

The original documents are located in Box 18, “10/9/75 - Remarks Upon the Celebration of the 200th Birthday of the U.S. Navy” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, MR. SECRETARY

ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM PROUD AND HONORED TO SALUTE THIS SPECIAL DAY,

MARKING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY.

THOSE OF US WHO LOVE THE NAVY, AND WHO HAVE GONE TO SEA

IN HER SHIPS, KNOW THAT THE HISTORY OF THE NAVY IS THE

HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.

OUR NAVY REMAINS THE SYMBOL OF THE UNITED STATES,

OF OUR DEDICATED AND SKILLED SAILORS, OF OUR TECHNOLOGICAL

GENIUS, AND OF OUR MASSIVE, BUT CONTROLLED, MILITARY

STRENGTH WHICH PATROLS THE OCEANS OF THE WORLD ON A MISSION

OF PEACE.

I PLEDGE TO YOU TODAY THAT I REMAIN COMMITTED TO A
NAVY SECOND TO NONE IN READINESS AND CAPABILITY -- A
NAVY DEVOTED TO THE NATION'S HIGHEST IDEALS. SINCE OUR
FIRST SAILING SHIP MOUNTED A CANNON, OUR SAILORS HAVE
PROTECTED AMERICA AT HOME AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

AS WE BEGIN THE CELEBRATION OF OUR NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL

MUCH HAS CHANGED. BUT THE NAVY REMAINS STEADFAST AS OUR

FIRST-LINE GUARDIAN OF LIBERTY AND PEACE.

IT TOOK NAVAL POWER TO WIN OUR FREEDOM. IT STILL

TAKES NAVAL POWER TO PRESERVE FREEDOM. AS PRESIDENT AND

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, I ^{will} ~~INTEND TO~~ DO ALL I CAN TO KEEP THE

UNITED STATES NAVY SUPPLIED WITH THE BEST AND MOST MODERN

SHIPS, WEAPONS, TRAINING, AND EQUIPMENT IN THE WORLD TODAY.

IT IS MY SWORN DUTY TO MAINTAIN THE POWER FOR PEACE

THAT THE NAVY SYMBOLIZES.

THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED STATES

IN THE EYES OF BOTH OUR FRIENDS AND POLITICAL ADVERSARIES, DEPENDS

UPON THE COURAGE, SKILL AND DISCIPLINE OF THE MEN AND WOMEN

OF THE NAVY.

ANY ASSESSMENT OF OUR MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND MORAL STRENGTH

MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RESPECT THE UNITED STATES COMMANDS

ON THE HIGH SEAS.

MY BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE ARE THE

and I am more than disappointed over

MINIMUM ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SAFETY.

SOME NOW ADVANCE THE

*budget
for this fiscal
year has
been
so deeply reduced*

MISGUIDED NOTION THAT BECAUSE AMERICANS ARE NO LONGER FIGHTING

ANYWHERE, BECAUSE WE ARE SEEKING TO BROADEN EVERY CHANNEL TO PEACE,

WE CAN AFFORD THE LUXURY OF NEW DOMESTIC PROGRAMS OUT OF DEFENSE

CUTBACKS.

I AM CONVINCED THAT ADEQUATE SPENDING FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE

IS AN INSURANCE POLICY FOR PEACE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT.

CERTAINLY THE MOST IMPORTANT OBLIGATION OF GOVERNMENT IS TO

GUARANTEE ALL CITIZENS PROTECTION OF THEIR LIVES AND FREEDOMS AGAINST

OUTSIDE ATTACK.

TODAY, THAT PROTECTION IS OUR PRINCIPAL HOPE FOR PEACE.

WHAT EXPENSE ITEM IN OUR FEDERAL BUDGET IS MORE ESSENTIAL?

I WILL RESIST THE SCUTTLING OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY IN
EVERY WAY AVAILABLE TO ME.

ON THIS 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR HEROIC NAVY, I APPEAL TO
THE COMMON SENSE AND COURAGE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

At home we are making real progress on

~~WE HAVE JUST BEGUN TO FIGHT~~ THE PROBLEMS THAT BESET OUR NATION.

IT IS NOT THE TIME TO DISMANTLE OUR DEFENSES.

I REJECT THE PROPHETS OF DOOM WHO SEE NOTHING BUT

DEPRESSION AT HOME AND DEFEAT ABROAD.

I REJECT ANY ADVICE TO PULL DOWN THE STARS AND STRIPES AND SAIL HOME FROM THE SEAS OF THE WORLD TO THE SAFE ANCHORAGE OF HOME PORTS. IF WE DO SO, OUR HOME PORTS WILL NO LONGER BE SAFE. YOU KNOW IT AND I KNOW IT.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

UNDER MY PRESIDENCY, WE WILL NEITHER FURL THE FLAG NOR
ABANDON HOPE. WE WILL MAINTAIN CONSTANCY AND CREDIBILITY OF
AMERICAN STRENGTH -- AT HOME AS ON THE SEAS OF THE WORLD.

GOOD AFTERNOON AND GODSPEED TO ALL HANDS.

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