

places as Saigon, Bangkok, Manila, Port Swettenham, Penang, and down under in Australia and New Zealand. People have come to know Americans better through the visits of our fleet personnel who have proven themselves to be ideal ambassadors of good will.

This fleet is not only a modern well-trained and powerful fleet, but is it a most important instrument of U.S. National Policy, and its presence in the Western Pacific is vital to world peace. The SEVENTH Fleet as now constituted with its highly developed organic naval air strength is a massive seaborne deterrent to any Communist aggression, with all the flexibility, versatility, and mobility inherent in modern sea power. Peripheral employment of naval forces as exemplified by the SEVENTH Fleet is our nation's most advanced line for defense.

This Fleet is a powerful force for peace with justice; it augments diplomacy silently: its mere presence in an area is frequently more effective than strong words. We are friendly and succeed in making friends; we remain strong and ready to oppose aggression, instantly and effectively, whenever it may appear. The effectiveness of this great Fleet is maintained by vigilance, devotion to duty, and tedious days of patrolling air and sea in all kinds of weather. I take great pride in the willing response of all hands to the demands of their job and their effort to stay fit. I also take great pride in our strength and in our ability to combine friendliness with strength so that we enjoy the confidence and trust of free nations and at the same time merit the watchful respect of the leaders of those nations who are not free.

Conclusion

Every real seagoing man leaves an assignment afloat with reluctance. I leave this assignment with reluctance, but the sentiment is greatly mitigated by the fact that I am turning over command of the Fleet to Vice Admiral Wallace M. Beakley, a friend of many, many years for whom I have a deep personal affection, and an officer of extraordinary ability for whom I have great professional respect.

Admiral Beakley, I commend to you the fine, loyal Americans of this Fleet who are so patriotically serving their country. I know they will perform for you in the same outstanding manner they have performed for me, and that you will be as proud and honored to command them as I have been.

Address By Vice Admiral W. M. Beakley

At Seventh Fleet Change Of Command Ceremony

It is with the feeling that a great honor is being bestowed on me that I stand here today to relieve Admiral Ingersoll as Commander SEVENTH Fleet. I am proud to be taking command of the greatest and most powerful fleet of men, ships and aircraft that has ever been maintained in peacetime ready to act at a moments notice.

When I consider the grave responsibilities that have been so ably borne by my predecessor I am most aware of the seriousness of my new task. It is my firm intention to put undivided effort into maintaining the SEVENTH Fleet in the high state of readiness and efficiency that it has attained under Admiral Ingersoll's able direction. I ask that the men of the fleet give to me the same loyal support and help that you have given to him.

In his inaugural address, the President declared 'our firm and fixed purpose to be the building of a peace with justice in a world where moral law prevails'. But he warns us that 'to attain it we must be ready to pay its full price'. With your help and support, the ships and aircraft of the SEVENTH Fleet will, as in the past, stand ready to do their full share towards accomplishing this great mission set by our President.

I wish to congratulate Admiral Ingersoll for the excellent state in which I find the SEVENTH Fleet. I know he regrets exceedingly being separated from the seagoing one of his two important commands, but I wish to assure him we will continue to maintain the close collaboration and mutual support which has always existed between the Taiwan Defense Command and the SEVENTH Fleet.