

I have asked John Negroponte to serve in this vital position at this crucial moment. John Negroponte knows the State Department well. After all, he started there in 1960 as a foreign service officer in the administration of President Eisenhower. In the four and a half decades since, he has served our Nation in eight foreign service posts, spanning three continents. He served as Deputy National Security Adviser to President Reagan. He represented America at the United Nations. He served as our first Ambassador to a free Iraq. And for nearly 2 years, John has done a superb job as America's first Director of National Intelligence.

John Negroponte's broad experience, sound judgment, and expertise on Iraq and in the war on terror make him a superb choice as Deputy Secretary of State, and I look forward to working with him in this new post.

Ambassador Negroponte leaves big shoes to fill as the Director of National Intelligence. The DNI has become a core part of our national security team. The DNI determines the national intelligence budget, oversees the collection and analysis of intelligence information, ensures that intelligence agencies share information with each other, and creates common standards for intelligence community personnel. The vigilance of the DNI helps keep the American people safe from harm.

Admiral Mike McConnell has the experience, the intellect, and the character to succeed in this position. He served as Director of the National Security Agency during the 1990s. He was the intelligence officer for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the liberation of Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm. Admiral McConnell has decades of experience, ensuring that our military forces had the intelligence they need to fight and win wars.

He's worked with the Congress and with the White House to strengthen our defenses against threats to our information systems. He has earned our Nation's highest award for service in the intelligence community. As DNI, Mike will report directly to me, and I am confident he will give me the best information and analysis that America's intelligence community can provide.

I thank John and Mike for taking on these new challenges. I appreciate their service to our country. Each of them will do good work in their new positions. And it is vital they take up their new responsibilities promptly. I'm confident the United States Senate will also see the value of these two serving in crucial positions, and I would hope that they would be confirmed as quickly as possible.

Congratulations to you both. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:45 a.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Secretary-designate Negroponte and Director-designate McConnell.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 30

In the morning, at the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC, arriving in the afternoon.

Later in the afternoon, in the Rotunda at the U.S. Capitol, the President and Mrs. Bush attended the public viewing of former President Gerald R. Ford who lay in state until his funeral on January 4. Later, they visited with Betty Ford, widow of President Ford, at Blair House. They then returned to the White House.

January 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

January 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Cabinet Room, he met with members of his Cabinet.

In the afternoon, the President hosted a reception for Members of Congress and their spouses.

January 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Situation Room, he and Vice President Dick Cheney had a teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President met with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany.

In the evening, the President had dinner with Chancellor Merkel.

The President announced his intention to nominate P. Robert Fannin to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

The President announced his intention to nominate Douglas Menarchik to be Assistant Administrator (Europe and Eurasia) of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate William Raymond Steiger to be Ambassador to Mozambique.

The President announced his intention to nominate Howard Charles Weizmann to be Deputy Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bradley Udall to be a member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation.

The President announced his intention to accord the personal rank of Ambassador to Richard M. Russell during his tenure as the U.S. Representative to the World Radio Communication Conference.

January 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate John D. Negroponte to be Deputy Secretary of the Department of State.

The President announced his intention to nominate J. Michael McConnell to be Director of National Intelligence.

The President announced his intention to designate Thomas P. D'Agostino as Acting Under Secretary for Nuclear Security of the National Nuclear Security Administration at the Department of Energy.

The President announced that he has named Mark D. Pfeifle as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications and Global Outreach.

**Nominations
Submitted to the Senate**

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

**Checklist
of White House Press Releases**

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released January 3

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: A Balanced Budget by 2012 & Earmark Reform

Released January 4

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Released January 5

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: Job Creation Continues—More Than 7.2 Million Jobs Created Since August 2003

Fact sheet: John Negroponte and Mike McConnell: The Right Choices for Deputy Secretary of State and Director of National Intelligence