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MEXICO VISIT

DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1974



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MR. PRESIDENT, IT HAS INDEED BEEN A PLEASURE FOR ME TO HAVE HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY, EARLY IN MY ADMINISTRATION, TO MEET WITH YOU AND YOUR DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION, TO HAVE VISITED NOGALES (NO-GAL-ES) AND MAGDALENA de KINO (MAGDA-LENA DAY KEENO) IN YOUR GREAT NATION, AND TO HAVE HAD THE HONOR TO OFFER YOU OUR HOSPITALITY IN TUBAC (TOO-BACK).

THE TIME HAS BEEN ALL TOO SHORT. BUT WHAT WE HAVE SHARED TOGETHER  
HAS BEEN MOST VALUABLE TO ME:

-- IT PROVIDED A WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO KNOW YOU  
PERSONALLY, TO BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH A REAL FRIENDSHIP WITH THE  
PRESIDENT OF OUR GREAT FRIEND AND NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH;

-- IT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESTABLISH AT  
FIRST-HAND A DIALOGUE WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THE UNDERSTANDING  
AND COOPERATION OF OUR PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS;

-- IT PROVIDED A CHANCE TO HEAR YOUR POINTS OF VIEW  
ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO EXPRESS  
MY VIEWPOINT ON THESE MATTERS TO YOU.

TO ME, THE VALUE OF THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE  
INITIATED TODAY IS EQUAL TO THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HELD.  
I AM CONFIDENT THAT OUR MEETING WILL BE ONLY THE BEGINNING OF A CLOSE  
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP -- AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP  
WHICH UNITES OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, DURING MY SHORT VISIT TO YOUR SIDE OF THE BORDER THIS MORNING, YOU AND THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO MADE ME FEEL AT HOME. I ASSURE YOU THAT ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER, YOU ARE ALSO IN YOUR HOME, AND I HOPE THAT YOU FELT THIS WAY.

AS I TAKE LEAVE OF YOU AND WISH YOU A SAFE AND PLEASANT RETURN JOURNEY, MR. PRESIDENT, I WILL NOT SAY GOODBYE BUT RATHER, FOLLOWING THE TRADITION OF YOUR COUNTRY, I WILL SAY "HASTA LUEGO" (ASTA-LOO-WAGO). I KNOW THAT THERE WILL BE OTHER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FUTURE TO MEET AND DISCUSS VITAL QUESTIONS OF INTEREST TO BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES.