

The original documents are located in Box 36, “7/7/76 - Remarks Upon Arrival of Queen Elizabeth II of the U.K.” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...T

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON ARRIVAL OF

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

JULY 7, 1976

YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, LADIES AND

GENTLEMEN:

ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, I AM DELIGHTED TO

WELCOME YOU TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE WHITE HOUSE•

YOUR FIRST STATE VISIT TO AMERICA, IN 1957, MARKED

THE 350th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SETTLEMENT OF JAMESTOWN --

THE FIRST PERMANENT ENGLISH COLONY IN THIS NEW LAND•

YOU HONOR US AGAIN ~~FOR~~ BY COMING TO SHARE IN OUR

BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE AND THE NEW SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM AND

COOPERATION GENERATED BY THIS GREAT OCCASION•

DURING THE 169 YEARS BETWEEN THE FIRST SETTLEMENT AT
JAMESTOWN AND OUR INDEPENDENCE, THIRTEEN COLONIES PROSPERED //
PROTECTED BY THE BRITISH NAVY, ENJOYING THE ADVANTAGES OF //
BRITISH COMMERCE AND ADOPTING BRITISH CONCEPTS OF
REPRESENTATIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT.

IN DECLARING INDEPENDENCE IN 1776, WE LOOKED FOR
GUIDANCE TO OUR BRITISH HERITAGE OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
AND LAW• AS A SOVEREIGN NATION, WE HAVE KEPT AND
NURTURED THE MOST DURABLE BOND OF ALL ~~---~~ THE BOND OF IDEALISM
IN WHICH OUR NEW NATION WAS CONCEIVED•

YOUR MAJESTY'S VISIT SYMBOLIZES OUR DEEP AND CONTINUING
COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON VALUES OF ANGLO-AMERICAN
CIVILIZATION•

YOUR MAJESTY, FOR GENERATIONS OUR PEOPLES HAVE
WORKED TOGETHER AND FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE•

AS DEMOCRACIES, WE CONTINUE OUR QUEST FOR PEACE AND

JUSTICE• THE CHALLENGES WE NOW FACE ARE DIFFERENT FROM

THOSE THAT WE HAVE CONFRONTED TOGETHER AND OVERCOME IN

THE PAST•

AT STAKE IS THE FUTURE OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES WHICH

HAVE SUSTAINED THEIR DESTINY IN COMMON FOR MORE THAN A

GENERATION. AT STAKE IS THE FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE

BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO ALL HUMANITY AND THE CREATION OF A

BETTER WORLD.

AS NEW NATIONS AND OLD EACH SET THEIR POLITICAL
COURSE TO ACHIEVE THESE AIMS, THE PRINCIPLES OF HUMAN DIGNITY
AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS SET FORTH IN THE MAGNA CARTA AND OUR
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE REMAIN TRULY REVOLUTIONARY

LANDMARKS.

YOUR MAJESTY, THE WOUNDS OF OUR PARTING IN 1776

HEALED LONG AGO• AMERICANS ADMIRE THE UNITED KINGDOM

AS ONE OF OUR TRUEST ALLIES AND BEST FRIENDS• THERE COULD

BE NO MORE CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF THAT FRIENDSHIP THAN THE

SPLENDID BRITISH CONTRIBUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION ON THE

OCCASION OF OUR BICENTENNIAL•

LAST MONTH, I WELCOMED TO THE WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN

THE DISTINGUISHED DELEGATION OF THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT WHO

ESCORTED AN HISTORIC COPY OF THE MAGNA CARTA TO AMERICA.

THE LOAN OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR OUR BICENTENNIAL IS A GESTURE

THAT WILL BRING PLEASURE AND INSPIRATION TO ALL WHO VIEW IT.

YESTERDAY IN PHILADELPHIA, YOUR MAJESTY INAUGURATED
THE NEW BICENTENNIAL BELL, A GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN
TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES. INSCRIBED
"LET FREEDOM RING", IT WILL HANG IN THE BELL TOWER AT
INDEPENDENCE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

WHEN I WAS IN PHILADELPHIA ON THE FOURTH OF JULY, I

THOUGHT WHAT A PERFECT COMPLEMENT THE NEW BELL WILL BE TO

OUR OWN LIBERTY BELL AND THE CENTENNIAL BELL IN INDEPENDENCE

HALL. FOR THESE GIFTS, AND MANY OTHERS WITH WHICH

BRITAIN HAS HONORED OUR HISTORIC CELEBRATION, THE AMERICAN

PEOPLE ARE DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

ABOVE ALL, WE APPRECIATE THE PERSONAL HONOR YOU
HAVE SO GRACIOUSLY DEMONSTRATED BY VISITING OUR SHORES
AT THIS SPECIAL MOMENT IN OUR HISTORY. DURING YOUR
VISIT, YOU WILL TRAVEL TO HALLOWED AMERICAN LANDMARKS,
YOU WILL OBSERVE MANY CHANGES SINCE YOU WERE HERE LAST.

BUT AS YOU TRAVEL THROUGH OUR LAND, I TRUST THAT YOU

WILL FIND SOMETHING ELSE IN THESE UNITED STATES:

A NEW SENSE OF UNITY, OF FRIENDSHIP, OF PURPOSE AND

TRANQUILITY•

SOMETHING WONDERFUL HAPPENED IN AMERICA THIS PAST
WEEKEND. A SPIRIT OF UNITY AND TOGETHERNESS, DEEP WITHIN
THE AMERICAN SOUL, SPRANG TO THE SURFACE IN A WAY THAT
WE HAD ALMOST FORGOTTEN.

PEOPLE SHOWED AGAIN THAT THEY CARE, THAT THEY WANT TO LIVE

IN PEACE AND HARMONY WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS, THAT THEY WANT

TO PULL TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION AND FOR THE GOOD

OF MANKIND•

THIS WEEKEND WE HAD A MARVELOUS REAFFIRMATION

OF THE AMERICAN SPIRIT, ~~AND~~ IN THE DAYS AHEAD,

WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO SHARE THAT SPIRIT WITH YOU.

DURING YOUR VISIT IN 1957, PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

REMARKED THAT AMERICA'S RESPECT FOR BRITAIN WAS SYMBOLIZED

IN OUR AFFECTION FOR THE ROYAL FAMILY. IT IS IN THIS

SPIRIT WE WELCOME YOUR MAJESTY'S VISIT AS A HAPPY OCCASION

FOR REAFFIRMING OUR JOINT DEDICATION TO FREEDOM, PEACE,

DEMOCRACY AND THE WELL-BEING OF OUR PEOPLES.

YOUR MAJESTY, AMERICA BIDS YOU, PRINCE PHILLIP

AND YOUR PARTY A MOST CORDIAL AND HEARTFELT WELCOME.

END OF TEXT