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Office of the White House Press Secretary  
(Salzburg, Austria)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF THE TOAST GIVEN BY THE  
PRESIDENT AT A LUNCHEON  
AT SCHLOSS KLESSHEIM  
SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

It has been a high privilege for me to meet you and to discuss our mutual concerns, and our hopes and aspirations for a just and durable peace in the Middle East based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

As you know, the United States will celebrate its two hundredth anniversary of independence next year. We are taking a new look at our early history. As our celebration begins, we have new pride in the courage, the vision, and the determination of our forefathers. America has long stood for peace and human progress based upon justice. I want you to know, Mr. President, that these remain our objectives. They have the full support of the American people, regardless of their political persuasion.

You and I have thoroughly reviewed the situation in the Middle East and its implications for the area and the world as a whole. We have discussed approaches to continuing the process of negotiation: The final decision cannot be made until other consultations are completed. But we are both agreed on the need -- indeed on the imperative -- of giving momentum to progress toward peace. And, as I have pledged to you, Mr. President, the United States will not permit a stalemate or stagnation to develop in this all-essential process. I believe our talks have made an important contribution to this objective.

Mr. President, you gave me an illuminating picture of your plans to put Egypt on the path of sustained economic growth. I assure you that the United States is prepared to provide Egypt with current assistance as a basis for sound long-range economic development, both bilaterally and in cooperation with other states and international institutions. I will work with our Congress to give reality to this continuing pledge.

Mr. President, I have found in our talks that we both share the same goal -- peace and progress for our peoples and for all humanity. For that reason, I am gratified that our two countries have strengthened our friendship dramatically in the past year and a half and begun cooperation in so many fields. I am determined, Mr. President, to continue and expand our friendship.

(MORE)

Nothing is more apparent in today's world than the fact that the destinies of all nations are intertwined. The interdependence of nations is not simply an abstract concept; it is a reality we all must recognize. The problems of one are the problems of all; the progress of one contributes to the progress of all. We will conduct our relations with you, Mr. President, in this spirit. And we know this is also your desire. Together, Mr. President, and in cooperation with all other states seeking peace, progress and human dignity, we will achieve our common goal.

Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in a toast to the President and people of Egypt, to peace in the Middle East, and to the cause of peace for all peoples.

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