

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 19, 1976

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AT THE  
ARRIVAL SERVICES FOR THE LATE  
FRANCIS E. MELOY, JR.  
AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON  
AND  
ROBERT O. WARING  
ECONOMIC COUNSELOR

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE

4:42 P.M. EDT

Mr. Secretary, Mr. Maloy, Mrs. Waring, members of the family, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

This is a moment of sadness for America. The men who were so ruthlessly murdered in Lebanon embodied the finest traditions of our country. Their dedicated professionalism, their willingness to sacrifice, their devotion to the service of peace all were reflected at every step of their careers.

The tragedy that befell them has struck deep in the hearts of their countrymen. I extend to their families the deepest sympathies of the American people. You and the loved ones you have lost will be in the thoughts and the prayers of all of us.

Francis E. Meloy, Robert O. Waring, were conditioned by the difficult days of the Second World War. Like many of us, they came out of that experience determined to make a personal contribution to the building of a better world, a world without war. For more than 30 years they made that contribution through selfless and distinguished service to their country.

Their Lebanese associate, Zohair Moghrabi, gave over 25 years of loyal service to America. He has our respect, our honor, our gratitude -- his family, our sympathy.

This is also a moment of reflection for America. Why were these brave men in Lebanon? Why are there others still there, searching for every opportunity to bring peace to their tragic land?

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Our nation since its founding has been committed to peace and respect for the rights of others. Unfortunately, there are too many places in our world where it is to someone's temporary advantage to destroy the peace, to break the bonds of unity and to tear asunder the fabric of religious, racial and cultural tolerance that binds together a society.

Lebanon has known peace. It was once a model of diversity and tolerance. Those were times of progress, times of hope. But, those times have suddenly vanished in Lebanon and have been replaced by fear, hatred, destruction and despair.

The collapse of internal order in Lebanon is a profound challenge to all nations who know and cherish peace. It is an example of what can happen anywhere when violence triumphs over man's instinct for good and for peace.

The goal of America and the goal of our Foreign Service is to build a more secure, a more just world. We will continue to give our best to the search for peace in Lebanon and to show by word and deed that the deaths of these three brave men were not in vain.

We will continue to exercise international leadership because there is no moral alternative. We will continue to need the talent and genius of the best that America has to offer to do so. We will continue to work to build a world where men of peace can live in peace.

Now, it is my very sad duty to present to Mrs. Daniel Meloy the flag of American Ambassador Meloy as a tribute to one of our finest American diplomats, and to Mrs. Waring, the American flag in honor of a distinguished and dedicated Foreign Service officer.

END (AT 4:47 P.M. EDT)