

Bruce Will Head U.S. China Office

N.Y. Times Service

Washington

President Nixon announced yesterday that he has recalled veteran ambassador David K. E. Bruce from retirement to head a U.S. liaison office in Peking, one of a series of friendly moves aimed at establishing formal diplomatic relations with China.

Mr. Nixon said the office would be established about May 1 with a staff of about 20 Americans, ten of them at the expert level.

Bruce's deputies will be two of the nation's leading China experts — Alfred Jenkins of the State Department and John Holdridge, a member of the White House national security staff.

The President said he appointed the 75-year-old Bruce to the office "because I thought it was very important to appoint a man of great stature to this position. The Chinese accepted that view themselves, and we expect soon to hear from them as to the appointment of the man they will have as his opposite number here in Washington."

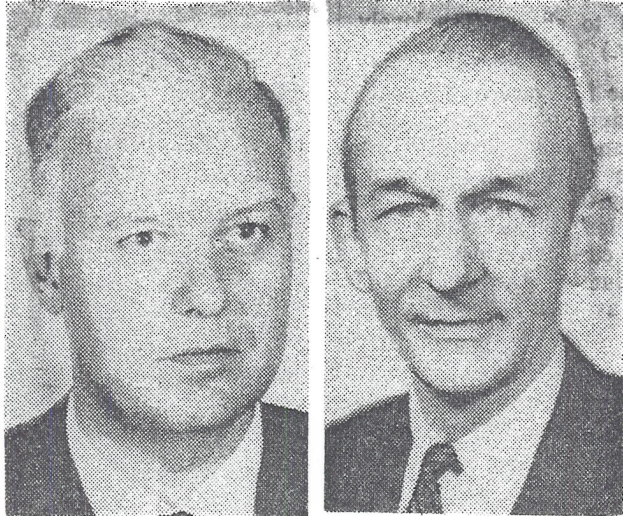
The U.S. and China announced on February 22 that liaison offices would be es-

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UPI Telephoto

DAVID BRUCE
Out of retirement



AP Wirephoto

JOHN HOLDRIDGE ALFRED JENKINS
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China file.

BRUCE

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established in each other's capital.

There was no indication when the Chinese office would open here.

TRIP

Recalling his trip to China last year, Mr. Nixon said he considered the improvement of relations with China "a journey in which we will have our differences, but one in which the most populous nation in the world and the United States of America can work together where their interests coincide for the cause of peace and better relations in the Pacific and in the world."

The appointment of Bruce to head the liaison office came as a surprise, but it was applauded here as a wise move in winning the confidence of the Chinese leaders.

A former ambassador to England, Germany, France and other posts, Bruce was called from retirement in the summer of 1970 to be the chief U.S. representative at the Paris peace talks. One year later, he resigned for health reasons and returned

to retirement. He was suffering from a circulatory ailment. However, he is now said to be in good health.

AGE

Bruce's age, as well as his wide experience in diplomacy — he served under five presidents, from Harry Truman to Mr. Nixon — is considered as asset for the China post.

Unlike Americans, the Chinese look with favor on leaders of advanced age, and in Peking Bruce will be in the company of two senior officials — chairman Mao Tse-tung, who is 79 and Chou En-lai, who is 75.

President Nixon said another reason for selecting Bruce is that the building of relations with China should be a bipartisan enterprise.

"Mr. Bruce, as you know, while he has not been engaged in partisan politics, as such, is a democrat," Mr. Nixon said. "We believe that appointing him as head of the delegation indicates our intention that this initiative will continue in the future, whether the presidency is occupied by a Democrat or Republican."