

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 28, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate James M. Wilson, Jr., of Bethesda, Maryland, to be Coordinator for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. This is a new position created by Public Law 94-329 of June 30, 1976. He will be responsible for matters pertaining to human rights and humanitarian affairs including matters relating to refugees, prisoners of war, and members of the United States Armed Forces missing in action, in the conduct of foreign policy. Mr. Wilson has been Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs at the Department of State.

Born on July 8, 1918, in China of American parents, Mr. Wilson received his A. B. degree in 1939 from Swarthmore College and his M. A. in 1940 from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. He attended Harvard Law School and received his LL. B. in 1948. He served in the United States Army as a Lieutenant Colonel from 1941 to 1946, and was a Staff Officer in the United States Air Force from 1948 to 1951.

In 1953, Mr. Wilson became a Defense Advisor in Paris and Bonn for USRO and from 1955 to 1958, he was Director of the Office for Military Rights, International Security Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. From 1958 to 1961, he was the Assistant Coordinator for Mutual Security at the State Department, and during 1961, he was the Assistant Coordinator for Foreign Assistance. From 1961 to 1964, he was Counselor of Economic Affairs, then Deputy Director of USOM in Madrid and later Deputy Director.

Mr. Wilson became the Deputy Chief of Mission in 1964 in Bangkok, with the rank of Minister and was the Deputy Chief of Mission in Manila with the rank of Minister from 1966 to 1970. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs from 1970 to 1972. He was Special Assistant for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs during 1973, prior to becoming U.S. Deputy Representative for Micronesian status negotiations.

Mr. Wilson is married to the former Joan Rathvon and they have five children.

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