

Hope for Future

Haig Says Nixon Is Over Crisis

Washington

President Nixon and the reorganized White House staff are recovering from the crisis of Watergate and are carrying out the responsibilities of government, General Alexander M. Haig Jr. said yesterday.

Speaking optimistically about the future plans and programs, Haig, nevertheless, conceded that the hoped-for improvement in relations with the press and Congress are "lagging" because of Watergate.

But he said that when the President is able to make his Watergate defense and to begin holding regular news conferences again communication with both the public and Congress will definitely improve.

Haig spoke in an interview on the last day of his service in the Army. After his appointment as White House staff chief on May 4 he resigned as vice chief of staff. His retirement from the

Army after 26 years of service took effect yesterday.

Haig vigorously denied published reports that there is a hard-line group in the White House planning counter-attacks against critics in Congress.

Characterizing the reports as "nonsense," Haig said such action would be contrary to the President's determination to try to build bipartisan support in both foreign and domestic policy.

The President has been under restraint not to speak out on Watergate because of the investigations, but he will do so at the earliest opportunity after the first phase of the Senate hearings are completed, Haig indicated.

The decision to speak out on Watergate and then to hold regular news conferences has been made, Haig said. But the timing and forum for the statement have not been determined, he said.

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