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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

REMARKS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 1975

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS - AMERICAN LEGION

Thank you, Commander Wagonseller

Governor Anderson

Senator Humphry

Representative Quie

Representative Hagedorn

Mrs. Kubby

Distinguished Guests

Legionnaires

Ladies and Gentlemen

I COMMEND THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR ITS CONSTANT

PATRIOTISM IN PEACE AS IN WAR.

YOU GIVE LIFE AND

MEANING TO OUR MOTTO "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY."

AS

PRESIDENT, I SALUTE YOU AND SAY FOR ALL AMERICANS:

HANG IN THERE!

*All I you know how
around 2 hrs of my 30 years as a
member of Post 258, Fremont City Post.*

I AM GLAD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO TALK
WITH MY FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES ABOUT TWO THINGS WHICH THE
AMERICAN LEGION HAS ALWAYS HELD DEAR: FREEDOM AND PEACE --
FOR OUR COUNTRY AND FOR THE WORLD.

FREEDOM ALWAYS COMES FIRST. LET THERE

BE NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. PATRICK HENRY ANSWERED

THAT QUESTION FOR US TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. THE

MARINES, SEAMEN AND AIRMEN WHO RESCUED THE MAYAGUEZ

GAVE THE SAME CLEAR ANSWER -- WHICH WAS HEARD 'ROUND

THE WORLD. ALL AMERICANS ARE PROUD OF THEIR SUCCESS.

BUT IN TODAY'S WORLD OF TECHNOLOGICAL TERROR,
WITH WEAPONS OF AWESOME SOPHISTICATION AND DESTRUCTIVENESS,
IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW FREEDOM AS WE KNOW IT COULD
SURVIVE ANOTHER ALL-OUT WAR. IT IS EVEN QUESTIONABLE
WHETHER A FREE SOCIETY SUCH AS OURS COULD SURVIVE AN
ALL-OUT, UNRESTRICTED ARMS RACE.

WE ARE, THEREFORE, CONFRONTED WITH THE
DILEMMA THAT HAS FACED THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR
GOVERNMENT SINCE THE POST-WAR ADMINISTRATIONS OF
PRESIDENTS TRUMAN AND EISENHOWER.

HOW DO WE PRESERVE, PROTECT AND DEFEND
OUR OWN FREEDOM AND THAT OF OUR ALLIES ?

HOW DO WE ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM
WORLDWIDE? AND HOW DO WE, AT THE SAME TIME,
PRESERVE THE GENERAL PEACE AND CREATE CONDITIONS THAT
REDUCE THE CHANCES OF MAJOR WAR?

HOW DO WE CONTROL THE TREMENDOUS COSTS OF
MAINTAINING THE CAPABILITIES REQUIRED FOR A POTENTIAL
MAJOR WAR?

THESE ARE EXCEEDINGLY DIFFICULT QUESTIONS TO
ANSWER. AT TIMES, WE HAVE COME PERILOUSLY CLOSE
TO A MAJOR MILITARY CONFRONTATION. WE HAVE SUFFERED
SERIOUS SETBACKS. AND WE ARE STILL UNABLE TO RESOLVE
SOME DANGEROUS CONFLICTS FESTERING ON NEARLY EVERY
CONTINENT IN THE WORLD.

BUT WE HAVE PREVENTED ^{III}WORLD WAR THREE.

WE HAVE PRESERVED CIVILIZATION. FEW WHO REMEMBER

THE IMMEDIATE PERIOD AFTER WORLD WAR TWO WOULD SAY

THAT THE WORLD IS NOT CALMER AND BETTER OFF TODAY THAN IT WAS.

THE FREE WORLD, AS WE DEFINE IT, IS ESSENTIALLY
INTACT AFTER 30 YEARS OF AN UNEASY PEACE BETWEEN THE SUPER
POWERS, \ INSTABILITY IN FORMER COLONIAL AREAS AND SPORADIC
OUTBREAKS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL VIOLENCE. AND THREE
DECADES OF THIS IMPERFECT PEACE HAVE PERMITTED UNPRECEDENTED
GAINS IN PRODUCTIVITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS FOR MUCH
OF MANKIND, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES.

SOME FUNDAMENTAL LESSONS WERE LEARNED IN THIS PERIOD. THEY MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN.

FIRST, \ THE MILITARY MIGHT, \ MATERIAL STRENGTH
AND MORAL PURPOSE OF THE UNITED STATES WERE ABSOLUTELY

ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVE THE PRESENT LEVEL OF INTERNATIONAL STABILITY. THEY REMAIN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL.

WE ARE STILL THE PRINCIPAL DEFENDER OF FREEDOM IN THE WORLD.

SECOND, \ OUR ENORMOUS DEFENSE CAPABILITY AND

ITS ECONOMIC BASE HAVE BEEN REINFORCED BY THE GROWING

RESOURCES OF OUR ALLIES IN EUROPE AND THE PACIFIC --

AND BY THE INCREASING INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL

DEMOCRACIES IN BOTH MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AREAS.

THIS MUST CONTINUE.

THIRD, THE POLICIES OF FIVE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS
BEFORE ME FOR STRONG NATIONAL DEFENSE, FOR REDUCTION OF
EAST-WEST TENSIONS AND THE THREAT OF THERMO-NUCLEAR WAR,
AND FOR THE BOLSTERING OF OUR ESSENTIAL ALLIES HAVE HAD
THE UNSWERVING AND NONPARTISAN SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS
AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. I WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK THAT
SUPPORT. TODAY, I ASK YOU, MY FELLOW LEGIONNAIRES,
TO HELP ME ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE.

WE SHARE A DEEP CONCERN OVER THE CRACKS NOW
APPEARING IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF ESSENTIAL NATIONAL UNITY
ON DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY.

WITHOUT A CLEAR CONSENSUS AMONG 214 MILLION
AMERICANS, THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES AS THE CHAMPION
OF FREEDOM AND PEACE IN THE WORLD WOULD BE CRIPPLED
SERIOUSLY IF NOT FATALLY.

THE ABILITY OF A PRESIDENT TO CARRY OUT HIS CONSTITUTIONAL
DUTIES WOULD BE DANGEROUSLY DIMINISHED. THE TEMPTATION
TO POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY APPARENT
WEAKNESS, DISUNITY AND INDECISION COULD BECOME IRRESISTABLE.
WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND THAT OF OTHER AMERICANS, MY
ADMINISTRATION WILL GIVE THEM NO SUCH TEMPTATION.

GEORGE WASHINGTON SAID THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE

PEACE IS TO BE PREPARED FOR WAR. IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER,

EACH OF PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S SUCCESSORS HAS REPEATED

THAT TRUTH. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE HISTORICALLY

IGNORED IT. WE HAVE ABRUPTLY DEMOBILIZED AFTER EVERY

WAR -- AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMERICANS PAID DEARLY

FOR THIS FOLLY. I SEE SOME DANGER SIGNS OF OUR

DOING IT AGAIN -- WITH THE STAKES INFINITELY HIGHER

THAN EVER BEFORE.

THAT IS WHY I SAY TO YOU TODAY -- I AM

DETERMINED TO RESIST UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT.

I AM COMMITTED TO KEEPING AMERICA'S DEFENSES

SECOND TO NONE.

NOW THAT AMERICANS ARE NO LONGER FIGHTING

ON ANY FRONT, THERE ARE MANY SINCERE BUT SHORT-SIGHTED

AMERICANS WHO BELIEVE THAT THE BILLIONS FOR DEFENSE COULD

BE BETTER SPENT FOR SOCIAL PROGRAMS TO HELP THE POOR

AND DISADVANTAGED. BUT I AM CONVINCED THAT ADEQUATE

SPENDING FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE IS AN INSURANCE POLICY

FOR PEACE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT.

IT IS MOST VALUABLE IF WE NEVER NEED TO USE IT,

BUT -- WITHOUT IT -- WE COULD BE WIPED OUT.

CERTAINLY THE MOST IMPORTANT SOCIAL OBLIGATION

OF GOVERNMENT IS TO GUARANTEE ALL CITIZENS -- INCLUDING

THE DISADVANTAGED -- SUFFICIENT PROTECTION OF THEIR LIVES

AND FREEDOMS AGAINST OUTSIDE ATTACK. TODAY, THAT

PROTECTION IS OUR PRINCIPAL HOPE OF PEACE. WHAT EXPENSE

ITEM IN OUR FEDERAL BUDGET IS MORE ESSENTIAL?

THIS IS ONE PLACE WHERE SECOND-BEST IS

WORTH NOTHING.

THE PROPORTION OF FEDERAL SPENDING FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE PROPORTION OF OUR GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT GOING FOR DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS HAVE DECLINED IN RECENT YEARS.

THE DOLLAR FIGURES IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET GO UP BECAUSE OF INFLATION. BUT THE WEAPONS WE CAN PURCHASE AND THE

PERSONNEL WE CAN AFFORD HAVE DECLINED.

DURING THE VIETNAM WAR, DEFENSE SPENDING

CONCENTRATED ON CURRENT COMBAT REQUIREMENTS, SHORT-CHANGING

OUR LONG-RANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IF

OUR TECHNOLOGICAL LEAD IS NOT RAPIDLY RECOVERED, THIS

COULD BE FATAL TO OUR QUALITATIVE SUPERIORITY IN THE FUTURE.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS IN THE PENTAGON MUST BE AN EQUAL PARTNER

WITH THE BEST IN PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS IN MAINTAINING

PEACE AND DETERRING WAR.

OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES ARE CERTAINLY NOT

REDUCING THE LEVELS OF THEIR MILITARY POWER. THE

UNITED STATES MUST BE ALERT AND STRONG.

THE DEFENSE BUDGET WHICH I SUBMITTED FOR

FISCAL YEAR 1976 REPRESENTS UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES

THE BARE MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR OUR SAFETY. I WILL

VIGOROUSLY RESIST ALL MAJOR CUTS IN EVERY WAY I CAN.

FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR -- 1977 -- I HOPE
TO HOLD DOWN OUR SPENDING ON NUCLEAR FORCES. THIS
TENTATIVE JUDGMENT IS CONDITIONED ON REAL PROGRESS IN
SALT TWO. BUT THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
MUST REALIZE THAT, UNLESS AGREEMENT IS ACHIEVED, I WILL
HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RECOMMEND TO THE CONGRESS AN
ADDITIONAL TWO TO THREE BILLION DOLLARS FOR STRATEGIC
WEAPONS PROGRAMS IN THE CURRENT AND COMING FISCAL YEARS.

IN RECENT WEEKS, THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL
SAID ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF DETENTE. TODAY, LET ME
TELL YOU WHAT I THINK ABOUT DETENTE.

FIRST OF ALL, THE WORD IS CONFUSING. ITS
MEANING IS NOT CLEAR TO EVERYBODY. FRENCH IS A
BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE -- THE CLASSIC LANGUAGE OF DIPLOMACY.

BUT I WISH THERE WERE ONE SIMPLE ENGLISH WORD TO SUBSTITUTE

FOR DETENTE. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ISN'T. RELATIONS

BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO STRONGEST NUCLEAR POWERS CAN'T BE

SUMMED UP IN A CATCH PHRASE. DETENTE LITERALLY MEANS

"EASING" OR "RELAXING" -- BUT DEFINITELY NOT THE RELAXING OF

DILIGENCE OR EASING OF EFFORT. RATHER, IT MEANS

MOVEMENT AWAY FROM THE CONSTANT CRISIS AND DANGEROUS

CONFRONTATION THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS WITH THE

SOVIET UNION.

THE PROCESS OF DETENTE -- AND IT IS A PROCESS --
LOOKS TOWARD A SANER AND SAFER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN US
AND THE SOVIET UNION. IT REPRESENTS OUR BEST EFFORT
TO COOL THE COLD WAR WHICH ON OCCASION BECAME MUCH TOO HOT
FOR COMFORT.

TO ME, DETENTE MEANS A FERVENT DESIRE FOR PEACE †

BUT NOT PEACE AT ANY PRICE.

IT MEANS THE PRESERVATION OF FUNDAMENTAL

AMERICAN PRINCIPLES † NOT THEIR SACRIFICE.

IT MEANS MAINTAINING THE STRENGTH TO COMMAND

RESPECT FROM OUR ADVERSARIES AND TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP

TO OUR FRIENDS - NOT LETTING DOWN OUR GUARD OR

DISMANTLING OUR DEFENSES OR NEGLECTING OUR ALLIES.

IT MEANS PEACEFUL RIVALRY BETWEEN POLITICAL AND

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS - NOT THE CURBING OF OUR COMPETITIVE

EFFORTS. SINCE THE AMERICAN SYSTEM DEPENDS ON FREEDOM,

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR PHILOSOPHY WILL PREVAIL.

FREEDOM IS STILL THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.

DETENTE MEANS MODERATE AND RESTRAINED BEHAVIOR

BETWEEN TWO SUPER POWERS



- NOT A LICENSE TO FISH IN

TROUBLED WATERS.

IT MEANS MUTUAL RESPECT AND RECIPROCITY f

NOT UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS OR ONE-SIDED AGREEMENTS.

WITH THIS ATTITUDE I SHALL WORK WITH DETERMINATION

FOR A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

THE U.S. HAS NOTHING

TO FEAR FROM PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE.

ALTHOUGH WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO,

WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS: A DEFUSING OF THE BERLIN TIME-BOMB,

THE ABM TREATY, THE FIRST SALT AGREEMENTS AND PROGRESS

ON SALT TWO, THE START OF MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE

REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS IN EUROPE, AND OTHER ARMS CONTROL

AGREEMENTS REGARDING SPACE, THE SEABEDS AND GERM

WARFARE.

WE HAVE ALSO ESTABLISHED THE BASIS FOR PROGRESS TOWARDS
DETENTE AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AS A RESULT OF THE
SUMMIT MEETING OF 35 NATIONS IN HELSINKI. BUT THE
PRINCIPLES WE ADOPTED THERE/NOW MUST BE PUT INTO PRACTICE.
WE CANNOT RAISE THE HOPES OF OUR PEOPLE AND SHATTER THEM
BY UNKEPT PROMISES.

WE ARE NOW CAREFULLY WATCHING SOME SERIOUS
SITUATIONS FOR INDICATIONS OF THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARDS
DETENTE AND COOPERATION IN EUROPEAN SECURITY. THE
SITUATION IN PORTUGAL IS ONE OF THEM. WE ARE DEEPLY
CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM IN PORTUGAL --
AS WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF
PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

THE REALITY OF THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION IS

APPARENT TO ALL. THE WISHES OF A MODERATE MAJORITY

HAVE BEEN SUBVERTED BY FORCES MORE DETERMINED THAN

REPRESENTATIVE. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE SHEER WEIGHT

OF NUMBERS -- THE 80 PERCENT OF THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE

WHO SUPPORT THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS -- WILL PREVAIL

IN THIS CONFLICT OF IDEOLOGIES.

BUT THEY MUST FIND THE SOLUTION IN AN ATMOSPHERE THAT IS
FREE FROM THE PRESSURES OF OUTSIDE INTERESTS.

SO FAR, MY MEETINGS WITH GENERAL SECRETARY
BREZHNEV IN VLADIVOSTOK AND HELSINKI HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE
AND HELPFUL. FUTURE SUCCESS WILL DEPEND ON CONCRETE
DEVELOPMENTS.

PEACE IS THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE FOREIGN
AND DEFENSE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES. IT IS EASY
TO BE A COLD WARRIOR IN PEACETIME. BUT IT WOULD BE
IRRESPONSIBLE FOR A PRESIDENT TO ENGAGE IN CONFRONTATIONS
WHEN CONSULTATIONS WOULD ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE.
SO I SAY TO YOU -- AS I SAID TO MR. BREZHNEV AND THE
LEADERS OF OTHER EUROPEAN NATIONS AND CANADA IN HELSINKI --
PEACE IS CRUCIAL / BUT FREEDOM MUST COME FIRST.

THOSE WHO PROCLAIMED AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE

ALMOST 200 YEARS AGO ASSERTED NOT MERELY THAT ALL AMERICANS

SHOULD ENJOY LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS,

BUT THAT ALL MEN EVERYWHERE ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR

WITH SUCH INALIENABLE RIGHTS.

I TOLD THE LEADERS OF EUROPE THAT THESE PRINCIPLES,
THOUGH STILL BEING PERFECTED, REMAIN THE GUIDING LIGHTS
OF AMERICAN POLICY; THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE STILL
DEDICATED TO THE UNIVERSAL ADVANCEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS
AND HUMAN FREEDOM IMPLICIT IN THE HELSINKI DECLARATIONS.

IT GAVE ME GREAT PRIDE / AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR
THE UNITED STATES AT HELSINKI / TO SAY TO BOTH EAST AND WEST:
MY COUNTRY AND ITS PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM HAVE GIVEN HOPE
TO MILLIONS IN EUROPE AND ON EVERY CONTINENT AND STILL DOES.

ON THE OTHER HAND, I EMPHASIZED THAT WE ARE
TIRED OF HAVING OUR HOPES RAISED AND THEN SHATTERED BY
EMPTY WORDS AND UNKEPT PROMISES.

I REMINDED ALL THAT DETENTE MUST BE A TWO-WAY
STREET BECAUSE TENSIONS CANNOT BE EASED WITH SAFETY AND
SECURITY BY ONE SIDE ALONE.

THROUGH DETENTE, I HOPE THAT WE ARE ON A TWO-WAY
STREET WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BUT UNTIL I AM CERTAIN
OF REAL PROGRESS, I MUST RESERVE FINAL JUDGMENTS ABOUT
THE DEFENSE BUDGET AND PARTICULARLY OUR PLANS FOR STRATEGIC
NUCLEAR FORCES.

WE WILL, THEREFORE, CONTINUE TO SEEK MEANINGFUL
ARMS AGREEMENTS. BUT THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE ONLY WITH
SUFFICIENT AND CREDIBLE STRENGTH OF OUR OWN AND IN CONCERT
WITH OUR ALLIES. MOREOVER, ANY AGREEMENTS WE REACH
MUST BE VERIFIABLE FOR OUR SECURITY. THAT IS, WE MUST
POSSESS THE MEANS OF MAKING SURE THAT THEY ARE BEING HONORED.

THE TIME IS NOT YET COME WHEN WE CAN ENTRUST

OUR HOPES FOR PEACE TO A PIECE OF PAPER.

THUS, ANOTHER ESSENTIAL ELEMENT TO ANY REAL
ARMS LIMITATION, WHETHER OF STRATEGIC SYSTEMS OR
CONVENTIONAL FORCES, IS OUR OWN INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITY.

SWEEPING ATTACKS, OVERLY GENERALIZED, AGAINST OUR
INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES, JEOPARDIZE VITAL FUNCTIONS NECESSARY
TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY.

TODAY'S SENSATIONS MUST NOT BE THE PRELUDE

TO TOMORROW'S PEARL HARBOR.

I CERTAINLY DO NOT CONDONE IMPROPER ACTIVITIES
OR VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF AMERICANS
BY ANY PERSONNEL OR AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

ON THE BASIS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE
AGENCIES BY THE ROCKEFELLER COMMISSION AND BY THE MURPHY
COMMISSION ON THE CONDUCT OF FOREIGN POLICY, I WILL TAKE
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATION TO THE
CONGRESS FOR WHATEVER MUST BE DONE TO PREVENT FUTURE ABUSES.

INTELLIGENCE IN TODAY'S WORLD IS ABSOLUTELY
ESSENTIAL TO OUR NATION'S SECURITY - EVEN OUR SURVIVAL,
IT MAY BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN PEACE THAN IN WAR.

ANY RECKLESS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION TO CRIPPLE THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR INTELLIGENCE SERVICES IN LEGITIMATE
OPERATIONS WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC.

OUR POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES AND EVEN SOME OF

OUR FRIENDS OPERATE IN ALL INTELLIGENCE FIELDS WITH SECRECY,

SKILL AND SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES. I KNOW -- AND

YOU KNOW -- THAT WHAT WE NEED IS AN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE

CAPACITY SECOND TO NONE.

FINALLY, AND THIS RELATES BOTH TO OUR VITAL
INTELLIGENCE INSTALLATIONS AND TO THE IMPERATIVE NEED TO
STRENGTHEN KEY ALLIANCES SUCH AS NATO, LET US NOW
CONSIDER OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR FRIEND AND ALLY OF
MANY YEARS, TURKEY. HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN TO A
FRIEND AND ALLY WHY ARMS PREVIOUSLY ORDERED AND PAID
FOR ARE NOT BEING DELIVERED?

HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN TO YOUR OTHER ALLIES THE POTENTIAL

DAMAGE THIS MAY CAUSE TO THE NATO ALLIANCE? HOW DO

YOU JUSTIFY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THE LOSS OF STRATEGIC

INTELLIGENCE DATA WITH ITS ATTENDANT EFFECT ON OUR NATIONAL

SECURITY THAT THIS ACTION HAS CAUSED?

I DON'T KNOW | - BECAUSE I AM AT A LOSS TO

EXPLAIN IT MYSELF. AS A MAN OF THE CONGRESS FOR
25 YEARS, THE LAST THING I SEEK IS CONFRONTATION WITH
MY FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES ON CAPITOL HILL.

House of Representatives

OBVIOUSLY, I AM TROUBLED THAT THE ~~CONGRESS~~ HAS REFUSED

TO PERMIT THE SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO TURKEY -- BUT I RESPECT

THE SINCERITY AND THE MOTIVES OF THOSE WHO SUPPORT THIS

POSITION. HOWEVER, I KNOW THAT WHEN THE BOTTOM LINE

OF ANY ISSUE IS THE ULTIMATE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES,

THE CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT HAVE ALWAYS FOUND A WAY

TO CLOSE RANKS AND ACT AS ONE.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER
CAPITULATES BLINDLY. LET US PUT THIS ISSUE ON THE TABLE
AND ONCE AGAIN DEBATE IT -- NOT IN A CLIMATE OF FIRE AND
FURY, BUT IN A REASONED APPROACH BASED ON WHAT IS RIGHT
AND BEST FOR AMERICA.

I AM CONVINCED FROM MY PERSONAL TALKS LAST
MONTH WITH THE LEADERS OF GREECE AND TURKEY AND CYPRUS
THAT THEIR DIFFERENCES CAN BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY.

WE CAN HELP -- THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT, AND
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. WE CAN HELP COOL THE PASSIONS

THAT HAVE CAUSED SO MUCH HEARTBREAK IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM IS ONE OF CHECKS

AND BALANCES. BUT IT WORKS BEST WHEN THE CHECKS

DO NOT BECOME ROADBLOCKS. AS PRESIDENT, I NEED THE

COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESS WHICH I KNOW

IS AS CONCERNED AS I AM ABOUT OUR NATION'S SECURITY.

JUST AS IMPORTANT, YOUR REPRESENTATIVES IN
THE CONGRESS NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU STAND. THEY HAVE
TO REALIZE THAT YOU PLACE AMERICA'S SECURITY ABOVE
PERSONAL AND POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

THIS MORNING, I AM HONORED TO HAVE HAD THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH YOU HERE IN THE HEARTLAND OF
AMERICA AND TO SHARE SOME OF MY CONCERNS AND SOME OF
MY THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION.

BUT TALK IS ONLY THE STARTING POINT -- AND SO

I ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH ME IN THE COMMITMENT I HAVE MADE --

FOR THE REINFORCEMENT OF LASTING PEACE AND THE ENLARGEMENT

OF HUMAN FREEDOM. I ASK THIS NOT ONLY FOR OURSELVES,

BUT FOR OUR POSTERITY AND FOR ALL PEOPLES WHO PRAY THAT

THE TORCH OF LIBERTY WILL CONTINUE TO BURN BRIGHT.

GOD HELPING US, FREEDOM AND PEACE WILL BOTH

PREVAIL.

END OF TEXT