

The original documents are located in Box 17, “9/25/75 - Remarks on Proposing a Toast to President Lopez 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.....

DINNER TOAST

PRESIDENT LOPEZ

SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

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IN PROPOSING A TOAST TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO
THE GREAT REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA, IT IS FITTING TO NOTE THAT YOUR
STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES COINCIDES WITH THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE FIRST TREATY BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

SOON AFTER COLOMBIA WON HER INDEPENDENCE IN 1819, THE GREAT LIBERATOR, SIMON BOLIVAR (See-MOAN Bow-LEE-var) SENT ONE OF HIS FIRST DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES TO THIS COUNTRY -- DON MANUEL TORRES (Man-u-EL TOR-rez). AS HEAD OF THE COLOMBIAN MISSION, HE BECAME THE FIRST ACCREDITED ENVOY OF A SPANISH-AMERICAN POWER IN THE UNITED STATES.

AS EARLY AS 1820, MANUEL TORRES (Man-you-EL TOR-rez) WAS INSTRUCTED TO NEGOTIATE A COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES ON THE BASIS OF -- AND I QUOTE -- "EQUALITY AND RECIPROCITY."

THAT TREATY WAS PROCLAIMED ON MAY 31, 1825. THUS, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ROOTS OF OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS ARE DEEP.

THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS FURTHERED BY AN ILLUSTRIOUS
FORMER PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, ALFONSO LOPEZ PUMAREJO
(AL-FON-so LOW-peZ Pu-mar-EH-ho), WHOSE DISTINGUISHED SON
HONORS US WITH HIS PRESENCE TONIGHT.

DURING HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS IN 1934, PRESIDENT LOPEZ
PUMAREJO (LOW-peZ Pu-mar-EH-ho) SAID: "OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS
IN THE FUTURE MUST NOT BE BASED ON THAT FORMAL RECIPROCITY OF
SOULLESS DIPLOMATIC NOTES THAT TRAVEL FROM CHANCERY TO
CHANCERY.

WE SHALL TRY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO
INVIGORATE THE TIES OF COOPERATION AND ACTIVE FRIENDSHIP WITH
ALL NATIONS BUT, ABOVE ALL, WITH THOSE OF OUR HEMISPHERE..."

HOW WELL THIS DISTINGUISHED LEADER -- AND PERMIT ME
TO ADD, EXCELLENCY, HIS DISTINGUISHED SON -- HAVE SUCCEEDED
IN THAT HIGH PURPOSE.

OUR MUTUAL RELATIONS TODAY ARE BORN OF A PRECIOUS
COMMON HERITAGE FORGED OUT OF THE TRAVAIL OF WARS OF
INDEPENDENCE. BOTH OF OUR NATIONS PAID WITH THE BLOOD OF
PATRIOTS TO ACHIEVE THE DREAM OF FREEDOM.

THAT COMMON EXPERIENCE GIVES US COMMON ASPIRATIONS:
BOTH OF OUR NATIONS DESIRE TO SEE THE RULE OF LAW APPLY TO OUR
RELATIONS AND TO THOSE AMONG ALL NATIONS. BOTH SEEK EQUALITY
AND RECIPROCITY AMONG NATIONS.

BOTH SHARE IN THE COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT, IN THE COMPLEX
WORLD OF TODAY, NATIONS BOUND IN HISTORIC FRIENDSHIP AND
TRADITIONS MUST DEPEND UPON ONE ANOTHER.

YOUR COUNTRY IS RENOWNED FOR ITS MORAL AND
INTELLECTUAL LEADERSHIP, FOR ITS MODERATION, FOR ITS KEEN
SENSE OF JUSTICE AND FOR ITS DEDICATION TO GREATER PROGRESS AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR YOUR PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLES OF THIS
HEMISPHERE.

WE OF THE UNITED STATES ADMIRE THESE GOALS YOU HAVE
SET FOR YOURSELVES FOR THEY ARE OUR OBJECTIVES AS WELL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK THAT YOU JOIN ME IN A
TOAST TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF COLOMBIA, TO
MRS. LOPEZ AND TO THE PEOPLE OF COLOMBIA.

MAY OUR TWO COUNTRIES ALWAYS WALK TOGETHER IN MUTUAL
CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT, AND MAY OUR HISTORIC FRIENDSHIP
CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NOBLE GOALS OF MANKIND --
JUSTICE, PEACE AND FREEDOM.

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