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THE WHITE HOUSE

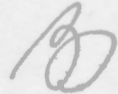
WASHINGTON

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY FOR THOMAS S. GATES, JR.  
AS CHIEF OF OUR LIAISON OFFICE IN THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Wednesday, April 14, 1976

12:30 p.m. (20 minutes)

Rose Garden

From: Brent Scowcroft 

I. PURPOSE

To confer on Thomas S. Gates, Jr. the rank of Ambassador as he assumes the position of Chief of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking; and to publicly reaffirm your continuing support for the process of US-PRC normalization.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS, AND PRESS PLAN

- A. Background: Tom Gates had his confirmation hearing on the Hill on March 30. The Senate confirmed him for the rank of Ambassador on April 1. Our previous Liaison Office Chiefs, Ambassadors David Bruce and George Bush, had the personal rank of Ambassador prior to their assignments in Peking. By conferring this rank on Mr. Gates, we are reaffirming the importance we attach to our relationship with Peking.
- B. Participants: Ambassador and Mrs. Gates, Secretary Kissinger, Brent Scowcroft, PRC Liaison Office Acting Chief Han Hsu. (A complete list of the participants is at Tab A.)
- C. Press Plan: Press pool coverage.

III. TALKING POINTS

Remarks at Tab B.

GUEST LIST

Ambassador and Mrs. Thomas Gates  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Ponce (daughter and son-in-law)  
Thomas G. Ponce (grandson)  
Mr. and Mrs. William K. Norris (daughter and son-in-law)  
Polly F. Norris (granddaughter)  
Sandra Norris (granddaughter)  
Mrs. Katharine Scott (daughter)  
Sara C. Scott (granddaughter)  
Christopher Scott (grandson)  
Miss Katharine C. Brengle (niece)

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger  
Director of Central Intelligence George Bush  
Chief of Protocol Henry Catto  
Brent Scowcroft

PRC

Han Hsu, Deputy Chief of the PRC Liaison Office in Washington  
Miss Shen Jo-yun, PRC Liaison Office in Washington



PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS FOR THE SWEARING-IN OF  
THOMAS S. GATES, JR. [Cleared by Mr. Hartman's Office]

Tom and Millicent Gates, Ambassador Han, distinguished  
guests, ladies and gentlemen:

Let me welcome all of you to this ceremony conferring  
on Tom Gates the rank of Ambassador as he assumes the position of  
Chief of our Liaison Office in Peking. This is a measure of the  
importance that we attach to our growing relationship with the  
People's Republic of China.

Tom is inheriting a well established tradition of excellence  
in his new position. Ambassadors David Bruce and George Bush  
served their country extremely well in this very important assign-  
ment. The Nation is grateful for their service, and we are honored  
by Ambassador Bush's presence here today.

The process of normalizing relations with the People's  
Republic of China, in which Ambassador Gates will play a vital role



is now well underway. Our two countries have differences which neither side attempts to hide, but we also share many important interests which provide the foundation for a durable and growing relationship.

Through the constructive dialogue between our two countries, now in its fifth year, we are now able to strengthen opportunities for cooperation and parallel action on many global issues. We share a common concern that the world remain free from domination by military force or intimidation, and that all nations have the opportunity to develop along their own unique paths.



At the same time, both sides understand the importance of continuing the process of normalization of relations through joint efforts based on the Shanghai Communique. I stressed in my speech in Honolulu last December, just after returning from Peking, the determination of my Administration to complete

the normalization process. This will serve the interests of our two peoples, and contribute to the cause of a more stable world order.

Tom Gates has a long and distinguished record of public service to our country and involvement in the global concerns of the United States. During his tenure as Secretary of Defense, he fully realized that America must pursue a policy of peace through strength.

The security problems which the United States faces have become increasingly subtle and complex since the period of the second World War -- when we served together in the Navy.

The United States must continue to adapt its foreign policy to changing circumstances; and our pursuit of a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship with the People's Republic





remains a cardinal element in our efforts to adjust to this more complex world.

As you prepare to depart for Peking, Tom, I am confident that you will do an outstanding job of representing the views of the United States. During your tenure in Peking, you will add another chapter of distinguished service to the record of your predecessors.

Now it is my honor to introduce Mr. Justice \_\_\_\_\_, who will administer the oath of office.

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