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25 SEP 1974

His Excellency Ardeshir Zahedi  
Ambassador of Iran  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you most kindly for the text of his Imperial Majesty's message to the Twenty-Ninth Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I found it interesting and praiseworthy.

I read with interest and pleasure your commencement address at Kent State University. You captured the students with your opening witticism and made them receptive to the wise advice which followed. I am confident also that your succinct presentation of the outstanding progress in Iran in education and in other fields, under the guidance of his Imperial Majesty, made a very strong impact.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bill

W. E. Colby  
Director

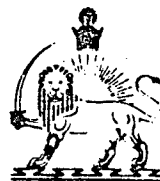
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9/19/74



IMPERIAL EMBASSY OF IRAN  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**COMMENCEMENT SPEECH**

*by*

**HIS EXCELLENCY ARDESHIR ZAHEDI**

**AMBASSADOR OF IRAN**

*to the*

**UNITED STATES**

*at*

**KENT STATE UNIVERSITY**

**KENT, OHIO**

**AUGUST 31, 1974**



TEXT OF MESSAGE

BY

Notes by  
DCI  
2/12/74

**HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY  
MOHAMMAD REZA  
PAHLAVI ARYAMEHR,  
SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN**

TO THE TWENTY NINTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF  
A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE  
IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST

4953



IMPERIAL EMBASSY OF IRAN  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

**COMMENCEMENT SPEECH**

*by*

**HIS EXCELLENCY ARDESHIR ZAHEDI**

**AMBASSADOR OF IRAN**

*to the*

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY

KENT, OHIO

AUGUST 31, 1974

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S OFFICE)

I-13

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY ARDESHIR ZAHEDI, AMBASSADOR OF  
IRAN TO THE UNITED STATES, AT SUMMER COMMENCEMENT,  
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY, KENT, OHIO, SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1974

- - -

PRESIDENT OLDS:

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY:

GRADUATES AND GUESTS:

AND OF COURSE, MY FELLOW COUNTRYMEN FROM IRAN:

IT IS AN HONOR TO BE HERE TODAY, ON THIS BEAUTIFUL  
CAMPUS OF KENT STATE, WITH ALL OF YOU, WHO GO TO MAKE UP A  
GREAT UNIVERSITY.

WITH DUE RESPECT TO MY OWN GENERATION, I FIND IT  
STIMULATING, TO BE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE. I ALWAYS ENCOUNTER A  
MINGLING OF IDEALISM AND OPTIMISM WITH A HEALTHY (SKEPTICISM),  
WHICH IS, RE-ASSURING OF THE FUTURE, AND NECESSARY FOR A KEEN  
PERSPECTIVE OF HUMAN EVENTS. THANK YOU FOR THIS PRIVILEGE AND  
FOR ALLOWING ME TO SHARE WITH YOU THE FRUITS OF THIS MEMORABLE  
OCCASION.

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THIS GENERATION GAP REMINDS ME OF THIS FELLOW WHO, DURING AN ARGUMENT WITH HIS PARENTS, CRIED "I WANT EXCITEMENT, ADVENTURE, MONEY AND BEAUTIFUL WOMEN. I'LL NEVER FIND IT HERE AT HOME, SO I'M LEAVING. DON'T TRY TO STOP ME."

WITH THAT, HE HEADED FOR THE DOOR. HIS FATHER ROSE AND FOLLOWED CLOSE BEHIND. THE BOY SAID "DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID? DON'T TRY TO STOP ME." "WHO'S TRYING TO STOP YOU?" REPLIED HIS FATHER. "IF YOU WAIT A MINUTE, I'LL GO WITH YOU."

WHEN I RECEIVED THE INVITATION TO SPEAK BEFORE YOU, I BEGAN TO WONDER WHY COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS SO OFTEN CHOOSE TO TALK OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT THE WORLD.

I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS IS NOT DONE IN ANY SENSE OF PESSIMISM. IT IS RATHER BASED ON A FEELING OF REALISM. I SAY THIS BECAUSE WE ARE FACED WITH REAL PROBLEMS.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS AND WHAT ROLE CAN YOU AS THE CITIZENS OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY PLAY TO RESOLVE THE DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING US.

FOREMOST AMONG THESE ARE THE QUESTIONS OF EDUCATION AND HEALTH. WHILE YOU HAVE THE GOOD FORTUNE OF BENEFITING FROM MODERN EDUCATION AND ADEQUATE HEALTH FACILITIES, THERE ARE STILL MILLIONS IN THE WORLD WHO CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE

DARKNESS OF IGNORANCE AND DISEASE. THE LATEST UNESCO STUDY INDICATES THAT OVER 34 PERCENT OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION IS ILLITERATE.

IN IRAN UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY THE SHAHANSHAH ARYAMEHR A CONCERTED EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ERADICATE THIS PROBLEM.

A PRINCIPAL TOOL FOR CARRYING OUT OUR INTENSIFIED EDUCATION PROGRAM IS IRAN'S YOUTH CORPS, MADE UP OF THOUSANDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE OF MILITARY DRAFT AGE.

THESE YOUNG PEOPLE, CHOOSE TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT ARE SOCIAL AND CREATIVE, RATHER THAN MILITARY. THEIR PROGRAM IS COMPOSED OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND EXTENSION CORPS, THE HEALTH CORPS, AND THE DEVELOPMENT CORPS.

IN THE EDUCATIONAL CORPS, THEY CARRY MODERN EDUCATION INTO THE MOUNTAIN VILLAGES, AND REMOTE AREAS.

I AM SURE, THAT DR. OLDS RECALLS THAT WHILE HE WAS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY PROPOSED A UNIVERSAL WELFARE LEGION. UNDER THIS NOBLE CAUSE, THE YOUTH CORPS, THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS, WOULD ENABLE INDIVIDUALS OF ANY COUNTRY, CLASS, RACE, OR RELIGION, TO DEVOTE A PART OF THEIR LIVES TO THE SERVICE OF MANKIND.

MOREOVER, A FEW MONTHS AGO, A NATIONAL GOAL DECREED THE RIGHT OF EVERY IRANIAN TO A FREE EDUCATION, IN KEEPING WITH HIS ABILITIES, AND WITHOUT REGARD FOR HIS FINANCIAL MEANS. AT THE SAME TIME, A CONCURRENT PRINCIPLE WAS EXPRESSED: THOSE WHO STUDY AT PUBLIC EXPENSE, MUST REPAY, THEIR DEBT TO THE IRANIAN PEOPLE.

THUS, WE PROPOSED A CONTRACT, BETWEEN THE NATION AND THE STUDENT, WHICH WILL ASSURE IMMENSE RETURNS, TO BOTH SIDES.

MORE RECENTLY, THE SHAHANSHAH ISSUED A DECREE ON EDUCATION WHICH FORMALIZED THIS PRINCIPLE, AND, PROVIDED FREE EDUCATION THROUGH ALL ELEMENTARY LEVELS AND WHAT YOU CALL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. IT ALSO PROVIDES FREE LUNCH TO EVERY CHILD ATTENDING SCHOOL IN THE COUNTRY.

TO FACILITATE NATION-WIDE EDUCATION, A \$2 BILLION PROGRAM WILL USE EDUCATIONAL SATELLITES, T.V. AND OTHER AUDIO-VISUAL TEACHING AIDS.

IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH, WE HAVE EQUALLY EXTENDED FREE HEALTH CARE TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD IN THE COUNTRY.

AS EDUCATED AND INFORMED MEMBERS OF THIS GREAT SOCIETY, YOU TOO HAVE AN IMPORTANT MISSION TO PROMOTE THE



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CAUSE OF UNIVERSAL EDUCATION AND WELFARE.

\* \* \*

THE ENERGY CRISIS IS YET ANOTHER PROBLEM WHICH CONFRONTS THE WORLD TODAY. IT INVOLVES ALL FORMS OF ENERGY. BY THAT I MEAN IT INCLUDES THE FOOD NECESSARY FOR HUMAN ENERGY AND SURVIVAL, AS WELL AS INDUSTRIAL ENERGY FOR THE OPERATION AND SURVIVAL OF THE WORLD'S TECHNOLOGY.

THE FOOD CRISIS IS FAR MORE SERIOUS, AND MORE FUNDAMENTAL, THAN THE ENERGY CRISIS. FOR WE CAN LIVE WITH LESS ENERGY. WE MAY BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH LESS HEAT, MORE COLD. BUT THE WORLD CAN HARDLY MANAGE WITH LESS FOOD OR ALLOW A BILLION PEOPLE TO STARVE OR PERISH. WE OWE IT TO OUR CHILDREN TO COPE WITH THIS PROBLEM BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

A FEW YEARS AGO, IRAN WARNED ABOUT THE ENERGY CRISIS AND NOBODY PAID MUCH ATTENTION. NOW ONCE AGAIN WE WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASIZE THE GRAVE SITUATION CONCERNING FOOD. I HOPE THIS TIME THE WORLD WILL TAKE IT MORE SERIOUSLY.

THE FOOD CRISIS CALLS FOR A DEGREE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND EFFORT THAT THE WORLD HAS NOT YET MADE UP ITS MIND TO GIVE.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT, MY BELOVED SOVEREIGN RECENTLY SENT A MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS CALLING ATTENTION TO THE 'RAPID POPULATION GROWTH ON THE ONE HAND, AND THE STATE OF WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION ON THE OTHER. HE URGED INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING AND THE DEVELOPED NATIONS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION, ESTABLISH POPULATION CONTROL, FOOD PROGRAMS, AND MAKE PROVISION FOR SUFFICIENT FOOD RESERVES TO GUARD AGAINST FAMINE.

\* \* \*

WHEN WE LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL ENERGY, WE TEND TO THINK TOO MUCH OF OIL. WE MUST EQUALLY TURN OUR MINDS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER FORMS OF ENERGY.

IRAN HAS NO INTENTION OF PUTTING ALL HER EGGS IN ONE BASKET. ALREADY, HIS MAJESTY, THE SHAHANSHAH, HAS CALLED FOR RESEARCH AND EXPLORATION INTO ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY.

AS LONG AS OIL WAS CHEAP, THE WORLD NEGLECTED THE ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF COAL, SHALE, AND NATURAL GAS THAT IS STILL AVAILABLE TO US. WE DID NOT SEEK THE MEANS OF USING THEM AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY THAT WAS ECONOMICAL AND MET ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS.

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SOLAR ENERGY, AT THE OTHER EXTREME, HAS NOT RECEIVED THE SERIOUS ATTENTION REQUIRED FOR ACHIEVING ITS EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION, STORAGE, AND TRANSMISSION.

\* \* \*

NUCLEAR ENERGY IS IN HAND. BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF PRODUCTION, AND THE DISPOSAL OF NUCLEAR WASTE, FOR WHICH THE WORLD NEEDS TO FIND PROPER SOLUTIONS.

IRAN HAS CONTRACTED WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS.

WE WANT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS IS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES ONLY. HERE I MUST REMIND YOU THAT IRAN HAS SIGNED AND RATIFIED THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. MOREOVER, FOR SIX YEARS MY SOVEREIGN THE SHAHANSHAH HAS CALLED FOR DESIGNATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST AS A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN TERMS OF WEAPONS. TO PROVE THIS, HIS MAJESTY ONLY RECENTLY SUGGESTED AGAIN TO THE U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL THAT THE PROPOSAL BE PUT ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WE HOPE THAT OTHER NATIONS WILL JOIN US IN PRESSING FOR THIS GOAL.

\* \* \*

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MEANWHILE, WE MUST PUT OIL IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE, WITH A REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF A FAIR PRICE, ASSURED SUPPLY, AND THE PROPER USES FOR OIL.

IRAN HAS SAID MANY TIMES THAT WE WILL ADJUST THE PRICE OF OIL TO THE PRICE OF OTHER WORLD COMMODITIES. IT IS UP TO THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS TO CONTAIN INFLATION OF THEIR PRICES AND WE WILL CONTAIN THE PRICE OF OIL. BUT WE CANNOT HOLD DOWN OIL PRICES, WHEN PRICES FOR ALMOST EVERYTHING WE BUY HAVE BEEN GOING UP IN THE RANGE OF 300 TO 400 PERCENT OR MORE IN THE PAST DECADE.

OIL, AS A "NOBLE COMMODITY," SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR USE IN THE PETROCHEMICALS AND MEDICINE, WHERE IT HAS SOME 70,000 BYPRODUCTS.

IRAN'S INTENTIONS, AND HER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY, ARE BEST INDICATED BY WHAT WE ARE DOING WITH OUR INCREASED OIL REVENUES.

DOMESTICALLY, 80 PERCENT OF THIS NEW INCOME IS COMMITTED TO INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT.

AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE ALWAYS EAGER TO LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF OTHER NATIONS. YOUR GREAT COUNTRY IS RICH IN EXPERIENCE AND KNOW-HOW. HERE IN THIS GREAT INSTITUTION, FOR EXAMPLE, I AM HOPING TO LOOK INTO SOME OF

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THE OUTSTANDING RESEARCH WHICH HAS BEEN DONE BY YOUR LIQUID CRYSTALS INSTITUTE.

PERHAPS WE CAN PERSUADE SOME OF THESE FINE INTELLECTS TO HELP US IN OUR SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT.

\* \* \*

WITH REGARD TO OTHER NATIONS, IRAN HAS EMBARKED ON AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF INVESTMENT AND CONTRACTS WITH THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES, AND OF DIRECT FINANCIAL AID TO THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT BLESSED WITH NATURAL RESOURCES AND RAW MATERIALS ARE THE CHIEF VICTIMS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS.

IRAN LOOKS WITH THE GRAVEST CONCERN ON THE PROBLEMS OF THESE NATIONS AND ALREADY IS MOVING TO HELP THEM WITH BILLIONS IN DIRECT AID, AS WELL AS LONG-TERM LOANS WHICH WILL HELP THEM TO PAY THE INCREASED PRICE OF OIL. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE ADVANCED \$1 BILLION TO INDIA. TO PAKISTAN IT IS ABOUT THE SAME. EGYPT IS TO RECEIVE SLIGHTLY MORE THAN \$1 BILLION; AND SYRIA SOME \$150 MILLION. OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS SENEGAL AND MOROCCO HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED FINANCIAL AID FROM IRAN.

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BILATERAL AID IS NOW WELL OVER \$8 BILLION. IN PROPORTION TO IRAN'S 32 MILLION INHABITANTS, I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THIS IS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT.

ON THE MULTILATERAL FRONT, HIS MAJESTY HAS PROPOSED THE FORMATION OF A SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL FUND TO BE SUPPORTED BY 12 OIL PRODUCING AND 12 INDUSTRIAL NATIONS. WE HAVE ALSO SET ASIDE \$1 BILLION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE WORLD BANK.

IN EUROPE, WE ARE MAKING INVESTMENTS IN GERMANY, FRANCE, AND GREAT BRITAIN, AND SEEKING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN IRAN. THESE INVESTMENTS WILL GIVE US PARTICIPATION AND EXPERIENCE IN THE WORLD ECONOMY, AND WILL BRING TO IRAN BUSINESS MANAGERS, SKILLED ADMINISTRATORS, AND TECHNICIANS.

\* \* \* \*

IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WE CONTINUE TO EXERT OUR INFLUENCE IN BEHALF OF PEACE, STABILITY, AND MUTUAL TRUST. FOR THIS REASON WE ARE IN FAVOR OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 WHICH CALL FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES FROM ARAB TERRITORIES ---- AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

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BUT OUR DESIRE FOR PEACE WILL NOT CAUSE IRAN TO FAIL TO ASSERT HER RIGHTS, OR BY THE SAME TOKEN TO WORK FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING AND HARMONY AMONG ALL THE NATIONS IN THIS AREA.

WE ARE VERY MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT THE PERSIAN GULF, AND WE HOPE THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WHICH WE GENUINELY SEEK WITH OUR NEIGHBORS CAN PREVAIL FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC EVENTS DEMONSTRATE ONCE AGAIN THAT INTERDEPENDENCE AMONG NATIONS IS INCREASING. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POORER NATIONS HAS GROWN WIDER.

IRAN BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD CANNOT WORK TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY FOR PEACE WHILE THESE DISPARITIES ARE GROWING. WE BELIEVE ALSO THAT THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND ACTIONS WHICH I HAVE DESCRIBED ILLUSTRATE OUR SINCERE DESIRE TO REDUCE THE DISPARITIES.

IRAN'S INDEPENDENT NATIONAL POLICY ENABLES US TO DEAL WITH ANY COUNTRY ON A BASIS OF RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF NATIONS AND OF INDIVIDUALS. WE BELIEVE THIS IS THE ESSENTIAL FOUNDATION OF MUTUAL TRUST AND COOPERATION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WHAT IS MINE IS MINE BUT WHATEVER

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IS YOURS IS NEGOTIABLE.

THUS, IRAN EXTENDS HER RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE, CHINA, AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHILE WE MAINTAIN OUR CLOSE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST WITH THE WESTERN NATIONS.

\* \* \*

WE HAD A DEEP HISTORICAL COMMITMENT TO THE HUMANIST TRADITIONS OF THE WEST, AND WE ARE ESPECIALLY AWARE OF OUR CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE MANY TIES WHICH LINK US TOGETHER. HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY, THE SHAHANSHAH, IN HIS RECENT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FORD, STATED AS FOLLOWS: AND I QUOTE:

..... OUR BONDS HAVE WITHSTOOD THE TEST OF TIME AND WITH THE PASSAGE OF YEARS HAVE GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH CULMINATING IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PERFECT MUTUAL TRUST AND GOOD WILL ..... UNQUOTE.

THOUGH QUITE DIFFERENT IN OUR FORMS OF GOVERNMENT, IRAN AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE MANY COMMON GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS.

IRAN WAS THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RECEIVE AID UNDER THE UNITED STATES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AND THE



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FIRST TO TERMINATE AID A FEW YEARS LATER WITH MUTUAL TRUST, FRIENDSHIP, AND GOOD WILL. I AM HAPPY TO STATE THAT IRAN IS NOW IN FACT A DONOR NATION.

WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE AID YOU EXTENDED, WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED, AT A VERY CRITICAL TIME IN OUR HISTORY. IT WAS A TIME OF INTERNAL CHAOS AND TURMOIL. A TIME OF EXTERNAL THREAT AND DANGER. AND IRAN IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP IN THAT HOUR.

THIS IS A GREAT EXAMPLE OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN TWO NATIONS, WHICH HAS EXPANDED EVER SINCE.

LIKE THE UNITED STATES, IRAN IS DEDICATED TO THE BUILDING OF PEACE, TO THE EXPANSION OF COOPERATION AMONG NATIONS OF THE WORLD AND THE FULFILLMENT OF RISING HUMAN NEEDS. WE ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY OF INTERESTS AND PROMOTION OF WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE.

THESE ARE DEEP-ROOTED CONVICTIONS AMONG THE IRANIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR SOVEREIGN, THE SHAHANSHAH. WE LIVE BY THEM, AND IN OUR EVERYDAY ACTIONS, WE STRIVE TO MAKE THEM REAL. WE SEEK TO MOVE FORWARD, WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF IRAN AS A PROGRESSIVE AND HARD-WORKING SOCIETY. WE ARE DETERMINED TO RECAPTURE THE GLORIES OF

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IRAN'S PAST AND LAY THE FOUNDATION ONCE AGAIN FOR A GREAT CIVILIZATION.

\* \* \*

IN CLOSING, LET ME TAKE A MOMENT TO SPEAK TO YOU WITH CANDOR, AFFECTION, AND TRUST, AS A FRIEND WHO CAN SPEAK FROM THE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF IRANIAN HISTORY.

YOU, IN THIS GRADUATING CLASS, THIS NEW GENERATION OFTEN TEND TO BE CRITICAL OF YOUR SOCIETY. IT STEMS FROM A CERTAIN DEGREE OF MODESTY ABOUT YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT. THIS IS A HEALTHY ATTITUDE - AN OUTLOOK WHICH DESERVES PRAISE AND ADMIRATION. BUT, YOU SHOULD ALSO BE PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS. YOU HAVE THE HERITAGE OF AMERICA, WHICH WITHIN 200 YEARS HAS MOVED FROM THE FRONTIER TO THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL NATION. YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN ENORMOUS RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS SHORT PERIOD TO ENSURE CONTINUING PEACE IN THE WORLD. TO THIS, YOU HAVE MADE A LASTING CONTRIBUTION. I WOULD THEREFORE ASK YOU TO LOOK AT YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS ROLE WITH PRIDE AND OPTIMISM.

ON THE EVE OF THE TWO-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY OF YOUR NATION, YOU CAN LOOK AGAIN TO YOUR NATIONAL VIRTUES OF IDEALISM, COMPASSION, AND GENEROSITY TO OTHER NATIONS AND OTHER PEOPLES.

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DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE RESOURCES OF YOUR PEOPLE IN THEIR DEDICATION, THEIR LOYALTY, AND THEIR INNER SPIRIT. THESE ARE A GREATER SOURCE OF STRENGTH THAN YOU PERHAPS REALIZE. THIS WAS DEMONSTRATED SO CLEARLY IN WORLD WAR II IN THE SACRIFICES FOR YOUR OWN COUNTRY AND FOR THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

EVERY NATION HAS ITS PERIODS OF STRESS AND TRIAL. THESE ARE, IN TRUTH, ONLY MOMENTS IN THE LIFE OF YOUR NATION, — GO FORWARD, I URGE YOU, TO MEET ITS CHALLENGE.

TO YOU, THE MEMBERS OF THIS GRADUATING CLASS, ONE FURTHER WORD.

THERE IS IN THE UNITED STATES A COMMITMENT TO HARD WORK, SELF-DISCIPLINE, AND A RESPECT FOR DUTY AND MORALITY, WHICH YOU ARE TOO MODEST AT TIMES TO ADMIT.

YOU ARE AFRAID THAT THIS IS TOO MUCH ON THE SQUARE SIDE OF THINGS.

BELIEVE ME, THE ETERNAL VERITIES MAY SOUND A LITTLE CORNY, BUT THEY ARE ETERNAL JUST THE SAME. THEY HAVE A WAY OF RISING UP AGAIN AND AGAIN IN THE COURSE OF HISTORY.

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DO NOT BE AFRAID TO EMBRACE THEM. YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO WEAR THEM ON YOUR COAT SLEEVES. BUT YOU CAN  
CARRY THEM IN YOUR HEARTS.

THANK YOU.