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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

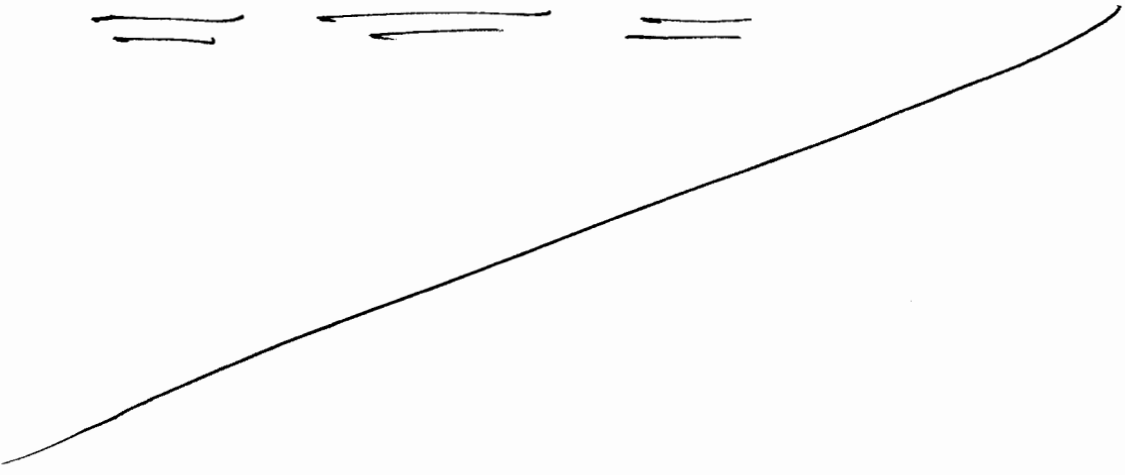
ARRIVAL STATEMENT - SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1976

Mr Governor - Distinguished Members of Welcoming Committee

THANK YOU FOR THIS WARM WELCOME UPON OUR ARRIVAL

FOR THIS SUMMIT. IT IS AN HONOR FOR THE UNITED STATES TO  
HOST THIS CONFERENCE, AND I KNOW THAT WORLD LEADERS WHO ARE  
JOINING ME WILL BE AS APPRECIATIVE OF THE BEAUTY AND  
HOSPITALITY OF PUERTO RICO AS I AM.



IN RECENT YEARS THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES HAVE

BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH QUESTIONS OF ECONOMIC

GROWTH AND STABILITY. THE LINKAGES BETWEEN OUR NATIONS HAVE

MULTIPLIED ~~AND~~ OUR ECONOMIES HAVE BECOME MORE CLOSELY

INTERRELATED.

LAST NOVEMBER AT RAMBOUILLET WE BEGAN A DIALOGUE

WHICH RECOGNIZED OUR MUTUAL CONCERNS AND OUR INTER -

RELATIONSHIPS• TODAY WE COME TOGETHER TO CONTINUE THAT

DIALOGUE• WE ARE FULLY AWARE OF HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR

US TO WORK TOGETHER TO SHAPE POLICIES TO ACHIEVE STABLE

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TO RESPOND TO THE NEW CHALLENGES AND

OPPORTUNITIES WHICH FACE US ALL•

SINCE WE LAST MET WE HAVE WITNESSED SIGNIFICANT  
ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. CERTAINLY  
IN THE UNITED STATES OUR PROGRESS HAS BEEN BETTER THAN MANY  
PREDICTED. BUT SOME OLD PROBLEMS REMAIN AND NEW ONES  
CONFRONT US. THE VERY SPEED OF THE RECOVERY ITSELF SERVES  
AS A MAJOR TEST OF OUR ABILITY TO ENSURE LONG-TERM STABILITY  
IN OUR ECONOMY.

THIS IS NOT A TEST, HOWEVER, FOR THE UNITED STATES ALONE•

IT IS THE SPECIAL CHALLENGE FACING THE PEOPLES OF ALL THE

INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES•

I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AGAIN WITH THE

LEADERS OF OUR MAJOR ECONOMIC PARTNERS•

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL HELP US TO CONTINUE  
OUR CURRENT ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AND MOVE US EVER CLOSER  
TO OUR GOAL OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD.

THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT AS PRESIDENT TO THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO.



IT IS A FITTING MOMENT TO REFLECT ON THE RICH AND LONG HISTORY  
OF COOPERATION AND PARTICIPATION WHICH THIS ISLAND AND ITS  
PEOPLE SHARE WITH THE UNITED STATES. THAT HISTORY HAS BEEN  
BUILT ON A SIMPLE BUT FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPT -- THE RIGHT OF THE  
PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES FREELY TO DETERMINE  
THE NATURE OF THEIR TIES WITH ONE ANOTHER.

OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE CHOSEN TO HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP,

~~AND~~ WE HAVE BUILT THIS RELATIONSHIP AROUND A COMMON

CITIZENSHIP, A COMMON DEFENSE, A COMMON CURRENCY, AND A

COMMON MARKET.

TODAY, WE FIND THAT THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP

IS AGAIN, AS IN THE PAST, A SUBJECT OF FREE DISCUSSION AND

DEBATE.

THIS IN ITSELF IS THE BEST TESTAMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF WHAT

WE HAVE BUILT TOGETHER, ~~AND~~ IT IS THE BEST PROMISE THAT WHAT

WE TOGETHER CHOOSE TO DO IN THE FUTURE WILL BE BENEFICIAL

TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS ISLAND•

THERE ARE THOSE, HOWEVER, WHO SEEK TO DISTORT THE

FACTS; TO MISLEAD OTHERS ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH

PUERTO RICO•

THE RECORD IS CLEAR AND OPEN•

WE ARE PROUD OF THE

RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE DEVELOPED TOGETHER ~~AND~~ WE INVITE

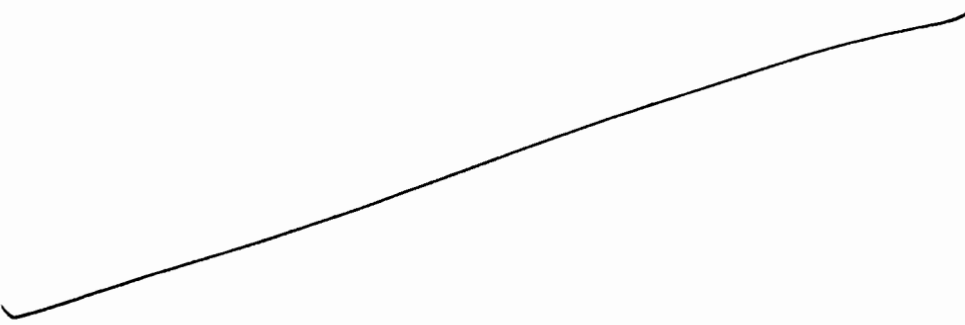
THE WORLD TO EXAMINE IT•

WE COMMEND TO ITS CRITICS THE

SAME FREEDOM OF CHOICE THROUGH FREE AND OPEN ELECTION WHICH

IS ENJOYED BY THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO•

THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INCLINED TO INTERFERE IN OUR FREELY  
DETERMINED RELATIONS SHOULD KNOW THAT SUCH AN ACT WILL BE  
CONSIDERED AS INTERVENTION IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF PUERTO  
RICO AND THE UNITED STATES; / IT WILL BE AN UNFRIENDLY ACT WHICH  
WILL BE RESISTED BY APPROPRIATE MEANS•



IN THE MIDST OF THIS BEAUTIFUL SETTING, WE CANNOT  
FORGET THAT PROBLEMS, BOTH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC, REMAIN.  
AS WE BASE OUR HOPES ON FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND EXPRESSION TO  
HELP RESOLVE THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS, SO WE LOOK TO COOPERATION  
AND INTERDEPENDENCE TO OVERCOME OUR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE WORK OF THE SUMMIT WILL GIVE  
A NEW IMPETUS TO THE GROWTH OF OUR WORLD WIDE ECONOMY  
AND IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND THUS WILL HAVE  
A POSITIVE EFFECT ON BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PUERTO RICO.

AGAIN, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME AND FOR  
YOUR HELP IN HOSTING THIS SUMMIT.

END OF TEXT