The original documents are located in Box 32, "5/17/76 - Remarks During Toast at State Dinner for French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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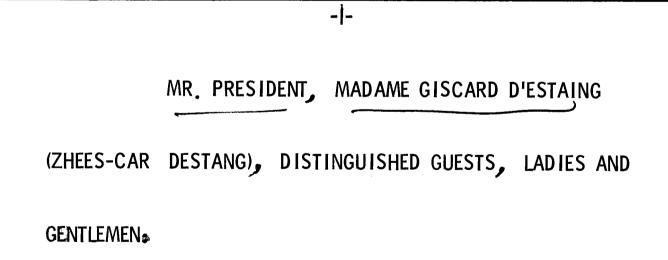
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TOAST AT STATE DINNER

FOR

PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING

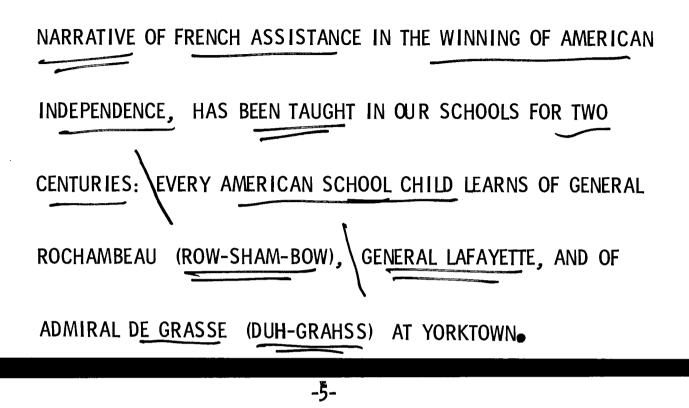
MAY 17, 1976



WE ARE DEEPLY HONORED TO HAVE YOU AND YOUR PARTY WITH US THIS EVENING. MRS. FORD AND I CONSIDER OURSELVES VERY FORTUNATE TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND OUR HOSPITALITY TO ALL OF YOU, OFFICIALLY AS WELL AS PERSONALLY. ...-3-MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES TO SHARE WITH US THE 200th ANNIVERSARY OF OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS HISTORIC HOUSE TONIGHT ARE VIVID REMINDERS OF THE LONGSTANDING FRIENDSHIP OF -- AND OF FRANCE'S AID TO AMERICA SO LONG AGO. OUR TWO NATIONS

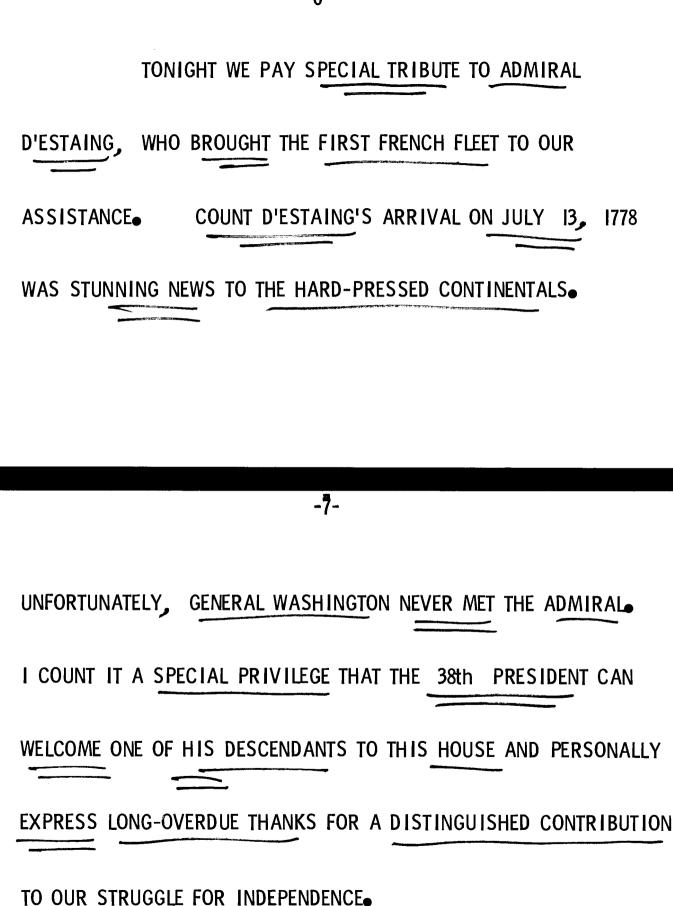
-2-

A GLORIOUS CHAPTER IN HUMAN HISTORY, THE



AS MILLIONS OF VISITORS TO WASHINGTON WILL

DISCOVER THIS YEAR, THIS CITY CONTAINS MANY MONUMENTS TO BRAVE SONS OF FRANCE WHO HELPED US - BEGINNING WITH THE STATUE OF GENERAL ROCHAMBEAU (ROW-SHAM-BOW) IN LAFAYETTE PARK, ACROSS THE STREET FROM THIS HOUSE.



IN HIS HONOR WE HAVE DISPLAYED IN THIS ROOM TONIGHT A BUST OF THE ADMIRAL WHICH HAS LONG RESIDED AT THE WHITE HOUSE. I AM CERTAIN YOU WILL ALL AGREE IT IS A DISTINCT PLEASURE TO HAVE THE ADMIRAL WITH US THIS EVENING.

-9-

MR. PRESIDENT, WE WELCOME YOU TONIGHT BOTH

IN GRATITUDE FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF FRANCE 200 YEARS AGO,

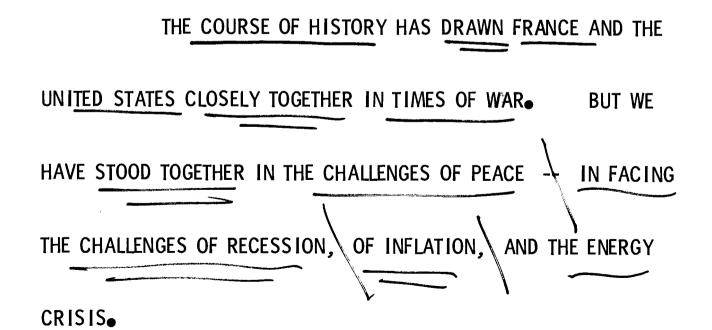
AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTINUING IMPORTANT ROLE WHICH

FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES MUST PLAY AS ALLIES IN THE

WORLD TODAY.

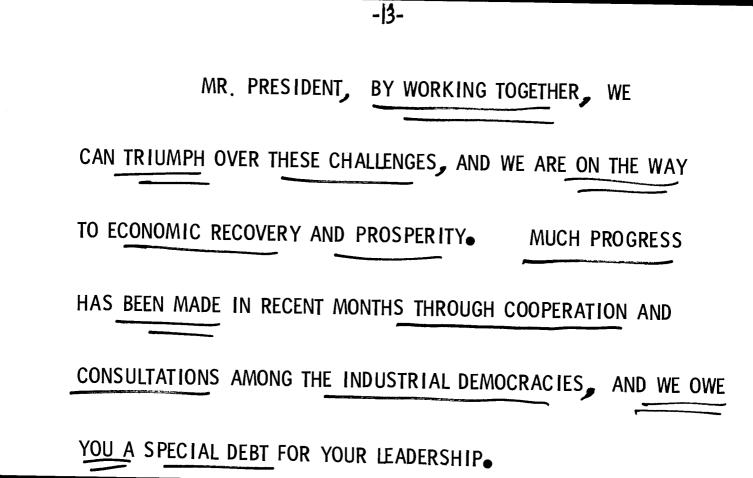


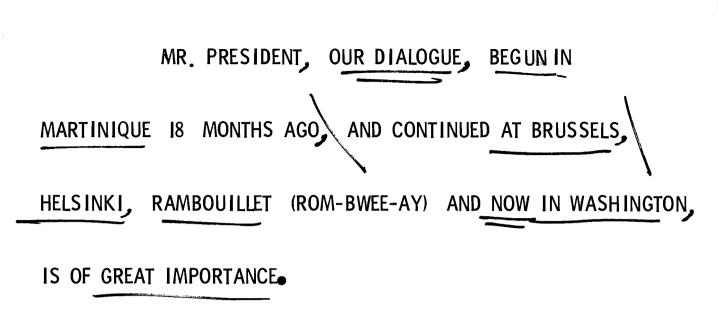




THESE CHALLENGES ARE NO LESS A THREAT TO OUR PEOPLES

THAN THE WARS OF THE PAST.

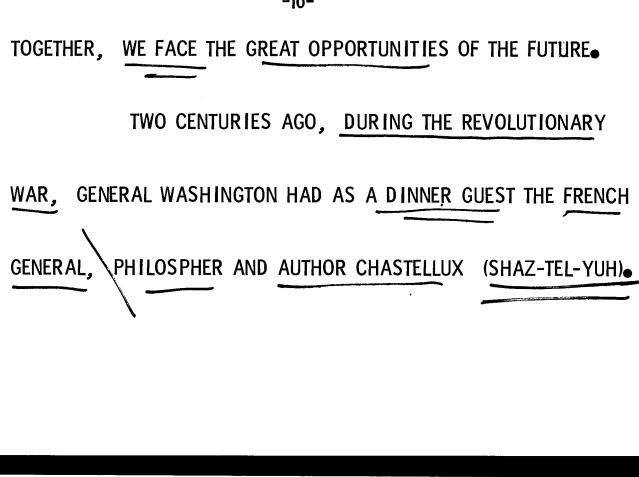






THIS CONTINUING DIALOGUE HAS GENERATED A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR RELATIONSHIP AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES. AS IN 1776, AMERICA WELCOMES THE PARTNERSHIP OF FRANCE AND VALUES HER WISDOM, STRENGTH

AND LEADERSHIP.



-17-

WRITING OF THAT DINNER, CHASTELLUX (SHAZ-TEL-YUH) REMARKED FAVORABLY UPON THE CALM AND AGREEABLE CONVERSATION. BUT HE DISAPPROVED OF THE TEN COURSE MEAL.

HE OBSERVED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FREQUENT TOASTS WERE "A SORT OF REFRAIN PUNCTUATING THE CONVERSATION, AS A REMINDER THAT EACH INDIVIDUAL IS PART OF THE COMPANY.

