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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED UPON ARRIVAL
IN MADRID, SPAIN

General Franco, Mrs. Franco, Your Royal Highness, Friends of Spain and of the United States:

I begin my visit to Spain with the very real satisfaction that comes from renewing and underlining the traditional friendship and ties 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 world-wide. We shall respond to these new challenges as we must, both individually and together. 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, pride and 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 culture of the United States. Today, millions of Americans speak the Spanish language.

My visit to Spain is, above all, a recognition of Spain's significance as a friend and 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 twenty years, Spain has shared with America and with Europe the burdens of promoting the prosperity and security of the Atlantic and Mediterranean regions. Spain can be proud of that contribution.

General Franco, Your Excellencies, Your Royal Highness, 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 we will meet the challenges and changes that lie ahead.

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