

For release after 8:30 p.m.
October 2, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford, acting on behalf of the American people, are presenting a pair of Greater Sandhill Cranes to the people of Japan on the occasion of the state visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. The gift is a token of the friendship of the Japanese and American people.

The President informed the Emperor and Empress in the Yellow Oval Room preceding the white tie dinner at the White House in their honor.

In Japan, cranes are revered as a symbol of good fortune, long life and wisdom. The two cranes are being shipped to Tokyo, where they will be placed in the Ueno Zoo, the national zoo of Japan.

The birds, a yearling male and female, have been bred at the Interior Department's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center near Laurel, Md. The Greater Sandhill Crane is native to North America and is common in southeastern Oregon, southeastern Idaho and the Great Lakes Region.

In Japan, the Japanese crane has been declared a national monument by the Japanese Government.

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In addition to the Greater Sandhill Cranes, the President and Mrs. Ford are presenting an inscribed photograph taken during the arrival ceremony. The inscription: "To your Majesties the Emperor and Empress. With great pleasure in welcoming you to Washington. Gerald R. Ford Betty Ford October 2, 1975."

Mrs. Ford also presented the Empress with the multi-colored scarf bearing her signature which she designed earlier this year.

