

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 24, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

The President today announced his intention to nominate Robert P. Smith, of McLean, Virginia, to be Ambassador to Ghana. He will succeed Shirley Temple Black who became Chief of Protocol on July 1, 1976. Mr. Smith has been Ambassador to Malta since July 23, 1974.

Born on March 5, 1929, in Joplin, Missouri, Mr. Smith received his B.A. in 1954 and his M.A. in 1955 from Texas Christian University. He served with the United States Marine Corps from 1946-49 and from 1950-52.

Following his appointment in 1955 to the Foreign Service, Mr. Smith was assigned as Information Specialist and Press Officer, News Division. In 1956-59, he served as Consular Officer, Lahore. In 1959, he was assigned as Economic Officer, then Political Officer, Beirut. In 1961-62, he took African Area Studies at Northwestern University under Foreign Institute auspices. He was assigned as Principal Officer, Enugu during 1962-65. In 1965-69, he was Officer in Charge of Ghanaian Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs.

Mr. Smith attended the National War College during 1969-70 and was Deputy Chief of Mission in Pretoria from 1970 to 1974.

He is married to the former Irene Rountree and they have four children.

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