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THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID *af*

## OPENING STATEMENT FOR PRESS CONFERENCE

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 1975

- 1 -

1. LET ME FIRST SET OUT THE BASIC REASONS WHY WE WELCOMED THE UNITED KINGDOM'S PROPOSAL FOR THIS MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND WHY WE GAVE IT SUPPORT AND THOUGHT IT WAS TIMELY.

THE MAIN REASONS FOR OUR REACTION.

-- WE WANTED TO REAFFIRM THE NEED FOR UNDIMINISHED  
DEFENSE EFFORTS AND TO HAVE A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEMS  
ASSOCIATED WITH COLLECTIVE DEFENSE.

-- SECOND, WE WANTED AN OPPORTUNITY IN THIS ATLANTIC  
FORUM TO REVIEW THE ISSUES ON WHAT WE HAVE CALLED THE "NEW AGENDA"  
-- THE ENERGY PROBLEM AND ITS RAMIFICATIONS, THE FOOD PROBLEM,  
THE INTER-ACTION OF NATIONAL ECONOMIES.

WE THINK -- AND VERY MUCH AGREE WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND  
OTHERS -- THAT THESE PROBLEMS AFFECT THE WELL BEING AND FUTURE  
OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE AS MUCH AS WOULD A POTENTIAL  
MILITARY THREAT.

OF COURSE WE KNOW THAT THERE ARE OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES TO DEAL  
SPECIFICALLY WITH THESE PROBLEMS, BUT WE FEEL THAT THIS POLITICAL  
FORUM IS A GOOD AND SUITABLE ONE IN WHICH TO HAVE A BROAD  
DISCUSSION OF OUR APPROACHES:

-- THIRD, WE FELT IT TIMELY TO REVIEW THE STATUS OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS -- THE PROGRESS OF OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MEANINGFUL DETENTE WITH THE COUNTRIES OF THE EAST. THIS IS PARTICULARLY SO BECAUSE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON COOPERATION AND SECURITY IN EUROPE (CSCE) IS IN ITS DECISIVE PHASE.

-- FOURTH AND FINALLY, THERE ARE CLEARLY SOME PROBLEMS WITHIN THE ALLIANCE ITSELF; WE FELT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THESE AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, TO HAVE SOME BILATERAL AND PRIVATE CONTACTS.

AMONG THESE PROBLEMS IS THE DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY,  
AND THE UNCERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL WHICH CONCERN US.

I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY PLEASED BY THE TONE AND CONTENT  
OF THE REMARKS THAT WERE MADE AROUND THE NATO TABLE. I FEEL  
THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS, THE NUMEROUS BILATERAL CONTACTS, THE  
INFORMAL TALKS AT THE KING'S DINNER LAST NIGHT AND THE SECRETARY  
GENERAL'S LUNCHEON TODAY, AND THE FINAL PUBLIC STATEMENT FULLY  
JUSTIFIED THIS MEETING.

IN TERMS OF OUR OBJECTIVES:

-- THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE ALLIES IN A STRONG DEFENSE AND IN SAFEGUARDING OUR SECURITY BY COMMON EFFORT WERE REAFFIRMED; AND WE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT THERE IS MUCH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THIS AREA, INCLUDING WITH RESPECT TO MORE EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING RESOURCES.

-11-

I THINK NEW IMPETUS HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE WORK OF THE MILITARY BODIES OF THE ALLIANCE.

-- ALL OF US CAME AWAY, I THINK, WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY IN DEALING WITH THE ITEMS ON THE NEW AGENDA AND WE WERE ESPECIALLY PLEASED TO HEAR CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S REVIEW OF THE ISSUES.

I THINK THIS WAS A GOOD EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL WILL BY THE ALLIES,  
FOLLOWING THE RECENT SESSIONS OF IEA AND OECD.

-- WE REAFFIRMED THE NEED FOR GIVING DETENTE REAL  
MEANING IN TERMS OF THE VALUES OF OUR COUNTRIES; WE AGREED TO  
CONTINUE THE CLOSE AND FULL CONSULTATIONS AMONG THE ALLIES ON  
EAST-WEST RELATIONS AS WELL AS TO CONTINUE TO POOL OUR EFFORTS IN  
ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS LIKE CSCE AND MBFR.



-- WE FACED ALLIANCE PROBLEMS IN A MATURE AND I  
THINK QUITE CONSTRUCTIVE WAY. I WAS STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT  
ALL ALLIES STRESSED COMMON INTERESTS, EVEN WHEN, AS IN THE CASE  
OF GREECE AND TURKEY, THERE EXIST DIFFERENCES ON PARTICULAR ISSUES.

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IT IS A MEASURE OF THE GENERAL SENSE OF SATISFACTION  
WITH THIS MEETING THAT QUITE SPONTANEOUSLY THERE AROSE SENTIMENT  
FOR HOLDING THESE HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS AT MORE REGULAR INTERVALS  
AS PROPOSED BY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU. I WOULD STRONGLY  
SUPPORT THIS.

WE CAN BE QUITE FLEXIBLE ABOUT THE PRECISE MANNER IN WHICH SUCH MEETINGS ARE PREPARED AND HELD. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE WAS WIDESPREAD FEELING AMONG THE ALLIES THAT CONTACT AT THE HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVELS IS VALUABLE.

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FINALLY, I FOUND IT NOTEWORTHY THAT MANY ALLIES STRESSED THAT THEY DID NOT FEEL IN NEED OF ANY SPECIAL AMERICAN REASSURANCE CONCERNING OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE. THEY STRESSED THAT THEY CONSIDER OUR COMMITMENT FIRM AND VIGOROUS. THEIR CONFIDENCE IN US IS FULLY JUSTIFIED.

(USE FOR QUESTIONS ONLY)

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SPAIN. AS YOU KNOW I POINTED TO THE ROLE PLAYED BY SPAIN IN CONTRIBUTING TO WESTERN DEFENSE THROUGH THE BILATERAL U.S.-SPANISH DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS. WITHOUT SPEAKING FOR OTHER ALLIES ON THIS, I BELIEVE THIS FACT IS UNDERSTOOD.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO FAVOR A SPANISH RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ALLIANCE EVEN IF WE RECOGNIZE THE UNLIKELIHOOD THAT THIS WILL BE ACHIEVEABLE IMMEDIATELY . BUT IT IS AN ISSUE THAT FACES THE ALLIANCE.

PORTUGAL. WE HAD AN EXTREMELY CANDID TALK WITH THE  
PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER AND HIS COLLEAGUES. HE EXPLAINED  
IN HIS COUNTRY AND THE GOALS OF THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT THERE.  
I SPOKE FRANKLY ABOUT OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE DEMOCRACY  
IN PORTUGAL, AFTER ALL OF US GREETED THE REVOLUTION OF LAST YEAR

WITH SO MUCH HOPE AND SYMPATHY. EQUALLY, I POINTED TO THE  
CONTRADICTION THAT WOULD ARISE IF COMMUNISTS CAME TO DOMINATE  
THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE COUNTRY. OTHER ALLIES, I BELIEVE, FEEL  
SIMILAR CONCERNS. THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE  
SITUATION MUST CONTINUE TO BE WATCHED WITH CARE AND CONCERN BUT

ALSO WITH SYMPATHY AND FRIENDSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL.

END OF TEXT