

Secretary Rogers with Dobrynin (right): 'King of the diplomatic hill'

## Five Stars of Embassy Row

quit his post and enter politics back home. And last week, after months of meticulous deliberations, Jerusalem finally named his successor: Simcha Dinitz, counselor and closest aide to Prime Minister Golda Meir. Until then, the delays in announcing a replacement for Rabin had become something of a running gag in Washington's diplomatic circles. (The host of one farewell party promised to give Rabin another next year.) But at the same time, Israel's difficulty in choosing an ambassadorial successor was a measure of the importance most countries attach to their envoys in the most prestigious and demanding diplomatic post in the world.

As a result, the Washington diplomatic circuit has an all-star cast that includes such superb economists as Lord Cromer of Britain, such perceptive professionals as Sir James Plimsoll of Australia and Orlando Letelier of Chile and such personable envoys as Rolf Friedemann Pauls of West Germany and Leonard Oliver Kibinge of Kenya. Any listing of the most effective foreign diplomats in Washington is necessarily arbitrary. But economic support, that the U.S. sustains wheat field in Kansas or humorously adbased on a consensus of the diplomatic corps itself and the judgment of officials in the White House and the State Department, Newsweek's diplomatic correspondent Henry Trewhitt compiled the following roster of foreign ambassadorial standouts—the five finest currently posted to Washington:

Rabin of Israel. Not long ago, Yitzhak Rabin, 50, was called upon to explain Israel's strategic doctrine before an assemblage of high military and civilian officials at the U.S. War College. As he spoke, the words tumbled over each other in a liquid baritone and his ges- tainty over future political relationships

It was no secret in Washington that tures became more animated. When he Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's ambassador to finished, it was clear that he had crethe U.S., was more than a little eager to ated an audience of true believers. "Hell, it turned into a pep rally," said one American diplomat who was present at the lecture. "He's one of the world's most persuasive men."

The hyperbole was understandable. In more than four years in Washington, Rabin has come to be mentioned in the same breath with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin as one of the two most effective envoys in the nation's Capital. During that time he has kept relations between Israel and the U.S. on an even keel despite the strains that have cropped up since the 1967 six-day war. In a sense, Rabin helped create his own diplomatic problems, since as Chief of Staff of Israel's army in 1967 he was responsible for his nation's lightning victory over Egypt and its Arab allies.

Though he and his attractive wife, Lea, also rate high marks in the Capital's social whirl, Rabin never confuses business with pleasure. "The social part of living in Washington is pleasant," he allows. "But the most important things to us are that we be permitted to buy arms for our defense, that we get credit and a credible posture toward the Soviet Union and that we be permitted to bargain freely for peace without the imposition of a settlement." Scheduled to leave his Washington job in February, Rabin has expressed open satisfaction at the current state of U.S.-Israeli affairs. "Relations between our countries," he says, were never better."

Ushiba of Japan. Another alliance that has known some rocky moments of late is the one between the U.S. and Japan. Given the complex trade and monetary maneuvering and the continuing uncer-

in East Asia, it is hardly any wonder that Ambassador Nobuhiko Ushiba says that he has been "terribly busy" during his 26 months in Washington. Indeed he has. So far, the 62-year-old career diplomat and veteran negotiator has met personally with no fewer than 70 U.S. senators and, as an aide puts it, "more members of the House than I can count." He is in frequent contact with the White House and the Departments of State, Commerce, Defense and Treasury. "Ushiba is absolutely tireless," says one State Department official. "Of course, he also has an outstanding staff. He is hip-deep in good staff. They've got a specialist in everything out there at the embassy, and they're all good."

He does not limit his activities to the corridors of power in Washington. In his



Ushiba: 'Absolutely tireless'

determined pursuit of goodwill for Japan, Ushiba has traveled through 45 states to deliver more than 100 speeches -gamely riding a combine through a vising the Down East state of Maine to name itself "The Rising Sun State." He continues to express astonishment at the diversity of the U.S. and professes to have never encountered any direct antagonism here in representing Japan. "I'm delighted that Japanese-American relations did not become an issue in this year's U.S. campaign as they did before," he says with obvious relief. "Now with the elections past, I believe there will be a period of even greater calm for reasonable discussions."

Kim of South Korea. "He can be utterly Oriental or totally Western, as the

Newsweek, December 18, 1972

case demands. I doubt that the ambassador is bothered by ideological hang-ups. He has seen it all." That was one State Department official's admiring description of Dong Jo Kim, 54, Seoul's envoy to Washington for the past five years. Prior to his U.S. assignment, Kim led the South Korean delegation in the delicate negotiations that led to the normalization of relations between his country and Japan in 1965. It was a historic settle- ulate advocate; he reasons with you. which is clearly a spectacular achievement accomplished in splendid Oriental He is, well-very, very Rumanian." fashion, according to a Western source who reported: "I understand that the most effective work in diplomacy was done in geisha houses."

Since coming to Washington, Ambassador Kim has maintained his reputation



Bogdan: 'Very, very Rumanian'



Kim: 'He's seen it all'

as a clubman. He plays golf with Sen. J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and U. Alexis Johnson, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs. And when the Kims give a party, it is not unusual to see both Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and Minority Leader Hugh Scott mingling in the glittering crowd. "Yes, I have come to know many people in Washington," says Kim. "I enjoy it, and it helps me to represent my government effectively." That may be an Eastern understatement. For even more than most Westerners, Kim understands the centers of power in Washington. "The fact is that the United States Government, both the executive and legislative branches, has fallen all over itself giving Korea money and weapons," observed an American

diplomat. "In recent years, Ambassador Kim has helped the process enormously."

Bogdan of Rumania. He is soft-spoken and understated. But Corneliu Bogdan is very, very persistent. "It's his quiet omnipresence," says one Washington official of the 51-year-old ambassador from Bucharest. "Bogdan never shouts, but he keeps coming back at you. He is an artic-

A career diplomat who formerly head-

ed the press department of Rumania's Foreign Ministry and who has served as his country's deputy representative to the U.N. Security Council, Bogdan finds it difficult to keep abreast of events in Washington. "The problem in many countries is too little information," he observes. In Washington there's almost too much to keep up with." Yet, Ambassador and Mrs. Bogdan are members of a rare breed among Washington's foreign diplomats who admit that they like living in the U.S. Capital. "The summers are bad," beautiful cities in the world. The cultural life is getting better, from the theater to chamber music to country music."

As for U.S.-Rumanian relations, the Ambassador says that "the biggest challenge was to lay a base of goodwill, then to put flesh on the backbone with trade. Our two Presidents have established good relations," he adds. "They made the political decisions. Now it's up to us to implement them." And as Rumania has gradually sidled away from Soviet influence, Bogdan has spent the past five years in the careful cultivation of the U.S. Congress, the White House and the State and Commerce depart- is expected to return to a Moscow assignments. He has performed so effectively that, according to the general expectation in Washington, Rumania is next on President Nixon's list to receive mostfavored-nation trading status.

Dobrynin of the U.S.S.R. Though he is fourth on the protocol list of preced-

ence (based on seniority of service in Washington), Anatoly Fyodorovich Dobrynin is, in reality, the king of the foreign-diplomatic hill in Washington. His comprehension of the American political process is reputed to be virtually flawless; his representation of his own country's interests is precise. He is trusted in Washington as much as any foreigner can be trusted by another governmentment for Dobrynin, given the history of Soviet-American relations.

Tall, affable, his eyes twinkling behind steel-rimmed spectacles, Dobrynin, 53, cuts an imposing figure. He commands such respect that, even in the aftermath of the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 (his first year on the job in Washington), many of his colleagues from other nations continued to claim that he was incapable of an outright lie. "What he sometimes did in dissembling the facts," insists one, "was well within the bounds of the diplomatic game." Indeed, most diplomats and journalists find Dobrynin's style utterly comfortable. At a French Embassy reception recently, he delighted the other guests with romantic introductions to Russian folk songs sung by his wife, Irina.

Still, no one would ever accuse Dobrynin of being a pushover. "You can be certain in dealing with Dobrynin that you are getting the Russian position as it is intended to be presented," says a Soviet specialist at the State Department, "and you can be sure that your position is being accurately conveyed to Moscow." But Dobrynin's tenure in Washington may be ending; with a history of stomach ulcers, the ambassador ment sometime next year. He was "a crucial figure in Soviet-American rapprochement," says outgoing U.S. Commerce Secretary Peter Peterson, who worked with Dobrynin in negotiating the recent sweeping U.S.-Soviet trade agreement. "They will have a tough time replacing him."



Assistant Secretary Sisco with Rabin (left): 'A persuasive man'

Newsweek, December 18, 1972