

**The original documents are located in Box 12, “7/26/75 - President's Departure Statement” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . . .

WE LEAVE TODAY ON A MISSION OF PEACE AND PROGRESS ON

BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS. TOMORROW I WILL MEET WITH OUR

VALUED FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

LATER I WILL VISIT POLAND, ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA TO ASSURE THEIR

PEOPLES OF AMERICA'S CONTINUING AFFECTION AND TO SEEK ADDITIONAL

IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS.

AND I WILL PURSUE INCREASED COOPERATION AND STABILITY  
BETWEEN EAST AND WEST.

DURING MY FIRST TRIP TO EUROPE AS PRESIDENT, THE  
ATLANTIC ALLIANCE VIGOROUSLY REAFFIRMED ITS SOLIDARITY AND  
PURPOSE.

- 3 -

ON THIS JOURNEY, I WILL MEET IN HELSINKI WITH THE  
LEADERS OF 34 OTHER NATIONS. WE WILL SIGN THE FINAL  
ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION  
IN EUROPE.

THIS CONFERENCE REPRESENTS USEFUL PROGRESS IN  
OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE AND  
PRODUCTIVE EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP. THE PROVISIONS OF  
THE HELSINKI DECLARATION REPRESENT POLITICAL AND MORAL --  
NOT LEGAL -- COMMITMENTS.

UNITED STATES' POLICY SUPPORTS -- AS I HAVE SUPPORTED  
THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC LIFE -- THE ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM  
AND NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.

THE RESULTS OF THIS EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE WILL BE A STEP  
IN THAT DIRECTION. THE OUTCOME OF THIS HELSINKI CONFERENCE  
REMAINS TO BE TESTED. BUT WHETHER IT IS A LONG STRIDE OR A  
SHORT STEP, IT IS AT LEAST A FORWARD STEP FOR FREEDOM.

- 10 -

THIS CONFERENCE AIMS AT EXPANDING EAST-WEST  
CONTACT -- MORE NORMAL AND HEALTHIER RELATIONS. THIS IS  
IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND OF WORLD PEACE.



IF HONORED BY ALL THE SIGNATORIES, THE HELSINKI DECLARATION  
HOLDS GREAT PROMISE. IT CAN PROMOTE WIDER COOPERATION  
AND GREATER SECURITY ACROSS THE ENTIRE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.  
THIS IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND  
TO ALL PEOPLES.

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IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT AND WITH THESE OBJECTIVES

THAT WE TAKE OFF.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT

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PRESIDENTIAL DEPARTURE STATEMENT

JULY 26, 1975

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I LEAVE TODAY ON A MISSION OF PEACE AND PROGRESS ON  
BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS. AS YOUR PRESIDENT, I WILL MEET  
WITH OUR VALUED FRIENDS AND ALLIES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC  
OF GERMANY; I WILL SEEK ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENT IN OUR  
RELATIONS WITH POLAND, ROMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA;

THE RESULTS OF THIS EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE  
WILL BE A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION. THE OUTCOME OF THE  
HELSINKI CONFERENCE REMAINS TO BE TESTED, BUT I BELIEVE  
THAT ITS PROVISIONS, ONCE IMPLEMENTED, WILL MARK AN  
IMPORTANT STRIDE FORWARD.

THIS CONFERENCE AIMS AT EXPANDING EAST-WEST  
CONTACTS AND COOPERATION -- MORE NORMAL AND HEALTHIER  
RELATIONS. THIS IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES  
AND OF WORLD PEACE. IF HONORED BY ALL THE SIGNATORIES,

THE SPIRIT OF HENSINKI HOLDS GREAT PROMISE. IT CAN  
PROMOTE WIDER COOPERATION AND GREATER SECURITY ACROSS  
THE ENTIRE CONTINENT OF EUROPE. THIS IS OF GREAT  
IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO ALL HUMANITY.

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IT IS IN THIS SPIRIT AND WITH THESE OBJECTIVES

THAT WE DEPART.

THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. . .

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PRESIDENTIAL DEPARTURE STATEMENT

JULY 26, 1975

MIDWAY ON THIS JOURNEY, I WILL MEET IN HELSINKI  
WITH THE LEADERS OF 34 OTHER NATIONS TO SIGN THE FINAL  
DECLARATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION  
IN EUROPE.

THIS CONFERENCE REPRESENTS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS  
IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A MORE STABLE  
AND PRODUCTIVE EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP.

THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS ARE A STATEMENT OF GOOD INTENT.

THEY REPRESENT A MORAL RATHER THAN A LEGAL COMMITMENT.

UNITED STATES' POLICY SUPPORTS -- AS I HAVE SUPPORTED  
THROUGHOUT MY PUBLIC LIFE -- THE ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM AND  
NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLES OF EASTERN EUROPE BY EVERY  
PROPER AND PEACEFUL MEANS.

THE UNITED STATES IS ACTING IN CONCERT WITH OUR WEST  
EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO PRESERVE OUR INTERESTS IN BERLIN AND  
GERMANY. AND WE ARE OBTAINING THE PUBLIC COMMITMENT OF THE  
WARSAW PACT GOVERNMENTS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF PEACEFUL  
ADJUSTMENTS OF FRONTIERS.

THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT CONCESSION -- CONTRARY TO THE CLAIM  
THAT PRESENT BORDERS ARE BEING PERMANENTLY FROZEN.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NEVER RECOGNIZED THE SOVIET  
INCORPORATION OF LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA AND IS NOT  
GOING TO DO SO IN HELSINKI.

OUR OFFICIAL POLICY OF NONRECOGNITION IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS  
CONFERENCE. WE ARE NOT COMMITTING OURSELVES TO ANYTHING  
BEYOND WHAT WE ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO BY OUR OWN MORAL AND  
LEGAL STANDARDS.