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Ford Wants Haig to Stay On the Job

Washington

President Ford has strongly conveyed to Alexander M. Haig Jr. that he wants him to stay as White House chief of staff "for the duration," Ford's spokesman reaffirmed yesterday.

For the second day in a row, presidential press secretary Jerold terHorst told reporters that Mr. Ford plans to retain Haig in the same position in which he served for more than a year in the Nixon administration.

TerHorst was unable to amplify further the definition of the term "for the duration" but he described it as an indefinite period.

There are recurring reports that members of Mr. Ford's vice presidential team believe that Haig should go because of his powerful role in the Nixon White House and in the strategy that led to the ex-President's resignation.

Haig's reconsolidation of power has aroused concern among members of the transition panel, cabinet and Republican congressional leaders who believe that Mr. Ford should start his administration with a staff that has had no part in the previous administration.

But Mr. Ford is reported to be pleased with Haig and to have found him to be a tower of strength last week when it became inevitable that Mr. Nixon would resign.

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