

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *A.S.*
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Scanned from Reading Copies of Presidential Speeches and Statements

(Box 3 - Nov. 24, 1974, Remarks upon returning from trip to Japan, Rep. of Korea & USSR, Andrews Air Force Base) at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT TONIGHT TO WELCOME US.

SINCE I LEFT WASHINGTON EIGHT DAYS AGO, I HAVE TRAVELLED

SOME 17 THOUSAND MILES FOR PEACE AND NOT A SINGLE STEP

TOWARD WAR.

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EVERY ONE OF THOSE MILES WAS WORTHWHILE. BUT, AS

~~IT~~ ALWAYS ~~IS~~ WHEN WE RETURN TO OUR OWN LAND, MY COMPANIONS AND
I ARE VERY HAPPY TO BE HOME.

SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS A FEW MORE MILES TO GO, BUT

on this journey

I WILL ASSURE HIM THAT HE WAS INCLUDED IN YOUR WARM WELCOME.

THURSDAY IS OUR THANKSGIVING. I CANNOT HELP BUT REFLECT
ON THE MANY BLESSINGS WE AMERICANS HAVE. WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS
PROBLEMS. BUT WE HAVE MUCH MORE TO BE THANKFUL FOR. AMERICA
IS A STRONG COUNTRY. AMERICANS ARE A STRONG PEOPLE. WE ARE
FREE. ~~WE CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINY.~~ WE ARE BLESSED WITH GOOD
FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

ON MY TRIP I TALKED WITH THE LEADERS OF TWO OF OUR ALLIES --

JAPAN AND KOREA. IN BOTH NATIONS I SAW HOW MUCH THEY VALUE

THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH US. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK

TOGETHER TO STRENGTHEN OUR TIES.

THE VISIT TO JAPAN MARKED MY FIRST TRIP OUTSIDE NORTH
AMERICA SINCE BECOMING PRESIDENT. AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME
THAT A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS VISITED THAT ENERGETIC
AND PRODUCTIVE ISLAND NATION.

OUR VISIT WAS HISTORIC FOR ANOTHER REASON ~~AS WELL~~, FOR IT
MARKED A CHANGE IN THE NATURE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP. IN THE
PAST, THE CENTRAL CONCERN OF OUR ALLIANCE WAS MILITARY SECURITY.
THIS SECURITY RELATIONSHIP HAS NOW BEEN BROADENED TO INCLUDE
ENERGY AND FOOD.

I AM PARTICULARLY HOPEFUL THAT BY WORKING TOGETHER WITH JAPAN --
ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST TECHNICALLY ADVANCED SOCIETIES -- WE
WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A SUBSTANTIAL JOINT CONTRIBUTION TO
RESOLVING THE ENERGY CRISIS.

JAPAN EMERGED FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF WAR WITH A DEEP
COMMITMENT TO PEACE. IN KOREA, A STURDY PEOPLE REBUILT A
NATION FROM THE ASHES OF ANOTHER CONFLICT. ONLY A LITTLE
OVER TWENTY YEARS AGO KOREA WAS A BATTLEGROUND: TODAY IT IS
A SHOWCASE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

JUST OVER TWO DECADES AGO AMERICAN

fighting men were battling ^{over}
~~SOLDIERS WERE FIGHTING AND DYING~~

the rugged mountains of Korea.

~~TO MAINTAIN KOREA'S INDEPENDENCE:~~

TODAY THE MAJOR BURDEN OF

KOREA'S DEFENSE IS BORNE BY THE KOREANS THEMSELVES. AMERICAN

SERVICEMEN ARE STILL STATIONED THERE, BUT, *like their comrades in Europe & elsewhere* ~~AS IN EUROPE,~~ THEY ARE

THERE TO HELP AN ALLY MAINTAIN THE PEACE -- NOT TO DO THE JOB ALONE.

A HIGHLIGHT OF THE TRIP FOR ME WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO

MEET WITH OUR SOLDIERS IN KOREA, AND HAVE LUNCH WITH THEM

IN ONE OF THEIR CAMPS.

THEY ARE ~~FINE~~ ^{outstanding} MEN ^{or women} DOING A FINE JOB.

^{and} WE ~~CAN ALL BE~~ PROUD OF THEM.

THE FINAL STOP ON OUR TRIP WAS THE SOVIET UNION. THE
MEETINGS WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV, I AM PLEASED TO
REPORT, WENT WELL. THEY REPRESENT BOTH A BEGINNING AND
A CONTINUATION.

THEY WERE THE BEGINNING OF WHAT I HOPE WILL BE A PRODUCTIVE
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MR. BREZHNEV AND MYSELF. WE BOTH,
I BELIEVE, CAME AWAY FROM VLADIVOSTOK WITH MUTUAL RESPECT AND A
COMMON DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

THEY WERE A CONTINUATION BECAUSE WE MAINTAINED THE STEADY

IMPROVEMENT OF OUR RELATIONS BEGUN THREE YEARS AGO.

WE TALKED, AS AMERICAN AND SOVIET LEADERS HAVE IN THE PAST,
ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, EUROPEAN SECURITY, AND OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

WE OFTEN AGREED, BUT NOT ALWAYS. WHEN WE DID NOT, WE STATED
OUR DIFFERENCES FRANKLY.

BUT ON PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING THE SOVIET

AND AMERICAN PEOPLES -- THE FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMS --

WE FOUND A LARGE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT, WE DISCUSSED THE ISSUE FULLY,

AND, IN THE END, WE ESTABLISHED A SOUND BASIS FOR A NEW AGREEMENT

THAT WILL CONSTRAIN OUR MILITARY COMPETITION OVER THE NEXT DECADE.

THE UNDERSTANDING WE REACHED RESULTED FROM AN INTENSIVE ROUND OF
GIVE-AND-TAKE NEGOTIATIONS THAT RECOGNIZED THE LEGITIMATE SECURITY
CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES.

MANY DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT BY OUR NEGOTIATORS.

BUT CEILINGS ON THE STRATEGIC FORCES OF BOTH NATIONS HAVE BEEN

ACCEPTED. A GOOD AGREEMENT THAT WILL SERVE THE INTERESTS OF

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IS ^{*now*} WITHIN OUR GRASP.

VLADIVOSTOK WAS AN APPROPRIATE ENDING TO A JOURNEY DESIGNED
TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH OLD FRIENDS AND EXPAND AREAS OF AGREEMENT
WITH OLD ADVERSARIES. I BELIEVE WE ACCOMPLISHED WHAT WE SET OUT
TO ACHIEVE -- AND PERHAPS MORE. AND IN THAT PROCESS I PRAY
THAT WE HAVE DONE ALL WE COULD TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE
FOR ALL AMERICANS AND FOR ALL MANKIND.
END OF STATEMENT