

The original documents are located in Box 42, “1/13/77 - Remarks at the Diplomatic Corps Reception Honoring Secretary of State and Mrs. Henry A. Kissinger” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

DIPLOMATIC CORPS RECEPTION HONORING

SECRETARY AND MRS. HENRY A. KISSINGER

JANUARY 13, 1977

MR. AMBASSADOR

(SEVILLA SACASA)

MR. VICE PRESIDENT

SECRETARY KISSINGER

MR. SECRETARY GENERAL (ORFILA)

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOUR INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN
THIS FAREWELL RECEPTION IN HONOR OF MY CLOSE AND GOOD FRIEND
HENRY KISSINGER.

THERE ARE GREAT TASKS BEFORE THIS COUNTRY IN HELPING

TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD. WHILE I WILL NOT SUGGEST WHAT

MIGHT HAVE BEEN, HENRY'S LEGACY PROVIDES RICH TESTIMONY

TO HIS WISDOM AND BRILLIANCE IN WORKING TOWARD SOLUTIONS

TO SOME OF THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEMS IN POST WAR HISTORY.

THE UNITED STATES -- AND THE WORLD -- IS GREATLY IN HIS DEBT.

I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US WHEN I SAY TO SECRETARY

KISSINGER THAT WE HAVE BEEN HONORED BY OUR ASSOCIATION WITH

HIM, IMPRESSED BY HIS INTELLECT AND HIS INSIGHT, AND THANKFUL

FOR HIS MIGHTY EFFORTS IN THE CAUSE OF PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND.

HE IS, SO FAR AS THIS AMERICAN IS CONCERNED, THE
GREATEST SECRETARY OF STATE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR REPUBLIC.

HIS RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENTS IS UNSURPASSED. TO MENTION

ONLY A FEW EXAMPLES:

-- THE AGREEMENT THAT BROUGHT OUR MEN HOME FROM
VIETNAM;

-- THE HISTORIC BEGINNING OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA;

-- THE FOUNDATION AND FIRST BUILDING BLOCKS OF
STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION;

-- THE TURNING POINT IN THE MODERN HISTORY OF THE
MIDDLE EAST; AND THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD PEACE;

-- THE BREAKTHROUGH TOWARDS PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;

-- THE CLOSEST FRIENDSHIPS AMONG THE NORTH ATLANTIC

ALLIES IN A GENERATION;

-- THE LINKING OF JAPAN, OUR PERMANENT FRIEND,

INTO THE COMMUNITY OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES;

-- THE NEW DIALOGUE WITH LATIN AMERICA;

-- THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE U.N.
GENERAL ASSEMBLY, A MILESTONE IN THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC
HISTORY.

IN EVERY CASE SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS WORKED MIGHTILY
FOR PEACE; AND IN EVERY CASE THE CAUSE OF PEACE HAS BEEN
ADVANCED. HE HAS LED THE WAY IN AWAKENING THE
INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD TO THE CHANGES THAT MUST BE MADE IF THE
POOR OF THE WORLD ARE TO KNOW HOPE AND PROSPERITY.

HE HAS BEEN THE ARCHITECT OF A NEW AND PRODUCTIVE

RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR ADVERSARIES. HIS IS A RECORD OF

UNPRECEDENTED SCOPE AND ENORMOUS ACCOMPLISHMENT;

IT IS A RECORD IN WHICH ALL AMERICANS TAKE PRIDE;

IT IS A RECORD WORTHY OF SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

IT IS MY PARTICULAR PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE

SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO THIS GREAT AMERICAN THIS EVENING

BEFORE THIS DISTINGUISHED AND MOST APPROPRIATE AUDIENCE.

MR. SECRETARY, IT IS MY HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TONIGHT

TO AWARD YOU, ON BEHALF OF A GRATEFUL NATION,

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM - THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN

AWARD IT IS WITHIN MY POWER TO GRANT.

I MAKE THIS AWARD NOT ONLY IN RECOGNITION OF THE MONUMENTAL

CONTRIBUTIONS YOU HAVE MADE TO THE SECURITY, PEACE AND

FREEDOM OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT IN RECOGNITION, AS WELL,

OF THE FACT THAT DURING THE DARK DAYS IN OUR RECENT PAST YOU

SHOWED THE WORLD WHAT WE WERE CAPABLE OF ACCOMPLISHING AND

GAVE YOUR COUNTRYMEN A REASON TO BE PROUD OF THEIR NATION.

I MAKE THIS AWARD IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,

BECAUSE, IN THE BROADEST SENSE, WHAT YOU DID FOR AMERICA

YOU DID FOR ALL MANKIND●

AND NOW, FOR THE CITATION: