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FE 7-1

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN [unclear]

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 20, 1975

Handwritten initials: DR 7

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: TERRY O'DONNELLI^{TOO}

SUBJECT: Saluting at Ceremonies

At the South Lawn arrival ceremony involving Prime Minister Wilson, you asked why you are expected to render the "hand over heart" salute during both nations' anthems while the visiting head of state merely stands at attention.

The answer rests with our law and custom. Public Law 829, 77th Congress, incorporates many of our nation's ceremonial customs regarding the honoring of the flag and recommends them to our citizenry as a uniform standard of respect. It is this law which guides your actions at ceremonies, regardless of whether the ceremony is here in the United States or abroad. As a matter of courtesy, at an international ceremony, you render the same honors to the flags and anthems of foreign countries as you render to our own.

The customs of most foreign countries do not call for their citizens or their head of state to render a "hand over heart" salute to their own flag and national anthem; therefore, they would not render such a salute to our flag or our national anthem.

To summarize, each head of state, guided by his national custom, takes the same ceremonial action for all flags and anthems involved in the ceremony, whether it be to bow, to stand at attention, or to render a "hand over heart" salute.

The actions required by you are set forth in the law cited above and summarized below:

- I. SALUTE - Right hand over heart. When wearing a hat, remove the hat with the right hand and place it at the left shoulder with the right hand over the heart.

SALUTE ON THE FOLLOWING OCCASIONS:

- A. When the National Anthem of the United States is played in the presence of the flag of the United States at an outdoor ceremony.
- B. When a foreign national anthem is played in the presence of the foreign flag at an outdoor ceremony.
- C. When you pass in front of a color guard at an outdoor ceremony.
- D. When a color guard passes in front of you at an outdoor ceremony.
- E. When the flag is raised or lowered at an outdoor ceremony.
- F. When the Pledge of Allegiance is recited, indoors or outdoors.

NOTE: Gymnasiums, arenas, hangars, indoor sporting events, et cetera, are considered to be outdoors.

II. STAND AT ATTENTION - Remove hat and hold it at side without saluting on the following occasions:

- A. All of the occasions above if it is an indoor ceremony with the exception of the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, where hand over heart salute is always appropriate.
- B. When the National Anthem of the United States or a foreign country is played and the flag is not displayed.

III. STAND AT ATTENTION ONLY - Without necessity of removing hat or saluting on the following occasions:

- A. When personal honors are rendered to you without the National Anthem.
- B. When personal honors rendered to another dignitary without the National Anthem of the United States or a foreign national anthem.