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WASHINGTON TALK

Briefing

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Nominee for Indonesia

President Reagan is reportedly preparing to nominate Kent B. Crane, a former Foreign Service officer who advised a former Vice President, Spiro T. Agnew, on foreign affairs, as Ambassador to Indonesia.

The appointment is regarded as significant for two reasons: It is designed, on the political level, to help dampen conservative criticism of President Reagan for his alleged reluctance to make more sweeping changes at the State Department, and it comes on the eve of a state visit here by President Suharto of Indonesia.

The Administration was prepared earlier this year to send Morton I. Abramowitz, a career Foreign Service officer, to Jakarta, but the Indonesians refused to accept him as Ambassador. Although no formal reason was given, it was understood that opposition was based on a hostile memorandum drafted by American conservatives and circulated there.

Mr. Crane was a Foreign Service officer from 1960 to 1967 and was assigned at one time to the embassy in Jakarta. He served on the Agnew staff from 1969 through 1971 and was later an assistant director of the United States Information Agency. His nomination has reportedly aroused some opposition among State Department officials.

Phil Gailey

Warren Weaver Jr.