

The original documents are located in Box 34, “6/2/76 - Remarks at the Arrival Ceremony of King Juan Carlos I of Spain with his Wife the Queen” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON ARRIVAL OF

KING JUAN CARLOS I

JUNE 2, 1976

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YOUR MAJESTIES, ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE,

I TAKE PLEASURE IN WELCOMING YOU TO THE UNITED STATES.

YOUR FIRST VISIT AS KING AND QUEEN OF SPAIN TO THE UNITED

STATES RENEWS THE HISTORIC AND DEEP TIES BETWEEN OUR

COUNTRIES.

NEARLY 500 YEARS AGO, SPAIN WAS A LEADER IN
THE GREAT AGE OF EXPLORATION THAT OPENED THIS CONTINENT
TO SETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT.

NOW, \ IN THIS BICENTENNIAL YEAR, \ THE PEOPLE OF
SPAIN AND AMERICA CAN RECALL WITH PRIDE A GROUP OF BRAVE
SPANIARDS LED BY BERNARDO DE GALVEZ (BERNARDO DUH GALVEZZ)
WHO HELPED 200 YEARS AGO IN OUR STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL
INDEPENDENCE.

IN 1776, GALVEZ - THEN GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA -

PROVIDED NEEDED ARMS AND SUPPLIES TO THOSE STRUGGLING

FOR FREEDOM IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES. LATER, HIS

EXPEDITIONS NEAR PENSACOLA, MOBILE AND NATCHEZ HELPED

TO KEEP THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND GULF OF MEXICO OPEN,

PROTECTING THE SOUTHERN AND WESTERN FLANKS OF THE COLONIES.

THE FORMAL ENTRANCE OF SPAIN INTO OUR WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

IN 1779 BROUGHT VALUABLE SUPPORT TO THE AMERICAN CAUSE.

THE CITY OF GALVESTON, TEXAS, TODAY HONORS

THE NAME OF BERNARDO DE GALVEZ•

THE CITY OF WASHINGTON

WILL SOON HAVE A STATUE OF GALVEZ

-- A GENEROUS BICENTENNIAL

GIFT OF THE SPANISH PEOPLE

-- TO COMMEMORATE THE CONTRIBUTION

OF THIS GALLANT SPANISH SOLDIER-STATESMAN TO THE INDEPENDENCE

OF THE UNITED STATES•

THE UNDERSTANDING AND TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP

BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES CONTINUES TO ENDURE•

TODAY, WE LOOK FORWARD TO EVEN CLOSER COOPERATION WITH

SPAIN•

I LAST VISITED SPAIN JUST OVER A YEAR AGO•

I WAS DEEPLY MOVED BY THE WARM WELCOME ACCORDED BY THE

SPANISH PEOPLE AND PARTICULARLY BY YOU, YOUR MAJESTIES•

SINCE THEN GREAT CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE• YOUR COUNTRY

HAS ENTERED A NEW ERA UNDER YOUR WISE AND ABLE LEADERSHIP•

IT HOLDS GREAT PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE OF SPAIN AND FOR

THE WESTERN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS• I AM CONFIDENT

THAT YOUR LEADERSHIP WILL PROVE MORE THAN EQUAL TO THE

GREAT TASKS AHEAD AND THAT THE PROMISE OF THE FUTURE WILL

BE FULFILLED•

BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES TODAY FACE COMPLEX CHALLENGES.

WE LOOK TO OUR OWN FUTURE WITH CONFIDENCE AND WE TAKE CONFIDENCE

FROM THE ASSURANCE THAT THE SPANISH PEOPLE WILL MEET THESE

CHALLENGES WITH THE QUALITIES THEY HAVE SHOWN IN THEIR LONG AND

ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY -- COURAGE, DIGNITY, STRENGTH AND PRIDE.

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OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, AS CONFIRMED IN THE
RECENTLY CONCLUDED TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION,
IS EXCELLENT. I STATED LAST YEAR, AND I REAFFIRM TODAY,
THAT SPAIN THROUGH ITS BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH
THE UNITED STATES MAKES A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTERN
WORLD.

WE ARE AGREED ON THE INTERESTS OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE IN
COMMON OBJECTIVES AND COMMON BURDENS PROMOTING THE
PROSPERITY AND SECURITY OF THE ATLANTIC AND MEDITERRANEAN
REGIONS.

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR HISTORIC TIES WITH SPAIN.

WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY SPANISH PROGRESS UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING OUR
RELATIONSHIP.

YOUR MAJESTIES, I AM PRIVILEGED TO EXTEND

TO YOU THE SINCERE WELCOME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED

STATES.

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