MEMORANDUM FOR CONGRESSMAN GUARINI

FROM: BROOKE ANDERSON

DATE: AUGUST 11, 1992

RE: PRESS CONFERENCE ON ELLIS ISLAND BRIDGE

The press conference about the Ellis Island bridge has been rescheduled for Thursday, August 13, at 1:00. It will take place at Sen. Lautenberg's office, 1 Gateway Center, Suite 1001 in Newark.

You and Senator Lautenberg will meet with Park Service officials briefly, give them the attached letter. Then you and Sen. Lautenberg will meet with reporters to brief them.

Talking points and background are attached.
**Talking Points**

**Ellis Island Bridge**

* The Park Service has been dragging its feet in carrying out the will of the people and providing pedestrian access to Ellis Island. (Excessive cost estimates, lengthy construction schedules)

* Today we met with Park Service officials to speed up this process.

* There is already a bridge in place that could be upgraded to let people walk to Ellis Island. Upgrading this existing bridge could be quicker, and less costly than building a new bridge.

* We asked them to conduct a detailed review on the feasibility of upgrading the temporary bridge for permanent pedestrian use - and report back to us within 2 months.

* If we do get independent confirmation that upgrading the existing bridge is not possible, then so be it. But there is no earthly reason why it should take 6 years to build a new bridge as the Park Service has indicated it will.

* 40 percent of the American people can trace their roots to an ancestor who arrived through Ellis Island. This immigration center is a national monument that should be accessible to all people, regardless of their ability to pay. A permanent pedestrian bridge will make this possible.

* The authorization and appropriation for a bridge to provide pedestrian access to Ellis Island was enacted last year. The Congress and President have already spoken on this issue. Affordable access through a bridge -- whether it be the existing one or a new one -- will become a reality.