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MAY 27, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

TEXT OF REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO BE DELIVERED UPON DEPARTURE
FOR HIS EUROPEAN TRIP

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE

This trip to Europe has great significance for all Americans. We live in an interrelated world in which domestic problems -- including the issues of energy and the economy -- are linked to our relations with other nations.

Jobs for all Americans who want to work, the availability of essential resources and the value of our dollars depend upon creative diplomacy and world peace.

The United States seeks international cooperation -- not confrontation. Last November, I went to the Far East for negotiations of great importance. I said at that time I would rather travel thousands of miles for peace than take a single step toward war. And I add today that I will never fail to take a single step that might prevent a future war.

Our first stop will be in Brussels on the occasion of NATO's 26th Anniversary. I will meet with the other leaders of the North Atlantic Alliance to jointly assess the state of the alliance and plan its future.

I want to reaffirm at this time -- and will do so again in Brussels -- the United States' commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty which is vital to American security and well-being.

The invitation to visit Spain provides a welcome opportunity to review with Spanish leaders our expanding cooperation. Spain is assuming an increasingly important role in both Atlantic and Mediterranean affairs.

In Salzburg, Austria, my meetings with President Sadat of Egypt will permit a personal discussion of the Middle East situation and the evolution of U.S.-Egyptian relations. American interests, as well as those of our allies, depend upon events in the Middle East.

Our policy is aimed at one goal -- that of achieving a just peace. I will pursue that objective in Salzburg. I also welcome the opportunity while in Salzburg to meet again with Chancellor Kreisky for a review of current developments of interest to our two countries.

Following the NATO Summit in Brussels, my meetings in Rome with President Leone and other leaders of the Italian government will permit us to review the excellent relations we share as friends and allies.

And I happily anticipate the opportunity to meet with His Holiness Pope Paul VI and to discuss with him humanitarian subjects of importance to people throughout the world.

(MORE)

There is much work to be done on this brief trip. I will represent a confident and united America -- an America determined, with its allies, to safeguard our vital interests. The United States is equally determined to reduce the chances of conflict, to increase cooperation and to enhance the well-being of Americans and all peoples. I am confident that each stop and each meeting will contribute to these objectives.

I pledge to work unstintingly to advance our common interests with Europe, as part of our broader efforts to achieve better cooperation with all countries.

I go with dedication to the service of my fellow Americans and with pride in our great country.

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