

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

MAY 31, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Madrid, Spain)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF THE TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT
A DINNER AT THE ROYAL PALACE
MADRID, SPAIN

General Franco, Mrs. Franco, Your Royal Highnesses, distinguished guests and friends:

In 1953 our two nations embarked on a course designed to increase our cooperation and to enhance our security. Our relationship is succeeding in its purposes. The independence of the West has been preserved. We have prospered in a manner that would not have been expected a quarter-century ago. Our nations have both benefitted.

Today's challenges are even more complex. We must maintain strong and credible defenses while we work to lessen tensions. We live in a world that is becoming increasingly interdependent; cooperation becomes ever more important. We are both proud of our independence, yet we recognize the need to work together. Each year marks increasing contacts and cooperation between the Spanish and American peoples in a growing number of fields ranging from medicine to urban development, to the arts, agriculture, science and education.

To meet the needs of tomorrow, we must continue our cooperation. And I know this is our shared objective. As recognized in the 1974 Joint Declaration of Principles, our joint endeavors have strengthened the cause of peace. Other nations of the Trans-Atlantic community have benefitted from our cooperation. We are both members of international organizations created to increase cooperation among nations such as the International Energy Agency. Such ties should be continually broadened and strengthened. We are determined that they shall be.

Your Excellency, the warmth of your welcome today and the hospitality of the people of Spain has been very important to us. This delightful dinner in such splendid surroundings with so many friends has been the climax of a day filled with deeply moving experiences--from the demonstration of affection by the Spanish people who greeted us today to renewing my friendships with you and Prince Juan Carlos and to exchanging ideas for the first time, in a most profitable way, with President Arias Navarro. These were rewarding experiences. They are eloquent testimony to the depth of friendship between our two countries.

I lift my glass to Spain and the United States, to our growing friendship in the years ahead, to General Franco, to His Royal Highness Prince Juan Carlos, and to the Spanish people.

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