

The original documents are located in Box 135, folder “July 1, 1974 - Speech, American Foreign Service Association, Department of State, Washington, DC” of the Gerald R. Ford Vice Presidential Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION
DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOM, DEPARTMENT OF STATE
12:30 P.M., MONDAY, JULY 1, 1974

IT IS ESPECIALLY APPROPRIATE THAT WE MEET TODAY TO
CELEBRATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE
UNITED STATES. OUR PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE ARE IN THE
SOVIET UNION ON A MISSION OF HIGH DIPLOMACY IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE.
THEIR EFFORTS ARE SUPPORTED AND FACILITATED BY THE WORK OF THE
11,000 MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR FOREIGN SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

You can rest assured That - 2 -

I AM VERY PLEASED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO A HALF-CENTURY OF
ACHIEVEMENT AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE FOREIGN SERVICE.



THE UNITED STATES AND ITS DIPLOMACY GREW TOGETHER, TODAY,
YOUR SERVICE IS TOO LITTLE KNOWN, TOO MUCH IGNORED, AND TOO MUCH
SCAPEGOATED.



AS YOU CELEBRATE 50 YEARS AS A CAREER SERVICE, WE LOOK
BACK PROUDLY ON YOUR RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT, OF COURAGE, AND OF
SACRIFICE. THE GREAT PROFESSIONALS -- MEN LIKE MURPHY, BOHLEN,
THOMPSON, AND KENNAN -- LEFT THEIR MARK ON OUR TIMES. THE HEADLINES
GO TO A FEW, BUT COUNTLESS OTHERS HAVE SERVED, AND CONTINUE TO SERVE,

THE UNITED STATES WITH GREAT DISTINCTION. *Several quite recently*
have made the supreme sacrifice just as our
men in ^{military} uniform have done so on the field of battle.



THIS ADMINISTRATION, LIKE OTHER ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE
LAST FIFTY YEARS, CONTINUES TO RELY UPON THE FOREIGN SERVICE FOR THE
DESIGN AND EXECUTION OF FOREIGN POLICY. *The American public know*
1 THE PRESIDENT AND THE
SECRETARY OF STATE HAVE BOTH ENGAGED IN REMARKABLE ENDEAVORS OF
PERSONAL DIPLOMACY, BUT YOU IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE HAVE DONE
THE SPADEWORK WHICH BUILT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS.



WHEN I SERVED IN THE CONGRESS, I OFTEN HEARD THAT OUR
FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS SPEND SO MANY YEARS OVERSEAS THAT THEY
TEND TO GET OUT OF TOUCH WITH THE HOME COUNTRY AND WITH THEIR
HOMETOWNS IN KANSAS, OR TEXAS, OR MICHIGAN. I AM SUSPICIOUS OF ALL
SUCH GENERALIZATIONS. BUT, I ALSO BELIEVE IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE
MEN AND WOMEN WHO REPRESENT US ABROAD TO CONSTANTLY RENEW THEIR
ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE CONSTANTLY CHANGING MOODS AND IDEAS OF
"HOMETOWN, U.S.A."



A TWO-WAY FLOW OF IDEAS BETWEEN "HOMETOWN, U.S.A." AND

In the past several years

OUR FOREIGN SERVICE IS ESSENTIAL. THERE HAS BEEN A TENDENCY OF

This mood, even if in error, is understandable.

OUR PEOPLE TO TURN INWARD. THERE IS A MOVEMENT AWAY FROM THE

INTERNATIONALIST PHILOSOPHY OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT WITH THE REST

OF THE WORLD. THE POLLS SUGGEST THAT ISOLATIONISM HAS DOUBLED IN

JUST THE LAST TWO YEARS.





THOSE WHO DOUBT OUR FUTURE AS A NATION ARE WILLING TO
ASSUME LESS WORLD RESPONSIBILITY, I CAN UNDERSTAND THE FEARS AND
ANXIETIES INVOLVED, BUT I CANNOT ACCEPT A SCENARIO OF HELPLESSNESS
AND HOPELESSNESS. I CANNOT IMAGINE THAT WE WILL WITHDRAW FROM THE
WORLD. *In my judgment it would be disastrous.*



IT IS MY DEEPEST FAITH THAT THOSE IDEALS AND ABILITIES
THAT MADE US THE HOPE OF THE WORLD WILL LEAD TO AN EVEN MORE
ILLUSTRIOUS FUTURE. AND I TRUST THAT THE OFFICERS OF THE FOREIGN
SERVICE SHARE MY VISION. *of America's present + future role
on a global basis.*



JUST AS THE FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WHO TOUR THE UNITED STATES
FIND INSPIRATION AND GIVE INSPIRATION, OUR FOREIGN SERVICE COULD
OFFER -- AND PERHAPS RECEIVE -- A GREAT BOOST IN MORALE BY RENEWING
PERSONAL CONTACT WITH OUR DOMESTIC SCENE AS PART-TIME AMBASSADORS
TO OUR OWN PEOPLE.



JUST AS YOU HAVE TOLD THE AMERICAN STORY ABROAD, TELL
IT AT HOME. TELL US ABOUT OUR NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH MANY LANDS,
TELL US ABOUT OUR NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, TELL US HOW WE BROUGHT THE WORLD BACK
FROM THE BRINK OF DISASTER BY NEGOTIATING DISENGAGEMENT AT THE
SUEZ CANAL AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. TELL US ABOUT THE MILLIONS WHO
STAND IN THE WORLD'S STREETS TO GREET OUR PRESIDENT AND THE FLAG HE
REPRESENTS. AS WE APPROACH THE FOURTH OF JULY, LET OUR PEOPLE KNOW
THAT NEW MULTITUDES IN THE WORLD ARE CHEERING THE STARS AND STRIPES.



BUT IT IS TRUE THAT OUR NATION --- LIKE ALL OTHER
NATIONS --- FACES A FUTURE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THE PAST. NOT ONLY
NUCLEAR WEAPONRY BUT GLOBAL ECONOMICS AND INSTANT COMMUNICATIONS
ASSURE THAT.

I WILL NOT VENTURE TODAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE. BUT
SUCCESS IN BUILDING A STABLE WORLD ORDER WILL BE MEASURED BY
SUCCESS IN ENHANCING OUR RELATIONSHIPS.



THE GREAT ISSUES OF THIS PLANET CAN BE RESOLVED ONLY BY
PEACEFUL COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONS. AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT
IS ESSENTIAL. TO EXERT AMERICAN LEADERSHIP, WE MUST CONSTANTLY
UPGRADE THE HIGH STANDARDS OF FOREIGN SERVICE PERFORMANCE.



THE FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER MUST BE REASSURED THAT WE
VALUE THE INDIVIDUALITY AND INTEGRITY OF HIS REPORTS, FOREIGN
RELATIONS ARE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO A CORPS OF "YES MEN,"
YOU MUST REPORT WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR WHAT YOU ACTUALLY SEE ABROAD,
NOT WHAT WE IN WASHINGTON MIGHT WANT TO HEAR,



LET ALL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL BE HONEST, WHETHER IN
DOMESTIC OR FOREIGN SERVICE, DISCUSS OUR PROBLEMS FRANKLY, BUT
JUST AS FRANKLY, POINT OUT OUR MERITS AS A NATION,

AND BE ASSURED THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES
YOUR MERIT,

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE FOREIGN SERVICE, IN THE NEXT
50 YEARS, WILL RISE TO EVEN HIGHER LEVELS OF EXCELLENCE. YOU
WILL REPRESENT ABROAD THE BEST OF AMERICA -- OUR OPTIMISM, OUR
ENERGY, OUR IDEALS, OUR GOODWILL, AND OUR INTEGRITY. YOU WILL
PERSONIFY ALL THE VIRTUES THAT INSPIRE THE AMERICAN SPIRIT OF
"CAN DO." YOU CAN DO AND YOU WILL DO. WE COUNT ON YOU. AND WE
WILL BACK YOU.



YOUR WORK HELPS DETERMINE THE SUCCESS OF OUR POLICIES.

YOU HAVE ACHIEVED GREAT DISTINCTION IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES.

DURING A PERIOD OF TRANSITION AND TURBULENCE AT HOME, YOU HAVE

ACQUITTED YOURSELVES WITH DISTINCTION ABROAD.



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SAID THAT "THE HISTORY OF
FREE MEN IS WRITTEN IN CHOICE -- THEIR CHOICE." YOU HAVE CHOSEN --
AND YOU HAVE CHOSEN WELL -- BY IDENTIFYING YOURSELVES AND YOUR
CAREERS WITH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



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REMARKS OF VICE PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE ASSOCIATION
DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION ROOM, DEPARTMENT OF STATE
12:30 P.M., MONDAY, JULY 1, 1974

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

It is especially appropriate that we meet today to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Foreign Service of the United States. Our President and Secretary of State are in the Soviet Union on a mission of high diplomacy in the service of peace. Their efforts are supported and facilitated by the work of the 11,000 men and women of our Foreign Service throughout the world.

I am very pleased to pay tribute to a half-century of achievement and professionalization of the Foreign Service.

The United States and its diplomacy grew together. Today, your service is too little known, too much ignored, and too much scapegoated.

As you celebrate 50 years as a career service, we look back proudly on your record of achievement, of courage, and of sacrifice. The great professionals -- men like Murphy, Bohlen, Thompson, and Kennan -- left their mark on our times. The headlines go to a few. But countless others have served, and continue to serve, the United States with great distinction.

This Administration, like other administrations of the last fifty years, continues to rely upon the Foreign Service for the design and execution of foreign policy. The President and the Secretary of State have both engaged in remarkable endeavors of personal diplomacy. But you in the foreign service have done the spadework which built the achievements of the last five years.

When I served in the Congress, I often heard that our Foreign Service Officers spend so many years overseas that they tend to get out of touch with the home country and with their hometowns in Kansas, or Texas, or Michigan. I am suspicious of all such generalizations. But I also believe it is essential for the men and women who represent us abroad to constantly renew their acquaintance with the constantly changing moods and ideas of "hometown, U.S.A."

A two-way flow of ideas between "hometown, U.S.A.," and our Foreign Service is essential. There has been a tendency of our people to turn inward. There is a movement away from the internationalist philosophy of American involvement with the rest of the world. The polls suggest that isolationism has doubled in just the

last two years.

Those who doubt our future as a Nation are willing to assume less world responsibility. I can understand the fears and anxieties involved. But I cannot accept a scenario of helplessness and hopelessness. I cannot imagine that we will withdraw from the world.

It is my deepest faith that those ideals and abilities that made us the hope of the world will lead to an even more illustrious future. And I trust that the officers of the Foreign Service share my vision.

Just as the foreign diplomats who tour the United States find inspiration and give inspiration, our Foreign Service could offer -- and perhaps receive -- a great boost in morale by renewing personal contact with our domestic scene as part-time ambassadors to our own people.

Just as you have told the American story abroad, tell it at home. Tell us about our new partnerships with many lands. Tell us about our new relationships with the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China. Tell us how we brought the world back from the brink of disaster by negotiating disengagement at the Suez Canal and the Golan Heights. Tell us about the millions who stand in the world's streets to greet our President and the Flag he represents. As we approach the Fourth of July, let our people know that new multitudes in the world are cheering the Stars and Stripes.

But it is true that our Nation -- like all other nations -- faces a future very different from the past. Not only nuclear weaponry but global economics and instant communications assure that.

I will not venture today to predict the future. But success in building a stable world order will be measured by success in enhancing our relationships.

The great issues of this planet can be resolved only by peaceful cooperation among the nations. American involvement is essential. To exert American leadership, we must constantly upgrade the high standards of Foreign Service performance.

The Foreign Service officer must be reassured that we value the individuality and integrity of his reports. Foreign relations are too important to be left to a corps of "yes men." You must report without fear or favor what you actually see abroad, now what we in Washington might want to hear.

Let all Government personnel be honest, whether in domestic or foreign

service. Discuss our problems frankly. But just as frankly, point out our merits as a Nation.

And be assured that the U.S. government recognizes your merit.

I am confident that the Foreign Service, in the next 50 years, will rise to even higher levels of excellence. You will represent abroad the best of America -- our optimism, our energy, our ideals, our goodwill, and our integrity. You will personify all the virtues that inspire the American spirit of "can do." You can do and you will do. We count on you. And we will back you.

Your work helps determine the success of our policies. You have achieved great distinction in these troubled times. During a period of transition and turbulence at home, you have acquitted yourselves with distinction abroad.

President Eisenhower said that "the history of free men is written in choice -- their choice." You have chosen -- and you have chosen well -- by identifying yourselves and your careers with the United States of America.

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Kennan -- left their mark on our times. The headlines go to a few. But countless others have served, and continue to serve, the United States with great distinction.

This Administration, like other administrations of the last fifty years, continues to rely upon the Foreign Service for the design and execution of foreign policy. The President and the Secretary of State have both engaged in remarkable endeavors of personal diplomacy.

In the foreign service
But you have done the spadework which built the achievements of the last five years.

A few weeks ago, I spoke in this same building to an audience that included many diplomats from abroad. The function was devoted to the Travel Program for Foreign Diplomats, a voluntary effort to enable foreign diplomats to meet the people of the United States.

Let me tell you why I mention this program. When I served in the Congress, I often heard that our Foreign Service Officers spend so many years overseas that they tend to get out of touch with the home country and with their hometowns in Kansas, or Texas, or ~~even~~ Michigan. I am suspicious of all such generalizations. But I also believe it is essential for the men and women who represent us abroad to constantly renew their acquaintance with the constantly changing moods and ideas of "hometown, U.S.A."



A two-way flow of ideas between "Hometown, U.S.A.," and our Foreign Service is essential. There has been a tendency of our people to turn inward. There is a movement away from the internationalist philosophy of American involvement with the rest of the world. The polls suggest that isolationism has doubled in just the last two years.

~~We see preoccupation and anxiety over economic conditions. Controversial developments in Washington have become the subject of Congressional and court action. We are going through a period of trial and transition. But our body politic is healthy enough to heal itself. And so is our economic system. Yet we are faced with a drop in morale that has produced an isolationist withdrawal syndrome.~~

Those who doubt our ~~virtility~~ and future as a Nation are willing to assume less world responsibility. I can understand the fears and anxieties involved. But I cannot accept a scenario of helplessness and hopelessness. I cannot imagine ~~that we will let morbid self-doubts get the better of us. Or that we will withdraw from the world, like an ostrich sticking its head in the sand, and return to the mentality that kept us out of the League of Nations.~~



~~Too many people have too little confidence. Yes, we have problems. But we also have the ability to sort them out and solve them. The end of the world has not come. Nor has the end of our involvement in the world.~~

~~Self-doubt leads to self-hatred. It is negative. It is destructive. And it would lead to a self-fulfilling prophecy.~~

ideas and abilities
~~I am proud to be an American. It is my deepest faith that~~ *those*
~~achievements that made us the hope of the world~~ will lead to an
 even more illustrious future. And I ~~am convinced~~ *trust* that the officers
 of the Foreign Service share my vision.

Just as the foreign diplomats who tour the United States find
 inspiration -- and give inspiration, -- our Foreign Service could
 offer -- and ~~maybe~~ *perhaps* receive -- a great boost in morale by renewing
 personal contact with our domestic scene. ~~Become~~ *as* part-time
 ambassadors to our own people. ~~We get fractious and frightened --~~
~~but we are really a lovable lot.~~

IP Just as you have told the American story abroad, tell it at
 home. Tell us about our new partnerships with many lands. Tell *us*
 about our new relationships with the Soviet Union and the People's
 Republic of China. Tell ~~about~~ *us* how we brought the world back from
 the brink of disaster by negotiating disengagement at the Suez Canal

and the Golan Heights. ^{US} Tell about the millions who stand in the world's streets to greet our President and the ~~F~~lag he represents.

As we approach the Fourth of July, let our people know that new multitudes in the world are cheering the Stars and Stripes.

~~(in the foreign service)~~
~~You are charged with a tremendous responsibility. The foremost requirement of American foreign policy is to lessen the danger of nuclear war. That is what the President's trip is all about. And that same constant mission of peace-keeping throughout the world -- while preserving America's vital interests -- is the primary mission of the Foreign Service.~~

~~But it is true that~~ ^{other} Our Nation -- like all nations -- faces a future very different from the past. Not only nuclear weaponry but global economics and instant communications assure that.

~~As Secretary Kissinger has often noted, nothing is more dangerous than predicting the future by projecting the past. President Nixon and the Secretary have proven that axiom.~~

~~Who would have predicted five years ago that summits of our President and the Soviet leaders would be regular events on the international agenda? Who would have imagined the progress we have made in mutual understanding, arms control, and cooperation?~~

~~Who could have predicted five years ago that the People's Republic of China and the United States would move toward normalized relations so rapidly? Or that trade between us could reach \$1.2 billion in 1974?~~



~~Who would have predicted five years ago that an American President would be as welcome in Egypt as he is in Israel?~~

~~Who would have predicted five years ago that the North Atlantic Alliance would renew itself in the midst of great economic strains and detente?~~

~~I~~ I will not venture today to predict the future. But ~~it is obvious~~ that success in building a stable world order will be measured by success in enhancing our relationships.

The great issues of this planet can be resolved only by peaceful cooperation among the nations. American involvement is essential. To exert American leadership, we must constantly upgrade the high standards of Foreign Service performance.

The Foreign Service officer must be reassured that we value the individuality and integrity of his reports. Foreign relations are too important to be left to a corps of "yes men." You must report without fear or favor. ~~You must report without fear or favor. You must tell what you actually see abroad, not what we in Washington might want to hear.~~

Let all Government personnel be honest, whether in domestic or foreign service. Discuss our problems frankly. But ~~be strong~~ *Just as frankly* ~~point out~~ *point out* our merits as a Nation.



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And be assured that the U.S. government
~~Foreign Service officers face a new challenge in convincing~~
~~our own people of the need for continued strong involvement in~~ recognizes your
the world. Use your persuasive skills. For no real prosperity merits
~~is available at home without peace abroad.~~

Let us stand by our Foreign Service. The Department of State
last week expressed dismay that a certain nation failed to punish the
terrorist guerrillas who murdered two U.S. Foreign Service officers.
We must not tolerate such wanton attacks on U.S. personnel anywhere
in the world.

I am confident that the Foreign Service, in the next 50 years,
will rise to even higher levels of excellence. You will represent
abroad the best of America -- our optimism, our energy, our ideals,
our goodwill, and our integrity. You will personify all the virtues
that inspire the American spirit of "can do." You can do and you will
do. We ~~count~~ on you. And we will back you. ~~your work helps~~

~~The performance of the Foreign Service will help~~ determine the
success of our policies. You have achieved great distinction in these
troubled times. During a period of transition and turbulence at home,
you have acquitted yourself ^{yes} with distinction abroad.

President Eisenhower said that "the history of free men is
written in choice -- their choice." You have chosen -- and you have
chosen well -- by identifying yourselves and your careers with the
United States of America.