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HAIG REAPPOINTED

One of Gerald Ford's final appointments as President of the U.S. involved Gen. Alexander Haig.

Haig, 52, was Chief of Staff in the Nixon White House during the horrendous days of the Watergate investigation and served briefly in the Ford White House. In November, 1974, Ford appointed him Commander of U.S. Forces in Europe and NATO Supreme Commander. Last month Ford appointed Haig to a further two-year term, a decision which President-elect Carter may see fit to reverse after he assumes office on Jan. 20, 1977.

It is popularly assumed in knowledgeable circles that it was Al Haig who first pointed out to Gerald Ford the Presidential option of pardoning Nixon, an option which Ford quickly exercised.

A West Pointer who married Pat Fox, the beautiful daughter of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's chief of staff, Haig was an obscure colonel when he joined the Nixon White House in 1969 as an aide to Henry Kissinger.

Handsome, diplomatic, personable and extremely competent in smoothing ruffled feathers, Haig gradually made himself indispensable to both Kissinger and Nixon. When Nixon was forced to drop Bob Haldeman as his chief aide, he asked Haig to take Haldeman's place for six weeks. The six weeks turned into an extended nightmare that ended only when Nixon finally resigned.

At one time Haig was offered \$1 million through a publisher's intermediary to write his memoirs, with a special concentration on Watergate. He refused then and does still. Perhaps after he retires, he will put pen to memory.

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