

Moynihan FORD  
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## Almost 'Quit' Post at U.N.

### United Nations

Daniel Patrick Moynihan came within minutes of announcing his intention to resign as American ambassador to the United Nations yesterday, but he canceled a press conference called to make the announcement after receiving a phone call from the White House, sources close to Moynihan reported.

They said that Moynihan will meet with President Ford in the next day or two to discuss the resignation possibility.

Moynihan's main reason for wishing to resign the post he took up this past July, the sources said, was not so much the recent press coverage of public and private displeasure expressed by Western diplomats with his style and tactics, but Moynihan's belief that the State Department had undermined his efforts at the world organization.

In Washington, a White House spokesman said that the "President has full confidence in Ambassador Moynihan. The President fully approves of what the ambassador is doing at the United Nations. Ambassador Moynihan has not submitted his resignation."

Moynihan called the press conference to make what his

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spokesman said would be an "important announcement."

Minutes before the conference, a call from the White House reached Moynihan in the bar at the U.N. delegates lounge, and the conference was canceled.

Moynihan said he canceled the press conference because "we weren't finally satisfied with what we were going to say."

Moynihan's spokesman said in response to rumors of the ambassador's impending resignation that he was authorized to say only: "Everyone leaves eventually, but I have no statement to make today."

Moynihan was asked if he has the full support of both President Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

He responded that he has "no reason to think I don't."

And then he added, "what time is it? Ten minutes to one?" — leaving the impression that such support might be transitory.

The 48-year-old former Harvard professor and adviser to Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon came to the U.N. at Mr. Ford's request after writing in a Commentary magazine article this January that the United States should combat the rhetoric of the anti-democratic U.N. majority.

He also wrote that the American representative here should be "feared for the truths that he might tell."

Persons familiar with Moynihan's thinking say he believes that the State Department tried to undermine him when he put this theory into practice.

That happened, they say, on four occasions:

- Kissinger made public overtures to Cuba at the moment when Moynihan was fighting a Cuban initiative to have the U.N. recognize the Puerto Rican "liberation" movement.

- Kissinger publicly demurred over the ambassador's remark that "it is no accident" that Uganda President Idi Amin, whom Moynihan called a "racist murderer," is head of the Organization of African Unity.

- The State Department failed to assign a high enough priority, according to Moynihan, to lobbying in foreign capitals against the recently approved U.N. resolution equating Zionism with racism.

- Moynihan feels that the State Department delayed and hamstrung his proposal for a U.N. resolution appealing to all nations to grant amnesty to their political prisoners, making it impossible for Moynihan to lay the necessary groundwork for favorable U.N. action on the resolution.

Yesterday, the U.S. delegation withdrew the amnesty resolution from consideration by the General Assembly on the ground that the alternative was to subject it to 15 amendments that would transform it into a statement more harmful than beneficial for the cause of human rights.

Many American allies, however, were privately enraged by Moynihan's own presentation of the resolution. They said that by linking it to the Zionism vote, and pointing the finger at about 30 U.N. delegations that hold political prisoners, he doomed his own resolution to failure.

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