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SF Examiner

Watson

Quits Paris

Envoy Job

SAN CLEMENTE —
(UPI) — Arthur K. Watson, former IBM executive, has resigned as Ambassador to France, saying his doctor told him he must "take six months off" because of asthma.

President Nixon accepted Watson's resignation in an exchange of letters released by the Western White House yesterday.

Watson said he would leave his post in a week or so. No successor has been chosen, a White House spokesman said.

Nixon wrote Watson that he accepted the resignation with "greatest regret" and praised him for having been a "superb representative to our oldest ally and friend" and having played a key role in issues ranging "from drug abuse to a new relationship with the People's Republic of China."

There had been rumors that since Nixon designated the U. S. ambassador in Paris as the main contact for continuing talks between the United States and China, Watson would be replaced by a more experienced, or career, diplomat.