

NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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For Release: Thursday, Jan.10, 1985

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BRIAN ATWOOD APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE

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WASHINGTON--Brian Atwood has been appointed executive director of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, NDI Board Chairman Charles T. Manatt announced Wednesday.

Executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee for the past two years, Atwood is a former foreign service officer who served as Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations during the Carter Administration.

The NDI, created shortly after Congress enacted legislation in November, 1983, establishing the National Endowment for Democracy, "is putting our Party's experts and experience to work for the spread of free, political institutions and values around the world," Manatt explained.

"We are extremely fortunate to have the foreign policy credentials and political skills of Brian Atwood in pursuing these important and exciting new challenges."

"Political parties around the world have for years considered the Democratic Party of the United States a leading example of what strong democratic institutions can accomplish for society," Atwood said in accepting the senior staff position at the NDI.

"As we approach the end of the twentieth century, democracies are under intense political, economic and security pressures.

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BRIAN ATWOOD APPOINTED...

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"My belief is that the National Democratic Institute can contribute to a better understanding of these pressures and can help others withstand them. This is a difficult but exciting challenge and I look forward to it."

"Our Institute, which has operated for the past year under the able directorship of Dr. Jack Loiello, is not formally a unit of the Democratic National Committee," Manatt explained, "but it is closely tied to our Party in principle and philosophy."

"Similar in concept to party-backed foundations in Europe, the NDI will make American Democrats partners in developing democracy with political groups in countries where representative government, open elections and a free press are far from secure."

Two of the Institute's first activities were a seminar held for some 300 foreign guests at the beginning of the Democratic Convention in San Francisco and a Washington consultation for foreign visitors following election-week visits to New York, Miami and Atlanta.

Programs are planned to build international party-to-party ties, to train foreign political officials in U.S. techniques of voter mobilization, party organization and finance.

The NDI is a counterpart organization to similar institutes established under the National Endowment for Democracy by the Republican Party, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the AFL-CIO.

The 30-member board of directors of the NDI includes Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste, NEA President Mary Hatwood Futrell, former Congresswoman Patsy Mink, former Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Rep. Mervyn Dymally.

Officers in addition to Manatt are Madeleine K. Albright, Vice Chair; Rachelle Horowitz, Secretary; and Peter G. Kelly, Treasurer.

Atwood, 42, is a Massachusetts native. He worked at the National Security Agency from 1964 to 1966, before joining the State Department as a foreign service officer. From 1971-77, he was legislative assistant to Sen. Thomas Eagleton, specializing in foreign policy and defense issues. He was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in 1977, and Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations in August, 1979. He became Dean of Professional Studies and Academic Affairs at the Foreign Service Institute in January, 1981, and joined the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee as director in March, 1983.