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

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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 Vietnamization of the war. As the President has said, only the right of the South Vietnamese to choose their own destiny is non-negotiable.

In the general field of foreign policy, President Nixon has seized the initiative in dramatic moves aimed at promoting world peace. With his round-the-world trip, the President laid the diplomatic groundwork for possible
new breakthroughs in East-West relations. By becoming the first American President to visit a Communist capital, Mr. Nixon opened new channels of communication between East and West.

It was an act of initiative when Secretary of State William P. Rogers declared his intention to seek improved relations with Communist China. It was also an astute move when he declared that the United States wants friendly relations with both Communist China and the Soviet Union and cautioned them to avoid war with each other.

In a little noted turn of events, Hungary and the United States have announced four modest steps toward better relations.

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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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President Nixon has adopted a responsible common-sense approach to our urban problems. His answer is jobs and job training. The accent is on the solid American ethic of working for a living. The President's approach is based on the idea that a man never stands so tall as when he stands on his own two feet.

Workfare instead of welfare. That is the American way. That is Dick Nixon's way. A hand up instead of a handout. That's the only way to bridge the gap between the Haves and the Have-Nots in America.

President Nixon has managed to promote order in this country because he has brought order to the Presidency. The days of government by crisis have given way to crisis prevention. The scatter-gun approach is yielding to an assembling of new priorities. (more)
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I spoke at the outset about reform. We are living in an age that demands reforms. I say that the Nixon Administration will be a reform administration. The course has been charted, and we will hew to it. The winds of change are blowing. They cannot be bottled up.

President Nixon has proposed a sweeping array of reforms which I believe the American people have long wanted -- welfare reform which will turn all able-bodied Americans from welfare to workfare; draft reform which will make the selective service system as fair as possible until we can establish a volunteer army; postal reform which will create a government-owned self-supporting postal corporation in place of the present impossible system; poverty program reform which keeps the Office of Economic Opportunity as an innovative agency but spins off successful anti-poverty programs to old-line Government departments; manpower training reform which consolidates Federal manpower training programs; tax reform which takes millions of poor citizens off the taxrolls, reduces taxes for millions of other low-income Americans and prevents the most wealthy in our society from escaping taxation; a New Federalism which provides an increasing slice of Federal income tax revenue for the cities and states and gives them new vigor as solvers (more)
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This is indeed the Age of Reform, and we will move ahead quickly with these new approaches to pressing problems if the Congress will work hand in hand with the new national Administration.

Now let us look at the economy.

I firmly believe that the restraints presently being employed will strengthen our economy so that it will ride higher but in better balance in the Seventies. At this moment I see America standing on the edge of many years of dynamic and unparalleled economic growth.

Despite all the gloomy talk, 1969 will be the best year yet for our economy. Don't let stock market miseries obscure the basic fact that the American private enterprise system has great bounce in it and is headed for continuing growth.

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