

Porter Is Appointed Chief U.S. Delegate To the Paris Talks

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WASHINGTON, July 28—

President Nixon today named William J. Porter to succeed the ailing chief United States delegate to the Paris peace talks, David K. E. Bruce.

At the same time, the President nominated Philip C. Habib, who has been the deputy chief of the delegation in Paris, to take Mr. Porter's former post of Ambassador to South Korea.

White House officials had confirmed reports of the diplomatic assignments several weeks ago. But the White House, which has not made a formal counteroffer to a July 1 peace proposal by the Communists, would not say how soon the new Paris delegation would be prepared for substantive negotiations.

Ronald L. Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said that Mr. Habib would be the acting chief of the delegation after the negotiating session tomorrow and until Mr. Porter was briefed in Washington and went to Paris.

Mr. Ziegler initially said, in response to a question, that he did not know whether Mr. Porter would be in Paris before the Presidential elections in South Vietnam in October. Later he added that Mr. Porter would go to Paris "as soon as possible."

Mr. Bruce, who is 73 years old, was called out of retirement a year ago to head the United States delegation, succeeding Henry Cabot Lodge. His appointment followed several months of stalemate during which Mr. Habib was the acting chief delegate and the North Vietnamese downgraded their level of representation.

Mr. Ziegler said the White House did not expect a similar problem while Mr. Habib led the delegation because the Communists were aware of the "entirely different set of circumstances."

Hanoi Leader Leaves

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PARIS, July 28—Le Duc Tho, an important member of the North Vietnamese leadership

and a special adviser to the delegation here, left today for Hanoi.

His departure heightened the impression here that the peace talks would enter an inactive phase.