

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 Lowell Bruce Laingen, of Butterfield, Minnesota, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta. He will succeed Robert P. Smith who is being reassigned to another position. Mr. Laingen has been Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of European Affairs since 1975.

Born on August 6, 1922, in Odin Township, Minnesota, Mr. Laingen received his B. A. degree in 1943 from St. Olaf College and his M. A. in 1949 from the University of Minnesota. He served in the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Mr. Laingen joined the Department of State as a Foreign Affairs Analyst in 1949. He became the Visa Officer in Hamburg in 1951, prior to serving as Acting Principal Officer during 1954-55 in Meshed and Economic Officer in Tehran during 1955-56. He was Deputy Officer in Charge of Greek Affairs at the Department from 1956 to 1958 and Officer in Charge of Greek Affairs from 1958 to 1960. From 1960 to 1964, he was the Political Officer in Karachi, and was the Officer in Charge of Pakistan-Afghanistan Affairs and later the Political Officer at the Department of State from 1964 to 1967.

In 1967, Mr. Laingen attended the National War College and from 1968 to 1971, he was Deputy Chief of Mission in Kabul. He became the Country Director for Pakistan in 1971 prior to becoming the Country Director for India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldive Islands. He served as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs during 1973-74.

Mr. Laingen is married to the former Penelope Babock and they have three children. They reside in Bethesda, Maryland.

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