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Holbrooke Is Called the Choice For U.S. Ambassador to Cyprus

WASHINGTON — Hoping to ease tensions in the Aegean, President Bill Clinton has chosen Richard Holbrooke, a high-profile diplomat, to be his envoy to Cyprus, administration officials said Wednesday.

Mr. Holbrooke helped negotiate an end to the civil war in Yugoslavia and was on Mr. Clinton's short list for secretary of state and United Nations ambassador in 1996.

His selection signals the administration's intention to make the complex, 21-year-old division of Cyprus a top agenda item for Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, said two administration officials.

Mr. Holbrooke, 55, the diplomat credited with negotiating the Dayton peace accords for Bosnia, left the administration last year amid unusual fanfare to work as an investment banker in New York. (AP)