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**UNTIL 9:20 A. M. EST - NOVEMBER 18, 1974**

**NOVEMBER 17, 1974**

**Office of the White House Press Secretary**

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**THE WHITE HOUSE**

**TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT  
TO BE DELIVERED  
UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE  
FOR THE FAR EAST**

I leave today for my first trip overseas as President with full confidence that this timely undertaking is in the highest national interest of the United States.

We live in a world whose problems are interrelated. No nation can move forward in isolation, as Secretary Kissinger has so brilliantly pointed out. Answers to questions at home must be sought abroad in this new era of interdependence.

I am deeply conscious of the need to continue the quest for peace. I would rather travel thousands of miles for peace than take a single step toward war.

This first state visit of an American President to Japan is of great importance to all Americans. The United States is determined to perpetuate the special relationship that links our two nations for the common good. Though separated by the broadest of oceans, we have achieved the closest of friendships.

I am looking forward as well to visiting our courageous ally, the Republic of Korea. We share a common devotion to the preservation of peace and the deterrence of aggression. I am confident that my visit to Korea will help preserve the stability essential to the understanding and cooperation we are seeking with all peoples.

I am determined to fulfill my responsibilities abroad as well as at home. Foreign affairs can no longer be separated from domestic affairs. Anticipating the continuation of the peace-building that we have jointly undertaken with the Soviet Union, I look forward to the important work that we can accomplish in Vladivostok.

I leave Washington in a spirit of optimism with a serious realization of my responsibilities.

I leave with deep appreciation of the bi-partisan political support that has been accorded.

I leave with a sense of service to the entire American people and pride in the nation that I represent.