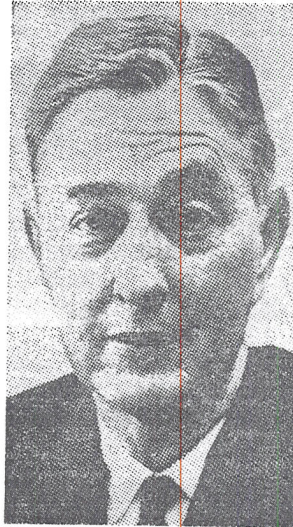




UPI Telephoto
ELLSWORTH BUNKER
 Envoy to Saigon



UPI Telephoto
GRAHAM MARTIN
 New envoy to Saigon

Successor Picked

Bunker Resigns --Leaves Saigon

Washington

President Nixon announced the resignation yesterday of Ellsworth Bunker, ambassador to South Vietnam for six years over the peak and decline of American involvement in this nation's longest war.

Bunker, who will be 79 in May, will be taking on "other duties" for the President in the "relatively near future," the White House said.

President Nixon left Washington yesterday afternoon for the Western White House at San Clemente, Calif., where he will meet Monday and Tuesday with South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu. Bunker will participate in these talks, along with Graham A. Martin, who was named to succeed Bunker in Saigon.

White House press secretary Ronald Ziegler said the President accepted with "very deep regrets" the resignation of Bunker, who has been the dominant U.S. official and war supporter in South Vietnam since 1967.

The President expressed "deep gratitude" for Bunker's "superior service for the cause of peace," said Ziegler, and "is pleased that he will continue to be available for other service."

Bunker left Saigon earlier in the day, without ceremony, for the San Clemente conference which is expected to establish the pattern of future U.S. policy in Vietnam.

Martin, who is 60, and served as American ambassador in Rome from 1969 until last month, is a career minister in the Foreign Service. He was ambassador to Thailand from 1963 to 1967 when the U.S. established what was originally a secret network of air bases to support the war in Vietnam.

These Thai airfields now supply much of the potential striking power to support the warnings that President Nixon again issued to North Vietnam Thursday night against any major breach of the Vietnam cease-fire signed in Paris January 27.

Associated Press