The original documents are located in Box 36, “7/20/76 - Remarks at Bicentennial Reception for the Diplomatic Corps” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE
BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION FOR THE
DIPLOOMATIC CORPS

JULY 20, 1976
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

MRS. FORD AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOU WITH US

THIS EVENING.
ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE I THANK YOU FOR

THE GENEROUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE OF YOUR GOVERNMENTS

AND YOUR PEOPLES TO THE 200th BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF AMERICA.
AMONG THE MANY BICENTENNIAL EVENTS, THIS ONE HAS A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE. A UNIQUE ASPECT OF AMERICA'S DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR NATION AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. OUR STRENGTH AND CHARACTER ARE DERIVED FROM ALL THE CORNERS OF THE EARTH.
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ADDRESSED ITSELF TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

TODAY, JUST AS TWO CENTURIES AGO, "A DECENT RESPECT TO THE OPINIONS OF MANKIND" CONTINUES TO GUIDE OUR ACTIONS.
AMERICA’S STRENGTH AND WELL-BEING ARISE FROM THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

In our country we have united many races in today’s American society, uniting many races and many and many ethnic groups and that unity, equality, ethnic groups, true equality can by no means be taken for and freedom will be maintained in the year ahead.

GRANTED.
AMERICANS ARE CONVINCED THAT CONSTANT DEVOTION TO INDIVIDUAL AND NATIONAL FREEDOM IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HIGHEST AND FINEST HUMAN ASPIRATIONS.

AMERICANS HAVE NEVER BEEN SATISFIED WITH THE STATUS QUO. WE SEE A FUTURE OF STEADY MOVEMENT TOWARD A BETTER LIFE THROUGH PROSPERITY AND JUSTICE SHARED BY ALL.
WE ARE PROUD OF OUR SUCCESS.

WE ARE AWARE THAT NO NATION CAN PURSUE ITS PROSPERITY IN ISOLATION. OUR ECONOMIES ARE CLOSELY LINKED. NEITHER SECURITY NOR JUSTICE CAN BE ASSURED IN A WORLD TORMENTED BY DEPRIVATION AND SUFFERING. THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD MUST LIVE IN PEACE TO PROSPER.
As President, I will continue America's role of leadership in the world.

Our country could not have become what it is today without the enormous contributions of the many nations you represent here tonight.
TODAY, IN THIS VERY SPECIAL YEAR, I SPEAK FOR 215 MILLION AMERICANS IN EXPRESSING THANKS TO ALL THOSE NATIONS WITH WHOM WE HAVE TIES OF FAMILY, OF CULTURE, OF FRIENDSHIP, TRADE AND ALLIANCE.
WE REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO WORKING WITH YOU AND
WITH ALL HUMANITY. TOGETHER LET US SEEK A HUMAN
COMMUNITY RESPONSIVE TO ALL CITIZENS.
AND NOW, WOULD MY OLD FRIEND, HIS EXCELLENCY, THE DISTINGUISHED AMBASSADOR OF NICARAGUA AND DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, GUILLERMO SEVILLA-SACASA, PLEASE STEP FORWARD.
IN COMMEMORATION OF AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL, I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT TO YOU, AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ENTIRE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, A GIFT THAT SYMBOLIZES THE SPIRIT OF THIS VERY SPECIAL YEAR. IT IS A REDWOOD CARVING BEARING THE AMERICAN SYMBOL, THE BALD EAGLE -- AND CARRYING THE LEGEND OF AMERICA: "OUT OF MANY -- ONE."
THIS TOKEN, WHICH WILL BE SENT TO EACH OF YOU, ALSO REPRESENTS HOW PROUD WE ARE IN 1976 TO ENJOY THE FRIENDSHIP AND GOODWILL OF ALL THE COUNTRIES YOU REPRESENT.

(GUILLERMO SEVILLA-SACASA WILL RESPOND)
THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND NOW, LET'S ALL RELAX AND MAKE THIS AN OCCASION FOR FELLOWSHIP AND A LITTLE FUN.

WE HAVE PLANNED AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT I KNOW YOU WILL ENJOY.
IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE MY OWN FAVORITE

PERFORMER -- A REFUGEE FROM THE MARTHA GRAHAM DANCE
ENSEMBLE AND THE FIRST LADY AT THE FORD HOUSE FOR ALMOST
28 WONDERFUL YEARS -- MY WIFE BETTY.

END OF TEXT