

Ford Appoints Rumsfeld As Haig's Successor

Washington

Virtually completing reorganization of his top staff, President Ford announced yesterday he is appointing Donald Rumsfeld as an assistant responsible for coordinating White House operations.

Rumsfeld, a 42-year-old former Republican House member from Illinois, will take up his cabinet-rank post Friday but continue temporarily also to serve as U.S. ambassador to NATO.

Press secretary Ronald Nessen said Rumsfeld, who helped engineer Mr. Ford's 1965 election as House GOP leader, will succeed General Alexander M. Haig Jr. but will not have Haig's title as White House chief of staff.

"It's a Ford White House now," said Nessen, who reported Mr. Ford and Rumsfeld will work together to decide just how the coordinating job will be carried out.

One of the Rumsfeld's responsibilities will be to help manage "the best use of the President's time," Nessen said.

"This President wants to have access to a lot of people and does have access to a lot of people," he added.

The press secretary said Mr. Ford considers all his senior aides to have equal status but declared, "There does need to be coordination among senior advisers," another of Rumsfeld's responsibilities.

Asked if other Nixon-appointed members of the White House staff would be leaving in the wake of Haig, who will become military commander of NATO, Nessen said. "They're each going to be handled on an individual basis."

Nessen said Rumsfeld at some point will return to Brussels to wind up his NATO assignment. He has

Friedheim's New Job

Washington

President Ford accepted with regret yesterday the resignation of Jerry Friedheim as assistant Secretary of Defense for public affairs, a Defense Department spokesman.

Friedheim had held the post since 1968, serving three defense secretaries. He will take a job in the public relations department of Amtrak, the quasi-public corporation which runs the nation's passenger trains.

Reuters

held the ambassadorship since February, 1973.

Elected to Congress four

times, Rumsfeld resigned his House seat in 1962 to serve in the Nixon administration. He was at various times director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, counselor to the President and director of the Cost of Living Council.

Nessen, whose appointment was announced last Friday, said all the assistants he inherited from resigned press secretary Jerald F. terHorst have been asked "to stay in place."

In that connection, he announced the appointment of Thomas P. DeCair of Kalamazoo, Mich., a staff assistant to Mr. Nixon, to be assistant press secretary.

DeCair, 29, will handle administrative duties, special projects and long range-planning. Nessen said.

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