

The original documents are located in Box 32, “5/11/76 - Remarks at a Luncheon for Queen Margrethe II of Denmark” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TOAST AT LUNCHEON FOR QUEEN OF DENMARK
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1976

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YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE FOR MRS. FORD

AND ME TO HAVE YOU WITH US IN THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY.

ON YOUR FIRST VISIT TO OUR COUNTRY SINCE ASCENDING
THE THRONE, I WELCOME YOU ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.
AMERICANS HAVE AN HISTORIC AFFINITY AND SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP
FOR DENMARK AND WANT YOUR STAY IN OUR COUNTRY TO BE A JOYOUS
AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE.

WE ARE GREATLY HONORED THAT YOU HAVE JOINED
IN THE CELEBRATION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL AND THAT YOU WILL
PERSONALLY PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAMS MARKING THIS EVENT.

THERE ARE NO LESS THAN 22 CITIES AND TOWNS
IN THE UNITED STATES CALLED "DENMARK". THIS INDICATES
THE DANISH INFLUENCE IN AMERICA'S HEARTLAND --
AND IN AMERICA'S HEART.

I AM DELIGHTED THAT YOU WILL VISIT MANY PARTS
OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT OUR PEOPLE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO MEET YOU. I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT YOU WILL VISIT
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL TIES FLOWING
FROM THOSE HISTORIC ISLANDS.

YOUR VISIT IS VERY TIMELY IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR
BECAUSE OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MAINTAINED UNINTERRUPTED
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER LONGER THAN AMERICA
HAS WITH ANY OTHER COUNTRY. OUR RELATIONS BEGAN IN 1801.
THEY WERE NEVER SEVERED BY WAR OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

IN YOUR AMERICAN TRAVELS, YOU WILL MEET
MANY AMERICANS OF DANISH ANCESTRY. WE ARE PROUD
OF DANISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR PROGRESS, OUR CULTURAL
HERITAGE, AND OUR MORAL AND SPIRITUAL VALUES.

THE TRADITIONAL TIES BETWEEN DENMARK AND THE
UNITED STATES ARE REINFORCED BY COMMON DEDICATION TO THE
FREEDOM AND DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND TO ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL PROGRESS.

IT IS THESE SHARED COMMITMENTS WHICH MAKE US
NOT ONLY CLOSE FRIENDS, BUT STEADFAST ALLIES IN THE
NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.

WITH ITS RICH CULTURE AND TALENTED PEOPLE,
DENMARK HAS GIVEN MUCH TO HUMANITY. COMMITTED TO THE
OBJECTIVE OF PEACE AMONG NATIONS, THE DANES HAVE MADE
THAT GOAL A REALITY BY SERVING IN UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING
EFFORTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE CONGO, AND CYPRUS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY,
DENMARK ENHANCES CONTACTS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND
THE UNITED STATES.

THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO RELATIONS WITH DENMARK. I NOTE WITH PLEASURE THAT THESE
RELATIONS ARE EXCELLENT. I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL CONTINUE
TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S VIEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS,
PEACE, SECURITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS.

AS PRESIDENT, I WELCOME THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS
WHICH THE DANISH GOVERNMENT, THE DANISH BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
AND THE DANISH PEOPLE ARE MAKING TO THE OBSERVANCE OF OUR
200th ANNIVERSARY.

IN ADDITION TO THE VISIT OF HER MAJESTY AND
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, DANISH PROGRAMS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL
ENCOMPASS A BROAD RANGE OF ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELDS OF MUSIC,
ART, EDUCATION AND HISTORY.

THEY INCLUDE TOURS BY THE ROYAL DANISH BALLET AND THE
COPENHAGEN (Ko-pen-hay-gen) BOYS' CHOIR, EXHIBITS, PRESENTATIONS
OF BOOKS AND MUSIC ANTHOLOGIES TO AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND
CONSERVATORIES, AND GENEROUS GIFTS TO THE KENNEDY CENTER AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. WE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

DENMARK, PERHAPS, IS THE ONLY OTHER COUNTRY
WHICH FOR YEARS HAS CELEBRATED JULY 4th. A DANISH SOCIETY
HAS MET ON JULY 4th FOR MANY YEARS TO REAFFIRM THE
FRIENDLY TIES BETWEEN DENMARK AND THE UNITED STATES.

YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, ONCE AGAIN,
WE BID YOU A SINCERE AND HEARTY WELCOME.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK YOU TO JOIN ME
IN A TOAST TO HER MAJESTY AND TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS.

MAY THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN DENMARK AND
THE UNITED STATES CONTINUE TO GROW AND MAY OUR TWO NATIONS
MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER TOWARD OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES OF PEACE,
PROGRESS AND LIBERTY FOR ALL PEOPLE.

END OF TEXT

FRIEDMAN

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

MAY 10, 1976
FIRST DRAFT

TOAST AT LUNCHEON FOR QUEEN OF DENMARK
May 11, 1976

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, ladies and
gentlemen:

It is a privilege and a pleasure for Mrs. Ford and me
to have you with us in the White House today.

On your first visit to our country since ascending the
throne, I welcome you on behalf of the American people who have
an historic affinity and special friendship for Denmark. May your
stay in our country be a joyous and rewarding experience.

Americans are greatly honored that you have joined us
in the celebration of our Bicentennial and that you will personally
participate in programs marking this event. There are no less than
22 cities and towns in the United States called "Denmark", indicating
the extent of the Danish component in today's America.

I am delighted that you will visit many parts of the United States and our people will have an opportunity to meet you.

I am especially pleased that you will visit the Virgin Islands because of the special ties flowing from those historic islands.

Your visit is very timely in this Bicentennial year because our two countries have maintained uninterrupted diplomatic relations with each other longer than America has with any other country. Our relations began in 1801 and were never severed by war or for any other reason.

In your American travels, you will meet many Americans of Danish ancestry. Danish-Americans helped build our nation. We are proud of Danish contributions to our progress, our cultural heritage, and our moral and spiritual values -- of what Danes brought to American science and industry, agriculture, education, and all the arts and the professions.

In 1785, a pastor in a small town in Denmark issued a pamphlet asking a provocative question: "Has the Discovery of America Caused more damage than benefit to humanity?" Danes subsequently concluded not only that we brought more benefits but we are glad that Danes helped us to serve humanity.

The traditional ties of friendship between Denmark and the United States are reinforced by common dedication to democracy, to the freedom and dignity of the individual, and to economic and social progress. It is these shared commitments which make us not only close friends, but steadfast allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The same principles enable fruitful cooperation between our two countries in other international organizations.

With its rich culture and talented people, the Danish nation has given much to humanity. Denmark has long taken an active and constructive role in world affairs.

Committed to the objective of peace among nations, Denmark has striven to make that goal a reality by sending Danish soldiers to serve in UN peacekeeping efforts in the Middle East, in the Congo, and in Cyprus. As a member of the European Community, Denmark has enhanced close contacts between the Community and the United States.

The United States attaches very great importance to relations with Denmark. I note with pleasure that these relations are excellent. I am confident we will continue to understand each other's views on the international problems: peace, security and economic progress. We can and will meet those challenges, and realize the aspirations of greatest importance to both our peoples.

As President, I welcome the outstanding contributions which the Danish Government, the Danish Bicentennial Committee and the Danish people are making to the observance of our 200th Anniversary.

In addition to the visit of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness, Danish programs for the Bicentennial encompass a broad range of activities in the fields of music, art, education and history. They include tours by the Royal Danish Ballet and the Copenhagen Boys' Choir, exhibits, presentations of books and music anthologies to American universities and conservatories, and gifts to the Kennedy Center and the Government of the Virgin Islands. We are deeply grateful both for the gifts and programs themselves and for the friendship they so aptly symbolize.

We are old and close friends. Denmark, perhaps, is the only other country which for years has celebrated July 4. Since 1912 the Rebild (RAY-bill) Society near Aalborg (AWL-bore) has met on July 4 to reaffirm the friendly ties between Denmark and the United States. This July 4 Rebild (RAY-bill) will have Independence Day ceremonies in New York, Chicago and Solvang, California.

as well as in Denmark where Her Majesty will attend the celebration.

Your Majesty, Your Royal Highness, once again,

we bid you a sincere and hearty welcome.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in a toast to Her Majesty and to His Royal Highness. May the friendship between Denmark and the United States continue to grow and may our two nations move forward together toward our common objectives of peace, progress and liberty for all people.

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