The original documents are located in Box 6, folder “3/22/75 - Swearing-In Ceremony for Frederick Dent” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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FREDERICK DENT SWEARING IN CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1975
MR. SECRETARY, NOW MR. AMBASSADOR, IT IS A GREAT PERSONAL PLEASURE AND SATISFACTION TO WELCOME YOU TO THE OFFICIAL WHITE HOUSE FAMILY. IT IS PARTICULARLY FITTING THAT ONE WHO HAS SERVED SO CAPABLY IN THE CABINET WILL BE THE FIRST SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITH CABINET RANK. I HEARTILY AGREE WITH THE RECOGNITION BY THE CONGRESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT.
As you take over the delicate job of negotiating this nation's multilateral trade pacts with nearly one hundred other countries, you assume a responsibility to which I attach the highest importance. In a world where the economic policies and actions of one nation can affect the well-being and future of others, the results of these negotiations can make the difference between economic peace and conflict, between rising and falling standards of living, between hope and despair.
YOU BRING TO THIS TASK UNIQUE EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS. AS A LEADER IN THE BUSINESS WORLD AND IN THE GOVERNMENT, YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF AN ABLE INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATOR -- TOUGH BUT FAIR. YOU SHARE MY FAITH IN THE PROMISE OF AN EXPANDING, OUTWARD-LOOKING AND EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM TO REDUCE TENSIONS BETWEEN NATIONS.
AND YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN YOUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE
CONGRESS THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION THAT IS SO VITAL TO ALL
JOINT EFFORTS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES --
AND PARTICULARLY TO OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES IN THE GENEVA
NEGOTIATIONS.
AS SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE, YOU FOLLOW SUCH

DISTINGUISHED STATESMEN AS THE LATE CHRISTIAN A. HERTER AND

YOUR IMMEDIATE PREDECESSOR, WILLIAM D. EBERLE -- ALL OF WHOM

MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND

CREDIBILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.

FRED, I KNOW YOU WILL ADD DISTINCTION TO THAT

TRADITION.

END OF TEXT