

JANUARY 16, 1967

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

President Johnson today announced the resignation of Ambassador Raymond Telles as Ambassador to Costa Rica and his appointment as Chairman of the United States section of a newly-created joint United States-Mexican commission on economic and social development of the border area.

The President also announced his intention to nominate Clarence A. Boonstra of Michigan, a Career Foreign Service Officer, as Ambassador to Costa Rica.

Mr. Telles has served as United States Ambassador in San Jose since April 1961. He is expected to take up his new duties on the Border Commission around February 1. The Commission is being established pursuant to a decision reached between President Johnson and President Diaz Ordaz last April.

Mr. Telles was born at El Paso, Texas on September 5, 1915. After attending Texas Western College in El Paso, he worked for the Department of Justice in various positions from 1934 to 1941. In that year he entered the United States Army Air Corps and served until 1947. During the Korean War he returned to active duty, reaching the rank of Colonel. He holds the Bronze Star.

Mr. Telles was County Clerk in El Paso from 1949 to 1957, except for the time during his Korean War service. He was elected Mayor of El Paso in 1957. He served in that position until 1961 when he was appointed Ambassador to Costa Rica.

Mr. Boonstra was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on January 5, 1914. He received his Bachelor's degree from Michigan State College in 1936. He continued his studies at Louisiana State University while holding several positions in the agricultural field, receiving an MA. degree in 1937 and his Ph.D. in 1942.

After a year with the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Boonstra entered the Foreign Service. He has served in Havana, Manila, Lima, Buenos Aires, and Rio de Janeiro. Since 1963 he has served as Deputy Chief of Mission at our Embassy in Mexico City.

Mr. Boonstra received the Department of State's Commendable Service Award in 1960.

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