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Moynihan Declines Offer Of Post as U.N. Delegate

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 —

Daniel Patrick Moynihan, in an apparent change of heart, will not accept the post of United States representative at the United Nations, sources here and in Cambridge, Mass., said today

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, announced this morning that Mr. Moynihan, counselor to President Nixon and a key adviser on urban affairs, would return to Harvard University early next year. This reversed earlier reports that he would succeed Charles W. Yost at the United Na



The New York Times

Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Sources close to the President and Mr. Moynihan, who asked not to be identified, said that the decision had been Mr. Moynihan's not Mr. Nixon's. They said that the President offered the post to Mr. Moynihan last week, that Mr. Moynihan had decided to accept it, but that he changed his mind early this week.

Mr. Ziegler said that Mr. Moynihan wrote Mr. Nixon on Tuesday, expressing his intent to return to Harvard. "There was

no change of mind on the President's part about Mr. Moynihan at all," Mr. Ziegler said at his regular morning briefing.

Sources close to Mr. Moynihan advanced two major reasons for his decision not to ac-

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cept the post.

First, they said, his family wished to remain in Cambridge, and for this and other reasons did not want him to take the post in New York. The opposition from his family was described as intense.

Second, the sources reported, Mr. Moynihan was said to feel a large measure of guilt for the way the account of his appointment appeared in the press. According to an authoritative source, Mr. Moynihan, who accepts full blame for the press "leak," told an unidentified dean at Harvard of his decision to accept the United Nations position sometime last week. The decision found its way into The Boston Globe, which told of it in afternoon editions a week ago.

The next day, Nov. 21, The New York Times, The Washington Post and other newspapers carried articles confirming The Globe's account. Sources in Washington said today that all these articles were correct at the time.

However, the articles were said to be embarrassing to Mr. Yost, who had not been told that the White House was thinking of replacing him with Mr. Moynihan. On reflection over the weekend, Mr. Moynihan was said to have concluded that he could not, in the words of one associate, "take advantage of Charles Yost's humiliation."

Mr. Moynihan is said to regard Mr. Yost as an effective and honorable public servant, and there has been no public evidence that the White House was displeased with his performance at the United Nations.

Parts of Letter Read

Mr. Ziegler was asked today whether the President intended to keep Mr. Yost as delegate to the United Nations. He replied that the only announcement he had to make today concerned Mr. Moynihan.

The press secretary also read portions of Mr. Moynihan's letter to the President, which expressed the counselor's "respect for what you have done," and "gratitude for the way I have been treated." Mr. Moynihan, who served Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, has worked for Mr. Nixon in the White House for nearly two years.

In the letter, Mr. Moynihan said that, although he was returning to Harvard, "I shall continue to be at your service for anything you might want that I might be able to provide." Mr. Ziegler said that the rest of the letter was "personal" and, therefore, was not being made public.

Mr. Moynihan, former of the Joint Center Studies in