The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “6/11/75 - Toast for Working Dinner Honoring Prime Minister Rabin” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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MR. PRIME MINISTER, I AM HAPPY TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO WASHINGTON. YOUR VISIT GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECIPROCATE THE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAVE SHOWN TO MANY OF MY FELLOW AMERICANS.
OUR MEETINGS COME AT AN IMPORTANT MOMENT FOR BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. AS AMERICANS FACE OUR NATION'S TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE REVIEWING THE PAST IN SEARCH OF THOSE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN VALUES WHICH CHARACTERIZE THE BEST THAT AMERICA CAN OFFER.

THE MOST BASIC OF THESE IS THE DESIRE FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE AND THE RIGHT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL TO LIVE IN PEACE. I KNOW THAT ISRAEL SHARES THESE VALUES.
IT IS THIS SHARING WHICH IS THE BASIS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP --
OF THE UNITED STATES' STRONG AND CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE
STATE OF ISRAEL AND OF ISRAEL'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE ESSENTIAL
INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES.

MR. PRIME MINISTER, WHEN WE MET IN WASHINGTON
NINE MONTHS AGO, WE JOINTLY REAFFIRMED THE NEED TO CONTINUE
OUR INTENSIVE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE. WE THEN RECOGNIZED
THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF NEGOTIATIONS
TOWARD THIS END. HAVING ADMIRE YOU AS AMBASSADOR, WE
FOUND IT EASY TO ESTABLISH A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP.
HE AGREED THAT IT WAS IN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST THAT THESE EFFORTS SUCCEED AND THAT IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY IF THEY FAILED. THERE MUST NOT BE STAGNATION IN OUR WORK FOR PEACE. WE MET TODAY TO ENSURE THAT THIS DOES NOT OCCUR, TO SEEK PROGRESS TOWARD A TRULY JUST AND DURABLE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I CONSIDERED THE MEETING VERY CONSTRUCTIVE. WITH PERSEVERANCE, WE SHALL SUCCEED.

GENTLEMEN, LET ME THEN ASK THAT YOU JOIN ME IN A TOAST

-- TO SUCCESS IN THESE EFFORTS TO ATTAIN A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST; TO THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES; AND TO AN INDIVIDUAL OF DEDICATION AND COURAGE IN THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY -- THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL, YITZAK RABIN.

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