

FORD SAID TO PICK 2 FOR ENVOY POSTS

Flanigan Is Reported Going
to Madrid—Fulbright May
Turn Down London Job

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 5—President Ford intends to appoint Peter M. Flanigan, a prominent figure in the Nixon Administration, as Ambassador to Spain, and he has offered Senator J.W. Fulbright the Ambassadorship in London, an authoritative Administration official said today.

It is understood that Mr. Flanigan, who was President Nixon's assistant for international economic affairs, has accepted. But Senator Fulbright—defeated in the Arkansas Democratic primary last spring, in a bid for re-election—has voiced misgivings, the official said.

The proposal that Senator Fulbright succeed Walter H. Annenberg in Britain was broached by Secretary of State Kissinger last month before the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon, the official said. At the time Mr. Fulbright, who is 69 years old, was said to have told Mr. Kissinger that he had no longing for the ambassadorial life with its heavy protocol obligation and that he was also concerned about his wife's health.

Offer Repeated

The offer was apparently repeated by Mr. Ford after he became President.

Mrs. Fulbright has had heart trouble and recently underwent an operation to remove a malignant tumor. But a friend of the Senator said that her health had improved recently.

Mr. Fulbright, as head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is visiting Peking with a joint Congressional delegation and is expected to decide on the offer only after he returns from China on Sept. 14.

"My guess is that he is getting a lot of pressure to take it," said a source close to Mr. Fulbright. The pressure is coming not only from the Administration, but also from Congressional colleagues. The Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, told newsmen today that appointment of Mr. Fulbright to London "would reflect great credit on the President."

Former Rhodes Scholar

Senator Fulbright has had an affectionate relationship with the British ever since he was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in 1927 and he has occasionally voiced preference for the British system of government over the American system.

"The ambassadorship question is completely open," said a top State Department official. British diplomats said that while they were aware that Senator Fulbright was among possible candidates to succeed Ambassador Annenberg no formal approaches had been made to them.

Mr. Annenberg, a wealthy Philadelphia publisher, made it known a year ago that he would like to retire. Since June he has been holding going-away parties at the embassy. The impeachment crisis in Washington postponed Mr. Annenberg's departure.

Mr. Flanigan, a 51-year-old former Wall Street investment banker, would replace Horacio Rivero, a retired admiral and friend of Mr. Nixon who was appointed in 1972.