

United States Ambassador
to Brazil

William M. Rountree

William M. Rountree, a Foreign Service Officer with the rank of Career Minister, was nominated U.S. Ambassador to Brazil on September 15, 1970. He has served since 1965 as Ambassador to South Africa.

Born March 28, 1917 in Swainsboro, Georgia, Mr. Rountree received an LL.B. from the Columbus University School of Law in 1941. From 1935 to 1941 he worked in the Treasury Department and in 1941 joined the Lend-Lease Administration. From 1942 to 1945 he served in Cairo as Assistant and then Deputy to the U.S. Economic Representative to the Middle East. He returned to Washington in 1945 to become Special Assistant for Economic Affairs in the State Department's Bureau of Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, a position he held until 1948, when he was assigned to Athens as Special Assistant to the Ambassador for economic and military aid programs. In 1949, he was appointed Deputy Director of the Office of Greek, Turkish and Iranian Affairs in the State Department and a year later became the Director of the office. In 1950, he served in Ankara as Deputy Chief of Mission, and from 1953 to 1955 held the same position in Tehran with the rank of Minister. In 1955 he was transferred to the Department where he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern, South Asian and African Affairs. In 1956 he was named Assistant Secretary of State for that area. He was United States Ambassador to Pakistan from 1959 to 1962 and to the Sudan from 1962 to 1965.

Mr. Rountree was the recipient of the Superior Service Award in 1952 and of the National Civil Service League Career Service Award in 1957. He is married to the former Suzanne McDowall, and has a daughter, Susan. The Ambassador is a resident of Gainesville, Florida.

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