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MR. PRESIDENT, EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM VERY PLEASED TO RETURN TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA,

OUR FAITHFUL ALLY, ON A MISSION OF PEACE.

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TWENTY-ONE YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE I WAS HERE.

I WAS THEN A CONGRESSMAN. NOW I RETURN AS THE THIRD AMERICAN
PRESIDENT TO VISIT YOU WHILE IN OFFICE. PRESIDENT EISENHOWER CAME
IN 1952 AND 1960. PRESIDENT JOHNSON CAME IN 1966. THOSE VISITS --
AND MINE -- DEMONSTRATE A CLOSE INVOLVEMENT OF DIFFERENT AMERICAN
ADMINISTRATIONS OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY. THEY REFLECT THE
SAME REALITY -- OUR LONG AND FRIENDLY TIES TO THE KOREAN PEOPLE.

WHEN I CAME IN 1953, I SAW A HEART-RENDING SCENE.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAD BEEN RAVAGED BY WAR. YOU HAD MADE
GREAT SACRIFICES TO REPEL AGGRESSION. YOUR ECONOMY WAS IN RUINS.
I WAS DEEPLY SADDENED BY WHAT I SAW. BUT I WAS INSPIRED BY THE
DETERMINATION OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO REBUILD.

TODAY I AM HAPPY TO RETURN. I WANT TO SEE THE
GREAT PROGRESS THAT SO MANY HAVE DESCRIBED SO VIVIDLY. I WANT
TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT UPON THE ASHES OF WAR.

I AM HERE TO REAFFIRM OUR FRIENDSHIP AND TO GIVE IT
NEW LIFE AND MEANING.

NOTHING BINDS NATIONS CLOSER THAN TO HAVE FOUGHT

SIDE BY SIDE FOR THE SAME CAUSE. TWO TIMES WE STOOD TOGETHER,

HERE AND IN VIETNAM, TO PRESERVE THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF ASIA

AND THE WORLD. WE CAN NEVER FORGET THIS.

THOUGH WE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER WITH YOU IN WAR,

AMERICA'S DEEPEST HOPE IS FOR A WORLD OF PEACE. LET US NOW

JOIN TO PRESERVE PEACE AND PREVENT ANY RECURRENCE OF HOSTILITIES.

THAT IS OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT WHICH I TODAY REAFFIRM.

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I SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR THIS HEART-WARMING WELCOME.

MY ONLY REGRET IS THAT MY WIFE IS NOT HERE AT MY SIDE. SHE SENDS

HER GREETINGS TO THE GREAT KOREAN PEOPLE. SHE LOOKS FORWARD TO

HEARING IN DETAIL FROM ME ABOUT THIS VISIT.

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YOU WERE GRACIOUS TO INVITE ME. I AM PROUD TO

COME HERE ON THIS, MY FIRST OVERSEAS JOURNEY AS PRESIDENT.

I THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT