

CIA
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Colby Will Run CIA Temporarily

Washington

William E. Colby, dismissed this week by President Ford as the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, acceded yesterday to the President's request that he continue to run the CIA until his successor is confirmed by Congress.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen said the President called Colby to ask him to stay on temporarily and that Colby agreed.

Nessen said Colby would continue to exercise "full authority" at the agency until George Bush, who was nominated by the President to be the new director, returns from his diplomatic post in Peking and is approved by Congress.

The White House secretary also defended the appointment of Bush, a former chairman of the Republican National Committee, against charges that it would politicize the intelligence agency.

Senator Frank Church (Dem.-Ida.), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which is investigating the CIA, said he opposes Bush's appointment because the CIA is the most sensitive and least political federal agency.

At a news briefing, Nessen said that Church seems to be "more interested in making headlines than in conducting an investigation."

He also said the President feels Bush would do an "outstanding job" and added that the President believes the fact that the agency would now be headed by a man who has run for public office would make it more "responsive" to the community.

The Senate investigation of the CIA would not be affected by replacing Colby with Bush, Nessen said.

At the same briefing, Nessen said that there is no truth to speculation that the "hard line" at the Defense Department would be softened because the President is replacing Defense Secretary James V. Schlesinger with Donald Rumsfeld, now White House chief of staff.

"There is an idea that Schlesinger's leaving removes a hard-line voice in terms of dealing with the Soviet Union," Nessen said, adding, "anyone who knows Don Rumsfeld, and knows his record on defense matters in Congress and at NATO and the White House, can not believe that Don is going to be any less forceful in expressing his views."

Nessen said Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's record and the fact that President Ford would never take steps that would endanger the national security should be taken as assurances that the departure of Schlesinger would not signal a softening of the nation's defense posture.

The outgoing defense secretary, Nessen said, is in "total agreement" with the strategic arms limitations agreement reached between Mr. Ford and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev in Vladivostok last year, and in fact, had been an author of that agreement. Schlesinger also supported the disengagement agreement in the Sinai between Egypt and Israel, negotiated by Kissinger, Nessen said.

When asked why, then, Schlesinger had been fired, Nessen reiterated Mr. Ford's explanation that the President wanted "to bring his own team in." He insisted that "policy differences were not a factor" in the dismissal of Schlesinger.

Nessen also asserted that the President decided to make the personnel changes on his own and that "nobody, including Secretary Kissinger, had a role in the decision." Kissinger was asked to give up his second post of national security adviser to the President as part of the shakeup.