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WHITE HOUSE LAWN WELCOME

FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK

OCTOBER 8, 1974

MR. FIRST SECRETARY:

IT IS A DISTINCT PLEASURE FOR ME TO WELCOME
YOU AND MRS. GIEREK TO THE UNITED STATES.

AS YOU KNOW, MR. FIRST SECRETARY, THE FAMILY
TIES THAT BIND OUR TWO PEOPLES TOGETHER IN A SPECIAL WAY ARE
VERY OLD INDEED, OLDER THAN THE UNITED STATES ITSELF.

YOU HAVE ALREADY VISITED JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA, WHERE THE
FIRST POLES ARRIVED IN 1608, ONLY ONE YEAR AFTER IT WAS SETTLED,
FROM THAT DAY TO THIS DAY, LARGE NUMBERS OF YOUR COUNTRYMEN
HAVE HELPED TO BUILD THIS COUNTRY AND TO MOLD OUR TRADITIONS,
AMERICA TREASURES THOSE CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR GROWTH AND
HISTORY. DURING YOUR STAY IN THE UNITED STATES, YOU AND
MRS. GIEREK WILL BE ABLE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF THE CHARACTER OF
OUR COUNTRY AND THE ROLE THAT MEN AND WOMEN FROM POLAND HAVE
PLAYED IN OUR HISTORY.

OUR TWO NATIONS THUS HAVE A FINE FOUNDATION
UPON WHICH TO BUILD. I HAVE WATCHED WITH GREAT INTEREST THE
SUBSTANTIAL GROWTH OF OUR BILATERAL TRADE IN THE LAST TWO
YEARS SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT POLISH-AMERICAN
TRADE COMMISSION. AND CONTINUING EXPANSION OF CONTACTS
BETWEEN OUR OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS IN FIELDS OF
ACTIVITY SUCH AS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE ARTS IS ANOTHER
EVIDENCE OF THE DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENT OF POLISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

YOU, MR. FIRST SECRETARY, WILL SURELY AGREE WITH
ME THAT WE MUST NOT ALLOW OUR SATISFACTION WITH PAST PROGRESS
TO SLOW OUR PACE OR SLACKEN OUR EFFORTS. WE MUST USE THE
OPPORTUNITY YOUR VISIT AFFORDS TO SEEK OUT NEW AVENUES OF
BILATERAL COOPERATION IN MANY FIELDS INCLUDING ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES.

IN MANY OTHER AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST, FOR
EXAMPLE, OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE FORCE
REDUCTION TALKS, WE ARE ENGAGED IN COMMON ENDEAVORS FOR
PEACE.

TODAY, ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ALMOST EVERYWHERE
ARE SO SEVERE, THAT THE STABILITY OF THE WORLD IS ENDANGERED.
AND ALMOST EVERYWHERE, IN DEVELOPED AS WELL AS IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE IS THREATENED.

MR. FIRST SECRETARY, POLAND KNOWS TOO WELL --

PERHAPS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER NATION -- THE FEARFUL EXPERIENCE

OF WAR AND ITS PAINFUL CONSEQUENCES. A THOROUGH REVIEW

OF ALL THE DANGERS TO PEACE FOR OURSELVES AND THE WORLD MUST

SURELY BE OUR FIRST PRIORITY.

WE SEEK A PEACEFUL WORLD AND A MORE PROSPEROUS
WORLD. POLAND IS A WORLD LEADER IN COAL PRODUCTION AND
COAL RESEARCH. POLAND HAS A MAJOR ROLE TO PLAY IN CONTRIBUTING
SOLUTIONS TO THE WORLD ENERGY PROBLEM. AND YOU, MR. FIRST
SECRETARY, WITH A LIFETIME OF EXPERTISE, ARE ABLE TO MAKE A
VERY IMPORTANT PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION. I LOOK FORWARD TO
EXCHANGING VIEWS WITH YOU ON THE ENERGY PROBLEM.

MR. FIRST SECRETARY, WE ARE PLEASED THAT YOU ARE
HERE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR MEETINGS WILL DEEPEN THE
FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO PEOPLES AND BROADEN THE COOPERATION OF
OUR TWO NATIONS.

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