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S/S 7412391

Attention

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THE WHITE HOUSE MICROFILMED

WASHINGTON

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June 25, 1974

Dear Mr. President:

Now that I have returned to Washington and have had time to reflect on my visit to the Middle East, I want to share with you my thoughts about the significance for our two countries of the journey I have just completed.

By visiting the Middle East at this time, I wanted to demonstrate the strength of the United States commitment to work for a just and lasting peace consistent with the dignity and legitimate interests of all the states and peoples of the Middle East. I also wanted to underline the friendship of the American people for the peoples of the Arab world and to give impetus to the various steps now underway to strengthen and to give more concrete expression to the historic as well as the newly evolving links between the United States and the Arab countries. Progress toward peace, and progress in American-Arab relations, will reinforce each other, and I believe we have together made significant progress toward these objectives.

I also feel that, as a result of our talks, each of us has a better understanding of the other's concerns, hopes and political realities. I particularly welcomed the opportunity to describe to you in detail our concept of approaching a final settlement step-by-step, so that each succeeding step will build on the confidence and

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