

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 5, 1977

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced that he will nominate Patricia M. Derian to be Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs in the Department of State. Ms. Derian was a deputy director of the Carter-Mondale campaign, and worked on the Carter-Mondale transition team with the HEW policy planning group.

She was born in New York, and grew up in Virginia. She is a 1952 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Nursing.

During the 1960's Ms. Derian worked in Mississippi on school desegregation and other aspects of the civil rights movement. She was elected a Democratic National Committeewoman from Mississippi in 1968.

She is a member of the executive committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, and is president of the Southern Regional Council. She is on the steering committee for the National Prison Project, and is a member of the Center for Community Justice. She now resides in Virginia.

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PATRICIA M. DERIAN

Ms. Patricia Derian is currently the Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs at the Department of State. The White House announced her candidacy on March 5 and the Senate confirmed the nomination on June 7.

Ms. Derian, a native of Virginia, has lived in Jackson, Mississippi since 1959. She attended Radford College in Radford, Va. and is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Nursing.

Ms. Derian has long been active in civil rights related work and Democratic Party organization. She has served as the president of the Southern Regional Council and as an OEO Project Director. Ms. Derian was a member of the Executive Committee of the ACLU and a founder of the Mississippi Civil Liberties Union. She was a member of the National Prison Project Steering Committee, the Board of Directors of the Center for Community Justice and the Mississippi Council on Human Relations.

In 1968, she was elected Mississippi's Democratic National Committeewoman and reelected in 1972 and 1976. She was one of the founders of the Loyalist Mississippi Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committeewomen's Caucus.

Prior to her State Department appointment, Patt Derian served on the HEW Policy Planning Group of the Carter-Mondale Transition team and during the presidential campaign was an advisor to Jimmy Carter and a deputy director of the Carter-Mondale Campaign.

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