

**The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/19/75 - Toast to Dzemal Bijedic, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

MR. PRIME MINISTER, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

IT IS A PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO WASHINGTON

AND TO THIS HISTORIC HOUSE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT IN YOUR BIRTHPLACE OF  
MOSTAR (MO-STAR) IN YUGOSLAVIA THERE IS A FAMOUS STONE  
BRIDGE WHICH HAS BEEN STANDING FOR A VERY LONG TIME.  
I HOPE YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE  
TO BE AS DURABLE AS THAT BRIDGE.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, THE FOUNDATION OF THE  
COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND  
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA WAS BUILT MORE  
THAN A QUARTER CENTURY AGO.

IT IS ANCHORED IN A STRONG MUTUAL INTEREST IN YUGOSLAVIA'S  
INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND UNITY AS WELL AS A MUTUAL  
DESIRE TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN EUROPE AND THE WORLD. IT  
SYMBOLIZES THE COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH  
DIFFERENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

LIKE THE BRIDGE IN MOSTAR, THE ONE BETWEEN  
OUR NATIONS AND OUR PEOPLES HAS WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME.  
IT HAS FACILITATED AN IMPRESSIVE GROWTH IN TRADE AND  
BUSINESS AND SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION AND  
TOURISM.

WHILE THE CURRENTS PASSING BENEATH THIS BRIDGE  
HAVE EBBED AND FLOWED, ITS BASIC STRUCTURE HAS REMAINED  
INTACT. THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH IT RESTS REMAIN AS  
SOUND TODAY AS TWO DECADES AGO.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE FURTHER STRENGTHENING  
OF AMERICAN-YUGOSLAV COOPERATION, MR. PRIME MINISTER.  
AND I KNOW WE ARE BOTH AWARE THAT THIS WILL REQUIRE  
A CONTINUING COMMITMENT FROM OUR GOVERNMENTS.



BEARING IN MIND OUR COMMON INTEREST IN  
CONTINUED PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD, WE MUST  
STRIVE TO ELIMINATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND NARROW  
DIFFERENCES WHICH SOMETIMES ARISE BETWEEN US.

WE HAVE MADE A GOOD START.      OUR MEETING EARLIER TODAY  
REAFFIRMED MY CONVICTION THAT WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL  
IN THIS EFFORT.

I RAISE MY GLASS TO YOUR HEALTH, MR. PRIME  
MINISTER, AND TO THE BRIDGE BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.  
MAY IT CONTINUE TO FACILITATE COOPERATION, UNDERSTANDING  
AND FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES.

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