The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “5/31/75 - Dinner Toast in Madrid” of
the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford
Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice
The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of
photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United
States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.
Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public
domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to
remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid
copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.
GENERALISSIMO FRANCO, MRS. FRANCO, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESSES,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FRIENDS:

IN 1953 OUR TWO NATIONS EMBARKED ON A COURSE DESIGNED

to increase our cooperation and to enhance our security. Our

relationship is succeeding in its purposes. The independence

of the west has been preserved.
WE HAVE PROSPERED IN A MANNER THAT WOULD NOT BEEN EXPECTED A QUARTER-CENTURY AGO. OUR NATIONS HAVE BOTH BENEFITED.

TODAY'S CHALLENGES ARE EVEN MORE COMPLEX. WE MUST MAINTAIN STRONG AND CREDIBLE DEFENSES WHILE WE WORK TO LESSEN TENSIONS. WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY INTERDEPENDENT; COOPERATION BECOMES EVER MORE IMPORTANT.
WE ARE BOTH PROUD OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, YET WE RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER. EACH YEAR MARKS INCREASING CONTACTS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SPANISH AND AMERICAN PEOPLES IN A GROWING NUMBER OF FIELDS RANGING FROM MEDICINE TO URBAN DEVELOPMENT, TO THE ARTS, AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE AND EDUCATION.

TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TOMORROW, WE MUST CONTINUE OUR COOPERATION. AND I KNOW THIS IS OUR SHARED OBJECTIVE. AS RECOGNIZED IN THE 1974 JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, OUR JOINT ENDEAVORS HAVE STRENGTHENED THE CAUSE OF PEACE. SPAIN, THROUGH ITS BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES, IS MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO WESTERN DEFENSE.
OTHER NATIONS OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC COMMUNITY HAVE BENEFITTED FROM OUR COOPERATION.

IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WE ARE PREPARED TO DRAW PRACTICAL CONSEQUENCES FROM THESE FACTS.

WE ARE BOTH MEMBERS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CREATED TO INCREASE COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS, SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY. SUCH TIES SHOULD BE CONTINUALLY BROADENED AND STRENGTHENED. WE ARE DETERMINED THAT THEY SHALL BE.
YOUR EXCELLENCY, THE WARMTH OF YOUR WELCOME TODAY AND THE HOSPITALITY OF THE PEOPLE OF SPAIN HAS BEEN VERY IMPORTANT TO US. THIS DELIGHTFUL DINNER IN SUCH SPLENDID SURROUNDINGS WITH SO MANY FRIENDS HAS BEEN THE CLIMAX OF A DAY FILLED WITH DEEPLY MOVING EXPERIENCES -- FROM THE DEMONSTRATION OF AFFECTION BY

THE SPANISH PEOPLE WHO GREETED US TODAY TO RENEWING MY FRIENDSHIPS WITH YOU AND PRINCE JUAN CARLOS AND TO EXCHANGING IDEAS FOR THE FIRST TIME, IN A MOST PROFITABLE WAY, WITH PRESIDENT ARIAS NAVARRO. THESE WERE REWARDING EXPERIENCES. THEY ARE ELOQUENT TESTIMONY TO THE DEPTH OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
I LIFT MY GLASS TO SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, TO OUR GROWING FRIENDSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD, TO GENERALISSIMO FRANCO, TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, AND TO THE SPANISH PEOPLE.

END OF TEXT