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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT A
GEORGIA GOP FUNDRAISER
MARRIOTT MOTOR HOTEL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

While our national economy is reviving, I want to bolster our efforts through cooperation with other industrialized democracies. And I want to join with these nations in working toward sustained international prosperity. Tomorrow I will begin a 3-day meeting with leaders of Britain, France, Italy, Japan and West Germany to seek these ends.

These countries look to us for leadership. The United States is reducing its rate of inflation and moving vigorously out of recession. But we must work with others to prevent future problems. In charting the course for future international economic progress, our leadership is just as important as it is in building mutual security. This nation was instrumental in conceiving and developing alliances to safeguard world peace. We will also lead the way toward a sound common economic future.

These are new challenges: recession, inflation, higher oil prices, underutilized human and material resources. Americans can meet these challenges most effectively in close collaboration with our friends. The industrialized democracies share problems, but we also share great opportunities.

The cohesion and vitality of the industrial democracies can improve the well-being of our peoples and the world economy. Our goals for recovery include: economic growth among all the major industrialized countries, with sustained strong expansion, accompanied by high levels of employment; a reduction of inflation, and the increase of vigorous trade.

In trade, the assembled nations must provide needed impetus to multilateral negotiations now underway in Geneva. We will also work energetically to improve the international monetary system.

An objective of great importance is improved energy conservation and the development of alternative sources. This would enable us all to reduce dependence on other nations and lessen our vulnerability to arbitrarily set prices or disruptions in our oil supplies.

The societies of the industrialized democracies have an underlying strength deeply rooted in our cultures and the character of our peoples. We must now reinvigorate our unity to achieve a better future.

The summit in Paris demonstrates America's determination to work with other industrial democracies. This meeting will permit participants to better understand mutual problems and the policies used to deal with them. It will enable us to agree on goals and objectives reflecting our common interests.

(MORE)

Our joint efforts will reinforce one another and benefit the United States. Just as world stability is based upon economic strength, it also depends upon military strength. During a quarter of a century in the Congress and in my service as Vice President and President, I have fought to preserve America's defense as the cornerstone of freedom.

It has long been my conviction that politics should stop at the water's edge in matters of foreign policy and national defense. America retained its status in the world largely because of the wide bi-partisan support of this view. Weakness invites war. Military strength is the only certain foundation for peace. America must preserve its vital alliances and first-rate defense capabilities.

As long as I am President, there will never be any weakness in my Administration's commitment to military power second to none. This policy has not changed. It will not change. But I am deeply concerned by the tendency of the Congress to spend for non-essentials at the expense of defense. I refer to the cut of over seven billion dollars in the new defense budget. This weakens our hand at a time when we want no potential adversary to misjudge our resolve.

It is the duty of the Senate to restore those funds that the Defense Department regards as so vital to our national security. Our defenses, however, are only as good as our intelligence services. History tells how the City of Savannah fell during the American Revolution because of the superiority of British intelligence. Courage alone could not save Savannah when the brave Georgians were taken by surprise.

Intelligence operations today are much more sophisticated. We must protect the rights of American citizens to cherished liberties. But we must also guard against foreign espionage. I will cooperate with the Congress as it responsibly investigates the intelligence agencies to develop any legislation that may be necessary. But I will do everything in my power to assure that vital information does not fall into potentially hostile hands.

I will not stand idly by while our essential intelligence services are unilaterally dismantled in a world where the agencies of other nations work in secrecy and with unlimited resources.

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