OUTLINE - REMARKS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARVER BEFORE SENIOR FOREIGN NAVAL OFFICERS - THURSDAY, 9/21/61

It is a pleasure to describe briefly to you the Department of the Interior. Established in 1849, it is probably the most complex, varied, and therefore the most interesting department in the U. S. Government.

"Department of the Interior" is a misnomer. We are really the NPS - Think yourselves as "Department of Natural Resources." And in some respects we are a part of Epstein - Thirteen.

Made up of over 20 major bureaus and offices, we cover virtually every aspect of natural resources administration, and carry the primary burden of the Federal Government for the conservation and development of America's natural resources.

Over the years, bureaus of this department have achieved a reputation throughout the world in their respective technical fields.

The U. S. Geological Survey is an old and internationally respected scientific organization. Close to 90% of its staff is engaged in activities connected with research on mineral and water resources, geology and geophysics, photogrammetry and topographic mapping.

The Bureau of Mines has led an international attack on the problems of mine safety, particularly the causes and prevention of explosions.
Its work in rock mechanics pioneered this field of scientific research. Work of this bureau on petroleum thermodynamics and the development of production and utilization of uncommon metals (zincorium and titanium) has been accorded international recognition.

The Bureau of Reclamation is recognized worldwide as an authority on the planning, design, and construction of water resource projects. It is preeminent in the design and construction of earth-fill and concrete dams, and irrigation distribution systems. The Bureau of Reclamation engineering research laboratories in Denver are considered the finest of their kind.

The Bureau of Commercial Fisheries (with its predecessors, the Bureau of Fisheries and the U. S. Fish Commission) has for 90 years been a leader in biological research and oceanographic studies related to the marine fisheries of the West Atlantic and East and Central Pacific Oceans. In addition, it conducts technological studies to improve methods of utilizing the fishery catch. This work is of vital importance if we are to meet the protein needs of the world's increasing population.
The National Park Service in the administration and protection of the Nation's heritage in great scenic, scientific, and historic areas, has developed skills which are today in demand by many countries of the world -- particularly the newer nations which are becoming conscious of their own heritage. In no field is the Park Service more preeminent than in historical and archeological research where archeologists call upon the knowledge of entomologists, soil scientists, and foresters to piece together the pre-history of the American continent. The pristine wilderness areas of the National Parks are of increasing value to ecologists who study the inter-relationships of all living organisms.

While it is not our primary aim, we are proud of the fact that the Department of the Interior produces substantial revenues for the U. S. Treasury.

Our budget for this fiscal year will reach almost 1 billion dollars. Against this receipts from our operations are estimated at over half this amount including oil and gas leases
timber sales
power revenues.

It is inevitable that an agency with the predominant responsibility for natural resources would be intimately involved in defense activities.
Indirectly, most of our programs have a bearing on the defense posture. Certain specific work, in the minerals field, for example, is directly related to the Nation's defense. The Department is also active in the proposed projects for the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

Of particular interest to you are the foreign aspects of Interior's work. The interdependence of countries throughout the world on the resources and raw materials necessary to sustain our present day needs for foods and fibers and goods and services gives this Department important international responsibilities. The decisions made on the conservation and development of America's resources may have repercussions abroad.

We are also active in foreign aid programs, with scientists and technicians of our bureaus working in 31 foreign countries.

**Interior technical personnel overseas include:**

- geologists
- hydraulic engineers
- cartographers
- irrigation engineers
- agriculture economists
- wildlife biologists
mining engineers
metallurgists

Through these individuals we believe we are making a sound contribution to the development of natural resources outside of the United States.

The great span of the Department's responsibilities is startlingly illustrated in the continuing work of the Bureau of Land Management in its administration of the public lands -- tracing back to the first homestead in the 1860s and even to the original land agency of 1785 -- against the recently established saline water conversion program which promises in the words of President Kennedy to "... bring new hope for millions who live out their lives in dire shortage of usable water."

Since it would be impossible for us to attempt to cover in any detail the entire gamut of the Department's work in the time available, we will describe these two contrasting programs. I have asked Harold Hochmuth to give you an idea of our work in managing the great public land reserve, and Pat O'Meara will highlight the saline water conversion program. Following these two presentations Harlan Wood of the Division of Information will answer any questions you may wish to ask.