The original documents are located in Box D27, folder “National Association of Retail Druggists, Las Vegas, NV, October 13, 1969” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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To know what the Nixon Administration is doing and why, we must first take a look at its legacy -- the situation it inherited upon taking office. I would like to give you a factual rundown on that situation without partisan bias of any kind.

Richard Nixon assumed the leadership of a country deeply enmeshed in a jungle war halfway around the world, a country which had suffered escalating inflation for nearly four years, a country in which the crime rate had climbed nearly 10 times as fast as the population, a country in which the problems of the cities threatened to turn urban crisis into flaming revolution, a country in which the Have-Nots continued to be the Have-Nots and the welfare system was like a constantly festering sore, a country in which local, state and federal taxes had driven taxpayers to the rim of revolt although the revenue had been inadequate to solve the horrendous problems rushing in on us from all sides.

Any new administration coming into office first takes stock and then charts a new course.

With the situation as I have described it -- and I think the rundown was truthful and accurate -- it was inevitable that the Nixon Administration should become a reform administration and should move in totally New Directions.

What has happened?

The new administration has moved toward peace in Vietnam and elsewhere. In Vietnam the problem is to make the enemy want to negotiate a political settlement. I pray that the President's critics will give him time to succeed with his policy of continued pressure and disengagement. As the President has said, only the right of the South Vietnamese to choose their own destiny is non-negotiable.

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The overwhelmingly cordial reception in Communist Romania had deep significance. This was a recognition that President Nixon no longer sees the communist world as a monolithic enemy alliance but as a group of nations whose common ideology is transcended by powerful nationalistic aspirations. President Nixon is keenly aware that United States policy should be adapted to those nationalistic interests.

This new concept of U.S. foreign policy also is reflected in the new Nixon Doctrine for Asia -- the "do-it-yourself policy" which President Nixon has laid down for the nations of Southeast Asia, the policy which declares to the world that there will be no more Vietnams.

To put it bluntly, the United States will play the Russian game in Southeast Asia but, hopefully, will play it better. We will provide arms and economic assistance to non-communist nations in Southeast Asia but we will not send American ground troops to fight other countries' battles there. We are a Pacific power, not an Asian power. An Asian presence, yes. An Asian power, no.

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