The original documents are located in Box 32, “5/17/76 - Remarks During the Ceremony on the Arrival of President Valery d'Estaing of France” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ARRIVAL REMARKS
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING
MAY 17, 1976

MR. PRESIDENT, MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING
(ZHEES-CAR DESTANG), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, MRS. FORD

AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE.
MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HAVE COME TO THE UNITED STATES AT A HISTORIC TIME -- THE CELEBRATION OF THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE.

YOUR VISIT IS A VERY SPECIAL AND FITTING GESTURE BY FRANCE WHICH TWO CENTURIES AGO SENT HER SONS AND HER TREASURE TO HELP AN INFANT REPUBLIC WIN ITS INDEPENDENCE.
IN THE LAST DECADES OF THE 18th CENTURY, THE WORLD WAS TRANSFORMED BY THE AMERICAN AND FRENCH REVOLUTIONS.

WHO COULD HAVE PREDICTED THAT THESE TWO NEW REPUBLICS -- WHO CAME TOGETHER IN THEIR INFANCY TO ESTABLISH FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE -- TWO HUNDRED YEARS LATER, WOULD REMAIN STEADFAST FRIENDS AND ALLIES STILL DEFENDING THESE SAME IDEALS.
AS IN 1776 AND 1789, OUR NATIONS CONTINUE TO CHAMPION LIBERTY AND DEMOCRACY. WE COOPERATE IN PEACE -- AS WE HAVE IN WAR -- TO PRESERVE OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE OF FREEDOM.

WE WELCOME YOU TODAY WITH WARM RECOLLECTION OF FRANCE'S AID TO A STRUGGLING YOUNG REPUBLIC.
WITHIN THE PAST 30 YEARS, THE NUMBER OF INDEPENDENT NATIONS HAS NEARLY DOUBLED. THIS IS TO BE WELCOMED.

AS EACH NEW NATION HAS DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SET ITS POLITICAL COURSE, THE WORLD HAS BECOME MORE COMPLEX, MORE INTERDEPENDENT, AND DEMANDS FROM US EVER GREATER WISDOM IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.
IN SUCH A WORLD, THE FRENCH-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP ENTERING ITS THIRD CENTURY STANDS OUT AS AN ENDURING SYMBOL OF COMMON DEDICATION TO FREEDOM, TO THE RIGHTS OF MAN AND TO THE INCREASED WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLES IN A MORE PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE LONGSTANDING AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT. IN DEALING WITH THE FORMIDABLE ECONOMIC, SECURITY AND POLITICAL CHALLENGES FACING ALL DEMOCRACIES TODAY, CLOSE COOPERATION IS MORE CRUCIAL THAN EVER.
WE CAN SUCCESSFULLY MEET THESE CHALLENGES.

SPEAKING FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I SALUTE THE ROLE OF FRANCE IN STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION, AND FRENCH CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF ENERGY, INFLATION, FOOD AND FINANCIAL PRESSURES.

WE HAVE MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES TO TALK ABOUT.

MR. PRESIDENT, I LOOK FORWARD TO THESE TALKS IN FULL CONFIDENCE THAT THEY WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IN THE WORLD.
MR. PRESIDENT, AMERICANS ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE

OF THE GENEROUS AND THOUGHTFUL WAYS FRANCE HAS CHOSEN TO

HONOR OUR BICENTENNIAL.

I KNOW THAT YOUR VISITS TO AMERICAN TOWNS AND CITIES AND

YOUR PARTICIPATION IN BICENTENNIAL CEREMONIES AT HALLOWED

LANDMARKS OF OUR REVOLUTION WILL FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE

TRADITIONAL AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA AND FRANCE.
MR. PRESIDENT, MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING

(ZHEES-CAR DESTANG), AMERICA BIDS YOU A MOST CORDIAL WELCOME.

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