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WHITE HOUSE DINNER TOAST

SHAH OF IRAN

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1975

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, THE SHAHANSHAH (SHAH-HAN-SHAH)

AND SHAHBANOU (SHAH-BA-NEW) OF IRAN.

I WARMLY WELCOME YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES TO THE WHITE

HOUSE THIS EVENING. YOUR VISIT HERE IS A TRIBUTE TO THE LONG

LEGACY OF CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE TIES BETWEEN IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

I HOPE YOU WILL THINK OF IT AS A VISIT AMONG OLD FRIENDS.

I AM THE SEVENTH AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO HAVE MET WITH HIS

IMPERIAL MAJESTY. THAT FACT SPEAKS VOLUMES FOR THE CONTINUITY

AND DURATION OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE IMPORTANCE WE

ATTACH TO BROADENING AND DEEPENING THOSE TIES IN THE INTERESTS

OF PEACE AND PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THESE ARE OBJECTIVES TO WHICH THE UNITED STATES REMAINS

COMMITTED. THESE ARE OBJECTIVES IRAN SHARES WITH US. OUR

NATIONS HAVE THUS BEEN BROUGHT TOGETHER IN A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP,

WORKING TOGETHER, COOPERATIVELY, FOR THE PAST SEVERAL DECADES ON

THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING

THIS TRADITION WITH YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY IN THE FUTURE.

AND IT IS A LIVING, GROWING TRADITION. RECENTLY,

OUR COMMON BONDS HAVE ACQUIRED NEW SCOPE, AS IRAN -- UNDER

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S WISE LEADERSHIP -- HAS MADE EXTRAORDINARY

STRIDES IN ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ITS RELATIONS WITH OTHER

COUNTRIES OF ITS REGION AND THE WORLD. THE PROGRESS YOU HAVE

MADE SERVES AS A MODEL TO NATIONS EVERYWHERE.

IRAN HAS MOVED FROM A COUNTRY ONCE IN NEED OF AID TO ONE WHICH LAST YEAR COMMITTED PART OF ITS GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT TO AIDING LESS FORTUNATE NATIONS. IRAN IS ALSO PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A MORE EFFECTIVE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE OIL PRODUCERS, THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

AS AN INDICATION OF IRAN'S ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE ON THE

WORLD SCENE, I AM IMPRESSED THAT CIVILIAN NON-OIL TRADE BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN ALONE IS EXPECTED TO TOTAL OVER TWENTY

BILLION DOLLARS BY 1980.

THE PRESENT PERIOD WILL BE SEEN BY FUTURE HISTORIANS AS A

MAJOR MILESTONE IN IRAN'S ANCIENT AND GLORIOUS HISTORY. THE

LEADER WHOSE VISION AND DYNAMISM HAS BROUGHT IRAN TO THIS STAGE --

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY -- IS CLEARLY ONE OF THE GREAT MEN OF HIS

GENERATION, OF HIS COUNTRY AND OF THE WORLD.

JUST AS IRAN'S ROLE AND POTENTIAL GOES FAR BEYOND HER OWN BOUNDARIES,

SO TOO, IS HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT STATESMEN.

HIS EXPERIENCE OF OVER THIRTY YEARS AS IRAN'S LEADER

HAS BEEN MARKED BY DEDICATION TO PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY AT HOME

AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND COOPERATION

ABROAD. WE VALUE OUR FRIENDSHIP AND OUR TIES WITH IRAN AND

WE WILL REMAIN STRONG IN THAT FRIENDSHIP FOR THE FUTURE.

IN AN INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, WE REMAIN GRATEFUL FOR THE

CONSTRUCTIVE FRIENDSHIP OF IRAN WHICH IS PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE

IN PURSUIT OF A MORE PEACEFUL, STABLE AND PROSPEROUS WORLD --

AND WE, FOR OUR PART, REMAIN CONSTANT IN OUR FRIENDSHIP WITH IRAN.

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO ENSURING THAT OUR TIES ARE CREATIVELY ADJUSTED

TO MEET THE PRESSING PROBLEMS AND CHANGING REALITIES OF THE WORLD.

ON A MORE PERSONAL NOTE, LET ME ADD THAT MRS. FORD AND

I HAVE FELT GREAT PLEASURE IN WELCOMING HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY, THE

SHAHBANOU OF IRAN ON THIS VISIT. YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S

DEDICATION TO PROGRESS WITHIN YOUR COUNTRY IS WIDELY KNOWN,

AS IS YOUR WARMTH, BEAUTY AND GRACIOUSNESS. YOUR PRESENCE

IS A HIGH HONOR FOR US.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I WELCOME OUR DISTINGUISHED

GUESTS, THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, AND I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME IN

PROPOSING A TOAST. TO THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, THE SHAHANSHAH

AND SHAHBANOU OF IRAN.

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