

Military Coup Fears Denied

Post 8/27/74
United Press International

President Ford said yesterday through his spokesman that "no measures were actually undertaken" during the crisis over President Nixon's resignation to prevent the military chain of command from being subverted by illegal orders from the White House or elsewhere.

However, presidential spokesman J. F. TerHorst explicitly refused to deny—or to confirm—weekend newspaper accounts which said that Defense Secretary James Schlesinger requested a tight watch on the military chain of command to ensure that no extraordinary orders went out from the White House during the period of uncertainty.

Pentagon officials have said that Schlesinger never feared that a coup would be successful even if attempted.

The Defense Secretary conferred with President Ford yesterday about the reported tightened watch over military orders, following a Cabinet meeting, and TerHorst released this comment from the Chief Executive:

"I had a meeting today with

the Secretary of Defense. We were, outside the normal military channels.

have been assured that no Department officials have measures of this nature were confirmed that Schlesinger actually undertaken."

TerHorst referred all further questions to the Defense Staff, discussed among Department officials themselves how they should said that no formal orders or be aware of any illegal orders communications were issued being issued to military units by Schlesinger to assure the outside the formal chain of integrity of the formal chain command structure.

of command. TerHorst acknowledged that Nevertheless, Defense Department officials said the his statutory responsibilities, word went out that no command was responsible for staying abreast in the resignation crisis insofar as it affected military operations.