

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 3, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate J. Owen Zurhellen, Jr., of New York, New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Surinam. He is the first United States Ambassador to the Republic of Surinam. Since 1975, he has been Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Born on July 8, 1920, in New York, New York, Mr. Zurhellen received his B.A. degree in 1943 from Columbia University. He served with the United States Navy during 1942-43, and from 1943 to 1946 he was with the United States Marine Corps.

Mr. Zurhellen served as general manager with an export company during 1946-47. From 1947 to 1950 he attended Yale University and Harvard University and was assigned to Yokohama. He became Principal Officer, Public Affairs Officer and Consular Officer in Fukuoka in 1950. He served as Executive Officer in Yokohama from 1953 to 1955, prior to becoming an Economic Officer in Tokyo in 1955. He was a Foreign Affairs Officer at the Department of State from 1956 to 1959.

After attending the National War College during 1959-60, Mr. Zurhellen became Deputy Principal Officer in Munich. He became Consul General in Kobe-Osaka in 1963. He served as Counselor of Political Affairs in Tokyo in 1964 until being assigned to the Department of State in 1967. From 1968 to 1973, he was Deputy Chief of Mission in Tel Aviv and was Deputy Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency in Washington, D. C. from 1974 to 1975.

Mr. Zurhellen is married to the former Helen Millar and they have five children.

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