

because the perils we face are so ominous that a failure to overcome them may well seal the fate of mankind.

On an earlier visit to Mexico I had occasion to visit Oaxaca and there to see the giant "Tree of Tule". I was told of its age -- 3,000 years, the oldest living thing in Mexico, one of the oldest in the western hemisphere. This tree was witness to the prime of the Zapotec and Mixtec civilizations, was ancient long before Cortez arrived, has silently observed the painful struggle for independence, is now watching the efforts of your Government, Mr. President, to bring to your people and to all peoples a more equitable share of the benefits of life in the twentieth century.

If we are wise and prudent in our nuclear policies, if we are imaginative and innovative in our economic policies, if -- above all -- we are tolerant and generous in our attitudes toward others, the "Tree of Tule" will live through this dangerous age. It will survive the current environmental hazards that face us all and future historians will recount this period as one of the most stimulating and accomplished of all human endeavour.

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