

The original documents are located in Box 9, folder “5/16/75 - Toast at Embassy of Iran for Shah of Iran” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, THE SHAHANSHAH

(SHAH-HAN-SHAH) AND SHAHBANOU (SHAH-BA-NEW) OF IRAN:

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I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO ATTEND THIS SPLENDID DINNER TONIGHT,

TO RESPOND TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH A STATESMAN OF YOUR

IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S STATURE OFFERS TO THE UNITED STATES.

YOUR VISIT TO AMERICA REMINDS OUR PEOPLE THAT OUR RELATIONS
WITH IRAN, PRESENT AND FUTURE, ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE
TO US.

AND, OF COURSE, OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE COME TO KNOW AND
RESPECT YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S PERSONAL COMMITMENT AND
CONTRIBUTION TO THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH EXISTS BETWEEN
THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN.

THE FRIENDSHIP OF IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES OVER A

PERIOD OF MANY YEARS HAS REPRESENTED AN ELEMENT OF CONTINUITY

WHICH HAS ALLOWED US TO SUCCESSFULLY MEET CHALLENGES TO OUR SHARED

OBJECTIVES OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY, AND TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS

OF CHANGING WORLD RELATIONSHIPS.

THE HIGH PRIORITY WHICH OUR COUNTRIES ATTACH TO

STRENGTHENING OUR MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION HAS BEEN

SYMBOLIZED OVER THE YEARS -- TO GIVE ONLY A FEW EXAMPLES -- BY

THE STEADY TWO-WAY FLOW OF VISITS BY OFFICIALS, SCHOLARS AND

BUSINESSMEN, BY OUR ASSOCIATION WITH CENTO, AND,

MOST RECENTLY, BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNITED STATES -
IRANIAN JOINT COMMISSION AND THE INAUGURATION TOMORROW OF
THE JOINT UNITED STATES - IRAN BUSINESS COUNCIL.

THE JOINT COMMISSION -- TO WHICH WE ATTACH GREAT
IMPORTANCE -- HAS MOVED WITH EXTRAORDINARY SPEED TO IDENTIFY
THE MEANS WHEREBY OUR TWO COUNTRIES' TECHNOLOGIES, SKILLS,
RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE MORE EFFECTIVELY BROUGHT
TOGETHER TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND TO THE BENEFIT OF OTHER
COUNTRIES AS WELL.

I AM CONFIDENT THE BUSINESS COUNCIL WILL BE EQUALLY EFFECTIVE
AND YOU CAN BE SURE IT WILL ALSO HAVE OUR FULL SUPPORT.

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY: WE HAVE LOOKED FORWARD
WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION TO YOUR VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES.

THE CHALLENGES CONFRONTING ALLIES IN A RAPIDLY EVOLVING WORLD
SITUATION ARE EVIDENT AND PRESSING. OUR DISCUSSIONS ON
THESE ISSUES AND ON THE FULL RANGE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INFORMATIVE AND
WIDE-RANGING.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DRAW ON YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND YOUR UNMATCHED PERSPECTIVE DEVELOPED OVER THREE DECADES OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP.

I AM ALSO GREATLY HONORED TO HAVE COME TO KNOW HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY, THE SHAHBANOU, WHO HAS WON OUR HEARTS. AND I AM DELIGHTED THAT HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS IN YOUR COUNTRY RECEIVED FURTHER RECOGNITION TODAY AT ONE OF OUR LEADING UNIVERSITIES.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I NOW CALL ON
YOU TO JOIN ME IN SALUTING AND TOASTING OUR DISTINGUISHED
HOSTS THIS EVENING, WHOSE VISIT WITH US HAS BEEN A MEMORABLE,
HISTORIC OCCASION: TO THEIR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, THE
SHAHANSHAH AND SHAHBANOU OF IRAN.

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