

VICE PRESIDENT'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE
APRIL 1, 1968

↳ During these past two days, significant steps have been taken toward achieving a peaceful world.

↳ On Sunday night President Johnson extended the hand of peace to North Vietnam in a way designed to bring about prompt and productive negotiations.

↳ In another dimension of peace, I was privileged in Mexico City to sign, on behalf of our government a treaty removing the threat of

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nuclear weapons from Latin America.

↳ Senator Morse and Congressman Roybal joined me in my official delegation, along with other distinguished Americans.

↳ This treaty ~~is~~ an important step in curbing the nuclear arms race.

↳ It represents tangible progress in achieving favorable action on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty now pending in the United Nations.

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∟ These steps are but further evidence that the struggle for peace is not easy, but requires patience, perseverance and sacrifice.

∟ We were privileged to spend two days in Mexico representing President Johnson and the American people. ∟ I met with President *Diaz-Ordaz* Ordaz and the members of his government discussing matters of mutual concern in a spirit of constructive cooperation.

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∟ Wherever we went, we were greeted with friendship and good will.

∟ Wherever we went, we reaffirmed our support for the peaceful action and social revolution being waged in Mexico.

∟ We were impressed with the vitality and the spirit of the people of Mexico and gratified by their respect and friendship for America.

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∟ Mexico City will be host for the Olympic Games. We

visited the sites and the facilities for these great sports events.

∟ Intensive preparations are under way to assure that the

Olympics of 1968 will be a success.

∟ I am sure you know that I was saddened by President

Johnson's announcement that he will not seek re-election.

(~~He had informed me of his decision.~~)

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∟ I believe that the record of President Johnson's

Administration will be marked in history for unprecedented

social progress here at home and courageous action for peace

and freedom abroad.

∟ I hope that his new initiatives announced Sunday night

may bring the blessings of peace to our country and to

Southeast Asia.

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It is to this purpose that he has made his commitment
~~to the President~~ There can be nothing more important
for any of us.

↳ As to my future plans, I shall continue to fulfill
my responsibilities ~~as Vice President~~ I shall be
meeting with the President tomorrow.

↳ It is good to be home, ^{and} It is always an honor to represent
our country abroad. Thank you for being here.

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