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INTRODUCTION OF ROBERTA PETERS

COLOMBIA STATE DINNER

SEPTEMBER 25, 1975

- I -

THE PRESIDENT HAS SNEE.-

YOUR EXCELLENCY -- HONORED GUESTS:

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO HAVE WITH US THIS EVENING ONE OF

THE WORLD'S GREATEST OPERA SINGERS -- AMERICA'S OWN

ROBERTA PETERS.
BORN IN THE BRONX, SHE BEGAN HER VOCAL STUDIES THERE AT THE AGE OF 13. SIX YEARS LATER, HER CHILDHOOD DREAM CAME TRUE WHEN SHE WAS SIGNED TO A PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT.

ROBERTA PETERS' DEBUT AT THE METROPOLITAN OPERA IN 1956 DAZZLED THE AUDIENCE AND THE CRITICS. SINCE THEN, SHE HAS PERFORMED TO ACCLAIM AT THE GREAT OPERA HOUSES OF THE WORLD.
SHE IS A FAVORITE OF AMERICAN AUDIENCES -- FROM HER CROSS-COUNTRY TOURS, HER RECORDINGS AND HER FREQUENT TELEVISION APPEARANCES. FOUR YEARS AGO IN MOSCOW, ROBERTA PETERS' PERFORMANCES DREW 15-MINUTE STANDING OVATIONS. SHE WAS THE FIRST AMERICAN-BORN ARTIST EVER TO RECEIVE THE COVETED BOLSHOI MEDAL.

WASHINGTON REMEMBERS HER FOR HER ARTISTRY IN THE KING AND I TWO YEARS AGO AT WOLF TRAP CENTER.

WE ARE PLEASED SHE HAS RETURNED.
YOUR EXCELLENCY AND HONORED GUESTS: JOIN ME PLEASE

IN WELCOMING ONE OF THE GREAT VOCAL TALENTS OF OUR TIME --

THE CHARMING AND GIFTED ROBERTA PETERS.

END OF TEXT