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VIPR

1857 Phillips Drive
Pomona, CA 91766
(714) 623-5399

28 April, 1986

June 15

Mr. Donald Regan
White House Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Regan:

Attached are two media kits for **Project Canvasback**, a 71-foot sailing catamaran that is a fully-equipped floating medical clinic. Under construction for the past five years, the vessel will be launched June 15, 1986 and will begin providing free medical services to the **U.S.-administered islands of Micronesia**. Built almost entirely by skilled volunteers (the vessel is U.S. coast guard-certified), **Canvasback** will be staffed by a rotating pool of some 1,000 volunteer physicians, dentists and other health care professionals.

We are inviting President and Mrs. Reagan to attend the launch, although we realize this is short notice. If they are unable to attend, we would be delighted if he could video tape a short message which could be played for those in attendance. We anticipate media coverage of the event, so a video tape would be excellent. If that is not possible, a short note or telegram that could be read would be greatly appreciated. I have enclosed a self-addressed envelope for your convenience.

Mr. Regan, I realize that both your schedule and the President's are overwhelming, but if you can get this information to him, I will be most grateful.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (714) 623-5399.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra Wachter Van
Sandra Wachter Van, President
VIPR

cc: Jamie Spence
File

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Interview Dept.
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for panels.
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6/13*



Senator Hatfield accepts Advisory Board position. "Healthy governments are built by tending people's health and hunger needs."



CLINIC HEALS 400 IN JESUS

VOLUNTEER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (VHP), CANVASBACK's medical arm in the Pacific, is a mission organization led by a Seventh-day Adventist Christian dentist, Terry Schmunk, DDS. VHP is experienced and successful in out-island evangelism.

Our clinic on Palawan, in the Philippines, is one example of the effectiveness of medical service breaking down prejudices and opening doors for sharing Jesus Christ. Prisoners at the nearby island prison were bound in wrist and leg irons for expressing interest in the message of our volunteer medical missionaries. As a result of loving medical service and persistent witnessing, prison officials now welcome VHP's medical teams with a banquet.

Four hundred baptisms in Jesus Christ have resulted from the service of this tiny clinic. The little Christian school which once struggled along with 20 or 30 students now has 100 students.

This experience and expertise will soon be applied in the new areas opened up by PROJECT CANVASBACK.

\$15,000 CHALLENGE

A pledge of \$15,000 has been given to PROJECT CANVASBACK from a Christian individual who wishes to see project participants show their faith by matching the gift with cash or signed pledges by July 10.

So far, \$500 has come in toward meeting the challenge of raising an additional \$15,000. Jamie Spence, Executive Director, has designated the first \$15,000 to go toward deck hardware, winch bases and electrical equipment. The second \$15,000 is earmarked for diesel engines and other machinery. Please mark your gift or pledge "Challenge Grant."

Senator Says COST OF 1 ARMY TANK COULD BUILD 50 CANVASBACKS

Senator Mark O. Hatfield, (R-Ore.), is the newest member of PROJECT CANVASBACK's Advisory Board. On April 14, Hatfield made a personal appearance as keynote speaker at the Benefit Dinner and Concert in Astoria, Ore. Hatfield's words stirred the thoughts and hearts of the 85 people present.

"So often I have decried U.S. policies which address the symptoms of war but ignored the causes of war." Hatfield described war as not being between ideologies, the East vs. the West, but between the "haves" and the "have-nots," the hungry, sick and illiterate vs. the fed, sheltered and educated. Healthy governments are built, he said, by tending people's health and hunger needs and not by starting wars.

Hatfield considers Micronesia, the area for CANVASBACK's medical outreach, to be an area of particular responsibility for Americans. As a trust territory, these small island nations fared better under Japan, physically, than under the U.S.

In relating defense spending to PROJECT CANVASBACK's mission of love, peace and healing, Hatfield made the comparison that 50 CANVASBACKS could be built for the cost of one MX-1 Tank.

"Do we spend money to sustain life or to destroy life?" asked Hatfield. According to his figures, one 6-month season of medical work by CANVASBACK equals the cost of 250 M-16 rifles. "Remember, 791,000 of these rifles were left in Vietnam when the U.S. forces evacuated."

"You tell me--which is doing more to bring peace and security?" Hatfield answered his own question. "As important as the medical assistance CANVASBACK will provide is the spiritual message brought with the medicine--a message of love for the sick, hungry and homeless; a message to nurture the hearts and minds and souls of the people living on the islands."

CONCERT PROCEEDS PROVIDE SHIP'S CABINETS

Featured artist for the Benefit Concert April 14 was nationally-known soprano Nancy Olson of Cannon Beach, Ore. Ms. Olson granted Senator Hatfield's special request for "Reach Out and Touch", an inspiring song that epitomizes Olson's life and music.

Some Benefit attendees came to Astoria from as far as California and Texas. The proceeds for PROJECT CANVASBACK, which grossed over \$6,000, are being used to purchase beautiful cabinetry wood and other furnishing materials.

Leadership - Seamanship - Communications CANVASBACK'S Youth Program

With teenage depression, suicide, pregnancy and drug abuse on the increase in the U.S. (yes, even in Christian schools), PROJECT CANVASBACK is more than ever concerned for America's young people.

On CANVASBACK, principles of leadership will be taught using models such as Moses. God put Moses in a leadership position. Our cadets will examine Moses' life of obedience and take principles he used, like delegation, and apply them aboard ship as Cadet Leaders.

At the end of the day, leaders will have their performance evaluated by their peers. This evaluation process is also part of the communication skills practice where sharing honestly and listening openly builds trust and creates a secure environment for learning.

By effectively using the principles of leadership and communication, by making them work, CANVASBACK's cadets will acquire lifetime tools for success.

News Release

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News Release No. 105-10-86
Release Date FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Sandra Wachter Van

Project Canvasback, a fully equipped floating medical and dental clinic, will be formally launched June 15, 1986. The vessel's West Coast media tour will begin July 23 in Portland, OR, and will include a guest appearance at Expo '86 in Vancouver, B.C., August 16-26. (See attached list for dates Canvasback will be in port for interviews in major Washington, Oregon and California coastal cities.) The ship's first annual trip to Micronesia begins in late October.

Staffed by a pool of about 1,000 volunteer physicians, dentists and other health care professionals, Canvasback will provide desperately needed free medical services to the Tropical Pacific islands of Micronesia. Consisting of some 2,000 islands spread over an area roughly the size of the United States, but having a combined land mass about the size of Rhode Island, these islands have been held in trust by the United States since World War II. Serious health and economic problems have predominated in the islands, and adolescent suicide is considered by some to be double that in the U.S. According to one report, Micronesia is suffering from one of the worst per capita epidemics of leprosy in the world's history, as well as from severe malnutrition, lack of hygiene, and lack of medical personnel and medication.

Because of its unique design, the 71-foot vessel (one of

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the largest known sailing catamarans in the world), is able to navigate in as little as three feet of water, making it ideal for travel in the coral-studded seas of the Tropical Pacific Ocean. The vessel can cover 300 miles per day under sail and 12 knots under power. With wind as her primary source of energy, the vessel illustrates the Expo '86 theme of Transportation and Related Communication, and unlike other exhibitors who pay an exhibition fee, Canvasback has been invited to participate free of charge.

Fully-equipped as an emergency medical and dental facility, the vessel contains a medical table, dental chair, portable dental unit (complete with drills and a compressor for suction), and other medical apparatus. Most of these items have been donated or partially sponsored by major corporations, small businesses, and individuals from throughout the United States and Canada. The vessel has been constructed almost entirely by skilled volunteers and meets or exceeds coast guard specifications in every detail.

Built by veteran sailboat craftsmen and sailors, Jamie and Jacque Spence, Astoria, OR, Canvasback has overnight accommodations for 17, and has taken 5 years to construct. The Spences first dreamed of a medical mission boat while on a 7-year world cruise in their 31-foot trimaran. Investing \$100,000 of their own money, they formed a non-profit membership organization, consisting of 255 voting members, half of whom are health care professionals. U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.) is a member of Canvasback's Advisory Board.