

Daily White House Huddle: Topic A

Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON — Top White House aides Alexander M. Haig, Ronald Ziegler, William Timmons, Kenneth Cole and Bryce Harlow are huddling almost daily in an effort to counteract the adverse publicity caused by Watergate.

These sessions, according to sources, are often similar to those of the so-called Nixon "Attack Group" in the 1972 presidential campaign.

The "Attack Group" then was made up of several middle level White House and campaign committee officials.

Headed by former presidential aide Charles Colson,

its main purpose was to meet daily to determine the best method of response to Democratic charges and to recommend offensive tactics. Contrary to some reports this week, the group has not been reactivated to deal with Watergate.

Colson, however, is drawing himself closer to the White House, and in the words of one White House aide, "is now back on our side... I think."

The subject of a number of allegations related to Watergate and questionable overall campaign tactics, Colson seemed last spring to be embarked on a 600-mile

effort to prove his own innocence, irrespective of others at the White House. Lately, however, he has re-emerged as a staunch defender of the President.

The White House, however, denies published reports that Colson meets privately these days with Nixon and that he has dined with Nixon at least twice recently.