

Post 11/12/76

Ford Gives Haig Extended Term

United Press International NOV 12 1976

President Ford has extended for an additional two years the appointment of Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. as commander-in-chief of the U.S. European command, the Pentagon announced yesterday.

Haig, President Nixon's White House chief of staff during the latter days of the Watergate scandal, also serves as the supreme commander of North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces, an indefinite-term post that is not affected by Ford's extension of the U.S. command assignment.

The NATO commander serves at the pleasure of the President with the concurrence of European members of the defense alliance.

President-elect Jimmy Carter could replace Haig in that post after he assumes office Jan. 20.

The NATO and U.S. command posts are customarily held by the same American officer. Haig's first two-year term as head of the U.S. European command expired Nov. 1, the Pentagon said.