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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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 BUILT ON BRITISH CUSTOM, BRITISH FORTITUDE, BRITISH LAW AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT.
OUR FOUNDING FATHERS SERVED IN BRITISH COLONIAL LEGISLATURES,

FUGHT 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

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' PROPHESY 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.
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 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