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The President as Diplomat

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CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Administrations vary greatly. One administration may be remembered for the romance generated, more for its glamour than its accomplishments. It may have great emotional appeal, and may be remembered best for its ability to stir people, and for its grandiloquent articulation of great dreams. Another administration might be remembered for the sense of urgency generated. It may be noted for its voluminous legislation and apparent generosity, for its constant preoccupation with the exercise of power and the accompanying tense confrontations, exhortations and historic miscalculations.

There is another type of administration. Its dreams may be called prosaic, the same dreams that free men have had since the Age of Pericles. Its voice may be quieter; its exercise of power more prudent. But in the end it may well result in progress more permanent and far-reaching than even its supporters imagine. This is the goal that underlies President Nixon's policies, both foreign and domestic.

A government's opportunity to achieve such a noble end is increased if the policies of that government are designed with the nature of man in mind. Many of this Administration's major initiatives were thought out in just this way, and history may point to them as bringing about that most permanent and far-reaching progress.

For example, the Administration's demonstrated determination to open diplomatic relations and pursue exchanges with the People's Republic of China, with Russia and her satellites behind the Iron Curtain reflects the conviction that lasting peace will be realized only through partnership.

The Family Assistance Plan, by common consensus the most important piece of social legislation in four decades, is rooted in the premise that total dependency erodes human dignity and frustrates desire for self-support.

An administration is a reflection of its President. The President is not an ordinary man. He possesses a powerful intellect, but is neither intellectually arrogant nor deceived by fanciful expectations. He is a man of modest demeanor, with a superbly analytical mind. His power stems from his perceptiveness. Consistently he is five steps ahead of others in an outside meeting or discussion. He is innovative and has shown the same courage and tenacity in office that he showed through political defeats.

Above all, Richard Nixon is an eminently decent human being. He is at peace with himself. He seems quietly

confident that this nation will be peacefully directed out of a hyperemotional decade of domestic turbulence and foreign war and threats of war.

In 1968 Richard Nixon did not seek the Presidency to rule over the erosion of the greatness and dignity of this Republic. He sought the office motivated by a desire to regenerate and renew a spiritually bankrupt people who had endured a decade of unparalleled racial and generational discord. In three years he has substantially calmed a troubled land.

Quietly, significant accomplishments have been made that have been responsible, in part, for the general easing of tensions. Several times as many Southern schools have been desegregated than during the last two administrations combined. Far more funds have been pumped into black education and black enterprise. Proposals for revenue sharing, family assistance, the first comprehensive governmental reorganization since the Hoover Commission, a 37-point environmental protection

program, the Postal and Selective Service reforms and a new health care plan all aim toward a radically different America for the future.

It may be more than coincidence that open warfare in the Middle East has long since stopped, that tension in Berlin has been considerably eased, that the SALT talks are proceeding toward agreement, that trade relations have developed with the Communist nations, that an international monetary agreement has been reached, that the United States signed an accord agreeing to the abolition of germ warfare, that we are withdrawing from Vietnam

without turning that part of the world into a bloodbath, and that the People's Republic of China is opening up for the first time in twenty years.

History can bestow no greater honor upon a national and international leader than that of peacemaker. For a leader, no greater goal exists. President Nixon may realize that goal not only at home in America and in Southeast Asia, but in the Middle East, with Russia and with China.

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