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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *by*

ARRIVAL STATEMENT -- MARTINIQUE

DECÈMBER 14, 1974

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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

Speechwriter: Friedman

Edited by: Theis

Basic research/speech material supplied by: NSC

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