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Ford Splits Control of Spy Panels

Washington

President Ford has decided to spread control of the administration's principal intelligence panels among three top advisers instead of keeping it in the hands of one man, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The changes were set in motion in November, when Mr. Ford reshuffled his top defense and national security aides. A White House spokesman gave this rundown yesterday of who heads the committees now:

The President's new assistant for national security affairs, Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft, is running the Forty Committee, probably the most secretive government organization.

Scowcroft, who succeeded Kissinger as head of the National Security Council in Mr. Ford's shakeup of defense and national security aides last November also heads the senior review group, which handles overall policy coordination at the executive level, and the national intelligence committee, which assists the President in intelligence decisions.

Kissinger is keeping his job as chairman of the verification panel, which oversees Soviet compliance with nuclear weapon treaties, and the Washington special action group, which proposes policy during such crises as the 1975 Middle East war.

Donald Rumsfeld, the new secretary of defense, is taking over the defense program review committee. The committee analyzes Pentagon spending priorities.

All six committees were run by Kissinger when he served as the national security adviser to Mr. Ford and to former President Nixon.

As chairman of the Forty Committee, Kissinger oversaw plans for covert actions against the Marxist government of the late President Salvador Allende of Chile from 1970 to 1973, as well as support for pro-Western factions in Angola.

The Forty Committee was established in the early years of the Eisenhower administration to oversee covert operations. Its members include the President's national security adviser, the deputy secretary of defense, the undersecretary of state for political affairs, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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