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SALINAS

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: SALINAS TOAST
STATE DINING ROOM
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1989

President and Mrs. Salinas, Honored guests, Ladies and gentlemen.

It is indeed a privilege for Barbara and I to have you as our guest. Many times, your country has extended to us that kindness for which Mexico is famous. Tonight, we are honored to return that favor -- and to welcome you to the White House.

More than __ years ago, a great Mexican __ spoke of the urgency of time. "Four things come not back," said __. "The spoken word; the sped arrow; time past; the neglected opportunity."

Well, this evening I want to use this opportunity to salute the great leader of a great country. My new friend -- but already a good friend. And his Nation that in times both "past" and present, is the friend of all America.

Mr. President, an old American hymn reminds us: "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Well, the special relationship between the United States and Mexico is bound by many ties.

Those ties include our 2,000-mile border, and billions of dollars of two-way trade. They are military and educational,

political and economic. Our ties rest on respect and maturity, communication and consultation. And cherish the values which link our cultures -- values of faith, family, and respect for tradition.

As a young man, Mr. President, you came to grasp these ties. For you have studied in the United States. You know us well. I am -- perhaps -- not so young a man. But I, too, revere them. For as a Texan I've lived side-by-side with Mexico. I think I know you well.

Such understanding leads to trust. And such trust can lead to progress.

Already, we have done much. For from its earliest days, your Administration has acted as our neighbor, and equal partner. And known that by applying our resources to common problems, we can ensure a richer life for all. Now, let us do more.

By increasing bilateral trade, let us achieve economic growth to match the rise in our population. And by joining hands, expand the cooperation embodied by a century of joint engineering projects by the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Together, let us enhance investment opportunity. And the environment along our border. Let us support democracy in our hemisphere -- and, thus, regional security and stability. And toward that goal, let us reaffirm the national priority that is a hemispheric crusade. For unless we defeat drug use and trafficking, we will help rob our children of their dreams.

There is an ancient proverb which goes, "God guides whom He wills toward a straight path." Mr. President, let our path be straight and true. Affirming all that which unites us. Combating that which divides us. And so enrich this generation -- and all the generations to come.

In that spirit, I ask all of our guests tonight to rise and raise their glasses:

- To Mexican-American friendship;
- To a better world for our children, and all children;
- And to the health and happiness of my friend and colleague, the President of Mexico.

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