

The original documents are located in Box 69, folder “Fourth of July (1976) - Presidential Messages and Proclamations (1)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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[6/76?]

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sat.
3:30 pm

Jack -

I discussed with
Bob Herdmann the
various problems which
you, Phil and I discussed.

The attached
suggested changes I think
satisfy our concerns

Long

BICENTENNIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

The Continental Congress by resolution adopted July 2, 1776, declared that the United States was free and independent. Two days later, on the fourth of July, ~~our founding fathers~~ ^{the Congress} courageously adopted ~~the~~ ^a Declaration of Independence which proclaimed to the world the birth of a new nation.

In the two centuries that have since passed, we have matured as a nation and as a people. We have gained the wisdom that age and experience bring, yet we have ~~preserved~~ ^{kept} the ~~vigilance, exuberance, and self-reliance which is the essence~~ ^{strength and idealism} of youth.

In this year of our Nation's Bicentennial, we enter our third century with the knowledge that we have achieved greatness as a nation and ~~with the hope that our greatness has~~ ^{have} contributed to the good of mankind. We face the future with renewed dedication to the principles ~~enshrined~~ ^{embodied} in our Declaration of Independence, and with renewed gratitude for those who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to preserve individual liberty ~~on this~~ ^{for us.} continent.

In concurrence with these great ~~historical events~~ ^{anniversaries} and the wishes of ~~the~~ Congress, I ask that all Americans join in an extended period of celebration, thanksgiving and prayer on the second, third, ~~and~~ fourth ^{and fifth} days of July of our Bicentennial year so that peoples of all faiths, ~~and~~ in their own way, may give thanks for the protection of divine Providence through 200 years, and ~~pray~~ ^{pray} for the ~~future~~ ^{future} safety and ~~future~~ happiness of the United States of America.



To commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the Congress, by concurrent resolution agreed to June 26, 1963 (77 Stat. 944), declared that its anniversary be observed by the ringing of bells throughout the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that the two hundredth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence be observed by the simultaneous ringing of bells throughout the United States at the hour of two o'clock, eastern daylight time, on the afternoon of the fourth of July, 1976, our Bicentennial Independence Day, for a period of two minutes, signifying our two centuries of nationhood.

I call upon civic, religious, and other community leaders to encourage public participation in this historic observance. I call upon all Americans, here and abroad, including all American flagships at sea, to join in this salute.

As the bells ring in our third century, ^{as millions of free men and women pray for every American resolve} ~~we~~ ^{pray} that this Nation, under God, will meet the ~~challenges~~ of the future with the same courage and dedication Americans ^{*} [showed the world] two centuries ago. In perpetuation of the ^{joyous} ~~original~~ ringing of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, let ^{us} ~~the tolling of bells~~ again "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto ^{all} the Inhabitants thereof."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
 day of in the year of our Lord nineteen
 hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the
 United States of America the two hundredth.

* demonstrated



[6/76?]

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

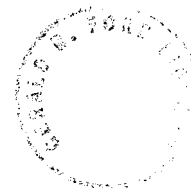
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In this year of our Nation's Bicentennial, we enter our third century with the knowledge that we have achieved greatness as a nation and with the hope that our greatness has contributed to the good of mankind. We face the future with renewed dedication to the principles enshrined in our Declaration of Independence, and with renewed gratitude for those who pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor to preserve individual liberty on this continent.

In concurrence with these great historical events and the wishes of myself and the Congress, I ask that all Americans join in an extended period of celebration, thanksgiving and prayer on the second, third and fourth days of July of our Bicentennial year so that peoples of all faiths, each in their own way, may give thanks for the protection of divine Providence through 200 years, and for the safety and future happiness of the United States 1

*of America*


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As the bells ring in our third century, let every American pray that this Nation, under God, will meet the challenges of the future with the same courage and dedication Americans showed the world two centuries ago. In perpetuation of the original ringing of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, let the tolling of bells again "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the Land unto the Inhabitants thereof."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
day of in the year of our Lord nineteen
hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the
United States of America the two hundredth.



June 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH

Find out what staffing, if any, has been done on these USIA messages. Is everyone on board on the texts? Does Hartmann's shop usually approve this type of thing?

The taping is going to take a little while. I hope everyone understands that because there are quite a few messages there.

JOM/dl



JUN 5 1976

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 4, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: JACK MARSH

FROM: MILT MITLER *Milt*

Jack, attached is the NSC Script which is to be used for the USIA satellite broadcasts on July 4th. The taping is set for 12:00 noon on Friday, June 11th.

Attachment (Script for USIA Broadcast)



We regard our past, we examine our present, and we explore our future from an international viewpoint. As communications such as this program bring people closer together, we learn that nations must depend upon each other much like families in a community if peace is to continue and grow.

In that spirit we in the United States of America wish to share our Bicentennial with you, and dedicate ourselves to a common search for a future of shared progress.

DRAFT

Proposed General Statement by the President
for USIA Bicentennial Television Program

It is a great personal pleasure to greet international viewers of the Bicentennial observance of the United States of America.

Two hundred years ago thirteen colonies in North America united and declared their independence. Their ideals and aspirations were proclaimed on July 4, 1776. We celebrate with pride the two centuries of nationhood we have enjoyed since then. We have fulfilled many of the humanistic and political aspirations of our founding fathers. Those thirteen agrarian colonies have grown into a free, dynamic industrial society. We are proud of our accomplishments yet mindful of goals still to be attained.

In many ways, the destiny of the United States has been intertwined with that of other nations. Throughout our history, people from other societies have come to these shores, become Americans and contributed to our spiritual and material growth. Americans in this Bicentennial year observe not only the development of our own country and culture but the diverse streams that have fed it.



DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
USIA Bicentennial Television Program

For France

Our relations with France take on special meaning in this Bicentennial year. You are our oldest friend and ally. France played an honorable and important part in the birth of the United States as a nation. Americans remember gratefully Lafayette, Rochambeau, Admiral DeGrasse and those many unknown heroic Frenchmen who fought side by side with Americans to help us win the war of independence. Over the past 200 years we have shared common ideals of justice and liberty and we have had to fight together, twice in this century, to ensure the survival of freedom. Americans record with pride and gratitude this 200 year period of cooperation and friendship with France and we look forward to a continuation of our historic association in the common cause of peace and freedom.

DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
USIA Bicentennial Television Program

For Greece

Very special greetings are due, and they are warmly extended, to the people of Greece to whom our republic and our way of life owe so much.

As Americans reflect on their 200 years as a free and independent nation and as they look to the future, it is natural that they should recall that the democratic spirit first blossomed in your ancient land.

Greece and America alike have lost much blood and treasure in defense of these institutions. The people of both nations remember the advice of Pericles, that only those who have the courage to defend liberty can be truly free.

As we mark our Bicentennial, then, Americans are particularly grateful that the blessings of democracy are enjoyed by both ourselves and by the people who gave birth to the ideals by which we live.

DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
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For Germany

My fellow citizens and I are deeply moved by the interest which our Bicentennial has created in the Federal Republic of Germany, and we are impressed by the host of Bicentennial observations and activities which that interest has fostered.

This mutual sharing of our celebration attests once again to the depth of the friendship between the German and the American peoples. We appreciate the influence of German immigrants in the building of our nation; from the anonymous pioneers who wrested homesteads and towns from the wilderness; to the public figures whose names appear so liberally throughout the pages of American history.

As this nation begins its third century, I know that the bonds between us are as strong as ever, I am certain of our common determination to serve the cause of peace, justice, and freedom for our countries and for all nations of the world.

DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
USIA Bicentennial Television Program

For Italy

America owes much to Italy, to Columbus who discovered her, to Americus Vespucci who gave us his name, and to the millions of sons and daughters of Italy who have contributed to the development and growth of the United States throughout our history. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the United States, we hope that you in Italy share the sense of pride and accomplishment that we do at this moment. For our history is one you helped to make. And our future is one that you, as a friend and ally, will share.

DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
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For Poland

During this Bicentennial we are especially mindful of our special ties to Poland. Polish patriots such as Kosciuszko and Pulaski helped us in our struggle for independence. Other Poles settled here and helped to build our country. In this spirit I was honored to greet First Secretary Gierak to the United States in October, 1974, and was deeply touched by my reception during my own visit to Poland in July, 1975. We, the American people, are confident that our ties with Poland will retain this special flavor during the next 100 years.



DRAFT

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USIA Bicentennial Television Program

For Portugal

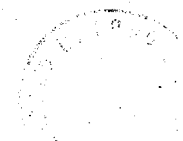
And it is particularly fitting that I address the people of Portugal tonight. From Portugal has come not only Peter Francisco, one of the great heroes of our Revolutionary War, but more than a million sons and daughters of Portugal who have contributed so much to the development and growth of the United States. As we celebrate the 200th anniversary of our democracy, I join my fellow citizens in wishing the people of Portugal success and prosperity as they embark on a course for which we have such great admiration and sympathy.

DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
USIA Bicentennial Television Program

For Yugoslavia

Americans of Yugoslav origin have played a significant role in the development of this country. Together with our historic ties, and the close friendship we enjoy today, there is the prospect of continued close relations between a strong, independent Yugoslavia and the American people.



DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
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For Latin America

In that spirit we in the United States of America wish to share our Bicentennial with you. We long have shared a common historical experience, dating back to the period when all our countries were colonies of European powers. That experience is a link that ties us together, as does our common experience of waging and winning wars of independence. Today, we dedicate ourselves to a common search for a future of shared peace and progress. On this note, we salute our sister republics of the Americas.

DRAFT

Proposed Specially Targetted Conclusion for
USIA Bicentennial Television Program

For Asia

We need not recall for you that it was East Asia that the navigators and explorers from Europe searched for when they found what came to be known as America in the late 15th century.

Seeking a short cut to the East Indies, they found a new world which would begin at the Atlantic, but which would provide a bridge to the Pacific.

Today, we are a Pacific neighbor to all of you. We hope to be a good neighbor and a constructive one; for just as we share the Pacific we share with you the dream of all mankind -- for peace everywhere.

DRAFT

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For Japan

Finally, may I say that Mrs. Ford and I still recall with great personal pleasure our visit to your country not so long ago. Last year, we were proud and honored to welcome Their Majesties The Emperor and Empress at the White House during their tour of the United States on the eve of our nation's 200th birthday. These visits symbolize the close Japanese-American relationship, of which both our people can be proud. In behalf of all Americans, I extend our best wishes to the Japanese people, and our hope that all of you will come and visit us soon.

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For Arab Countries

I am especially pleased to be talking directly to our friends of the Middle East on this historic occasion. Americans and the people of the Middle East have been deeply involved since the beginning of our history as a nation.

Although our recent common efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict are naturally foremost in our minds, the occurrence of the U.S. Bicentennial is a useful reminder that our friendship is an old one. American universities in Cairo and Beirut have long played a significant role in the history of education in the Middle East, and the exchange of students and scholars in both directions has benefitted us all. Communities of Arab-Americans have long enriched our country, and our commercial, technological and scientific ties have been growing for 200 years.

I am happy, therefore, to pay special tribute today to the long, mutually beneficial dialogue which has existed between our countries. And I can assure you that our efforts to contribute to peace in the Middle East will remain a principal goal of American policy.

DRAFT

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For Israel

I am especially pleased to be talking directly to the
people of Israel on this historic occasion.

It has often been said that there is a special relationship
between the U.S. and Israel. I think this is true. Our friendship,
which has existed since Israel achieved independence over 28
years ago, has its basis in common high regard for democracy,
nurtured by a similar attitude toward life and humanity.

Our close friendship, our historic ties will be of crucial
importance, as we pursue our mutual goal of seeking a peaceful
resolution to the conflict which has caused so much anguish in
the hearts of Israelis, Americans and Arabs alike.

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For Africa

Our special pleasure in sharing this celebration with the people of Africa is understandable. One of every ten Americans is descended from Africans who came to this land during its formative years. Black Americans helped make our nation great, and have given a unique flavor to American life and art.

The celebration of our 200th birthday, therefore, is in part an expression of thanks to the continent whose heritage we share, and whose well-being and progress we will continue to support.

July 4th

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
June 8, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE *Rourke*

8

Jack, as per Milt's comment, the attached messages have been distilled down to one singular message. It was worked out with Hartmann's Office.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 8, 1976

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We regard our past, we examine our present, and we explore our future from an international viewpoint. As communications such as this program bring people closer together, we learn that nations must depend upon each other much like families in a community if peace is to continue and grow.

In that spirit we in the United States of America wish to share our Bicentennial with you, and dedicate ourselves to a common search for a future of shared progress.

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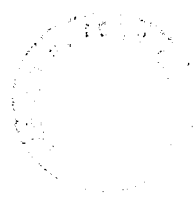
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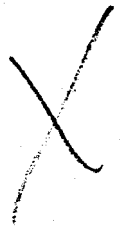
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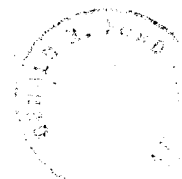
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DRAFT

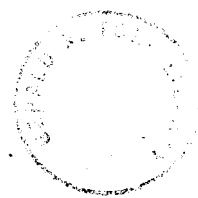
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The celebration of our 200th birthday, therefore, is in part an expression of thanks to the continent whose heritage we share, and whose well-being and progress we will continue to support.

June 9, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: JACK MARSH

I think the President would like some input and comments from you on the attached and I particularly call your attention to the Commander-in-Chief's message, first full paragraph on page 4. Could you get something moving on this as well as other areas where you feel NSC can have an input?

Many thanks.

JOM/dl

enclosures

- 1. Bicentennial Planning Purposes memo*
- 2. possible Presidential ~~B~~ statements*



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: DR. CONNOR
FROM: ROBERT T. HARTMANN *RTH*
SUBJECT: Bicentennial Events

In reply to your memo relaying Counsellor Marsh's questions, I gave my views to Jack some days ago, but am happy to repeat them.

1. Yes, I think there should be a Presidential Proclamation for the Fourth. We are preparing one, following the same overall theme of his Bicentennial speeches. A somewhat shorter version thereof can be taped for radio and television use. I do not think we need another live delivery event during the week of July 1-5 beyond the six already scheduled.
2. President Grant in his 4th of July Proclamation of 1876 included a call for prayer, for the future safety and happiness of the United States. I feel this would be appropriately included in the aforementioned proclamation. I do not know whether he has been specifically requested to do so.
3. I do not favor a special message to Congress. The Congress has its own part in the Bicentennial celebration, and in the National Archives event on July 2. Given its present odor, the less buddying up to the Congress the better. There is no legislative need.

cc: Counsellor Marsh ✓

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOB HARTMANN
FROM: JIM CONNOR
SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL EVENTS

Jack Marsh has raised a number of questions about the Bicentennial and would appreciate your responses to them.

1. Should the President issue a national proclamation on the eve of the 4th? What should it say; how should it be delivered?
2. Should the President issue a proclamation to our friends and allies abroad? If so, when should he issue it, what should it say, how should it be delivered?
3. There has been some discussion of issuing a prayer proclamation. Has the President been requested to issue such a proclamation, and if so, what is the status? If he has not received such a request to issue one, nevertheless should he consider issuing one for the 4th of July?
4. Should the President send a written message to the Congress? What should it say, how should it be delivered-- in person, or perhaps in writing?

I would appreciate receiving your answers to these questions by c. o. b. Wednesday, June 16th. Thank you.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Spoke of Bob Linder,
Tony Smith, Judy
Johnston.... matter
placed on hold until
Hartman personally reviews,
modifies and approves
nomenclature.

xxx

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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THE WHITE HOUSE

ACTION MEMORANDUM

WASHINGTON

LOG NO: _____

Breen

Date: June 16

Time: 900am

JUN 16 1976
July 9

FOR ACTION: Ted Marris
Max Friedersdorf
Ken Lazarus
Robert Hartmann

cc (for information): Jack Marsh
Jim Cavanaugh
Ed Schmults

BAR

FROM THE STAFF SECRETARY

DUE: Date: June 17

Time: 1000am

SUBJECT:

Proclamation=Bicentennial Independence Day, 1976

ACTION REQUESTED:

- For Necessary Action
- For Your Recommendations
- Prepare Agenda and Brief
- Draft Reply
- For Your Comments
- Draft Remarks

REMARKS:

Please return to Judy Johnston, Ground Floor West Wing



PLEASE ATTACH THIS COPY TO MATERIAL SUBMITTED.

If you have any questions or if you anticipate a delay in submitting the required material, please telephone the Staff Secretary immediately.

K. R. COLE, JR.
For the President



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

GENERAL COUNSEL

June 15, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT D. LINDER

Subject: Bicentennial Independence Day, 1976

Enclosed is a proposed proclamation entitled "Bicentennial Independence Day, 1976."

The proposed proclamation was informally submitted by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration. It has been modified in this office but no change has been made in its purpose or the sentiments expressed therein.

The proposed proclamation would proclaim that the two hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence be observed by the simultaneous ringing of bells throughout the United States at 2 o'clock (EDT), July 4, 1976, for two minutes. Although Congress has not requested the President to issue a proclamation of this nature, it has expressed its desire for such commemoration in S. Con. Res. 25, 88th Congress, June 26, 1963 (77 Stat. 944).

As a Bicentennial event, the proposed proclamation meets the criteria for an ad hoc exception to the policy limiting Presidential proclamations to those requested by a joint congressional resolution. The proposed proclamation was suggested well in advance, allowing time for appropriate consideration. The event is of nationwide civic significance to all Americans and has received widespread interest so that there is reasonable assurance that the event will be observed throughout the Nation.

This event has the support of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which voted during its 1975 convention



to request that the President issue an appropriate proclamation. The American Revolution Bicentennial Administration has already begun efforts to encourage public participation in this event. Considerable news coverage of the activity has already been generated.

Time has not permitted formal submission to the Department of Justice in accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 11030, as amended. However, an attorney in that Department, who normally reviews proposed Executive orders and proclamations for form and legality, has reviewed this proposed proclamation and has informally advised that there is no legal objection to its issuance.

It is urged that this proposed proclamation be promptly submitted for the President's consideration.

This proposed proclamation has the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

William M. Nichols
William M. Nichols
General Counsel

Enclosures

BICENTENNIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

In the evening of the fourth day of July, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence which proclaimed to the world the birth of a new nation dedicated to making the experiment in democracy work.

In the two centuries that have since passed, we have matured as a nation and as a people. We have gained the wisdom that comes with age and have preserved the exuberance and resiliency that comes with youth. In this year of our Nation's Bicentennial, we face the future with confidence born of a renewed dedication and commitment to the principle of individual liberty.

To commemorate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, the Congress, by concurrent resolution agreed to June 26, 1963 (77 Stat. 944), declared that its anniversary be observed by the ringing of bells throughout the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that the two hundredth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence be observed by the simultaneous ringing of bells throughout the United States at the hour of two o'clock, eastern daylight time, on the afternoon of the fourth of July, 1976, our Bicentennial Independence Day, for a period of two minutes, signifying our two centuries of nationhood.

I call upon civic, religious, and other community leaders to encourage public participation in this historic observance. I call upon all Americans, here and abroad, to join in this salute.

As the bells ring in our third century, let every American, each in his or her own way, pray that this Nation, under God, will meet the challenges of the future with the same courage and dedication Americans showed the world two centuries ago. As inscribed on the Liberty Bell, let the tolling of bells again proclaim liberty throughout the land.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day of , in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.