

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 20, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced the appointment of Ron Nessen of Maryland as Press Secretary to the President.

Mr. Nessen joined the staff of United Press International in Washington in 1956, working there until 1962, when he joined the National Broadcasting Company.

His first NBC assignment was in Washington, where he served from 1962-65 as a White House correspondent during the term of President Johnson. He was assigned to Southeast Asia by NBC in 1965 and covered Vietnam until he was wounded by a grenade fragment in 1966. He returned to Washington and later that year was assigned to New York, where he anchored a weekly Vietnam television report and a five-minute daily Vietnam report on the "Today" show.

In 1967, Mr. Nessen received a series of foreign assignments from NBC, covering Latin America, Asia, Africa and then London. He returned to the United States, where he covered the Presidential campaign of 1968. After that, he was based in Washington, specializing in urban affairs. When Gerald Ford became Vice President, Mr. Nessen was assigned to cover most of the 118,000 miles traveled by the Vice President. When President Ford took office in August, 1974, Mr. Nessen became NBC's White House correspondent.

He was born in Washington, D. C., May 25, 1934. Mr. Nessen attended American University, where he majored in history.

He is married to the former Young Hi Song of Seoul, South Korea, and has two children, Edward, 1 1/2, and Caren, 18. The Nessens live in Bethesda, Maryland.

#