The original documents are located in Box 3, folder "11/23/74 - Toast to General Secretary Brezhnev" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN Of

1



MR. GENERAL SECRETARY,

LET ME SAY A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS, OUR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING.

THE WORLD HAS BECOME ACCUSTOMED TO REGULAR MEETINGS BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN PEOPLES. COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAS INTENSIFIED, BOTH IN TEMPO AND IN SUBSTANCE, DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS. AS A RESULT, ALL PEOPLE NOW HAVE A BETTER CHANCE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SECURITY.

THE FACT THAT THESE MEETINGS HAVE BECOME MORE REGULAR TESTIFIES TO THE SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO THEM BY BOTH COUNTRIES. IN THESE MEETINGS WE ARE ABLE TO CONDUCT OUR DISCUSSIONS IN A BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. WE ARE ABLE TO MAKE IMPORTANT PROGRESS ON THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN US.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING THE CLOSE WORKING RELATION-

IN MY FIRST ADDRESS TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, I PLEDGED TO THE SOVIET UNION TO CONTINUE AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE COURSE FOLLOWED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

MR. GENERAL SECRETARY, I PERSONALLY REAFFIRM THAT PLEDGE TO YOU NOW. AS NATIONS WITH GREAT POWER, WE SHARE A RESPONSIBILITY NOT ONLY TO OUR OWN PEOPLE, BUT TO MANKIND. WE MUST AVOID WAR AND THE DESTRUCTION IT WOULD MEAN. LET US GET ON WITH THE *CONTROLLING ARMS.* BUSINESS OF **HEARMANNET**. LET US CONTRIBUTE THROUGH OUR COOPERATION TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE GREAT PROBLEMS FACING MANKIND.

5

Δ

THE PROBLEMS OF FOOD, POPULATION AND ENERGY ARE NOT CONFINED TO ANY ONE COUNTRY, OR TO COUNTRIES AT AN EARLY STAGE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THEY AFFECT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. IF THIS AGE IS TO BE REMEMBERED FAVORABLY IN HISTORY, IT WILL BE BECAUSE WE MET THESE RESPONSIBILITIES.

MAY I PROPOSE A TOAST TO OUR JOINT SEARCH FOR

SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS FACING MANKIND.

END OF TOAST

THE WHITE HOUSE

DOROTHY DOWNTON

.

(TOAST NOT USED)

THE PRESILL I HAS SEEN A.Y

TOAST TO GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV

* MR. GENERAL SECRETARY.

IT WAS TO THE NORTH OF HERE, ACROSS THE BERING STRAIT, THAT THE FIRST CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES ORIGINATED MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO: MORE RECENTLY; TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES BEGAN WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF RUSSIAN TRADERS FROM YOUR FAR EAST TO OUR PACIFIC COAST AREAS. THE FACT THAT OUR FIRST OFFICIAL MEETING SHOULD

BE HELD HERE ALSO TILUSTRATES THE TRANS-CONTINENTAL NATURE OF OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES.

OUR RELATIONSHIPS HAVE COME A VERY LONG WAY IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. WE NOW TAKE FOR GRANTED THE NECESSITY FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING ON A VARIETY OF FRONTS. OUR CONSULTATIONS ARE INTENSIVE AND FREQUENT. WE HAVE IMPROVED OUR PROSPECTS FOR BILATERAL TRADE, AND FOR CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE. OUR EXPERTS ARE IN DAILY CONTACT ON A GREAT MANY PROJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. SUCH CONTACTS ENCOURAGE GREATER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN GENERAL.

INSERT AFTER CARP 3. Our consultations are inference and frequent on the many issues That concern us. We have agreed that me relations should be marked by The restraint and respect and that crisi's fituations all our efforts deputed be directed at achieve

THERE IS ONE ASPECT OF THE U.S.-USSR RELATIONSHIP THAT CONCERNS WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY MORE THAN ANY OTHER. WE CAN TAKE SATISFACTION FROM THE SUCCESSES ALREADY ACHIEVED IN THE LIMITATION OF OUR STRATEGIC ARMS. BUT WE MUST NOT REST ON PAST PROGRESS.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT ONLY A BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE. IF THE BROAD IMPROVEMENT OF OUR RELATIONS IS TO BE TRULY IRREVERSIBLE, WE MUST HAVE MORE COMPLETE AND LONGER-TERM LIMITATIONS.

WE DEAL HERE WITH THE MOST SENSITIVE AND

DANGEROUS ASPECT OF OUR OWN RELATIONS. YET WE MUST PERSEVERE WITH OUR VITAL EFFORTS TO STOP AND REVERSE THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THESE WEAPONS. I PLEDGE TO YOU NOW, MR. GENERAL SECRETARY, THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT SLACKEN ITS EFFORTS.

WE SHALL DO ALL WE CAN TO INSURE THAT OUR JOINT UNDERTAKING WILL BE CROWNED WITH SUCCESS. LET OUR CHILDREN, AND PEOPLE wort funded in EVERYWHERE, ENJOY REAL SECURITY IN A WORLD RELIEVED OF THE

MAY I PROPOSE A TOAST TO YOU, MR. GENERAL

SECRETARY, AND TO THE HOPE THAT OUR NATIONS CAN HELP ASSURE A SECURE WORLD PEACE.

END OF TOAST