

The original documents are located in Box 128, folder “Dec. 29, 1973 - Speech, International Sunshine Cup Match, Miami, FL” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Taped Dec. 20, 1973

OPENING REMARKS FOR THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SUNSHINE CUP MATCH.
FINALS TO BE TELECAST ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29th, CHANNEL 2,
MIAMI, FLORIDA.



As Vice President of the United States, I am pleased to welcome the junior tennis players from 30 nations who have come to Miami Beach to compete in friendly competition for the Annual International Sunshine Cup Matches.

This is the 16th year that these Sunshine Cup Matches have been here in Miami under the sponsorship of the People to People Sports Committee. The People to People Sports Committee started by President Eisenhower is dedicated to the expansion of friendship, good will and mutual understanding by the people of the United States and other nations of the world through sports.

The need for free communications and friendly contact between peoples continues to be as urgent as ever, perhaps even more so in the light of recent international developments. Sportsmen throughout the world believe in free play --- friendship --- and therefore it is appropriate that the Sunshine Cup Matches should be played during the holiday season.

The fine young players, each among the best in his own country are symbolic of the good that exists in the world today and in behalf of the United States we welcome you to our country and to this outstanding international athletic event.

What better means is there than the outstanding representatives of friendly countries to meet in friendly competition in the field of sports?



And to make this a real People to People Program, all of the foreign athletes are housed as guests of residents in their homes in the Miami area. Here you will really get to know us Americans. Living with us and our families for the two weeks of your competition.

We know from the reports of past competitors to these tournaments that the friendships have endured and strong bonds of friendships have been established between our foreign visitors and the good people of Miami who represent all Americans.

I wish to congratulate the Chairman of the Sunshine Cup Matches, Eddie Herr, the People to People Sports Committee, and the Miami Beach Tennis Association for continuing to bring this important international tournament to America and especially to all the tennis players who have travelled great distances to enter these matches. A very, very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.