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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT
LUKE AIR FORCE BASE
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

This is the month of the pioneer in America. It is the month of the Mayflower and our earliest settlers. And this is the day of a new pioneer--a pioneer of Peace--the F-15 fighter.

There were 102 passengers on the Mayflower. The crossing from England to the new world took more than two months. And the end of the journey was freedom.

The F-15 can fly across that same Atlantic route today in a matter of hours. The purpose of its journey is still that of the Mayflower more than 350 years ago: freedom.

That is what really matters--the purpose of a journey. And I am here today to underscore to you and the world that this great aircraft was constructed by the American people in pursuit of peace. Our only aim--with all of this aircraft's new maneuverability, speed and power--is the defense of freedom.

I would rather walk a thousand miles for peace than have to take a single step toward war.

I am here today to congratulate you: The United States Air Force, McDonnell-Douglas, Pratt & Whitney, all of the many contractors and workers who participated in this successful effort--as well as the pilots who have so diligently flight-tested the F-15 "Eagle."

All of you certainly underline my feeling that we are still pilgrims on this earth and there is still a place for pioneers in America. The challenges involving our country--here at home and abroad--are enormous. But I am confident from the F-15 and your example here today that this is a nation of limitless horizons. There is no boundary to the energy and ingenuity of the American people.

That is why we will whip inflation, conquer our energy problems, and win the battle of the economy.

It is our job--in this last quarter of the 20th century--to prepare our country for leadership in the 21st century. And we can do that by economic strength at home and peaceful partnership abroad. These are my aims and my goals.

As I said in my Thanksgiving Day message: ". . .let us pray for the courage, resourcefulness and sense of purpose we will need to continue America's saga of progress, and to be worthy heirs of the Pilgrim spirit. May we, too, find the strength and vision to leave behind us a better world, and an example that will inspire future generations to new achievements."

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