

U.S. Names Envoy to Qatar, 4th to Gulf Area in 2 Weeks

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WASHINGTON, May 10 — President Nixon today nominated a United States Ambassador to Qatar. It was the fourth appointment of an envoy to a Persian Gulf oil-producing state in the last two weeks.

The appointment of Robert P. Pagnelli, 42 years old, to head the embassy in Qatar was described by a State Department official as part of a general policy of expanding the United States presence in the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf region.

Until now the only United States Embassy in the region was in Kuwait. It is headed by William A. Stoltzfus, Jr., who also has served as the nonresident Ambassador to Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

In the last two weeks, Mr. Nixon has named Michael Sterner, 44, to be Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Joseph W. Twinam, 39, to be Ambassador to Bahrain, and William D. Wollé, 46, as Ambassador to Oman.

Like Mr. Paganelli, the three other nominees are fluent in the Arabic language.

A State Department specialist in Arab affairs said the Nixon Administration had been

contemplating an upgrading and expansion of its diplomatic missions in the Persian Gulf region since 1972. But enactment of the policy depended on Congressional approval of additional funds, which were given only recently.

Earlier this month, a team from the State Department's Inspector General Office completed a three-week study tour of the region to evaluate options for expanding American diplomatic, economic and military influence in the region.

A State Department official said the new emphasis on the Persian Gulf region and the upgrading of United States diplomatic missions was in large part intended to assist commercial access for United States companies.

He pointed out that Qatar's oil earnings this year would amount to about \$1.5-billion, and those of Oman to about \$700-million. A number of United States citizens are already active in the region, he said, including more than 1,000 in Abu Dhabi alone.

Qatar and Oman are already represented by Ambassadors in Washington and an ambassador from the United Arab Emirates is expected here in the summer.