Andrews Arrivial Statement

Vice President Mondale, Speaker O'Neill, Senator Byrd, Members of Congress, members of the Cabinet, friends and fellow citizens.

You are looking at a tired but happy man. All of us who made this journey are grateful for the opportunity we have had to render service in the cause of peace.

Now the journey is done, and we are glad to be home --

to be back in our beloved country, our beloved United States of America.

It's good to see so many familiar and welcoming faces. especially at this hour of the night. I want to thank every one of you for coming out here to greet us.

[This was not a ceremonial trip] We did not go to Egypt and Israel in order to confirm a result guaranteed in advance. We went there to use our influence and our good offices to help the leaders of two great
nations move decisively toward the peace that is so ardently desired by the peoples they serve. Our work has had a happy result. But I want to stress that the effort would have been worth making regardless of the outcome. No goal is higher than that of genuine peace, no goal, therefore, is worthier of risk. In war, we put ourselves on the line almost as a matter of routine.

We must be no less daring, no less steadfast in the pursuit of peace.

For more than thirty years, the nations of Egypt and Israel have existed in a continual state of hostility. That hostility has exploded into war four times, and each war has brought with it suffering and loss of life, and hatred, renewed fear, and great danger for the region and the world beyond. But in the last 16 months the way has been opened to peace.
When I decided to make this trip, important differences still divided the two nations, and the peace negotiations seemed to have reached a stalemate. After long hours of discussion in both Egypt and Israel, during the visits from which we have just returned, the United States presented proposals for resolving all the outstanding issues. All but two of these issues have now been accepted by Prime Minister Begin and his Cabinet. Less than three hours from now, the Prime Minister will present these two remaining proposals to his Cabinet for consideration. President Sadat has already accepted all the proposals the American delegation presented. Therefore, what this means is that we have now defined all the major components of a peace treaty between the largest Arab country, Egypt, and her neighbor and former enemy, Israel. In both countries there will be sharp internal debate before this process is complete. But the treaty
that emerges will be the cornerstone of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, one that would encompass all the peoples who have suffered from the conflict in the Middle East.

I spoke of risk a moment ago. But the real risks have been taken by the leaders of Egypt and Israel. They have overcome major substantive obstacles, and the psychological leap they have taken is far greater. They have dared to break the pattern of 30 years of bitterness and war. They have dared to follow the advice of the Biblical proverb: "When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him." In choosing peace, President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin are venturing into the unknown. I want them to know that the United States will be with them as they begin to make peace between them a living reality for their peoples. The friendships between their countries and the United States will grow even stronger.
and more meaningful than they are now.

Through private messages and public statements, I am urging other world leaders to support what Egypt and Israel have done, for it offers hope to all who love peace, everywhere in the world.

My friends, thank you again for coming out to greet us and for listening so patiently to what I have said. God bless you all, and good night.

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