

Cline Quits State, Cites Uneasiness

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Ray S. Cline, a senior official of the State Department, is resigning after 31 years in government because he feels he cannot work effectively in an administration hobbled by the Watergate scandals.

The resignation, which is to be submitted to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger today, constitutes the first by a high-level State Department official directly attributable to the malaise in government growing out of the continuing series of domestic crises.

Cline became director of the Office of Intelligence and Research in November, 1969, after a long career in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Despite deep dismay with the revelations of the past summer, Cline has told friends he wanted to remain in government. But the combination of outrage at these disclosures and what he considered the overconcentration of decision-making led Cline to decide he could be more effective outside the government.

The resignation of Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson—who as deputy secretary of state recruited Cline from the CIA—apparently weighed strongly in the decision to resign. Cline was overheard tell-

ing a Richardson aide about a week ago: "I want you to tell Elliot that his resignation was the first heartwarming act of a high administration official in recent months."

Cline has been offered a position at Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based "think-tank" that is generally conservative and supportive of the Nixon administration's foreign and strategic policies.

Cline has told friends recently that he is becoming increasingly uneasy about the concentration of decision-making in the hands of one person serving both as Secretary of State and national security adviser to the President, leaving no single government department informed of the facts that go into crucial policy moves. This concern has grown despite Cline's respect for Kissinger and the good working relationship they have reportedly enjoyed.

Cline has also expressed criticism with the way the administration, in seeking to repair relationships with former adversaries, has seriously damaged traditional friendships with Japan and the NATO allies.