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Reframing the Diplomat: Ernst van der Beugel and the Cold War Atlantic Community

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Citation

Bloemendal, N. A. (2017, September 6). *Reframing the Diplomat: Ernst van der Beugel and the Cold War Atlantic Community*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/54855>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

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Title: Reframing the diplomat: Ernst van der Beugel and the Cold War Atlantic Community

Issue Date: 2017-09-06

STELLINGEN

bij het Proefschrift

“Reframing the Diplomat: Ernst van der Beugel and the Cold War Atlantic Community”

door Albertine Bloemendal

1. In order to do justice to Cold War transatlantic diplomacy we need to reframe our understanding of diplomacy and ‘the diplomat’ beyond the nation state and individuals employed by nation states.
2. The unofficial realm of diplomacy is not a novel twentieth century phenomenon; it has been present since the dawn of diplomacy, but forces of globalization, especially developments in the field of communication and transportation, have enabled greater numbers of private individuals and organizations to play a role in the diplomatic process.
3. A reframing of our understanding of the diplomatic process by including the unofficial realm of diplomacy requires a reconsideration of the sources we use including a greater appreciation of research in private, non-state archives.
4. Nation states and their representatives remain key diplomatic players and should be recognized as such by diplomatic historians, even so activities can be diplomatic in nature, even when not instigated by a nation-state.
5. Due to the central role of human relationships in diplomacy there is often no clear distinction between the public and private lives of diplomatic actors, making both dimensions relevant subjects of study in understanding the diplomatic process.
6. Ernst van der Beugel was able to remain a relevant diplomatic actor in Cold War transatlantic diplomacy in a private capacity after formally leaving the Dutch government in 1959.

7. The continuation of Ernst van der Beugel's diplomatic role in transatlantic relations was enabled by personal factors, including social, intellectual and financial capital and structural factors such as the existence of an unofficial Atlantic elite and the development of a diffuse constellation of private organizations and unofficial meeting places for individuals pursuing transatlantic cooperation.

8. Even though there was no formal Atlantic community, and despite the fact that there were many different visions of what the ideal Atlantic community would be, individuals like Ernst van der Beugel understood the Atlantic community to be a reality – more in the sense of an imagined community than as a formal political structure – of which they considered themselves to be a part.

9. The formal and informal dimensions of Cold War transatlantic diplomacy did not exist in isolation from each other but were linked through unofficial social networks and part of the same transatlantic diplomatic process.

10. By serving as an important catalyst of public-private cooperation, the Marshall Plan contributed to the development of an unofficial post-war Atlantic elite.