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PRESIDENT'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT  
FROM MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 7, 1975

1.

MR. PRESIDENT, MRS. MARCOS, MY DEAR FRIENDS:

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW MUCH I APPRECIATE HAVING HAD THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT YOUR BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY. TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT,  
AND TO ALL THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE MY DEEPEST THANKS FOR YOUR  
EXCEPTIONAL HOSPITALITY WHICH MADE MY VISIT HERE TRULY MEMORABLE.

- 2 -

THE FRANK AND CORDIAL DISCUSSIONS WE HAVE HELD,  
MR. PRESIDENT, HAVE CONVINCED ME OF THE UNSHAKABLE BONDS  
BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN THE SEARCH FOR A BETTER WORLD FOR  
OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

- 3 -

IN THE PAST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, MR. PRESIDENT, WE HAVE  
DISCUSSED MANY SUBJECTS. WE TALKED, IN PARTICULAR, ABOUT THE  
ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND OUR DEFENSE  
ALLIANCE AND SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS.

AS BEFITS TWO OLD AND BATTLE-TESTED ALLIES, THESE TALKS HAVE BEEN FRANK AND PENETRATING. I THANK YOU FOR THE INSIGHTS YOU HAVE GIVEN ME INTO YOUR COUNTRY'S HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS.

OUR CONVERSATIONS CONVINCED ME THAT THE DEPTH OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES WILL PERMIT POINTS ON WHICH WE DIFFER TO BE RESOLVED WITHOUT BECOMING MAJOR ITEMS OF CONFLICT.

- 6 -

AS I LEAVE TODAY, I GO HOME CONVINCED THAT THE RELATIONSHIP OF  
MUTUAL RESPECT AND TRUST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS A CONTINUING  
BASIS FOR A TRUE ALLIANCE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR KIND HOSPITALITY TO MRS.

FORD AND ME.

END OF TEXT