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THE WHITE HOUSE

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION  
WITH THE PRESIDENT

THE PALACE OF FINE ARTS

8:05 P.M. PDT

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have said tonight that these issues were complicated and difficult to discuss. Do you think that you did a good enough job of discussing Eastern Europe, or do you think you left some confusion?

THE PRESIDENT: I answered all of the questions, I set forth our policies, and the final note, of course, is that we are at peace, and we are going to keep the peace.

QUESTION: Mr. President, do you think that Mr. Carter responded to the first question or went and made an opening statement?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I thought he was very general, as I indicated. He covered a great many issues without talking about any answers. Therefore, I thought that he ought to be pinned down and I thought the questioners made a big effort to do so. I certainly hope that the American people will make certain in the future that he gives specific answers to specific questions.

QUESTION: Who won the debate?

THE PRESIDENT: I think we did all right. We enjoyed it.

QUESTION: How do you think you did in comparison to Carter?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not the best one to pass judgment on that. I felt comfortable, I answered the questions specifically and I feel very good about tonight, just as I did about the first one.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. President.

END

(AT 8:08 P.M. PDT)