The original documents are located in Box 9, folder "5/28/75 - Departure Statement from Andrews Air Force Base" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THIS TRIP TO EUROPE HAS GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR ALL

AMERICANS. WE LIVE IN A WORLD IN WHICH ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE

TO THIS NATION -- INCLUDING ENERGY, THE ECONOMY, AND OUR

SECURITY -- ARE CLOSELY LINKED TO OUR RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS.

- 2 -

OUR FIRST STOP WILL BE IN BRUSSELS WHERE I WILL MEET
WITH THE LEADERS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE TO JOINTLY ASSESS
THE STATE OF THE NATO ALLIANCE AND PLAN ITS FUTURE. I WANT TO
REAFFIRM AT THIS TIME THE UNITED STATES' COMMITMENT TO THE NORTH
ATLANTIC TREATY WHICH IS VITAL TO AMERICAN SECURITY AND

WELL-BEING.

IN SPAIN I WILL REVIEW WITH SPANISH LEADERS OUR EXPANDING COOPERATION, AS SPAIN ASSUMES AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN BOTH ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS.

- 4 -

IN AUSTRIA, MY MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SADAT OF EGYPT
WILL CENTER ON MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS AND THE EVOLUTION OF
U.S.-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. AMERICAN INTERESTS, AS WELL AS THOSE
OF OUR ALLIES. DEPEND UPON EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

OUR POLICY IS AIMED AT ONE GOAL -- THAT OF ACHIEVING A JUST

PEACE. I ALSO WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY WHILE IN AUSTRIA TO

MEET AGAIN WITH CHANCELLOR KREISKY.

- 6 -

FOLLOWING THE NATO SUMMIT IN BRUSSELS, MY MEETINGS
IN ROME WITH PRESIDENT LEONE AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE ITALIAN
GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT US TO REVIEW THE MANY IMPORTANT INTERESTS
WE SHARE AS ALLIES. AND AS GOOD FRIENDS.

AND I LOOK FORWARD WITH PLEASURE TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET
WITH HIS HOLINE'SS POPE PAUL THE SIXTH TO DISCUSS HUMANITARIAN
SUBJECTS OF IMPORTANCE TO PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

- 8 -

THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE ON THIS BRIEF TRIP.

DETERMINED, WITH ITS ALLIES, TO SAFEGUARD OUR VITAL INTERESTS.

THE UNITED STATES IS EQUALLY DETERMINED TO REDUCE THE CHANCES OF CONFLICT, TO INCREASE COOPERATION AND TO ENHANCE THE WELL-BEING OF AMERICANS AND ALL PEOPLES.

- 10 -

I GO DETERMINED TO ADVANCE OUR COMMON INTERESTS
WITH OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES AND WITH PRIDE IN OUR GREAT COUNTRY.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

END OF TEXT