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From Rosina

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5/5/10 C2C Islands
to Islands

F.D.R. Island

Government, said Franklin Delano Roosevelt 37 years ago during the dedication ceremonies of the Triborough Bridge, "cannot close its eyes to the pollution of waters, to the erosion of soil, to the slashing of forests, any more than it can close its eyes to the need for slum clearance and schools and bridges." His words were recalled yesterday by Arthur Schlesinger Jr., the late President's foremost chronicler, during another dedication ceremony—the renaming of Welfare Island to perpetuate F.D.R.'s memory.

In Roosevelt Island, the two-mile strip of land in the East River that within a decade is to become a new and model town within this old city, New York will at last create a memorial of enduring vitality to one of America's most vital and enduring Presidents. The decaying island is now in the process of rejuvenation into a community for 5,000 families. It is to be a demonstration of modern planners' capacity to harness technology for human use, while enhancing rather than degrading the natural environment.

Almost one-third of the island's 147 acres will be set aside for parkland; a dispersed system of small-unit schools will reverse the city's long addiction to mammoth education factories; transportation is to be fast and futuristic. The protection of the environment against the pollution of air and water is to be an integral part of the total plan.

An F.D.R. memorial park at the southern tip of Roosevelt Island will make the view of the United Nations a symbolic part of the monument to New York's most eminent citizen of the world. Even more appropriate to the memory of the President who, in peace and war, rallied the nation with his supreme confidence in the power of a free people, is the strip of land, surrounded by water, that is to be dedicated to a spirit of renewal in the nation's first city.