

The original documents are located in Box 17, “9/25/75 - Remarks Upon the Arrival of President Lopez and his Wife The First Lady of Colombia” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

ARRIVAL REMARKS FOR THE

VISIT OF PRESIDENT LOPEZ

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

- 1 -

IT IS A PLEASURE AND PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO WELCOME TO
THE UNITED STATES FOR THIS STATE VISIT, THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA,
HIS EXCELLENCY, DOCTOR ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSON
(AI-FON-so LOW-pez Mee-KELL-son) AND HIS WIFE, THE DISTINGUISHED
FIRST LADY OF COLOMBIA, DONA CECILIA (DOAN-ya Se-SEAL-ya).

PRESIDENT LOPEZ IS NO STRANGER TO THE UNITED STATES.

AS A YOUNG MAN, HE STUDIED HERE BRIEFLY. ALSO, I AM TOLD,
HE AND MRS. LOPEZ SPENT PART OF THEIR HONEYMOON IN
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA.

DURING HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN HIS
COUNTRY, HE HAS FREQUENTLY VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN VARIOUS
OFFICIAL CAPACITIES. HIS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT WAS BY ONE
OF THE LARGEST VOTES IN COLOMBIA'S HISTORY.

IT IS INDEED A PLEASURE TO WELCOME HIM TO THE UNITED STATES
ONCE AGAIN. THIS TIME THE UNITED STATES HONORS HIM AS
CHIEF OF STATE OF COLOMBIA -- THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF WELCOMING TO
WASHINGTON FOR A STATE VISIT.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ REPRESENTS A NATION WITH A LONG
TRADITION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. COLOMBIA'S FRIENDSHIP
WITH THE UNITED STATES IS CHARACTERIZED BY THE MUTUAL RESPECT
EACH OF OUR TWO NATIONS HAS FOR THE INDEPENDENT IDEAS AND
SOVEREIGN INTEGRITY OF THE OTHER.

AS A RESPECTED INTELLECTUAL, AUTHOR AND STATESMAN,
DOCTOR LOPEZ HAS BEEN A CHAMPION OF THE IDEA THAT RELATIONSHIPS
BETWEEN NATIONS MUST BE BASED ON THE RULE OF LAW,
NON-INTERVENTION AND RESPECT FOR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY.

HE VOICED THAT CONVICTION IN AN ADDRESS TO THE COUNCIL ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS IN NEW YORK IN JANUARY, 1974, WHEN HE SAID --
AND I QUOTE: "FOR A COUNTRY LIKE OURS . . . THERE IS ONLY ONE
GUARANTEE FOR SURVIVAL: THE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF INTERNATIONAL
LAW, A DEEP SENSE OF HUMAN SOLIDARITY AND THE PRINCIPLE OF
SELF-DETERMINATION OF NATIONS."

YOUR VISIT, MR. PRESIDENT, IS TIMELY INDEED.

THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD FACE PRESSING ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL
TRADE AND MONETARY POLICY AND THE CHALLENGES OF EXPLOSIVE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS. THE PROBLEMS OF
PEACE, JUSTICE, HUNGER, INFLATION AND POLLUTION CAN NO LONGER
BE SOLVED BY EACH NATION ALONE.

EACH OF US NOW IS CAUGHT IN THE SAME TIDES OF WORLD EVENTS --
CONSUMER AND PRODUCER, RICH AND POOR, POWERFUL AND WEAK.
WE MUST, THEREFORE, WORK TOGETHER FOR THE SOLUTION OF OUR
PROBLEMS. WE MUST STEP UP OUR EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE AND
STRENGTHEN OUR HEMISPHERIC RELATIONSHIPS.

THE NATIONS OF LATIN AMERICA SHARE THE SAME INTRICATE
WEB OF SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ELEMENTS WHICH COMPRISE
THE CIVILIZATION OF THE WESTERN WORLD. AT THE SAME TIME,
THEY SHARE THE PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING SOCIETIES ELSEWHERE IN
THE WORLD.

ALL OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT
BOND LINKING OUR TWO NATIONS WHICH HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF
FRIENDLY RELATIONS BASED ON RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY
AND INDEPENDENCE. THAT IS WHY I HAVE INVITED PRESIDENT LOPEZ
TO VISIT WASHINGTON. WE HAVE MUCH TO TALK ABOUT. I LOOK
FORWARD TO OUR FRANK AND CANDID DISCUSSIONS.

WE EXPECT TO EXAMINE CAREFULLY OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS
AND THEIR PROBABLE FUTURE COURSE. WE WILL REVIEW TOGETHER
THE ISSUES OF CURRENT CONCERN IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM
AND THE ALTERNATIVES THAT OPEN INTO THE FUTURE. WE WILL
DISCUSS WORLD ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

I KNOW THAT THE INTELLECT AND STATESMANSHIP OF
PRESIDENT LOPEZ WILL FURTHER OUR COMMON QUEST FOR CONSTRUCTIVE
SOLUTIONS AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDINGS.

AND SO, AS YOU SAY, MR. PRESIDENT,

"BIEN VENIDO" (Bee-EN Ven-EE-doe.)

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