

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: S/AM:RJMCCLOSKEY

APPROVED BY: S-THE SECRETARY

S/S:MR. MOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 174043

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. PLEASE DELIVER IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO GENERAL FRANCO. IF RECIPIENT NOT AVAILBABLE, DELIVER TO HIGHEST OFFICIAL AVAILABLE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR GENERAL FRANCO:

AS I SSSUME THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE UNITED STATES I WANT TO TAKE THIS EARLY OCCASION TO GIVE YOU MY VIEWS ON QUESTIONS WHICH MAY CONCERN YOU AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

LET ME BEGIN BY ASSURING YOU THAT THE FABRIC OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM REMAINS INTACT AND THAT THE CONDUCT OF THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WILL BE MARKED BY CONTINUITY IN THE POLICIES INITIATED BY PRESIDENT NIXON. WE WILL BE STEADFAST IN THIS.

TO INSURE THIS CONTINUITY I HAVE ASKED DR. KISSINGER TO STAY ON AS SECRETARY OF STATE. HE ENJOYS MY FULL SUPPORT AND CONFIDENCE. THE TRADITIONAL TIES WHICH HAVE MARKED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN

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OUR TOW COUNTIRES AND WHICH WERE ENUNCIATED AGAIN IN THE

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES SIGNED ONLY LAST MONTH WILL CONTINUE TO BE HONORED BY MY GOVERNMENT. AND, COMING AS I DO FROM MANY YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES, I WANT TO AFFIRM THAT THE OVERALL FOREIGN POLICY OF MY ADMINISTRATION WILL BE CONDUCTED ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS AND, I AM CONFIDENT, WITH WIDE SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

I TAKE UP MY NEW DUTIES WITH A HEAVY HEART, FOR I SUCCEED AN MAN WHOSE ACHIEVEMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICY HAVE BEEN MOST NOTABLE AND WILL REMAIN AS MONUMENTS TO HIS STATESMANSHIP. AT THE SAME TIME, I AM PROUD TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT ALL FREE MEN ARE CERTAIN TO ADMIRE, NAMELY, THE ABILITY OF THIS GREAT NATION TO MAKE A MAJOR CHANGE OF THIS MAGNITUDE AND STILL RETAIN THE STRENGTH OF ITS SOCIETY. YOU AS A FRIEND SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT OUR ADVERSARIES CAN BE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS AS TO THE DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEFEND ITS OWN INTERESTS AND TO STAND BY OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS.

I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOU AND THE SPANISH PEOPLE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH MY GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTIVELY AND COOPERATIVELY IN THE YEARS AHEAD. I LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUANCE OF THE CLOSE, FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE ENJOYED OVER THE YEARS. SINCERELY,
GERALD R. FORD. END TEXT.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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