The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/3/76 - Remarks at Toast for King Juan Carlos I of Spain and his Wife the Queen During a Reciprocal Dinner at the Spanish Embassy” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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YOUR MAJESTIES, YOUR EXCELLENCIES, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND FRIENDS OF SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY, FOR YOUR KIND WORDS.

MRS. FORD AND I ARE HONORED AND PLEASED TO JOIN YOU HERE TONIGHT TO ENJOY YOUR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY AND UNIQUE DELIGHTS OF THE SPANISH CULINARY ARTS.

SPAIN CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY AND OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.

EXPLORERS SAILING UNDER THE SPANISH FLAG DISCOVERED THIS CONTINENT. AMONG THE PEOPLE OF EUROPE WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES TO COME TO THE AID OF OUR NEW BORN REPUBLIC WERE GALLANT SPANISH SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

THE EARLY SPANISH EXPLORERS LEFT A PERMANENT CULTURAL IMPRINT ON AMERICA. THEY BROUGHT PRINTING PRESSES AND UNIVERSITIES TO THE NEW WORLD. WE SEE THE SPANISH HERITAGE TODAY IN ST. AUGUSTINE, THE OLDEST PERMANENT EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA, IN COUNTLESS MISSIONS IN THE SOUTHWEST, IN REGIONAL FESTIVALS AND IN THE RODEO.
Spanish influence is reflected in the culture and even the common law of the American Southwest. Throughout America, millions of citizens speak Spanish. Many of our television and radio stations transmit the language and heritage of Spain.

In this century, for nearly 25 years, Spain and the United States have stood together to meet the challenges confronting the Western world. We have built a strong and harmonious relationship. The importance of our relationship is reflected in the recently concluded treaty of friendship and cooperation between our two countries. This treaty recognizes the important contribution of Spain to the defense of the West. It opens the way to improved defense cooperation. This treaty also marks the increasing cooperation between the Spanish and American peoples in a growing number of fields ranging from urban development, to the arts, to agriculture, science and education.
As we pay tribute to the past and present, we look to the future. In man's exploration of the unknown, we have moved from the age of sail and horseback to the age of space. Your Majesty's interest in America's space program is well known. It is indicative, not only of the common interests we share but of the forward looking qualities you have brought to the leadership of Spain. These qualities will serve both our countries well. Let us build on our bilateral accomplishments and work together to increase ties of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Spain.

I have no doubt of the increasingly important role Spain will play in the world and, particularly, in the West. Spain is a part geographically and historically of Europe and of the trans-Atlantic community.
YOUR MAJESTY, IN YOUR REMARKS UPON ARRIVAL AT THE WHITE HOUSE YESTERDAY YOU EXPRESSED THE WISH THAT YOUR VISIT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO REINFORCING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN US FOR THE GOOD OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND ALL THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO ATTAIN THE IDEALS OF FAITH, FREEDOM AND JUSTICE. SPEAKING FOR ALL HERE I WOULD ASSURE YOU BEYOND ANY DOUBT THAT YOUR WISH HAS BEEN REALIZED. OUR DISCUSSIONS AT THE WHITE HOUSE, YOUR ADDRESS TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND YOUR PARTICIPATION TOGETHER WITH YOUR GRACIOUS QUEEN IN OUR BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HAVE MARKED AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. WE WISH YOU WELL AS YOU CONTINUE YOUR VISIT TOMORROW TO NEW YORK, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR NEXT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

YOUR MAJESTIES, I PROPOSE A TOAST TO YOU AND TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF SPAIN.

VIVA ESPAGNA! (vee-vah ESS-pan-yah)

END OF TEXT.