REMARKS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY

DESALINIZATION PLANT DEDICATION

KEY WEST, FLORIDA

MAY 10, 1967

I AM HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY TO JOIN IN THE DEDICATION OF THIS MAGNIFICENT NEW DESALTING PLANT.

AND I AM PRIVILEGED TO BRING YOU THIS SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

"THE DEDICATION OF KEY WEST'S NEW DESALTING PLANT IS AN EVENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE. THE OCCASION MARKS THE FIRST TIME THAT A U. S. MUNICIPALITY HAS TURNED TO THE SEA FOR ITS WATER SUPPLY. THE PLANT TO BE PLACED IN OPERATION TODAY INCORPORATES THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY THAT SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS FROM BOTH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVISE. THROUGH THEIR WISE APPLICATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, THE CITIZENS OF KEY WEST WILL HAVE THEIR OWN LOCAL SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER, AT A FAIR AND ECONOMICAL COST.

"YOUR NEW PLANT REPRESENTS MORE THAN JUST THE SWEET TASTE OF CLEAR WATER FOR AN ENTIRE LOCAL COMMUNITY. IT IS ALSO A SPLENDID EXAMPLE OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR PEOPLE. OTHER NATIONS WILL ALSO LOOK TO THIS PLANT AS A PROTOTYPE TO HELP ADVANCE THEIR OWN TECHNOLOGY IN THE URGENT SEARCH FOR A LOW COST SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER.

"WHILE THIS IS THE FIRST MUNICIPAL SEA WATER CONVERSION PLANT IN THE UNITED STATES, INLAND COMMUNITIES ARE ALREADY DESALTING BRACKISH WATER AND PUTTING IT TO USE. BEFORE THIS DECADE IS ENDED, I AM CONFIDENT THAT DESALTING PLANTS WILL HAVE GREATLY INCREASED THE QUANTITY AND QUALITY OF FRESH WATER IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD. THE OPERATION OF THIS FINE NEW PLANT THUS MARKS A TURNING POINT IN MANKIND'S DESPERATE NEED FOR VAST NEW SOURCES OF LIFE-SUSTAINING WATER.

I EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, THE PEOPLE OF KEY WEST, AND THE MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA KEYS AQUEDUCT COMMISSION FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP IN THIS PRACTICAL AND HISTORY-MAKING ACHIEVEMENT,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON"

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THIS IS INDEED A HAPPY OCCASION FOR KEY WEST, FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS AQUEDUCT COMMISSION, AND FOR THE WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION.

THE PLANT WE ARE NOW DEDICATING IS THE LARGEST SINGLE-UNIT DESALTING INSTALLATION IN THE WORLD TODAY.

IT REPRESENTS A GIANT STEP FORWARD IN A BRAND NEW TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS DESTINED, I BELIEVE, TO YIELD BENEFITS FOR MANKIND AT LEAST AS GREAT AS THOSE BESTOWED BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELECTRICITY.

AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON MARINE RESOURCES AND ENGINEERING DEVELOPMENT, I HAVE KEPT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH PROGRESS IN THE DESALINIZATION FIELD. IT HAS BEEN NOTHING LESS THAN SENSATIONAL.

INDEED, MR. KOENIG, THE VERY NAME OF YOUR COMMISSION IS A MEASURE OF THE PACE OF THIS PROGRESS.

WHEN IT WAS ESTABLISHED A FEW YEARS AGO, PEOPLE WERE STILL THINKING IN TERMS OF AQUEDUCTS, A TECHNOLOGICAL CONEPT THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD.

TODAY, THAT COMMISSION IS ENGAGED IN DOING WHAT ONCE OCCURRED ONLY IN MIRACULOUS LEGENDS -- BRINGING FORTH FRESH WATER FROM THE SEA.

THE NEED FOR NEW SOURCES OF FRESH WATER IS ACUTE AND INCREASING ALL OVER THE WORLD TODAY. (X) See Release

RIGHT HERE IN THE UNITED STATES THERE ARE MORE THAN A THOUSAND COMMUNITIES "MAKING DO" WITH BRACKISH WATER WHICH IS HARDLY FIT EITHER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR FOR INDUSTRIAL USE.

STILL MORE COMMUNITIES EXPERIENCE FREQUENT WATER SHORTAGES FROM NATURAL CAUSES -- DROUGHTS OR STORMS LIKE HURRICANE DONNA, WHICH DISRUPTED YOUR WATER SUPPLY IN 1960.

HERE WE SEE THE BEGINNINGS OF A WHOLE NEW INDUSTRY, SERVING AN IMMENSE MARKET -- AND, I UNDERSTAND, A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE ONE.

AS A STAUNCH BELIEVER IN OUR FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM, I WELCOME THIS COMPETITION. I SAY -- LET ALL COMPANIES INTERESTED IN THIS FIELD COMPETE, AND COMPETE VIGOROUSLY. THAT IS THE WAY THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION WILL BEST BE SERVED.

THIS PLANT GIVES KEY WEST A GREAT DISTINCTION. BUT I URGE YOU TO ENJOY THAT DISTINCTION WHILE YOU CAN, BECAUSE THERE ARE MUCH BIGGER THINGS TO COME.

THERE IS ALREADY PLANNED, FOR 1973 -- JUST SIX YEARS FROM NOW -- A DESALTING PLANT OFF THE COAST OF CALIFORNIA THAT WILL DELIVER 150 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER A DAY.

IT WILL USE NUCLEAR POWER, AND WILL GENERATE GREAT QUANTITIES OF ELECTRICITY AS WELL.

THE EXPERTS TELL US THAT BY 1980 -- ONLY 13 YEARS WAY -- WE WILL HAVE NUCLEAR-POWERED PLANTS CAPABLE OF TURNING OUT A BILLION GALLONS OF FRESH WATER DAILY, AT A COST OF 10 CENTS PER thousand GALLONS.

THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR AMERICA. OUR WATER CONSUMPTION IS INCREASING SO RAPIDLY THAT BY THE 1980'S WE MAY HAVE REACHED THE LIMITS OF DEPENDABLE WATER SUPPLY FROM TRADITIONAL SOURCES.

THIS NATION HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN THE FIELD OF DESALINIZATION, A FACT OF WHICH WE CAN ALL BE PROUD.

AND WE CAN BE ESPECIALLY PROUD THAT WE HAVE DETERMINED TO SHARE THIS LIFE-GIVING TECHNOLOGY FREELY WITH OTHER NATIONS.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON HAS MANY TIMES REAFFIRMED HIS DETERMINATION THAT, "WE HERE WILL DO OUR SHARE, AND DO MORE, TO SEE THAT THE PEACEFUL PROMISE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY IS APPLIED TO THE CRITICAL PROBLEM OF DESALTING WATER AND HELPING TO MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM."

WE ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, CURRENTLY ENGAGED TOGETHER WITH MEXICO AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IN A JOINT STUDY FOR A NUCLEAR-POWERED FRESH WATER AND ELECTRICITY PLANT. IT WILL SERVE THE NEEDS OF CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA NORTH OF THE BORDER, AND SONORA AND LOWER CALIFORNIA SOUTH OF IT.

WATER -- AND THE NEED FOR WATER -- OVERFLOWS ALL IDEOLOGICAL BARRIERS.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION -- UNDER AN AGREEMENT RECENTLY RENEWED -- HAVE EXCHANGED INFORMATION AND EXPERTS IN THIS FIELD.

A "WATER FOR PEACE" CONFERENCE HELD IN WASHINGTON THIS SPRING WAS ATTENDED BY 64 HUNDRED DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS FROM 94 NATIONS.

WE ARE ESTABLISHING, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, A WATER FOR PEACE OFFICE TO LEAD AND COORDINATE THIS NATION'S EFFORTS FOR WORLDWIDE PROGRESS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PURE WATER RESOURCES.

THE NEED for water IS EVERYWHERE, BUT PARTICULARLY IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. PAUL HOFFMAN, WHO HEADS THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, HAS SAID:

"AT LEAST 60 OF THE UNDER-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FACE FORMS OF WATER SHORTAGE WHICH IN TIME CAN ONLY BE MET FROM NON-TRADITIONAL SOURCES: THAT IS, FROM BRACKISH AND SALT-WATER SOURCES."

WATER SHORTAGE IN THESE COUNTRIES, WHERE THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE LIVE ON THE LAND, MEANS THAT TENS OF MILLIONS OF POTENTIALLY FERTILE ACRES CAN NOT BE TILLED.

IT MEANS THAT OPPRESSIVE LANDLORD-PEASANT RELATIONSHIPS ARE INESCAPABLE -- THAT MILLIONS OF HUMBLE CULTIVATORS CANNOT EXPERIENCE THE PRIDE OF TILLING THEIR OWN FARMS.

AND IT MEANS STARVATION.

BUT CONSIDER THIS EXCITING POSSIBILITY: ECONOMICAL NUCLEAR DESALTING ON A LARGE SCALE PRODUCES, AS A BY-PRODUCT, VAST QUANTITIES OF ELECTRICITY.

IN MANY ARID REGIONS, THERE IS AT PRESENT NO MARKET FOR THIS ELECTRICITY. BUT THE PRODUCTION OF FERTILIZER, ANOTHER ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR SUCCESSFUL AGRICULTURE, REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY.

OUR ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISION IS THEREFORE CONSIDERING A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MASSIVE MULTI-PURPOSE ATOMIC ENERGY CENTERS WHICH WOULD PRODUCE BOTH FRESH WATER AND FERTILIZER, AS WELL AS OTHER CHEMICALS.

THE ELECTRICITY COULD ALSO BE USED FOR PUMPING AND AS POWER FOR OTHER INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

THIS IDEA IS ONLY IN ITS INITIAL STAGES, BUT AT THE PRESENT RATE OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS, multi-PURPOSE ATOMIC ENERGY CENTERS WILL BE A PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY BY 1975 OR 1980.

BOLD PROGRAMS SUCH AS THIS COULD CONVERT THE SEMI-ARID REGIONS OF THE WORLD INTO FLOURISHING AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS, PROVIDING FOOD, EMPLOYMENT AND PROSPERITY FOR MILLIONS OF PEOPLE.

IN A WORLD FRAUGHT WITH TENSION, THE NEW TECHNOLOGY OF DESALINIZATION PROVIDES A BEACON OF HOPE. FOR IT IS TRULY A TECHNOLOGY OF PEACE. IT HAS NO MILITARY APPLICATION WHATSOEVER.

IT CAN BE USED ONLY FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF AGE-OLD HUMAN NEEDS, AND THEREIN LIES ITS REVOLUTIONARY PROMISE.

# # #

DESALTING WATER -- THE NARROWING COST GAP

This is a thirsty world we live in.

The average person consumes the equivalent of about 18 glasses of water a day.

It takes 110,000 gallons of water to make a ton of steel.

A ton of paper requires 184,000 gallons, a ton of synthetic rubber 660,000.

A jetliner needs 1000 gallons to take off. An intercontinental missile uses 550,000 for launching.

Happily, this is also a watery world we live in.

Seven-tenths of the earth's surface is covered with water.

But there are shortages in various parts of the world. The problem is not the amount of water, but having it in the place we need it at the time we need it and -- perhaps most important -- in the quality we need it.

As the population increases, and the population's requirements for water to make steel and paper and synthetic rubber and to fly jetliners and launch rockets increases more water resources will have to be tapped.

In 1900, Americans used about 40 billion gallons of fresh water a day. By 1940, they were using 135 billion gallons. Today, the figure is about 350 billion gallons, and the maximum daily available supply is estimated at 515 billion gallons.

Before 1980, according to projections by the U.S. Department of the Interior, we will need about 600 billion gallons, 85 billion more than is available.

Fortunately, man's ability to maintain a supply of fresh water is keeping pace with his thirst for its use. He manages to make the available supply stretch a bit further by restricting the use of water for purposes such as car washing and lawn watering. He builds reservoirs to husband his supply for the drier season. He studies ways to retard the spring thaw to make water from melting snow last longer.

He also drills deeper wells when the water table sinks. He builds pipelines, aqueducts and pumping stations to bring fresh waters from areas of plenty to areas of scarcity.

All these steps help to get pure water to the right place at the right time, but it also adds to the cost of water. Today, the cost of obtaining a new source of pure water by conventional means is estimated at from 13 to 70 cents per 1000 gallons, depending on the area.

The cost is expected to rise to about the 20-to-90-cent range by 1980.

But while the cost of obtaining water from conventional sources creeps upward, the cost of tapping the world's most ample source of water -- the ocean -- is steadily decreasing.

[Transcript]

The Dedication Address

Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey

Florida Keys Aquaduct Commission
Desalting Plant
Key West, Florida
Thursday, July 20, 1967

Mr. Burnham and ladies and gentlemen; my good friend Congressman Pepper who has been so willing to make this journey with us to be here on this auspicious occasion; Admiral Brush and the officers and men of the United States Navy that honor us by their presence and participation; Chairman John Koenig and the members of the Florida Keys Aquaduct Commission, my congratulations to you on the completion of this significant development which has been already appropriately described to you; and the two mayors that are here. I was once mayor of Minneapolis so I feel an infinity, sort of a brotherhood and comradeship with my friends of municipal government -- Mayor Luhan, mayor of Key West and Mayor Saunders the mayor of Monroe County. And if you don't believe that Key West and Monroe County really are something, you just listen to these two mayors. They have described it in terms that make a Chamber of Commerce pale into insignificance. Senator Spottswood, it's good to see you once again my friend, and to meet you back in Monroe County. Senator Stolsenburg and the distinguished Representative Papy who I thought brought to us a story of great significance of father and son, and a fulfilment of a dream and a promise. And to my friend the state treasurer, Broward Williams and all of you a word of greeting from one who is delighted to be here, just pleased as can be to be in this Florida sunshine on this beautiful day down in the fabulous Keys of the great state of Florida.

So I'm happy to join with you in the dedication of this magnificent new desalting plant and to be here when it's running, and to be here when it's operating at full capacity. Right now as you listen to the boilers, and as you listen to the different systems operate, it's generating and desalting approximately two million, six hundred thousand gallons of water per day. That's a mighty big plant, as has been explained here.

I had the privilege of dedicating a plant of twenty-six stages, I believe you call it, down in the Virgin Islands, this one is fifty. So the next one I expect to be even larger than that, but I want to leave Monroe County with honors for quite a while. So we won't look ahead too far for the moment.

I'm privileged today as your Vice President to bring you a special message from the President of the United States...and if you will allow me, I would like to read that message; because our President has had a great interest in the whole process of desalinization and is particularly interested in this development. President Johnson says:

"The dedication of Key West's new salting (desalting) plant is an event of historical significance. The occasion marks the first time that a United States' municiplaity has turned to the sea for its water supply. The plant to be placed in operation today, incorporates the latest technology the scientists and engineers from both government and industry have been able to devise.

"To their wise application of new technology, the citizens of Key West will have their own local supply of fresh water at a fair and economical cost.

"Your new plant represents more than just the sweet taste of clear water for an entire local community -- it is also a splendid example of federal, state and private industrial cooperation to meet the needs of our people. Other nations will also look to this plant as a prototype to help advance their own technology in the urgent search for a low cost supply of fresh water. While this is the first municipal sea water conversion plant in the United States, inland communities are already desalting brackish water and putting it to use. Before this decade is ended, I am confident that desalting plants will have greatly increased the quantity and quality of fresh water in the United States and around the world.

"The operation of this fine new plant thus marks a turning point in mankind's desperate need for vast new sources of life's sustaining water. I extend my best wishes to the citizens of the state of Florida, the people of Key West, the members of Florida's Keys Aquaduct Commission for their demonstrative leadership in this practical and history-making achievement. Lydon B. Johnson."

Chairman Koenig, I am privileged to present to you the letter dated July 17 from the White House and signed by the President of the United States. Mr. Chairman -- that's the original document -- keep it.

Now ladies and gentlemen, some words on my own. This is indeed a happy occasion as has been already demonstrated for Key West. And for the Florida Keys Aquaduct Commission and for this great American corporation, the Western (Westinghouse) Electric Company. The plant that we are now dedicating is the largest single unit, desalting installation in the world today. It represents a giant step forward in a brand new technology which is destined, I believe, to yield benefits for mankind, at least as great as those bestowed by the development of electricity.

As Chairman of the National Council on Marine Resources and Engineering Development, I have kept in close touch with progress in the desalinization field. This happens to be a subject in which I've had an interest for many years, as a member of the United States' Senate, as the Chairman of the Marine Sciences Council and as your Vice President. And I can say that developments in this field have been nothing less than sensational.

Indeed, Mr. Koenig, the very name of your Commission is a measure of the pace of this progress that I refer to. When your Commission was established a few years ago, people were still thinking in terms of aquaducts, a technological concept thousands of years old. About three months ago, I saw the great Roman aquaduct that led into Rome -- and all over

Europe we see these fabulous structures of the Roman engineers. But today that Commission is engaged in doing what once only occurred in miraculous legends -- sheer fiction -- bringing forth fresh water from the sea.

The need for new sources of fresh water is acute and increasing all over the world today. I was deeply impressed by a press release or some informational data that was provided me by the Westinghouse Corporation, and I thought you'd like to hear what they had to say, because not only is it well written, but it's so factual.

"The average person consumes an equivalent of eighteen glasses of water a day." Now if you're not using that much, you'd better check into it. "It takes a hundred and ten thousand gallons of water to make one ton of steel. A ton of paper requires a hundred and eighty-four thousand gallons. A ton of synthetic rubber, six hundred and sixty thousand gallons. A jet liner uses a thousand gallons of water on take off. An intercontinental ballistic missile uses five hundred and fifty thousand gallons of water for launching."

Thank goodness that we live in a watery world where three-fifths of the Earth's surface is water. The Lord in his infinite wisdom knew that we were going to run out of fresh water, so he put a lot of it around

is and depended on science and technology - the intelligence of man - to be able to tap that fabulous resource of water.

And you know, I was also impressed with the quantity of water that we Americans have been using. To give you an idea of where we're going from here, when you heard that this plant is just the beginning -- "in 1900, Americans used about forty billion gallons of fresh water a day. By 1940, they were using one hundred and thirty-five billion. Today we're using three hundred and fifty billion. And the maximum available known supply of water per day is five hundred and fifteen billion. Before 1980, according to projections of the U.S. Department of Interior, we'll need six hundred billion gallons of water," that's eighty-five billion more than we have available out of the conventional sources. So we're going to have to do what we're doing here, and thank goodness we know how to do it.

Right here in the United States there are more than a thousand communities who are making do, as we say; that are just getting by with brackish water, which is hardly fit either for human consumption or industrial use. Still more communities experience frequent water shortages from natural causes, just as the Keys have. Raths of storms such as Hurricane Donna which disrupted your own water supply in 1960. Here we see the beginning of a whole new industry, serving an immense market

and I understand, Mr. Burnham, a highly competitive market. So Westinghouse has its work cut out for it.

Now as a staunch believer in our free enterprise system, I welcome this competition and I look around and see that others seem to welcome it too. I say let all the companies interested in this field compete, and compete vigorously. The public will benefit. This is the way the interests of the nation will be best served.

Now this plant gives Key West a great distinction, to which I have earlier referred. But I urge you to enjoy that distinction while you can, because there are bigger things yet to come. There is already planned for 1973, just six years from now, a desalting plant off the coast of California that will deliver a hundred and fifty million gallons of water a day ... that's just getting going in modern technology. And it will use nuclear power and will generate great quantities of electricity as well. The experts tell us that by 1980, only thirteen years away, we will have nuclear powered plants capable of turning out billions of gallons of fresh water daily at the cost of ten cents per thousand gallons. Ten cents per thousand -- now this is good news for America. Our water consumption is increasing so rapidly, as I indicated, that by the 1980's we may well have reached, and over reached, the limits of dependable water from traditional sources.

When I said that ten cents per thousand, I looked out here and saw about twenty-five men just snicker and smile. Why you old-fashioned souls. Don't you know that that's inevitable. That was just like a person saying twenty-five years ago we'd have an airplane that flew six hundred miles an hour. I was at a meeting once where an aviation engineer from my own University of Minnesota told us that by the 1950's -- this was in the late thirties -- he said by the 1950's we will have jet transports that will fly at least a hundred passengers at over six hundred miles an hour, and he was booed and laughed at, poor soul. He was so old-fashioned and backward he didn't really know that in a couple of years we'll have a supersonic transport which will be obsolete by the time it's constructed because we'll be building a new one even after that. So ten cents per thousand is not far-fetched. As a matter of fact, it'll be one of the more conservative statements made here today.

Our nation has taken a great lead in the technology of desalinization. This is a fact of which our country should be proud. And we can be especially proud that we have determined to share this life-giving technology freely with other nations. President Johnson has many times reaffirmed his determination that we here will do our share and do more to see that the peaceful promise of nuclear energy is applied to the critical problem of desalting water and helping to make the desert bloom.

We are, for example, currently engaged together with Mexico and the International Atomic Energy Agency in a joint study for a nuclear power, fresh water and electricity plant. It will serve the needs of California and Arizona, north of the border and Sonora and lower California, south of it.

Water, the need for water overflows all ideological boundaries or barriers. The United States and the Soviet Union, under an agreement just recently renewed, have exchanged information and technical experts in this field. A Water for Peace international conference, held in Washington this spring, and attended by sixty-four hundred delegates and observers from ninety-four nations.

We are establishing in the Department of State a Water for Peace office to lead and coordinate this nation's efforts for the world-wide progress in the development of pure water resources. The need for water is everywhere, but particularly in the developing countries. Paul Hoffman, a great American well known to you, who heads the United Nations development program said this: At least sixty of the underdeveloped countries and territories associated with the United Nations face forms of water shortage which in time can only be met from non-traditional sources -- that is from the brackish and salt water sources. Water shortage in these countries, where the vast majority of people live on

the land, means that tens of millions of potentially fertile acres cannot be tilled. It means that oppressive landlord-peasant relationships are inescapable -- that millions of humble cultivators cannot experience the pride of tilling their own farms. It means starvation. It means trouble.

You know I've often thought what a much more peaceful world it would be in the Middle-East if we could bring the blessing of fresh water to those deserts. And those deserts would product as no other area of land in the world. They're stored with the energy of the sun to give forth the bounty of the earth. I am convinced that water will do more to dampen the fires of war and tension than almost anything that we can do or think of.

Now consider this exciting possibility. Economical nuclear desalting on a large scale produces as a by-product, vast quantities of electrical energy. Now in many regions, arid regions, there is at present no place or no use or market for that electricity. But the production of fertilizer, a product in short supply in this hungry world, another essential ingredient for successful agriculture, requires a great deal of electrical energy. Our Atomic Energy Commission is therefore considering a comprehensive plan for the establishment of massive, multi-purpose atomic energy centers which would produce both fresh water and fertilizer, as well as other chemicals; and with the blessings of fresh water and fertilizer, the population

problem and the food problem will be put into proper dimensions and proportions. The growth of food and fiber for hungry people is one of the great pressing issues of the next decade. And I might add that in the words of the late and beloved Pope John who said that, "Where there is constant want, there is no peace." And is it any wonder then that we speak of water for peace as one of the developments and one of the policy committments of our country.

Now this electricity of these massive, multi-purpose atomic energy centers would also be used for pumping, and as for power for growing industrial enterprises. This is a great idea. It's only in its initial stages, but at the present rate of technological progress, multi-purpose atomic energy centers will be a practical possibility by 1975 or 1980 -- and it doesn't take long to get there, does it? Time does, indeed, fly by.

Whole programs, such as this, could convert semi-arid regions of the world into prosperous, flourishing agricultural and industrial areas; providing food -- providing employment and prosperity for millions of people and until this can be a reality we live on borrowed time. The peace of the world is constantly threatened by the imminent disaster of hunger and starvation and misery. In a world wrought with tension the new technology of desalinization provides a beacon of hope for mankind, for it is

truly the technology of peace. It has no military application whatsoever. It can be used only for the fulfillment of age-old human needs and therein lies its revolutionary promise ... the promise of the good life...the promise of life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

So I come here to Monroe County, to Key West, to Florida as your Vice President to share in what I consider to be a historical occasion because we are demonstrating that we know how to meet our problems. We are demonstrating that we can put science and technology to work. Not merely for new weapons systems...not merely in terms of atomic energy for nuclear blasts...but we are demonstrating that we can put science and technology to work for man's life -- for his living conditions, rather than his dying conditions.

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