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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *dy*

TOAST FOR WORKING DINNER
HONORING PRIME MINISTER RABIN

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1975

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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.

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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 ADMIRERD YOU AS AMBASSADOR, WE
FOUND IT EASY TO ESTABLISH A CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP.

WE 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.

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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. END OF TEXT