The original documents are located in Box 4, folder “12/15/74 - Toast for Dinner Hosted by President Ford in Martinique” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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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 RECIPROCAT 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 STATESMANSHP 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

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL THEIS
SUBJECT: Martinique -- Toast for Dinner
Hosted by President Ford

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