

YOST DENIES REPORT OF RIFT ON MIDEAST

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UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 16—Charles W. Yost, who is soon to leave his post as Chief United States delegate, said today that he knew of no basis for allegations that he disagreed with the Nixon Administration on Middle East policies.

Mr. Yost's remarks at a news conference were his first official comment on the matter since the announcement that President Nixon had chosen George Bush, a Texas Republican congressman, as his successor.

Asked why he was being replaced, Mr. Yost suggested that the question be addressed elsewhere. Since he would remain as delegate for a few weeks, he preferred not to go into details, he said.

His denial of a disagreement on Middle-East policy was in reply to a question as to whether he had advocated a policy "not acceptable to the pro-Israel lobby in the White House and State Department."

Mr. Yost said that after he left his post, he intended to write, teach and speak—which seemed to indicate that he did not expect to stay in Government service.

Mr. Yost submitted his resignation after word leaked to the press that Mr. Nixon planned to replace him with Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a White House counselor. The planned replacement came as a surprise to Mr. Yost. Mr. Moynihan later refused the position and Representative Bush was chosen.

HICKEL SAYS NATION NEEDS 'A NEW BREED'

SEATTLE, Dec. 17 (AP) — The former Secretary of the Interior, Walter J. Hickel, said today the nation was at a turning point that required "a new breed of national leader."

It was the closest Mr. Hickel has come to open opposition to President Nixon, who abruptly dismissed him last

Nov. 25, partly because of a growing chasm between their political philosophies.

Mr. Hickel had stated publicly his disapproval of what he termed the "negative" and "divisive" tactics of the Republican election campaign last fall. He had indicated he could not participate in a similar campaign in 1972. But until today he had carefully avoided direct criticism of President Nixon, charging instead that Nixon

aides were creating "an isolation of thought" in the White House.

But in a speech prepared for a bankers' luncheon here today, Mr. Hickel hinted that he would try more actively to reverse the course of the Republican party. "To be negative is to divide," Mr. Hickel said. "It turns us against each other and keeps us small. As hard as we may try, we cannot tear the nation together."