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Office of the White House Press Secretary
(Manila, Philippines)

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF A TOAST BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED AT THE STATE DINNER
HOSTED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS

MAHARLIKA HALL

President and Mrs. Marcos, distinguished guests, friends:

I come to the Philippines at the end of a strenuous but exciting journey to nations once regarded as distant, but now are our neighbors in a new and inter-dependent world.

On the way home, I have stopped to visit America's old and good friends. The gracious and world-renowned Philippine hospitality exceeds its reputation.

Throughout this trip, I have observed an international sense of community, a shared commitment to peace and a better life. I found a common determination by leaders of nations to chart their own courses -- to shape their own characters.

I saw a growing awareness that this determination of individuals and nations to be independent and self-reliant is a constructive force in the world. It encourages the sense of respect, for one's self and others, that is the basis of a real community of nations.

Today in the Philippines I find something more. Our two nations have a unique history of shared experiences and similarity of outlook. We have both known the pain of war.

President Marcos and I are only two of many, in both nations, who fought together in earlier years, one in the forests and fields of Luzon, the other on the waters of the Philippine Sea.

As individuals and as nations, we have both tasted the bitterness of defeat, the satisfaction of joint devotion to a common goal and the lesson that victory, once achieved, is only the beginning of new challenges.

We have already observed that the common determination of the peoples throughout Asia and the rest of the world is to achieve a more satisfying life. That determination is shared by the Philippines. We have learned as nations to recognize that we need not all be identical to survive. We have learned that we need only to treat one another, different or similar as we may be, in a spirit of generosity and mutual respect.

This spirit, which our nations share, is the essence of real hospitality. It is one of the special elements that strengthens our sense of common interest in each other's security and well being. In that spirit, let me offer a toast to the President and the people of the Philippines, and to the mutual respect and sense of community that unite our two great republics.

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