SUMMIT SPEECH

FOR

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Hello everyone. I would like to welcome all of you to the annual Commonwealth Economic Yearly Summit. This year we are so fortunate to convene in these beautiful surroundings, and I want to acknowledge the staff at the Atlantis Paradise Island for providing us with the setting and support designed to encourage an unprecedented and authentic “meeting of the minds.” (**If there is anyone in particular you would like to thank, do so here**). I would like to express a special thank you to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and of course \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I am humbled and touched to see all of you here at this conference and each one of you in attendance is a distinguished, accomplished, respected, influential member of our global community. You are all here as a demonstration of your commitment to the quality of life on this planet, and our individual and aggregate impact is constrained only by our personally imposed limits and doubts, but I want you to know that I believe that if you hadn’t already realized that you are **extraordinary**, you wouldn’t be here. You are in attendance because of the potential that you have realized within yourself. You are here because you **BELIEVE** in change. These surroundings are beautiful and lush and seductive. They encourage us to realize and appreciate that all that we have worked for brings with it the ability to partake of the sweet life. My suggestion to all of you is this: take a look around. Bask in the sunshine that your collective accomplishments have created. Feel the satisfaction course through your veins. And when you feel that you have taken in all of that sweet goodness, really open your eyes. **It’s time to get to work**.

It’s been said that with great power comes great responsibility. We are living in a world that no longer functions with consideration for all, and we have run out of time. At this Summit, we are here to **WORK**. We are here to discuss, create and contextualize a new framework for revitalizing the world in which we all live, and although we may have different perspectives from our own unique vantage points around the globe, it is up to us to unite in order to form a network- a **COMMONWEALTH** of social, economic and political viability, one in which we are all partners, all working towards the common good for **ALL** constituents.

By definition, a commonwealth is a “body politic” or group founded on the principle of supporting the common “weal” or good. It is a democratic concept in the best meaning of the word. Life, politics, business, and global trends are all cyclical by nature. We are at the point in our cycle of civilization where it has become painfully evident that our social, economic and political systems **NO** **LONGER WORK**. It is time to examine, to discover and to define a new way of functioning in a world of **inclusion**. We are here in this beautiful and elegant resort. Our good fortune allows us to avail ourselves of a certain amount of exclusivity. Our hard work has paid off in that we have the privilege to indulge in luxury. But it is time to really examine our broken system. It’s time to use our collective power to initiate a new order in life.

(**In my research I saw that there is dispute as to whether Machiavelli actually said this quote so I don’t think it should be completely attributed to him-from what I have read, it was a quote from Newt Gingrich in an LA Times article from 1991**). There’s a well known quote that teaches us, “I am not interested in preserving the status quo; I want to overthrow it.” It is my intention that we use this conference to address all that is broken in our systems of business, governance and in the way we relate to one another. As the world and its technology evolve, our brothers and sisters all around the globe have greater potential to be connected, to communicate, to learn. With that discovery and ability comes the realization that our society is quickly approaching the nadir in its cyclical evolution. Although no one truly knows where the bottom is, I am telling you that we have a mandate and that is to find the way to pull ourselves up from that low point and focus on the zenith… the high point in our societal development. We have run out of time. Now is when we **must overthrow** the status quo.

The Florentine political philosopher Niccolo Machiavelli has said, “There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a **new order of things**.” As we look at how life has evolved, through the “macroscope” of worldview and through the microscope of detailed observation through technology, it becomes increasingly clear that our society has reverted to the “plantation” model of hierarchy. In truth, a plantation in the most benign sense of the word is an agricultural community, but when we look at the notorious and historical connotation of the term, we begin to understand and compare the condition of the “haves” who are in the minority, lauding their status over the “have-nots.” We have evolved as a society to the point where Wall Street has become the “New Plantation.” The truth is, throughout the world, and particularly in capitalist societies, the divide is growing. I have traveled extensively throughout and I have consulted with various governments and businesses at all different levels of infrastructure. There is a common thread that I have observed. The middle classes are working harder and becoming poorer. The privileged class is growing disproportionately while others are suffering more. In a world wealth report from 2013, we learn that in 2012, the global population of high net worth individuals grew quantumly by over 9% while the vast majority of people found it increasingly difficult to make even the most basic ends meet. Political divisiveness approaches record proportions. Unrest is brewing. Resolution **MUST** be found. Change **MUST** be instituted. A **REVOLUTION** of **common consideration** must be affected.

We are all accomplished and incredibly successful in our own right, but we know the determination, faith, resolve and resilience that are required to approach greatness. We know that in order to achieve a major victory, we must be prepared to sacrifice comfort. We are also profoundly aware that even though we “don’t know what we don’t know,” through strength in partnership, through the willingness to explore and learn, through the commitment to overthrow the status quo, we will prevail.

We must access our collective intuition; our ideas must converge **here** and **now**. There is **NO TIME** but the **present** to **initiate** the future. It is our responsibility, to our selves, our families, our communities and our world, to unite in a common purpose, and that is to establish a new world of **COOPERATION**, **CONSIDERATION,** **UNITED CAUSE and COMMON WEALTH-**and by that I mean an equitable and respectable sharing of **ALL** humanresourcesand ideas.

Let’s **REALLY** work together and use this summit to expose the conditions that don’t work like Plantation Capitalism, loss of balance, disrespect for the natural order of life. Let’s search for the symbols and methods that represent the new order. Let’s build a new framework for change as we learn from each other and forge new and deeper partnerships dedicated to placing ourselves back on course for a happier, healthier and more considered environment. Let us find the fortitude and resolve to address the oligarchic and plutocratic aspects of the world that don’t work and infuse the system with powerful and transformative methods to take our societies to healthier levels of common inclusion and success.

I know that we may not **THINK** we know the answer. We may not realize at this moment the path to success is right in front of us, but as with every great discovery, one flash of brilliance has the power to change the world. I am fully receptive to working with all of you to find that moment and I am thankful for your commitment and partnership. I have infinite faith and I am a firm believer in the miracle of change and in the resourcefulness of this amazing group of people. Let us begin!

Thank you all!