

# China Envoy Sworn In

## Washington Ceremony

### Washington

Thomas S. Gates was accorded the rank of ambassador yesterday in his new role as the top American diplomat in Peking as President Ford pledged to continue efforts for normalization of relations with China.

Gates, 70, took the ambassadorial oath at a Rose Garden ceremony before his departure to become the third American representative to the People's Republic of China.

Mr Ford told a blue-ribbon gathering that the ambassadorial rank "is a measure of the importance we attach to relations with the People's Republic."

Reporting that the process of normalization of relations that began in 1972 "is now well under way," Mr Ford said the process will be carried to a conclusion and predicted a "durable and growing relationship" between the two nations.

Gates, a banker who was a secretary of defense in the Eisenhower administration, had been serving as chairman of the executive committee of the Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. until nominated for the diplomatic post.

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