The original documents are located in Box 17, “10/2/75 - Arrival Statement: The Emperor and Empress of Japan” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice
The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.
ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN

OCTOBER 2, 1975

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, AND 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 MEJI (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 AND 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