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USIA

JULY 9, 1976

FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

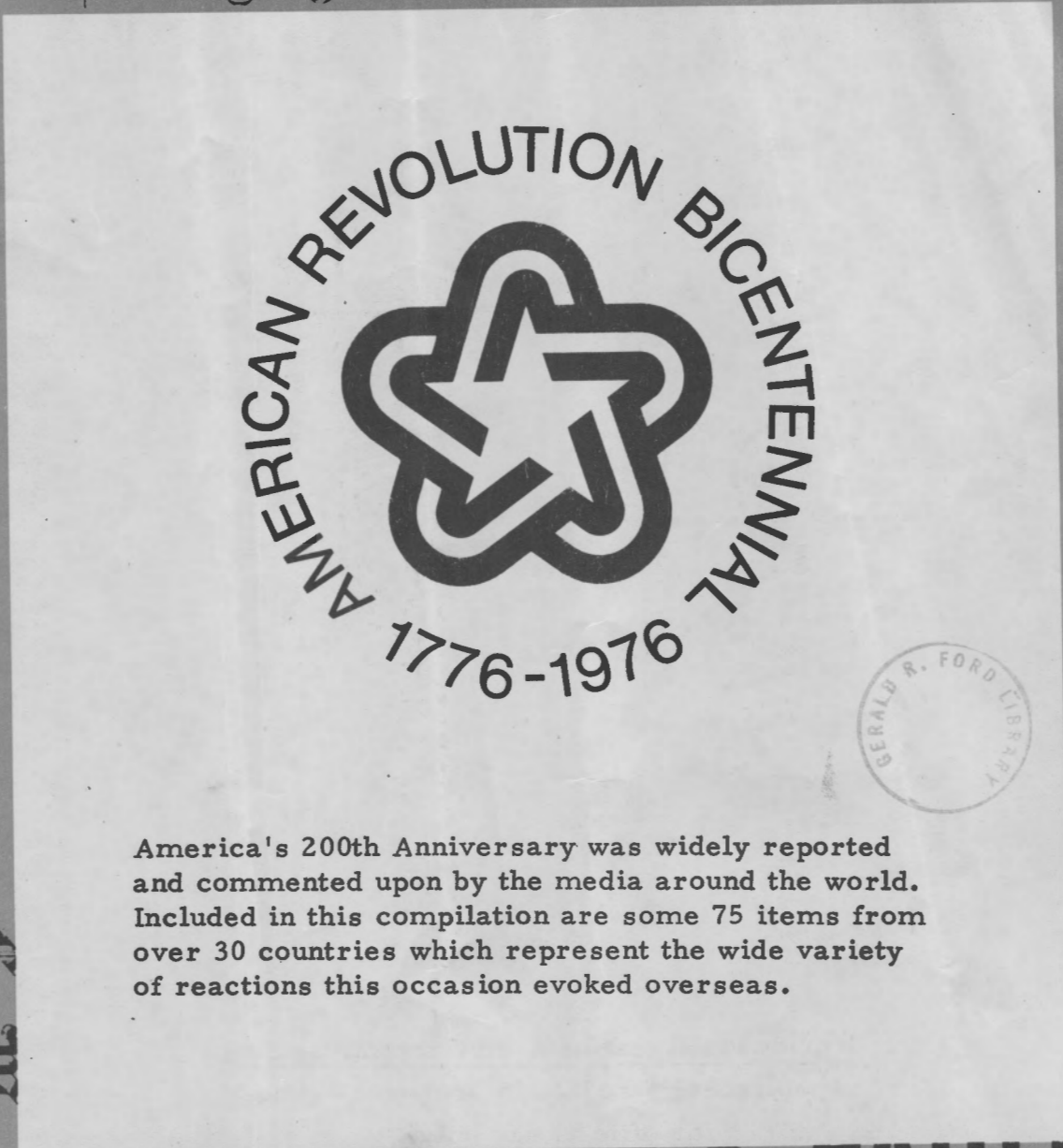
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THE BICENTENNIAL

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THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN  
人民日報



America's 200th Anniversary was widely reported and commented upon by the media around the world. Included in this compilation are some 75 items from over 30 countries which represent the wide variety of reactions this occasion evoked overseas.



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## WESTERN EUROPE

### BRITAIN

#### DAILY TELEGRAPH, London, editorial:

"To gauge the real significance of America to the rest of the world one only has to try to imagine the world without it. It would be a world infinitely poorer and with much less hope for the future. Above all, it would be a world dominated by tyrants. For the United States is indeed "The Arsenal of Democracy," as Roosevelt put it. And this is, to an important extent, America's own choice. She is rich enough and strong enough to stand alone. We need her infinitely more than she needs us. No other great power in history, including Britain, has used its strength with the restraint, the decency and the generosity of Americans.

"So on the Fourth of July we hope the Americans will really celebrate their birthday. The blemishes and some of the failures of recent years are of little account compared with the magnitude of the achievement. Who will dare to predict what they might accomplish in the next 200 years? We wish many happy returns to the great Republic."

#### TIMES of London, editorial:

"The world, as well as the U. S. has changed.... This means that American power can be exercised effectively only with the approval of other countries, which depend in turn partly upon the U. S. being a source of creative ideas and partly upon that spark that touches the imagination.... Most obviously, it is essential to preserving the military balance with the Soviet Union.... Secondly, while one of the most constructive acts of statesmanship in the past thirty years has been the positive American encouragement to the establishment of the EEC, international economic and political stability still require active cooperation across the Atlantic. This is because the chances of achieving a better understanding with the primary producers would be much poorer without vigorous American participation in the search for a solution. As the U. S. celebrates its Bicentennial, it should know that other countries are looking not just to its romantic past but also to the role of international leadership it still has to play. The context of that leadership has changed, but without it the world would be a yet more dangerous and uncertain place."

TIMES, article by Deputy Editor Louis Heren:

"What is the American secret? What can we learn from a people who saved us from defeat and disaster in the past and upon whom our national security ultimately depends? I do not think that it is production and managerial techniques, although they would obviously help. I think it is the 18th century idea of the rights of man to which Americans, the most modern of men, have always tried to remain loyal. "

THE OBSERVER, London, editorial:

"The United States has never been innocent since the time it began cruelly to persecute those who had remained loyal to the crown. It has indulged in a classical imperialism that compares morally with our own. And it did less physical good in the process. It has indulged in the social perversion of slavery and its aftermath. It has worshipped great wealth as we worshipped hereditary or royal honor. It has had its own hereditary aristocracy and cities run by oligarchies composed of the rich or the elite or by those men ruthless enough to take up power as if it were fruit for pleasure and enrichment and selective distribution. In all this the United States hardly differs, in anything but scale, from the nation of which it is a majestic offspring.

"But there is more to it than this human weakness. Its revolution was the most rational in history. Its intentions--even when they were perverted by self-deception--were the highest any state ever dared to set for itself. Its vast generosity has been frequently selfless. Its politics are enchanting and involuted, though messier than ours. It chooses, like other states, great leaders only by accident (Abraham Lincoln was laughed into office).

"The Fourth of July cannot be our feast. We are certainly observing the decencies of the occasion with royal visits and a superb exhibition. But we can be a little proud that no other nation, not even imperial Rome, produced so great and nobly independent an offspring. "

THE ECONOMIST, London weekly, editorial:

"We...the representatives of Great Britain in general congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of

our intentions, do, in the name and by authority of the good people of this island, solemnly publish and declare, that this island is, and of right ought to be, the fifty-first state... of the United States of America and Britain; and that as such it no longer has the power to levy war, contract alliances, and do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do.

"And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence and the U. S. nuclear deterrent, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, what is left of our fortunes, and what is left of our sacred honour."

THE DAILY MAIL, London, byliner's article:

"The greatest of all the gifts the Americans have given us is hope... The only certainty is that the Americans aren't going to stop. Nothing will deter them from keeping up the dogged, rumbustious pursuit of happiness they began 200 years ago. And we shall continue to be dragged along in their wake, fascinated, often alarmed, but when the chips are down, unambiguously grateful.... We were lucky George the Third lost."

THE SUNDAY TIMES, editorial:

"The past and the individualist philosophy bequeath a harsh side to American life: the violence of the cities, the racial antagonism, the tolerance for gun-carrying, the insistence on individual effort which at its extremes produces glaring neglect of minorities and a fierce urge for material success that corrupts men and destroys landscapes. But against these stark enough problems, and the glaring existence of poverty and especially black poverty, must be set the testified capacity of the society for candor, for self-criticism, for idealism, and for climbing the unscalable peaks. A still-young nation has grown into a super-power while retaining and renewing the dreams of its founders. On this American birthday morning, the British people should have no difficulty in recognizing, like Churchill in wartime, that 'Westward, Look, the land is bright.'"

THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH, editorial:

"Had it not been for the success of the American experiment, the idea of individual freedom would never have survived the challenges of the 20th century.... Today, that famous Declaration of Independence (of two hundred years ago) has come to have a wider meaning and significance, symbolizing the actuality of independence of all free nations... and the dream of independence of those still enslaved whose freedom is yet to be won."

THE FINANCIAL TIMES, London, political editor David Watt:

"Two things strike me about this long saga. The first is that throughout it the external world's view of America was a mirror image of America's view of itself. The moralism and optimism of the culture never really flagged, except briefly in the 1930s. The second obvious fact, of course, is that in the 30 years since the war--a very short time in the whole sweep of American history--much of the historic symbolism of the U. S. has been destroyed and with it an important element of the idealism that sustained and was sustained by it.

"The trouble is that during this period much of the world has either re-defined liberty or given it a lower priority than other virtues such as equality and stability. Western Europe was grateful in the 1950s for being saved from the threat of Soviet tyranny but deeply distrusted the crusading libertarianism of John Foster Dulles, when it seemed likely to lead to dangerous confrontation with the Russians. Again, the question has been raised whether the attempt to preserve the liberty of the people of South Vietnam at the cost of laying their country to waste was not a contradiction in terms. And is it libertarian to preserve other third world countries from totalitarian miseries by supporting their present repressive regime?

"In the face of this hostile environment the U. S. enters its third century on the defensive, and all the more so because the domestic prerequisites of last century liberalism--unlimited land and space, geographical security, and a working population with limited economic expectations--are no longer available. In such a context the sudden emergence of Mr. Jimmy Carter, a man who combined a fairly primitive idealism with the promise to solve domestic problems in a businesslike fashion and restore good relations with the outside world, is easily explained.

"Whether he or anyone else can restore the American sense of destiny or the symbolism of 1776 in quite the old sense is doubtful. It is hard to be a hero in a world of such competitive diversity. But what the new president and his successors have in their power to achieve is a demonstration in modern conditions of a truth that has never ceased to be effective in the past, whatever the mistakes or derelictions of the American Government. This is that the American Constitution actually works, that a vast continent full of people can live together in one nation without resort to coercion and labor camps and secret police, and that it can do so without taking more from the outside world than it gives. This is a more modest claim to fame than those of the founding fathers but if one looks round the rest of the globe and its miseries it seems more than enough to be going on with."

#### ITALY

CORRIERE DELLA SERA, Milan, U.S. correspondent:

"Behind the picturesque and commercial facade of ceremonies and commemorations, the Bicentennial is a confirmation of the validity of a political system which for two centuries has withstood the severest trials and absorbed the deepest social and economic transformations. It is a system that has given the U.S. the world record of power and wealth preserving its original principles of freedom and democracy."

LA NAZIONE, Florence, byliner's article:

"Two centuries after the Declaration of Independence, admiration does not cancel the doubts about the duties of an imperial power. But perhaps the need for defense in a threatening and upset world will prevail and will succeed in reconciling the founding fathers' influence, still felt, with what must be done to survive in a world so different from their ideals."

AVANTI, Rome, byliner's article:

"Bicentennial celebrations give Americans and all of us occasion and reason for meditation, not so much to draw up accounts for these two centuries but rather to reflect on America's prospects: these prospects involve us all, because, in good and evil, in consent and dissent, in all of us there is something American."



LA REPUBBLICA, leftist, Rome, editorial:

"Lincoln's America too often has been replaced by the America of the CIA and of plots in Chile and financing of groups like Italian Fascists. There are many dark and disquieting sides to the Bicentennial. In many parts of the world the American dream has become a nightmare. The challenge facing this great nation at the dawn of its third century is to join together again its role of a great power and the ideals of freedom and justice which favored its birth and inspired its Constitution. "

PAESE SERA, pro-Communist, Rome, article:

"We cannot forget that in the dark Fascist years America expressed through Roosevelt our yearning for freedom. We wish that memory had not been blemished by the cold war. The world changes, however, and perhaps this is the right moment to establish a more mature relationship with America.

#### WEST GERMANY

WEST GERMAN TV, second network, Washington correspondent Carl Weiss:

"Historians and critics have again and again emphasized that--after Vietnam and Watergate--the Bicentennial has no theme, perspective, ideal and sense, but the July 4 weekend is about to remove all doubts: Joy and optimism and an intractable pride are dominating.

"On the occasion of the Bicentennial, the Americans seem to be determined to put all their emphasis on the unique words of the Declaration of Independence: All men are endowed with.... the right...to the pursuit of happiness.... "

Television's Sunday morning panel discussion, host Werner Hoefler:

"My America is a colored man who--when I was a boy--gave me a piece of chocolate after World War One; an American who--when I became a man--gave a piece of chocolate to my children; an American who gave me the world edition of The New York Times under a POW tent in France; some movies of an Englishman named Charlie Chaplin; a bit of the Basin Street Blues, some lines from 'Requiem for a Nun' by William Faulkner, and a chapter from 'The Old Man and the Sea' by Ernest Hemingway.... "

NEUE RHEIN ZEITUNG, Essen and Duesseldorf:

"On the occasion of the Bicentennial it does not take confirmation by a public opinion poll that the American ally ranks first with the Germans. The recent poll also indicates that confidence in our protecting power has increased over the result obtained last year...Only one great power, the U.S., guarantees our liberty...everybody in our country knows this. And therefore the anti-Americanism fostered in some other parts of the world has no chance whatsoever in the FRG."

HANDELSBLATT, Duesseldorf, Washington correspondent Claus Engeln

"...On the threshold of a new century the greatest Western democracy has revised its aims and visions downward. America has become more modest and more realistic, more mature and more skeptical....But hope is not unfounded that the Americans have retained a good portion of their old dynamism and will make use of it on a global scale with more patience and more readiness for co-operation."

WEST BERLIN

DER TAGESSPIEGEL, West Berlin, editorial:

"The United States of America, which began as a daring experiment of human freedom, in the 200 years of its existence has grown into a superpower which finds its new frontiers no longer by territorial expansion into unknown Western areas, but...by advancing into unknown fields of science, technology, culture, and human cooperation.

"This change, an intellectualization of the American dynamics, has not yet been concluded. Besides, brakes are put on it from time to time by nostalgic isolationists who want to return to the old customs and withdraw from the claims of a surrounding world which has become more complexly dangerous...There is, however, no return to the past, although recalling its virtues and dimensions is useful...."

"The U.S. most certainly has not pushed for its role as a world power into which it has grown... America has experienced all imperialist temptations and has committed almost all sins which the Old World has given an example of. But due to its grandiose freedom, it has openly and honestly conducted its struggles and thus has achieved its liberation from the evils of the past....

"In addition to its belief in the reason of free opinion and in the free play of the political and economic forces, generosity in the personal and social field is one of the typical characteristics of American actions. The Marshall Plan, which enabled the reconstruction of Europe, and the plan's blessings, benefits which also helped the defeated, was a product of such generosity. Without American help, Germany and all of Europe would have become victims of total totalitarianism after World War II. The disparaging argument that America rendered this aid only in its own interest is unfitting....

"To keep and to intensify friendship with America is no sentimental self-purpose, but a task for European security. Two hundred years ago, human rights were proclaimed as a part of the American Constitution. Today the U.S. is the only power in the world in a position to maintain these human rights with its own strength--for itself and for other peoples."

BERLINER MORGENPOST, West Berlin, editorial:

"Every noon, the Liberty Bell rings from the tower of Schoeneberg City Hall in the heart of Berlin. A sound of security, hope, and friendship. Today, it reminds us in a special way of the 200th birthday of the United States of America, of the anniversary of that democratic world power without whose faithfulness the lights in this city would have gone out quite some time ago. And today many people may remember the inscription of this mighty bell: 'May, with the help of God, this world experience a rebirth of freedom!'. . .

"When, early in July 1945, U.S. troops took over their borough on the Spree River, the Berliners felt very quickly what spiritual and cultural relations across the Atlantic had withstood the horrors of war..."

SPANDAUER VOLKSBLATT, West Berlin:

"For the Americans and for the rest of the world, it is more important what will come now...their problems more and more urgently require a solution...and there will be some who will feel them more strongly than others. The Black in the outskirt slums for instance, whose hopeless perspective can explode any time in hatred and violence, or perhaps the New Yorker who after university education cannot find a job in a city that is moving to the brink of bankruptcy...."

"As long as the Americans do not sweep matters of the past under the carpet, so long one may expect them to have the strength to cope with and master the urgent questions of present and future...."

B.Z., West Berlin, editorial:

"We owe the U.S. our existence. Europe owes it not having become a satellite. The satellites may hope never to become Soviet Republics, as long as the U.S. plays its strong role..."

"When everything went smoothly, the country had more than enough friends--good ones and some not so good. When it got into an internal crisis, anti-Americanism became fashionable.

"Berlin is proud of having been persistent in its role. It was, is and remained a faithful friend of America--in good and in bad times. Berlin extends its congratulations on the 200th birthday and says: Thank You, America."

FRANCE

ALL MEDIA:

French television, radio and newspapers gave full factual coverage to Bicentennial events throughout the July 4 long weekend.

State-run television used film reports of the parades in Washington and New York and "Operation Sail."

The first TV network carried film clips of President Ford's July 4 appearances including his speech at Independence Hall.

## AUSTRIA

### ARBEITER-ZEITUNG, Vienna, editorial:

"Despite all errors, weaknesses and crises, the vitality of the United States and of American democracy is unsapped. The Free World, which ought to be very grateful to America, and not only for Marshall Plan aid, will need the United States in the future as well. The best wish it can express for the Bicentennial is the wish that the West's leading power soon overcome the present lull and play a role commensurate to the world of today--internally and externally strong and active, but aware of its own political and moral limitations."

### KRONEN-ZEITUNG, Vienna, editorial:

"America became the proving ground for man's self-liberation. Without the living proof that such a social order is possible, the European revolutions would have been long in coming.... And the Austrian people learned only after 1945 what democracy, as the American founding fathers imagined it, is really like."

### KURIER, Vienna, article by author Hans Weigel:

"We owe a lot to this strange American nation--culturally, materially and ideologically and, of course, also our freedom. Which do you prefer? USA or the (Nazi) SS and SA? This is no demagogical alternative, because without the United States, Europe would have been 'renewed' by the SS and SA.... So let us stop criticizing the United States, at least on this Sunday, and in enjoyment of the prosperity made possible by the Marshall Plan let us congratulate the United States, thank it and express our best wishes."

## BELGIUM

### LA PEUPLE, Brussels, editorial:

"In these days of fervent celebration we want to think with emotion of the tens of thousand of boys who sleep under the marble which covers each

American tomb in the U. S. cemeteries of Europe rather than of Watergate or or neo-capitalism. For in fact the true wealth of the U. S. is its men and its women ready to fight for generous and human values. They are the ones whom we want to thank. "

L'ECHO DE LA BOURSE, Brussels, editorial:

"It is fashionable and deemed appropriate in certain 'intellectual' circles to criticize the model of civilization which the U. S. presents to us. It remains, however, the one which offers to individuals the most guarantees of freedom and of self-fulfillment. We can wish but one thing: All Hail the Tricentennial of the U. S.!"

LA CITE, Brussels, editorial:

"We are often disappointed or scandalized by the political blindness of so many chiefs of American diplomacy who seem to believe that limitless wealth allows one to make mistakes or to violate one's own principles. But we never forget that we have seen here the real America at work in the snow of Bastogne where GIs died not to keep customers for Standard Oil or General Motors but for a generous and spiritual idea of man. That America is still alive..."

LA LIBRE BELGIQUE, Brussels, editorial:

"...We are ill at ease when observing that, since the Watergate affair, the authority of America seems to be, if not vacillating, at least undecided...."

LA DERNIERE HEURE, Brussels, editorial:

"America remains the safest ally--it has proved it--of our free Western nations. When it signs a treaty, one knows that it will honor it...."

BELANG VAN LIMBURG, Hasselt, editorial:

"The U.S. is a power that can at times be criticized and called to account, precisely because the pressure of public opinion across the ocean can weigh so strongly. Therefore the States remain the strongest guarantee for the survival of democracy."

DENMARK

POLITIKEN, Copenhagen, Editor in Chief Herbert Pundik:

"... Few will deny that individual freedom has hardly any better conditions in other lands than in the U.S...."

"The bitterest and most effective criticism of failures and mistakes in the U.S. comes from within. That is an expression of the idealism here and there accompanied by naivete, which clearly divides the new world from Europe's cynicism, self-satisfaction and resistance to self-criticism..."

"The country which twice in one generation has saved democratic Europe from defeat in war can still be trusted with the responsibility for our security. That's reassuring to know."

SWEDEN

SVENSKA DAGBLADET, Stockholm, editorial:

"A tremendous melting pot for peoples from all parts of the world must have great problems."

"They have always existed in the United States, but they are greater than ever before today. To combat them, however, the nation has great resources: The openness of the society and its resilience... in what country was criticism of the misdirected war in Vietnam harsher than in the U.S.?"

SVENSKA DAGBLADET, commentary:

"Where would the Iron Curtain be today were it not for the military and political support given Western Europe by the U. S. ?

"The U. S. often deserves to be criticized, but to a far greater extent it deserves gratitude and admiration. "

AFTONBLADET, Stockholm:

"As the U. S. goes into its third century every third young Black American is unemployed. "

EXPRESSEN, Stockholm, editorial:

"The U. S. is no ideal society. It has enormous problems...but it is these very issues that are discussed actively.

"The press deals with them. The politicians do likewise. Many civil organizations are struggling for a better society. They have in many cases succeeded in getting the politicians to listen to them.

"This strengthens American democracy and it is this vitality that is worthy of our respect as the U. S. celebrates its independence. "

EXPRESSEN, article:

"Americans in the United States celebrate their 200th birthday and in Sweden we celebrate by wearing the American flag. "

PORTUGAL

A LUTA, Lisbon, front-page article by editor Raul Rego:

"The message of the pioneers of two centuries ago still speaks to us today, and in its message of defense of freedoms and of efforts toward the well-being of mankind, it is an incentive toward the unity of all efforts and for the respect for all approaches toward the well-being of all societies. "



## EAST ASIA

### JAPAN

#### ASAHI, Tokyo, editorial:

"In congratulating the U.S. on its Bicentennial, we would like to recall a most important point--the fact that the independence of the U.S. was the world's first revolution which established democracy.... Various domestic and foreign problems have hit the U.S. just when it was celebrating its Bicentennial, but... it is said that the feeling of self-examination is strong among the American people... There are people who believe the spirit of reform is being rekindled amid such self-examination, while there are others who say that the second American revolution has started....

"After experiencing various brilliant victories and grave tragedies, it seems that the U.S. is facing, along with its Bicentennial, a definitely new age.... Various points of view are advanced, but most are shot through with optimism trusting in the future of the U.S."

#### YOMIURI, Tokyo:

"Today the U.S. is acting more bravely and more pragmatically than any other country in coping with environmental pollution and the disruption of public peace and order, by which it is plagued.... It is undeniable, however, that the American way of life is now at a significant turning point....

"Various kinds of contradictions which were inherent in U.S. society have come to the fore, partly because of the devastation of this society brought about by the Vietnam war. However, the great confusion in which U.S. society was thrown for some time, appears to have nearly ended, thus proving once again that the country is capable of healing its wounds."

MAINICHI, Tokyo:

"The Japanese view of the U. S. has swung from one extreme to another.... Americans were thought at times to be our teachers and at other times, arch rivals.

"The U. S. was considered by some as a country seeking idealism and by others as a country in pursuit of nothing but materialism and epicureanism.... In dealing with such a diversified country as the U. S., we tend to grasp only a few aspects of it."

SOUTH KOREA

DONGA ILBO, Seoul, editorial:

"The U. S. is now entering a hazy third century.... We are sure it can and will tide over all its problems with its financial and self-improving powers... but in view of world history of the past 30 years, the U. S. can hardly enter a golden age similar to what it enjoyed in the past....

"What the U. S. needs at the threshold of its third century is not another frontier or territory... but to return to the frontier spirit and puritanism that produced the material affluence of U. S. society today..."

KYUNGHYANG SHINMUN, Seoul, editorial:

"Our concern focuses on the future of America rather than its past.... America's excessive foreign intervention has produced neo-isolationism... crime and indolence growing out of a rich society are other problems of the U. S. today..."

"America's agony is the difficult problems facing a world giant, but it is apparent that a future of America in the third century will be brighter... President Ford's Bicentennial message was particularly reassuring to Koreans..."

HANKOOK ILBO, Seoul, editorial:

"In some ways Americans know how to live for themselves but lack a sense of justice for the world....The recent U.S. move toward detente was good, but America seemingly tries to get along even with Communist dictatorships if she thinks it will be favorable for U.S. interests....However, America should keep in mind that she must be responsible for all of her friends in the world..."

### THE PHILIPPINES

BULLETIN TODAY, Manila, editorial:

"In thinking about the United States on the occasion of its 200th birthday, one is tempted to use a lot of superlatives--the freest, the mightiest, the most pluralistic, the richest, and so on. And maybe the use of superlatives can hardly be disputed. As nations go, the U.S. is fantastic..."

"But we believe that America, being an intelligent society, learns from experience. It is also the nation that knows the most about all the others. It is, therefore, the nation that is in the best position to grant the aspirations of the poor and the weak in the other parts of the world.

"The great responsibility of the leaders of the American nation is to give full expression of the American ideals of freedom and prosperity as these apply not only to their own country but also to those other nations that share them.

"In wishing America the best on its 200th birthday we also hope for the best for ourselves."

## AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, editorial:

"America's ideology, no less than self-interest, made isolationism after World War II unthinkable. Self-interest notwithstanding, ideology ensured that in a crisis of the civilization from which it sprang it used its power and wealth benignly, in the main, as well as firmly, generously as well as pragmatically, in the spirit of a declaration whose faith and aspiration have never lost their force in American hearts. Let us hope that they never do. We cannot afford a world without 'America.' "

## THAILAND

THAI RATH, Bangkok, columnist:

"Because of its economic greatness as a world power, the U.S. has meddled in all affairs. It wants all the people of the world to have the same ideals it has, and to align their daily life in accordance with that of America...."

"The U.S. conspired with governments of other countries big and small by giving them money and weapons as tools to keep them in power, in order for the U.S. to set up military bases in those countries and to exploit them. America has now changed from a country which chased out tyrants to a country which commits acts of oppression against other nations."

SIAMMIT, Bangkok, editorial:

"It is to be noted that Thai-American relations have existed for more than one hundred years on the basis of good intentions and hospitality toward each other. The Bicentennial of the independence of America is, therefore, an occasion of joy and pride for the American people, in their own country and elsewhere in the world. Therefore, we send our best wishes to the American people. May you all be happy, healthy, and be friends of all peace-loving people throughout the world."

## SOUTH ASIA

### INDIA

TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay, New Delhi and Ahmedabad, signed editorial:

"The United States has entered the third century of its existence as an independent nation full of doubts regarding its own future. And yet no other country is as vigorous, innovative, productive and well placed to influence the course of events in coming years and decades. Indeed, it will not be much of an exaggeration to say that peace and stability in our era and the well-being of the rest of mankind are to no small extent dependent on the strength and prosperity of the United States...

"Washington no longer 'dominates' the international scene and the dollar is no longer the 'coveted' currency. But America is still the world's largest and most dynamic economy and it cannot be ruled out at all that it will continue to enjoy and even increase its technological lead over its nearest rivals in critical areas for years and decades..."

INDIAN EXPRESS and FINANCIAL EXPRESS, Bombay, New Delhi and Madras:

"The greatness of America must be judged not by the record of its venal businessmen or its shifty politicians, but by the contributions of its great humanists, scientists and thinkers.

"Whatever the shifts in American politics, there can be no doubt that the American contribution to the shape of things to come in the next twenty-five years will be supremely significant, if not decisive."



THE STATESMAN, Calcutta and New Delhi, editorial:

"...Americans are fully entitled to claim that their historical experience has been unique. Whatever its social and economic drawbacks for some, more people enjoyed a more genuine democracy in the new world, long before it was called in to redress the balance of the old. Internationally the U. S. still retains perhaps the highest degree of personal freedom, particularly of expression, which is left in the world."

PAKISTAN

MUSAWAAT, Lahore and Karachi, editorial:

"The U. S. is the greatest upholder of freedom and equality in the free world and presently it is celebrating the 200th anniversary of its independence. The people of Pakistan share the joy of the American people and offer them hearty congratulations. The contribution made by the American people for the promotion of democratic traditions will remain enshrined in golden letters in world history and coming generations will continue to offer tributes to the American people.

"They waged a historic struggle against colonialism and exploitation and the American Revolution left an indelible mark on human civilization. When the revolution occurred in the U. S. , man was in search of a social and economic system where there would be complete freedom and peace which would meet basic requirements of equality and justice. Through their glorious struggle the American people realized these ideals. In the brief period of 200 years, the American nation has made fantastic progress unparalleled in human history."

IRAN

KHANDANIHA magazine, Tehran, signed editorial:

"To comprehend the importance of the existence of the United States and its constructive role in international development, peace and stability, there is nothing better than conceiving, even for an instant, a world without the United States, and figuring out the quality of such a world--a world cold and dark throughout, full of local, regional and international difficulties--just like a solar system with the sun lost and the planets out of orbit..

"The United States and its people are necessary for the security, liberty, independence and economic well-being of most countries, just as air and water are essential for life."

## A F R I C A

### TANZANIA

#### SUNDAY NEWS, Dar es Salaam, byliner:

The attempt "to put up the Stars and Stripes on Africa's tallest mountain... is part of the propaganda campaign that goes with the Bicentennial celebrations in America.... The world must wonder then at the meaning the Americans attach to their flag on Mount Kilimanjaro this week. The interpretation is that this is an extension of the farce that has become America. The whole world appreciates the contribution that the American Declaration of Independence made to world political thinking. It encouraged other nations to fight for their freedom. It was an inspiration to the world. It even inspired the Russians.... But as history has shown, the white American monopolist expansionists have not followed the logic of these rights. They did not apply to women and black people and the original Americans...the red Indians.

"Now America is a land of shame, a wounded giant who in an attempt to save democracy for the rest of the world has been a party to the destruction of democracy in many parts of the world. It is a wounded giant, but a very dangerous giant. Many progressive Americans know this, but a great portion of the American people still live with the Spirit of '76, unaware that their corrupt system has made them a hated nation wherever people talk of real freedom.

"One wishes one could congratulate the United States today...But oh America!"

#### SUNDAY NEWS, President Nyerere's Fourth of July message:

"America is a society whose faults are the more glaring because of its admirable openness, because of the principles on which the nation was founded, and because of the power which comes from its wealth and its size. It is an inspiration and a warning, to the world. Poor nations aspire to emulate it, or else they fear it--and sometimes both....



"The gap between the principles and the potential on the one hand, and the reality on the other, is still frighteningly wide, even within America. Americans of non-European descent are still having to struggle to achieve for themselves their full rights as American citizens, equal with all others. Extreme poverty, and even hunger, exists among a sizable minority of American people. There appears to be almost a breakdown of many of the public and communal services which are vital to civilized life and in respect of which we would expect America to be an example to the rest of struggling humanity.

"Countries like mine look at America in its Bicentennial Year with admiration and respect, yet also a feeling of disappointment for opportunities lost. But we also look at America with fear because of the use to which America's great power is often put, and the extent to which American principles have been flouted in the international exercise of American power....

"So the poor nations fear America, and we struggle against America, even while we admire the great principles of America and her people's achievements. We watch with respect, sympathy, and anxiety--and sometimes almost with despair--as Americans endeavor to cope with the political and moral results of their own wealth-creating economic system, and to give international meaning to the principles laid down by the founding fathers of their nation."

#### ZAIRE

##### ELIMA, Kinshasa, editorial:

"We are forced to admit that nowhere in the world will you find as much attachment to liberty as in America....It is this liberty which has fostered progress in the United States....Moreover, as residents of the third world, we must particularly praise the positive response made by America to the appeal of the underdeveloped world in favor of the contribution by the industrialized nations to the development of the less favored nations. Much remains to be done, to be sure. Nevertheless, that the United States and its partners of the developed world are resolved to this dialogue is in itself encouraging.... We dare to hope that the third century of American history will improve still further the image of this great people for a closer rapprochement to the ideals which it embodies."

## KENYA

SUNDAY NATION, Nairobi, editorial:

"Relations between Kenya and the U. S. are deep-rooted and mutually beneficial. As Americans celebrate their Bicentennial today, they indeed have cause to be proud of themselves and their achievements in the past two centuries. As the U. S. enters its third century, we as a newspaper would like to take this opportunity to align ourselves with those around the globe today who are saying: "Happy Birthday, America. "

## NIGERIA

DAILY STAR, Enugu:

"We and all good people throughout the world congratulate the people of the United States... but we do this with reservations... as Africans whose kith and kin are being systematically robbed of their freedom with the active collaboration of that great giant nation that claims to be the world's greatest democracy and the policeman of its conscience... To us who have seen the American's love for freedom, this phenomenon is rather perplexing...

"America upholds the doctrine of equality for all but discriminates against the blacks within her very territory. She sets out to defend 'democracy' in Vietnam, Korea and Angola but sees nothing wrong with the racist policies of South Africa and even proceeds in the interest of her trade to condone the rebellion in southern Rhodesia and the organized repression of Zimbabweans...

"As the people of America celebrate the great anniversary... let them stop for one brief moment and ask themselves these simple questions: Have we retained our old friends? Have we lost any opportunities of making new ones? Their honest answers to these questions will surely induce them to re-examine what appears to be the philosophy of their government: to have freedom for Americans and deny it to others... For African nations bent on retrieving the political freedom and human dignity of their oppressed brethren everywhere in this continent there is no mid-way house. Those who are not with us in the struggle are against us."

## M I D D L E E A S T

### SAUDI ARABIA

#### UKAZ, Jidda, editorial:

"We Arabs congratulate America...hoping that it will remember the agony suffered by the American patriots during their struggle to break loose from British imperialism. We also hope this memory will induce America to support people seeking their independence whether in Palestine, South Africa or elsewhere."

#### ARAB NEWS, Jidda, editorial:

"A great nation is celebrating its Bicentennial today...."

"It is the youngest and probably still the strongest of the superpowers... Newly independent countries and areas waiting to obtain their independence are much flattered at this unaffected reaction of joy by Americans as they mark 200 years of independence from Britain. (They) are gratified still more by the fact that the formidable U.S. was a colony only two centuries ago and its army of liberation had to go through similar... ordeals being faced now by the Palestinians in Tel Zaatar, the Muslims in southern Philippines and the blacks in South Africa."

### ISRAEL

#### DAVAR, Tel Aviv, editorial:

"All lovers of freedom and democracy celebrate with the U.S. its Bicentennial.... The U.S. is still an anchor of hope for all those who cherish freedom." Noting the "special ties" between the histories of America and the Jews, the paper said that the U.S. "has been instrumental in the establishment of the Jewish state and has maintained faithful bonds with... the only democracy in the Middle East."

## L A T I N A M E R I C A

### B R A Z I L

#### O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, editorial:

"In the past two centuries...thanks to the democratic ideal of 1776...the U. S. has been able to overcome the greatest domestic crises and engage in the international power game without any digression from democratic principles. It is not an exaggeration to say that today the U. S. represents--thanks to the balance of powers between the state and great private corporations, unions, and independent communal associations--a true example of the democratic society mankind has dreamed of..."

#### O GLOBO, Rio de Janeiro, editorial:

"The celebration of the U. S. Bicentennial...becomes a rejoicing of all peoples that have taken the democratic option....What is being praised is the vitality--proved in two hundred years of struggle, crises and demonstrations of self-confidence--of a political and social system based essentially on values of freedom....Prophets of the decline of the Western democratic system are dismayed at repeated proofs of strength of this system which can assimilate the worst crimes and scandals perpetrated in the shadow of functioning institutions...."

"There is no limit to what can be said about these two centuries of a nation that despite being relatively young fascinates mankind with the prodigiousness of its leadership, its economic prosperity, its social and ethical conceptions, its culture, its power to consecrate traditional values and at the same time to study the unknown, and its decisive participation in the ordeals of war and in the cause of peace..."

#### VEJA, news magazine, editorial:

"The U. S. Bicentennial is the heritage of all mankind. The U. S. democratic ideal has survived crises and errors, wars and searches of conscience. It is a prize that belongs to everybody."

## CHILE

### EL MERCURIO, Santiago, editorial:

"The whole world is part of this commemoration and this is logical because never before in history has a nation reached such universal presence. There is no corner of the planet where one way or another the weight of its power is not seen. The Roman apogee was in only a part of the world...but the influence of the U.S. has surrounded the planet in thousands of ways, from politics to economy, from literature to fashion, from food habits to popular music...It has been a case of unprecedented penetration.

"Neither Napoleon's France nor Victoria's England dreamed of reaching such a degree of expansion and influence...

"What this people of immigrants has achieved in 200 years is one of the great phenomena of universal history."

## MEXICO

### EXCELSIOR, Mexico City, byliner's article:

"After two centuries the U. S. is the center of universal power, faithful to the principles expressed in its Constitution."

### NOVEDADES, Mexico City, signed column:

"In spite of the many errors committed by the U. S. the Americans' celebration of their Bicentennial adds luster to their survival and grandness."

### EL UNIVERSAL, Mexico City, byliner's commentary:

"After Christianity, the Revolution constitutes the most important event in world history."

## ARGENTINA

LA NACION, Buenos Aires, editorial:

"In completing the second century of existence, the U.S. can boast as few other countries can of having maintained an uninterrupted system of government, which has ensured its citizens' rights and made possible its order and progress with freedom. . .

"In the Bicentennial of its independent life and institutional stability the U.S. exhibits an encouraging and inspiring civic and democratic progress."

## ECUADOR

EL COMERCIO, Quito, cartoon:

Two U.S. citizens celebrating the Bicentennial are asked by an unidentified man: "How could you survive for 200 years without a single dictatorship?"

## PANAMA

LA ESTRELLA and its sister paper, THE STAR & HERALD, Panama City, editorial:

"The principles and aims set forth in that Declaration on July 4, 1776, were to have profound consequences.... It would be impossible to summarize all that mankind owes to the existence of the American people and their permanent devotion to the cause of freedom and democracy, to the Spirit of 1776. In our times, two World Wars bear witness to that devotion which turned the United States into the arsenal of democracy in wartime and into the bastion of world recovery from the ruins of war."

EL PANAMA AMERICA, other papers, message of President Torrijos:

"The sixty-three years of colonialism in the Canal Zone fill the two hundred years of North American independence with shame and contradict the ideals of liberty and self-determination that inspired the founding fathers of that country: Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln.

"It is nobler to correct an error than to perpetuate an injustice. Therefore we invite the Government of the United States to be more in keeping with its history by acknowledging in this Bicentennial Year of its independence the legitimate rights of Panama over all its territory."

## COMMUNIST MEDIA

### SOVIET UNION

IZVESTIA, Moscow, article by U.S. correspondent Vladimir Kobysh:

"Federal authorities appropriated one-half billion dollars for the Bicentennial...not only to recall the distant and glorious history of the United States, but also to stifle the memory of the inglorious events of the quite recent past, and in particular to forget the echo of Vietnam and neutralize the poison of Watergate.

"...The America of today, with all its wealth and scientific and technical successes, is inseparable in people's minds from the grievous situation of the 40 million citizens living below the official poverty line, the constant mass unemployment and crime, which is...growing at a terrifying rate."

PRAVDA and IZVESTIA, Reporting:

Pravda reported that First Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov, speaking at the Moscow Art Theater festivities commemorating the Bicentennial, emphasized mutual understanding between the Soviet and U.S. leadership on the need for peaceful even-handed relations between the two countries. "We are convinced," Pravda quoted him as saying, "that both our countries... can fruitfully cooperate even further in the resolution both of bilateral and broad multilateral problems."

Commentators Yuri Barsukov in Izvestia and Gennady Gerasimov in Literaturnaya Gazeta reported what they saw as the "self-critical mood" of the American people at the time of the Bicentennial celebration."