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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

PRESIDENT'S BICENTENNIAL TELEVISION MESSAGE, 1976

TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WE THE PEOPLE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEGAN A GREAT ADVENTURE WHICH  
STIRRED THE IMAGINATION AND QUICKENED THE HOPES OF MEN AND  
WOMEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE DATE WAS JULY 4, 1776 --  
THE OCCASION, THE SIGNING OF OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

NO OTHER NATION IN HISTORY HAS EVER DEDICATED  
ITSELF MORE SPECIFICALLY, NOR DEVOTED ITSELF MORE COMPLETELY,  
TO THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY  
ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH SUCH UNALIENABLE RIGHTS  
AS LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

TWO CENTURIES LATER, AS WE CELEBRATE OUR  
BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE, THE GREAT AMERICAN  
ADVENTURE CONTINUES●

THE HALLMARK OF THAT ADVENTURE HAS ALWAYS BEEN  
AN EAGERNESS TO EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN -- WHETHER IT LAY ACROSS  
AN OCEAN OR A CONTINENT, ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF SPACE  
OR THE FRONTIERS OF HUMAN KNOWLEDGE●

BECAUSE WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN READY TO TRY NEW  
AND UNTESTED ENTERPRISES -- IN GOVERNMENT, IN COMMERCE,  
IN THE ARTS AND SCIENCES, AND IN HUMAN RELATIONS --  
WE HAVE MADE UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS IN ALL OF THESE FIELDS●

WHILE REACHING FOR THE UNKNOWN, AMERICANS  
HAVE ALSO KEPT THEIR FAITH IN THIS WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE OF  
THE PAST. COLONISTS AND IMMIGRANTS BROUGHT WITH THEM  
CHERISHED VALUES AND IDEALS -- IN RELIGION AND CULTURE,  
IN LAW AND LEARNING -- WHICH, MIXED WITH THE NATIVE  
AMERICAN WAYS, GAVE US OUR RICH AMERICAN HERITAGE.

THE UNIQUE AMERICAN UNION OF THE KNOWN AND THE  
UNKNOWN, THE TRIED AND THE UNTRIED, HAS BEEN THE FOUNDATION  
FOR OUR LIBERTY AND THE SECRET OF OUR GREAT SUCCESS.

IN THIS COUNTRY INDIVIDUALS CAN BE THE MASTERS  
RATHER THAN THE HELPLESS VICTIMS, OF THEIR DESTINY.

WE CAN MAKE OUR OWN OPPORTUNITIES, AND MAKE THE MOST OF  
THEM.

IN THE SPACE OF TWO CENTURIES, WE HAVE NOT BEEN  
ABLE TO RIGHT EVERY WRONG, TO CORRECT EVERY INJUSTICE, TO  
REACH EVERY WORTHY GOAL●

BUT FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS WE HAVE TRIED, AND WE  
WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE, TO MAKE THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUAL MEN  
AND WOMEN -- IN THIS COUNTRY AND ON THIS EARTH -- BETTER  
LIVES, MORE HOPEFUL AND HAPPY, MORE PROSPEROUS AND  
PEACEFUL, MORE FULFILLING AND MORE FREE●

THIS IS OUR COMMON DEDICATION -- AND IT WILL BE  
OUR COMMON GLORY -- AS WE ENTER THE THIRD CENTURY OF THE  
AMERICAN ADVENTURE●

END OF TEXT