The original documents are located in Box 38, “9/21/76 - Remarks at the Arrival Ceremony for President William R. Tolbert, Jr., of Liberia” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ARRIVAL STATEMENT FOR STATE VISIT OF

PRESIDENT TOLBERT OF LIBERIA

SEPTEMBER 21, 1976

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

PRESIDENT TOLBERT, MRS. TOLBERT, LADIES AND

GENTLEMEN:

I AM TODAY PARTICULARLY PLEASED TO WELCOME BACK

TO WASHINGTON A DISTINGUISHED FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES.
President Tolbert, your state visit is the first by an African leader in our third century. We are proud and honored to have the red, white and blue of Liberia fly side by side with our own colors.

Americans and Liberians share a unique and special relationship. Both countries were founded by men and women who believed deeply in liberty and justice. The Liberian national motto, "The love of liberty brought us here" could apply just as well to the United States of America.
YOU HAVE ARRIVED HERE AT A TIME WHEN AMERICANS ARE SEEKING TO ASSIST AFRICANS TO ACHIEVE PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS TO EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS.

I HAVE SENT OUR SECRETARY OF STATE TO AFRICA IN FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEMS AND OF THE LIMITATIONS OF OUR ROLE.

ANY REALISTIC AND ENDURING SETTLEMENT MUST BE "MADE IN AFRICA." WE CAN ONLY OFFER OUR ASSISTANCE IN ENCOURAGING THE PARTIES TO NEGOTIATE TO PREVENT INCREASED VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED.
MR. PRESIDENT, AS A DISTINGUISHED AFRICAN STATESMAN, YOU ARE AWARE OF THE DANGER AND THE CHALLENGE-- THAT FACES ALL MEN AND WOMEN OF GOODWILL IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF YOUR CONTINENT. WE GREATLY VALUE YOUR WISE COUNSEL, YOUR MODERATION, AND YOUR SUPPORT.

WE ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL REMAIN A TRUSTED FRIEND, WORTHY OF YOUR CONFIDENCE AND THAT OF ALL LIBERIANS AND ALL THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA.

AMERICANS HAVE NOTED WITH ADMIRATION THE DETERMINATION WITH WHICH LIBERIA IS DEVELOPING ITS POTENTIALITIES.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP LIBERIA TO HELP HERSELF.
AS PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA, YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL EVOLUTION OF YOUR PEOPLE. BUT YOU HAVE ALSO GIVEN OF YOURSELF INTERNATIONALLY AS AN ORDAINED BAPTIST MINISTER, THROUGH YOUR LEADERSHIP OF THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE.

WE THANK YOU AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF LIBERIA NOT ONLY
FOR YOUR VISIT BUT FOR LIBERIA'S MANY MANIFESTATIONS OF
FRIENDSHIP IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR. I WAS ESPECIALLY
GRATIFIED TO KNOW OF YOUR PERSONAL PARTICIPATION,
MR. PRESIDENT, IN OUR FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN
MONROVIA.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOU ARE A VERY WELCOME VISITOR.
I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR DISCUSSIONS. THROUGH THESE
EXCHANGES WE CAN ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACEFUL PROGRESS
FOR AFRICA AND FOR ALL HUMANITY.
THE AMERICAN PEOPLE JOIN IN WELCOMING YOU AND IN
STRENGTHENING DURING THIS VISIT THE VERY CLOSE TIES
BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES.

END OF REMARKS