

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 4, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary
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The President today announced his intention to nominate William J. Porter, of Massachusetts, a Foreign Service Officer of the class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He will succeed James E. Akins who has resigned.

Since March 1974, Ambassador Porter has been Ambassador to Canada. Prior to his appointment, he was Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. During 1971, he was appointed by the President as his Personal Representative, with the personal rank of Ambassador, to head the United States Delegation at the Paris meetings on Viet Nam. From 1967 to 1971, he was Ambassador to Korea after having served as Deputy Ambassador to Viet Nam, with the personal rank of Ambassador from 1965 to 1967. He was Ambassador to Algeria from 1962 to 1965. During 1961-62, he was Principal Officer with the personal rank of Minister in Algiers, after having training in the Arabic language during 1960-61.

In 1957, Ambassador Porter became Director of the Office of North African Affairs and was Deputy Chief of Mission in Rabat from 1953 to 1957 after having been Principal Officer. He was a political adviser to the Chief of Voice of America in New York from 1951 to 1953. During 1946 he served as Acting Palestine Desk Officer at the State Department and was Political Officer in Jerusalem (1946-48) and a Principal Officer (1948-50).

Born on September 1, 1914, in Staleybridge, England, Ambassador Porter became a naturalized U. S. citizen in 1936. He was educated at Boston College and Thibodeau College of Business Administration in Fall River, Massachusetts. He was in private business in Fall River, Massachusetts from 1933 to 1936 and served as private secretary to Minister Montgomery in Budapest during 1936-37. He began his Foreign Service career in Baghdad in 1937, and later went to Beirut (1941-43), and Damascus (1943-46).

Ambassador Porter is married to the former Eleanore Henry. They have two children.

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