

The original documents are located in Box 16, “9/16/75 - Remarks Upon the Occasion of a Salute to Congress by the Air Force Association” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

TALKING POINTS:

AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION SALUTE TO THE CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 16, 1975

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I AM VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE TONIGHT, TO JOIN
WITH THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION IN THIS SPECIAL SALUTE
TO THE CONGRESS.

IN A WAY, MY PARTICIPATION IS VERY APPROPRIATE. EVEN THOUGH
THE CONGRESS AND I HAVEN'T AGREED ON SOME THINGS -- WHEN IT
COMES TO A NATIONAL DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE -- WE HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN ABLE TO JOIN TOGETHER, STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT!

EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE SALUTING THE CONGRESS TONIGHT,
LET ME ADD THAT THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION -- DEDICATED TO OUR
NATIONAL SECURITY AND WORLD PEACE -- ALSO DESERVES A SALUTE.
NEXT YEAR, AS WE FORMALLY CELEBRATE OUR BICENTENNIAL, THE
AFA WILL CELEBRATE ITS 30TH BIRTHDAY. I WISH IT MANY, MANY
MORE YEARS OF SUCCESS.

YOU HAVE SEEN THE LATEST TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN
AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY HERE AT THE EXHIBIT HALLS -- INCLUDING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR FRIENDS FROM ABROAD. MANY OF YOU HAVE
TAKEN PART IN THE BRIEFINGS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. I AM
SURE IT HAS BEEN AN INSTRUCTIVE AND INTERESTING EXPERIENCE.

WE HAVE MUCH IN COMMON. AS I AM SURE YOU KNOW,

I HAVE BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE EFFORT

OVER THE YEARS. I AM JUST AS STRONG A SUPPORTER TODAY.

THE DEFENSE OF OUR COUNTRY AND OUR LIBERTIES IS ASSOCIATED WITH

BOTH THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AND THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY.

EACH COMPLEMENTS THE OTHER. YET, BOTH ARE DISTINCT,
SEPARATE ELEMENTS IN OUR SOCIETY. AND THAT IS THE WAY IT
SHOULD BE -- EACH CONTRIBUTING WHAT IT CAN DO BEST IN THE
INTEREST OF COUNTRY. BUT WE ALL SEEK THE COMMON OBJECTIVE:
A NATIONAL DEFENSE SECOND TO NONE -- FOR THAT IS TRULY THE
BEST WAY TO AVOID WAR.

THERE IS A DELICATE BALANCE BETWEEN STRONG DEFENSE
AND STEADY DIPLOMATIC EFFORT. IT IS A DAILY, DELIBERATE
PROCESS -- NOT A SUDDEN, DRAMATIC ONE. WE MUST BE
PREPARED NOT FOR SPECTACULAR LEAPS TOWARD WORLD PEACE BUT
STEADY, SURE STEPS OF REAL SUBSTANCE. WE ARE ON THAT
ROAD TODAY.

WE HAVE MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, FOR INSTANCE.

BUT THERE ARE OTHER AREAS WHERE PROBLEMS STILL EXIST. ONE

IS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH TURKEY, A LONG-TIME FRIEND AND ALLY.

THERE IS URGENT NEED TO LIFT THE EMBARGO PLACED BY THE CONGRESS

ON SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO TURKEY -- ARMS WHICH THE TURKS

HAVE ALREADY BOUGHT AND PAID FOR.

I AM PLEASED THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION PASSED A RESOLUTION

YESTERDAY URGING THE CONGRESS TO REVERSE ITS PREVIOUS ACTION

ON TURKEY.

SUCH ACTION WOULD BE A GOOD FIRST STEP TO STRENGTHEN OUR
NATIONAL UNITY AND THE UNITY OF OUR NATO ALLIES.

AS A LONG TIME ADMIRER OF AFA AND ITS WORK, I
APPRECIATE THE INVITATION TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING -- IN THIS
SALUTE TO THE CONGRESS. I WISH YOU AN ENJOYABLE EVENING.

END OF TEXT