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Appointed January 20-June 1, 1969

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Presidential Documents

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Weekly Compilation of

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Week Ending Friday, July 25, 1969

Tranquility Base, The Moon

The President's Telephone Conversation With Apollo 11 Astronauts Neil A. Armstrong and Col. Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., During Their Walk on the Moon. July 20, 1969

NASA HOUSTON CONTROL. The President of the United States is in his office now and would like to say a few words to you. Over.

Go ahead, Mr. President. This is Houston.

THE PRESIDENT. Neil and Buzz, I am talking to you by telephone from the Oval Room at the White House. This certainly has to be the most historic telephone call ever made from the White House.

I just can't tell you how proud we all are of what you have done. For every American this has to be the proudest day of our lives. For people all over the world I am sure that they, too, join with Americans in recognizing what an immense feat this is.

Because of what you have done the heavens have become a part of man's world. As you talk to us from the Sea of Tranquility, it inspires us to redouble our efforts to bring peace and tranquility to earth.

For one priceless moment in the whole history of man all of the people on this earth are truly one—one in their pride in what you have done and one in our prayers that you will return safely to earth.

ASTRONAUT ARMSTRONG. Thank you, Mr. President. It is a great honor and privilege for us to be here representing not only the United States, but men of peaceable nations, men with an interest and a curiosity, and men with a vision for the future. It is an honor for us to be able to participate here today.

THE PRESIDENT. Thank you very much and I look forward, all of us look forward to seeing you on the *Hornet* on Thursday.

ASTRONAUT ARMSTRONG. Thank you. We look forward to that very much, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:49 p.m. in the Oval Room at the White House.

American Field Service Students

The President's Remarks to Students Completing a Year's Visit to the United States. July 22, 1969

THE PRESIDENT. We were delaying because we understand that there were about a thousand more who were expected to attend but apparently there is a bus strike and they could not get here. But I understand that in this great audience here on the South Lawn of the White House there are 2,000 students from 60 countries.

THE AUDIENCE. Three thousand.

THE PRESIDENT. Two thousand here. One thousand are in the buses. But we know that there are 3,000 who are in this great program and I want you to know that in the 6 months that I have been in the White House, I have been in many occasions welcoming Chiefs of States, Heads of Governments, Prime Ministers, Kings, Emperors here on this South Lawn, but no group has been more inspiring than yours.

Incidentally, I expect, and I say this with great conviction, that as I look at this group, as you come from all of the 60 countries represented and will be going back to your own countries, and I know, too, that you would not meet here unless you had a great interest in political affairs, and I am very sure that from this group at some time a future President will be welcoming a Prime Minister or a President, I am sure, to the White House.

I see we have plenty of candidates.

Also, could I say, as you know, I am leaving tonight on a trip myself, one that will take me around the world, not to all of the 60 countries—and I think I have visited 50 of the 60 that are represented here—but to many others. Just to get an idea, I wonder if there are many here today from the first country that I will visit, which will be the Philippines.

THE AUDIENCE. Yes!

THE PRESIDENT. Anybody from Indonesia? How about Thailand?

THE AUDIENCE. Yes!

THE PRESIDENT. How about India?

THE AUDIENCE. Yes!

THE PRESIDENT. Pakistan?

THE AUDIENCE, Yes!

THE PRESIDENT. I will also be in Britain.

THE AUDIENCE. Yes!

THE PRESIDENT. That is an indication of the countries that will be covered.

THE AUDIENCE. Brazil!

THE PRESIDENT. That is a future President of Brazil right there.

THE AUDIENCE. Chile!

THE PRESIDENT. I have been there, too.

THE AUDIENCE. Peru!

THE PRESIDENT, Right, How about Romania?

THE AUDIENCE. Yes! Honduras!

THE PRESIDENT. Well, if I mentioned Honduras, how about El Salvador?

THE AUDIENCE. Yes!

THE PRESIDENT. Costa Rica, San Jose; Afghanistan, Kabul?

THE AUDIENCE. Yes!

THE PRESIDENT. Denmark, Copenhagen? Yes. Vietnam? Yes, I have been there. Colombia? Yes.

Well, you can see if I called the roll that we would take all the time.

Could I speak seriously to you for just a moment as I welcome you to the White House and in effect say goodby to you as you return to your own countries?

I want to say first that my only regret is that our family could not have had some of you visit us in our home during this last year. Of course, in this last year I have been a little busy, but nevertheless, we have so many friends who have had the privilege of having students from this group in their homes and many of them have said that it was really the best thing that ever happened in their lives.

We thank you all for giving so many Americans the privilege of knowing your countries through you, the youth of your countries. This is a great privilege, it is a privilege that many American families have never had before and we are grateful for that.

Second, I want you to know that as I meet you and realize your ages and all the years ahead of you, I think what a wonderful time it is for you to be alive. I suppose that that sounds rather strange these days when we read of some of the problems in the world—problems in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Mideast, and the like, a war in Vietnam, all of these problems—but let us look at it, if we can, for a moment, without being Pollyannish, but look at it with the true realism that an idealist must have, looking at the facts, but also looking beyond them as we really should, to the future, which you can help build.

You could not find a more exciting time to be born; you could not find a more exciting time to finish high school and then go on to college and then pick your profession, because when you are my age or perhaps a little younger than I am, in the year 2000, and you celebrate the new year that comes once in a thousand years, look at what you look back on and look at what you will see then and what you will look forward to in the 21st century.

We think of those men who are returning from the moon. Wasn't that a great thing to see? In the year 2000 I believe, and I am sure that those in this audience who are so young and so full of life and so full of optimism, will agree with me, in the year 2000 we will, on this earth, have visited new worlds where there will be a form of life.

I know this will happen, and I want to tell you as I look forward and dream about that future, as I am sure you look forward to it and dream about it, this is the kind of world I would like to see and the kind of exploration of that new world that I know all Americans want.

I hope that when the next great venture into space takes place that it will be one in which Americans will be joined by representatives of other countries so that we can go together. I know from the telegrams that I have received around the world that the spirit of all the people of the world was with those three brave men. They are not just Americans, they represented all of mankind.

That is why as we look at the future adventures into the free world, let them not be adventures of conquest, but adventures of exploration which tend to unite us all into one people which we truly are, and we feel this way.

What those new worlds will be like, whether on Mars or Venus or any of the other areas we may be able to explore, no one can presently say, but let me say a word about what this world can be like and what you can make it like.

Sometimes we get very pessimistic about problems. We see the population curving up. We see the food production not going up as fast and we look at great areas of the world in Asia and Africa and Latin America and wonder if those two curves are going to pass, and the dire prediction of Malthus may prove true in our time. I don't think so, because I am convinced that we have the genius, genius represented by young people in this group, and by people all over the world so that we can produce the food and the clothing, the health care, the housing, the shelter, all the things that we need to keep ahead of pepulation and continue to progress.

That is the challenge you have; it is the challenge you are going to meet.

I think, too, that as we look to the future that we think of the possibilities not only of the new worlds, what may not be or may be on the moon or Mars or Venus, but we think of what that moon achievement means in terms of what we can do on this earth.

So often we hear, "This cannot be done. The problem is too great." But when I saw, or at least heard and saw the simulation of those two space vehicles traveling at 4,500 miles an hour, coupling together in space, let alone landing on the moon, and the takeoff on the moon, but saw that take place out there in outer space, as I realized all of the scientific genius and the technical ability, let alone the human factors that went into that, I realized that this is no time for the pessimists; this is the time for the optimists, and idealists.

Be optimistic and idealistic about the future. I realize the kind of teamwork, the kind of scientific achievement, the kind of idealism that we saw in that space shot, that landing on the moon, if we could just bring all that to bear on the problems here on earth, the problems of our environment, the problems of adequate food, health, and shelter, and progress, a fair share for everybody in this earth, if that can be done, what a world we can create.

Let me look just a little further ahead in another way. I thought one of the, shall we say, rather sad things about that great day on Monday when man first stepped on the moon was that while most of the peoples of the world saw it on television or participated in it on television or radio, that there were approximately one-half the world that did not see it, the whole of Communist China, and the world of the Soviet Union.

I thought how sad that was, sad not in terms of East-West conflict, because this is no time to discuss that, but sad in terms of the people involved, because you see I know the Russian people. I have visited them. They are a great people.

And I know the Chinese people. I have never seen them on the mainland of China, but I have seen them in Taiwan and in Manila and in Indonesia and Thailand and New York and San Francisco and I want the time to come when the Chinese people and the Russian people and all the peoples of this world can walk together and talk together.

I want to say to you that in the time that I am in this office, however long it will be, that the major goal that I will have will be to bring peace to this world, real peace, and also to hasten the day when we can have a truly open world, open cities, open borders, open countries, open minds, open hearts, open eyes. That is what we want. That is what you want.

Now I suppose that when we look at the world today and those great political differences that divide us and the war that goes on, we sometimes perhaps would be pessimistic and say, "Well, you are just dreaming." I don't think so. I want you to know that as I see you today, as I realize the experience that you have, as I know the spirit you will carry back to your own countries, you are going to help to make these dreams come true, and I would simply add to that great slogan that I understand all of you have of walking together and talking together, let's dream together, too.

I know of no group of young people in the world who can help more to make those dreams come true than all of you, and I ask all of you as you leave the United States of America, remember, of course, the differences that you saw here, have in mind the problems you saw here, and try to avoid them in your own countries.

But remember above everything else, the American people are with you in their hearts, they want for you what we want for ourselves, the right to be free, the right to move ahead, the right to talk together and walk together and to dream together.

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All of these things you believe in and all of these things, I am sure, the world believes in, if the leaders of the world simply have the ability to allow the people of the world to let their views be felt, and their views to prevail.

So, to my good friends, and some of you I hope to meet in some of my future journeys around the world, I can only say, thank you for coming to America. As one who was born in this country, I love my country and I think it is a great country, but I can tell you as one who has visited over 60 countries in the world, I think every people in this world is a great people, and a great country. If we think that way we are going to go a long way.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:06 a.m. on the South Lawn at the White House.

United States Tariff Commission

Announcement of Intention To Nominate George M. Moore as a Member of the Commission. July 22, 1969

The President today announced his intention to nominate George M. Moore, of Silver Spring, Md., to be a member of the U.S. Tariff Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 16, 1973. He will replace Stanley D. Metzger who is resigning.

Moore, 55, is an attorney with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Ames, Hill and Ames, and has served as a part-time contract consultant to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service of the House of Representatives. He was graduated from George Washington University in 1937 and from George Washington University Law School in 1940.

Between March 1940 and January 1941, he was an attorney-examiner with the Bureau of Motor Carriers, Interstate Commerce Commission. From January 1941 to December 1942, he was an investigator with the U.S. Civil Service Commission.

Moore served on the staff of the Joint Congressional Committee for the Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures under Senator Harry Byrd from January 1943, to March 1944; and from April 1944, to May 1945, he served as Special Assistant to the Attorney General and staff member of the Senate Judiciary Committee under Senator Pat McCarran.

Moore was appointed Chief Counsel, Post Office and Civil Service Committee, House of Representatives in February 1947. He resigned from this position in March 1952 to practice law.

He was appointed professional staff member for the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee in January 1953, resigning from this position to accept a Presidential appointment as U.S. Civil Service Commissioner. He served in this capacity from April 15, 1953 to March 1957.



American Field Service International Scholarships

25.8 PM

Arthur Howe, Jr. President

Robert H. Thayer
Director of
Governmental Relations

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Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On Tuesday, July 22, President Nixon received on the White House lawn the American Field Service students from 60 different countries who have been spending a year here living with American families, and have been attending the senior year of High School in the communities in which they lived. The students from your country were amongst them, and I thought you would be interested in having a copy of the remarks made to them by the President on this occasion. They will be found on the opening page of the enclosed weekly compilation of Presidential Documents.

The American Field Service program in your country is prospering and developing very satisfactorily. We are delighted to have your young people with us and look forward to an ever increasing number of young Americans who can visit your country. We are convinced that through this program the youth of our two countries cannot only profit individually from the experience of their visit abroad, but can learn to reach a basis of international understanding which will contribute substantially to the maintenance of peace in the world.

I hope you will not hesitate to take up with me any problems that may arise or any questions that you may have in connection with the program. I can be reached at the above address and my telephone number is 347-8173.

With warm personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Robert H. Thayer

Director of Governmental Relations

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Enclosure