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THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND
DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN
AT THE
SWEARING-IN CEREMONY
OF
DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN
AS
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

THE ROSE GARDEN

12:40 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Justice White, distinguished Members of the Congress, ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great privilege and pleasure for me to have the opportunity of participating in this wonderful occasion today, the swearing in of Ambassador Moynihan as the Representative of the United States at the United Nations and as the newest member of our Cabinet.

Ambassador Moynihan has served our Nation, both in and out of Government, with a refreshing innovation and intellectual distinction. He served in the White House under the previous Administration as a Counsellor to the President and more recently as our Ambassador in India.

He has combined over the years other Federal and State Government service with an outstanding service as an educator. His numerous writings have earned him a reputation as an outstanding political, economic and social philosopher.

Above all, he knows what America is all about and what it actually stands for, and he knows our role in international affairs. The challenges that the United Nations now confronts are of tremendous consequences for our own future, and for the entire world.

Our representative must be a person of high ideals and steadfast purpose. Ambassador Moynihan is the right man for the job.

MORE

The United States was the chief architect of the United Nations. We joined with others during the dreadful suffering of World War II to conceive an organization for peace and to serve all mankind.

We have been determined supporters of the United Nations, and we will continue to be so in the future. There is no other course, as I see it, consistent with our advocacy of peace and justice for all humanity.

As the need for worldwide cooperation developed, so did the inherent difficulty in finding practical solutions which must advance the enlightened self-interest of the United States, as well as the interests of others.

We face not only the fundamental task of maintaining international peace and security, but also entirely new problems for world economic interdependence.

We must deal with new political problems as developing nations press forward vigorously to correct what they see as injustices. In this developing situation, we will concentrate on practical and mutually beneficial projects, and we will strive for universal cooperation.

We will engage at the United Nations in a dialogue of candor and directness and of understanding and respect for the concerns of all member nations. We will seek concrete achievements. We will work with firmness and with patience in a determined effort to foster mutually beneficial relations with the developing world.

At the same time, we will firmly resist efforts by any group of countries to exploit the machinery of the United Nations for narrow, political interests, or for parliamentary manipulation.

Ambassador Moynihan takes on this very serious responsibility at a time when a vast and vital agenda is before the world, the realization of agreed goals in the area of food and population, the resolution of international conflict, the strengthening of peacekeeping forces, and a new law of the sea treaty and, of course, economic prosperity for all.

Ambassador Moynihan will carry on in the very high tradition of Ambassador Scali and his other distinguished predecessors. He will have my complete support, and that of Secretary Kissinger. His service at the United Nations will be another distinguished contribution in a very distinguished career in a wide variety of areas.

It is my privilege now to ask Justice White to administer the oath to Ambassador Moynihan.

MORE

(Justice Byron White administered the oath of office.)

AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN: Mr. Justice, my dear friends who are here:

I think, Mr. President, it would be well at this moment to establish what is the fact, however little it may be known, about your United States Representative, which is, he is just that -- he says what he is instructed to say.

I would like to associate myself wholly with your remarks (Laughter) and conclude my own on this point. Safe, sir, to say that it is an honor to serve you and to stand in the mighty succession which has got to intimidate anyone who enters it.

I am sure Ambassador Scali felt as I do following him when I think he thought of the people he followed. Simply to be in that historic company is something any American might cherish, and I am all the more grateful to you for the opportunity. I hope I shall prove worthy of your trust, sir.

Thank you.

END (AT 12:46 P.M. EDT)