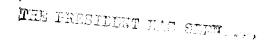
The original documents are located in Box 32, "5/19/76 - Remarks on the Acceptance of the Gift of a Sound and Light Display from President Valery Giscard d'Estaing of France" of the President's Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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SOUND AND LIGHT DISPLAY MT. VERNON MAY 19, 1976

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MR. PRESIDENT, MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING

(ZHEES-CAR DESTANG), DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND

GENTLEMEN:

I AM GREATLY HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS MAGNIFICENT

PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

IT IS AN INGENIOUS AND GENEROUS GIFT -- A SYMBOL OF THE

COMMON HERITAGE OF FRIENDSHIP AND DEVOTION TO FREEDOM WHICH

DISTINGUISHES THE HISTORIC TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

-3-

THIS "SOUND AND LIGHT" DISPLAY WILL TAKE

ITS PLACE WITH YOUR COUNTRY'S GIFT IN 1876 TO OUR CENTENNIAL --

THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.

IT HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF AMERICA AS WELL AS

A CONTINUING REMINDER OF THE INSPIRING VALUES WE SHARE.

FOR MANY GENERATIONS "THE LADY WITH THE LAMP" HAS WELCOMED MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS "YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE." LIKE THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. THE MOUNT VERNON

SOUND AND LIGHT DISPLAY WILL BE A CONTINUOUS CELEBRATION OF

THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY SHARED BY OUR TWO REPUBLICS.

-5-

THERE COULD BE NO MORE HISTORIC OR SUITABLE

SITE THAN MOUNT VERNON FOR FRANCE TO HONOR OUR BICENTENNIAL. IT WAS HERE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1782, THAT GENERAL WASHINGTON ARRIVED JUST BEFORE THE DECISIVE BATTLE AT YORKTOWN. HE WAS JOINED BY FRENCH GENERALS ROCHAMBEAU (ROW-SHAM-BOW) AND CHASTELLUX (SH'AZ-TEL-YUH). IT WAS FROM HERE THAT THE AMERICAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND HIS FRENCH ALLIES RODE TO YORKTOWN AND INTO THE PAGES OF HISTORY.

-7-

MR. PRESIDENT, TODAY, AT YORKTOWN,

YOU PERSONALLY COMMEMORATED OUR JOINT VICTORY.

WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE OUR "DAY OF GLORY" WITH YOU.

WELL-KNOWN. IT WAS TO MOUNT VERNON THAT HIS THOUGHTS TURNED DURING THE DIFFICULT, OFTEN DISCOURAGING, CAMPAIGNS OF THE WAR OF THE REVOLUTION AND DURING HIS PRESIDENCY.

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LOVE OF MOUNT VERNON IS

-9-

VISITORS TO MOUNT VERNON WILL NOW HEAR, SEE

AND FEEL THE EMOTIONS AROUSED BY THE CREATION OF THE UNITED

STATES OF AMERICA, BY WASHINGTON'S MEETING WITH LAFAYETTE,

AND BY THE FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, I ASK YOU TO CONVEY TO THE

PEOPLE OF FRANCE, THE HEARTFELT THANKS OF THE AMERICAN

-10-

PEOPLE FOR THIS SUPERB DISPLAY OF "SOUND AND LIGHT" AND FOR THE

UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP IT SYMBOLIZES.

END OF TEXT

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

:

SOUND AND LIGHT DISPLAY

MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1976

LES PERSONNEL DES STORT

MR. PRESIDENT, MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING

(ZHEES-CAR DESTANG), DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I AM GREATLY HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS MAGNIFICENT

PRESENTATION ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

IT IS AN INGENIOUS AND GENEROUS GIFT A SYMBOL OF THE COMMON HERITAGE OF FRIENDSHIP AND DEVOTION TO FREEDOM WHICH DISTINGUISHES THE HISTORIC TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. THIS "SOUND AND LIGHT" DISPLAY WILL TAKE ITS PLACE WITH YOUR COUNTRY'S GIFT IN 1876 TO OUR CENTENNIAL --THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. IT HAS BECOME A SYMBOL OF AMERICA AS WELL AS A CONTINUING REMINDER OF THE INSPIRING VALUES WE SHARE.

FOR MANY GENERATIONS 'THE LADY WITH THE LAMP'' HAS WELCOMED MILLIONS OF IMMIGRANTS 'YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE.''

LIKE THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. THE MOUNT VERNON SOUND AND LIGHT DISPLAY WILL BE A CONTINUOUS CELEBRATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF LIBERTY SHARED BY OUR TWO REPUBLICS. THERE COULD BE NO MORE HISTORIC OR SUITABLE SITE THAN MOUNT VERNON FOR FRANCE TO HONOR OUR BICENTENNIAL IT WAS HERE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1781, THAT GENERAL WASHINGTON ARRIVED JUST BEFORE THE DECISIVE BATTLE AT YORKTOWN. HE WAS JOINED BY FRENCH GENERALS ROCHAMBEAU (ROW-SHAM-BOW) AND CHASTELLUX (SHAZ-TEL-YUH). IT WAS FROM HERE THAT THE AMERICAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND HIS FRENCH ALLIES RODE TO YORKTOWN AND INTO THE PAGES OF HISTORY. MR. PRESIDENT. TODAY. AT YORKTOWN. YOU PERSONALLY COMMEMORATED OUR JOINT VICTORY. WE ARE PROUD TO SHARE OUR "DAY OF GLORY" WITH YOU.

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END OF TEXT