

Foreign Affairs Expert

Robert Strausz-Hupé

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Robert Strausz-Hupé, who is expected to be named the American Envoy to NATO, is a banker, author, editor, political scientist and high school dropout who arrived in New York from Europe in 1923 with little money and no letters of introduction. The NATO assignment

will be his fourth United States ambassadorial post.

Coming directly from an ambassadorship in Sweden and before that Belgium, Mr. Strausz-Hupé served from 1970 until 1972 as ambassador to Ceylon, now Sri Lanka.

The ambassadorial career of Mr. Strausz-Hupé's (pronounced Strous-HU-Peh) got off to a shaky start.

In 1969 President Richard M. Nixon planned to appoint Mr. Strausz-Hupé ambassador to Morocco. But news of those plans leaked out before they became known to Senator J. W. Fulbright, then chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which examines such nominations.

Senator Fulbright, who never saw eye to eye politically with Mr. Strausz-Hupé, used this breach of protocol to bottle up the nomination. Mr. Nixon finally withdrew it, but not before, a well-informed source recalled, Mr. Strausz-Hupé unsuccessfully pleaded individually with committee members for confirmation.

Mr. Strausz-Hupé was later nominated and confirmed as Ambassador to Ceylon and his diplomatic career was launched.

A Classical Education

Born in Vienna on March 25, 1903, Mr. Strausz-Hupé's modest family background did not keep him from a classical education. Though he left school at 17, his mother had kept him supplied with a wide selection of books and by the age of 10 he was familiar with the works of Goethe, Hegel and other German writers and philosophers.

Mr. Strausz-Hupé came to the United States at the age of 20 and held minor jobs on Wall Street. His extensive independent study of Western European politics and history served him well and by 1930 he was asked by a small banking concern to take charge of its foreign business.

In 1938, the year he became a naturalized citizen, Mr. Strausz-Hupé joined the staff of Current History magazine, after having contributed articles on European affairs. Then a speaking engagement led to an invitation to teach part-time at the Uni-



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Widely read and broadly self-educated.

versity of Pennsylvania in the political science department.

In 1969 Mr. Strausz-Hupé left the university for his post in Ceylon, but not before earning a Ph.D. in political science, founding the university's Foreign Policy Research Institute, and writing 10 books on foreign policy and politics.

The institute severed its ties with the university in the 1960's after many at the school expressed displeasure about his views as too right-wing and too close to those of the Nixon administration.

'Dynamic Lecturer'

A former student of his at the university recalled that "his courses at Penn were among those most heavily attended. He was a dynamic lecturer and although the students were familiar with his reputation as a political conservative, his undergraduate courses were so popular that they had to be scheduled in an auditorium."

In 1944 he married the former Eleanor deGraff Cuyler, the daughter of a one-time president of the old Pennsylvania Railroad. With the marriage, Mr. Strausz-Hupé was drawn into the mainstream of suburban Philadelphia society.

An associate at the University remembers Mr. Strausz-Hupé as an urbane and charming man, equally at home with international bankers or radical students, though he always maintained a sense of social distance with both camps. This distance extended even to those who work with him. Colleagues in the Brussels embassy considered him fair and forthright, but never personally close.

As a diplomat, Mr. Strausz-Hupé is known for his thorough knowledge of foreign affairs. In academic life, his main thesis—on which he wrote profusely—was that coexistence between East and West would not work.