

*Mr. Pope - Director Free Gallery
✓ Ralph Becker Iran - Anna Soudy*

MR. AMBASSADOR, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND

GENTLEMEN:

~~It is most~~
~~IT COULD HARDLY BE MORE~~ APPROPRIATE THAT WE

CELEBRATE A GREAT NATION AT THIS TIME AND IN THIS PLACE.

L TODAY IN TEHRAN HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, MOHAMMAD

Reza Pahlavi

REZA PAHLAVI, IS BEING FORMALLY CROWNED SHAHANSHAH OF

THE IRANIAN NATION. IT IS A FITTING CEREMONY FOR MARKING

TWENTY SIX YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP WHICH HAVE ALSO BEEN

YEARS OF MOMENTOUS ACHIEVEMENT IN IRAN. IT IS A SPECIAL

PLEASURE FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CEREMONY AS I HAVE

ONLY RECENTLY HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING WITH HIS

MAJESTY HERE IN WASHINGTON. THE PRESIDENT AND MRS.

JOHNSON ~~AND ALL HIS OTHER HOSTS AND HOSTESSES~~ DURING HIS

~~VISIT IN AUGUST~~ WERE PROUD TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO *once*

again WELCOME SUCH A STALWART FRIEND AND DISTINGUISHED LEADER

OF A GREAT AND FLOURISHING NATION. *L* WE BENEFITED FROM HIS

WISDOM AND WERE STIMULATED BY HIS FORWARD LOOKING

STATESMANSHIP.

THE SHAHANSHAH HAD REFUSED TO BE THE CROWNED

HEAD OF A POOR NATION. HE TAKES TODAY THE SYMBOL OF HIS

OFFICE IN THE CERTAINTY THAT IRAN'S *has made* ~~STRIDES~~ HAVE BEEN

Great progress in its social and SUCH THAT IN EVERY CORNER OF HIS REALM PROGRESS HAS BEEN

economic life. ~~MADE TOWARD WIPING OUT THOSE ILLS OF MANKIND THAT MODERN~~

~~TECHNOLOGY CAN ERASE.~~ HE WILL JOIN TODAY TOO WITH THE

ASPIRATIONS OF IRAN'S WOMEN, SYMBOLIZING THEIR FULL EQUALITY

BY PLACING A CROWN UPON THE HEAD OF THE EMPRESS FARAH.

I CAN ONLY SPECULATE ABOUT THE MAINSPRINGS OF
 IRAN'S UNIQUE TALENT. SCHOLARS HAVE ASSERTED THAT IT
 DERIVES FROM CLEAR SKIES AND A BRACING CLIMATE. OTHERS
 HAVE NOTED IRAN'S FLEXIBLE AND BEAUTIFUL LANGUAGE. IT
 COULD BE THE VITALITY OF A PEOPLE WHOSE RELIGION HAS
 TAUGHT THAT SIMPLICITY IS VIRTUE AND WHOSE VERY OLD
CULTURE FOUND ITS HEAVEN IN LIGHT AND TRUTH. IRAN'S

ARTISTRY MAY OWE EVEN TO THE VICISSITUDES OCCASIONED
 BY A PEOPLE'S HISTORIC UNWILLINGNESS TO BE ABSORBED BY A
LARGER POWER, OR BY TRANSITORY FORCE.

I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL HOW SKILLFUL LEADERSHIP
 HAS, DURING A REIGN OF JUST MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A
 CENTURY, SPURRED THE CREATION OF A NEWLY-CONSTITUTED
IRANIAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FABRIC. ~~I THINK IT USEFUL TO DO~~

~~THIS~~, FOR ~~M~~UCH OF THE HISTORY OF THIS PERIOD HAS BEEN ONE OF COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE, STEADFASTNESS AND DETERMINATION. THE IRANIAN EXAMPLE ONCE AGAIN IS OF USE TO US AND TO MANY OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD, BECAUSE THESE ARE QUALITIES THAT IN OUR VERY DIFFICULT AGE CAN BE MOST USEFUL.

IRAN WAS NOT BLESSED WITH PEACE AT THE BEGINNING

OF THIS REIGN EARLY IN WORLD WAR II. IRAN WAS DIVIDED AND OCCUPIED, BUT IRAN SURVIVED.

NEITHER WERE THE EARLY YEARS OF THE COLD WAR EASY ONES. ~~FOR~~ ONE FOURTH OF THE COUNTRY WAS OCCUPIED BY THE SOVIET UNION. IN A MOST DIFFICULT PERIOD, IRAN PERSISTED AND THOSE OCCUPYING TROOPS WERE REMOVED.

THE ~~CONSEQUENT~~ ^{following} YEARS WERE ALSO NOT EASY.

L THE DEMANDS OF ^{modernization} ~~MODERNITY~~ WERE SUDDEN AND APPALLINGLY
 DIFFICULT. ~~LIKE ALL NATIONS THAT HAVE UNDERGONE~~
~~MODERNIZATION, IRAN FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO REACH~~ ^{reach} A CONSENSUS
~~REGARDING GOALS AND OUTLOOK~~ UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE
 SHAH, IRAN SURVIVED THESE CRISES, AND NEW WAYS WERE FOUND
 FOR THE NATION TO DIRECT ITS ENERGIES AND CONTROL ITS VITAL
 RESOURCES SO THAT IT BEGAN TO PROSPER.

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L THROUGH ALL THESE YEARS, IRAN HAS CONCENTRATED
 ON ITS INTERNAL NEEDS AND HAS PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE
 IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IRAN HAS NOT ~~ONLY NOT~~ SQUANDERED ITS
 RESOURCES AND ENERGIES ON FOREIGN ADVENTURES. IT HAS
 REALIZED THAT THE TRUE STRENGTH OF ANY COUNTRY COMES
 FROM GREATNESS WITHIN. BUT IT HAS ALSO STEADFASTLY
DEFENDED ITS INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY SO AS TO PERMIT

ITS INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

L UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE MAN WHO IS BEING
CROWNED THIS DAY, IRAN HAS TAUGHT ALL OF US THAT THE TASK

nation
OF BUILDING AND MAINTAINING A GREAT NATION REQUIRES ABOVE

ALL ELSE PERSISTENT EFFORT AND AN UNWILLINGNESS TO TURN FROM

defiant
DEFIANT TASKS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE WORKS OF ART THAT WE

ARE GOING TO VISIT TOGETHER ARE NOT MERE ARTIFACTS, THEY
ARE NOT THE RELICS OF A CIVILIZATION THAT HAS FLOURISHED AND
DISAPPEARED. THEY ARE SYMBOLS OF A STILL VIBRANT, LIVING
NATION, AND OF ITS COURAGEOUS LEADER.

THIS IS OUR WAY OF SALUTING THE MAN WHO TODAY IS
BEING CROWNED SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN, AND OF CELEBRATING TOO
THE CORONATION OF HIS GALLANT PARTNER IN LEADING IRAN

TOWARD ITS GOALS OF PEACE AND SECURITY, THE EMPRESS

FARAH.

I HOPE THAT HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY KNOWS HOW CLOSE
OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE TO HIM ON THIS DAY.

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THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA EXTEND TO THE PEOPLE
OF IRAN OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR THEIR CONTINUED
PROGRESS AND HAPPINESS.

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY HAS OUR PRAYERS AND GOOD
WISHES IN THIS GREAT HOUR OF HIS CORONATION.



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