

FOREIGN POLICY

H. F. McNaught
Wednesday, August 16, 1972
11:30 a.m.

Mr. Chairman, members of the Platform Committee:

I'm Mac Mc Naught. I'm 18 years of age and until two weeks ago, I served as President of the Boy's Nation Senate. During this past year I have represented the youth of Indiana at the Nat'l Assoc. of Student Councils Conference, the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church, and the William Randolph Hearst Foundation Senate Youth Program.

This morning I would like to talk with you for a few moments about the platform plank that this convention will adopt on American foreign policy.

As an American, I applaud the progress that has been made under the Nixon Doctrine in building a lasting structure of peace. And as a young American, I particularly applaud the actions that have been taken by the Nixon Administration in line with the recommendations of the White House Conference on Youth.

One of the most important of these recommendations was an end to the arms race. In the words of the Conference Report; 'as youth, most of us have lived our lives under the shadow of nuclear annihilation. We ask, is there not another way to achieve peace and security?'

Under this Administration that other way of achieving peace and security has been actively and fruitfully pursued. Agreements have been concluded to limit nuclear weapons from the world's seabeds, and reduce the risk of an accidental nuclear war. And the President pledges further steps to pursue arms control agreements and thereby reduce the danger of nuclear conflict.

Another recommendation of the Youth Conference was a reordering of national priorities away from "arms production and war material" and toward increased spending on human needs such as housing and education. This re-ordering has taken place under the Nixon Administration. For the first time in 20 years, the Federal Government is spending more on human resource programs than on defense programs.

The conference also recommended a normalization of relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China. The President's visit to China was dramatic evidence of his determination to normalize these relations and thereby bring about an open and harmonious world--a world in which, as he put it, "no people, great or small, will live in angry isolation." This visit was a giant step forward toward that goal. A further step forward is the pledge to press for an expansion of cultural and economic contacts with the People's Republic of China.

It is my conviction that this Administration's dedication to international confrontation has improved the quality of life of all Americans. For our achievements in foreign

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policy and our achievements in domestic policy are closely interrelated. The agreements that have been concluded with Turkey, France and Mexico to cut off the supply of dangerous drugs--and thereby control the menace of drug abuse--are but one example of this interrelation.

The spirit of cooperation achieved under the Nixon Doctrine has brought forth many of these dramatic accomplishments. It has also resulted in a striking lack of: a Bay of Pigs, a Berlin Crisis, a U-2 Crisis, a Pueblo Crisis, and a Dominican Republic Crisis. This spirit has transformed American foreign policy from a state of crisis-to-crisis diplomacy to a state in which mutual concerns that we face with other nations are not on the basis of respect, fairness, and consistency.

It must be said that much of what I have talked with you about today streams from the person of Richard M. Nixon. The courage and skill with which he has acted these past four years is desperately needed so that we can meet the challenge of our remaining foreign concerns and maintain the spirit of cooperation and lack of crisis diplomacy that he has achieved.

The steps that have been taken by the President to bring about peace in Indochina, end the arms race, and cooperate and communicate with our former adversaries have helped to give Americans the confidence that peace and harmony between our people and all the peoples of the world can become a reality in our lifetimes.

It is my belief that we will move closer toward that

reality if these initiatives for peace and cooperation are continued and expanded.

Mr. Chairman, I truly feel that we need President Nixon's leadership in the field of foreign policy now more than ever!