

Focus of Controversy at the U.N.

Daniel Patrick Moynihan FEB 3 1976

By KATHLEEN TELTSCH

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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 2—It was to have been a routine United States statement, but as Daniel Patrick Moynihan delivered it a few days ago to the Security Council he included a lament over what he said was the small number of truly democratic countries surviving in the world.

Man
in the
News

At times he slapped his palm on the table, ran his hands through his silver-gray hair and raised a professorial finger. Later some of his listeners complained that his tone was patronizing, but he held their attention.

In his seven months as chief American delegate, he has not lacked for attention; it is widely agreed here that no American representative in the 30-year history of the United Nations has stirred so much controversy.

He resigned today at the beginning of a month term as president of the Security Council. He had decided to resign once before—last Nov. 21—but was talked out of it at the time by the White House.

Twice in the last two months, President Ford and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger have publicly defended the outspoken United States representative.

Complaint in Cablegram

They spoke out last week because of a cablegram that Mr. Moynihan had sent to Mr. Kissinger and all United States embassies complaining that some State Department "experts" were not supporting him in his campaign to break up an anti-American voting coalition of third-world countries.

Last November, Mr. Moynihan was backed by both Mr. Ford and Mr. Kissinger when his performance was likened by Ivor Richard of Britain to that of Wyatt Earp looking for shootouts in the OK Corral.

Diplomats here were inclined to see the public endorsements as a reflection of

the Ford Administration's appreciation that Mr. Moynihan, with his tough talk at the United Nations, had gained an impressive following among the American voting constituency.

But they have been predicting privately for some time that his combative style would make it impossible for him to remain in his post.

Many diplomats have been charging privately that the United States delegate was using the United Nations as a forum to advance his political career in American politics. Communist and third-world spokesmen have been particularly vehement on this point, saying that Mr. Moynihan was clearly interested not in the United Nations but in getting into the race for the New York Senate seat of James L. Buckley, or in going after some appointive office.

Adviser to 4 Presidents

Some of the most controversial Moynihan statements during his tenure here came in speeches outside the United Nations. In October, in a speech delivered in San Francisco, he endorsed a description of President Idi Amin of Uganda as a "racist murderer" and said it was "no accident" that Mr. Amin was then presiding over the Organization of African Unity.

Critics say his denunciation of President Amin, coupled with criticism of the Organization of African Unity had angered the African members of the United Nations and helped bring about the adoption of a resolution equating Zionism with racism.

Resolution Called "Obscene"

The American delegate denounced the resolution as "obscene" and said in the Council that all "decent" countries had voted against it—a remark that added to the controversies swirling about him.

Mr. Moynihan, whose career includes serving as professor of government at Harvard, adviser to four United States Presidents and

ambassador to India, was a controversial figure before he arrived at the United Nations last July. The reason was a widely read article in Commentary magazine advocating a tougher American response at the United Nations to third-world attacks.

Secretary Kissinger acknowledged that it was this advice that led him and President Ford to choose Mr. Moynihan to succeed John A. Scali as United States delegate.

Mr. Moynihan, who is 48 years old and stands 6 feet 4 inches tall, was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on March 16, 1927. His family moved to New York when he was 6.

Raised in tenements in Hell's Kitchen and the upper West Side, he had to go to work early to support a fatherless household. Young Moynihan shined shoes, peddled newspapers and worked at his mother's bar on 42d Street.

He managed a year at the Baruch School of City College before enlisting in the Navy in 1944. Later he completed college at Tufts University, took a masters degree, spent a year in London as a Fulbright Scholar and earned his doctorate from the Fletcher school of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts.

In 1955 Mr. Moynihan, a Democrat, went to Albany as a member of the staff of Governor W. Averell Harriman and was a principal assistant for policy and program matters. He had met his wife, the former Elizabeth Brennan, when she was campaigning for Mr. Harriman. They have three children.

Mr. Moynihan was brought to Washington in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy to serve in the Labor Department. In 1963 he became Assistant Secretary of Labor. He continued to serve President Lyndon B. Johnson in that capacity. After returning to Harvard in 1966, he came back to Washington as an assistant in urban affairs in January 1969 and in November that year, became Counsellor to President Richard

The Proceedings In the U.N. Today

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ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL

Committee on Science and
Technology for development
—10:30 A.M. and 3 P.M.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Governing Council—10:30
A.M. and 3 P.M.

Tickets may be obtained at
the public desk, main lobby,
United Nations headquarters.
Tours: 9 A.M. to 4:45 P.M.

Mr. Nixon and a member of the Cabinet. He served two years with the Nixon Administration.

He became a center of controversy in 1970 when a memorandum he wrote to Mr. Nixon was leaked. In it, he advised a period of "benign neglect" on rhetoric about race problems to allow blacks' "progress to continue." He has remarked bitterly many times that his statement has been misquoted out of context.

Mr. Moynihan was named Ambassador to India by Mr. Nixon in 1973 and served until 1975.

He has made only one run for elective office. That was in 1965 in the Democratic primary when he ran for President of the City Council on a ticket headed by Paul Screvane. The Screvane slate lost to a ticket headed by Comptroller Agraaham D. Beame, who then lost to John V. Lindsay.

He said tonight in response to a reporter's question that his letter of resignation saying he wanted to return to Harvard did not mean shutting the door on a political career.

"I will be back in government one way or another some time," he declared. "I am going back to teaching now."