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A Farewell to Gen. Haig

By Donnie Radcliffe

Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., controversial former chief of staff in the Nixon and Ford administrations who returns to active duty soon as NATO commander in Europe, got a presidential farewell last night.

President Ford and Mrs. Ford, making her first social appearance since she underwent breast surgery nearly a month ago, entertained Haig, his wife and 37 other guests at a private White House dinner.

Among them was Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller, currently under fire for what some critics see as excessive gift-giving, underpayment of federal income taxes and questionable campaign tactics in his 1970 gubernatorial race for reelection against Arthur J. Goldberg.

His wife, Happy, who underwent a mastectomy a week ago, remained in a New York hospital and was unable to accompany him.

Early yesterday, the White House announced that plans to allow press coverage of the event had been canceled.

"The President of the United States felt it was a private dinner," said a White House spokesman, noting that the guest list

was comprised of "mostly the Haig family, with some members of the White House staff."

According to the spokesman, Mr. Ford made the decision late Tuesday night after returning to Washington from a campaign swing to Oklahoma and Ohio.

In addition to Rockefeller, 24 of the non-Haig family guests included Treasury Secretary and Mrs. William E. Simon, Defense Secretary and Mrs. James R. Schlesinger, Office of Management and Budget Director and Mrs. Roy L. Ash, Army Secretary and Mrs. Howard H. Callaway, CIA Director and Mrs. William E. Colby and U.S. Ambassador to France and Mrs. Kenneth Rush.

White House aides included Philip Buchen, Dean Burch, John O. Marsh Jr., William E. Timmons and Haig's successor as chief of staff, Donald Rumsfeld, former U.S. ambassador to NATO in Brussels, and their wives; Anne Armstrong and Lt. Gen. Brent Snowcroft, deputy assistant for National Security Affairs.

Missing from the guest list was Presidential Counselor Robert T. Hartman, whose relationship with Haig has been somewhat strained.

Guests gathered for cocktails in the Green Room,

dined on chateaubriand at round tables in the Red Room, were serenaded by the West Point Glee Club Quartet and wound up the evening with dancing in the Blue Room.

White House Dinner Guests

The following were invited guests last night at the White House dinner hosted by President and Mrs. Ford for Gen. and Mrs. Alexander M. Haig Jr.

Secretary of the Treasury William Simon and Mrs. Simon, Secretary of Defense James Schlesinger and Mrs. Schlesinger, OMB Director Roy L. Ash and Mrs. Ash, Anne L. Armstrong, counselor to the President, Philip W. Buchen, counsel to the President, and Mrs. Buchen, Dean Burch, counselor to the President, and Mrs. Burch, John O. Marsh Jr., counselor to the President, and Mrs. Marsh, Donald Rumsfeld, assistant to the President, and Mrs. Rumsfeld, Secretary of the Army Howard H. Callaway and Mrs. Callaway, CIA Director William E. Colby and Mrs. Colby, William F. Timmons, assistant to the President, and Mrs. Timmons, Lt. Gen. Brent Snowcroft, USAF, deputy assistant to the President for national security affairs, Amb. Kenneth Rush and Mrs. Rush.

Le. Gen. (Ret.) Alonzo P. Fox, Mrs. Haig's father, Washington, D.C. Vice President-designate Nelson A. Rockefeller, Lt. Col. Eugene A. Fox, Mrs. Fox's brother, and Mrs. Fox, Arlington, Va.

Mrs. Alexander M. Haig Sr., Gen. Haig's mother, Pennington, N.J.; Alexander P. Haig, Gen. Haig's son, Arlington, Va.; Barbara Haig, Gen. Haig's daughter, Fairfield, Conn.; Cadet Brian F. Haig, Gen. Haig's son, West Point, N.Y. The Rev. Frank Haig, Gen. Haig's brother, Baltimore, Md., Lt. Col. George A. Joulwan and Mrs. Joulwan, Washington, D.C., Mr. Edward Meredith and Mrs. Meredith, Gen. Haig's sister, Pennington, N.J.