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Remarks of His Royal Highness the Prince Charles, Prince of Wales upon Dedication of the New Cleveland-Marshall College of Law Building

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REMARKS OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCE CHARLES, PRINCE OF WALES
UPON DEDICATION OF THE NEW
CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW BUILDING

May I say what a great honor it is to have been invited to be present here today for the dedication of this new school of law in the company of such distinguished people as Governor Rhodes, and all sorts of others too numerous to mention. Finding myself in this famous law school today brings to mind those close ties which for over three centuries have linked Britain and the United States in so many different ways. Chief among these ties has been our reverence of the law. American law, after all, sprang from English common law. British cases are still referred to in American legal judgments. In addition, John Marshall, founder of the United States Supreme Court in its present form and after whom this school was named, was of English descent.

When asked to suggest an appropriate British contribution to the celebration of the two-hundredth anniversary of American independence last year, the United States Congress chose, without hesitation, to ask for the loan of one of the original copies of the Magna Carta. At the Magna Carta ceremony last June, Britain's Lord Chancellor said that fundamental among our common values is the principle of the rule of law, expressed in the words of your President John Adams and incorporated in the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights; a government of laws and not of men.

Our Magna Carta and Bill of Rights, and your Declaration of Independence and Constitution, have mingled to a certain extent to form a joint heritage which has served as an inspiration and as an ideal, not only to our two countries but to many others as well. There are occasions, one cannot help feeling, when people are inclined to forget John Adams' wise dictum that a government should be of laws and not men. I believe we ignore that dictum at our peril, for without that belief we are in severe danger of sacrificing our freedom and the liberty of the individual, not to mention those basic human rights so essential to the continuance of our democratic traditions of which those who operate and understand the law are basically the guardians.

These ties, legal and otherwise, which bind our two countries together have endured through a war of independence and two world wars in the course of the last 200 years. These bonds of friendship, language, and mutual respect are what makes it possible for me to come to the United States and receive such a warm and extraordinarily friendly welcome. It is a heartwarming and encouraging indication of the relationship which exists, and will I hope continue to exist, between Britain and the United States.

DEDICATION

TEXT OF COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

*In recognition of the visit of
His Royal Highness
The Prince Charles, Prince of Wales,
to Cleveland State University
on October 20, 1977,
during the Inaugural Year of this building.
The dedication of this plaque commemorates
the historical bonds between
the British and American legal systems
and marks the first official visit to
the City of Cleveland
by a member of the British Royal Family.
Done this 20th day of October 1977 AD*

