

**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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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE  
BICENTENNIAL RECEPTION FOR THE  
DIPLOMATIC 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 years 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  
~~(Ghee YAIR Moo~~ Seh-VEE-Yah Sah-CAH-sah), 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