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PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

TOAST FOR PRESIDENT FORD AT THE DINNER GIVEN

BY FLORIDA GOVERNOR ASKEW FOR PRESIDENT SADAT

ON NOVEMBER 2, 1975 IN JACKSONVILLE

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(ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS)

GOVERNOR ASKEW, PRESIDENT SADAT, DISTINGUISHED
GUESTS. THE STATE OF FLORIDA HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT.

TWO FLORIDIANS CAME TO KNOW EGYPT WHEN THEY SERVED IN
CAIRO AS AMBASSADORS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE FIRST
WAS THE LATE BERT FISH AND THE SECOND, LUCIUS BATTLE.

IT IS FITTING THAT THE PRESIDENT OF EGYPT, A NATION SO
HOSPITABLE TO FLORIDIANS AND ALL AMERICANS, SHOULD VISIT
THIS BEAUTIFUL STATE AND ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF ITS
GRACIOUS AND KIND PEOPLE.

PRESIDENT SADAT AND I HAVE MADE THE MOST OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE OUR TALKS. WE HAVE DISCUSSED MANY ISSUES OF COMMON CONCERN, IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF FRIENDSHIP, CANDOR AND WARMTH.

WE HAVE DISCUSSED WAYS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT. WE EXPLORED NEW FIELDS OF COOPERATION FOR THE FUTURE.

OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE, WE HAVE CONTINUED OUR
SEARCH FOR WAYS TO MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM OF THE PEACE
SETTLEMENT PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS PROCESS MUST,
AND I BELIEVE WILL, CONCLUDE IN A DURABLE PEACE THAT WILL BE
JUST TO ALL THE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT.

AS I HAVE TOLD YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THE UNITED STATES
FIRMLY SUPPORTS THE PATH THAT EGYPT HAS TAKEN TOWARD THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE.

WE BELIEVE THE RECENT SINAI AGREEMENT IS A MAJOR STEP
TOWARD AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT IN HARMONY WITH THE LEGITIMATE
CONCERNS OF BOTH THE ARABS AND ISRAEL.

FOR OUR PART, MR. PRESIDENT, WE INTEND TO MAKE EVERY
EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT PROGRESS IS MAINTAINED AND TO HELP
THE COUNTRIES OF THE AREA ACHIEVE A FINAL PEACE.

- 10 -

OUR TALKS HERE TODAY, MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE DONE MUCH TO
INCREASE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW WE MIGHT NOW BEST
PROCEED TOWARD THAT END.

- 11 -

I PROPOSE A TOAST TO PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT OF
EGYPT -- A GREAT STATESMAN, A GOOD FRIEND OF FLORIDA
AND ALL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, LET US LIFT OUR GLASSES

TO PRESIDENT SADAT.

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