

The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “11/23/74 - Arrival Statement, Vozdvizhenka Airfield, U.S.S.R.” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MR. GENERAL SECRETARY, I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WARM WORDS OF WELCOME. I AM PLEASED TO MEET YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES. YOUR HOSPITALITY IS ALREADY WELL KNOWN TO MANY AMERICANS. I EXPERIENCED IT MYSELF IN THE 1950'S. THIS HOSPITALITY NOW EXTENDS ACROSS THE ENTIRE BREADTH OF THE SOVIET UNION.

THIS IS MY FIRST TRIP OVERSEAS AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A REFLECTION OF AMERICA'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CONTINUING CLOSE AND CONSTRUCTIVE CONTACTS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AS WE SEEK A BETTER WORLD. I AM CONVINCED DIRECT CONTACT BETWEEN WORLD LEADERS IS A KEY ELEMENT IN ACHIEVING INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND PEACE.

THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LEADERS OF
OUR TWO COUNTRIES REFLECTS THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-SOVIET
RELATIONS DURING THE LAST FEW YEARS. MANY IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS
HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED. THEY ARE NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE
RECOGNIZED OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO HELP ENSURE INTERNATIONAL PEACE
AND WELL-BEING. THERE CAN BE NO LASTING PEACE WITHOUT RESTRAINT
IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BY THE GREAT POWERS.

WE CAN POINT WITH SATISFACTION TO THE STRATEGIC

ARMS LIMITATIONS THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION HAVE NEGOTIATED

IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. NOW OUR TASK IS TO AGREE ON FURTHER

LIMITATIONS TO STEM THE GROWTH OF STRATEGIC ARMS. ON THIS AND

OTHER PROBLEMS, DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX ISSUES STILL CONFRONT US.

BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE A STRONG FOUNDATION ON WHICH TO

BUILD A LASTING RELATIONSHIP OF PEACE AND COOPERATION.

IF WE APPROACH OUR TASK BOLDLY - AND WITH IMAGINATION --

I AM CONFIDENT OUR HISTORIC JOINT ENDEAVOR WILL SUCCEED.

MR. GENERAL SECRETARY, OUR MEETING IS POSITIVE EVIDENCE OF OUR COMMON DETERMINATION TO SEEK WAYS TO DEAL WITH THESE CHALLENGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR DISCUSSIONS. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CAN ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET AND AMERICAN PEOPLES, AND OF ALL HUMANITY.

END OF ARRIVAL STATEMENT