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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *de.g.*

PRESIDENT'S TOAST
FOR WORKING DINNER
IN HONOR OF KING HUSSEIN

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1975

YOUR MAJESTY. . .

WELCOME BACK TO WASHINGTON. IT IS ALWAYS A
PLEASURE TO HAVE YOUR MAJESTY AND OUR JORDANIAN FRIENDS
WITH US IN THIS HOUSE. IT IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE FOR ME
TO RECALL THAT YOU WERE MY FIRST VISITOR FROM ABROAD AS
PRESIDENT.

THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE TONIGHT REFLECTS THE
CLOSENESS OF THE TIES BETWEEN OUR NATIONS. WE VALUE
THIS RELATIONSHIP. WE ALSO CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT TO
OUR MUTUAL QUEST FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

YOUR MAJESTY, I APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO
EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH YOU THIS MORNING ON THE SITUATION IN
THE MIDDLE EAST AND ON PROSPECTS FOR PEACE.

I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS
NOT ONLY ESSENTIAL FOR THE PARTIES IN THE AREA BUT ALSO
OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND OF THE WORLD AT LARGE.

THE ISSUE TODAY IS NOT WHETHER WE WILL
CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS BUT HOW WE WILL CONTINUE THEM.
THE ALTERNATIVE OF A STALEMATE IS INTOLERABLE SINCE THE
CONSEQUENCE COULD BE WAR.

OUR INITIAL SUCCESSES IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE -- THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF A CEASEFIRE, LIMITED DISENGAGEMENTS IN THE SINAI
AND GOLAN, PERHAPS MOST SIGNIFICANTLY THE IMPROVED ATTITUDES
IN THE AREA, A PREFERENCE FOR NEGOTIATION RATHER THAN RENEWED
WARFARE AND A WILLINGNESS TO RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF OTHERS TO
EXIST IN PEACE -- WERE IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS.

BUT THE MOMENTUM MUST BE MAINTAINED; THERE MUST BE NEW

PROGRESS. WE ARE EXAMINING ALL WAYS IN WHICH SUCH PROGRESS

CAN BE ACHIEVED. WE ARE OPEN-MINDED AND FORWARD-LOOKING.

WE ARE NOT DEBATING THE PAST. WE ARE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE

FUTURE AND WE HOPE THE PARTIES MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED SHARE

THIS VISION.

YOUR MAJESTY, THROUGHOUT THIS PROCESS WE
HAVE DEEPLY APPRECIATED THE BENEFIT OF YOUR COUNSEL AND
THE FRIENDSHIP OF JORDAN. OUR SUPPORT FOR A SECURE,
STABLE AND PROSPEROUS JORDAN UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP IS AN
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF OUR POLICY.

OUR LONG-STANDING AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP HAS STOOD THE
TESTS OF TIME AND TRIAL. YOU ARE A BRAVE MAN WHO LEADS
A BRAVE NATION. YOUR VOICE OF REASON AND MODERATION IS
IMPORTANT TO JORDAN AND TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE
CAUSE OF PEACE.

WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR VERY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU
AND WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT.

YOUR MAJESTY -- OUR FRIEND -- MAY I PROPOSE A
TOAST TO YOU AND TO YOUR COMMITMENT TO OUR SHARED GOAL
OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

END OF TEXT