

Mrs. Ford's Remarks
Jewish National Fund
Gala National Bicentennial Dinner
June 22, 1976
New York Hilton Hotel

In only a few days, we will celebrate the Fourth of July. For many years to come, the events of that day will be remembered with pleasure and pride by Americans and our friends around the world.

I've been especially excited this year by the projects I've seen that will keep the spirit of this Bicentennial year alive. The restoration projects, not only in the original 13 colonies, but all across America, will be a permanent reminder of this special year.

But I think the sharing of this occasion by Israel is equally important. America truly is a symbol to the free world of the survival and strength of democracy. I know the Bicentennial National Forest in Israel will be enjoyed by many people, for it is a symbol of America and her friendship with Israel.

I'm delighted I could be here tonight to present this key to the forest to an old friend of our family---Milton Hoffman. To all of you this Bicentennial wish: "May your Fourth of July be one of joy, pride and expectation for the future."