The original documents are located in Box 31, "5/10/76 - Remarks at Ceremonies Opening the Exhibit at the Washington Monument" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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WE MEET TODAY IN AN AMERICA AT PEACE.

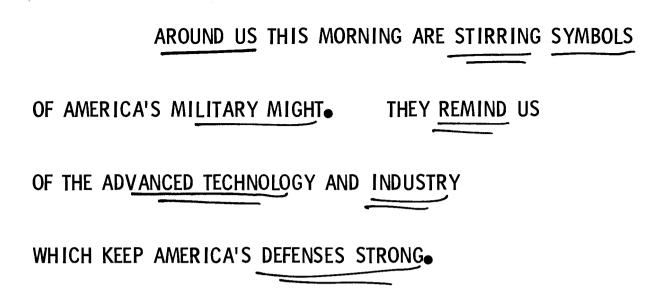
BUT WE MEET IN THE SHADOW OF A MONUMENT TO ONE WHO SAID:

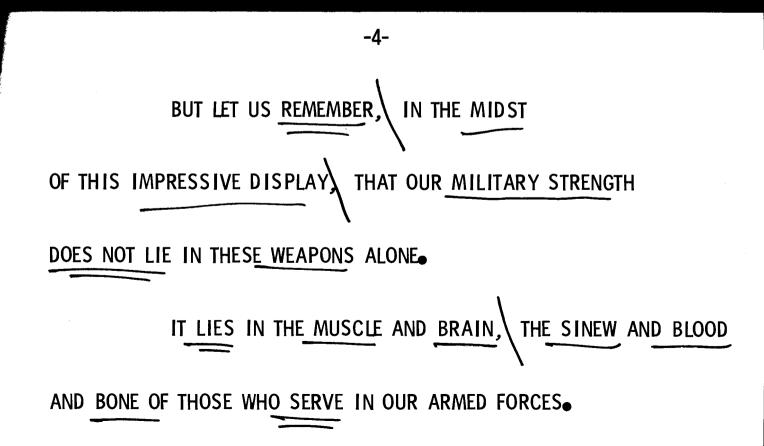
'TO BE PREPARED FOR WAR IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTUAL WAYS

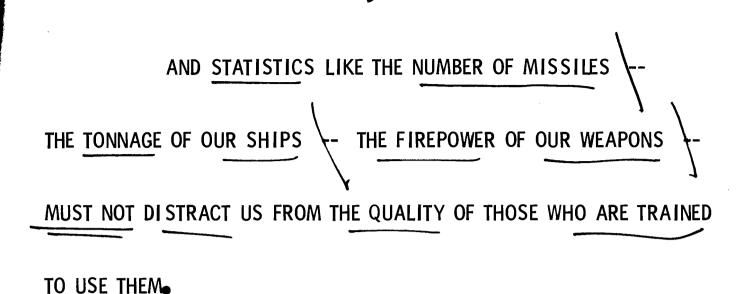
OF PRESERVING THE PEACE."

TODAY OUR DEFENSES ARE STRONG,	
AND WE WILL KEEP THEM STRONG NOT STRONG FOR TH	IE SAKE
OF WAR - BUT STRONG FOR THE SAKE OF PEACE.	

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MILITARY HISTORY HAS DEMONSTRATED,

OVER AND OVER AGAIN, THAT THE CHARACTER OF A NATION'S SOLDIERS

AND THEIR COMMANDERS DETERMINES MILITARY STRENGTH

MORE THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE FACTOR.

A PATTON OR A NIMITZ OR AN EISENHOWER WORTH?

AND HOW MUCH WAS A GRANT OR A LEE,

OR DIED FOR FREEDOM?

HOW CAN WE MEASURE THE VALUE OF AN AMERICAN WHO HAS SUFFERED

SUCH SOLDIERS HAVE NO PRICE TAG.

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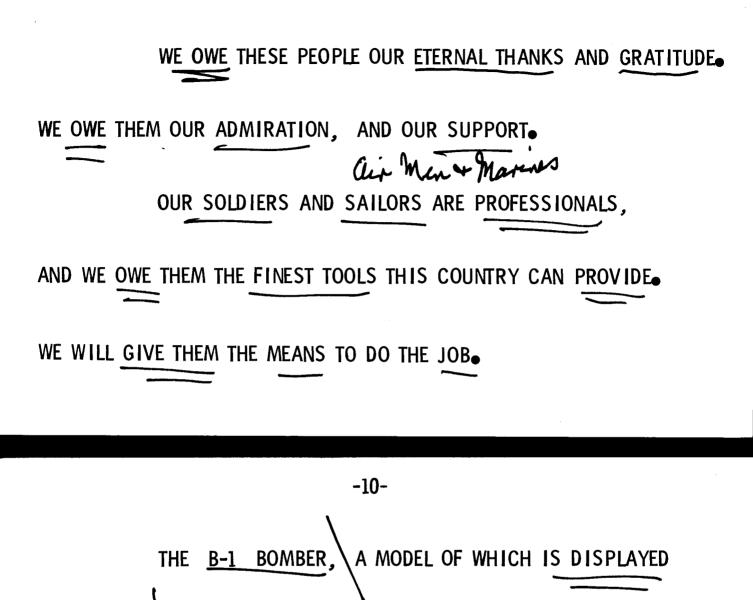
THEY MAY BE CALLED UPON TO DEFEND.

TO THE AMERICAN IDEALS OF PEACE AND FREEDOM

ESTABLISHMENT ARE NOT ONLY WELL-TRAINED AND WELL-ARMED. BUT JUST AS IMPORTANT. THEY ARE COURAGEOUS AND DEVOTED

THE MEN AND WOMEN IN ALL BRANCHES OF OUR DEFENSE

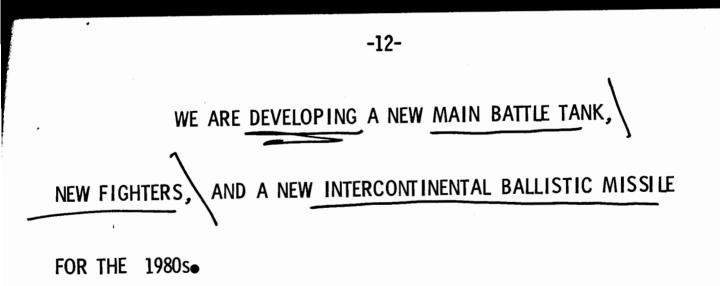
-7-



HERE TODAY, REPRESENTS JUST ONE PART OF OUR COMMITMENT

TO THIS TASK.

WE HAVE <u>LAID THE KEEL FOR THE FIRST OF A SERIES</u> OF NEW MISSILE LAUNCHING SUBMARINES, THE TRIDENT MISSILE FLEET, WHICH WILL BE THE FOUNDATION FOR A STRONG AND TECHNOLOGICALLY SUPERIOR FORCE THROUGH THE 1980s.



AND ONE EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF OUR ADVANCED CAPABILITY

IS THE NEW CRUISE MISSILE WE ARE DEVELOPING FOR OUR AIR AND NAVAL FORCES. THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT NEW TECHNOLOGY IN WHICH WE LEAD THE WORLD.

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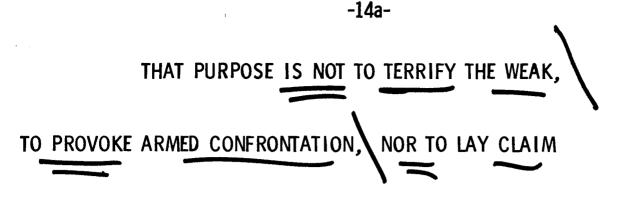
THE WEAPONS WE HOLD TODAY, AND THOSE WE PLAN

FOR THE FUTURE, GIVE AMERICA A MIGHTY POWER.

BUT WITH SUCH POWER COMES A MIGHTY RESPONSIBILITY.

WE MUST NEVER FORGET THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH OUR ARSENAL

IS INTENDED.



TO THAT WHICH IS NOT OURS.

-14b-

OUR PURPOSE IS TO DEFEND OUR FREEDOM,

AND TO MAINTAIN A FOUNDATION OF STRENGTH ON WHICH A BETTER

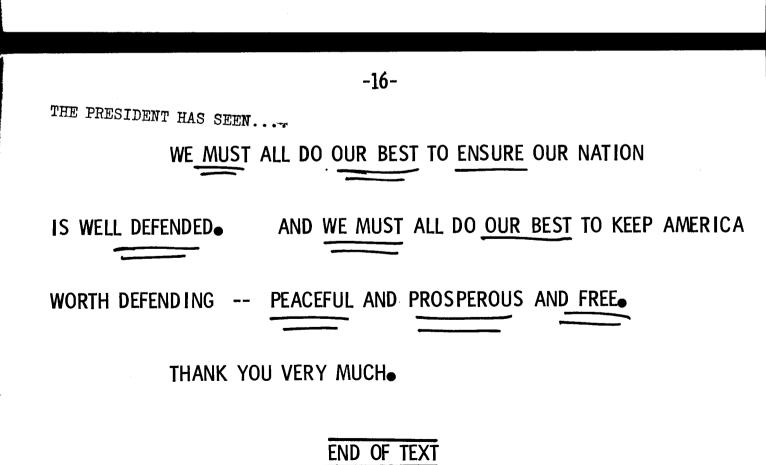
AND MORE PEACEFUL WORLD CAN BE BUILT.

THAT THOUGHT SHOULD MOTIVATE EVERY MAN AND WOMAN

IN OUR ARMED SERVICES.

AND THEIR DETERMINATION TO FULFILL THAT PURPOSE

MUST ALSO LIVE IN THE HEART OF EVERY AMERICAN.



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