

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 17, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Monteagle Stearns, of Pasadena, California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Ivory Coast. He will succeed Robert S. Smith who has resigned. Mr. Stearns has been Deputy Chief of Mission in Athens since 1974.

Born on December 5, 1924, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Stearns received his B. A. degree from Columbia University in 1948. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945.

In 1949, Mr. Stearns became a Motion Picture Officer in Istanbul and held the same position in Ankara from 1949 to 1952. He served with the United States Information Agency as an Information and Editorial Specialist from 1952 to 1955. He became a Foreign Affairs Officer at the Department of State in 1955, prior to being assigned to Athens as a Political Officer in 1957. From 1963 to 1965, he was Political Officer in Leopoldville and returned to the State Department in 1965 to serve as Special Assistant to the Ambassador at Large. He was a Political Officer in London from 1967 to 1969 and from 1969 to 1972, was Deputy Chief of Mission in Vientiane.

Mr. Stearns attended the Bowie Seminar at the Harvard University Center for International Affairs during 1972-73. He was Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs during 1973-74.

Married to the former Antonia Riddleberger, Mr. and Mrs. Stearns have four children.

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