

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL DECEMBER 13, 1974
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1974
5:00 P. M. (LOCAL)
4:00 P. M. (EST)

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
ON ARRIVAL IN MARTINIQUE, F. W. I
LAMENTIN AIRPORT

Mr. President, Madame Giscard d'Estaing, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for your gracious welcome to this beautiful island. I am delighted to be here.

Mr. President, this is an opportunity for us to become personally acquainted and to discuss the serious issues which confront our two countries. Our meeting demonstrates the importance we attach to working together.

General Lafayette stopped here on his way to assist America to achieve its independence. The friendship of our two countries spans the oceans and the centuries. It is fitting that you and I, both given responsibility this year for leadership in our respective countries, are taking this early opportunity to address problems of common interest and common concern. We must combine our joint efforts with those of our friends and allies if we are to meet the challenges of the last quarter of the twentieth century. The list of challenges is long--including such vital issues as food, energy, finance, and, of course, the fundamental security of our people and the quest for further reductions in international tensions.

Just as our talks mark the beginning of our personal relationship, I am confident that our nations will reaffirm the tradition of Franco-American cooperation in great endeavors. I look forward to our meetings, for the exchanges they will permit and our resulting understandings. In meeting here we will be mindful not only of American and French interests but of the contributions our efforts can make toward a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous world.

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