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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *J.F.*

ELMENDORF AIR BASE, ALASKA

SUNDAY, . NOVEMBER 17, 1974

*Sen. Hill
Mayor Sullivan
Mayor Rodovich*

*Sen. Gandy - 1 -
Sen. Marks.*

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.

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~~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. *AT Gov. Egan's request* A MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION WAS ISSUED *by me* IN WASHINGTON
I will
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. *Those who come from the lower 48.* 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.

this

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
& our national security. We have an outstanding military force & we will
FORCES READY FOR DEFENSE, THERE WILL BE NO LESSENING OF KEEP
IT.

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 *& I will receive directly on my return.*
TODAY I ~~WANT TO~~ REASSURE ALASKA ON ANOTHER SUBJECT.

IT RELATES 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.

END OF SPEECH