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honorable profession. The vast majority of those with whom I have been associated in politics, Republicans and Democrats alike, have been honorable people devoted to the people's interest and hardworking, and I say that notwithstanding the public perception to the contrary. So I wouldn't change a thing about my life if I were to do it all over again. Having said that, let me say that after twenty-two years in the Senate, I decided it was time to get out. I wasn't sure whether I would run again when my term ran out in 1982, so when the President offered me the job of Secretary of State, and it took me less than twenty-four hours to say "yes". I never imagined myself as Secretary of State, never had any ambitions for it, hadn't even considered whether or not I might have the qualifications for the job but I had no doubt about my ability to handle it. In my view of the job of Secretary of State was that like every other cabinet position it was and ought to be a political job, not in a partisan sense but in the sense that if foreign policy is truly to be effective, if it is truly to serve our national interests, it must rest on the understanding and support of our people. And it has seemed to me that since World War II in the name of bipartisanship we have elevated foreign policy to sort of an ivory tower to the point that people seem to regard it as an exercise that doesn't involve them, which they cannot conceivably understand, which they have no effective control over and I think that is a mistake. So I made it my effort in the brief eight months of my term to do my best to discuss foreign policy at the grassroots level, hopefully in terms that they would understand. I believe that the public interest requires that foreign policy be discussed openly to a greater extent than it has. I think that the disagreements about foreign policy ought to be frankly and openly discussed and debated and pressed vigorously. We regard debate with respect to domestic policies as essential to national wisdom. Surely debate with respect to foreign policy is essential to national wisdom. We face a rapidly changing world, a world in which the sources of power to influence behavior of mankind in the nations of this planet are different than they were in the days when international politics, power blocks, spheres of influence determined the behavior of nations and the fate of peoples. More than ever before power on this planet has been dispersed. There are now roughly a hundred and fifty nations. The majority of votes cast in the United Nations these days are cast by nations that did not exist when the United Nations was created, and we don't fully appreciate the importance of these nations to us as we see them disagreeing with us in votes in the United Nations or voting differently from us. We tend to regard them as irresponsible, as insensitive, selfish, and, of