

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.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

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.

AS THE FIRST BLACK ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE BAPTIST WORLD
ALLIANCE, YOU HAVE ADVANCED THE VISION OF PRESIDENT TUBMAN
THROUGH YOUR INSPIRED WORK "FOR THE BENEFIT OF MAN AND
THE GLORY OF GOD."

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
