

The original documents are located in Box 20, “11/20/75 - Remarks at Swearing-in Ceremony for Mr. Donald H. Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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RUMSFELD SWEARING IN - ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU, MR. CLEMENTS

SECRETARY-DESIGNATE RUMSFELD THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.

MRS. RUMSFELD

MR. JUSTICE STEWART

GENERAL BROWN

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

WE ARE ASSEMBLED HERE TODAY TO SWEAR IN AS

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ONE OF THE MOST DEDICATED, TALENTED

AND CAPABLE PUBLIC SERVANTS IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE

TO KNOW IN TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS OF PUBLIC LIFE.

A FRIEND WAS ONCE ASKED TO GIVE A THUMB-NAIL

DESCRIPTION OF DON RUMSFELD'S WORK PATTERN AND HE SAID

IT COULD BE SUMMED UP IN TWO SIMPLE STATEMENTS:

ONE, DON WORKS AT A STAND-UP DESK.

AND TWO,

HIS STAFF DOES NOT WORK AT STAND-UP DESKS -- BUT

THEY DO VERY LITTLE SITTING DOWN.

DONALD RUMSFELD, IN A SERIES OF CHALLENGING

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES, HAS DEMONSTRATED

BEYOND QUESTION HIS ABILITY TO GRASP THE COMPLEXITIES OF ISSUES

AND ORGANIZATIONS, TO WORK TIRELESSLY AND EFFECTIVELY AT

WHATEVER TASK MAY ENGAGE HIM, AND TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY

FAITHFULLY AND WELL.

AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM ILLINOIS, HE

DEMONSTRATED A TALENT FOR STAYING IN TUNE WITH THE WILL OF

THE PEOPLE HE SERVED, FOR REPRESENTING THEIR INTERESTS WITH

FIDELITY AND COURAGE, AND FOR WINNING THE CONFIDENCE AND

RESPECT OF HIS FELLOW MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

AS HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AND

LATER AS DIRECTOR OF THE COST OF LIVING COUNCIL, HE EXHIBITED

THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP ABILITIES WHICH HAVE

CHARACTERIZED HIS CAREER IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

IN THESE VARIED POSITIONS, HE ALSO SHOWED GREAT
AWARENESS OF AND COMPASSION FOR THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
NEEDS OF OUR NATION. THAT AWARENESS AND COMPASSION
ACCOMPANY HIM HERE.

AS THE UNITED STATES' AMBASSADOR TO NATO,

HE DEMONSTRATED HIS STRONG COMMITMENT TO A STRONG DEFENSE

FOR AMERICA AND OUR ALLIES IN WESTERN EUROPE.

HIS SERVICE AS AMBASSADOR WAS DISTINGUISHED BY A
STRENGTHENING OF THE COMMITMENT TO ATLANTIC SECURITY
AND BY HIS OWN DIPLOMATIC SKILLS WHICH HE SUCESSFULLY
EMPLOYED IN A VERY SENSITIVE AND IMPORTANT POST.

AS MY ASSISTANT AT THE WHITE HOUSE, HE HAS SHOWN

THAT HE IS A MAN OF NEAR-INEXHAUSTIBLE ENERGY, A MAN

WHO TAKES CHARGE OF A SITUATION QUICKLY, FORCEFULLY AND

EFFICIENTLY, A MAN WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF GIFTS AND INTERESTS

AND EXPERTISE.

DON RUMSFELD KNOWS, AS I KNOW, THAT A STRONG

NATIONAL DEFENSE FOR AMERICA IS THE SUREST GUARDIAN

OF OUR NATION'S INDEPENDENCE AND OF PEACE IN THE WORLD.

HE KNOWS, AS I KNOW, AS EVERYONE IN THIS

ADMINISTRATION KNOWS, THAT IT IS THE CERTAINTY OF AMERICA'S

MILITARY STRENGTH THAT MAKES POSSIBLE OUR NEGOTIATIONS FOR

PEACEFUL COOPERATION WITH OTHER GREAT POWERS OF THE WORLD.

HE KNOWS, AS I KNOW, THAT THE PRICE OF THAT

STRENGTH AND SECURITY IS HIGH, BUT IT IS A PRICE THAT

MUST BE PAID, FOR THE PRICE IS NEVER GREATER THAN THE WORTH

OF A STRONG DEFENSE.

YOU ALL KNOW WHERE I STAND ON DEFENSE.

ALL THOSE WHO SAY THEY ARE FOR A STRONG DEFENSE AND

A STRONG FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD JOIN ME, THE SECRETARY

OF DEFENSE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO MAINTAIN

ADEQUATE DEFENSE BUDGETS IN THE CONGRESS.

AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, A MILITARY CAPABILITY SECOND TO NONE
PERMITS US TO ACT FIRMLY IN FOREIGN POLICY AROUND THE WORLD
IN DEFENSE OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

AS DON BEGINS HIS NEW DUTIES AND ASSUMES

THIS NEW CHALLENGE, HE DOES SO WITH MY PERSONAL BEST WISHES

AND MY THANKS FOR ACCEPTING A VERY DIFFICULT AND

DEMANDING ASSIGNMENT.

DON RUMSFELD HAS MY COMPLETE CONFIDENCE

AND TRUST; HE WILL EARN THAT OF THE NATION AND

THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BECAUSE HE WILL DO A SUPERB JOB

AS OUR NEW SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE FOR SWEARING IN
BY MR. JUSTICE STEWART, THE 13TH SECRETARY OF DEFENSE-DESIGNATE,
THE HONORABLE DONALD H. RUMSFELD.

END OF TEXT