

JULY 7, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President and Mrs. Ford entertained Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and his Royal Highness, the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at luncheon today, following the South Grounds arrival ceremony.

At the luncheon, the President welcomed the Queen to the United States and to the White House on the occasion of the Bicentennial of American independence. The President expressed the gratitude of the American people for the many generous gifts, contributions and participation of the United Kingdom in commemoration of our Bicentennial including, in particular, Her Majesty's gesture in coming to the United States to share in the celebration of our historic anniversary. The President assured the Queen of a most enthusiastic reception throughout her visit, during which Her Majesty will travel to seven of the original 13 colonies.

Her Majesty conveyed to the President her best wishes and those of the people of the United Kingdom on the occasion of America's Bicentennial and said that her visit was a symbolic reaffirmation of the close bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between our two peoples.

The President and Mrs. Ford will give a State Dinner for Her Majesty and His Royal Highness this evening in the White House Rose Garden, and have accepted their gracious invitation to a banquet at the British Embassy tomorrow evening and to dinner on board the royal yacht Britannia in Newport, Rhode Island, July 10. The President and Mrs. Ford also will also attend a dedication of the Nave of the Washington Cathedral tomorrow morning together with the Royal Couple.

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