

FOREWORD

THESE ARE the papers for the first year of my second term as President—a term that was not to be completed. The scholars and citizens who read these Presidential Papers for 1973 will find much insight and information in them. Here is the written record of a momentous year in the life of the Republic. Here are the words which described and defined our attempts to ensure limited government and fiscal responsibility at home, and to pursue peace through negotiation rather than confrontation around the world.

But memory, too, has a part to play in history, and I think that the story of this year especially, cannot be told without an understanding of the great tides of opinion and emotion which flowed during these twelve months. No words can convey our sadness at the death of Lyndon Johnson just three days before the end of the Vietnam War.

No words can express the excitement of the beginning of a whole new era of earth-oriented space research with the launching of the Skylab space station. And no words can contain the pride we felt when the first prisoners of war returning from North Vietnam stepped from the plane and kissed the soil of America.

In the Administration, we had looked forward to nineteen seventy-three as a year of beginnings and renewal. In my Second Inaugural Address, I described the conditions at home and abroad which more than ever called for a new application of the old principles of strength, restraint, compassion, and common sense.

On January 23rd, we were able to announce the end of America's longest and costliest and most divisive war. For the first time in more than a decade, no Americans would be serving or fighting in Vietnam, and our prisoners of war would at last be returned to us.

At home, we began the second Administration with a still more vigorous attempt to reorganize the unwieldy Federal government. We tried to make the Executive Branch more efficient and functional by the bold and, I believe, farsighted Reorganization Plan of 1973. Since the corollary of a more responsible and responsive

Federal government is more vital and viable local government, we continued our efforts to secure the passage of Special Revenue Sharing programs which would help return the power of government to the people of this country.

The documents which tell this story best are the texts of the six separate State of the Union messages which were sent to Congress, and the corresponding radio addresses to the Nation covering each of the critical areas of Natural Resources and the Environment, the Economy, Human Resources, Community Development, and Law Enforcement and Drug Abuse Prevention.

Here, we felt, was an opportunity for the government and the people to use the three years leading to America's Bicentennial to revive and restore the principles of individual enterprise, personal responsibility, and limited government that were the legacy of the Founders to us.

After too many years of accepting massive deficits as inevitable or even desirable, we were determined in this second term to instill the Federal government in general and Congress in particular, with a new sense of budget discipline and responsibility. This important fight can be followed through several messages and radio addresses, news conferences, and finally, in various veto statements.

In June, General Secretary Brezhnev returned the Summit visit we had made to the Soviet Union a year earlier. In Washington and in San Clemente, California, we had the widest-ranging discussions with a particular emphasis on arms control.

In October, Vice President Agnew resigned his Office, and I appointed Congressman Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed him.

Still in October, American diplomacy moved to play a central role in bringing the Yom Kippur War between Israel and her Arab neighbors to an however uneasy end. One consequence of this war was to dramatize for the American people the new era of international interdependence in which we now live. Within just a few weeks, an oil embargo made us realize how much we depend upon outside sources for much of our fuel and energy supplies. The Administration submitted Emergency Energy legislation to cover the crisis, and announced "Project Independence," an on-going

program aimed at energy self-sufficiency for America by the end of the decade.

Nineteen seventy-three was also the year in which Watergate became the major focus of the nation's attention. The episode broadened and widened so quickly that each attempt on my part to deal with it led me and my Administration deeper and deeper into a tangled web of suspicion and confusion. Some of the Watergate documents in this volume raise profound and important Constitutional questions of executive privilege and the doctrine of the separation of powers. Others, however, reflect the mistakes and misjudgments of the way I dealt with Watergate. But they too are part of the record.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Richard Nixon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.