

Ford Pledges Active Role in 1974 Campaign

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Vice President Gerald R. Ford moved yesterday to take an active role in the 1974 election campaign, pledging his "total availability" to Republican candidates throughout the nation.

His pledge was made at a 90-minute closed meeting at the Republican National Committee attended by chairmen and technicians of the GOP Senate, House and gubernatorial campaign committees.

He met with the Republican political leaders after a five-minute speech to the staff of the Republican National Committee, which GOP officials described as a "pep talk."

In the talk, Ford praised President Nixon's foreign policy and said he may have accomplished more in this field than any other President.

He said the Republican Party had a good story to tell on foreign policy and should "tell it from the rooftops."

Ford did not discuss Watergate or the pending impeachment proceedings against the President either in the speech or in the private meeting but expressed his loyalty to Mr. Nixon.

Republican political officials are counting heavily on Ford's participation in the November campaigns because of the uncertainty of President Nixon's future and his low standing in the polls.

The Vice President described himself as "a team

player" and as "totally available" for whatever campaigning is required of him.

Despite various polls showing a ruboff on GOP electoral prospects, because of Watergate, the Republicans attending yesterday's meeting were relatively optimistic about GOP chances.

Senate Campaign Committee Chairman William Brock of Tennessee said the GOP had been helped by the prospect of several strong candidates who have announced in recent weeks and the apparent intention of Sen. Marlow Cook (R-Ky.) to run again rather than retire. Ford and Republican Party Chairman George Bush also were optimistic.

Ford's Military Aide,

Gen. Dunn, to Retire

Maj. Gen. John (Mike) Dunn, senior military aide to Vice President Ford, will retire from the Army next week and become the principal deputy in the Domestic and International Business Administration in the Department of Commerce.

Dunn was also military aide to former Vice President Spiro Agnew.

He will be replaced on Ford's staff by John O. Marsh Jr. and assistant secretary of defense and former Democratic congressman from Virginia.