

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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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

ARRIVAL REMARKS
PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING
MAY 17, 1976

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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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