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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
UPON ARRIVAL
AT BARAJAS AIRPORT

11:20 A.M. (Madrid Time)

Generalissimo Franco, Mrs. Franco, friends
of Spain and of the United States:

I begin my visit in Spain with very real
satisfaction that comes from renewing and underlining
the traditional relationship and friendship between our
two countries.

My last visit to Spain was at a time of mourning
in the closing days of 1973. Today is a happier occasion.
I look forward with keen interest to our discussions.

This is a time of rapid change and challenge
worldwide. We shall respond to these new challenges
as we must, both individually and collectively. I have
confidence in our proven ability to work together in the
pursuit of common interests, and I have confidence in
Spain -- a nation with future of great promise.

The dignity, the pride, the resilience of the
Spanish people have been forged over a history much
longer than that of the United States. Spain has
contributed much to the history and to the culture
of the United States. Today, millions and millions
of Americans speak the Spanish language.

My visit to Spain is, above all, the recogni-
tion of Spain's significance as a friend and as a
partner. Our excellent relationship is confirmed in
the 1974 Joint Declaration of Principles. Our
peoples seek the same objectives of peace, progress
and freedom. By geography and by history, Spain has
a logical place in the trans-Atlantic community.

For more than 20 years, Spain has shared with
America and with Europe the burdens of promoting the
prosperity and the security of the Atlantic and
Mediterranean regions. Spain can be proud of that
contribution.

Generalissimo Franco, Your Excellencies,
friends, it is my privilege to bring to you the greetings
of the people of the United States. Our two countries
look forward to a future of expanding cooperation. I
know that we will meet the challenges and the changes
that lie ahead.

Thank you.

END (AT 11:23 A.M. Madrid Time)