

Washington Post

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MARCH 23, 1968

Phone 223-6000 Circulation 223-6100
Classified 223-6200

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Westmoreland Named Army's Chief of Staff; Cohen Will Head HEW

Johnson Picks Shriver to Be Envoy to Paris

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Johnson announced last night that he would nominate Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of American forces in Vietnam, as Army Chief of Staff.

The surprise announcement, subject to Senate confirmation, will be effective July 2 when Gen. Harold K. Johnson retires as Chief of Staff.

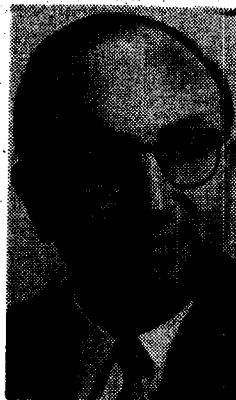
The President declined to say whether the move would involve strategic or tactical changes in Vietnam. He said that he did not know who Westmoreland's successor would be. Gen. Creighton W. Abrams, deputy commander, has been reported in line for the command.

The President also announced at a news conference

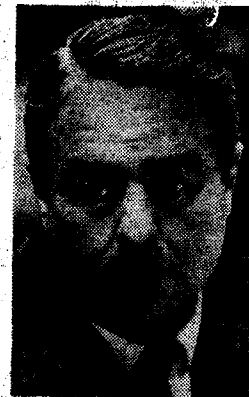


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GEN. WESTMORELAND
... to be Army Chief of Staff



WILBUR J. COHEN
... to be HEW Secretary



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SARGENT SHRIVER
... to be envoy to Paris

in his office that:

- Wilbur J. Cohen, Acting Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare since John W. Gardner's resignation March 1, would be nominated as HEW Secretary. Cohen's successor as Under Secretary was not named.

- Sargent Shriver, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, would be nominated as Ambassador to France. Shriver is a brother-in-law of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D. N.Y.), who is challenging Mr. Johnson for the Democratic presidential nomination. Bertrand M. Harding, Shriver's deputy, will be acting head of OEO until a permanent director is named, the President said.

- Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will serve an additional year beyond July 2 as head of the JCS. Congressional approval for the extended appointment of Wheeler, who is 60, will be required.

- Adm. U. S. Grant Sharp, Commander in Chief, Pacific, whose term expires May 1, will remain until July 2 so that all changes will be at the same time. No successor to Sharp was named.

Praising Westmoreland, who has been under heavy criticism, particularly since the

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PRESIDENT—From Page A1

Staff Post Going To Westmoreland

Tet offensive, the President said the general had been recommended for his new post by former Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara and by Secretary Clark M. Clifford.

Westmoreland, 53, has been the American commander in Vietnam since the summer of 1964, when he succeeded Gen. Paul D. Harkins. Westmoreland first went to Vietnam as Harkins' deputy in January, 1964.

Troop Increases

In answer to questions, the President said that the Administration's recommendation on troop increases to Vietnam and its "A to Z" strategic review had not been complete. He said he did not know how many additional troops would be necessary.

Regarding a supplemental defense appropriation, rumored to be from \$2 billion to \$5 billion, Mr. Johnson said that no decision had been made. But he left the clear implication that a supplemental would be required to pay for the additional cost in Vietnam and in Korea.

There will be some steps in filling inventory needs, he said, supplying additional spare parts, ammunition and help to allies who are sending extra troops to Vietnam. He also mentioned the "extra commitment we are making to Korea."

When these are "costed out," the President said, Congress will be informed.

Shriver's Appointment

When asked about the political implications of Shriver's appointment, the President

said only that some months ago Shriver told him he had been in Washington seven years and looked forward to a possible foreign assignment.

Shriver recalled, the President said, that he had enjoyed his work with other countries when head of the Peace Corps and that he would be happy to be considered for a post overseas.

The French government gave its approval to the appointment Thursday, the President said, and Secretary of State Dean Rusk talked to Shriver who is on vacation in Spain, yesterday to obtain his final consent to the appointment.

The President did not say whether any commitments were asked of Shriver or whether Mrs. Shriver, Sen. Kennedy's sister, would campaign in any way for her brother.

Praises Westmoreland

While the President called Westmoreland a "very talented and able officer," it was debated last night whether he was being relieved because of an Administration desire to change the conduct of the war.

A secret year-end report by Westmoreland, reportedly predicting new successes in 1968, added to the debate yesterday. The release of portions of the report to the New York Times was said to be under investigation in the Defense Department to determine the source of the leak.