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Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSEBIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON
DONALD RUMSFELD

Donald Rumsfeld was appointed Assistant to the President by President Ford on September 27, 1974. In this capacity, he serves as a member of the Cabinet, Director of the White House Office of Operations, and Coordinator of the White House Staff. Previously, he headed President Ford's transition team in August of 1974.

Mr. Rumsfeld was born on July 9, 1932 in Chicago, Illinois. He received a B. A. in Politics from Princeton University in 1954. He served in the U. S. Navy as a naval aviator from 1954-1957.

Mr. Rumsfeld became active in government in 1958 when he worked as Administrative Assistant to Congressman Dave Dennison of Ohio. In 1959, he became a Staff Assistant to then Congressman Robert Griffin of Michigan. From 1960 to 1962, he was with the Chicago investment banking firm of A. G. Becker and Company.

In 1962, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives from the Thirteenth District of Illinois to serve in the Eighty-Eighth Congress. He was re-elected by large majorities in 1964, 1966, and 1968. In the Congress, he served on the Joint Economic Committee, the Committee on Science and Aeronautics, and the Government Operations Committee, and the Subcommittees on Military and Foreign Operations. He was also a co-founder of the Japanese-American Inter-Parliamentary Council.

In 1969, he resigned his seat in the House to join the Cabinet as an Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity. In December of 1970, he was named Counsellor to the President and in October 1971, he was appointed Director of the Cost of Living Council.

Mr. Rumsfeld was named United States Ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in February 1973. He served as the United States' Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council and the Defense Planning Committee, and the Nuclear Planning Group. In this responsibility, he represented the United States on a wide range of military and diplomatic matters.

Mr. Rumsfeld has received honorary degrees in law from Park College (Mo.); Lake Forest College (Ill.), and Illinois College (Ill.). Additional awards include the Opportunities Industrial Center's Executive Government Award and the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award.

Mr. Rumsfeld was married to the former Joyce Pierson of Wilmette, Illinois in 1954. They have two daughters, Valerie (19) and Marcy (15), and a son, Nicholas (8).

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