

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 5, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Donald B. Easum of Alexandria, Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He will succeed John E. Reinhardt who has been nominated to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Public Affairs).

Ambassador Easum has been an Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs since December 1973. A career Foreign Service officer of Class One, he served as Ambassador to Upper Volta from November 1971 to December 1973. Prior to becoming the Ambassador to Upper Volta, he was Staff Director of the Interdepartmental Group for Inter-American Affairs.

He was born on August 27, 1923, in Culver, Indiana. Ambassador Easum received his B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1947, and M.P.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University in 1950 and 1953. During 1950-51 he studied at London University as a Fulbright Scholar. Following his service in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946, he taught secondary school and then joined The New York Times as a reporter in 1947.

Ambassador Easum entered the Foreign Service in 1955. Overseas, he has served in Nicaragua, Indonesia, Senegal and as Deputy Chief of Mission in Niamey, Niger. In Washington, he has served in the Executive Secretariat of the Department of State as Executive Secretary of the Agency for International Development.

He is married to the former Augusta Pentecost and they have four children.

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