

Transcript

No.

President Trump and the First Lady Participate  
in a State Banquet (Windsor Castle) September 17, 2025

1 **King Charles III:** Mr. President, Mrs. Trump,  
2 it is with great pleasure that my wife and I welcome  
3 you to Windsor Castle on this your second state  
4 visit to the United Kingdom.  
5 This unique and important occasion reflects the  
6 enduring bond between our two great nations,  
7 anchored by the deep friendship between our  
8 people.  
9 This relationship, which with good reason, we and  
10 our predecessors have long called special, has made  
11 us safer and stronger through the generations.  
12 Our people have fought and died together for the  
13 values we hold dear.  
14 We have innovated, traded and created together,  
15 fueling our economies and cultures through myriad  
16 forms of exchange.  
17 We have celebrated together, mourned  
18 together, and stood together in the best and  
19 worst of times.  
20 Mr. President, as we approach the 250th  
21 anniversary of the Declaration of  
22 Independence next year, it is remarkable to think  
23 just how far we have come.  
24 I cannot help but wonder what our forebears from  
25 1776 would make of this friendship today.  
26 The rebel commander and pioneering first President  
27 George Washington famously vowed never to set foot on  
28 British soil.

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29	And my five-times great-grandfather, King
30	George III, for his part, did not spare his words
31	when he spoke of the revolutionary leaders.
32	Today, however, we celebrate a relationship
33	between our two countries that surely neither
34	Washington nor King George III could possibly have
35	imagined.
36	The ocean may still divide us, but in so many other
37	ways, we are now the closest of kin.
38	Mr. President, you have spoken of your pride in
39	your British roots.
40	In fact, not only have you set foot on British soil
41	twice in the last two months alone, but I
42	understand that British soil makes for rather
43	splendid golf courses.
44	Now, for my part, I have always admired the
45	ingenuity of the American people and the principles
46	of freedom, which your great democracy has
47	represented since its inception.
48	Throughout my life, from the very first visit to
49	the United States in 1970 and over 20 visits since
50	that time, I have cherished the close ties
51	between the British and American people.
52	In fact, had the media succeeded in the 1970s in
53	their own attempt at deepening the special
54	relationship, I myself might have been married
55	off within the Nixon family.
56	Mr. President from York to New York, from Birmingham,

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57	England to Birmingham, Alabama, we are united by
58	a common language and shared heritage.
59	The many thousands of people from each of our
60	countries who have made the other their home have
61	enriched our societies immeasurably.
62	The fact that gives me the greatest pride.
63	Our cultural connections too continue to flourish
64	with our actors, musicians, writers, and
65	television presenters prospering in the hearts
66	of transatlantic audiences.
67	Today, our alliance spans every field of endeavor
68	and shows vast potential for growth.
69	The United Kingdom was your partner in the first
70	trade deal of your administration,
71	Mr. President, bringing jobs and growth to both
72	our countries.
73	And no doubt we can go even further as we build
74	this new era of our partnership.
75	Our two nations have an exceptional legacy of
76	shared discovery.
77	Together we laid the foundations of nuclear
78	science, mapped the human genome, and built the
79	internet upon which all contemporary commerce,
80	communication and defense is based.
81	Together, our scientists and engineers are shaping
82	the world of tomorrow, not least, with new
83	partnership agreements on technology and the
84	prosperity that stands to bring.

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85	Our countries have the closest defense, security,
86	and intelligence relationship ever known.
87	In two world wars, we fought together to defeat
88	the forces of tyranny.
89	Today, as tyranny once again threatens Europe, we
90	and our allies stand together in support of
91	Ukraine to deter aggression and secure
92	peace.
93	And our AUKUS submarine partnership with Australia
94	sets the benchmark for innovative and vital
95	collaboration.
96	The successes of the British Red Coats and of
97	George Washington's continental army today
98	stand shoulder to shoulder, brothers and
99	sisters in arms protecting the freedoms we both
100	cherish.
101	Our countries are working together in support of
102	crucial diplomatic efforts, not least of
103	which Mr. President is your own personal
104	commitment to finding solutions to some of the
105	world's most intractable conflicts in order to
106	secure peace.
107	In striving for a better world, we also have a
108	precious opportunity to safeguard and to restore
109	the wonders and beauty of nature for the generations
110	who follow us.
111	We share the ambition and determination to preserve
112	our majestic lands and waters, above all, to

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<b>113</b>	ensure that we have clean water, clean air, and
<b>114</b>	clean food.
<b>115</b>	Our legacy for the next 250 years and beyond is to
<b>116</b>	ensure that our children, grandchildren, and those
<b>117</b>	who come after them, can experience the awe and
<b>118</b>	magnificence of the natural treasures found in
<b>119</b>	the countryside, on the coasts, in the seas, and
<b>120</b>	in the national parks established by your
<b>121</b>	predecessors and mine.
<b>122</b>	Mr. President, Mrs. Trump, the bond between our two
<b>123</b>	nations is indeed a remarkable one.
<b>124</b>	Forged in the fire of conflict, it has been
<b>125</b>	fortified through our shared endeavors and
<b>126</b>	burnished by the deep affection between our
<b>127</b>	people.
<b>128</b>	Tested time and again, it has borne the weight of
<b>129</b>	our common purpose and raised our ambition for a
<b>130</b>	better world.
<b>131</b>	So in renewing our bond tonight, we do so with
<b>132</b>	unshakable trust in our friendship and in our
<b>133</b>	shared commitment to independence and liberty.
<b>134</b>	Therefore, as we celebrate this unparalleled
<b>135</b>	partnership, allow me to propose a toast to
<b>136</b>	President Trump and the First Lady, and to the
<b>137</b>	health, prosperity and happiness of the people of
<b>138</b>	the United States of America.
<b>139</b>	♪ ("The Star Spangled Banner") ♪
<b>140</b>	(applause)

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<b>141</b>	<b>President Trump:</b> Your Majesty, Melania and I
<b>142</b>	are deeply grateful to you and Queen Camilla for your
<b>143</b>	extraordinary graciousness.
<b>144</b>	And to William and Kate, thank you so much.
<b>145</b>	It's been so great being with you today.
<b>146</b>	Thank you very much.
<b>147</b>	Appreciate it.
<b>148</b>	It's a singular privilege to be the first American
<b>149</b>	president welcomed here.
<b>150</b>	And if you think about it, it's a lot of presidents,
<b>151</b>	and this was the second state visit.
<b>152</b>	And that's the first, and maybe that's going to be
<b>153</b>	the last time.
<b>154</b>	I hope it is actually.
<b>155</b>	But this is truly one of the highest honors of my
<b>156</b>	life.
<b>157</b>	Such respect for you and such respect for your
<b>158</b>	country.
<b>159</b>	For many decades, His Majesty The King, has
<b>160</b>	epitomized the fortitude, nobility, and the spirit
<b>161</b>	of the British monarchy and the British people.
<b>162</b>	He's dedicated himself to preserving the glory and
<b>163</b>	unique character of this kingdom, restoring life to
<b>164</b>	the rivers and streams, supporting the works of
<b>165</b>	its artists and composers, planting trees and gardens
<b>166</b>	in its countryside.
<b>167</b>	And I just visited one of the most beautiful I've
<b>168</b>	ever seen that you just completed.

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<b>169</b>	And protecting the architectural integrity of
<b>170</b>	cities, villages, and towns.
<b>171</b>	He has uplifted the poor, cared for rural farmers
<b>172</b>	and tended to wounded veterans like nobody else.
<b>173</b>	I'll tell you that I just stood in line and shook
<b>174</b>	about 150 hands, and the King knew every single
<b>175</b>	person and every single company.
<b>176</b>	And some of them had bad names, like XYZ-Q3, and he
<b>177</b>	knew every one of them, or at least I think he did
<b>178</b>	because nobody was complaining.
<b>179</b>	I was very impressed with that.
<b>180</b>	But I just want to say that His Majesty has also
<b>181</b>	raised a remarkable son, in his Royal Highness
<b>182</b>	Prince of Wales.
<b>183</b>	Really amazing.
<b>184</b>	We've gotten to know you and I think you're going
<b>185</b>	to have an unbelievable success and future.
<b>186</b>	Melania and I are delighted to visit again
<b>187</b>	with Prince William and to see her Royal Highness
<b>188</b>	Princess Catherine, so radiant and so healthy, so
<b>189</b>	beautiful.
<b>190</b>	It's really a great honor.
<b>191</b>	Thank you.
<b>192</b>	Many years ago, His Majesty opened his
<b>193</b>	archives to a biographer.
<b>194</b>	Among the documents was a letter from 1993 in which
<b>195</b>	he described the patriotism and guided as
<b>196</b>	many projects.

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197	He wrote that he was, quote, "Entirely motivated
198	by a desperate desire to put the great back into
199	Great Britain." In the finest tradition of
200	British sovereigns, he has given his whole heart,
201	everything he's got, to those parts of Britain
202	that are beyond the realm of mere legislation...
203	it's not easy...
204	but which define its essence and its virtue,
205	its harmony and its soul.
206	It's an amazing calling, and there's nobody that's
207	answered that calling like you have.
208	And fifth of all, if humanity speaks, writes,
209	thinks, and prays in the language born on these
210	isles, and perfected in the pages of Shakespeare
211	and Dickens and Tolkien and Lewis, Orwell and
212	Kipling.
213	Incredible people, unbelievable people like
214	we have rarely seen before, probably won't see
215	again.
216	The lionhearted people of this kingdom defeated
217	Napoleon, unleashed the Industrial Revolution,
218	destroyed slavery and defended civilization in
219	the darkest days of fascism and communism.
220	The British gave the world the Magna Carta, the
221	modern parliament and Francis Bacon's scientific
222	method.
223	They gave us the works of Locke, Hobbes, Smith and
224	Burke, Newton and Blackstone.

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**225** The legal, intellectual, cultural and political  
**226** traditions of this kingdom have been among the  
**227** highest achievements of mankind.  
**228** There's really never been anything like it.  
**229** The British Empire laid the foundations of law,  
**230** liberty, free speech and individual rights  
**231** virtually everywhere the Union Jack has ever flown,  
**232** including a place called America.  
**233** You know that place very well, don't you?  
**234** His Majesty spoke eloquently about the bond  
**235** which inspired Sir Winston Churchill...  
**236** And the bust is in the Oval Office right now, the  
**237** beautiful bust of Winston Churchill...  
**238** to coin the phrase special relationship.  
**239** But seen from American eyes, the word special  
**240** does not begin to do it justice.  
**241** We're joined by history and fate, by love and  
**242** language, and by transcendent ties of  
**243** culture, tradition, ancestry and destiny.  
**244** We're like two notes in one chord or two verses of  
**245** the same poem, each beautiful on its own, but  
**246** really meant to be played together.  
**247** The bond of kinship and identity between America  
**248** and the United Kingdom is priceless and eternal.  
**249** It's irreplaceable and unbreakable.  
**250** And we are, as a country, as you know, doing  
**251** unbelievably well.  
**252** We had a very sick country one year ago, and today I

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<b>253</b>	believe we're the hottest country anywhere in the
<b>254</b>	world.
<b>255</b>	In fact, nobody's even questioning it.
<b>256</b>	But we owe so much of that to you and the footing
<b>257</b>	that you gave us when we started.
<b>258</b>	Together, we've done more good for humanity than any
<b>259</b>	two countries in all of history.
<b>260</b>	Together, we must defend the exceptional heritage
<b>261</b>	that makes us who we are.
<b>262</b>	And we must continue to stand for the values and
<b>263</b>	the people of the English-speaking world.
<b>264</b>	And we do indeed stand for that.
<b>265</b>	On behalf of all Americans, I offer a toast
<b>266</b>	to one of the great friendships, to two great
<b>267</b>	countries, and to His Majesty King Charles III,
<b>268</b>	a very, very special man, and also a very, very
<b>269</b>	Special Queen.
<b>270</b>	Thank you very much.
<b>271</b>	Thank you.
<b>272</b>	Thank you very much.
<b>273</b>	It's a great honor to be with you.
<b>274</b>	♪ ("The Star Spangled Banner") ♪
<b>275</b>	(applause)