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PRESIDENTIAL TOAST

FOR PRESIDENT SENGHOR

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1975

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MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU AND YOUR DISTINGUISHED
COLLEAGUES ARE HERE WITH US TODAY. THIS, YOUR FOURTH
VISIT TO WASHINGTON, IS A MARK OF THE FRIENDSHIP THAT
EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS.

YOU ARE WELL KNOWN IN OUR COUNTRY,

MR. PRESIDENT. THERE HAVE BEEN MEETINGS BETWEEN YOU
AND EVERY PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES SINCE SENEGAL'S
INDEPENDENCE. AND I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU WILL BE GUEST
OF HONOR NEXT WEEK AT THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE P.E.N.
CLUB, THE INTERNATIONAL WRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

WE RESPECT AND ADMIRE YOU FOR YOUR
ACHIEVEMENTS AS STATESMAN AND POET, AND FOR YOUR
COMMITMENT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND
THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN. WE SHARE YOUR COMMITMENT
TO THESE PRINCIPLES.

MR. PRESIDENT, WE ALSO ADMIRE YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MODERN HISTORY OF SENEGAL. YOUR MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP GUIDED YOUR COUNTRY TO INDEPENDENCE. IN A SHORT FIFTEEN YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF SENEGAL HAVE BUILT A NATION RESPECTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

WE HAVE FOLLOWED WITH SYMPATHY AND CONCERN THE SEVERE DROUGHT IN SENEGAL AND THE OTHER SAHELIAN (SAH-HELL-YAN) STATES. WE ARE GRATIFIED TO BE A PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT ASSISTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR PEOPLE IN BOTH EMERGENCY RELIEF AND LONGER-TERM RECOVERY EFFORTS.

WE KNOW THAT RECOVERY WILL TAKE TIME AND
DETERMINATION, BUT WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION WILL BEAR FRUIT. WE HAVE A COMMON MISSION
AND A COMMON AIM. TO PARAPHRASE YOUR OWN WORDS :
"OUR MISSION IS TO PASTURE THE HERDS AND SUBDUE THE DESERT
TO THE GODS OF FRUITFULNESS."

MR. PRESIDENT, THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD
TODAY ON WORLD ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN HAVE BEEN MOST
REWARDING. I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR THE BENEFIT
OF YOUR VIEWS ON THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN AFRICA.
YOUR SUPPORT OF PEACEFUL CHANGE IN AFRICA IS WELL KNOWN
TO US.

FINALLY, THERE IS ONE CENTRAL MESSAGE I WOULD
ASK YOU TO CONVEY NOT ONLY TO YOUR OWN COUNTRYMEN,
BUT TO ALL AFRICANS: MY ADMINISTRATION SEEKS EVER
CLOSER TIES WITH AFRICA. WE SEEK AFRICAN COOPERATION
IN SOLVING OUR COMMON PROBLEMS.

WE WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS.
WE WANT TO BE HELPFUL WHEREVER WE CAN.

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MR. PRESIDENT, LET ME SAY AGAIN HOW PLEASED

WE ARE TO HAVE YOU AND YOUR COLLEAGUES HERE TODAY.

AND LET ME PROPOSE A TOAST TO YOU, SIR, TO THE REPUBLIC

OF SENEGAL, AND TO THE CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR

TWO COUNTRIES.

END OF TEXT

MR. PRESIDENT, THE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HAD
TODAY ON WORLD ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN HAVE BEEN MOST
REWARDING. I AM PARTICULARLY GRATEFUL FOR THE BENEFIT
OF YOUR VIEWS ON THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN AFRICA.
YOUR SUPPORT OF PEACEFUL CHANGE IN AFRICA IS WELL KNOWN
TO US.

THE UNITED STATES JOINS YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS TO ADVANCE
MAJORITY RULE AND RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL
IN AFRICA.

*Mr. President
Brent Scowcroft had approved
this but now agrees you
should not say it x
RWA*

THE UNITED STATES JOINS YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS TO ADVANCE
MAJORITY RULE AND RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR ALL
IN AFRICA.