

The original documents are located in Box 36, “7/7/76 - Toast at Dinner in Honor of Queen Elizabeth II in the Rose Garden” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

PRESIDENT'S TOAST AT DINNER

IN HONOR OF

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

THE ROSE GARDEN

JULY 7, 1976

YOUR MAJESTY,

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS

DISTINGUISHED

GUESTS:

WE ARE DEEPLY HONORED TO HAVE YOU, ~~YOUR MAJESTY,~~ AND

PRINCE PHILIP WITH US THIS EVENING.

ON BEHALF OF ALL

AMERICANS, MRS. FORD AND I TAKE THE GREATEST PLEASURE IN

EXTENDING THE HOSPITALITY OF THE UNITED STATES TO YOU AND YOUR

PARTY.

YOUR MAJESTY, THIS EVENING WE HONOR A REMARKABLE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN NATIONS. DURING OUR
200 YEARS AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION, THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA HAS NEVER FORGOTTEN ITS BRITISH HERITAGE.

NEARLY FOUR CENTURIES AGO, THE BRITISH CAME TO A WILDERNESS

AND BUILT A NEW CIVILIZATION ~~AND CIVILIZATION BUILT ON~~

BRITISH CUSTOM, BRITISH FORTITUDE, BRITISH LAW AND

BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

OUR FOUNDING FATHERS SERVED IN BRITISH COLONIAL LEGISLATURES,

FOUGHT IN THE BRITISH MILITARY FORCES AND LEARNED REPRESENTATIVE

SELF-GOVERNMENT FROM BRITISH BOOKS AND ~~BRITISH~~ PRACTICE.

YET, FOR ALL THIS THE COLONISTS FROM ENGLAND AND OTHER
LANDS CREATED IN AMERICA A CIVILIZATION DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF
THE MOTHER COUNTRY. INEVITABLY, WE DISSOLVED THE POLITICAL
BANDS THAT CONNECTED US.

THE UNITED STATES WON INDEPENDENCE, AND ESTABLISHED A NATION

THAT ADAPTED THE BEST OF BRITISH TRADITIONS TO THE AMERICAN

American

CLIMATE AND CHARACTER.

OUR RECONCILIATION, FRIENDSHIP AND FIRM ALLIANCE SEEM,

IN RETROSPECT, TO HAVE BEEN NATURAL FOR TWO NATIONS THAT SHARE

THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL DEVOTION TO HUMAN LIBERTY. OUR FIRST

AMBASSADOR TO ENGLAND, JOHN ADAMS, FORESAW THAT FUTURE WHEN

HE SPOKE AS FOLLOWS TO YOUR GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDMOTHER

QUEEN CHARLOTTE:

"PERMIT ME MADAM," HE SAID, "TO RECOMMEND TO YOUR MAJESTY'S
ROYAL GOODNESS, A RISING EMPIRE AND AN INFANT VIRGIN WORLD.

IT WILL IN FUTURE AGES BE THE GLORY OF THESE KINGDOMS TO HAVE
PEOPLED THAT COUNTRY, AND TO HAVE SOWN THERE THOSE SEEDS OF
SCIENCE, OF LIBERTY, OF VIRTUE AND OF PIETY WHICH ALONE
CONSTITUTE THE PROSPERITY OF NATIONS AND THE HAPPINESS OF THE
HUMAN RACE."

NOW, 200 YEARS LATER, WE HAVE SETTLED OUR CONTINENT•

PEOPLE HAVE COME FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE EARTH TO SHARE

IN THE HOPE, THE BUILDING AND THE SPIRIT OF OUR REPUBLIC•

ON THIS BICENTENNIAL, AMERICANS HAVE UNITED

IN A NEW MOOD OF HOPE AND CONFIDENCE. WE ARE DELIGHTED

BY YOUR VERY TIMELY VISIT AND BY YOUR GRACIOUS PARTICIPATION

IN THIS GREAT REAFFIRMATION OF AMERICAN PRIDE.

JOHN ADAMS' PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED. YOUR

MAJESTY, YOU PERSONALLY ATTESTED TO THE ACCURACY OF HIS

VISION THAT ENGLAND WOULD SOME DAY BE PROUD OF THE UNITED STATES.

IN 1951, DURING YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON, YOU STATED THAT

'FREE MEN EVERYWHERE LOOK TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES WITH

AFFECTION AND WITH HOPE. THE MESSAGE THAT HAS GONE OUT

FROM THIS GREAT CAPITAL CITY HAS BROUGHT HOPE AND COURAGE

TO A TROUBLED WORLD.'

THIS YEAR I KNOW YOU WILL FIND THE WARMTH OF YOUR RECEPTION
EVEN GREATER THAN BEFORE. YOU WILL RECOGNIZE IN THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE THE CONTINUED UNSWERVING DEVOTION TO THE
PRINCIPLES THAT HAVE MADE OUR TWO COUNTRIES CHAMPIONS OF
FREEDOM - AND A NEW AMERICAN SPIRIT OF CONFIDENCE AND
OPTIMISM AS THE UNITED STATES ENTERS ITS THIRD CENTURY.

✓
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~, THE TIES THAT BIND US TOGETHER

HAVE THROUGH TWO GREAT WARS SERVED AS A BULWARK

IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY AND THE DIGNITY OF MAN•

THESE IDEALS, BORN AND NURTURED IN OUR COMMON PAST, HAVE

WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME. OUR TWO NATIONS TODAY ARE

WORKING SIDE BY SIDE

→ IN PRESERVING FREEDOM, THROUGH COMMITMENT TO A

STRONG COMMON DEFENSE IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE;

-- IN PURSUING PEACE AND GREATER GLOBAL STABILITY;

-- IN SEEKING THE WELL-BEING OF ALL PEOPLES, THROUGH

JOINT EFFORTS, AS IN PUERTO RICO LITTLE MORE THAN A WEEK AGO,

TO IMPROVE OUR OWN SOCIETIES AND TO ASSIST THE DEVELOPING

NATIONS OF THE WORLD.

YOUR MAJESTY, DURING THE TIME OF YOUR REIGN AND MY

OWN GOVERNMENT SERVICE, THE WORLD HAS SEEN MANY CHANGES•

IN THE LAST GENERATION, OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE MET WHAT

SOMETIMES SEEMED TO BE INSURMOUNTABLE CHALLENGES•

TODAY'S CHALLENGES ARE NO LESS SERIOUS; THEY ARE DIFFERENT

AND IN MANY WAYS MORE COMPLEX THAN THOSE OF THE PAST.

YET, I AM CONFIDENT THAT IF THE DEMOCRACIES WORK TOGETHER,

IF WE PROCEED WITH THE COURAGE AND DEDICATION OF THOSE FIRST

STALWART ENGLISHMEN WHO SETTLED HERE AND THEIR DESCENDENTS

WHO FORGED AN INDEPENDENT NATION, WE MOST CERTAINLY

WILL PREVAIL.

IN A CHANGING WORLD OUR CONTINUING RELATIONSHIP IS

A REASSURING SYMBOL OF OUR DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE

THE DEFENSE OF FREEDOM.

~~YOUR~~ ~~MAJESTY~~, YOUR BICENTENNIAL VISIT ~~TO THE~~

~~UNITED STATES~~, AND THE MANY GENEROUS GIFTS FROM THE BRITISH

PEOPLE, ARE VIVID REMINDERS OF THE CONTINUING VITALITY OF OUR

FRIENDSHIP AND OF OUR PARTNERSHIP IN MANY NOBLE ENDEAVORS.

AS WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST, WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD

WITH CONFIDENCE TO WORKING FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL HUMANITY•

IN OUR THIRD CENTURY, I KNOW THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM WILL

BE AT OUR SIDE• *and the United States at your side.*

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

THE QUEEN•

END OF TEXT