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Folder Title:
Ambassador Thomas Pickering Swearing-In Ceremony 3/20/89 [OA 6347]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	18	7	3

(McGroarty/Simon)
March 17, 1989
2:00 pm

TALKING POINTS: SWEARING-IN OF AMBASSADOR
THOMAS R. PICKERING

- This is a proud day: for Tom Pickering, for Tom's family, for the foreign service.
- Ambassador Pickering is a skilled diplomat, a veteran of high priority assignments.
- Tom is one of only 5 FSOs holding rank of Career Ambassador.
- Ambassador Pickering's extensive global experience will serve him well -- diplomatic experience that includes the Middle East, Central America, and Africa (as Ambassador to Nigeria).
- The task Tom is now assuming is important indeed.
- I take the UN very seriously. I am pleased with changes that have taken place there since my time as Ambassador.
- UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is doing outstanding work.
- The UN's Nobel Peace Prize for peace-keeping is a sign of the organization's importance and capabilities.
- The UN is on the right track to reform -- it is now a more effective organization.
- That reform momentum, and signs of greater political seriousness, must continue.
- A case in point: Cuba, and the human rights issue there.
- As a result of the recent UN Commission on Human Rights' meeting in Geneva, Cuba's human rights record will be in the spotlight.
- I count on Amb. Pickering to make sure the question of human rights in Cuba maintains a high profile -- and stays high on UN's agenda.
- The UN can be a force for peace, a forum for resolving conflict. As proof of this: consider its instrumental role in the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, and the Iran-Iraq war.

- The UN is an important place in international arena.
- And my point man there will be Tom Pickering -- an able, and articulate advocate for this Administration's foreign policy.
- Tom, my congratulations and best wishes. (Please proceed with the swearing-in.)

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