

The original documents are located in Box D35, folder “House Floor Speech United States Information Agency, August 1, 1973” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Mr. Speaker, today is the 20th birthday of the United States Information Agency, the Federal agency which tells the American story abroad.

It was on August 1, 1953, that [redacted] the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed an executive order establishing USIA as an independent agency with the responsibility for overseas information activities previously carried out by the Department of State and [redacted] the Mutual Security Agency.

USIA operates 169 posts in 100 countries, communicating U.S. policies through a variety of means. The Voice of America, USIA's broadcasting arm, produces and broadcasts radio programs in 36 languages, broadcasting 858 hours per week. The VOA provides 250 newscasts daily, disseminating reliable and authoritative news.

In the United States, USIA provides assistance to foreign journalists covering public affairs [redacted] in this country.

Theodore C. Streibert served as USIA's first [redacted] director. He was followed by Arthur Larson, George V. Allen, Edward R. Murrow, Carl [redacted] T. Rowan, Leonard H. Marks, Frank J. Shakespeare, and the agency's present director, James Keogh.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the USIA on the occasion of its 20th anniversary for doing a fine job of communicating our ideas, our policies and our institutions to overseas audiences. The work of the USIA is vital to the success of our nation's diplomatic [redacted] efforts and is helping us build a lasting [redacted] structure of world peace.

President Nixon has issued a statement marking the 20th [redacted] anniversary of the USIA. The President's message is as follows:



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1973

Twenty years ago, President Eisenhower signed the reorganization plan which established a separate United States Information Agency to communicate the objectives and policies of the United States to the people of other nations and to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other peoples of the world.

For two decades, the USIA has presented to the world reliable information about our people, our culture, our aspirations and our policies. As the relationships among nations have changed and as we have moved from an era of confrontation to a new and challenging period of negotiation, USIA's efforts take on new importance. In a climate of lessened tensions and increased negotiations, international relationships are more complex and the issues more complicated. To succeed, our policies must be understood, our motives made clear and our ideals articulated. Truly there is a need today for a communications effort in support of our diplomatic initiatives to build a durable structure of peace in which those who would influence others will do so by the strength of their ideas, not by the force of their arms.

On this twentieth anniversary year of the United States Information Agency, I extend to its staff serving at home and abroad congratulations for a job well done and my best wishes for the future.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard Nixon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.