

OUSTER EXPECTED FOR U.S.I.A. HEAD

Ford Reported Planning to Dismiss Keogh, Opposed by Some Democrats

By DAVID BINDER

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 13—

President Ford has told a political associate that he will dismiss James Keogh from his post as director of the United States Information Agency, the associate said today. There was no indication when the President would act.

Mr. Keogh, formerly a campaign aide and supervisor of speech writing for President Nixon, is said to have stirred resentment among Democratic members of Congress who believe he penalized U.S.I.A. employees he deemed unfriendly to Mr. Nixon.

One example cited was that of Nathan Kingsley, program director of the Voice of America, who was suddenly transferred to the State Department last July. Agency officials said one reason was that Mr. Kingsley had authorized coverage of the Watergate scandal, which Mr. Keogh disliked.

Mr. Keogh said in a telephone interview that he had not heard

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ment study of the Voice of America."

He said that there had been considerable discussion in the agency of how the Voice of America should treat Watergate news, but that Watergate coverage was not connected with Mr. Kingsley's transfer.

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of any plans to remove him, and he recently told aides that he planned to remain at the agency until 1976. He is planning to attend two U.S.I.A. conferences overseas in October and November.

Hasn't Talked to Ford

He has also indicated to associates in the past that he was close to Mr. Ford, although he has not been invited to the White House or talked to him since he became President.

Asked about Mr. Kingsley, who has been installed as an information specialist in the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Mr. Keogh said the transfer was "related to a manage-

Mr. Keogh, long a senior editor on Time magazine, was named director of the U.S.I.A. by President Nixon in December, 1972, succeeding Frank Shakespeare.

Mr. Ford's associate reported that the President was determined to retain Henry A. Kissinger as Secretary of State despite suggestions by some White House aides that he let him go.

Still Plans Haig in NATO

The associate also quoted Mr. Ford as saying he was going through with his plan to appoint Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., chief of the White House staff, as supreme commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

He also said that the President had told him that he would risk a threat by the Netherlands Government to withdraw forces from NATO if General Haig was appointed commander of the Western defense alliance. The threat was reportedly conveyed to Washington by Max Van Der Stoep, Foreign Minister of the Netherlands.

The Ford plan to return General Haig, who retired from the Army last year, to a military post has stirred considerable opposition in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, the associate said.

Mr. Ford also said that he could not return General Haig to a post in the Department of Defense because of objections of senior Army officers that it would "interrupt the chain of command," the associate said.

General Haig has recently told friends that he expected to get the NATO post and no other.