

The original documents are located in Box 37, “8/3/76 - Remarks Upon the Arrival of President Urho Kekkonen of the Republic of Finland” 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 ON ARRIVAL
OF
PRESIDENT KEKKONEN OF FINLAND
AUGUST 3, 1976

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PRESIDENT KEKKONEN (KEK-cone-in), LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I AM DELIGHTED TO

WELCOME YOU.

YOUR VISIT PERMITS US TO REAFFIRM THE CLOSENESS OF
TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO RECIPROCATE THE
WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO MRS. FORD AND ME IN
HELSINKI A YEAR AGO.

FINNS BEGAN ARRIVING HERE OVER 300 YEARS AGO AND
HAVE CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE BUILDING OF THE UNITED STATES.
MY HOME STATE, MICHIGAN, WHICH IS SAID TO RESEMBLE FINLAND,
HAS ATTRACTED MANY FINNS. THEIR CULTURAL INFLUENCE,
THE DEEP FINNISH DEVOTION TO EDUCATION, COMMERCE, FARMING,
AND PHYSICAL FITNESS IS EVIDENT IN MICHIGAN'S COPPER COUNTRY.

MR. PRESIDENT, FINLAND HAS PROVEN BEYOND ANY DOUBT
IN RECENT YEARS / THAT A SMALL COUNTRY CAN MAKE IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING /
OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO BOTH OF OUR NATIONS.

YOUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD AFFAIRS, YOUR ROLE IN THE UNITED
NATIONS, INCLUDING A SIGNIFICANT PART IN PEACE-KEEPING FORCES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS, YOUR SERVING AS HOST TO
IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, SUCH AS THE INITIAL PHASE OF
THE STRATEGIC ARMS NEGOTIATIONS AND THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE / HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO A BETTER WORLD.

FINLAND HAS PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WITHIN THE NORDIC
COUNCIL AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND
DEVELOPMENT, AND HAS FOLLOWED CLOSELY THE DIALOGUE WHICH
HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES•

HUMANITY RESPECTS AND VALUES FINLAND'S EFFORTS TO HELP
BRIDGE DIFFERENCES AMONG NATIONS AND OVERCOME OBSTACLES
TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY•

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU HONOR US BY THIS BICENTENNIAL
VISIT•

YOUR PERSONAL PARTICIPATION IN CELEBRATIONS ORGANIZED

BY FINNISH-AMERICANS CONTRIBUTES TO THE WONDERFUL MOOD

THE BICENTENNIAL HAS GENERATED. AS A PEOPLE, WE ARE

DEEPLY GRATEFUL FOR FINLAND'S PARTICIPATION.

THE ESTABLISHMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI OF A

BICENTENNIAL CHAIR OF AMERICAN STUDIES, THE "AMERICA DAYS"

PROGRAM IN FINLAND IN JUNE, AND BICENTENNIAL PROGRAMS IN

MORE THAN A DOZEN FINNISH CITIES ARE VIVID REMINDERS OF

OUR FRIENDSHIP AND KINSHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD NOW FACE
MANY CHALLENGES. THEIR SOLUTION REQUIRES OUR BEST
COMMON EFFORTS AND THE COUNSEL AND UNDERSTANDING OF
NATIONS WORKING TOGETHER. WITH A POSITIVE SPIRIT,
WITH UNDERSTANDING, AND WITH FULL DEDICATION, WE WILL
PREVAIL.

I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR DISCUSSIONS TODAY AND
FUTURE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN FINLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.
AMERICANS, ONE AND ALL, BID YOU WELCOME AND WISH
YOU AN ENJOYABLE AND PRODUCTIVE VISIT.

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