

**The original documents are located in Box 35, “6/27/76 - President's Introductory Statement at the Puerto Rico Summit” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY COLLEAGUES,  
AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, I WELCOME  
YOU TO PUERTO RICO. WE HAVE A FORMIDABLE TASK  
AHEAD OF US IN THESE NEXT TWO DAYS -- TO ADDRESS  
MAJOR COMMON CONCERNS, AND TO IDENTIFY AREAS  
IN WHICH IMPROVED COOPERATION AMONG US CAN  
CONTRIBUTE TO THE WELL BEING OF OUR CITIZENS AND  
TO A MORE SECURE AND PROSPEROUS WORLD.

AS WE ALL KNOW, MEETINGS OF THIS SORT  
RAISE ANTICIPATIONS OF DRAMATIC RESULTS.

BUT THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT RAMBOUILLET, AND OUR  
MEETING HERE TODAY, IS THAT THEY ARE PART OF AN  
ESSENTIAL AND CONTINUING BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL  
EFFORT BY THE LEADERS OF THE KEY INDUSTRIALIZED  
DEMOCRACIES TO ADDRESS COMMON PROBLEMS AND TO  
IMPROVE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR NATIONS' ECONOMIES,  
INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, MEANS THAT WE AS  
LEADERS CANNOT AFFORD TO ALLOW MAJOR DIFFICULTIES  
TO ARISE AND THEN, BY DRAMATIC MEETINGS, ATTEMPT  
TO RESOLVE THEM.

IT REQUIRES INSTEAD THAT WE CONCERT OUR EFFORTS  
TO PREVENT PROBLEMS FROM ARISING IN THE FIRST  
PLACE -- TO SHAPE THE FUTURE RATHER THAN REACTING  
TO IT. IT IS WITH THAT OBJECTIVE IN MIND THAT  
THIS SUMMIT IS BEING HELD.

THE CENTRAL ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, AND  
SECURITY IMPORTANCE OF OUR COUNTRIES TO ONE  
ANOTHER, AND TO THE WORLD, CONFERS UPON US  
SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, ON WHICH WE WILL FOCUS  
TODAY AND TOMORROW, OUR STRONG COMMITMENT TO  
SHAPE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACHES CAN CONTRIBUTE  
TO OUR COMMON PROSPERITY, STRENGTHEN OUR  
BROADER RELATIONSHIPS, AND PROVE HIGHLY  
BENEFICIAL TO THE WORLD AT LARGE•

RECENT EXPERIENCE HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED  
THAT, BECAUSE OF OUR INTERDEPENDENCE, COMMON  
PROBLEMS ARE UNLIKELY TO BE SOLVED UNLESS WE APPLY  
OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS• THEY HAVE, IN ADDITION,  
SHOWN THAT OUR COMMON CONCERNS ARE FAR MORE  
SIGNIFICANT THAN THE DIFFERENCES WHICH ARISE AMONG  
US FROM TIME TO TIME•

WE MUST, THEREFORE, APPROACH OUR PROBLEMS WITH  
A POLITICAL WILL AND A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION  
WHICH TAKES FULL ACCOUNT OF THE NEED TO PRESERVE  
AND STRENGTHEN OUR BROAD AND ESSENTIAL  
RELATIONSHIPS.

THE SUCCESS OF THIS CONFERENCE WILL DEPEND  
ON OUR COLLECTIVE ABILITIES TO AGREE ON SOUND  
DIRECTIONS FOR OUR ECONOMIES AND COOPERATIVE  
EFFORTS IN THE VARIOUS AREAS WE WILL DISCUSS.  
THE VISION AND SENSE OF SHARED PURPOSE WHICH  
RESULTS FROM THESE MEETINGS WILL HELP EACH OF US TO  
PURSUE CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES AT HOME, WITH RESPECT  
TO ONE ANOTHER, AND IN DEALING WITH GLOBAL ISSUES.

I AM HOPEFUL THAT THE SAME POSITIVE SPIRIT  
THAT HAD DEVELOPED AT RAMBOUILLET CAN EXTEND  
THROUGH OUR MEETINGS HERE AT PUERTO RICO AND  
BEYOND. MUCH OF THE WORLD'S FUTURE DEPENDS  
ON OUR CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION.

\* \* \* \* \*

WE HAVE A FULL AGENDA AND LESS TIME THAN WE  
WOULD LIKE. THUS, I SHOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY  
GIVING THE FLOOR TO MY FRIEND, PRESIDENT GISCARD  
D'ESTAING WHO WILL LEAD OFF THIS AFTERNOON'S  
DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES OF RECOVERY AND EXPANSION,  
AND FINANCIAL AND MONETARY MATTERS.

END OF TEXT

June 27, 1976

President's Introductory Statement at Puerto Rico Summit

On behalf of myself and my colleagues, and the people of the United States, I welcome you to Puerto Rico. We have a formidable task ahead of us in these next two days -- to address major common concerns, and to identify areas in which improved cooperation among us can contribute to the well being of our citizens and to a more secure and prosperous world.

As we all know, meetings of this sort raise anticipations of dramatic results. But the important thing about Rambouillet, and our meeting here today, is that they are part of an essential and continuing bilateral and multilateral effort by the leaders of the key industrialized democracies to address common problems and to improve mutual understanding.

The complexity of our nations' economies, individually and collectively, means that we as leaders cannot afford to allow major difficulties to arise and then, by dramatic meetings, attempt to resolve them. It requires instead that we concert our efforts



to prevent problems from arising in the first place -- to shape the future rather than reacting to it. It is with that objective in mind that this Summit is being held.

The central economic, political, and security importance of our countries to one another, and to the world, confers upon us special responsibilities. In the economic area, on which we will focus today and tomorrow, our strong commitment to shape constructive approaches can contribute to our common prosperity, strengthen our broader relationships, and prove highly beneficial to the world at large.

Recent experience has clearly demonstrated that, because of our interdependence, common problems are unlikely to be solved unless we apply our mutual efforts. They have, in addition, shown that our common concerns are far more significant than the differences which arise among us from time to time. We must, therefore, approach our problems with a political will and a spirit of cooperation which takes full account of the need to preserve and strengthen our broad and essential relationships.

The success of this conference will depend on our collective abilities to agree on sound directions for our economies and cooperative efforts in the various areas we will discuss. The vision and sense of shared purpose which results from these meetings will help each of us to pursue constructive policies at home, with respect to one another, and in dealing with global issues.

I am hopeful that the same positive spirit that had developed at Rambouillet can extend through our meetings here at Puerto Rico and beyond. Much of the world's future depends on our constructive cooperation.

\* \* \* \* \*

We have a full agenda and less time than we would like. Thus, I should like to begin by giving the floor to my friend, President Giscard d'Estaing who will lead off this afternoon's discussion of the issues of recovery and expansion, and financial and monetary matters.

END OF TEXT