

The original documents are located in Box 21, “1/14/76 - Acceptance of Ukrainian "Man of the Year" Award” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FILM SPOT

ACCEPTANCE OF UKRAINIAN "MAN OF THE YEAR" AWARD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1976

I AM DELIGHTED TO ACCEPT YOUR AWARD --

PARTICULARLY IN THIS HISTORIC BICENTENNIAL YEAR•

AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF FREEDOM IN AMERICA,

YOUR MEETING CALLS ATTENTION TO THE REMARKABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

OF MILLIONS OF TALENTED AND HARDWORKING IMMIGRANTS

FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN BUILDING AMERICA INTO THE GREAT

NATION WE KNOW TODAY•

AS SURELY AS WE NOW RECALL THE FORTITUDE OF OUR
FOUNDING FATHERS, SO WE MUST RE-DEDICATE OURSELVES TO MAKING
AMERICA THE SAME STRONGHOLD FOR MEN AND WOMEN
OF INDIVIDUAL SPIRIT, ENERGY AND INDIVIDUALISM IT WAS
IN 1776 -- THE CRADLE OF LIBERTY•

LAST SUMMER BEFORE DEPARTING FOR HELSINKI

FOR THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

I SAID THAT:

"IT IS THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES,
AND IT HAS BEEN MY POLICY EVER SINCE I ENTERED PUBLIC LIFE,
TO SUPPORT THE ASPIRATIONS FOR FREEDOM AND NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE OF THE PEOPLE OF EASTERN EUROPE --
WITH WHOM WE HAVE CLOSE TIES OF CULTURE AND BLOOD --
BY EVERY PROPER AND PEACEFUL MEANS."

AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF, I TOLD THE PARTICIPANTS
FROM THE COUNTRIES OF THE EAST THAT:

"WE WILL SPARE NO EFFORT TO EASE TENSIONS AND
TO SOLVE PROBLEMS BETWEEN US, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT YOU RECOGNIZE THE DEEP DEVOTION OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
AND THEIR GOVERNMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS."

I ASSURE EACH OF YOU THAT THIS NATION WILL BE VIGILANT

on human rights & fundamental freedoms at home and abroad.

~~REGARDING DETENTE.~~

THIS NATION WILL STRIVE TO MAINTAIN

A SAFER AND SANER RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR COMPETITORS.

BUT, AT THE SAME TIME, THE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS CAN BE

IMPLEMENTED ONLY ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, WITHIN THE

CONTEXT OF AN AMERICAN DEFENSE THAT IS SECOND TO NONE.

WE WILL SAFEGUARD AND ADVANCE OUR VITAL INTERESTS AND

SECURITY.

AS WE COMMEMORATE THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
OUR REVOLUTION, MORE AND MORE AMERICANS ARE MINDFUL
OF THEIR RICH, BI-NATIONAL HERITAGE. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THIS NATION ARE RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED.
I KNOW YOU WILL CONTINUE TO ENRICH OUR COUNTRY'S CULTURE
AND STRENGTH IN THE FUTURE AS YOU HAVE IN THE PAST.

I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED CONTRIBUTIONS
TO OUR NATIONAL LEGACY, TO OUR DURABLE SYSTEM OF
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT. I SALUTE YOU FOR YOUR STRUGGLE
ON BEHALF OF ALL HUMAN FREEDOM.

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