

The original documents are located in Box 36, “7/13/76 - Remarks to Members of '75-'76 Group of American Field Service Foreign Exchange Students and their Host families” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS TO AMERICAN FIELD

SERVICE EXCHANGE STUDENTS, JULY 13, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE

DR. RHINESMITH

(President, American Field Service)

OUR VERY WELCOME FOREIGN GUESTS AND AMERICAN STUDENTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

LET ME WELCOME ALL OF YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE THIS

AFTERNOON. IT IS A SPECIAL PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO MEET WITH

SO MANY FINE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

THE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE DESERVES CONGRATULATIONS

FOR BRINGING YOU, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF 62 NATIONS, TO THE

UNITED STATES DURING THE PAST YEAR TO STUDY ~~AND~~ TO SEE WHAT

LIFE IN OUR COUNTRY IS ALL ABOUT.

25 years

AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE HAS DEVOTED OVER ~~A QUARTER OF~~

A CENTURY ~~TO BUILDING A NETWORK OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION~~

AND COOPERATION AT A PERSONAL LEVEL.

YOU HERE / AND THE MANY

OTHERS WHO MAKE UP THE MORE THAN 80,000 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS

IN THIS PROGRAM OVER THE YEARS ARE THE HEIRS OF THIS WORK

AND THE CUSTODIANS OF ITS FUTURE.

WE MUST REMEMBER THAT MANY THOUSANDS OF HOST

FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS MAKE THIS PROGRAM AND

OTHERS LIKE IT POSSIBLE.

THEIR DEDICATED SUPPORT SPRINGS

FROM THE BEST TRADITIONS OF AMERICAN GENEROSITY AND

INTERNATIONAL IDEALISM.

THEY HAVE SEEN THROUGH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE HOW THIS WAY
OF SHARING LIFE CAN PROMOTE HARMONY AMONG PEOPLE OF
DIFFERENT TRADITIONS AND CULTURES●

THIS SPIRIT OF SEEKING UNDERSTANDING THROUGH PERSONAL

CONTACT WITH PEOPLE OF OTHER NATIONS AND CULTURES DESERVES

THE RESPECT AND SUPPORT OF ALL. IT IS A WORK THAT GOES

ON IN MANY WAYS THROUGH PRIVATE EFFORTS AND ONGOING

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED PROGRAMS OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL

EXCHANGE.

IN 1959, DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER TALKED TO AN EARLIER
GROUP OF STUDENTS VISITING OUR COUNTRY UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE / AND SAID THAT HE FELT NOTHING
COULD IMPROVE THE PROGRAM MORE THAN TO MULTIPLY ITS NUMBERS.

ON THAT JULY AFTERNOON, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SPOKE

TO ELEVEN HUNDRED STUDENTS.

TODAY, YOUR GROUP NUMBERS

2,700

26 HUNDRED OVERSEAS STUDENTS AND AN EQUAL NUMBER OF AMERICAN

YOUNG PEOPLE WHOSE HOMES AND FAMILY LIFE YOU HAVE

EXPERIENCED.

~~AND YET~~, I AM CERTAIN THAT YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE BEST
HOPE OF MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER, MORE PEACEFUL PLACE IS
TO SEEK EVEN GREATER EXCHANGES OF PERSONS OF DIFFERENT
BACKGROUNDS AND NATIONALITIES.

THERE ARE MANY COMPELLING REASONS FOR THIS PROGRAM

WHICH BRINGS YOU TO THE UNITED STATES AND BRINGS AMERICAN

STUDENTS TO COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD.

THE EXCHANGES ARE

EDUCATIONAL.

BY LIVING HERE YOU GROW TO UNDERSTAND US.

We learn to understand you

FALSE IMPRESSIONS ARE CORRECTED.

IN A VERY REAL SENSE THEY HELP TO RELAX INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

~~AND~~ THEY ARE ENJOYABLE FOR ALL CONCERNED. ~~YET~~, THE BEST

REASON FOR YOU BEING HERE IS THE PROMISE THAT YOU REPRESENT

AS THE FUTURE LEADERS OF YOUR NATION.

OVER THE YEARS, I HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF VISITING

MANY OF THE COUNTRIES YOU REPRESENT. IN EACH OF THOSE

COUNTRIES I HAVE MET MEN AND WOMEN IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP

WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED AMERICAN LIFE THROUGH THE AMERICAN FIELD

SERVICE.

~~AND~~ HERE AT HOME, IN THE CONGRESS, IN THE STATE HOUSES,
IN THE STATE LEGISLATURES AND IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT I HAVE MET
MANY MEN AND WOMEN NOW SERVING OUR COUNTRY WHO HAVE LIVED
ABROAD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE.

THE RESULT IS, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, THE DEVELOPMENT
AND FOSTERING OF AN INCREASED AWARENESS OF OUR
INTERDEPENDENCE.

AS WE ENTER OUR THIRD CENTURY AS A FREE NATION,
responsibilities
WE ARE EVER COGNIZANT OF AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP ~~ROLE~~ IN GLOBAL
AFFAIRS.

WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF COOPERATION ON AN EQUAL

BASIS BETWEEN ALL NATIONS, WHATEVER THEIR STAGE OF

DEVELOPMENT.

THE UNITED STATES BEARS A HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY

TO PROMOTE THE STABILITY UPON WHICH PEACE DEPENDS.

freedom &

↑

THEREFORE, WE MUST PROVIDE YOU, AND YOUNG PEOPLE
EVERYWHERE, THE HOPE OF A BETTER FUTURE BY MASTERING THE GREAT
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHALLENGE OF BUILDING A NEW EQUITABLE
AND PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP AMONG ALL NATIONS.

THE PROBLEMS FACED BY EACH OF OUR COUNTRIES HAVE NEVER

BEEN MORE INTER-RELATED.

WE MUST UNITE IN UNDERSTANDING

THAT OUR GREATEST CONCERNS CANNOT BE RESOLVED BY HASTY

ACTIONS AIMED AT SHORT TERM SOLUTIONS.

INSTEAD, WE HAVE / AND WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW / A SURE AND

STEADY COURSE AIMED AT PROVIDING LONG RANGE ANSWERS IN

DEALING WITH SUCH VITAL CONCERNS AS THE ECONOMY, THE

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, ^{growth} POPULATION CONTROL AND ^{arms reduction.} DISARMAMENT.

YOU HAVE VISITED US AS WE CELEBRATE OUR NATION'S

200TH BIRTHDAY.

YOU HAVE SEEN THE FIREWORKS.

YOU HAVE

LISTENED TO THE PATRIOTIC SPEECHES.

YOU HAVE WATCHED THE

PARADES AND LOOKED ON AS WE ALL CONSIDERED THE MEANING AND

SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR TWO CENTURIES OF INDEPENDENCE.

BUT, YOU HAVE SEEN MUCH MORE THAN DISPLAYS AND

BELL-RINGING.

YOU HAVE SEEN A MORE IMPORTANT DISPLAY --

THE REAFFIRMATION OF THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN SPIRIT OF UNITY

AND SOLIDARITY.

WE HAVE RE-DISCOVERED THAT AMERICA HAS INHERITED A
GREAT TRUST• THE FOUNDING OF OUR NATION WAS AN ACT OF
FAITH, A PROMISE TO AMERICANS AND TO THE ENTIRE WORLD•

THE COMMEMORATION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL PROVES THAT
PEOPLE CAN GOVERN THEMSELVES, THAT THEY CAN LIVE IN FREEDOM
WITH EQUAL RIGHTS ~~AND~~ THAT THEY CAN RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF
OTHERS.

A GREAT FRENCH PHILOSOPHER ONCE SAID THAT "ONCE YOU
DECLARE FOR JUSTICE, YOU HAVE DECLARED AN UNENDING REVOLUTION."

BY LIVING AMONG US AT THE TIME OF AMERICA'S

BICENTENNIAL, YOU HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE REAFFIRMATION OF

OUR PRIDE AND IN OUR CONFIDENCE THAT OUR UNENDING REVOLUTION

HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

WE LIVE IN AN AGE WHERE AN AWARENESS OF MANKIND'S

COMMON HUMANITY AMONG AND WITHIN NATIONS IS A NECESSITY.

~~THEY~~, AS YOU RETURN TO YOUR HOMELANDS, I KNOW ~~THAT~~ YOU WILL
CARRY WITH YOU AN EXPRESSION OF OUR HOPE THAT THE FRIENDSHIP
AND LOVE THAT HAS GROWN BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR AMERICAN HOSTS
WILL CONTINUE TO FLOURISH ~~AND~~ THAT WE WILL BE BOUND TOGETHER BY
OUR APPRECIATION OF THE HIGH VALUES OF PERSONAL LIBERTY,
FREEDOM AND DIGNITY.

WORKING TOGETHER, ~~/~~ LET US LIGHT THE WAY TO A NEW CENTURY

OF PEACE AND FREEDOM FOR ALL MANKIND.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

END OF TEXT