

Helms to Resign As CIA Director

2d-Term Revisions Continue

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By Lou Cannon

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KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., Dec. 2—Richard Helms will soon resign as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He has been offered a new job by President Nixon and is expected to accept.

Helms' intentions became known in Washington today while the President was announcing here that he would retain his principal White House advisers but would accept the resignation of special counsel Charles W. Colson.

Presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler announced that No. 1 assistant H. R. (Bob) Haldeman, domestic affairs assistant John D. Ehrlichman and foreign policy adviser Henry A. Kissinger would stay on in the second term.

Ziegler also announced the retention of eight other high-ranking officials, including himself, and the anticipated resignations of counsellor Robert H. Finch, deputy counsel Harry S. Dent and special assistant Robert J. Brown, the highest-ranking black in the Nixon administration.

Donald H. Rumsfeld, director of the Cost of Living Council, will be given an unidentified "major new assignment," Ziegler said. Rumsfeld has been mentioned frequently as a likely choice to

replace George Romney, who resigned early last week as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Mr. Nixon pledged Monday at Camp David that he was going to "change some of the players and some of the plays" in an effort to prevent his administration from "coasting downhill" in its second term. Most of the announcements during the week have been of administration holdovers, and Ziegler conceded that the appointments have not amounted to a "traditional shakeup."

Instead, Ziegler said, the various changes in assignments will produce "more efficiency" in the White House and "allow us to get the job done better."

The full list of holdovers announced by Ziegler today includes Haldeman, Ehrlichman, Kissinger, Ziegler, congressional liaison man William E.

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Rumors abound that Henry Kissinger has fallen from grace. Page A3.

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PRESIDENT, From A1

Timmons, special consultant Leonard Garment, director of communications Herbert G. Klein, counsel John W. Dean III, personal secretary Rose Mary Woods and speechwriters Raymond K. Price Jr., Patrick J. Buchanan Jr. and William Safire.

Ziegler also announced that Roy L. Ash, the newly appointed director of the Office of Management and Budget, would be made an assistant to the President, a designation which means that he will be available to take on special assignments in addition to directing the budget office.

Helms got into intelligence work in World War II as a young naval officer assigned to the Office of Strategic Services. He joined the CIA when it was formed in 1947, and has remained there ever since. He rose to the position of deputy director after an assignment as the director of CIA's covert or "black" operations.

President Johnson picked him to head the agency in 1966 as a replacement for Adm. William F. Raborn Jr.

Helms' reputation as a "professional" in the intelligence community and in the larger political community of Washington has been high. A newspaper columnist wrote a common judgment in 1966: "(He) fits none of the stereotypes of the spy thriller and the innumerable spy films of recent years. Slender, soft-spoken, modest in demeanor . . . he is not even a distant relative of James Bond."

While no information was available last night on a new assignment for the 49-year old Helms, it was determined that he regards the President's new offer as a promotion from his present job.

There was speculation, too, that Helms might be replaced by James Schlesinger, who is presently chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.



RICHARD HELMS
... out of the cold

Schlesinger is highly regarded by the White House and played an important role in evaluating and helping to reorganize the government intelligence community after Mr. Nixon took office.

The Washington Post reported on Nov. 25 that Colson, a controversial troubleshooter who served as liaison man to labor and ethnic groups during the election campaign, would be leaving the White House to resume private legal practice in Washington. He most likely will join a firm headed by his old partner, Charles H. Morin, who said that he and his partners would "welcome him with open arms."

Ziegler said that Colson will remain on the White House staff for at least 60 days to help with transition to the second term.

Finch, who said two weeks ago that he was returning to California with an eye on running for either the governorship or U.S. Senate, is to hold a news conference in Washington Tuesday to discuss his formal plans.

Dent will return to his legal practice in South Carolina and Brown to his business in North Carolina, Ziegler said.