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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . . .  
OPENING STATEMENT -- FOR USE AT TV PRESS CONFERENCE  
WEEK OF NOVEMBER 3

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I have several announcements to make tonight.

First with respect to foreign policy and national security affairs:

You will recall that when I became President a year ago last August, I indicated that I believed it was essential to guarantee stability and continuity in the conduct of U. S. foreign policy. I made a conscious decision, at that time, not to change personnel in the important national security area. I have, however, made a number of significant changes in the Cabinet in the domestic area.

We have now successfully reassured our allies that the United States will stand firm in the face of any threat to our national interest and convinced potential adversaries that America will aggressively seek out ways to reduce the threat of war.

✓ Therefore, I am tonight announcing several personnel changes, which I believe will strengthen the Administration in the important area of national security affairs.

I intend to nominate Donald Rumsfeld as my new Secretary of Defense. Don has served with distinction as a Congressman from Illinois, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Director of the Cost of Living Council, and Ambassador to NATO. For the past year he has been my senior White House Assistant and a member of my Cabinet. He has the experience and skill needed to help our country maintain a defense capability second to none.

~~I want to say a special word about Jim Schlesinger.~~

The nation owes Secretary Schlesinger a deep debt of gratitude for his able service to his country as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Director of the CIA and Secretary of Defense.

Henry Kissinger has been serving with distinction as Secretary of State and as my Assistant for National Security Affairs. Secretary Kissinger will relinquish his post as Assistant to the President to devote full time to his responsibilities as Secretary of State.

Brent Scowcroft, who has been serving ably for 3 years as Deputy Assistant at the White House, will move up to Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

For the past year, George Bush has been U.S. Representative to the People's Republic of China. He has served with great skill as a Congressman and as Ambassador to the United Nations. It is my intention to nominate Ambassador Bush to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The CIA is one of our nation's most important institutions. In recent months, it has been the focus of some controversy. During this difficult period, Bill Colby, as Director of the CIA, has done an outstanding job of working with the Congress to look into and correct any abuses that may have occurred in the past, while maintaining an effective foreign intelligence capability.

Mr. Richard Cheney, who has been serving effectively as Deputy Assistant, will replace Don Rumsfeld as Assistant to the President and will take over his responsibilities for coordinating the White House staff.

In a separate area, I have one additional personnel announcement to make.

Some weeks ago Secretary of Commerce Rogers Morton indicated to me that after the first of the year he would like to reduce the pace of his activities and resign his current position to return to the private sector.

Rog Morton has served with great distinction in the Congress and in two Cabinet posts for nearly five years. He has earned the respect of Americans everywhere. He has been a long, close, personal friend. I am deeply grateful for his valuable service and I will be calling on his for assistance in the future.



Elliot Richardson will be nominated to become Secretary of Commerce. An able former Secretary of Defense, Secretary of HEW, and Attorney General, Mr. Richardson is presently serving as our Ambassador to Great Britain. I know he will do an outstanding job in his new assignment.

I hope that the Senate will move rapidly to confirm my nominees for those positions which require confirmation.

Now, to the questions.....