

Washington Speculates About Five Ambassadorial Transfers Expected Soon

By **TERENCE SMITH**
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WASHINGTON, June 27 — Within the next month or so, President Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers are expected to decide on a number of ambassadorial transfers.

At least five posts, including three in Asia, are likely to change hands by fall. They include Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok, Brussels and Tel Aviv.

Although no assignments have been announced, the betting among the most astute ambassador-watchers in the State Department as to who will replace whom is as follows:

Philip C. Habib, currently on leave from the United States negotiating team at the Paris peace talks, is expected to replace William J. Porter as Ambassador to South Korea. The assignment is seen as a long-delayed reward for Mr. Habib, a respected career officer, who has spent three frustrating years attending nearly every meeting of the stalemated Paris talks, where he is No. 2 man for the United States. Previously he served as a political officer in both South Korea and South Vietnam.

Mr. Porter, a former Deputy Ambassador in Saigon, is expected to return to Washington, perhaps to succeed Marshall Green as Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. If this comes about, as many ranking officials expect, then Mr. Green would be a likely successor to Armin H. Meyer, who has served as Ambassador to Japan since 1969.

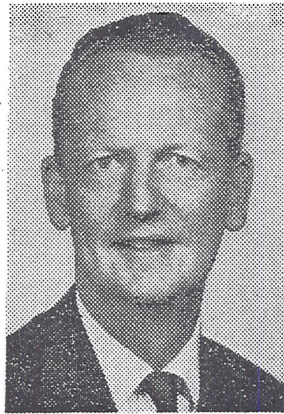
William H. Sullivan, a former Ambassador to Laos and Mr. Green's deputy for South Vietnamese affairs, is considered certain to replace Leonard Unger by fall as Ambassador to Thailand. Charles Whithouse, a former administrator of the pacification program in the third military region in South Vietnam, is likely to replace Mr. Sullivan.

Successors are also expected to be named soon for Ambassadors John S. D. Eisenhower, the son of President Eisenhower, in Brussels; and Walworth Barbour, in Tel Aviv.

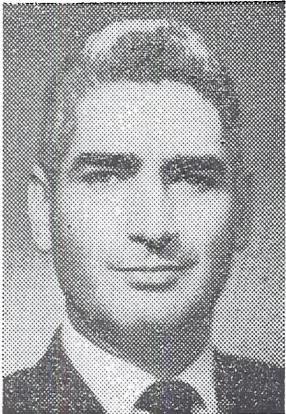
Mr. Barbour, a career diplomat who has been in poor health recently, has occupied the sensitive Tel Aviv post for more than 10 years—longer than any other American ambassador now overseas. He has served three presidents and managed to maintain his credibility and



Philip C. Habib
Expected to go to South Korea.



Marshall Green
Likely to be envoy to Japan.



William H. Sullivan
He may be moved to Thailand.



Henry A. Kissinger
Presumably the man for Peking tour.

influence with the Israelis, an achievement his State Department colleagues regard as extraordinary.

On his recent trip to the Middle East, Secretary Rogers, in the midst of the departure ceremony at Tel Aviv Airport, went before a battery of television cameras to praise the Ambassador for his 40-year career in the Foreign Service. He presented him with the Distinguished Service Medal—the State Department's highest award—and read a letter of commendation from President Nixon.

Obviously caught by surprise, Mr. Barbour paused for several moments before saying softly, "I'm overwhelmed."

Two senior American ambassadors who are not expected to leave their critical posts in the immediate future are Ellsworth Bunker in Saigon and David K. E. Bruce, the chief negotiator in Paris.

Both men are in their seventies and reportedly eager to retire, but an Administration source says, "to replace either of them before" the South Vietnamese

presidential election on October 3 "would be more a political act than a diplomatic one. Inevitably, people would read it as a lessening of American support for [President Nguyen Van] Thieu."

Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to Washington, is expected to return home to join the Cabinet sometime in the fall. The leading candidates to replace him are said to be Mordechai Gazit, director of American affairs for the Israeli Foreign Ministry; and Aviezer Chalouche, a banker and former Foreign Ministry official.

Mr. Rabin, who was chief of staff of the Israeli armed forces before coming to Washington in 1968, has been accused in Israel of having assumed a too-conciliatory stance in presenting the Israeli negotiating position.

The race to be the first prominent American official to visit Peking is on, and at

least two potential Democratic Presidential nominees are in the running, along with President Nixon.

An aide to Senator George McGovern of South Dakota, reportedly visited the new Chinese Embassy in Ottawa to discuss the possibility.

On May 28, Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts sent a cablegram to Premier Chou En-lai asking permission to visit Peking.

Senator Kennedy has yet to receive a reply, although he hopes to tour China in mid-August, when he is scheduled to visit Japan.

The White House has refused to confirm—and pointedly declined to deny—repeated reports that Mr. Nixon asked some months ago that he or a representative be invited to China in early 1972. The representative presumably would be Henry A. Kissinger, his special assist-

ant for national security affairs.

Arthur W. Galston, one of two American scientists recently permitted to visit the mainland, thinks Mr. Nixon's prospects, in an election year, are remote.

Dr. Galston, a Yale biologist, had a two-hour meeting with Premier Chou En-lai and heard his unexpurgated view of various American political figures.

The late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, Mr. Chou said, was "an impossible man," recalling that the Secretary refused even to shake his hand at the 1954 Geneva conference on Indochina.

Of the present Democratic hopefuls, Mr. Chou spoke of Senator McGovern.

"When I told him that I thought Senator McGovern's chances of being elected were about zero," Dr. Galston said, "his face fell."

As for President Nixon, Mr. Chou described him as "an automatic anti-Communist," Dr. Galston said.

"Judging from the way he seems to feel about him," the biologist said, "I doubt that Mr. Chou will invite the President to Peking just for a social visit."