

Ford Names Bush Envoy to Peking

Washington

President Ford nominated George Bush, the Republican national chairman, as U.S. envoy to China yesterday as he announced his first major changes in key diplomatic, political and economic posts.

A White House official said the moves mark the beginning of Mr. Ford's efforts to reshape both the government and the Republican party in his own image.

The other significant personnel changes announced yesterday by White House press secretary Jerald F. terHorst include the following:

- Kenneth Rush, the economic counselor to former President Nixon, who has continued in that post under Mr. Ford, was nominated as ambassador to France.

- John Sherman Cooper, Republican senator from Kentucky until he retired in 1972, was nominated as the first U.S. ambassador to East Germany.

- William D. Rogers, a Washington attorney and former State Department official was nominated by Mr. Ford to be assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

- Mr. Ford "recommended" that Mary Louise Smith, now co-chairman of the Republican National Committee, succeed Bush as chairman. He also recommended Richard D. Obenshain a chairman of the Republican party of Virginia, to succeed Mrs. Smith as co-chairman of the party.

At a White House news

Back Page Col. 4

From Page 1

briefing terHorst also said that President Ford and his chief of staff, General Alexander M. Haig Jr., have been discussing options for a new assignment for Haig and that one of those options was the post of commander-in-chief of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces.

TerHorst said that no decision has been reached and that Haig would continue, meanwhile, to serve "indefinitely" as White House chief of staff. However, he said Haig has indicated to the President that he would like to return to the Army.

TerHorst would not rule out the possibility that Mr. Ford is considering Haig to succeed General Creighton Abrams, Army chief of staff who died early yesterday. But Pentagon sources said such an appointment appeared unlikely.

Bush, 50, will succeed the 76-year-old David K. E.

Bruce as head of the U.S. Liaison Office in Peking. The United States and China have not yet exchanged ambassadors.

As head of a liaison mission, rather than an ambassador, Bush will not require Senate confirmation.

Bruce, who assumed his post in the spring of 1973, reportedly has been ill and has been requesting that he be relieved.

Bush, who served two terms as a member of the House of Representatives from Texas, also served two years as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Explaining the selection of Bush for the Peking post; a high White House official said that "George Bush was a strong and viable candidate to be Mr. Ford's vice

First Major Changes by President

president until the very end and thus he is somebody the President holds in high regard. His appointment,

therefore, is a signal to the Chinese that the new U.S. envoy is somebody who has the President's ear."

As head of the U.S. Liaison Mission in Peking, Bush will hold ambassadorial rank and conduct de facto diplomacy.

Bush's appointment to a diplomatic post also clears the way for Mr. Ford to assume effective charge of the Republican National Committee, a White House official said. He also agreed that the appointment of Mrs. Smith, a party professional who has held no major elective positions, indicates that Mr. Ford intends to exercise practical control over the party.

While Bush was in no way related to the efforts of the Nixon administration to cover up the Watergate case, his new assignment nevertheless would help relieve the Republican party of this "imagery" and this was a

factor in the Peking appointment.

The appointment of Kenneth Rush to the Paris post also helps solve a domestic problem for President Ford. Ford had been criticized for retaining President Nixon's economic advisers even though economic conditions have steadily worsened.

Rush is a former ambassador to West Germany, as well as deputy secretary of Defense and deputy secretary of State.

Cooper's nomination as ambassador to East Germany came shortly after the United States and the Communist country formally established diplomatic relations in a three-minute State Department ceremony. (See Page 12.)

In addition to his Senate service, the Kentucky Republican was U.S. ambassador to India during the Eisenhower administration.

Associated Press