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Presentation of Key to President Mitterand of France 7/13/89

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Dooley
(Lange/~~Wallace~~)
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[BASTILLE.DOC]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS:

PRESENTATION OF THE KEY TO THE BASTILLE
TO PRESIDENT MITTERRAND OF FRANCE
[PLACE ELYSSES]
THURSDAY, JULY 13, 1989
[TIME]

President Mitterrand. _____ . _____ . People of
France. ^{Today,} On the eve of the 200th anniversary of the storming of
the Bastille, I bring you a relic of revolution, ^{Symbol of the friendship and respect between} and a message
^{these two great men and our two great nations and} of hope.

The Marquis de Lafayette gave this key to George Washington,
as a gesture of admiration and respect. What brings me here
today is the ^{Friendship} admiration and respect shared by our two nations.

In America's House of Representatives, only two portraits
are hung: those of ^{George} Washington, the father of our ^{nation} country; and ^{the}
Lafayette, ^a the hero of ^{your country and ours,} two worlds. ~~It is right that the~~
^{Marquis de} portraits of those men watch over the proceedings of that
assembly.

But what binds our two countries goes beyond ^{→ (this relic of revolution beyond} great men and
institutions. The ties that ^{between} connect us are found in the ideals
that compel us. In the colors of our flags; in the fabrics of
our societies; in the nature of our progress toward ^{enduring}
shared ideals: we are two nations devoted to democracy.

Over two centuries ago, France ^{helped} made America ^{become} free. And in
this century, America returned the favor. Democracy developed --
and has endured -- in dialogue between our two nations.

^{France's} In France ⁱⁿ hour of need, America fought to
free ^{your nation} France from
the forces

This dialogue of democracy began with the great philosophers of the Enlightenment in France -- Voltaire, Montaigne, Rousseau, Montesquieu. Men whose faith in reason, and commitment to human progress, forged the key for the American Revolution.

set mankind on a common path of history

~~Our revolution came to be fought and won with the help of French ships, arms, money, and blood. And that revolution was founded on the same principles that opened the Bastille -- drove Lafayette to order its destruction -- and inspired the French Revolution.~~

There were, in those turbulent times, recurring complications over the means and motive of revolution. Many of them remain unresolved. But the democratic dialogue that began 200 years ago between France and the United States has been rich, constant, and enduring. It is as if two friends, walking down the same uncertain path ^{share a destiny -} ~~will~~ look to each other to see that their direction is true. And so we have. And so it has been.

Like all powerful ideas, revolution has the power to do great good -- or great evil.

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, first presented by Lafayette, was an eloquent assertion of the rights of liberty, property, security, and resistance to oppression. It was a magnificent document, that embodied some of mankind's highest ideals.

But that uncertain era also gave the world its first taste of ideology -- and political polarity. Our idea of "left" and

"right" first came from the pro- and anti-Revolutionary parties that sat on either side of the National Constituent Assembly.

And revolution has left an even harder legacy. Thomas Jefferson, looking back on the revolutionary convulsions of the revolution in France, wrote, "I did not, in '89, believe they would have lasted so long, nor have cost so much blood." What began in a hopeful moment led to a staggering loss of life.

Today -- in Eastern Europe, in China, ^{around the world} ~~in Latin America~~ -- we also see the potential for great good, and great evil.

The same high hopes and aspirations ~~for democracy~~ that led ~~to the French and American Revolutions~~ ^{to your nation's rise in glory for liberty}, now appear to motivate the people of Eastern Europe.

The same blood that once was shed on the shores of the New World -- and was shed by torchlight on palace walls and in the dark, angry streets of Paris 200 years ago tomorrow -- this year stained Tiananmen Square, and the streets of Panama City.

Today, the idea of revolution must be re-defined. We must learn from the losses of history, so that the lives of the forebears of freedom were not lost in vain. This generation must be the first to make the movement toward democracy not through loss of life, but through change of heart. ^{and mind}

For we believe that freed ~~x~~ minds make for freed peoples. That brutality will never kill the ideals of equality. ^{liberty} And that the rights of man will never surrender to the wrong end of a gun.

We have heard the cry for freedom, and in this we must be determined and steadfast: Let the desire for democracy motivate

a bloodless revolution. Let us work for a revolution not of blood and armaments, but of hearts and minds.

When I was inaugurated as America's President, I said that "the day of the dictator is over." ~~But while such ideas may be imposed by force, far better that they fulfill themselves.~~ *deliberate*

Our two nations continue to believe in the limitless human potential and progress first given voice in the Enlightenment. As we now commence a third century of this shared experiment, we must come to understand that in order for freedom and democracy to flourish, the best action... is example.

There is a middle way, where liberty is neither born in senseless violence -- nor stillborn in oppression -- but evolves from the steadfast, enduring efforts of free people everywhere.

There is a chance for us now, ~~to move from revolution, to~~ *to actual democracy. The cause of democracy* ~~evolution~~ through the will and works of people who believe that mankind can improve, that life can be better, that freedom can prosper: that people can and must continue to hope for a voice in their futures and their fates.

This is our prayer -- for Eastern Europe, for China, for ~~Latin America~~ *all people everywhere:* It is for a return to the power of the individual -- for the return of the key, to those still struggling for freedom.

Ancient regimes may live on, or rest in the texts of history. The dust of the dead may be reviled, or revered. But the ideas of freedom lived and fought for -- ideas that celebrate

the centrality and sanctity of humanity -- will never die, but always live, in the hearts and minds of the people.

To President Mitterand -- to the people of France -- ~~but~~
~~most of all, to all who yearn for democracy and ~~will not be~~ denied~~

the key is in your hands. Bear it with courage, ~~and~~ with care,

Thank you. God bless you. May God bless America... and

Vive la France!

* * *

and in trust
for men
& women
everywhere
whose
striving
for democ.
freedom
will not
be denied

gates of the
barrillo swung
open.

man's quest for liberty —
liberty, equality, fraternity — of opportunity
key metaphor —