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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

INTRODUCTION OF VAN CLIBURN,

STATE DINNER,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1975

- 1 -

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 DETENTE.

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