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REMARKS BY VICE PRESIDENT FORD BEFORE LINKS, INC.

WASHINGTON, D. C., JUNE 28, 1974

Thank you very, very much Dr. Edmund, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the 133 chapters in some 34 states and the District of Columbia, Mayor Washington, Stan Scott and other distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a privilege and an honor to join with you on this occasion and to make some observations and comments. Let me at the outset congratulate this organization for its overall program and projects and policies and I congratulate you for your dedication aiming at trying to improve services for the youth, for freedom of the arts and particularly for your dedication aimed at trying to improve international goodwill and understanding. It seems to me that the President of the United States has taken a page from your book of projects and programs, one of course being as I mentioned international goodwill and understanding, by his recent trip to the Soviet Union. Everybody in America and some three to four billion people throughout the whole world are interested in the improvement of international goodwill and understanding. Some do more than others. But your organization by adopting this as an aim and an objective has put your organization in the forefront of trying to implement and execute such an effort.

It is my feeling that the President of the United States, by his recent efforts, and successful ones in the Middle East, is following the guidelines of your organization. And what he's attempting to do in the Soviet Union today is another example of how we, represented by him as a nation, can implement and execute better goodwill and understanding. I think if we look back some

seven months ago, to the problems of the Middle East where there was a resumption of shooting and killing, another sad episode in the century long period of hatred and jealousy, four wars in twenty-five years--as we look at that circumstance some seven months ago and see where we are today--I believe we must under any circumstances recognize that tremendous progress has been made toward what all hope will be a permanent peace. We still have a long way to go, but the foundations have been achieved by the skill and the dedication of a great Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, and real progress in that area I think has to also be attributed to the President of the United States for first selecting Dr. Kissinger, and Number two, backing him up when the going was the toughest whether it was the negotiations by the Egyptians and the Israelis or the Syrians and the Israelis. And so we as Americans ought to have great pride in the role our country played in this most difficult period.

But the bigger effort is now being made as the President participates in the 3rd summit meeting in two years--three years I should say--1972, 1973 and now 1974. At least I, for one American, got a great deal of pride from the welcome that was given to the President when he arrived in Moscow on this recent peace mission. A mission that is precisely aimed at what your organization is dedicated to achieve, international goodwill and understanding. We must recognize in this case as we did in the problems in the Middle East that there are many, many problems that seem insoluble, but as we look back to what the circumstances were in 1970 and '71, where the United States and the Soviet Union had for practically three decades been at war, not with arms, but with ideology, where the United States and the Soviet Union seem to be forever cast in a conflict ideologically and now we find that in the short span of several years there has been a broad, and I think beneficial, understanding in many, many areas, health, environment, space and others. Plus a conscious effort on the

part of Mr. Breshnev and the President of the United States who worked successfully to achieve a ceiling on strategic arms in the first instance and a broadening of those arms agreements so that hopefully the United States as well as the Soviet Union can look toward a period in the next stage when instead of building more arms and more arms to put a tremendous financial burden on both countries and perhaps lead to a military confrontation, we are now in a position where with goodwill and understanding between the leaders of two great countries, we can look forward to some benefits that will not only be for world peace but a great opportunity to build up our country as well as theirs in a domestic sense.

So I congratulate and commend the LINKS organization for its Objectives, goodwill and understanding on an international basis, but just as important I congratulate you on your dedication to the other program--youth, freedom, arts and national service. We, and that includes LINKS, have a many-pronged stimulant to better world relations and to improve the lot of our society here at home. Dr. Edmunds, you should be proud of this tremendous turnout, you should be proud of your role along with those representing various chapters in having a highly fine approach to the relationships between people throughout the world and a better and a finer society for all of us here in the United States. I am proud to be a participant in this gathering today, and I am proud to what you stand for, and I know that your efforts will achieve and accomplish in a constructive way, what has been so important to all of us in the past, in the present and certainly in the future.

Thank you very, very much.

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LINKS, 6/28/74



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