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Executive In Line for Post at State

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Charles W. Robinson, a West Coast businessman whose company has mining interests in Latin America, a steel project in Saudi Arabia and extensive shipping operations, is expected to be named shortly as under secretary of state for economic affairs.

Informed sources in and out of government confirmed that the post has been offered and accepted. The under secretary's job has been vacant since March, when William Casey left to become head of the Export Import Bank. In the interim, international economic problems have grown in magnitude.

Robinson, 54, is president of the Marcona Corp. of San Francisco. The company is currently involved in a \$850 million joint venture to build a steel mill in Saudi Arabia. Marcona's capital investment will run to approximately \$200 million, a company official said.

The corporation also operates iron ore mines in Peru, Brazil and New Zealand and markets 8 million tons of iron ore a year from Australia. It operates a fleet of 30 ships, 12 of which it owns, and all of which fly foreign flags.

Robinson grew up in California and received a degree in engineering from the University of California and a masters degree in business administration from Stanford, where he specialized in international economics and foreign trade. Before joining in the founding of Marcona he worked for the Utah Construction and Mining Co. Prior to that he was with McKinney and Co., a consulting and managing group.

The post of under secretary was offered to Robinson during the Nixon administration, but he refused to consider it. It was only after President Ford came into the White House that he agreed to join the State Department.

Robinson is known to be a great admirer of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger. He is said to be looking forward to making strides in the economic field to match Kissinger's activities in the political and diplomatic fields.

Robinson is active on a number of boards of international political and trade groups, including the Overseas Development Council, the International Management Development Institute, the Pacific Basin Economic Council, the Tri-lateral Commission, the Business-Industrial advisory council of the OECD, the National Council for U.S.-China relations and the Advisory Council on U.S.-Japanese Trade. He is also on the board of the Inter-American Foundation, a government organization for which he had to be confirmed by the Senate.

Robinson served in the Navy during World War II. He spent two years on the Murmansk run and then participated in the landings in Normandy and Southern France. He went later to the Pacific theatre in Iwo Jima and Okinawa. When discharged he was a full lieutenant.