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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 THE UNALIENABLE RIGHTS
OF 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 BEEN READY TO TRY NEW AND UNTESTED
ENTERPRISES -- IN FARMING, IN COMMERCE, IN SCIENCE AND
THE ARTS, 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 AMERICAN
INDIAN 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 GOAL -- AND IT WILL BE
OUR COMMON GLORY -- AS WE ENTER THE THIRD CENTURY OF
THE AMERICAN ADVENTURE●

END OF TEXT
