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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df.*

REMARKS AT OLD NORTH BRIDGE

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 19, 1975

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO TODAY, AMERICAN MINUTEMEN RAISED
THEIR MUSKETS AT THE OLD NORTH BRIDGE AND ANSWERED A BRITISH
VOLLEY. RALPH WALDO EMERSON CALLED IT "THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND
THE WORLD."

THE BRITISH WERE SOON IN FULL RETREAT BACK TO BOSTON.

BUT THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK FOR THE COLONISTS.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION HAD BEGUN.

TODAY -- TWO CENTURIES LATER -- THE PRESIDENT
OF FIFTY UNITED STATES AND TWO HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN MILLION
PEOPLE STANDS BEFORE A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE
COME TO THIS HALLOWED GROUND.

IN THESE TWO CENTURIES, THE UNITED STATES HAS BECOME A
WORLD POWER. FROM A NEW-BORN NATION WITH A FEW SHIPS,
AMERICAN SEA POWER NOW RANGES TO THE MOST DISTANT SHORES.
FROM A MILITIA OF RAW RECRUITS, THE AMERICAN MILITARY STANDS IN
THE FRONT LINES OF THE FREE WORLD.

OUR FLIERS AND PLANES ECLIPSE ONE ANOTHER IN POWER AND SPEED WITH
EACH SUCCEEDING NEW BREED OF AIRMEN AND AIRCRAFT.

FROM A NATION VIRTUALLY ALONE, AMERICA IS NOW ALLIED
WITH MANY FREE NATIONS IN COMMON DEFENSE.

THE CONCEPTS OF ISOLATIONISM AND FORTRESS AMERICA NO LONGER
REPRESENT EITHER THE REASONING OR THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES
FOREIGN POLICY.

WORLD LEADERSHIP WAS THRUST UPON AMERICA IN THE WAKE
OF WORLD WAR II.

IN ACCEPTING THAT ROLE, THE UNITED STATES HAS ASSUMED

RESPONSIBILITY FROM WHICH IT CANNOT AND WILL NOT RETREAT.

FREE NATIONS NEED THE UNITED STATES AND WE NEED THE FREE NATIONS.

NEITHER CAN GO IT ALONE.

THERE ARE SOME IN THE WORLD WHO STILL BELIEVE THAT FORCE
AND THE THREAT OF FORCE ARE THE MAJOR INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL POLICY. THEY BELIEVE THAT MILITARY SUPREMACY OVER
OTHERS IS THE LOGICAL AND LEGITIMATE END OF THEIR REVOLUTIONARY
DOCTRINES. SUCH AIMS HAVE LEFT A TRAIL OF TYRANNY, BROKEN
PROMISES, AND FALSEHOOD.

TYRANNY BY ANY OTHER NAME IS STILL TYRANNY. BROKEN

PROMISES IN ANY OTHER LANGUAGE ARE STILL PROMISES UNKEPT. AND

FALSEHOOD BY ANY OTHER DESCRIPTION IS STILL A LIE.

THIS IS NOT THE RHETORIC OF THE PAST. IT IS REASON

ABOUT THE PRESENT BECAUSE HISTORY KEEPS REPEATING ITSELF.

FORCE -- AS AN INSTRUMENT OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICY --

CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE IN THE WORLD.

REASONABLE SOCIETIES AND PEOPLES MUST DO ALL IN THEIR

POWER TO RECONCILE ALL THREATS TO PEACE. NOW IS A TIME FOR

RECONCILIATION -- NOT RECRIMINATION. IT IS A TIME OF

RECONSTRUCTION -- NOT RANCOR.

THE WORLD IS WITNESSING REVOLUTIONARY TECHNOLOGICAL,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE -- A MASSIVE AND RAPID BREAKING OF
BARRIERS. WE -- ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL LANDS -- MUST
MASTER THIS CHANGE. WE MUST MAKE THIS REVOLUTION AN EVOLUTION
-- TO MAKE AND ACCEPT CHANGE WITH GREATER ORDER AND RESTRAINT.

HOW CAN WE ACCOMPLISH THIS EVOLUTION? IT IS NOT

ENOUGH TO CALL UPON MATERIAL RESOURCES. NO MATERIAL FORCES

ARE SUFFICIENT OF THEMSELVES TO INSPIRE THE CONTINUED CONFIDENCE OF

MEN IN REASONABLE CHANGE.

WE MUST SUMMON HIGHER, GREATER

VALUES.

THESE HIGHER VALUES ARE FOUND IN THE PRINCIPLES OF THIS REPUBLIC --

FORGED BY OUR FOREFATHERS IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

THOMAS JEFFERSON WROTE OF CHANGE IN THE LIGHT OF AMERICAN

PRINCIPLES.

HE SAID:

"NOTHING THEN IS UNCHANGEABLE BUT

THE INHERENT AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF MAN."

JEFFERSON ACCEPTED CHANGE IN THE ORDINARY COURSE OF
HUMAN EVENTS. BUT HE REJECTED ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THE
PRINCIPLES OF OUR REPUBLIC -- THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF MAN.

OFTEN, \ CHANGE IS HEALTHY FOR A PEOPLE AND A NATION.

THAT IS WHY AMERICA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A LAND OF NEW HORIZONS AND
HOPES.

FREE CHOICE -- THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED -- REPRESENTS

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY OF CHANGE.

LIFE, \ LIBERTY AND THE

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS ARE SACRED RIGHTS -- NOT TO BE GIVEN OR

TAKEN BY SHIFTING WINDS OR CHANGING MOODS.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECALL THESE TRUTHS BECAUSE THE MEN

AND WOMEN OF AMERICA MUST RENEW THEIR FAITH, COURAGE AND

CONFIDENCE. OUR BELIEF AND COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND

LIBERTIES MUST ALSO REPRESENT BELIEF AND COMMITMENT IN OURSELVES.

IT IS A TIME TO PLACE THE HAND OF HEALING ON THE HEART

OF AMERICA } NOT DIVISION AND BLAME.

WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE, THE FINEST TRIBUTE THAT MAY
EVER BE PAID THIS NATION AND PEOPLE IS THAT WE PROVIDED A HOME
FOR FREEDOM.

FREEDOM WAS NOURISHED IN AMERICAN SOIL BECAUSE THE PRINCIPLES OF
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FLOURISHED IN OUR LAND.

THESE PRINCIPLES -- WHEN ENUNCIATED TWO HUNDRED YEARS
AGO -- WERE A DREAM NOT A REALITY. TODAY, THEY ARE REAL.
EQUALITY HAS MATURED IN AMERICA.

OUR INALIENABLE RIGHTS HAVE BECOME EVEN MORE SACRED. THERE IS
NO GOVERNMENT IN OUR LAND WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED.

MANY OTHER LANDS HAVE FREELY ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLES OF
LIBERTY AND FREEDOM IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND
FASHIONED THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT REPUBLICS.

IT IS THESE PRINCIPLES -- FREELY TAKEN AND FREELY SHARED -- THAT
HAVE REVOLUTIONIZED THE WORLD.

THE VOLLEY FIRED HERE AT CONCORD TWO CENTURIES AGO --
THE SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD -- STILL ECHOES TODAY ON THIS
ANNIVERSARY.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, A NEW GENERATION OF AMERICANS WILL
COME HERE TO REDEDICATE THIS NATION AND RENEW THE SPIRIT OF OUR
PEOPLE IN THE PRINCIPLES THAT INSPIRE US.

LET IT BE SAID THAT THOSE OF US WHO CAME TO CONCORD TODAY
REAFFIRMED THESE FINAL WORDS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:

" . . . WE MUTUALLY PLEDGE TO EACH OTHER OUR LIVES, OUR
FORTUNES AND OUR SACRED HONOR."

END OF TEXT