The original documents are located in Box 17, “10/2/75 - Introduction of Van Cliburn, State Dinner” 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 Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections.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.
INTRODUCTION OF VAN CLIBURN,

STATE DINNER,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1975

I AM DELIGHTED TO PRESENT A GREAT AMERICAN PIANIST WHO IS ALREADY KNOWN TO SOME MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OF JAPAN -- A FAMILY RESPECTED FOR ITS UNDERSTANDING AND LOVE OF CLASSICAL MUSIC.
IN VISITS TO JAPAN, VAN CLIBURN INCLUDED IN HIS AUDIENCES THE CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS. I UNDERSTAND GOOD MUSIC IS SO CHERISHED BY THE ROYAL FAMILY THAT THE PRINCESS HAS HERSELF BECOME AN ACCOMPLISHED PIANIST.

VAN CLIBURN'S ARTISTRY HAS BEEN ACCLAIMED FROM THE BEAUTIFUL AMPHITHEATER OF INTERLOCHEN IN MY HOME STATE OF MICHIGAN TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE WORLD.
He went to Moscow and won the Tchaikovsky Competition in 1958, creating a new era of peaceful cultural interchange -- a sort of musical détente.

Our guest artist not only has played in many other nations but initiated the Van Cliburn competitions which bring artists from all countries to the United States.
WE ARE PROUD OF HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES AND TO THE WORLD AS A CATALYST OF CULTURE,
WHOSE CREATIVE GENIUS BRINGS PEOPLES OF EAST AND WEST
AND OF ALL THE WORLD CLOSER TOGETHER.

IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT HE GRACIOUSLY SHARE
HIS LEGENDARY TALENT WITH US ON THIS HISTORIC OCCASION
WHEN THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES HONOR THE
EMPEROR AND EMpress OF JAPAN.

END OF TEXT