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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN

OCTOBER 2, 1975

*Your Majesties*

- 1 -

*you*

IT IS AN HONOR FOR ME TO EXTEND TO ~~YOUR MAJESTIES,~~

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, A WARM AND HEARTFELT WELCOME

TO THE UNITED STATES. MRS. FORD JOINS ME, WITH THE GREATEST

PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR BOTH OF US, IN GREETING YOUR MAJESTIES

HERE TODAY.

THIS FIRST STATE VISIT FOR AN EMPEROR AND EMPRESS  
OF JAPAN TO THE UNITED STATES IS AN HISTORIC OCCASION OF  
PROFOUND IMPORTANCE.

JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE HAD A SPECIAL AND  
UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP SINCE THE DAYS WHEN COMMODORE PERRY SAILED  
TO JAPAN MORE THAN 120 YEARS AGO. OUR EARLY RELATIONS WERE  
MARKED BY MANY MEMORABLE EVENTS.

THE UNITED STATES WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO ESTABLISH A TREATY  
RELATIONSHIP WITH JAPAN, THE FIRST TO STATION A CONSUL IN JAPAN,  
AND THE FIRST TO RECEIVE A DIPLOMATIC MISSION FROM JAPAN.  
THAT MISSION WAS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BUCHANAN IN 1860 HERE  
IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

DURING THE ILLUSTRIOUS REIGN OF YOUR MAJESTY'S  
GRANDFATHER, EMPEROR MEIJI, (MAY-GEE) JAPAN CHOSE THE UNITED  
STATES AS THE FIRST STOP FOR THE IWAKURA (EE-WAH-KUHRA) MISSION.  
JAPAN'S SPECIAL ENVOYS WERE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT GRANT.  
AFTER GRANT LEFT THE PRESIDENCY, HE VISITED JAPAN AND MET  
THE EMPEROR.

THIS WAS IN 1879 -- ALMOST A CENTURY AGO. EMPEROR

MEIJI (MAY-GEE) SAID, -- AND I QUOTE: "AMERICA AND JAPAN

BEING NEAR NEIGHBORS, SEPARATED ONLY BY AN OCEAN, WILL BECOME

MORE AND MORE CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER AS TIME GOES

ON." THESE PROPHETIC WORDS SYMBOLIZED OUR MUTUAL DESIRE TO

ESTABLISH A SOUND AND LASTING FRIENDSHIP.

WHAT WAS A CENTURY AGO A VISIONARY GOAL HAS NOW

BECOME A REALITY FOR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS AND JAPANESE.

OUR PEOPLES ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY A MULTITUDE OF INSTITUTIONAL

AND PERSONAL TIES. THE CONSTANT FLOW OF KNOWLEDGE, IDEAS

AND CULTURAL INFLUENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ENRICHES

THE DEPTH AND MEANING OF OUR TIES EACH YEAR.

IT IS THIS BROAD PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WHICH FULFILLS THE HOPES  
OF OUR EARLY LEADERS. THE GREETINGS OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH WE  
EXCHANGE TODAY REPRESENT THE DEEP SENTIMENTS OF BOTH NATIONS.

AT A TIME WHEN THE BENEFITS OF THE COOPERATIVE  
RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES ARE MUTUALLY ACCLAIMED,  
YOUR MAJESTIES' VISIT SYMBOLIZES AND STRENGTHENS THE TIES OF  
FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES.

THE WARM MEMORIES OF MY TRIP TO JAPAN LAST FALL

REMAIN VIVID. MRS. FORD AND I HAVE HAPPILY ANTICIPATED

YOUR MAJESTIES' VISIT.

WE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT YOUR STAY IN WASHINGTON AND YOUR

JOURNEY TO OTHER PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES WILL BE AS PLEASANT

TO YOUR MAJESTIES PERSONALLY AS THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO THE

HISTORY OF OUR TWO GREAT NATIONS.

END OF TEXT