

Ford Names Richardson Ambassador to Britain

Washington

Elliot L. Richardson, who quit as attorney general rather than carry out former President Nixon's order to fire Watergate Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox, was announced yesterday as President Ford's choice to be ambassador to Britain.

In an unusual personal statement, Mr. Ford indirectly alluded to Richardson's abrupt departure from government in October, 1973, saying:

"I warmly welcome Elliot Richardson back into the service of our country and I am confident that he will represent America with the highest distinction."

Presidents normally do not issue statements announcing their nominees for ambassadorial posts but Mr. Ford did so in this case, saying he was making the announcement "with special pleasure."

The 54-year-old Richardson, once the Republican lieutenant governor of Massachusetts and attorney general of that state, had been in federal service from the outset of the Nixon administration in 1960 until his resignation when Mr. Nixon determined to fire Cox.

Mr. Ford said in his statement that Richardson's service "has been one of extraordinary achievement" and continued: "I have the highest regard for him, for his intelligence and for his total commitment to public service."

Under Mr. Nixon, the tall Bostonian served successively as undersecretary of state, secretary of health,

education and welfare, secretary of defense and attorney general.

The London post was vacated with the resignation last year of Philadelphia publisher Walter H. Annenberg.

Mr. Ford said he and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger would be seeking Richardson's "wise counsel" not only on Anglo-American relations but on questions involving the Western Alliance and other subjects.

Richardson's appointment must be confirmed by the Senate, and approval is considered a virtual certainty.

Richardson, an attorney educated at Harvard, often is described as scholarly and is considered by his associates as a highly capable administrator.

He has many years of government service and currently is associated with the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Richardson resigned as attorney general on Oct. 20, 1973, saying that firing Cox would violate his promise to Congress to guarantee the independence of the special prosecutor.

After his resignation, Richardson was widely mentioned as a possible Republican candidate for the presidency in 1976, but the talk subsided with the rise of Gerald Ford and Nelson A. Rockefeller.

The post of U.S. ambassador to Britain generally has gone to wealthy men. The salary is \$42,500 a year, plus certain expenses for running the embassy.

Richardson is said to be financially well-to-do, but not of great wealth, benefitting from old family fortunes made in medicine, law and banking. He was married to the former Anne Francis Hazard in 1952, and they

have three children.

Other ambassadors to Britain have included Joseph Kennedy, father of the later President John F. Kennedy; Averell Harriman; John H. Whitney, who owned

the New York Herald Tribune; David K. Bruce, now U.S. ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and Annenberg, all rich men.

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