

**The original documents are located in Box 8, folder “5/1/75 - Toast for Working Dinner for Tunisian Prime Minister Nouira” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *d.g.*

**TOAST FOR WORKING DINNER**

**FOR TUNISIAN PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA**

**THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1975**

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MR. PRIME MINISTER:

IT IS A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME YOU,

MR. PRIME MINISTER, AND OUR FRIENDS FROM TUNISIA TO THE

WHITE HOUSE.

YOUR VISIT HAS PRESENTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO

REAFFIRM THE CLOSE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS ALWAYS

EXISTED BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I GREATLY APPRECIATED

THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU THIS MORNING. AND I

LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE PRODUCTIVE MEETINGS IN THE FUTURE.

YOUR VISIT ALSO PROVIDES A FINE OCCASION TO EXPRESS

OUR GRATITUDE FOR THE LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP OF TUNISIA

AND THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO STRENGTHENING AND

DEEPENING OUR TIES.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE SYMBOLIZES BOTH THE INTEREST AND INTENT  
OF BOTH OUR GOVERNMENTS IN PURSUING A CONSTRUCTIVE AND  
WARM RELATIONSHIP WITH TUNISIA.

THE TUNISIAN PEOPLE HAVE ALWAYS HAD A SPECIAL  
PLACE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF AMERICANS. RELATIONS  
BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES DATE BACK TO THE END OF THE EIGHTEENTH  
CENTURY. (FYI: 1795).

OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN A LONG ONE; IT HAS WITHSTOOD THE  
TEST OF TIME, AND AT A TIME WHEN INTERDEPENDENT RELATIONSHIPS  
ARE BEING DEEPENED AND TESTED, IT HOLDS GREATER PROMISE FOR  
THE FUTURE.

AMERICANS HAVE GOOD REASON TO ADMIRE THE

TUNISIAN PEOPLE, WHO HAVE DEMONSTRATED GREAT DETERMINATION

AND SUCCESS IN PURSUING THE GOALS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL

PROGRESS. IN RECENT YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF TUNISIA HAVE

BEGUN TO REAP THE FRUITS OF THEIR DETERMINATION AND HARD WORK.

TUNISIA'S CONCENTRATION ON EDUCATION AND ITS MAJOR

INVESTMENTS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE PAYING OFF IN TERMS

OF A GROWING POOL OF TRAINED MANPOWER AND A RAPIDLY RISING

PER CAPITA INCOME.

WE KNOW THAT ONE OF THE CRITICAL REASONS WHY THE  
TUNISIAN PEOPLE ARE SUCCESSING IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD A  
BETTER LIFE LIES IN THE WISDOM AND STABILITY OF ITS  
LEADERSHIP. TUNISIANS HAVE SOUGHT A MODERATE PATH AND  
FOLLOWED THE LEADERSHIP OF GOOD MEN.

PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA (BOR-GHÉ-BA) HAS BEEN GREATLY ADMIRERD

IN THIS COUNTRY SINCE WE FIRST CAME TO KNOW HIM AS THE

HERO OF TUNISIA'S INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE.

MY PREDECESSORS

IN THIS OFFICE HAVE VALUED HIS WISE COUNSEL, AND SO DO I.

YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER, ARE ALSO A MAN WHO CAN TAKE  
MUCH CREDIT FOR THE ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF TUNISIA AND FOR  
THE CONFIDENCE IN TUNISIA'S FUTURE WHICH MY GOVERNMENT  
SHARES WITH MANY AMERICANS IN PRIVATE LIFE.

SO WE WELCOME YOU HERE TONIGHT AND EXPRESS OUR  
CONFIDENCE THAT TUNISIA, WITH ITS PROGRESSIVE OUTLOOK AND  
YOUTHFUL SPIRIT, WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH US TOWARD THOSE  
COMMON GOALS OF WORLD PEACE AND A BETTER LIFE FOR OUR  
CHILDREN. THIS INCLUDES PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE TUNISIA HAS PLAYED

AND WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

(BOR-GHÉ-BA) AND WITH YOU IN THE FUTURE. FOR MY PART,

I PLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TO THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

GENTLEMEN: I ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN A TOAST  
TO THE PEOPLE OF TUNISIA AND TO THE LEADERS WHOSE COURAGE  
AND WISDOM HAVE GUIDED THEM TO NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND  
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING.

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