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ARRIVAL STATEMENT -- MARTINIQUE

DECEMBER 14, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT, MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING

(JEEZ-CAR DE-STANG), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GRACIOUS WELCOME TO THIS

BEAUTIFUL ISLAND. I AM DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.
MR. PRESIDENT, THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO BECOME PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED AND TO DISCUSS THE SERIOUS ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT OUR TWO COUNTRIES. OUR MEETING DEMONSTRATES THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO WORKING TOGETHER.

GENERAL LAFAYETTE STOPPED HERE ON HIS WAY TO ASSIST AMERICA TO ACHIEVE ITS INDEPENDENCE. THE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES SPANS THE OCEANS AND THE CENTURIES. IT IS FITTING THAT YOU AND I, BOTH GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY THIS YEAR FOR LEADERSHIP IN OUR
RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, ARE TAKING THIS EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF COMMON INTEREST AND COMMON CONCERN. WE MUST COMBINE OUR JOINT EFFORTS WITH THOSE OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES IF WE ARE TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF THE LAST QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

THE LIST OF CHALLENGES IS LONG -- INCLUDING SUCH VITAL ISSUES AS FOOD, ENERGY, FINANCE, AND, OF COURSE, THE FUNDAMENTAL SECURITY OF OUR PEOPLE AND THE QUEST FOR FURTHER REDuctions IN INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.
JUST AS OUR TALKS MARK THE BEGINNING OF OUR
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR NATIONS WILL
REAFFIRM THE TRADITION OF FRANCO-AMERICAN COOPERATION IN GREAT
ENDEAVORS. I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR MEETINGS, FOR THE
EXCHANGES THEY WILL PERMIT AND OUR RESULTING UNDERSTANDING.

IN MEETING HERE WE WILL BE MINDFUL NOT ONLY OF AMERICAN
AND FRENCH INTERESTS BUT OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OUR EFFORTS
CAN MAKE TOWARD A MORE PEACEFUL, STABLE, AND PROSPEROUS
WORLD.

END OF TEXT
CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL THEIS
SUBJECT: Martinique -- Arrival Statement

Date and Place of Presidential Use: Saturday, December 14, 1974
Martinique

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