

**THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON**

Excellency:

As I began my tenure as Secretary of State, I looked forward to upholding the long-standing tradition of celebrating Independence Day with the Diplomatic Corps. This annual celebration reinforces the partnerships between our nations and our collective efforts defending democracy and human rights around the world. Even though we will not be able to be together in-person this year, know that I am excited to gather and engage with the Diplomatic Corps in the near future.

For myself and all my fellow Americans, the Fourth of July is a reminder of the weight the principles of freedom, equality, and liberty hold, both here in the United States and abroad. Much like my family and me, I hope you will find time to honor these principles and safely commemorate this day with family and friends.

I await the opportunity to welcome both you and your family to the U.S. Department of State but remain grateful for the work that you continue to do to advance the common goals between our nations.

Please enjoy this weekend, and I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday. Happy Fourth of July!

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Antony Blinken