The original documents are located in Box 24, “2/25/76 - Remarks at Meeting of Delegates to the 16th Mexico - U.S. Interparliamentary Conference” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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TALKING POINTS: MEETING WITH MEXICAN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION
FEBRUARY 25, 1976
I AM PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO WELCOME YOU, 

THE DELEGATES TO THE SIXTEENTH MEXICO-U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY

CONFERENCE, AND YOUR SPOUSES, TO THE UNITED STATES

DURING OUR HISTORICAL BICENTENNIAL YEAR.
THIS IS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE YOU OFFICIALLY,

BUT AS A FORMER MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

I AM WELL ACQUAINTED WITH YOUR MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES.
LET ME TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY THROUGH YOUR DELEGATION MY WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, (eh-ehveh-REE-ah) WHO TOOK PART IN THE PARLIAMENTARY MEETINGS HELD IN MEXICO LAST YEAR.
THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO HAVE LONG ENJOYED FRIENDLY AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS. MAINTAINING OUR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN ONE OF THE IMPORTANT GOALS OF MY ADMINISTRATION.
IN FACT, MY FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES TO MEET WITH A CHIEF OF STATE WAS MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IN OCTOBER 1974. WE DISCUSSED A WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS AFFECTING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AS WELL AS WORLD AFFAIRS IN GENERAL. WE SAW A LITTLE -- MUCH TOO LITTLE -- OF BOTH OUR BIG COUNTRIES.
FRANK AND HONEST DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS -- SUCH AS THIS INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING ABOUT TO COMMENCE -- ARE VITAL TO OUR CONTINUED UNDERSTANDING AND OUR COLLABORATION WITH OUR GOOD FRIENDS TO THE SOUTH.

WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE OUR CONSULTATIONS AS REGULARLY AS MEXICO DESIRES, AND ON AS COMPREHENSIVE A BASIS.
I CANNOT OVEREMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH MEXICO. TRADE, TOURISM, INVESTMENT, BORDER ACTIVITIES, CULTURAL TIES AND THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM ARE JUST A FEW OF THE AREAS IN WHICH OUR COUNTRIES ARE INTERDEPENDENT.
I know that you have a very busy program ahead, and a very exciting one. If you are successful in completing the lengthy agenda which you plan to discuss, you will indeed merit the breathing spell which is planned for you in Vail, Colorado at the end of your visit.
I'M SORRY I WON'T BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU IN VAIL.

AS YOU KNOW, IT'S ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES. BUT MY THOUGHTS WILL BE WITH YOU THEN, AND THROUGHOUT THIS CONFERENCE, AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR IMPORTANT TASK OF BUILDING ON THE CORDIAL RELATIONS THAT HAVE LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF OUR TWO GREAT COUNTRIES.

END OF TEXT