

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Letters to and from World Leaders - Memoranda to the President” of the NSA Presidential Transition File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald R. Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *12/8*  
WASHINGTON

August 10, 1974

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*  
SUBJECT: World-Wide Reaction to Your Inauguration

SUMMARY

The general thrust of both official and press reaction throughout the non-communist world is running quite favorable to your assumption of office and the manner in which events were handled.

The main themes now emerging are:

-- Continuity of American foreign policy is assured; this is reflected in your initial statements, in Secretary Kissinger's remaining in office, and in your long experience in public life.

-- America's travail is ending; there may be a period of introspection and healing, but American institutions have survived a severe test.

-- There is speculation about you personally, and some comparison to the period of changeover from FDR to President Truman.

OFFICIAL REACTION

Your messages to various heads of government have made an obvious impact:

-- Brezhnev personally phoned from his vacation in the Crimea to his aide in the Politburo to assure you of the consistency of Soviet policy, and the official congratulatory message stresses the hope for further constructive developments.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

By dal, NARA, Date 12/18/03

SECRET



SECRET

-2-

-- President Asad's representative in Damascus was impressed with the speed of your message and the favorable impression it would make; he underlined the importance of preserving the breakthrough of good relations that have been established with Syria.

-- The Israeli leaders publicly have speculated on a possible Soviet test of your "mettle," but expressed confidence in public statements that the US would stand by Israel.

-- The Embassy in Venezuela reports the favorable impression on officials created by your message.

-- Official statements issued in Europe and Japan and most of the press are sympathetic and constructive.

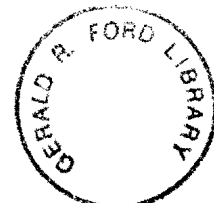
PRESS

-- In general the European press speculates that there will be no changes in America's relations with Europe, but some concern is expressed that foreign affairs may be subordinated to internal problems.

-- The Japanese press is speculating on an early meeting between you and Prime Minister Tanaka.

-- China (PRC) has published only a brief news account of the changeover, but hints at a continuity by simultaneously quoting former President Nixon's farewell statement about the achievement in unlocking the doors of a quarter of humanity after 25 years of hostility.

When Ambassador Bruce delivered your letter to Mao and mine to Chou to Vice Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua, the latter conveyed congratulations to you on assuming the Presidency. He recalled that he met you during your visit to China "so to a certain extent he is one of our old friends". Chiao added that President Nixon's contribution to US-Chinese relations will not be forgotten. He said the Chinese appreciated very much the contents of your letter, referring specifically to the fact that our relations will continue along the lines of the Shanghai Communique and will be speeded up. He believed that relations will be developed along these lines.



SECRET

August 10, 1974

WORLD REACTIONS TO YOUR INAUGURATION

1. Soviet Union: Official Reaction

Upon receiving your message (delivered through Brezhnev's second-in-command in the Politburo who phoned him in the Crimea), the General Secretary underlined that Soviet policy toward the US would remain consistent and unchanging; in addition to conveying congratulations to you, he wished you success in a difficult task and stressed the importance of continuing on the course on which the US and USSR had embarked; formal congratulations will be sent in the next day or so.

-- The significance of this is: the high level attention to the receipt of your message; it is the first time our Ambassador has ever been received at the Central Committee, rather than the government office; moreover, Brezhnev's response was personal and conveyed through his probably successor, Andrei Kirilenko.

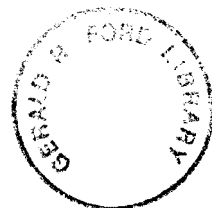
-- Soviet radio and newspapers are shifting gears rapidly, emphasizing that detente "does not depend on membership in the Democratic or Republican party, or some other vacillation in the country's political atmosphere".

-- One Soviet commentator called attention to your meeting with the Soviet parliamentary delegation this summer, which he cited as evidence that you "shared the hope for a deepening of detente".

-- President Podgorny's formal message of congratulations -- now published -- stresses Soviet satisfaction with your August 9 statement that you intend "to work for peace"; Podgorny states that "we express confidence that relations between the USSR and the US will receive a further constructive development in the coming years . . ."

-- This message sets the tone of optimism, reflected also in all Soviet media. Private comments by lower level Soviet officials as reported by our Embassy contain a note of greater anxiety over the future which does not appear in the media.

SECRET



SECRET

-2-

Press:

-- East European commentary has been more voluminous than Soviet but has generally followed the same line of emphasizing the continuity of US foreign policy and detente with the Soviet Union.

From its Moscow correspondent the British Guardian ran a report which said, "There will be little sense of shock and no tears in the Soviet leadership now that President Nixon is finally going....Real gloom would settle in . . . if Dr. Kissinger were to follow the ex-President into the wilderness. But the Soviet leaders have taken comfort from Mr. Ford's comment that he would keep the Secretary of State in office."

2. People's Republic of China (PRC): Official

A brief New China News Agency announcement of the change-over is carried on page six of the party's main newspaper, People's Daily, and also on Radio Shanghai; both refrained from direct comment on you or the prospects for Sino-US relations, but suggested a basic continuity by quoting from former President Nixon's television address statement, "We have unlocked the doors that for a quarter of a century stood between the United States and the People's Republic of China."

3. Japan: Official

The official government statement stressed your superb leadership as minority leader and the likelihood that there would be no change in policy. Japanese leaders were also publicly optimistic that you would not bring about any major policy changes between Japan and the United States at a time when relations between the two countries are running smoothly. Privately some political leaders and sources in the press are expressing some concern that your concentration on domestic matters will make you more sympathetic to protectionist pressures, and that you might be disposed toward the attitudes of US defense officials who allegedly desire to foist on Japan some of the US security burdens in the Far East.

Press: There are press comments suggesting uneasiness that you are unfamiliar with Japan, and officialdom, media, and business agree that an early face-to-face meeting between

SECRET



SECRET

-3-

Japan's leaders would be in both countries' interests. Journalistic speculation about a possible Presidential visit to Japan before the end of the year has already begun. Tokyo was very pleased by the special attention given to the Japanese Ambassador to the US by you shortly after your swearing in.

4. Europe: Press

By and large, both press reporting and official statements are stressing the themes of probable continuity in foreign policy, citing Secretary Kissinger's remaining in office, a sense of relief that the ordeal of the past months has ended, and speculation about you personally, with comparisons to President Truman's assuming the Presidency in 1945.

Great Britain

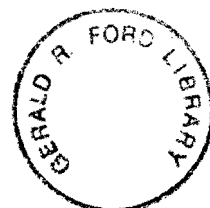
The Conservative Daily Mail in an editorial said that your assumption of office "makes some sense of the morality drama that has for twenty-six months . . . a fascinated world has come to know as Watergate." The paper's US correspondent wrote that you have "the capacities, the support and the potential to be the exorcist of the national nightmare, to achieve unity and tranquility out of the divisiveness and restore self-respect to the country's perverted pride."

The Daily Express editorialized that "Democracy has been on trial in America. It has won though. . ."

The mass circulation Daily Mirror wrote that you seemed to be "a man of dignity in a difficult role. And he is a man of integrity....There need be no fears that Mr. Nixon's going will precipitate a crisis in world affairs."

The London Times highlighted Prime Minister Wilson's message to you quoting: "I look forward to working with you in the spirit of warm friendship and constructive endeavor in which our two governments are accustomed to approach their common problems", and also his statement that: "The problems of peace and economic well-being are more daunting and complex than at any time since 1945."

SECRET



SECRET

-4-

France

Almost all the French press voices satisfaction yesterday that American institutions emerged strengthened from the Watergate ordeal. Some of the dailies sketch you as an unknown quantity.

The prestigious Le Monde, however, noted that you are likely to continue Nixon's foreign policy." Le Figaro, the widely read moderate conservative paper, provided its readers a full page biography of you with the caption, "Mr. Clean -- a man above criticism."

West Germany (FRG): Official

An official statement declared that "the Federal Government assumes that US interests in the areas of foreign policy, Alliance policy, and economics are not altered by the change in the office of the President." The FRG expressed its confidence that the spirit of cooperation, trust and understanding in German-American relations will continue.

The governing Major of Berlin, Klaus Schuetz, expressed the confidence of the Berlin Senate that the "clear and firm stand of the US on all issues concerning Berlin" will not change.

Opposition leader Karl Carstens said that the opposition has full confidence in you and in the members of your government.

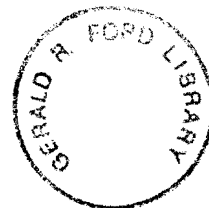
NATO: Press

The press reports from Brussels that on August 10 the NATO Council meeting in special session received a message from you pledging "unswerving support" to the Alliance. A NATO spokesman expressed the warm appreciation of the Council to you.

Italy: Press

Corriere Della Sera finds you "seen by all" to be the "appropriate man to restore harmony and unity in a divided country," representing a change in the plane of moral climate at the White House and a continuity in the political line for which Americans voted in the 1972 elections.

SECRET



SECRET

-5-

La Stampa speculates whether you can set the "benumbed American giant" in motion again, but says you may succeed because "you cannot afford any mistakes."

Austria: Press

Die Presse sees little danger to detente in the change in the administration, provided there is no leadership change at the Kremlin, and describes Secretary Kissinger as "the guarantor of an organic transition" into the future.

Canada

The Canadian Broadcasting System on August 9 quoted Prime Minister Trudeau that he is "certain" that he and President Ford "can cement relations between Canada and the US." He has sent a message to you to this effect.

5. Middle East and South Asia

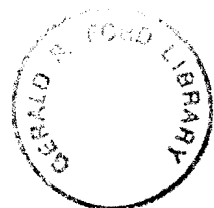
Israel: Official

Prime Minister Rabin in a radio interview raised the possibility of a new Middle East crisis, saying the Soviet Union "always likes to test the reactions of a new American President -- test his actions, not his words. He said it will be interesting to see what test the Russians are preparing for you to test your "mettle." He anticipated no basic change, however, in US attitude and policy toward Israel. Rabin, Defense Minister Peres, and other senior Israeli officials expected continued American sympathy toward Israel's arms needs.

While the press is generally optimistic that in the long run basic US policy re the Middle East will not change, there appears the caution that new presidents tend to make short-term changes in timetables and priorities, particularly in foreign policy.

Foreign Minister Allon commented that during a recent meeting with you he had found you to be genuinely aware of Israel's problems.

SECRET





SECRET

-6-

Syria: Official

Your message to President Asad made an obvious impact. Presidential press adviser Elias was not only obviously pleased with the message but surprised at the rapidity with which you are taking control of foreign policy. In a discussion with our Embassy, he expressed hope that you, as you stated in your letter to President Asad, would in fact continue America's current policy toward the Arab countries because "Arabs and particularly Syrians have over the last four or five months begun to see some change that assured him that the US Government will understand our position."

Egypt

Foreign Minister Fahmi said: "...when dealing with foreign states, Egypt does so with foreign governments rather than particular persons....What is important...is that Egypt is not influenced by internal changes in any particular state."

Lebanon

Prime Minister As-Solh said that Arabs must now rely on themselves alone to defend their own interests.

Jordan

King Husayn stated at a press conference in British Colombia that there are dangers involved in the attempts to consolidate the shaky peace in the Middle East, but he praised the great role Secretary Kissinger has played in world affairs and expected no change in US Middle East policy during your term.

6. Asia

North Vietnam: Radio

As expected, Hanoi radio commented that "Gerald Ford is also a representative of the capitalist class and at the same time a man of the Republican Party." The commentary questioned whether the Republican Party would be able to consolidate its "very weak" position by using Gerald Ford to replace Nixon.

SECRET



SECRET

-7-

Hanoi noted that US policy remains bipartisan, regardless of whether the President is a member of the Republican or Democratic party: "In the final analysis, the US ruling capitalist clique is the formulator of US policies, while the President is only the executor."

PRG

The clandestine Liberation Radio reported your accession factually based upon US news sources. It observed, however, that you were a positive supporter of the "aggressive" Vietnam policy. The PRG also noted the discomfiture of Saigon engendered by the change in the US, remarking that Thieu is "at a loss and is frightened."

South Korea

ROK official spokesman voiced the hope that your succession would further strengthen the existing close relations between the two countries.

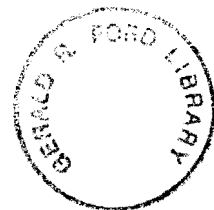
Cambodia

According to intelligence reports, Cambodian officials believe that US policy in Southeast Asia will become much more flexible and that you will be overly influenced by Congress, and that perhaps Lon Nol will be forced out.

South Vietnam: Official

President Thieu made no comment on the content of your message when he received it but did say that he realized the "job in South Vietnam would have to be done by South Vietnamese themselves," and that he had no illusions about this but Vietnam needed help and assistance from the United States.

SECRET



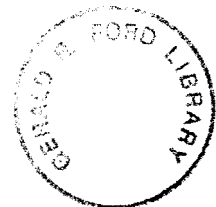
SECRET

-8-

7. Latin America

Mexico: Official

You have received a very warm message from President Echeverria replying to your message. He characterizes your message as a "special attention" to Mexico, and expresses his satisfaction with the "promptness with which you have proceeded clearly to make known your intention that the prevailing good relations between Mexico and the United States should continue and prosper."



SECRET

MEMORANDUM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *JK*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

August 12, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

Attached is a further summary of foreign official and press reaction to your inauguration.

*JK*



August 12, 1974

WORLD REACTIONS TO YOUR INAUGURATION

SUMMARY

The beginning of your administration and particularly the affirmation of continuity in US foreign policy, in your messages to heads of government, continue to evoke expressions of appreciation and reassurance, with the principal exceptions of the critical attitude of the small Asian communist regimes and of uncertainty in some areas where aid levels are a prime concern.

The material which follows supplements the memorandum of August 11.

1. Soviet Union: Official

Ambassador Stoessel reports from Moscow that the Soviet assessment of the Watergate drama will cause them to revise upward their view of Congressional power. He does not foresee any major shifts in Soviet foreign policy as a result of the resignation. Rather, he expects the Soviets to remain on a detente course toward the US and the West in general. Furthermore, he does not expect Brezhnev's association with Nixon to affect Brezhnev's own leadership position.

Media

Soviet media have continued the heavy emphasis on the theme of continuity in US-Soviet relations, along with admonitions that the foes of detente in the US continue their efforts to hamper the detente course.

An authoritative Pravda article notes

--that the destiny of the world "depends to a large degree on the USSR and the US" and the process of relaxing tensions and that the Soviet Union is committed to detente and will work with the new President to improve US-Soviet relations;

--that the majority of Americans support the detente relationship, but that the foes of detente--the military-industrial complex, Zionists, etc.--are still extant and working to hamper this process;

--that the summit agreements must be observed.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

NBC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines

By dal, NARA, Date 12/18/03

SECRET/NODIS



The Soviets until recently have explained Watergate as being used by President Nixon's political foes to oppose the policy of detente. This view reappears in a weekly roundup of international affairs, but along with it senior Soviet press spokesman Zamyatin on a TV program told Soviet audiences other factors were responsible, namely

--Watergate represents an interparty struggle which received its impetus after the Democratic Party defeat in the 1972 elections;

--the affair was accelerated by the growing US economic problems;

--and a propagandistic factor was also present: the US press and TV brainwashed US public opinion.

Zamyatin also spoke strongly on the importance of the summit documents, particularly those on curbing nuclear war. Embassy Moscow speculates that his vehemence on this point suggests some nervousness over the new Administration's attitude and he may be reacting to some calls in the US for a new approach to the weapon agreements.

## 2. Western Europe

### France: Press

Le Figaro expects US Government policies, at least in foreign affairs, to continue along their present course. What changes there are it sees emanating from the Congress, which the paper says will exert more influence than in the past.

L'Aurore regrets that Europe is undergoing a crisis at the time of the leadership change in the US, and wonders to what extent the US might dictate a world policy without consulting Europe.

### Britain: Press

The Times sees "continuity in foreign policy, which is where it matters most, secured by Dr. Kissinger's agreement to stay on, but urges a new US approach to relations with Europe, and new initiatives in international economics.



Spain: Radio

The Spanish radio referred to your years of experience in the Congressional arena and declared the US needs a man "like Gerald Ford capable of uniting, capable of inspiring confidence; capable of making people forget ... the bitter time" of Watergate.

Greece: Press

The Athens daily Eleftheros Kosmos comments on American foreign policy, saying it expects no change in the policy of detente under the new administration.

Belgium: Official

Prime Minister Tindemans said in a television interview that, while he expected a continuity in US foreign policy, he feared the effects of the political crisis in the US. He asked rhetorically if the American people might seek a return to isolationism.

Press

De Standaard terms President Ford "particularly suited" to restore the needed calm for Americans traumatized by Watergate, but says one would have to wait and see how he reacts in a crisis.

West Germany: Press

Die Welt asks whether a clean record and a good character are enough to fill the office of the Presidency. However, it says that you, like Nixon, have no illusions about the aims of the USSR, and it expects any change in US/Soviet relations to be away from further fraternization.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine sees US foreign policy continuing in the same direction under your leadership and says the change in the US administration has "restored America's internal peace."

3. Middle East

Egypt: Official

On receipt of your message, President Sadat conveyed through Ambassador Eilts "warm felicitations" and gratitude



for the contents of the letter, which he described as "clear, warm and positive." Sadat said that he looks forward to cooperating with you and Secretary Kissinger to realize "all that we have started together." Ambassador Eilts commented that Sadat was especially pleased with the assurances that peace in the Middle East remains one of the highest US foreign policy objectives and that relations between the US and Egypt will be strengthened and deepened. He was also delighted by President Ford's reaffirmation of the invitation to visit the US later this year.

Cairo radio has broadcast the text of a message of congratulations to you from President Sadat, in which he expresses the hope that there would be "more growth and progress" in US-Egyptian bi-lateral relations "for the good of our peoples ... and in order to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Israel: Press

The Israeli press clearly interprets statements about the continuation of US foreign policy to mean that you will "stand by" the "commitments" and "promises" made to Israel by President Nixon.

Israeli Ambassador Dinitz, in an interview broadcast in Israel, said that you had stressed in your meeting with him "the tradition of US friendship to Israel and that the United States will continue to support the strengthening and prosperity of Israel..."

Saudi Arabia: Official

King Faisal has sent the Charge in Jidda, through the Foreign Office, an unsigned message of congratulations to you, expressing the hope that the efforts of the Nixon administration "to bring about a just and lasting peace in the Middle East" would be continued.

4. East Asia

Japan: Media

Television and the newspapers gave top coverage to the events of last week. Former Ambassador to Washington Ushiba is quoted saying "I do not think the Ford Administration will turn toward isolationism and protectionism, but that will depend on the international situation."





There is increasing speculation about a Ford-Tanaka summit, perhaps in September.

South Vietnam: Official

The official GVN statement marking the beginning of your administration expressed full confidence that the policy of five US Presidents and both major parties will be continued. Intelligence reports, however, indicate that President Thieu is concerned about a possible hiatus before your administration is able to take major decisions and urged caution on his military commanders. Recent stepped-up communist attacks near Danang were interpreted in another report as timed to occur when the US Government was "ineffective".

North Vietnam: Radio

Hanoi radio noted:

--your decision to keep Henry Kissinger on as Secretary of State;

--your assurances to President Thieu that the United States will continue to provide military and economic aid;

--alleged US reconnaissance flights over Hanoi and Haiphong on August 9, after you had been sworn in as President, and asked rhetorically: "Was this Ford's first greeting to the Vietnamese people?"

PRG: Radio

The Viet Cong radio asserted that the underlying cause for the Watergate crisis and President Nixon's fall was the American people's opposition to US policy in Vietnam and the economic troubles brought on by the war. It implied that you would suffer the same fate if you continued to use the "Saigon tool" to wage the "neo-colonialist war" in Vietnam.

South Korea: Official

The President's office publicized your message to President Pak, emphasizing your assurances that you would continue the policies and programs toward South Korea, and another high official announced that South Korea, which is now seeking US economic help totaling \$1.6 billion, expected no substantial changes in US foreign economic policy.

Philippines: Official

President Marcos published his message to you stating that the US would continue to find in the Philippines a firm and dependable ally.

Thailand: Official

Prime Minister Sanya stated that he thought there would be no change in US policy, since you are greatly interested in Southeast Asia, and because the Secretary of State will remain in office. The Foreign Minister said the US would continue to be the leader of the Free World. An official spokesman said that Thai policy would not be changed because it is not based on individual leaders.

Singapore: Official

Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew hoped that you could restore confidence and lead a vigorous administration so that the US could provide the leadership to resolve the difficult economic problems which threaten the world.

New Zealand: Official

Prime Minister Kirk said that the energies of the American people can now be directed toward a solution of pressing world problems, and that active and enlightened policies by the US can make the difference between economic decline and a new and prosperous world order.

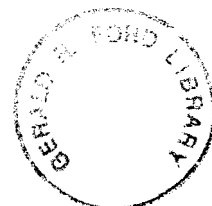
5. Latin America

Mexico: Official

Foreign Minister Rabasa has commented that your presidency will not bring changes in relations with Mexico because "relations are maintained not between men but between nations."

Press

Your note to President Echeverria has been given wide play, appearing in full text in El Nacional and El Sol among others. The general tenor of press reaction can be gauged from El Nacional's comment: "The first words of President Ford on foreign policy served to reassure other nations and give them confidence,



especially by the fact of his naming Kissinger as his Secretary of State."

Peru: Official

Foreign Minister Schacht is reported by the press to be appealing to other Latin nations for the issuance of a joint plea for you to use your accession as an "opportunity" to institute "radical changes" in US policy toward Latin America. The changes are not defined.

Prime Minister Mercado Jarrin noted that while he does not expect you will initiate major changes in US policy toward Latin America, he believes "that the process to end the blockade against Cuba should be hastened." He sees your accession as a "great opportunity" to accomplish that end.

Chile: Official

Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Captain Collados expressed the belief that Secretary Kissinger's continuation in office will mean "continuity" in US foreign policy.

Argentina: Press

The Argentina press expects you will preserve the established lines of US foreign policy. The English-language Buenos Aires Herald, however, is fearful that domestic public opinion will force you to "pull back into a shell of isolationism".

Costa Rica: Official

President Oduber commented that you are "a conservative man" but expressed confidence you will continue to follow a peace policy in the international field."

6. Africa

Sudan: Official

President Numayri in a letter of congratulations to you, expressed confidence that "existing good relations between our two countries" will be enhanced during your administration and that you will work for a just peace in the world and especially "in the region of the world that has suffered so much in the recent past". He



concluded that, in so doing, you would assume "the role of moral leadership to which your country is entitled by its history and its present eminent position".

Kenya: Press

The Nairobi press, calling you a "simple plainspoken man", said the world waits to see how you go about salvaging what is worthwhile and building anew.

Nigeria: Press

The Nigerian press, while noting the damage done to the country by Watergate, praised the American people and political institutions for acquitting themselves honorably. According to one paper, you are not expected to depart markedly from former President Nixon's international policy and, therefore, Africa, long neglected by the Nixon Administration, should not expect any change for the better. Another paper commented that you were not widely known in Africa beyond being a conservative.



THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *by*

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

August 14, 1974

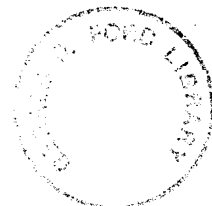
MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*  
SUBJECT: World Reactions to Your Inauguration  
and Congressional Address; Responses  
to Your Messages to World Leaders

I am providing an updated survey of world reactions to your inauguration, including your recent address before Congress (Tab A).

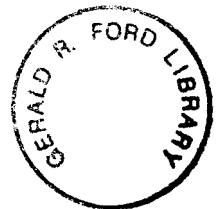
You will also find a compilation and summarization of recent responses to your messages to selected world leaders (Tab B).

Attachments:

- Tab A. Further Reactions to Your Inauguration and Initial Reactions to Your Address to Congress.
- Tab B. Foreign Responses to Presidential Messages.



A



August 13, 1974

FURTHER REACTIONS TO YOUR INAUGURATION  
AND INITIAL REACTIONS TO YOUR ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

SUMMARY

Your affirmation of continuity in US foreign policy continued to be the most prominent characteristic of most reactions. A closely related reaction was widespread approval of your retention of Secretary Kissinger.

There is praise for your personal qualities and especially your good relations with Congress.

The Arab media, however, reflected suspicions about your allegedly pro-Israeli position.

The PRC published several quotes from your speech.

1. Soviet Union: Media

Factual TASS reporting on your Inaugural and your speech to Congress highlighted your affirmations of continuity in foreign policy, particularly detente. Moscow is no longer featuring the topic of US internal affairs in its in-depth commentary, now that the initial reaction has been made clear.

2. Western Europe

France: Radio

Paris radio viewed your address to Congress as "all sincerity and frankness, the language for which the Americans have been waiting." Your administration was seen as a "solid and honest management" doing its best to satisfy the greatest number.

West Germany: Press

The German press

--applauded your honesty, candor, and good relations with Congress, but expressed reservations about your inexperience in foreign affairs;



DECLASSIFIED  
E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5  
State Dept. Guidelines  
By dal, NARA, Date 12/18/03

--emphasized your retention of Secretary Kissinger as "a guarantee of continuity."

Spain: Press

Spanish newspapers stressed the continuity of policy which your assumption of the presidency and the retention of Secretary Kissinger represent. Two Madrid dailies, Ya and ABC, expressed some doubts, however, that US foreign policy will remain totally unchanged, but they seem reassured about the continuity of administration policy toward Spain.

3. Middle East

Egypt: Media

Press and radio highlighted your assurances regarding the US Middle East policy in your letter to Sadat and in your address to Congress. Al-Ahram, nevertheless, commented that Arab unity is a necessity under the "new circumstances."

Jordan: Press

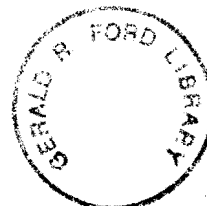
The press has treated your meeting with King Hussein as a major event. Editorial opinion, however, continued to reflect suspicions of your alleged pro-Israel position--suspicions which are common to the Arab press in general.

Saudi Arabia: Press

The paper Ukaz claimed that you were "the first American official to recognize unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel."

Israel: Press

The press treatment of your address to Congress emphasized foreign policy continuity and Middle East peace efforts. The prominent Ha'aretz cautioned that "Israel must examine its moves very carefully until it knows for sure where the new President is heading...."





4. South Asia

India: Official

According to local broadcasts, following his meeting with Secretary Kissinger, India's Ambassador to the US said that you are interested in strengthening US-Indian relations.

Pakistan: Press

The press welcomed your message to Bhutto concerning continued close ties. Several major papers have taken the opportunity to urge resumption of US military assistance to Pakistan.

Iran: Official

Tehran radio said that the Shah in his message of congratulations to you, noted that "the world today expects your Excellency to devote your constant attention to continuing your predecessor's valuable efforts toward creating a just and lasting peace on an international scale."

5. East Asia

Japan: Media

The quasi-official NHK TV said that the tone of your address to Congress reflected your personality--"very calm and affable"--and that the speech as a whole was "a good one...."

People's Republic of China: Press

The New China News Agency (NCNA) publicized excerpts from your speech, including a full quote of the passage concerning the PRC. The account also highlighted your pledge to maintain formal alliances and a firm defense.

NCNA reported that at your "request" PRC Liaison Office chief Huang Chen had met with you soon after you had assumed the presidency.

South Vietnam: Media

Saigon radio said that in your speech to Congress you expressed your special concern about the situation in Vietnam and in the other countries of Indochina:



"...the new US President energetically affirmed that his government wants to see that the in-place cease-fire is observed in Vietnam....This affirmation is an explanation of what the United States has done and will do to insure that the US commitments are upheld and as a warning to those who now brazenly disregard their signature on the cease-fire agreement."

North Vietnam: Media

Commenting on your address to Congress, Hanoi radio stressed your concern with the US economic situation.

Other items in your speech which Hanoi highlighted were:

--your intention to strengthen the US armed forces;

--your affirmation that there will be no change in US foreign policy and that the US will honor its commitments and fulfill its responsibilities toward its allies;

--your statement that the cease-fire in Vietnam should be observed, your expression of support for the negotiated solution in Laos, and your hope for a compromise solution in Cambodia.

Hanoi said you made these statements "despite the fact that the US and its lackeys are sabotaging the Vietnam cease-fire and interfering in the internal affairs of the Cambodian people."

Republic of China: Official

Through Ambassador Unger, Foreign Minister Shen Changhuan thanked Secretary Kissinger for his message affirming that your administration will continue to honor US treaty commitments to Taiwan.

Cambodia: Press

Agence France Presse said Cambodia welcomed with enthusiasm and confidence" your statement to Congress on Indochina. Referring to your declaration that the US would assure the security, independence, and economic development



of its allies in Asia, AFP's "authoritative" source called the US the "great defender of freedom" and said the US should help Cambodia in its struggle for survival, freedom, and independence.

Thailand: Press

The English-language Bangkok Post concluded that your reputation and your office make the Thai pre-disposed in your favor. The editorial added:

"Honesty, probity, and the plodding politician's sense of conscience and compromise may not be enough to make him a great president, but the office has often elevated men, and especially, we hope, President Ford."

Indonesia: Media

Your letter to President Suharto and Secretary Kissinger's letter to Foreign Minister Malik were given wide coverage in the government-controlled media.

The Philippines: Press

Bulletin Today headlined your assurance to President Marcos that the US would honor its agreements with the Philippines.

An editorial in the Times Journal said that you bring "impeccable credentials" to your office, you have "earned a reputation for honesty and hard work," and you have the "capacity to bring American society together."

Singapore: Press

An editorial in the Straits Times said that you are starting out with three advantages: public goodwill, the capacity to listen, and wide congressional respect.

Australia: Official

Prime Minister Whitlam announced that you could be assured that the Australian Government and the people generally were confident of continuing good relations with the US.



Press

The Sydney Morning Herald stated:

"Mr. Ford's admirable objectives may be peace in the world for all, openness and honesty at home, but he knows as well as anyone that slogans are no substitute for detailed policies--on which the world will judge him, and soon."

Editorials unanimously approved the retention of Secretary Kissinger.

6. Latin America

Mexico: Press

All daily papers praised your message to President Echeverria, and the conservative El Sol editorialized that it could only mean that "cordial relations will continue and that the doors will remain open for negotiation on common problems."

The semiofficial El Nacional announced that the basis of your Latin American policy will be "a stronger OAS and the renunciation of punitive action."

Venezuela: Official

El Nacional quoted Foreign Minister Schacht as describing the change in US Presidents as an "opportunity to renew traditional ties of friendship between Venezuela and the US."

Press

El Universal related the beginning of your administration to the continuing "new dialogue" begun by Secretary Kissinger. The paper said, however, that real progress in US/Latin American relations must await Secretary Kissinger's renewal of the dialogue with Latin American Foreign Ministers in Buenos Aires in March 1975.



Chile: Press

An editorial in the conservative El Mercurio said that your assumption of the Presidency guarantees the continuation of established US foreign policy. It added that your confirmation of Dr. Kissinger as Secretary of State eliminates the danger of having new and less expert hands conducting foreign relations.

Cuba: Official

Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro, visiting Lima, told a press conference that, under your administration, the US might find it easier to end the Cuban blockade and re-establish US-Cuban relations. He added that Cuba is "ready to converse with the new US Government, if and when it lifts the economic blockade."

Panama: Press

La Estrella de Panama observed that your assumption of the Presidency will facilitate the negotiation and ratification of a new Panama Canal Treaty favorable to Panama. The paper also expressed satisfaction that you have decided to continue Dr. Kissinger as Secretary of State.

Costa Rica: Official

Foreign Minister Gonzalo Facio, reacting to reports alleging that you intend to normalize relations with Cuba, commented that your attitude is very reasonable and in agreement with the current international situation. Recalling his previous acquaintance with you during his tenure as Ambassador to the US, Facio described you as a "friend of Latin America and a very well-intentioned man, aware of the situation."

7. Africa

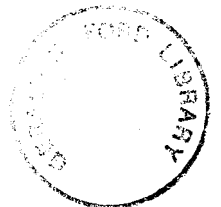
Kenya: Official

The press reported that President Kenyatta's message to you expressed hope that existing relations will be strengthened under your leadership.

INR:DRR:8/13/74



**B**



SECRET/NODIS

FOREIGN RESPONSES TO PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

August 13, 1974

Canada - Prime Minister Trudeau

Adds to his previous congratulations his thanks for the warmth and candor of your message. He agrees that the prospect is bright for the continuation of our fine bilateral and Atlantic Alliance cooperation, and looks forward to meeting you at an early opportunity.

Egypt - President Sadat

Asked our Ambassador to convey his pleasure on receiving your message and his expectation that US-Egyptian cooperation will continue.

Greece - Prime Minister Caramanlis

Congratulates you on assuming your high office and wishes you all success; thanks you for thinking of him and his country and for the understanding you showed of his dual problem of bringing democracy to Greece while dealing with the Cyprus situation.

Spain - Prince Juan Carlos

Said that General Franco has seen your message.

Syria - President Asad

Sends his congratulations and his thanks for your message. He particularly welcomes your commitment to pursue peace in the Middle East and assures you that he will do his part.

Thailand - Prime Minister Sanya

Is delighted with your message and will reply formally through his Embassy.

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

By dal, NARA, Date 12/18/03

SECRET/NODIS

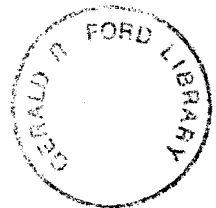


Vietnam - President Thieu

Read your letter very carefully. He said that he wishes to see the Paris Agreement fully implemented and to have free general elections. He also stated that the Vietnamese will fight their own battle but will need help. The President and his advisors are greatly heartened and impressed by both the promptness and contents of your message.

Zaire - President Mobutu

Thanks you for your message and agrees that our bilateral relations should continue to be excellent. He and his people wish you all success and know that you will continue to work for world peace.





January 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: Henry A. Kissinger *AK*  
SUBJECT: Album of Congratulatory  
Messages from Foreign Leaders  
on Your Assumption of the Presidency

I thought you might like to have this album of congratulatory messages from foreign leaders on your assumption of the Presidency.

In general, the messages were answered using the appropriate one of the three approved texts (Tabs 1, 2 and 3). Where the response varied from the approved texts, a copy of the reply is included with the incoming message.

*Henry / Thanks. I deeply  
appreciate this album.  
GR 7.*

