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PRESIDENTIAL TOAST FOR DINNER

HOSTED BY PRESIDENT FORD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1974

MR. PRESIDENT, MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING

(JEEZ-CAR DE-STANG), DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

WE WELCOME YOU AND HOPE TO RECIPROCATE IN SOME
MEASURE YOUR MAGNIFICENT HOSPITALITY.

EVEN OUR BRIEF GLIMPSE OF THE NATURAL SPLENDOR
OF MARTINIQUE HAS REVEALED THE CHARM OF THIS ISLAND.

IT IS NOT ONLY THE FLOWERS AND BEAUTY OF MARTINIQUE THAT ARE
CAPTIVATING. I AM MOVED BY THE SPIRIT OF MARTINIQUE
AND THE FRIENDLINESS OF ITS PEOPLE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARING TO
CELEBRATE THE BICENTENNIAL OF OUR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE.
WE CAN NEVER FORGET THAT FRANCE CAME TO OUR ASSISTANCE WHEN
WE STRUGGLED FOR LIBERTY. YOU SHARED IN OUR DAY OF GLORY,
JULY 4, 1776. YOUR OWN ANCESTOR, ADMIRAL D'ESTAING
(DE STANG), ASSISTED IN OUR FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE. WE ARE
GRATIFIED TO KNOW THAT FRANCE WILL JOIN SYMBOLICALLY IN OUR
BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION THROUGH THE GIFT OF A REMARKABLE
SOUND AND LIGHT DISPLAY FOR PRESENTATION AT MOUNT VERNON --
THE HOME OF OUR FIRST PRESIDENT.

TODAY, OUR TALKS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY USEFUL.

WE DISCUSSED IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS -- SUCH AS FINANCE AND ENERGY -- OF GREAT CONCERN TO BOTH OUR COUNTRIES AND TO THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY -- AND INDEED, TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

WE ALSO REVIEWED POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS -- INCLUDING IMPROVEMENTS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY.

MR. PRESIDENT, AS POLITICAL LEADERS WE ARE
COMMITTED TO ENSURING THE DOMESTIC WELL-BEING OF OUR
RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THIS CANNOT TAKE PLACE IN A VACUUM.
WE LIVE IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD.

SOVEREIGN NATIONS, EVEN OLD FRIENDS, MAY HAVE
HONEST DIFFERENCES. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THESE DIFFERENCES.
I BELIEVE OUR TALKS CONTRIBUTED TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING
AND TO PROSPECTS FOR GREATER COOPERATION IN THE FUTURE.

MR. PRESIDENT, I HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY
YOUR STATESMANSHIP AND YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON EVENTS FACING
EUROPE AND THE WORLD.

WE HAVE BOTH BECOME PRESIDENTS OF GREAT REPUBLICS
AT A TIME WHEN THE WORLD IS IN A STATE OF DRAMATIC CHANGE.
COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS
INDISPENSABLE IF WE ARE TO PRESERVE THE HERITAGE OF FREEDOM
COMMON TO THE UNITED STATES, TO FRANCE, AND TO OUR ALLIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, TURNING OUR THOUGHTS FOR A MOMENT FROM THE BALMY CLIMATE OF MARTINIQUE, I WOULD NOTE THAT WE BOTH LOVE TO SKI, AND KNOW THE VALUE OF A GOOD TRAIL. OUR MEETINGS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE INTEREST WE SHARE IN FINDING THE BEST TRAIL AND IN WORKING TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE CHALLENGING PROBLEMS OF SUCH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO OUR COUNTRIES AND THE WORLD.

PLEASE RISE AND JOIN ME IN A TOAST TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING
(JEEZ-CAR DE-STANG), AND TO THE LASTING FRIENDSHIP OF THE
FRENCH AND AMERICAN PEOPLE.

END OF TEXT

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

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VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
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Hosted by President Ford

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