

The original documents are located in Box 22, “1/27/76 - Remarks Upon Proposing a Toast for Prime Minister and Mrs. Rabin of Israel at a State Dinner” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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~~THE~~ PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

DINNER TOAST:

PRIME MINISTER RABIN

JANUARY 27, 1976

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MR. PRIME MINISTER -- MRS. RABIN --

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

IT IS AGAIN A PLEASURE TO SAY SHALOM (SHA-LOME)

TO OUR GOOD FRIENDS, PRIME MINISTER AND MRS. RABIN.

MRS. FORD AND I, AND ALL OF OUR GUESTS TONIGHT, FEEL THE
SPECIAL WARMTH FOR BOTH OF YOU THAT ONLY COMES FROM
THE TEST OF TIME.

YOUR FIVE YEARS IN WASHINGTON AS THE
DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR OF YOUR COUNTRY CREATED
MANY CLOSE AND WARM FRIENDSHIPS. MRS. FORD AND I,
AS TWO OF THOSE FRIENDS, ARE DELIGHTED TO BE YOUR HOSTS
TONIGHT.

IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT YOUR VISIT TODAY IS
THE FIRST VISIT OF A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT DURING OUR
BICENTENNIAL YEAR. THIS CELEBRATION OF OUR NATION'S
HISTORY GIVES AMERICANS A DEEPER APPRECIATION OF BASIC
VALUES THAT WE SHARE WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE APPRECIATE THE TRIBUTE THAT YOU PAID TO THESE IDEALS
IN YOUR VISIT TO PHILADELPHIA.

BOTH OF OUR NATIONS HAD THEIR PAINFUL BIRTH
AND GROWTH / AS HAVENS FOR MEN AND WOMEN FLEEING
PERSECUTION. BOTH OF OUR NATIONS FIND THEIR VITALITY
AND STRENGTH TODAY / IN A COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AND
DEMOCRACY / AND IN THE SPIRIT OF FREE PEOPLES.

BOTH OF OUR NATIONS HAVE TASTED THE BITTER FRUITS OF WAR IN
STRUGGLES TO PRESERVE OUR INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY.
BOTH OF US KNOW FULL WELL / IN TODAY'S WORLD / THAT ETERNAL
VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY. AND WE WILL NOT FAIL.

I APPLAUD THE STATESMANSHIP THAT YOU PERSONALLY
HAVE SHOWN, MR. PRIME MINISTER. IT HAS CONTRIBUTED
SO MUCH TO WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THUS FAR. I AM
GRATIFIED THAT OUR PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP NOW FACILITATES
THE CLOSEST CONSULTATION ON THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS WE FACE.

FROM THE MOMENT OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE, ALL OF AMERICA'S
PRESIDENTS --- AND BOTH OF OUR MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES ---
HAVE IDENTIFIED WITH YOUR FREEDOM AND YOUR PROGRESS.

AMERICA NOW COMPLETES ITS SECOND CENTURY●

ISRAEL COUNTS ITS HERITAGE IN THOUSANDS OF YEARS,

AND ITS MODERN HISTORY IN DECADES● YET OUR HERITAGE IS

THE SAME●

WE MUST TAKE INSPIRATION FROM THE FOUNDING FATHERS

OF BOTH OF OUR NATIONS AND THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE AND

FREEDOM WHICH THEY HAVE PASSED DOWN TO US --

FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THOSE PRINCIPLES IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY●

YOUR DEDICATION TO THAT END, MR. PRIME MINISTER,

AND THAT OF YOUR PEOPLE, ARE AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US●

ISRAEL, LIKE THE UNITED STATES, HAS STUCK TO ITS PRINCIPLES
AND PERSEVERED WITH COURAGE AND DETERMINATION. THE
UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL REMAINS ITS
STRONGEST DEFENSE.

AND/AS WE REFLECT ON THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR,
WE ARE BOTH MINDFUL OF THE INDISPENSABLE ROLE
THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PLAYED IN THE WORLD
AS A GUARDIAN OF STABILITY AND A DEFENDER OF FREEDOM.

I WANT TO TELL YOU, MR. PRIME MINISTER, THAT I AM DETERMINED
THAT AMERICA WILL REMAIN STRONG, AMERICA WILL REMAIN
COMMITTED TO ITS ALLIES AND TO ITS WORLD RESPONSIBILITIES.

I KNOW THAT ISRAEL AND OUR OTHER FRIENDS AND ALLIES / DEPEND
UPON AMERICA'S STRENGTH AND AMERICA'S COMMITMENT.

OUR TWO NATIONS HAVE BEEN WORKING TOGETHER FOR
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NO PEACEMAKING PROCESS IS
EASY. BUT IMPORTANT STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN.
WE ARE PROUD OF THE ROLE WE AMERICANS HAVE PLAYED.

I KNOW THAT ALL AMERICANS DEEPLY DESIRE TO SEE THE PROCESS
CONTINUE TOWARDS ITS GOAL OF A JUST AND SECURE PEACE.

THE UNITED STATES HAS DEMONSTRATED MANY TIMES,
INCLUDING YESTERDAY IN THE UNITED NATIONS, THAT WE WILL
OPPOSE MEASURES THAT WE CONSIDER UNREALISTIC OR
UNWORKABLE, OR THAT MAKE PEACE HARDER TO ACHIEVE.

BUT WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED AT THE SAME TIME THAT WE ARE COMMITTED
TO SEEK AND SUPPORT POSITIVE MOVES TOWARD PEACE.

WE WILL CONTINUE THE HOPEFUL EFFORT ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKED.

YOU AND I HAVE BEGUN OUR DISCUSSIONS,
MR. PRIME MINISTER, IN A SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP AND
COMMON DESIRE FOR PEACE.

YOU HAVE STATED YOUR NATION'S VIEWS ELOQUENTLY AND
PERSUASIVELY. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK THAT YOU JOIN
ME IN A TOAST TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF ISRAEL AND MRS. RABIN,
TO THE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE UNITED
STATES, AND TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

IN THE ANCIENT TOAST OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE,
L'CHAYIM (LAH - HIGH - YIM).

END OF TEXT