

**The original documents are located in Box 3, folder “11/24/74 - Remarks Upon Return From Trip to Japan, Republic of Korea, and USSR, Andrews Air Force Base” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT TONIGHT TO WELCOME US.

SINCE I LEFT WASHINGTON EIGHT DAYS AGO, I HAVE TRAVELLED

SOME 17 THOUSAND MILES FOR PEACE AND NOT A SINGLE STEP

TOWARD WAR.

IA

EVERY ONE OF THOSE MILES WAS WORTHWHILE. BUT, AS

~~IT~~ ALWAYS ~~IS~~ WHEN WE RETURN TO OUR OWN LAND, MY COMPANIONS AND

I ARE VERY HAPPY TO BE HOME.

SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS A FEW MORE MILES TO GO BUT

*on this journey*

I WILL ASSURE HIM THAT HE WAS INCLUDED IN YOUR WARM WELCOME.

THURSDAY IS OUR THANKSGIVING. I CANNOT HELP BUT REFLECT  
ON THE MANY BLESSINGS WE AMERICANS HAVE. WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS  
PROBLEMS. BUT WE HAVE MUCH MORE TO BE THANKFUL FOR. AMERICA  
IS A STRONG COUNTRY. AMERICANS ARE A STRONG PEOPLE. WE ARE  
FREE. ~~WE CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINY.~~ WE ARE BLESSED WITH GOOD  
FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

ON MY TRIP I TALKED WITH THE LEADERS OF TWO OF OUR ALLIES --  
JAPAN AND KOREA. IN BOTH NATIONS I SAW HOW MUCH THEY VALUE  
THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH US. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK  
TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR TIES.

THE VISIT TO JAPAN MARKED MY FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE NORTH  
AMERICA SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT. AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME  
THAT A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS VISITED THAT ENERGETIC  
AND PRODUCTIVE ISLAND NATION.

OUR VISIT WAS HISTORIC FOR ANOTHER REASON ~~AS WELL~~, FOR IT  
MARKED A CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. IN THE  
PAST, THE CENTRAL CONCERN OF OUR ALLIANCE WAS MILITARY SECURITY.  
THIS SECURITY RELATIONSHIP HAS NOW BEEN BROADENED TO INCLUDE  
ENERGY AND FOOD.

I AM PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH JAPAN --  
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST TECHNICALLY ADVANCED SOCIETIES -- WE  
WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL JOINT CONTRIBUTION TO  
RESOLVING THE ENERGY CRISIS.

JAPAN EMERGED FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF WAR WITH A DEEP  
COMMITMENT TO PEACE. IN KOREA, A STURDY PEOPLE REBUILT A  
NATION FROM THE ASHES OF ANOTHER CONFLICT. ONLY A LITTLE  
OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO KOREA WAS A BATTLEGROUND: TODAY IT IS  
A SHOWCASE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

JUST OVER TWO DECADES AGO AMERICAN ~~SOLDIERS WERE FIGHTING AND DYING~~

*fighting men were battling over*

*the rugged mountains of Korea.*

~~TO MAINTAIN KOREA'S INDEPENDENCE:~~

TODAY THE MAJOR BURDEN OF

KOREA'S DEFENSE IS BORNE BY THE KOREANS THEMSELVES. AMERICAN

*like their comrades in Europe + elsewhere*

SERVICEMEN ARE STILL STATIONED THERE, BUT, ~~AS IN EUROPE,~~ THEY ARE

THERE TO HELP AN ALLY MAINTAIN THE PEACE -- NOT TO DO THE JOB ALONE.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP FOR ME WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO

MEET WITH OUR SOLDIERS IN KOREA, AND HAVE LUNCH WITH THEM

IN ONE OF THEIR CAMPS.

*outstanding + women*

THEY ARE ~~FINE~~ MEN DOING A FINE JOB.

*are*

WE ~~CAN ALL~~ BE PROUD OF THEM.

THE FINAL STOP ON OUR TRIP WAS THE SOVIET UNION. THE  
MEETINGS WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV, I AM PLEASED TO  
REPORT, WENT WELL. THEY REPRESENT BOTH A BEGINNING AND  
A CONTINUATION.

THEY WERE THE BEGINNING OF WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A PRODUCTIVE  
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MR. BREZHNEV AND MYSELF. WE BOTH,  
I BELIEVE, CAME AWAY FROM VLADIVOSTOK WITH MUTUAL RESPECT AND A  
COMMON DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

THEY WERE A CONTINUATION BECAUSE WE MAINTAINED THE STEADY  
IMPROVEMENT OF OUR RELATIONS BEGUN THREE YEARS AGO.

WE TALKED, AS AMERICAN AND SOVIET LEADERS HAVE IN THE PAST,  
ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, EUROPEAN SECURITY, AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

WE OFTEN AGREED, BUT NOT ALWAYS. WHEN WE DID NOT, WE STATED  
OUR DIFFERENCES FRANKLY.



BUT ON PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING THE SOVIET

AND AMERICAN PEOPLES -- THE FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS --

WE FOUND A LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT, WE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE FULLY,

AND, IN THE END, WE ESTABLISHED A SOUND BASIS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT

THAT WILL CONSTRAIN OUR MILITARY COMPETITION OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

THE UNDERSTANDING WE REACHED RESULTED FROM AN INTENSIVE ROUND OF

GIVE-AND-TAKE NEGOTIATIONS THAT RECOGNIZED THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY

CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES.

MANY DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT BY OUR NEGOTIATORS.

BUT CEILINGS ON THE STRATEGIC FORCES OF BOTH NATIONS HAVE BEEN

ACCEPTED. A GOOD AGREEMENT THAT WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IS <sup>now</sup> WITHIN OUR GRASP.

VLADIVOSTOK WAS AN APPROPRIATE ENDING TO A JOURNEY DESIGNED

TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH OLD FRIENDS AND EXPAND AREAS OF AGREEMENT

WITH OLD ADVERSARIES. I BELIEVE WE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE SET OUT

TO ACHIEVE -- AND PERHAPS MORE. AND IN THAT PROCESS I PRAY

THAT WE HAVE DONE ALL WE COULD TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE

FOR ALL AMERICANS AND FOR ALL MANKIND.

END OF STATEMENT