Ambassador Mansfield is Planning to Retire

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001
EDITORS, OPERATORS

THIS CONCLUDES REGULAR EPF TRANSMISSION. X-ITEMS FOLLOW FOR TOKYO/BANGKOK/CHINESE LANGUAGE POSTS. ITEM

EPF-121 (6/16/80)

EDTORS, OPERATORS

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EPF-1X1 (6/16/80)

(FOLLOWING FS MATERIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

ATTN TOKYO

AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD IS PLANNING TO RETIRE (150)

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AMBASSADOR MANSFIELD IS PLANNING TO RETIRE (150)

Great Falls, Mont., June 15 (UPI) -- U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield plans to retire early next year, the Great Falls Tribune reported today.

"I will be on my way," Mansfield, 77, was quoted as saying. "I would like to have a few years surcease."

In Washington, the State Department said it has not received any indication from the ambassador that he was submitting his resignation. Like all ambassadors, Mansfield would be expected traditionally to submit his resignation if a new administration is inaugurated in January.

A Democrat, Mansfield served a record 16 years as Senate majority leader. He retired in 1976, having spent 24 years in the Senate and 10 in the House.

President Carter appointed him ambassador to Japan upon his retirement from the Senate. Mansfield has been a scholar of Asia since his days as a history professor at the University of Montana, and has drawn praise from the Japanese and those in diplomatic circles.

Mansfield said demands of the diplomatic job have strained his wife, Maureen, who has had two heart attacks in recent years and is recovering from a broken bone in her foot.

The newspaper interviewed Mansfield last month in Tokyo.

(PRECEDING FS MATERIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION) ITEM

EPF-1X3 (6/16/80)

(FOLLOWING FS MATERIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

ATTN TOKYO

CHIRA'S FUNERAL: SHOULD CARTER ATTEND? (120)

JOC, 6/16 (FULL TEXT)

BIG QUESTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE: SHOULD PRESIDENT CARTER ATTEND THE STATE FUNERAL OF JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER MAYADACHI CHIRA? ATTENDING THE FUNERAL, SOME AIDES ARGUE, WOULD IMPORTANTLY BOOST U.S.-JAPANESE RELATIONS AND PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY HELP PRO-U.S. JAPANESE CANDIDATES IN JAPAN'S NATIONAL ELECTIONS JUNE 22. U.S. AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN MIKE MANSFIELD REPORTEDLY HAS DIRECTLY URGED MR. CARTER TO GO, AND HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF WHITE HOUSE POLITICAL AIDE ROBERT STRAUSS; ONLY NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI IS SAID TO QUESTION THE TRIP. MR. CARTER COULD GO DIRECTLY FROM THE VENICE ECONOMIC SUMMIT TO TOKYO TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL.

(PRECEDING FS MATERIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION) ITEM

EPF-1X4 (6/16/80)

(FOLLOWING FS MATERIAL NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

ATTN TOKYO

LEADERLESS JAPAN (500)

BSUN EDt, 6/16 (FULL TEXT)