

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “10/21/74 - Remarks at the Border of U.S. and Mexico” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MR. PRESIDENT, AMIGOS, I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE THIS MORNING TO MEET WITH YOU ON OUR BORDER AT NOGALES (NO-GAL-ES), OUR MEETINGS TODAY, WHICH WILL BE HELD PARTLY IN MEXICO AND PARTLY IN THE UNITED STATES, SYMBOLIZE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

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IT IS A WORKING PARTNERSHIP OF MUTUAL COOPERATION WHICH EXEMPLIFIES THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE NEW DIALOGUE INTO WHICH WE HAVE ENTERED WITH ALL THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA -- AND WHICH WE WILL NOT FORGET WAS STARTED LAST YEAR AT TLALTELOLCO (LALL-TELL-OLE-KOE), IN MEXICO CITY. IN OUR MEETINGS TODAY, LET US GIVE NEW MEANING TO THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP OF TWO GOOD NEIGHBORS -- MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES THROUGH FRANK AND FRIENDLY CONSULTATIONS.

IT IS VERY SIGNIFICANT THAT MY FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES AS PRESIDENT IS TO MEXICO, OUR LONG-TIME FRIEND AND GOOD NEIGHBOR. IT PROVIDES A LIVING DEMONSTRATION OF HOW WE ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED -- BY HISTORICAL TIES, BY GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION, AND MOST OF ALL BY OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO BE GOOD NEIGHBORS.

IT IS MY FERVENT WISH THAT THIS MEETING WILL MARK THE BEGINNING OF A CLOSE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CLOSE COOPERATION AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS. OUR RELATIONSHIP IS OF GREAT MUTUAL BENEFIT.

EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES RECEIVES MUCH FROM THE OTHER -- MATERIAL
GOODS OF ALL KINDS, INCREASED UNDERSTANDING THROUGH TOURISM
AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND ENRICHMENT OF HUMAN LIFE AND
CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH EXPANDED KNOWLEDGE AND WARM FRIENDSHIP.

THIS EXCHANGE IS ESPECIALLY EVIDENT IN THE BORDER AREAS.
WE WITNESS TODAY THE FLOW OF PEOPLE, GOODS, IDEAS, FOOD, MUSIC, ART
AND LANGUAGE. WE NOTE THE EXISTENCE OF BI-NATIONAL COMMISSIONS AND
GROUPS. WE SEE THE EFFORTS BY PEOPLE ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER TO
WORK TOGETHER IN A JOINT EFFORT TO SOLVE THE EVERY DAY PROBLEMS OF LIFE.

THERE ARE COUNTLESS OTHER INSTANCES DEMONSTRATING THE STRONG, VITAL
FLOURISHING AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN US. AND, IN
THIS BORDER AREA, WE ALSO SEE LIVING EXAMPLES OF HOW TWO GOVERNMENTS
DISPOSED TO WORK TOGETHER IN GOOD WILL CAN MEET AND SOLVE MUTUAL PROBLEMS.

ALONG OUR COMMON BORDER, WE HAVE JOINTLY FACED AND
TOGETHER RESOLVED PROBLEMS OF FLOOD CONTROL, SANITATION
AND MINOR BORDER ADJUSTMENTS NECESSITATED BY THE VAGARIES OF THE
RIO GRANDE (REO GRAND). WE ARE PROUD OF OUR RECENT
RESOLUTION OF A LONG-STANDING AND COMPLEX ISSUE INVOLVING THE
SALINITY OF THE WATER OF THE COLORADO RIVER DELIVERED TO MEXICO.

OUR SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS IN THESE AREAS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS
ARE PRECEDENTS FOR THE SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS THAT MAY ARISE IN
THE FUTURE. WE MUST CONTINUE TO DRAW ON THE SPIRIT OF MUTUAL
RESPECT AND GOODWILL WHICH MADE THIS COOPERATION POSSIBLE.

MR. PRESIDENT, LET US TODAY CONSIDER TOGETHER HOW WE
CAN COOPERATE IN SOLVING COMMON PROBLEMS WHICH WILL RESULT IN A
BETTER LIFE FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND FOR ALL PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE.

MUCHAS GRACIAS (MOOCH-US GRA-SEE-US).

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