

Ford Urges Ousted Colby To Defer Exit

By Laurence Stern
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President Ford had second thoughts yesterday on the summary dismissal of Director of Central Intelligence William E. Colby and asked him to stay on long enough to help the agency through its gantlet of congressional hearings.

Colby, virtually packed

and ready to go out his office door, agreed to stay until his successor, George Bush, is confirmed by the Senate.

The White House also asked that Mitchell Rogovin, the special counsel hired by Colby to advise the agency during the various congressional inquiries, stay on until that ordeal is finished.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen, meanwhile, expressed presidential sensitivity to criticism by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) that the appointment of Bush threatened to politicize the traditionally nonpartisan CIA.

It was unfair, Nessen said, for anyone to say that a man was disqualified from an important or sensitive post simply because he had previously been active in politics. Bush is a former Republican national chairman.

Church, Nessen said, seemed "to be more interested in making headlines than conducting an investigation" of the CIA.

The President's new chief of staff, Richard B. Cheney, also said in an interview that he was "in fundamental disagreement with the contention that a man who has been active in partisan politics should be disqualified for that reason."

Acquaintances of Colby said the outgoing director felt on the basis of his Sunday morning conversation with the President, when he was told of his dismissal, and Mr. Ford's Monday night news conference, that the President wanted his speedy departure from the CIA building.

"Bill had the clear im-

pression that he was not on the team and was prepared to act accordingly," said one associate.

Administration sources said that the two White House officials working with Colby on his Capitol Hill dealings, presidential counsel Philip W. Buchen and counselor John O. Marsh Jr., were not privy to the CIA director's firing until the last minute.

"No one who had any feel of the hearings and their importance to the agency had any input into the matter," according to one authoritative source.

Mr. Ford repeatedly asserted Monday that the shake-up of his national security hierarchy Sunday was his own decision. In the case of the CIA action there is no evidence that Mr. Ford consulted the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, his highest intelligence advisory panel, before making the switch from Colby to Bush.

One of the results of the current round of investigation

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and evaluation of the intelligence community is that the nature of the job of Director of Central Intelligence may change substantially.

Under some of the proposals now under consideration within the executive branch and Congress the new director may preside over the entire intelligence community, making budgetary and jurisdictional decisions for the entire range of agencies which comprise the community.

This could mean that the day-to-day administration of the CIA would be in the hands of a deputy, as has often been the case when the director came from outside the agency.

Several alternative blueprints for a revised CIA now circulating within the

executive branch have as a common element a high-level coordinator, operating at White House-National Security Council level, to deal with the community. The Senate intelligence committee, headed by Church, will also compose its ideas of how the agency should be reconstituted to prevent recurrence of the abuses of the past.