time show some apparent clearing of the lung infiltrates, although radiographic abnormalities related to the injury and surgery persist, as expected. All cultures remain negative, and the President continues to receive broad spectrum antibiotic coverage.

The President is in excellent spirits. His color is good and he is eating well.

* * *

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady had a restful night and continues to recuperate uneventfully. Mr. Brady sat up in a chair twice yesterday. He can now drink by himself and is eating solid foods on a regular basis.

Yesterday Mr. Brady was evaluated by the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy staffs who have initiated appropriate treatment programs.

* * *

Mr. Timothy McCarthy was discharged from the University Hospital this morning in good condition and is scheduled for a routine follow up visit with his surgeon next week.

The President visited with Agent McCarthy, his wife Carolyn, Jerry Parr and Dave Fischer at 10:04 a.m. They shook hands, exchanged pleasantries and chatted briefly about the incident. Mr. McCarthy told the President about an offer by W. Clement Stone for the use of his condominium in Acapulco. The President urged Mr. McCarthy to go and have fun. As Mr. McCarthy was leaving, the President said to him, "I wish you well on your vacation and trip to Mexico and I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

* * *

Physicians at Washington Hospital Center report that Officer Thomas Delahanty's continues good. His temperature is normal. He is expected to remain on antibiotics for another 24 hours as a precautionary measure.

11:00 a.m.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 8, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that President Ronald Reagan continues his progressive improvement. His temperature, which was mildly elevated last evening, is essentially normal this morning.

Chest x-rays today show significant clearing of the previously-described lung infiltrates which are now barely perceptible. Although antibiotic coverage is being continued, the President is no longer receiving any oxygen therapy.

The President has been ambulating with increasing vigor and is described as animated in his conversations with physicians and visitors.

* * * * *

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues to make satisfactory progress. Mr. Brady spent much of yesterday napping but sat up in his chair for dinner.

A further routine CT scan was performed last evening. It shows continued resolution of the injury site with no evidence of complications.

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Physicians at Washington Hospital Center report that Officer Thomas Delahanty is progressing nicely. Antibiotics have been discontinued and he has no fever. He is up and around. No discharge date has been determined.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 9, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Following morning surgical rounds, physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that President Ronald Reagan continues to make highly satisfactory progress. His temperature has stayed down for the past 24 hours and remains normal this morning.

Chest x-rays show steady post-operative resolution. One antibiotic, Topramycin, has been discontinued. Chest physical therapy has also been terminated.

The President continues to be active and in good spirits.

* * *

Mr. James Brady continues his uneventful recuperation. His temperature has been normal, and antibiotic therapy was stopped this morning. Mr. Brady naps occasionally through the day, but has been receiving a limited number of visitors, including Vice President Bush who met with Mr. Brady yesterday afternoon.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

April 14, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President called Press Secretary Jim Brady at 12:45 p.m. today. They spoke for about two minutes.

The President opened the conversation by saying, "Are you ready for a press conference?" Brady replied, "Yes, sir."

The President said, "We both have a lot to thank God for." Brady's reply: "We feel the same way."

The President also spoke to Sarah Brady.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

April 16, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Jim Brady is continuing his steady recuperation. There is slow but significant recovery of the hip and thigh muscles of his left leg. All medications have now been discontinued.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

April 20, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at the George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in satisfactory condition. It is noted that the press release of April 16 overlooked the fact that Mr. Brady was continuing to receive standard anti-seizure and anti-hypertensive medication. This information is germane to the management of his care over the past weekend.

Early in the weekend, Mr. Brady developed a generalized rash and temperature elevation which eventually reached high levels. Appropriate culture and specimen smears, including spinal fluid, were obtained, and following infectious diseases consultation, broad spectrum antibiotic coverage was initiated. Because no evidence of infection has been identified and Mr. Brady's white blood cell count is normal, it is believed that his rash and temperature elevations were due to a drug reaction. Therefore, the previous anti-seizure and anti-hypertensive medications were discontinued and acceptable alternative medications have been started.

This morning Mr. Brady's rash has faded, and his temperature is only slightly elevated. He remains alert and in good spirits.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

April 21, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues his slow but steady neurologic improvement. The drug reaction which developed over the past weekend is resolving satisfactorily as Mr. Brady's rash and temperature elevation continue to diminish.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 23, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady was transferred back to his hospital room from the recovery room earlier this morning.

His vital signs, including temperature, are normal, and he remains in satisfactory condition. He has slept intermittently through the night as the usual effects of anesthesia wear off, but he is readily awakened and responds normally to questions.

Comprehensive cultures were obtained during the course of last night's five-hour surgical procedure. Physicians caution that several days of careful monitoring will be required before the effectiveness of the surgery can be adequately assessed. Mr. Brady continues to receive broad spectrum antibiotic coverage.

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April 24, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues to progress satisfactorily in his recovery from surgery Wednesday evening. His vital signs remain stable, and his temperature which was slightly elevated last evening is normal this morning. He is eating well, is alert and is talking.

A post-operative CT scan performed yesterday afternoon shows good resolution of the intracranial air and is otherwise satisfactory. While there remains no evidence of infection, Mr. Brady continues to be carefully monitored by the neurosurgical and infectious diseases staffs.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 25, 1981
10:00 am

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at the George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues his satisfactory recovery from surgery earlier this week. Late yesterday afternoon, Mr. Brady developed a new generalized rash without any temperature elevation. This finding, believed to represent a second drug reaction, was readily controlled by again changing anti-seizure medications, and the rash has already begun to fade.

Mr. Brady is quite alert, and there remains no evidence of infection thus far. Yesterday, Mr. Brady engaged his neurosurgeon in a game of "thumbsies" and won in what Dr. Kobrine describes as a fair match.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be issued on Monday, April 27.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

APRIL 27, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady spent a quiet weekend as he continues his uneventful recovery from last week's surgery. His temperature remains normal, and serial skull x-rays show progressive absorption of the intracranial air. A spinal fluid examination on Sunday was normal, but he continues on broad-spectrum antibiotic coverage.

Yesterday, Mr. Brady spent two hours sitting up, his longest period out of bed since the original injury. While an atmosphere of caution still prevails, Dr. Arthur Kobrine, his neurosurgeon, indicates that Mr. Brady is mentally the sharpest he has been since the initial hospitalization.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be issued on Wednesday, April 29.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

April 29, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in satisfactory condition. On Monday evening, while drinking iced tea, Mr. Brady leaked approximately four drops of fluid from his nose. Because of the possibility that this might be spinal fluid, a skull x-ray was obtained; this showed a slight increase in intracranial air. Thereafter, Mr. Brady's activities were curtailed, and he has subsequently been restricted to bed with the head of the bed elevated by 20 degrees. Follow-up skull x-rays yesterday show absorption of most of the intracranial air, and there has been no further indication of a spinal fluid leak.

There continues to be no evidence of infection, and Mr. Brady's temperature remains normal; antibiotic coverage continues.

Physicians believe the most recent leakage of air and possibly spinal fluid to be related to an additional potential abnormal communication (passageway) in the region of the left posterior ethmoid sinuses, an area which could not be adequately exposed during the last surgical procedure without compressing the healing brain tissue. Because there is a reasonable expectation that any persistent potential communication will heal on its own, Mr. Brady will be maintained in his present position in bed for the next 10-14 days. This approach is intended to minimize the risk of recurrent leakage while permitting the healing process to progress. At the end of this time, Mr. Brady's activities will be gradually increased. If there is evidence of additional leakage at that time, further diagnostic studies will be performed in order to evaluate the potential need for further surgery.

Mr. Brady remains alert and continues to watch television and talk on the telephone.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released on Friday, May 1.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

May 1, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in satisfactory condition. Skull x-rays yesterday show further absorption of the intracranial air, and there has been no spinal fluid leakage. Mr. Brady's temperature has now been normal for the past six days as he continues on antibiotic coverage.

Mr. Brady has remained alert and is resting comfortably.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released on Monday, May 4.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

May 5, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady is in satisfactory condition this morning following a third surgical procedure last night, this one to prevent the passage of large blood clots into his lungs from his legs or pelvis. Yesterday morning, after Mr. Brady had complained of chest discomfort, sequential studies through the day, including a chest x-ray, a radio-isotopic lung scan, and a right-sided pulmonary angiogram (dye injected into the right lung artery) were performed. These studies confirmed the presence of several blood clots in the right lung with predominant involvement of the right upper lobe area. In order to avoid a more serious recurrence of this problem, Mr. Brady was immediately scheduled for surgery. At surgery, following an incision in the right groin area under local anesthesia, an umbrella (resembling a bundle of bobby pins in the shape of a nose cone) was threaded through the right femoral vein and fixed in the inferior vena cava, the large vein which drains blood from the lower part of the body. The umbrella permits the passage of normal blood flow through it but will entrap any significant blood clots which break loose from the veins in the legs or pelvis. The clots in the lungs can be expected to be dissolved through normal body mechanisms. Mr. Brady was awake and stable throughout the surgery procedure which lasted two and a half hours. He was returned directly to his room from the operating room shortly after midnight.

Mr. Brady slept well and is alert and talking this morning. Vital signs, including temperature, are normal, and there is no indication of further intracranial leakage of air or spinal fluid.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

May 4, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady spent a good weekend and remains in satisfactory condition. There has been no evidence of further intracranial leakage of air or spinal fluid. All antibiotic therapy was discontinued on Friday, and Mr. Brady's temperature has continued to be normal since that time.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be issued on Wednesday, May 6.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

May 8, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues to have a stable course and remains in satisfactory condition. His temperature continues to be normal, and there has been no indication of further intracranial leakage of air or spinal fluid. He is being maintained in a reclining position in bed and his activities continue to be restricted. The surgical procedure earlier this week appears to have satisfactorily controlled the threat of blood clots in the lungs.

Mr. Brady is awake and alert and has been reading newspapers and watching television.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released Monday, May 11.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

May 11, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady is in good condition after another uneventful weekend. A CT scan this morning shows complete absorption of the intracranial air and is otherwise satisfactory. Vital signs, including temperature, remain normal. In accordance with the plan to steadily increase his activities this week, Mr. Brady will be permitted to sit in a more upright position in bed today. He is also being started on a more diversified diet. Physicians continue to monitor his progress closely.

Mr. Brady is fully alert and in good spirits.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's medical condition will be released Wednesday, May 13.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

May 13, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition as his activities continue to be gradually increased. He ate dinner last night sitting up on the side of his bed. Mr. Brady had a transient mild temperature elevation last night, but there had been no other signs of infection. His temperature remains normal this morning.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released Friday, May 15.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

MAY 15, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS.

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady continues to make satisfactory progress and remains in good condition. Skull and chest x-rays on Wednesday showed no abnormal changes. Mr. Brady's temperature has remained normal for the last 36 hours; his white blood count is normal.

Mr. Brady is undergoing physical therapy in his hospital room and remains in good spirits.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released on Monday, May 18.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

May 18, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition after a quiet weekend. His temperature has continued to be in the normal range, and he is eating well. Mr. Brady is making gradual but satisfactory progress in his physical therapy program.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be Thursday, May 21.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

May 21, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition as he progresses into a more active physical therapy program. He has begun a schedule of twice-per-day visits to the Physical Therapy Department, where activities are concentrating on improving his balance and enhancing the motor function of his left leg. Mr. Brady's temperature has remained normal, and there has been no evidence of further complications. A follow-up CT scan yesterday was satisfactory.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released Tuesday, May 26.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

May 26, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition as he continues to show steady neurological improvement. He resumed his twice-a-day physical therapy activities this morning following a quiet Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Brady remains free of further medical complications, and he is in good spirits.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. James Brady's condition will be released Friday, May 29.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

May 29, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady, who has now been diagnosed as having left lower lobe pneumonia, is responding satisfactorily to antibiotic therapy and remains in good condition. The diagnosis was established on the basis of radiologic changes on a follow-up chest x-ray yesterday afternoon. Since the absence of sputum production has created uncertainty as to whether the pneumonia is of bacterial or viral origin, antibiotic coverage was extended yesterday to cover virus-like organisms.

Mr. Brady is experiencing virtually no symptoms and remains alert and in good spirits. His temperature was elevated only to modest levels through the evening, and he slept comfortably most of the night.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released Monday, June 1.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

June 1, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady spent a quiet weekend and remains in good condition.

Mr. Brady's temperature was normal throughout the weekend. A follow-up chest x-ray this morning shows signs of continuing resolution of the left lower lobe pneumonia.

Mr. Brady is alert and in good spirits.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released on Thursday, June 4.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

JUNE 4, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition as he continues to make satisfactory progress in his recovery. His temperature continues to be within the normal range; he remains on oral antibiotic therapy.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released Tuesday, June 9.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

JUNE 9, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition and continues his satisfactory progress. His temperature is in the normal range and he is no longer on antibiotic therapy. He continues his physical therapy in his room.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady's condition will be released Tuesday, June 16.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

JUNE 16, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady is making steady progress in recovering from his injury. He continues in an active physical therapy program in his hospital room. Mr. Brady's vital signs remain normal and he is in excellent spirits.

In view of Mr. Brady's continued uneventful course, it is anticipated that medical bulletins concerning his condition will no longer be issued on a regular basis.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

August 3, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady had a grand mal seizure in his room immediately after breakfast this morning. The seizure was promptly treated with intravenous medication and anesthesia. A subsequent CT scan showed no apparent cause for the seizure and there is continued healing of Mr. Brady's earlier injury. His vital signs are normal. He is sleeping under anesthesia and is currently in the post-anesthesia recovery room. Dr. Kobrine is continuing to observe Mr. Brady in the recovery room at this time.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

August 4, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady is in good condition this morning after an uneventful evening. The seizure problem which began yesterday morning has responded satisfactorily to barbiturate anesthesia and he is now responsive. Mr. Brady remains in the post-anesthesia recovery room, but it is anticipated that he will be transferred back to his hospital room later today. Except for a modest temperature elevation last evening, Mr. Brady's vital signs have remained stable.

During yesterday's seizure activity, physicians noted clear fluid, presumed to be spinal fluid, draining from Mr. Brady's nose. However, there has been no evidence of air leakage, and spinal fluid examination last night was normal. Physicians continue to monitor Mr. Brady carefully for any further fluid leakage.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

August 5, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition, having experienced no further seizure activity since Monday evening. His anti-seizure management is being converted to a two-drug regimen which includes phenobarbital and his previous anti-seizure medication in somewhat higher dosage. Because this therapeutic transition involves a barbiturate drug, Mr. Brady remains groggy this morning. However, he is able to converse briefly and to take fluids and medication by mouth.

Vital signs have been stable except for recurrence of a low-grade temperature elevation last evening. A chest x-ray this morning shows a small amount of post-anesthesia atelectasis which probably accounts for the low-grade fever and is expected to resolve uneventfully. As a precautionary measure, prophylactic antibiotic therapy has been started. Mr. Brady is expected to be transferred back to his hospital room later this afternoon.

Physicians continue to monitor Mr. Brady carefully for any further spinal fluid leakage. Significant additional leakage would, physicians indicate, raise the possibility of elective surgery at a later date to attempt to correct the problem.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

August 6, 1981

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition following transfer to his hospital room yesterday afternoon. There has been no further seizure activity, and his temperature has remained within the normal range, indicating satisfactory resolution of the post-anesthesia atelectas. Antibiotic coverage is to be continued for several more days.

Mr. Brady was more alert and in good spirits last evening and then spent a restful night. It is expected that physical therapy activities in his hospital room will be resumed shortly. There has been no further spinal fluid leakage, but physicians continue to monitor this situation carefully.

It is anticipated that the next medical bulletin concerning Mr. Brady will be released Monday, August 10, 1981.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

August 11, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition and is alert and in good spirits. Physicians continue to make minor dosage adjustments in his anti-seizure medications in order to achieve optimum blood concentrations of these drugs. Mr. Brady had a small amount of spinal fluid leakage both yesterday and this morning, as this situation continues to be monitored carefully. Physicians indicate that persistent leakage of this degree would increase the likelihood of elective surgery within the next several weeks. Meanwhile, Mr. Brady has been undergoing further physical therapy activities in his hospital room.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Santa Barbara, California)

August 24, 1981

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

Physicians at George Washington University Hospital report that Mr. James Brady remains in good condition as he continues an uneventful recovery from last Thursday's surgery. Vital signs, including temperature, have been normal, and antibiotic coverage has been discontinued. Although Mr. Brady's post-operative activity continues to be restricted, he is alert and in good spirits.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Santa Barbara, California)

For Immediate Release

August 29, 1981

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR JIM BRADY

Vista Mar Monte,
Santa Barbara Sheraton,
Santa Barbara, California

10:08 A.M. PDT

MR. PLANTE: Good afternoon. From the Monte Bar Ballroom, high atop the Santa Barbara Sheraton, it's the unoriginal amateur hour. (Applause.) Let us raise our voices in song.

(The press corps sings "Happy Birthday".) (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: All right, now, Brother Bear, put your hand on the radio. A group of my colleagues have taken time out from their hardship duty here on the Pacific Shore to give testimony here this morning. The first of them, Howell Raines, author of "Whiskey Man" but now in more effete times known as "Drambuie Man". (Applause.)

MR. RAINES: Jim, it's very smoggy here this morning, or foggy, which means, of course, that the trees are causing a terrific amount of air pollution. You'll be glad to know that this time I'm going to write a story quoting Jerry Brown and blaming it on him instead of you. (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: Thank you, Howell.

And now, Jim, here is "Jaws" Walter Rodgers, with something we are sure you'll recognize.

MR. RODGERS: Jim, knowing how much you and I love a certain northwoods bird, and we'll keep it in the dark, the latin for which is Gavea Imer, I thought I'd give you the first cross-country loon call. (Imitates loon.)

MR. PALMER: Get the hook, get the hook.

MR. RODGERS: Now, you and I both know loons aren't crazy; it's just everybody else out here, but from all your looney friends, happy birthday and -- (imitates loon). (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: All right. We're already getting calls, cards, and letters on that one, but here's John Palmer.

MR. PALMER: Howdy, Jim. Here we are out on the banks of the beautiful Snake River out here -- (laughter) -- but, I tell you, we've been out here a long time and we're kind of hankerin' to get back there to Washington, that lovely, smoggy weather there in Foggy Bottom. In fact, someone just described us the other day as all of us are "just meaner than a junkyard dog". Our best to you, Jim. We think about you a lot. Take care. (Applause.)

MORE

MR. PLANTE: All right, John. Now, here's Roy Coleman, or -- it is Roy Coleman, isn't it? Step right up here, sir. Ray Cullen.

MR. CULLEN: Better known, Jim, as the oldest and wisest field producer. (Laughter.) And I want you to know that a couple of references have been made to the Pacific and even more accurately, the Pacific tributary of the Snake River. You'll be happy to know that they're establishing a new shrine here for the giant komodo dragon, and we're going to be here to dedicate it. Our best wishes, Jim.

MR. PLANTE: Let's hear it for the giant komodo dragon. (Applause.)

And here with a palm leaf in his hand, which may have been all he was wearing until a moment ago, is Dan Blackburn.

MR. BLACKBURN: Actually, that's not quite the case, Jim. It was a giant killer tree. I wrestled it to the ground and it still got away. It's headed for the ranch somewhere, but the President will be able to recognize it because I brought back part of its hide.

Oh, there's one key to this too. You've got to walk up to it and say, "How do it know?" Happy birthday, Jim. (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: Thank you, Dan. Jim, Neil Strawser had a birthday just the other day and we didn't know until Larry revealed to us how old he was. He's a hundred and eight. (Laughter.)

MR. STRAWSER: No, Larry, it's 104. I am the oldest correspondent. Jim, I just wanted to say to the "more or less", I'm told, former portly one, congratulations on being "more or less four-tly-one". (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: And now, here live -- (laughter) -- is Bob Berkowitz.

MR. BERKOWITZ: Jim, I almost left Cable News Network to go into business with your old boss, Senator Bill Roth, and Pye Chamberlain. (Laughter.) We were going to start a combination toupe and disco emporium. We were going to call it rug and roll. (Laughter.) Happy birthday, Jim. (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: And next in line, fresh from wrestling bubonic plague infested rodents to the ground, is agent Tim McCarthy. (Applause.)

MR. MCCARTHY: Jim, happy birthday from all the Secret Service out here, who I can assure you are all working much harder than all the press out here. (Catcalls.)

MR. PLANTE: And here's Kenny Reff, Jim.

MR. REFF: Jim, I just wanted to let you know that the President's pledge of providing a safety net in the wake of all his budget cuts has held firm. Out here, in Santa Barbara it's taken the form of a volleyball net that we all play out on the beach. Happy birthday. Wish you could be here with us. (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: We have not yet heard from the wire services and they are just beginning to step up here. Here's Dean Reynolds, Jim.

MR. REYNOLDS: Jim, I just have to take time out from filing, of course. (Laughter.) I'm sure I don't have to impress on you the significance of this summertime. As a Cub fan you realize, of course, that for the first time in baseball history we have a chance to finish last twice in one season. (Laughter.)

Seriously, I hope you get back soon. We need a good sense of humor, something like a news conference with jelly beans and lotteries. I have a suggestion that we could try out. We could put one chair in front of the podium that the President sits at -- or stands at -- and then we could have all the reporters march around in a circle while music plays -- (laughter) -- and then when the music stops we could sit down. The guy who got in the chair asks the question. (Laughter.) Anyway, that's my thought. (Applause.) Happy birthday, Jim. (Applause.)

MORE

MR. PLANTE: All right. Here's the Great Santini.

MR. RAINES: It's boom-Boom.

VOICE: Good not great. (Laughter.)

MS. SANTINI: Now, wait a minute. As usual, I'm being insulted here by my colleagues. But I just wanted to tell you that here in Santa Barbara, the truly needy have become the truly bored and we miss you. (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: All right. Let's make no mistake about it. This testimony is almost over because here exercising her prerogative to end things is Helen.

MS. THOMAS: Jim, we really miss you very much. Come home. All is forgiven. (Laughter.)

We want to thank you, Mr. Press Secretary. Happy Birthday. (Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: And now here's Larry Speakes with a special announcement.

MR. SPEAKES: Jim, one brief word from your staff here who's been working hard. One thing we've found here in Santa Barbara is that a pool is truly a pool here. (Laughter.)

I would like to conclude here by reading a statement from a very special friend of yours. It begins: "Nancy and I join Jim Brady's family and many friends in wishing him a happy 41st birthday. We continue to pray for his full and speedy recovery. Jim Brady is a talented and dedicated public servant. He is my friend and I am proud to have him as my press secretary.

Nancy and I salute the Bear and Sarah today and we look forward to celebrating his next birthday in his office at the White House." Signed, Ronald Reagan. (Applause.)

(The press corps sings "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".)

(Applause.)

MR. PLANTE: Jim, from all of us, a very happy birthday and we're all looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sarah, are you there?

MRS. BRADY: Hi. This is Sarah. I just want to tell you how very, very much Jim appreciated this. He has the biggest grin on his face you ever saw. I'm outside the room right now. It was a wonderful birthday. He appreciates the cards and your notes and this program was fantastic. I want to tell you also that the loon call came through beautifully -- (laughter) -- absolutely beautifully. And when told about the press conference, he said, "That was a hell of an idea." Thank you all so much. Good bye.

MR. PLANTE: Thank you. (Applause.)

END

10:25 A.M. PDT

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
(Santa Barbara, California)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 29, 1981

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

Nancy and I join Jim Brady's family and many friends in wishing him a happy 41st birthday. We continue to pray for his full and speedy recovery.

Jim Brady is a talented and dedicated public servant. He is my friend and I am proud to have him as my Press Secretary. Nancy and I salute "The Bear" and Sarah today and we look forward to celebrating his next birthday in his office at the White House.

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