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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN *S. O. J.*
Don

AMBASSADOR DE STAERCKE'S REMARKS
AT NAC, OCTOBER 15, 1974
ON DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD

In the course of my long career, never before has it been so difficult for me to bid farewell. Saddened is my heart, divided my mind, befogged my vision. And yet . . . one must be resigned. "Well, my soul, t'is time to go . . ." said Descartes as he was dying. Ah, yes . . . t'is time to go, since it is now a certainty, Ambassador Rumsfeld is really going--henceforth, the Council will be deprived of his presence.

He arrived hardly two years ago, endowed with radiant youth, in itself, an overwhelming asset. In just a few days he had grasped the full meaning of the Alliance and what could be the future of Europe. His interpretation of the complex and changing scene he was witnessing for the first time and the picture he projected back to us of what he saw, proved the meticulous care taken to portray an attractive and authentic likeness.

Tireless worker, outstanding debater, always crowning disagreement with a smile--and what an engaging smile!--in complete mastery of himself as well as of his files--illustrated by the fact that the files were always laid aside--thus he became truly master of his subjects.

What strikes one particularly about Don Rumsfeld, is that he displays no feeling of superiority. In his view, the power of the United States--strongest partner of the Alliance--NDgives more weight to positions taken than that justified by his reasoning.

He sustained the principle of equal rights which we had established, by the fairness of his approach. Thus, by weakening the strong because of their strength, he fortified the weak because of their weakness--and therein lies the harmony of our debates, the spirit of our consultations. What a long way we have travelled with him! The Alliance has taken a new lease on life; reasserted its vitality both in its defensive role and political significance--looking toward the future whilst recognizing the difficulties of the present--pursuing, along two parallel tracks, our singleness of purpose--the unity of the Atlantic Alliance. Spurred on in this tremendous undertaking by the will to accomplish quantum jumps and opening new vistas for the future . . . all these avenues we have trodden with Don Rumsfeld with his assistance, his insight, climaxed recently in an Ottawa Declaration which embodies our hopes.

Benefitting from his indefatigable drive, his dynamic personality, we have worked together--alas, for too short, far too short a time--to safeguard the deep-rooted purpose of the Alliance, its most vital asset--Peace--not just any kind of peace, but what Cicero defined in his Philippics, using a casual little phrase that still tugs at our heartstrings: Pax est tranquilla libertas--Peace is tranquil liberty. Because he contributed so efficiently to this tranquility in liberty with all the resources of his great country, we express our gratitude to our American colleague.

I must confess also, Mr. Chairman, that I looked, first with interest, then with affection, at a man in whom I saw the glowing dawn . . .

of a new destiny. We know that Fate is a woman . . . she favors young men! However, having ascertained this not unusual fact, my curiosity went further. I sought in his character qualities helpful to Lady Fortune, and detected two which undeniably strengthened the hand of Fate. The first is a political approach capable of a universal dimension. However petty the circumstances attendant upon a battle, one needs must stand back with detachment, able to consider the confusion from above, and constantly set one's sights at higher levels. The second quality favored by the gods is the ability to add a human touch to matters of moment. The very ruthlessness of events brings out a respect for others which fascinates as does renown. Along the path of a life destined to be outstanding, may these two virtues, broadness of vision, and human kindness continue to be a driving force. If proof were needed that man is a political animal, Don Rumsfeld would personify that proof: And if we required conviction that this were good, he again would serve as an example. He and also his family. Imbued with that civic pride which dedicates all Americans to the service of their country as being the most obvious of duties, he and all his family accept, quite naturally, all its demands.

I had the privilege of spending with the Rumsfeld's that fateful night of August 8 when Mr. Ford became President of the United States. The Rumsfeld's had just arrived at my little house in Provence, filling it with animation. What should have been the beginning of a quiet stay, suddenly ended after a sleepless night. Call after call

came in from the Washington Olympus, changing my guests' holiday into a new departure. And there, I observed the true character of Joyce Rumsfeld. I knew her as an exquisite, charming woman, warm and spontaneous, her beauty completing the picture of a happy, handsome couple. I observed her during these difficult moments-- just as lively, just as vivacious as ever, but poised, self-contained, conquering her fatigue, helping her children to give silent support to their father. Her quiet strength, graced with a smile, cementing the unity which surrounded the father's destiny. And when we separated at dawn, completely exhausted, they to depart, I to remain . . . In the rosy dawn of a new day, suddenly there came to my mind these words of Euripedes: "He who gives his assent to Fate is a wise man who understands things divine."

And, since Fate is in attendance here this afternoon, I must needs bow to her pleasure. After a lengthy detour, I come now to the presentation of this Silver Bowl. Herein are assembled all the wishes of the Council for the future career of Don Rumsfeld. Having successfully cleared many difficult hurdles, his gifts and talents will be guiding him during these most critical times, through light and darkness, along the corridors of power.

If we were to find some consolation for the shortness of his sojourn among us, it would be in his success, forerunner of more and greater successes to come. In this Silver Bowl, we place the Alliance and its Fate. May its memory remain with him in the happy days we wish for him and for ourselves.

As for our affection, this, he may rest assured, will last forever.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 18, 1974

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: JERRY H. JONES *JH*

The attached was returned in the President's outbox and is forwarded for your information.

cc: Don Rumsfeld