

**The original documents are located in Box 30, folder “Shelton, Turner (1)” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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ITEMIZATION OF EVENTS RELATIVE TO  
SHELTON APPOINTMENT

7

September 8, 1975, Shelton returned to Washington from post as Ambassador to Nicaragua. In September 1975 Senator Curtis spoke to the President and to Secretary Kissinger regarding Ambassadorship for Shelton.

October 18, 1975, Shelton informed by Mr. Eagleburger that the President was nominating him as Ambassador to the Bahamas.

October and November 1975 full field security investigation conducted by FBI and Office of Security. Full clearance granted.

December 29, 1975, Shelton notified that the President had signed documents nominating him as Ambassador to Bahamas.

January 1976 campaign immediately began to undercut Shelton's appointment in Bahamas.

Mr. Eagleburger offered Shelton several positions as Political Advisor. Shelton accepted, but over course of several weeks was advised that Norfolk position which had been offered had been filled and complications arose with others.

In March 1976 Shelton was offered Consul Generalship to Bermuda by Mr. Eagleburger.

About one week later Shelton was informed by Mr. Eagleburger that Representative Wayne Hays objected to his assignment to Bermuda and would not allow his appointment.

Approximately 10 days later Mr. Eagleburger offered Shelton Consul Generalship to Casablanca.

During May 1976 Senator Curtis discussed with the President his desires in this matter and President stated that he wished Shelton to accept Casablanca.

Shelton accepted Casablanca and began preparations for departure.

Itemization of Events Relative to Shelton Appointment  
Page 2

Within about 10 days State Department said that Representative Jack Brooks had made certain allegations in writing to Department.

State Department investigated these allegations both by interviewing the disgruntled employee in El Salvador under oath and team of 3 investigators, including auditors, reviewed all allegations in Managua and took statements under oath from all knowledgeable Embassy employees.

Three weeks later Mr. Eagleburger informed Shelton that all allegations had been completely disproved and that he "doubted that any other Ambassador could have stood up as well to such an investigation."

During these discussions Mr. Eagleburger said that in view of language problems in Casablanca, with Shelton not having used French for a number of years, he was offering Consul Generalship to Bermuda and that this appointment had been cleared with Secretary Kissinger.

Within day or two Eagleburger said that orders for Bermuda were "ready on his desk" but that Congressman Brooks "was threatening to hold hearings" and to call Eagleburger and the Inspector General as witnesses, but not Shelton.

June 10, 1975

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your letter to the President concerning Ambassador Turner Station.

I know the President will appreciate your providing him with an outline of the situation and I shall make certain he receives your letter without delay.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

William T. Kendall  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Carl T. Curtis  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

bcc: w/incoming to Douglas Bennett for further action.  
bcc: w/incoming to General Scowcroft - for appropriate handling.  
bcc: w/incoming to Patrick O'Donnell - for your information.  
bcc: w/incoming to Max Friedersdorf - for your information.  
WTK:EF:VO:vo



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL REVENUE  
TAXATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND  
CONDUCT  
CHAIRMAN OF REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

June 27, 1975

The Honorable Gerald Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

My dear Mr. President:

me  
I am writing to you in behalf of Mr. Turner Shelton, who at present is our Ambassador to Nicaragua. Ambassador Shelton is a fine man, he is dedicated to our country and he has done a very good job in Nicaragua.

A situation has arisen which I feel merits your attention. Some months ago, Jack Anderson published a scurrilous article about Ambassador Shelton. It wasn't a collection of half truths, every allegation was false and was proven so. Some months later another article, written by some other author, appeared in a Washington paper. It was apparent that these stories were planted for the purpose of destroying Ambassador Shelton, who had done such a good job in working with the President of Nicaragua who is truly a friend of the United States.

Last April I spoke to Secretary Kissinger in behalf of Ambassador Shelton to the end that he would not be removed. Secretary Kissinger told me that due to their regular practice, Ambassador Shelton was about to be rotated out of Nicaragua. We talked about these smear articles and I asked Secretary Kissinger if Ambassador Shelton could be assigned to a new post in such a manner that it would be a repudiation of these charges. Secretary Kissinger said to me, "This we can do and this we will do."

Realizing that the Secretary is a very busy man, I relayed this commitment that he made to me in behalf of Ambassador Shelton to Mr. Eagleburger and Mr. Ingersoll of the State Department. I have kept in touch with them. I immediately informed them of the Secretary's commitment to me.

Notwithstanding the foregoing facts, the lower bureaucracy of the State Department has moved in the opposite direction, causing the White House document to state that Ambassador Shelton was leaving the Foreign Service. Another official of the State Department denied to Ambassador Shelton the right to come to Washington and talk the situation over. He told him there was nothing to talk over and they had nothing for him.



The Honorable Gerald Ford

Page 2

June 26, 1975

Inasmuch as the appointment of ambassadors is a Presidential responsibility, I felt that I must relay these facts to you.

Ambassador Shelton is in a position to serve the United States well. His experience and training make him valuable. There are many spots that will need to be filled. He has had experience in some tough negotiations with the Communists in one of his earlier assignments. He is highly dedicated to the ideals of the United States. He is intensely loyal to you as the President of the United States. I urge that he be offered a suitable post.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,

*Carl T. Curtis*  
CARL T. CURTIS, USS

CTC:cam



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Call Jan Brooks

225-6565



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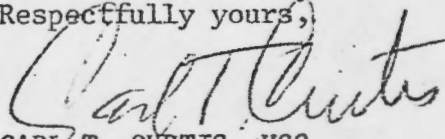
The Honorable Gerald Ford  
Page 2  
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With kindest personal regards, I am

Respectfully yours,



CARL T. CURTIS, USS

CTC:cam



Some items in this folder were not digitized because it contains copyrighted materials. Please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library for access to these materials.

6-25  
CARL T. CURTIS  
NEBRASKA

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
JOINT COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL REVENUE  
TAXATION  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS AND  
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CHAIRMAN OF REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

# United States Senate

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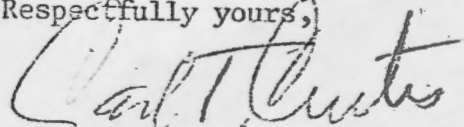
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With kindest personal regards, I am

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CARL T. CURTIS, USS

CTC:cam



SUBJECT:           Nicaraguan Ambassadorship

Our ambassador to Nicaragua since August 5, 1970 has been Mr. Turner Shelton (a brief bio attached at Exhibit A). Mr. Shelton's current political support apparently is Senator Curtis and Congressman Sikes. Mr. Sheldon has been an object of several critical press comments. See attached copies of Jack Anderson articles at Exhibit B.

Mr. Shelton is a Foreign Service Officer and was about to be "selected out" at the time he was selected ambassador. The State Department is very much against giving him a significant assignment but would reluctantly be willing to give him something to do through the date of his 60th birthday in December 1975. As of that date, pursuant to State Department rules, he will be required to retire as a Foreign Service Officer.

*60 days*  
*relief*

The President nominated Mr. James Theberge on May 30, 1975, to succeed Mr. Shelton (see press release at Exhibit C). Mr. Theberge was supported by Senator Brock (see Exhibit D). However, the primary reason for his candidacy is that he is a young, moderate to conservative, Latin American expert. It is hoped that his nomination would add a strong Republican to the ranks of the foreign policy establishment.



**TURNER.SHELTON**  
Ambassador to Nicaragua

Born: 12/13/15 in Virginia

Legal Residence: Beverly Hills, California

Marital Status: Married; wife, former Lesly Starr

Education: Liberal Arts, 1934 - University of Virginia  
Physical Science, 1935 - University of Richmond

Language Ability: French

Experience: Government (1942-1945)

Chief Clerk, Treasury Department; advertising  
specialist, War Bonds Division

Non-Government (1935-1951)

Motion Picture Producer and Executive, Hollywood

Government (1953-1961)

Production Advisor, United States Information Agency.  
Deputy Director, Assistant Director, Director, Interna-  
tional Motion Picture Service

1961-62 Special Assistant, Bureau of European Affairs

1962-1964 Counselor of Legation, Budapest

1964 Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for  
Public Affairs

1966-70 Principle Officer, Nassau

1970-75 Ambassador to Nicaragua



# *U.S. Envoy to Nicaragua Criticized*

**By Jack Anderson  
and Les Whitten**

The worst ambassador in the U.S. diplomatic service, in our judgment, is Turner B. Shelton. He presides, in Ugly American

But at the slightest hint of criticism, Shelton would whip out personal letters from President Nixon as a testament to his White House connections. Often the ambassador and his wife, Lesly, would fly to Florida, com-

One came to Managua just before Christmas, 1972. A terrible earthquake leveled the city, killed 10,000 people and injured another 15,000.

Not a hospital was left standing. But miraculously, the am-

Her chief concern during the earthquake was for her pet cat. Later the cat became sick, thus precipitating a national crisis. A solicitous Somoza sent a host of vets, including government vets from the Ministry of Agricult-

*file*



File

# Rebuke, Denied by Envoy, Is Quoted

By Jack Anderson  
and Les Whitten

A few days ago, we nominated Turner B. Shelton, the American ambassador to Nicaragua, as the worst in the U.S. diplomatic service.

We described him as one of the last survivors of the Ugly American era, living in splendor in an enormous hilltop man-

door toilets.

For such actions, we wrote, Shelton was rebuked by the State Department. Our associate, Joe Spear, telephoned him in Managua to seek his comments. The ambassador cordially denied everything. Then his wife grabbed the phone and told us off in less cordial language.

Since we had carefully pinned

ments is extremely dubious and in many cases almost impossible. It has exposed U.S. embassy personnel to sun, heat, dust and high winds and obviously this situation cannot be allowed to continue."

His own spacious, air-conditioned residence, of course, stood virtually empty. Yet Shelton declared he was going to lease the La Cuesta country

Secretary Charles Meyer and approved by Deputy Under Secretary William Macomber.

"I have made a careful review of all aspects of the situation," cabled Meyer, "especially because of your contention that support from here has been deficient...."

"Your comments regarding the harsh conditions of sun, heat, dust and humidity, which

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate James D. Theberge, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Nicaragua. He will succeed Turner B. Shelton who is resigning from the Foreign Service.

Since 1970, Mr. Theberge has been serving as Director of Latin American Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University. From 1969 to 1970 he was an Instructor of Economics, Oxford University, Oxford, England. He was an Economist with the Inter-American Development Bank of Washington, D. C. from 1966 to 1969. In 1961 to 1964 and 1965 to 1966 he was an International Relations Officer and Program Economist, Agency for International Development, in Washington, D. C. and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Mr. Theberge was born on December 28, 1930, in New York, New York. He received his B.A. degree in 1952 from Columbia University. He received a B.A. (honorary) in 1956 from Oxford University; an M.A. degree in 1960 from Oxford University; an M. P.A. degree in 1965 from Harvard University. He also attended Heidelberg University during 1957 to 1958.

Mr. Theberge is married to the former Griselda Fages.

# # # #



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 27, 1975

The Honorable Gerald R. Ford  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

*MR*  
I understand that James D. Theberge is under consideration for the position as United States Ambassador to Nicaragua. In my opinion, Jim is qualified to serve in this capacity.

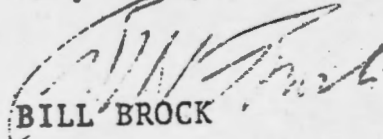
I have known Jim Theberge for several years on a social basis and during the past year, Jim, Senator Nunn and I have been hosting a series of Senatorial luncheons for distinguished Western Hemispheric leaders. Jim Theberge has actually been handling the guests and after observing him with the various Western Hemispheric Ambassadors, Ministers and other prominent persons, I am convinced that he would be a great credit to the diplomatic corps.

As I am sure you know from his credentials, Jim Theberge is very knowledgeable in Latin American Affairs. He is presently Director of Latin American Studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University. Jim Theberge is also directing the Latin American Project for the Rockefeller Commission on Critical Choices.

Prior to his appointment to the Center, he was at the Latin American Centre at Oxford and before that he was an advisor to the President of the Inter-American Development Bank. Jim Theberge also served for six years as a Foreign Service Reserve Officer and during part of that time served under one of our most distinguished Ambassadors, Robert McClintock, in Argentina.

In sum, Mr. President, I think James Theberge is well qualified for the position and would make a fine Ambassador.

Very truly yours,

  
BILL BROCK

BB:gge



the funds I recommended for immediate and temporary employment through the public sector and summer youth jobs. Since student summer vacations are close at hand, I urge the Congress to pass such a bill as quickly as possible.

GERALD R. FORD

The White House,  
May 28, 1975.

NOTE: The text of the message was released in Washington and Brussels, Belgium.

## Federal Energy Administration

*Announcement of Intention To Nominate  
Eric R. Zausner To Be Deputy Administrator.  
May 30, 1975*

The President today announced his intention to nominate Eric R. Zausner, of McLean, Va., to be Deputy Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration. This is a new position created by Public Law 93-275 of May 7, 1974.

Since December 1973, Mr. Zausner has served as Assistant Administrator for Policy and Analysis and was appointed by Frank Zarb, Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration, as Acting Deputy Administrator of FEA in December 1974. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Department of the Interior from July 1973 until the office was transferred in December 1973 to FEA. From August 1970 until July 1973, he was a senior staff member of the Council on Environmental Quality. He joined what was then called the United States Public Health Service as a financial analyst in 1968. He became Chief of the Management Section of the Bureau of Solid Waste Management, which was later transferred to the Environmental Protection Agency, serving until July 1970.

Mr. Zausner was born on August 6, 1944, in New York, N.Y., and received his B.S. degree from Lehigh University in 1966. During 1967, he was a financial analyst with W. R. Grace, Inc. He received his M.B.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1968.

Mr. Zausner is married to the former Marjorie H. Mackie.

## Legacy of Parks Program

*Announcement of Designation of Federally Owned  
Land at Beltsville, Maryland, for Recreational  
Purposes. May 30, 1975*

The President announced today that he is designating approximately 3,600 acres of federally owned land at Beltsville, Md., to be set aside for recreation, conserva-

tion, wildlife preservation, and related educational and scientific activities. The 3,600 acres were reported by the Department of Agriculture to the General Services Administration to be excess to the needs of the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Among the 28,000 acres of contiguous federally owned properties lying along the Baltimore-Washington corridor, there are now some 3,300 acres devoted to conservation and wildlife preservation and several thousand additional acres which are in an essentially natural state and, although used for other primary purposes, are nevertheless devoted secondarily to compatible conservation and wildlife preservation purposes. The availability of the additional 3,600 acres now provides an opportunity to further enhance the environment of the National Capital region.

The 3,300 acre Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is contiguous to the 3,600 acres which are excess to the Agricultural Research Center needs. Its purpose includes research on endangered species and pesticides. Approximately 900 acres of the excess land will be made available to the Center to carry on its research and eventually to add other facilities for conservation and nature study, including trails through selected areas in order that wildlife in its natural habitat can be viewed and studied. A visitors center at the Wildlife Research Center will be provided in time for Bicentennial use in 1976.

The President has directed the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a long-range plan for the development of the recreation, conservation, wildlife preservation, and related educational and scientific activities potential of the remaining 2,700 excess acres.

The lands being rededicated are the second largest parcel to be made available for recreational purposes under the Legacy of Parks program.

## United States Ambassador to Nicaragua

*Announcement of Intention To Nominate  
James D. Theberge. May 30, 1975*

The President today announced his intention to nominate James D. Theberge, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Nicaragua. He will succeed Turner B. Shelton, who is resigning from the Foreign Service.

Since 1970, Mr. Theberge has been serving as director of Latin American studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University. From 1969 to 1970, he was an instructor of economics, Oxford University, Oxford, England. He was an economist with the Inter-American Development Bank of Washington, D.C., from 1966 to 1969. From 1961 to 1964 and 1965 to 1966 he was an International Relations Officer and Program Economist, Agency for International Development, in Washington, D.C., and Buenos Aires, Argentina.



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Mr. Theberge is married to the former Griselda Fages.

## Presidential Clemency Board

### *Announcement of Appointment of Eight Members of the Board. May 30, 1975*

The President has appointed eight persons as members of the Presidential Clemency Board. The enlargement of the Board was authorized by the President in an Executive order May 7, 1975, which permits him to appoint such additional members to the Board as he shall from time to time determine to be necessary to carry out its functions.

The additional members are:

- TIMOTHY L. CRAIG, of Alexandria, Va., president, National Association of Concerned Veterans.
- JOHN A. EVERHARD, of Vienna, Va., retired Air Force colonel, formerly Chief, Administrative Law Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General, USAF.
- ANTOINETTE FORD, of the District of Columbia, consultant, formerly White House Fellow in office of the Secretary of the Treasury under George Shultz and John Connally, formerly member of Washington City Council.
- MSGR. FRANCIS J. LALLY, of Rosindale, Mass., secretary of the Department of Social Development and World Peace.
- E. FREDERIC MORROW, of New York, N.Y., director, Institute for Urban and Minority Education, Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N.J.
- LEWIS PULLER, of Alexandria, Va., staff attorney with the Board.
- HARRY RIGGS, of Plainview, Tex., retired Army colonel, long experience at national headquarters of the Selective Service System, active in Reserve Officers Association, American Legion, and American Security Council.
- JOAN VINSON, of Alexandria, Va., founding national coordinator, National League of Families of American POWs/MIAs, Director of Public Affairs for the Board.

The Clemency Board is required to submit its final recommendations to the President by December 31, 1976.

## Digest of Other White House Announcements

Following is a listing of items of general interest which were announced to the press during the period covered

by this issue but which are not carried elsewhere in this issue.

*May 24*

The President has accepted the resignations of Blair Kolasa, Earle G. Wheeler, and D. C. Burnham as members of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships.

The President has accepted the resignations of T. Babcock and Perkins Bass as members of the National Advisory Committee on Oceans and Atmosphere.

The President has accepted the resignation of James' Lynn, Director of the Office of Management and Budget as a member of the President's Commission on Personnel Interchange.

The President has announced the designation Charles A. Schmitz as the U.S. Deputy Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, effective May 2, 1975.

*May 26*

The President met at the White House with the Economic Policy Board.

The President has accepted the following resignations:

- DAVID D. DOWD, JR., as a member of the Commission on the Review of the National Policy Toward Gambling, effective today.
- MARY J. KYLE as a member of the Citizens' Advisory Council on the Status of Women, effective today.
- REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS S. FOLEY as a member of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Puerto Rico, effective today.

The President met with Attorney General Levi and Administration officials to discuss plans for the President's message to Congress on crime.

*May 27*

The President announced the appointment of Secretary of Commerce Rogers C. B. Morton as a member of the National Commission on Productivity and Work Quality.

The President announced his intention to nominate Wallace F. Bennett, of Salt Lake City, Utah, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation for a term expiring December 17, 1977.

The President has accepted the resignation of John D. J. Moore as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Ireland, effective June 30, 1975.

The President met at the White House with Lt. Comdr Steven Todd who is being reassigned after 2 years service as Naval Aide to the President.

Administrator Richard W. Velde and staff members of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration met with



SEPTEMBER 26, 1970

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TURNER B. SHELTON NOMINATED  
UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA

The President today announced his intention to nominate Mr. Turner B. Shelton of Beverly Hills, California, as Ambassador to Nicaragua. A career Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Shelton is currently serving as Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate General in Nassau, Bahama Islands.

Born in Virginia on December 13, 1915, Mr. Shelton studied at the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond. Subsequently, he worked in the motion picture industry. He began his government service in the Treasury Department in 1942, working as an advertising specialist in the War Bonds Division for three years. In 1945, he returned to private industry as a motion picture producer and executive, which led, in 1951, to his attachment to the Department of State as a consultant.

In 1953, Mr. Shelton joined the United States Information Agency, serving consecutively as production advisor, Deputy Director, Assistant Director and Director of that Agency's International Motion Picture Service. During this period, he was also one of the principal negotiators of the US-USSR Cultural Exchange Agreement.

Upon his transfer to the Department of State in 1961, Mr. Shelton was appointed as a Foreign Service Officer and became Special Assistant to the Bureau of European Affairs. In 1962, he was named Counselor of Legation in Budapest, Hungary.

Mr. Shelton returned to Washington in 1964 and served for two years as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. In 1966, he was named to his present position as Principal Officer of the Consulate General in the Bahama Islands.

Mr. Shelton is married to the former Lesly Starr.

# # #



Ag

JUN 4 - 1975

EXECUTIVE

FO2K0111A

~~JUN 5 - 1975~~

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

It is with special gratitude for your contribution to the conduct of our foreign policy that I accept your resignation as Ambassador to Nicaragua, effective upon a date to be determined.

During your service as Ambassador you have carried out your responsibilities with dedication and purpose. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for your efforts on behalf of this Administration and our Nation.

You have my best wishes for every continued success and happiness in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

GERALD R. FORD

The Honorable Turner B. Shelton  
American Ambassador  
Managua

cc: Amelia Leukhardt

(sent 6/5/75)

GRF:State:JHH:RLE:jfc



65C  
Resigning as amb to Nicaragua  
No need for announcement - successor announced and nominated  
Orig. by WH message to Mr. Dem, State, Cir. 1828: 6/5/75

7506050000

Handwritten initials/signature

June 5, 1975

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Respectfully referred for the files  
of the Department of State.

Robert D. Linder  
Chief Executive Clerk

Transmitting a copy of the following:

US Ambassador to Nicaragua, *djm*  
Ltr of resignation, 8/9/74, from Turner B. Shelton, eff. POP; acc. 6/17/75,  
eff. upon a date to be determined.

(Sent to State, Attn: Mrs. Renn, Rm. 1828, D.C. 20520)

djm





*Signed*  
*6-4-75*

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON  
May 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
THROUGH: DONALD RUMSFELD  
FROM: WILLIAM N. WALKER *Walker*  
SUBJECT: Letter of Resignation.

Attached for your signature is a letter accepting the resignation of Turner B. Shelton as Ambassador to Nicaragua.

*Rec'd in Records Office 6/5/75*

*No need for announcement - Successor (Theberge) <sup>announced 5/30/75 and</sup> nominated 6/2/75*

*Ltr dated 6/4/75*

*To State Dept, Rm 1828, c/o Hypo. Perm: 6/5/75*



THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

May 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER  
SUBJECT: Resignation of Turner B. Shelton  
as Ambassador to Nicaragua

I attach herewith the resignation of Turner B. Shelton as Ambassador to Nicaragua together with a suggested letter of acceptance for your approval.

Attachments:

1. Letter of Resignation.
2. Suggested Letter of Acceptance.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE





EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Managua, Nicaragua

August 9, 1974

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

In keeping with the established custom, I hereby tender my resignation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Nicaragua, to become effective at your pleasure.

Allow me, Mr. President, to express to you my highest esteem.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Turner B. Shelton".

Turner B. Shelton



May 30, 1975

## Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate James D. Theberge, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to Nicaragua. He will succeed Turner B. Shelton who is resigning from the Foreign Service.

Since 1970, Mr. Theberge has been serving as Director of Latin American Studies, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Georgetown University. From 1969 to 1970 he was an Instructor of Economics, Oxford University, Oxford, England. He was an Economist with the Inter-American Development Bank of Washington, D. C. from 1966 to 1969. In 1961 to 1964 and 1965 to 1966 he was an International Relations Officer and Program Economist, Agency for International Development, in Washington, D. C. and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Mr. Theberge was born on December 28, 1930, in New York, New York. He received his B.A. degree in 1952 from Columbia University. He received a B.A. (honorary) in 1956 from Oxford University; an M.A. degree in 1960 from Oxford University; an M.P.A. degree in 1965 from Harvard University. He also attended Heidelberg University during 1957 to 1958.

Mr. Theberge is married to the former Griselda Fages.

# # # #



July 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
FROM: JACK MARSH

I have some information for you on the Turner Sheldon matter, which we will have to run by the Hill.

The bottom line is that although they are not going to find another Ambassadorial post for Sheldon, for reasons which I will mention to you personally, Brent is of the view that they can get him a spot doing something else in the Department of State. Breahalso indicates that he believes that Carl Curtis understands the situation and will be willing to go with this other suggestion.

JOM/dl



July 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAX FRIEDERSDORF  
FROM: JACK MARSH

I would appreciate your inquiring into the Sheldon matter I mentioned to you. As you are aware, in addition to Carl Curtis, Jack Flynt is a strong supporter of Sheldon and wants something done on his behalf.

There is a time deadline on this I believe which requires some action very shortly. I have discussed it with Brent. I think it would also be a good idea if you could talk with him concerning it.

Many thanks.

JOM/d1



July 11, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: JACK MARSH

As I mentioned to you on the phone, Congressman Jack Flynt of Georgia called to endorse Ambassador Sheldon, whom he indicates wants to be reassigned in the Department of State.

We have talked earlier about this individual, and I wanted you to be aware of Congressman Flynt's personal interest in him with the hope that something can be done to give him another assignment.

Many thanks.

cc: Max Friedersdorf

JOM/d1



JM  
Amb. Sp.OFFICE OF  
THE ADMINISTRATOR

January 8, 1973

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

**SUBJECT:** Special Report on Emergency Relief for  
the Managua Disaster

Just after midnight on December 23 an earthquake registering 6.5 on the Richter scale struck the city of Managua, Nicaragua. In less than 30 seconds, some 36 blocks in the heart of the nation's capital -- or half of the total city -- were practically leveled. Except for a few damaged buildings still standing, what the initial and after shocks left were 1,200 square acres of rubble in the geometrically exact center of the capital.

We will never know how many died or even how many were injured in the earthquake; estimates of the number killed range between 4,000 and 12,000 and some 20,000 more injured. We do know, however, that the other losses were staggering. Not only was the basic infrastructure of a modern city -- electricity, communications, water supply and transport -- immediately knocked out, but 50,000 homes were totally destroyed and thousands more made uninhabitable, forcing the survivors into the streets to fend for themselves.

The gigantic dimensions of what was lost soon began to emerge. Gone was all of the physical plant of the national government; half the public schools in the city; all of its hospitals and practically all of the commercial services, markets and commodity stocks upon which an urban society depends. A preliminary estimate places the immediate losses at over \$600 million. Additionally, almost half of the nation's GNP has been disrupted, more than half of the government's sources of revenue has been lost, and 25 percent of the population is now without the means to sustain even the minimum necessities of life.





- 2 -

The Government of Nicaragua is faced with these overwhelming needs of its people at a time when basic institutions and services are badly disrupted and when the budgetary resources at its disposal are greatly diminished.

At your direction, I conferred with government leaders in Nicaragua to determine what more could be done to help cope with immediate problems and to assure the adequacy and effectiveness of our help for a sister American republic in its time of tragic need. Nicaragua's leaders are responding to the emergency, with courage and a sense of national purpose. A National Committee for the Emergency, bringing together all groups, has been constituted under the able leadership of General Anastasio Somoza. Similar local committees are cooperating throughout the country and services gradually are being established in an orderly way to help the quarter of the population in dire need. It is an immense undertaking for a country the size of Nicaragua and it has just begun.

The immediate problems have been to reestablish medical services, to assure the distribution of water and food, and to provide at least temporary shelter for the hundreds of thousands of victims who fled from Managua. Our help in each of these areas has provided the critical margin which made it possible to prevent even greater suffering, and probably disorder. American relief made it possible for Nicaragua's people to meet their most urgent needs and to face the awesome tasks ahead with renewed hope.

Action to meet the immediate problems is well underway.

At your direction, I supervised the organization of a mass feeding program to assure food for the hungry throughout the country. An estimated 350,000 people fled the city after the quake to find food and shelter with friends and relatives in the outlying areas of Managua and in other towns and cities across the country. The problem is complicated by a severe drought during this past crop season which adversely affects the availability of food both for the earthquake victims and many other people as well. The distribution of water to the survivors in Managua was also immediately essential. The distribution system we devised with the full cooperation of the Government is working throughout the Republic. There were early problems, but I am satisfied that the distribution of both food and water is now adequate and that the distribution system will continue to function well until it is no longer needed.



Nicaragua will need food assistance for the next ten months until the harvest in September 1973. We have provided some 20 million pounds of food, both delivered and underway, valued at \$3 million. More will be needed -- both from U. S. and from others as well.

With respect to the shelter problem, we have sent to Nicaragua 4,000 tents; enough to shelter 25,000 people. But there is need for more and better temporary shelters. Working jointly with the Nicaraguan Government, we devised an emergency shelter program for immediate construction of 15,000 individual wood and metal structures to house an additional 75,000 refugees and to permit essential workers to return to Managua. We authorized \$3 million in A. I. D. funds for this purpose. Our prompt action to launch this emergency construction, which should be completed in the next 30 days, was a source of great encouragement to the government and people.

In the field of emergency health measures, we have taken steps which have brought the situation under control, including the donation of two U. S. army field hospitals which were brought in the day after the tragedy; the two facilities, which total 124 beds plus all related equipment to operate a modern hospital, are now fully staffed by Nicaraguan doctors and nurses -- and are providing basic medical services for the city of Managua.

These measures taken jointly with General Somoza and his emergency committee mean that they have turned the corner on the most critical needs of medical assistance, food and water, and, finally, in the coming weeks, shelter.

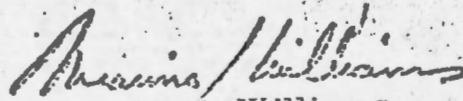
We have committed \$10.6 million to date for emergency relief. It constitutes a critical contribution to people who have long been friendly and who found themselves in the most urgent need of their history. There will be additional emergency help needed from us over the next 10 months, but it will be insignificant compared with the efforts that will be required of the Nicaraguan nation.

In particular, emergency measures are needed to help replace at least part of the \$50 million equivalent lost to the Government in tax revenues because of the disruption of the economy and commercial activity in Managua. General Somoza is most anxious to launch public works programs to begin rebuilding and provide jobs for the over 52,000 who lost their means of livelihood. We have agreed to help the Government design works projects to provide for emergency



distribution they saw to the repair of the municipal supply system and the partial restoration of service. Power and communications are being restored quickly both within the city and with the outside world in large part because American experts who knew how to do it were rushed in. It was largely the officers at our Mission, operating out of tents and the Ambassador's residence because the Embassy itself was destroyed, who helped to organize the first crude feeding programs and the provision of emergency shelter.

In particular, Ambassador Shelton is deserving of special commendation. Throughout the emergency he performed with exceptional skill and courage a task that would test great generals. Nicaragua and we are fortunate that he was there when the challenge came.



Maurice J. Williams  
President's Special Coordinator for  
Emergency Relief to Nicaragua

Attachment: Total relief assistance to date.



employment for displaced workers. A.I.D. is fielding a senior, experienced team to assist in this effort.

Reconstruction itself poses a number of difficult problems, since it is being considered whether or not the city should be rebuilt along different lines and with some relocation to lessen danger from the possibility of further earthquakes. A team of U.S. geologists and other experts are in Nicaragua working on studies which will provide the technical basis for this decision. Further, there is need to coordinate with other aid donors to redirect assistance projects underway to meet the current needs and to assess plans for reconstruction. Resolution of these problems will take time -- but the situation in Nicaragua today is urgent and does not permit the luxury of the normal procedures of international consultation and attendant delays.

We are pressing for early action on assessments, both technical and economic, which will permit the Government of Nicaragua to plan its programs of reconstruction and provide the basis for assistance in this task from the U.S. and other aid donors. We anticipate that the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank and the IBRD will play important parts in the overall effort.

While issues of reconstruction are for future decision, you may be interested in my judgment as to the overall quality of the American Aid effort of the past two weeks. It is a pleasure to report that the performance of Ambassador Turner B. Shelton and his staff during the recovery was outstanding, even heroic. Tumbled from their beds in the first shocks, lacking light and with only very rudimentary communication, they were able to respond to the welfare and evacuation of Americans and non-essential personnel, and, at the same time, to begin to help meet the emergency needs of the Nicaraguans.

While many other nations and groups responded swiftly with mercy flights and personnel, the American contribution was critical in averting a compounding of the crisis. It was largely U.S. Army personnel who organized the first emergency help and set up the first medical facilities. U.S. Army sanitation experts brought in water purification equipment when no pure water was available over a period of days, and after arranging emergency



DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (PRELIMINARY DATA)

I. U. S. GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS

Military Supplies & Equipment	\$2,137,355	
Military Airlift	722,773	
AID Emergency Housing	3,000,000	
AID Procured Supplies	937,301	
Commercial Transport	325,000	
U. S. Contributions to OAS	25,000	
Ongoing Cost Not Yet Reported	500,000	
Food for Peace	2,994,000	
<b>TOTAL U. S. GOVERNMENT</b>		<b>\$10,641,429</b>

II. U. S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CONTRIBUTIONS

Catholic Relief Services	346,000	
Church World Services	19,500	
American Red Cross	251,440	
Salvation Army	20,000	
Seventh Day Adventists	29,750	
Wisconsin Partners of the Americas	90,000	
CARE	20,000	
<b>TOTAL U. S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES</b>		<b>\$ 776,690</b>



III. INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OTHER NATIONS

Thirty one nations contributing through National Red Cross Societies	\$1,715,840
United Nations	120,000
Japan	400,000
Australia	29,000
France	250,000
Republic of China (Taiwan)	256,000
United Kingdom	46,000
OAS	225,000

TOTAL INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES & OTHER NATIONS \$ 3,041,840

GRAND TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS \$14,459,959

1/8/73: Agency for International Development



July 29, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT  
FROM: JACK MARSH  
SUBJECT: Ambassador Turner Sheldon

I need from you assistance and information on the Turner Sheldon matter. In our last conversation, you indicated a resolution on this matter in a way that was satisfactory to Sheldon and also to Senator Curtis.

Congressman Jack Flynt is a close personal friend and strongly supports Sheldon and has inquired about his situation. Our contacts through McCloskey's office indicate an unawareness of any arrangement for Sheldon which is a cause of concern to Max and me. Jack Flynt is pressing very hard for an explanation and I need information from you as to arrangements for Sheldon.

I would also appreciate your advising appropriate officials at the Department of State as to plans for this individual in order to be responsive to other inquiries.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOM/dl

Determined to be an administrative marking  
Cancelled per E.O. 12356, Sec. 1.3 and  
Archivist's memo of March 16, 1983

By DAO NARS date 1/17/86



July 29, 1975

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Determined to be an administrative marking  
Cancelled per E.O. 12356, Sec. 1.3 and  
Archivist's memo of March 16, 1983

By            ~~DDO~~ NARS date 1/17/86





August 4, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: JACK MARSH

Congressman Jack Flynt continues to press on the Sheldon matter. He has asked that I obtain a status report and call him in Georgia.

Providing him this information as quickly as possible may avert further long-range problems.

JOM/dl

