

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 12, 1974

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the appointment of William J. Baroody, Jr., as Assistant to the President. Mr. Baroody was Special Assistant to the President from February 4, 1973, to January 30, 1974, and since then has been Special Consultant to the President. From June 6, 1973, to January 30, 1974, Mr. Baroody also served as Deputy to Counsellor to the President for Domestic Affairs Melvin R. Laird.

As Assistant to the President, Mr. Baroody will head the Office of Public Liaison. He will be responsible for providing liaison with major non-governmental organizations in the private sector, including farm, labor, veterans, business, civic, academic, ethnic, consumer, youth, senior citizens and professional groups.

Prior to joining the White House staff, Mr. Baroody served in the Department of Defense from 1969 to 1973 and in a staff capacity in the Congress from 1961 to 1969. At the Department of Defense, he was Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense from February 1, 1969, and was assigned additional responsibility for the long-range planning and net assessment functions of the Secretary of Defense in 1971. He received the highest civilian award that can be given by the Secretary of Defense, the Defense Distinguished Civilian Public Service Award, in January, 1973.

In the Congress, Baroody was Research Director of the House Republican Conference from 1968 to 1969. Prior to that, he served as Legislative Assistant and Press Secretary to then Congressman Melvin R. Laird of Wisconsin, having joined Mr. Laird's staff in July of 1961.

Mr. Baroody was born on November 5, 1937, in Manchester, New Hampshire. He was graduated from Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts, with a degree in English in 1959 and pursued graduate work in Political Science at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. He served as an officer in the U. S. Navy from 1959 to 1961 on the USS Chilton, based at Norfolk, Virginia. He is married to the former Mary Margaret Cullen. They have nine children and reside in Alexandria, Virginia.

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