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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU MR. CARRERE (CA-RARE)
GOV. EDWARDS

SENATOR JOHNSTON

REP. HEBERT

REP. TREEN

REP. BOGGS

MAYOR LANDRIEU

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS - LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Rabbi Yeshurun

ARCHBISHOP HANNAN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *df*

73RD ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NAVY LEAGUE

*Chaplain Ray -
Missi Hancock
Obviously, I am highly
honored to be a*

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Good Cajun

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1975

*Mr. [unclear],
you ARE a good Cajun -
and have done very well
in political arena.
Now, that I'm a Cajun
I hope I'm as
brave*

PRESIDENT CARRERE (CA-RARE), MY OLD COLLEAGUE AND
DEAR FRIEND, EDDIE HEBERT, MEMBERS OF THE NAVY LEAGUE AND
HONORED GUESTS.

I DO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT BEING THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

OF ALL OUR ARMED SERVICES DOES PRESENT ME WITH ONE REAL PROBLEM --

IN NOVEMBER -- AT THE ARMY-NAVY GAME.

for courtesy & protocol
I NOW HAVE TO SPEND

HALF OF EACH GAME ROOTING FOR ARMY.

FORTUNATELY, THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY CAME UP
WITH THE PERFECT SOLUTION TO A SIMILAR PROBLEM. HE WAS IN IOWA
JUST BEFORE THEIR BIG GAME WITH NOTRE DAME -- AND SOMEONE
ASKED HIM WHO HE WOULD BE ROOTING FOR. JOHN KENNEDY SAID,
"I'LL BE ROOTING FOR IOWA!" AND A TREMENDOUS CHEER WENT UP.
THEN HE ADDED, "BUT I'LL BE PRAYING FOR NOTRE DAME!"
SO COME THE ARMY-NAVY GAME, I'LL LET YOU FIGURE OUT WHO I'LL BE
ROOTING FOR -- AND WHO I'LL BE PRAYING FOR.

BUT THERE IS A MORE SERIOUS SUBJECT THAN

THE ARMY-NAVY GAME THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU TODAY --

THE STRENGTH AND SIZE OF OUR MERCHANT MARINE AND OUR NAVY.

BOTH ARE VITAL TO OUR SURVIVAL AS A NATION, AND YET

BOTH OF THEM FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS TODAY. BUT THE PROBLEMS

ARE NOT INSOLVABLE.

IN THE CASE OF OUR MERCHANT MARINE, I HAVE ALWAYS
BELIEVED IN DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE AMERICAN FLAG
FLYING OVER A LARGE, MODERN MERCHANT FLEET.

IN THE CONGRESS, I WORKED LONG AND HARD TO HELP PASS
THE MERCHANT MARINE ACT OF 1970. THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION
INITIATED A FEDERAL PROGRAM TO IMPROVE THE INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITIVE POSITION OF THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE. THROUGH
THIS PROGRAM, CONTRACTS WILL HAVE BEEN AWARDED BY JUNE THIRTIETH
OF THIS YEAR FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OR CONVERSION OF APPROXIMATELY
77
SEVENTY-SEVEN SHIPS WITH AN AVERAGE ANNUAL FUNDING OF SOME
284
TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS.

BUDGET REQUESTS FOR CONSTRUCTION SUBSIDIES WILL
CONTINUE AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME LEVEL IN 1976,
DESPITE A DRASTIC DECREASE IN DEMANDS FOR OIL TANKERS.

EXPENDITURES FOR OPERATIONAL SUBSIDIES FOR UNITED STATES

316
FLAG SHIPS WILL CLIMB TO A RECORD HIGH OF THREE HUNDRED AND
SIXTEEN MILLION DOLLARS. OUR TOTAL FEDERAL EXPENDITURES

FOR FEDERAL MARITIME PROGRAMS IN 1976 WILL BE

678
SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-EIGHT MILLION DOLLARS AS COMPARED

503
WITH FIVE HUNDRED AND THREE MILLION DOLLARS IN 1974.

AND I GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT, JUST AS I WORKED
FOR A VITAL AMERICAN MERCHANT MARINE IN THE CONGRESS,
I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR IT IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

AND WHILE I AM ON THE SUBJECT OF OUR MERCHANT MARINE,
LET ME ADD MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS TO PAUL HALL, THE PRESIDENT
OF SEAFARERS' INTERNATIONAL, FOR THE AWARD HE HAS RECEIVED HERE
TODAY. THIS IS A WELL-DESERVED TRIBUTE TO A GREAT UNION LEADER
AND A GREAT AMERICAN -- A MAN WHO HAS DONE AS MUCH AS ANYONE
TO KEEP AMERICA'S MERCHANT FLEET ALIVE AND WELL DURING CHALLENGING
TIMES.

OUR NAVY, TOO, HAS ENTERED A TIME OF CHALLENGE.

LIKE THE REST OF OUR ARMED FORCES, ITS COST -- EVEN ITS VERY

PURPOSE -- IS BEING QUESTIONED BY MANY SERIOUS, SINCERE

AMERICANS, IN AND OUT OF THE CONGRESS.

NO DOUBT SOME OF THIS QUESTIONING RESULTS FROM OUR
LONG AND TRAGIC AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN INDOCHINA. NO DOUBT
SOME STEMS FROM THE VERY UNDERSTANDABLE DESIRE TO SPEND MONEY
ON PLOWSHARES RATHER THAN SWORDS -- TO PUT OUR RESOURCES
INTO SOCIAL PROGRAMS INSTEAD OF INTO DEFENSE.

BUT TO KEEP AMERICA AT PEACE -- TO ENABLE US TO MAKE
THE KIND OF SOCIAL PROGRESS WE ALL WANT -- WE MUST KEEP AMERICA
STRONG.

ONE OF THE KEYS TO ACHIEVING PEACE IS A STRONG,
MODERN AMERICAN FLEET. THE NAVY IS STILL A MAJOR INSTRUMENT
FOR RESOLVING CRISIS SHORT OF WAR. ITS VERY PRESENCE IN
A TROUBLE SPOT SERVES AS A DETERRENT. IT CARRIES SUPPLIES,
SHOWS THE FLAG, AND PROVIDES A FLEXIBLE YET POWERFUL FORCE
THAT CAN HELP DEFUSE TENSION IN AN AREA BEFORE IT DETERIORATES
INTO CRISIS.

IT IS A VITAL PART OF OUR DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT

IN PEACE AS WELL AS IN WAR.

LET ME PUT IT IN EVEN MORE CONCRETE TERMS.

SINCE 1958, OUR NAVY AND MARINES HAVE SERVED IN QUICK
RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS FORTY-NINE DIFFERENT TIMES.

THE NATURE OF THE RESPONSE VARIED FROM THIRTY-TWO
CASES IN WHICH IT WAS A MATTER OF "SHOWING THE FLAG" TO EMERGENCY
INTERVENTIONS TO PROTECT AMERICAN LIVES, PROPERTY AND NATIONAL
INTEREST.

FOR EXAMPLE:

IN 1958, NAVY AND MARINE UNITS HELPED TO RESTORE ORDER
IN RIOT-TORN LEBANON AND PROTECT AMERICAN INTERESTS.

IN 1962, THEY ENFORCED THE QUARANTINE ON SOVIET SHIPS
AND HELPED TO END THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.

IN 1965, THEY SAVED AMERICAN LIVES AND HELPED RESTORE
ORDER TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

IN 1970, THEY HELPED PREVENT DISTURBANCES IN JORDAN
FROM ERUPTING INTO ANOTHER MIDDLE EASTERN WAR.

AND, RIGHT NOW, IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, NAVY AND MARINE
FORCES ARE STANDING BY TO ASSIST IN HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND
EVACUATION EFFORTS OR TO CARRY OUT ANY MISSION ASSIGNED TO THEM.

ALREADY, WE OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO THE NAVY AND
MARINES FOR THEIR HEROIC EFFORTS IN EVACUATING AMERICANS AND
A NUMBER OF CAMBODIANS FROM THE BESIEGED CITY OF PHNOM PENH
WITHOUT CASUALTIES AND WITHOUT A HITCH. IT WAS A
PROFESSIONALLY PLANNED AND EXECUTED MANUEVER -- TYPICAL OF WHAT
WE HAVE COME TO EXPECT FROM OUR NAVAL FORCES.

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING, THIS IS A VERY APPROPRIATE
DATE TO TALK ABOUT SEA POWER. FOR, IF EVER AMERICA LEARNED
THE IMPORTANCE OF SEA POWER, IT WAS ON APRIL 23, 1814 --
161
ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-ONE YEARS AGO TODAY.

THE WAR OF 1812 WAS AT ITS HEIGHT AND THE BRITISH,
BACKED UP BY THEIR ENORMOUS NAVY, DECIDED ON THAT DAY IN 1814
TO EXTEND A BLOCKADE ALONG THE ENTIRE AMERICAN COAST.
THE SMALL, WEAK AND ILL-EQUIPPED AMERICAN NAVY COULD DO LITTLE
TO STOP IT. THE BRITISH ROAMED THE EAST COAST ALMOST AT WILL.

BY AUGUST OF 1814, WE HAD EVEN SUFFERED THE HUMILIATION
OF AN ENEMY ATTACK ON WASHINGTON, D.C., AND THE BURNING
OF THE WHITE HOUSE. WE HAD BEEN HELPLESS TO DEFEND OUR OWN
CAPITAL CITY.

IN THE CENTURY AND A HALF SINCE 1814, WE HAVE BEEN
TAUGHT EVEN MORE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SEA POWER.

PERHAPS TEDDY ROOSEVELT SUMMED IT UP BEST WHEN

HE SAID, "A GOOD NAVY IS NOT PROVOCATIVE OF WAR. IT IS

THE SUREST GUARANTY OF PEACE."

TODAY, EVEN MORE THAN IN THE PAST, AMERICA IS

DEPENDENT ON SEA POWER. THIS INCLUDES A STRONG MERCHANT

MARINE AS WELL AS NAVY.

FOR ONE THING, WE NEED FREE SEA LANES AND FAST
MERCHANT SHIPS TO MAINTAIN THE CRUCIAL FLOW OF RAW MATERIALS
AND ENERGY TO THE UNITED STATES. FOR INSTANCE, IN 1974 ALONE,
WE IMPORTED MORE THAN TWO BILLION BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL AND
REFINED PRODUCTS, ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT THIRTY-SIX PERCENT
OF OUR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. OF THIS TOTAL, MORE THAN
90% NINETY PERCENT WAS CARRIED INTO THIS COUNTRY IN FOREIGN BOTTOMS.

IT IS MY POLICY TO REVERSE THIS DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL
BY MAKING AMERICA ENERGY INDEPENDENT.

BUT FOR NOW, THE FACTS ARE PLAIN:

AMERICAN PROSPERITY -- PERHAPS EVEN AMERICAN
SURVIVAL -- STILL DEPENDS ON KEEPING THE SEA LANES OPEN.
AND ONLY A STRONG AMERICAN NAVY CAN GUARANTEE THIS.

SO THE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS ARE: WHAT IS THE STATE

OF AMERICAN SEA POWER TODAY?

WHAT WILL IT BE IN THE FUTURE?

SINCE 1968, THE SIZE OF THE NAVY HAS BEEN CUT IN HALF.

TODAY, OUR FLEET OF FIVE HUNDRED SHIPS IS THE SMALLEST

SINCE 1939 -- TWO YEARS BEFORE PEARL HARBOR. AND IT IS

STILL SHRINKING. IN FACT, THE NAVY'S ACTIVE FLEET WILL BE DOWN

490

TO FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY SHIPS -- BY JUNE 30, 1976 --

FIVE DAYS BEFORE WE CELEBRATE OUR TWO HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY AS A

FREE AND INDEPENDENT NATION.

FORTUNATELY, THERE IS ALSO A POSITIVE SIDE TO ALL
THIS. TODAY'S U.S. NAVY HAS SOME TREMENDOUS ASSETS.

OUR AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND THEIR AIR GROUPS ARE POTENT
WEAPON SYSTEMS. THESE FORCES CONTRIBUTE IMMEASURABLY TO
MAKING OUR OVERALL STRIKE FORCES THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

OUR NUCLEAR POWERED SUBMARINES AND NUCLEAR

SURFACE SHIPS ARE THE FINEST IN THE WORLD. AND WE HAVE

MORE OF THEM THAN ANY OTHER POWER.

THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS IS UNRIVALED AS A

COMBAT FORCE. AND THE SPIRIT AND MORALE OF THE MARINES

ARE AS HIGH AS THEY EVER WERE.

IN FACT, THE ENTIRE NAVY-MARINE CORPS TEAM HAS THESE

THREE VITAL INGREDIENTS: COMBAT-PROVEN STRENGTH, DYNAMIC
LEADERSHIP, AND DEDICATED PROFESSIONALISM.

I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE IN THE NEW PROFESSIONALS OF
OUR NAVY AND MARINE CORPS. BUT THE NAVY AND MARINE
CORPS OF TODAY ARE THE RESULT OF CAREFUL PLANNING OF THE
PAST. IF BOTH ARE TO MAINTAIN THE SAME HIGH STANDARDS IN
THE FUTURE, WE MUST BEGIN LAYING THE GROUNDWORK NOW.

AND WE MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT SOME DRAMATIC
CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL BALANCE OF POWER. AT THE OUTSET OF
WORLD WAR TWO, AMERICA HAD A THREE THOUSAND MILE OCEAN
BARRIER ON OUR EAST COAST, AND A TEN THOUSAND MILE OCEAN
BARRIER ON OUR WEST COAST.

A MIGHTY BRITISH FLEET ACTED AS A FRIENDLY BUFFER, AND THE
UNITED STATES HAD A TWO-YEAR LEAD TIME TO GEAR UP OUR GREAT
MILITARY PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES BETWEEN THE OUTBREAK OF WAR
IN EUROPE AND OUR OWN ENTRY AFTER PEARL HARBOR.

TODAY, WE FACE A VERY DIFFERENT SITUATION.

SOVIET NAVAL UNITS NOW FREELY ROAM THE WORLD'S SEAS,
CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE STATE OF HAWAII IN THE PACIFIC AND
OPERATING IN THE GULF OF MEXICO.

LET ME GIVE YOU A GRAPHIC EXAMPLE -- SOMETHING
THAT HAS HAPPENED WITHIN THE PAST FEW DAYS. ELEMENTS FROM
ALL FOUR FLEETS OF THE SOVIET NAVY HAVE JUST COMPLETED GLOBAL
MANEUVERS.

200

MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED SOVIET SHIPS, DEPLOYED IN ALL THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD, PARTICIPATED IN THE EXERCISE. MORE THAN FIFTY SOVIET SHIPS WERE DEPLOYED IN THE ATLANTIC, EXTENDING THEIR MANEUVERS TO THE NORWEGIAN SEA AND SOUTHWEST OF THE BRITISH ISLES. SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT OPERATING FROM CUBA AND GUINEA CONDUCTED OCEAN SURVEILLANCE OVER WIDE AREAS OF THE ATLANTIC. THE SOVIET NAVY WAS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, THE PACIFIC AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.

THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THE SOVIET UNION
UNDERSTANDS THE IMPORTANCE OF SEA POWER. THE RUSSIANS
BUILT UP THEIR NAVY WHILE WE PERMITTED OURS TO SHRINK.
AND THEY KNOW HOW TO SHOW THEIR FLAGS !

UNFORTUNATELY, THE DOUBLE BLOWS OF INFLATION AND
RECESSION -- ALONG WITH OTHER DRAINS ON GOVERNMENT REVENUES
-- ARE OCCURRING AT PRECISELY THE TIME THAT WE SHOULD BE
PUTTING MORE FUNDS INTO MORE SHIPS.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES
IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR WILL REPRESENT SLIGHTLY LESS THAN SIX
PERCENT OF THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT -- THE LOWEST POINT
SINCE THE PRE-KOREAN DEMOBILIZATION.

IN REAL TERMS -- AFTER ADJUSTING FOR INFLATION --

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SPENDING HAS BEEN CUT ALMOST FORTY PERCENT

40%

SINCE THE HEIGHT OF THE VIETNAM WAR; IT IS FIFTEEN PERCENT

15%

BELOW THE PRE-VIETNAM LEVEL. AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL

GOVERNMENT SPENDING, INCLUDING STATE AND LOCAL, DEFENSE

EXPENDITURES COME TO ONLY SIXTEEN PERCENT, THE LOWEST POINT

16%

SINCE BEFORE PEARL HARBOR.

AS FOR OUR HUMAN RESOURCES, TODAY ONLY ONE

1%

PERCENT OF AMERICA'S POPULATION IS UNDER ARMS. OUR

MILITARY MANPOWER IS ACTUALLY NEARLY SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND

BELOW THE PRE-VIETNAM LEVEL.

HOWEVER GOOD THEIR INTENTIONS, THOSE WHO CLAIM THAT

AMERICA IS OVER-ARMED AND OVER-SPENDING ON DEFENSE ARE DEAD

WRONG. WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CUT ANY FURTHER WITHOUT

ENDANGERING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

WHILE OUR OWN MILITARY SPENDING HAS BEEN DECLINING,
OTHERS HAVE NOT BEEN IDLE. THE SOVIET UNION, FOR EXAMPLE,
IS OUTSPENDING US ON DEFENSE BY AT LEAST TWENTY PERCENT.

AS FAR AS THE NAVY IS CONCERNED, THE BUDGET I HAVE
SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS REQUESTS ^{# 3.1} (THREE-POINT-ONE) BILLION
DOLLARS TO BUILD ²³ (TWENTY-THREE) NEW SHIPS AND AN ADDITIONAL
^{# 2.3} (TWO-POINT-THREE) BILLION DOLLARS TO RESTORE FULL FUNDING TO OUR
SHIPBUILDING ACCOUNT OF PRIOR YEARS.

I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT THE VAST MAJORITY OF OUR CITIZENS
WANT TO MAINTAIN AMERICAN SEA, LAND AND AIR FORCES THAT ARE
SECOND TO NONE.

LET IT NEVER BE SAID THAT OUR GENERATION ALLOWED
AMERICAN SEA POWER TO ERODE INTO A SECOND CLASS STATUS.

LET IS NEVER BE SAID THAT WE PERMITTED OUR MERCHANT FLEET TO
DISAPPEAR BY ATTRITION.

ONLY A STRONG AMERICA -- AN AMERICA STRONG OF WILL,
STRONG OF PURPOSE -- CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE FORCE FOR PEACE
IN THE TROUBLED MODERN WORLD. AND A STRONG NAVY AND
MERCHANT MARINE ARE ESSENTIAL TO A STRONG AMERICA.

I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK FOR THAT
KIND OF AN AMERICA. AND I ASK FOR YOUR HELP IN PURSUING
THIS VITAL NATIONAL GOAL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT