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NOVEMBER 17, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

**TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT ELMENDORF AIR FORCE BASE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

I am what you Alaskans call a "chee cha coe," a newcomer to Alaska. But I am no newcomer to the knowledge that this is "The Great Land" within another great land, the United States.

There is something very special about the pioneer spirit that is not only alive but growing in Alaska. Alaska gives us an inspiring farewell boost as we proceed on America's quest for peace and improved international relations.

I want to commend Alaska for its determination to be a leading State in providing the United States with self-sufficiency in energy. You are proceeding, with careful and efficient planning, to produce more oil in harmony with appropriate environmental concerns.

I am proud to stop in this Great Land. I deeply regret the severe storm and flood damage that ravaged Nome and the Seward Peninsula area of Alaska in recent days. A major disaster declaration was issued in Washington so that the area could receive immediate assistance. Quick action must be taken to provide the necessary emergency aid to relieve the tragic plight of the afflicted Eskimos and other citizens.

The State of Alaska is geographically separated from other States. But it is very close to our hearts. The hearty people of Alaska, together with the alert armed forces stationed in this strategic area, are a source of pride to all Americans.

I want to reassure you today that my Administration is energetically seeking world peace but remains aware that the best insurance for peace is the maintenance of first class military forces ready for defense. There will be no lessening of interest in the defense of Alaska. Your defense is our defense.

The Secretary of Defense recently visited Alaska. I am deeply interested in his recommendations.

(MORE)

Today I want to reassure Alaska on another subject. It related to the depletion of our fisheries resources by other nations. You can be sure that this is high on the list of the priorities of our diplomacy.

I may be departing today as a "chee cha coe," a newcomer. But I hope to return next week on my way home as a sourdough.

I thank Alaska for this send-off. May God bless our efforts as we go forth from here.

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