

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY

JUNE 11, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TOAST OF THE PRESIDENT TO BE DELIVERED AT  
THE DINNER IN HONOR OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN

Mr. Prime Minister, I am happy to welcome you back to Washington. Your visit gives me the opportunity to reciprocate the generous hospitality you and the people of Israel have shown to many of my fellow Americans.

Our meetings come at an important moment for both our countries. As Americans face our nation's 200th anniversary, we are reviewing the past in search of those fundamental human values which characterize the best that America can offer. The most basic of these is the desire for freedom and independence and the right of each individual to live in peace. I know that Israel shares these values.

It is this sharing which is the basis of our relationship--of the United States' strong and continuing support of the State of Israel and of Israel's understanding of the essential interests of the United States.

Mr. Prime Minister, when we met in Washington nine months ago, we jointly reaffirmed the need to continue our intensive efforts to achieve peace. We then recognized the importance of maintaining the momentum of negotiations toward this end.

We agreed that it was in our mutual interest that these efforts succeed and that it would be a tragedy if they failed. There must not be stagnation in our work for peace. We meet today to ensure that this does not occur, to seek progress toward a truly just and durable settlement in the Middle East. With perseverance, we shall succeed.

Gentlemen, let me then ask that you join me in a toast--to success in these efforts to attain a just and durable peace in the Middle East; to the close relationship between our two countries; and to an individual of dedication and courage in the service of his country--the Prime Minister of Israel, Yitzak Rabin.

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