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Office of the Press Secretary

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President Clinton Names Kenneth Michael Quinn as Ambassador to Cambodia

The President today announced his intention to nominate Kenneth Michael Quinn, of Iowa, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service; Class of Minister-Counselor, as Ambassador to Cambodia.

From 1990 to 1994, Dr. Quinn served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. In that position he participated extensively in the negotiation and implementation of the Paris Agreement which led to free elections and the restoration of democracy in Cambodia. Prior to that, Dr. Quinn served as: Deputy Chief of Mission at the U. S. Embassy in the Philippines; Deputy Executive Secretary of the State Department; Narcotics Counselor and Refugee Coordinator at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Vienna; Administrative Assistant to the Governor of Iowa; and as staff member of the National Security Council at the White House. His first six years in the Foreign Service were spent as an advisor in Vietnam where he was wounded in an NVA rocket attack.

Dr. Quinn is the recipient of the Presidential Distinguished Service Award, the American Foreign Service Association Christian Herter and William R. Rivkin Awards, the National Guard Bureau Eagle Award, the Department of the Army Award for Distinguished Civilian Service, the Presidential Meritorious Service Award; the Department of State Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor Awards and State of Iowa Employee of the Month Award.

Dr. Quinn was born on May 26, 1942 in New York City. He holds a B.A. degree from Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa; an M.A. in Political Science from Marquette University; and a Ph.D. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland. His dissertation topic was "The Origins of Radical Cambodian Communism". Dr. Quinn and his wife Le Son have three children: Davin 19, Shandon 14 and Kelly 11.