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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Dorothy:

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received this in the outbox.

Dianna

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[5/10/75]
THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *d.g.*

THIS IS MY FIRST OPPORTUNITY AS PRESIDENT TO
WELCOME THE DISTINGUISHED CHIEFS OF DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES. I AM
DELIGHTED YOU ARE HERE -- IN WASHINGTON AND IN THE WHITE HOUSE.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE TONIGHT IS TESTIMONY TO THE
WISDOM OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE'S PIONEERING EFFORT TO CREATE
A FREE ASSOCIATION OF SOVEREIGN NATIONS A CENTURY AGO.

THE DURABILITY OF OUR INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM RESTS ON ITS ABILITY
TO ADAPT TO CHANGING HEMISPHERIC AND WORLD CONDITIONS AND TO
RESPOND TO NEW PROBLEMS AND NEEDS WHICH ARISE.

BUT, AS MY OLD COLLEAGUE, BILL MAILLIARD, HAS SO
OFTEN TOLD ME,

ITS BEDROCK STRENGTH COMES FROM THE WEALTH OF WISDOM THAT THE
MEMBER-STATES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES BRING TO THE SOLUTION
OF COMMON PROBLEMS.

TODAY, THIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS CARRYING ON THE
TRADITION OF ADAPTABILITY TO CHANGE IN CONSIDERING
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFORM.

AND JUST AS THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM WAS THE PATHFINDER IN
THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IT COULD, LIKEWISE,
BECOME A PIONEER IN REFORMING THE TRADITIONAL WAY IN WHICH
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DO BUSINESS.

THE BASIC CONCEPT WHICH HOLDS THIS ORGANIZATION

TOGETHER IS ~~IS~~ THAT STRENGTH AND PROGRESS COME FROM
COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFLICT.

IN THIS COUNTRY, WE ARE PROUD OF OUR
ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER A DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND A
PRODUCTIVE ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

WE RECOGNIZE THAT EVERY STATE HAS THE RIGHT TO ADOPT ITS OWN
SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND ITS OWN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
ORGANIZATION. WE LIVE IN A HEMISPHERE WITH A RICH
TRADITION OF DIVERSITY.

ONE OF OUR CONTINUING TASKS IS TO RESOLVE ISSUES
THAT COULD DIVIDE US.

WE ARE NOW UPDATING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH
PANAMA OVER THE ISSUE OF THE CANAL.

THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP WILL ACCOMMODATE THE IMPORTANT
INTERESTS OF BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES AND ALL OF THE NATIONS
OF THE WORLD WHICH DEPEND ON THE CANAL.

THE WORLD WE NOW LIVE IN IS INCREASINGLY FLUID
AND COMPLEX, CONTAINING MANY NEW CENTERS OF POWER.
THERE ARE NEW AND MORE SUBTLE CHALLENGES TO THE WELL-BEING
OF MANKIND.

AND THE NEW ISSUES REFLECT THE MAJOR CONCERNS OF OUR PEOPLE:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH OF TRADE, SUFFICIENT FOOD
PRODUCTION, A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND MANAGING THE GROWTH
OF POPULATION.

AS THE WORLD ECONOMY BECOMES MORE COMPLEX,
THE LINE BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY
BECOMES EVER LESS DISTINCT. WE KNOW WE HAVE DIFFERENCES
AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THEM.

BUT DESPITE SUCH PROBLEMS, I AM CONFIDENT WE WILL SHAPE
THE RELATIONSHIPS NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ALL OUR
PEOPLES.

THE NATIONS OF THIS HEMISPHERE HAVE INDIVIDUALLY AND
JOINTLY MADE GREAT PROGRESS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE
WELL-BEING OF THEIR PEOPLES. OUR COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT
REQUIRES CONSTANT REDEFINITION AND IMAGINATIVE NEW SOLUTIONS
TO THE COMMON PROBLEMS WE FACE.

THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD OF ITS CONTINUING CONTRIBUTION TO
THIS JOINT EFFORT. THERE IS NO REASON WE CANNOT CONQUER THE
LAST VESTIGES OF POVERTY IN A HEMISPHERE WHICH IS SO RICHLY
ENDOWED.

THE TRADITION OF MUTUAL COOPERATION, WHICH IS
AT THE HEART OF OUR INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM, ADDS ANOTHER
DIMENSION TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE.
WE MUST BE PARTICULARLY CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO AVOID
UNNECESSARY DAMAGE TO EACH OTHER'S INTERESTS.

FOR THIS REASON, I AM SUPPORTING MODIFICATION OF RECENT
LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE CONGRESS WHICH SINGLES OUT A
FEW NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE FOR WHAT SEEMS DISCRIMINATORY
TREATMENT.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THAT ASSURES MUTUAL

RESPECT AMONG NATIONS IS MORE ESSENTIAL THAN EVER.

AND THE OPPORTUNITIES, PARTICULARLY IN THIS HEMISPHERE,

ARE WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

I WISH YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS AND HOPE THAT,
TOGETHER, WE CAN TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR COOPERATION THAT PRESENT THEMSELVES TO US, WHO ARE
THE FORTUNATE INHABITANTS OF THESE AMERICAS.

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