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Mary McGroidy

## Moynihan Socks It to 'Em at the U.N.

Washington. We can be thankful that the brouhaha over Daniel P. Moynihan's near-resignation as ambassador to the United Nations is over for the moment. Although everyone is thoroughly miffed with everybody else, it may not be for long.

Mr. Moynihan is miffed because he thought his "give-'em-hell" type of diplomacy was exactly what the administration had in mind when he was appointed.

Henry A. Kissinger is miffed because Mr. Moynihan failed to understand that the Secretary of State was merely exercising his prerogative of having it both ways: That is, he was glad to have Mr. Moynihan castigating the third-world nations, but the secretary felt he had the right to be cool when the act played to less than huzzahs in the Peoria of international diplomatic opinion.

President Ford is miffed because he hates "tension" and because Mr. Moynihan's threat to quit put Mr. Ford in even hotter water with New York City, where Jewish voters loved every flaming word Mr. Moynihan said about the anti-Zionism resolution that passed the General Assembly.

The English may be the most miffed of all. They are outraged at the suggestion—made by columnist William Safire—that the British ambassador to the U.N., Iver Richard, was put up to roasting Mr. Moynihan (although not by name) by an Anglo-American cabal.

Mr. Moynihan is pretty miffed at the British, too. Although Irish, he is a fervent Anglophile, which can be the

most rabid sort, because it goes against the grain of national grievance. He who attended the London School of Economics and has his suits made in Savile Row did not relish being compared to Wyatt Earp and Savonarola by a representative of Her Majesty's Government.

The British angrily disavow the plot theory about the speech because, they insist, Mr. Richard said the same thing to a group of American congressmen two days before. Two who were present didn't quite hear it that way—a misunderstanding perhaps caused by British understatement—and thought that all Ambassador Richard was advocating was "gentle diplomacy" with the third world.

And "gentle diplomacy" is indeed what this rich mix of personalities and plots boils down to. The British say they were on the point of splitting the third-world Africans from their Arab allies and could have sunk the anti-Zionism resolution without a ripple had Mr. Moynihan not burst out with his teeth-rattling assault on President Idi Amin of Uganda as a "racist murderer."

Averell Harriman, the old diplomat who was Mr. Moynihan's first political patron, said he did not think it was "very wise" for Mr. Moynihan to take on Marshal Amin, because he is "the man that all the Africans are ashamed of" and would prefer to abuse themselves, if they dared.

Mr. Moynihan's subsequent labeling of the anti-Zionist resolution as "obscene" and his claim that "the decent countries" had voted with him heated up the situation still

further and promoted speculation that he was using the glass house as a sound truck for a campaign for a New York Senate seat.

Mr. Moynihan could claim that he was simply doing his job. After all, he made no secret of his belief that the "sock-it-to-'em" technique is the only way to housebreak the ramunctious emerging nations. He said as much in an article in the March issue of *Commentary*, which supposedly led directly to his appointment to the United Nations.

Mr. Ford and Mr. Kissinger, faced with certain defeat in Vietnam last spring, were looking for someone who shared their belief that the small nations of the world are picking on us. This is an extension of the "pitiful helpless giant" view of us first proposed by Mr. Moynihan's for-

mer employer, Richard M. Nixon.

All Mr. Moynihan was doing in words was what Mr. Ford had done with bombs at the Mayaguez affair—teaching a little country how great a country we still are.

The British, who know the third-world countries well, having run a number of them for several centuries, are inclined to incense them a bit and let them strut and fret on the world stage. But Mr. Moynihan wants to treat them the way the British used to, that is, put them in their place.

The differences between us and our closest allies were not diminished by Mr. Moynihan's subsequent introduction without consultation with the British of a resolution—aimed again at showing American moral superiority—as amnesty for political prisoners. It was at once seized upon by advocates of Vietnam amnesty.

It is just as well the amnesty resolution was withdrawn. A debate on the subject of political prisoners coming close on the heels of the Senate intelligence committee's revelations about the way we