

The original documents are located in Box 16, “9/22/75 - Remarks in Opening the World Affairs Council, San Francisco, CA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, MR. MERSMAN

MRS. FEINSTEIN (FINE - STINE)

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS - (TRADE DELEGATION
PEOPLES REPUBLIC
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF CHINA)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT

I AM TODAY ANNOUNCING A VERY IMPORTANT
PROPOSAL FOR A \$100 BILLION GOVERNMENT CORPORATION
TO WORK THROUGH THE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM TO DEVELOP
ENERGY INDEPENDENCE FOR THE UNITED STATES BY 1985.
IT IS SPELLED OUT IN DETAIL IN A BILL I WILL SEND TO THE
CONGRESS NEXT WEEK.

IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT THE UNITED STATES
MUST NOT SURRENDER ITS DESTINY TO THOSE FOREIGN NATIONS
ON WHICH WE NOW DEPEND FOR OIL. WE MUST MOVE
DECISIVELY TO GIVE FOREIGN NATIONS A NEW LOOK AT WHAT
AMERICANS CAN DO WITH THEIR GREAT RESOURCES WHEN WE
SET OUT TO DO IT.

THE PROGRAM I ENVISION WOULD ENHANCE AMERICA'S
FUTURE AT HOME AND ABROAD. IT WOULD SERVE THE
NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES AND
SAFEGUARD AMERICAN JOBS AND THE AMERICAN ECONOMY.

I ENVISION A DRAMATIC CRASH PROGRAM TO
DEVELOP COAL, NUCLEAR AND OTHER SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH
AS GEOTHERMAL POWER WHICH I SAW LAST SPRING ON MY VISIT
HERE, AND INCLUDING OIL SHALE RESOURCES WHICH ALONE
ARE MORE VAST IN THEIR POTENTIAL THAN ALL THE OIL RESERVES
OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

WITHOUT SUCH AN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AUTHORITY,
OUR VAST NATURAL ENERGY RESOURCES MAY BE DEVELOPED TOO
LATE TO BOLSTER AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD FOR THE
REST OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

AS AMERICA COMPLETES ITS FIRST 200 YEARS
AS A NATION, WE MUST RESOLVE TO SOLVE OUR ENERGY PROBLEM.
IT IS THE KEY TO OUR FUTURE -- AT HOME AND IN OUR
RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

IT IS MY CONVICTION THAT ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
IS VITAL TO PROTECT OURSELVES AGAINST ANY ARBITRARY PRICE
INCREASES OR FUTURE EMBARGOES BY FOREIGN NATIONS.

IT IS THE WAY TO END AN INTOLERABLE SITUATION IN WHICH
AMERICA EXPORTS MORE THAN \$25 BILLION A YEAR TO PAY FOR
IMPORTED OIL WHILE PLENTIFUL ENERGY IS POTENTIALLY AVAILABLE
TO US AT HOME. THE MONEY WE NOW PAY OUT / FOR FOREIGN
OIL IN ONE YEAR WOULD PUT OVER ONE MILLION MORE AMERICANS
TO WORK.

WE MUST HAVE THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE ACTION
TO SPEND THESE RAPIDLY GROWING SUMS AT HOME AND TO
STRENGTHEN AMERICA DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

I NOW WELCOME YOUR QUESTIONS.