

## Cheney Is White House Staff Chief—General Is Security Adviser

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 — President Ford tonight confirmed sweeping changes in his national security hierarchy and also announced he would nominate Elliot L. Richardson to succeed Rogers C. B. Morton as Secretary of Commerce.

The President, at a nationally televised news conference, said

News conference transcript is printed on Page 24.

that Mr. Morton had expressed a desire some weeks ago to return to the private sector. Mr. Richardson only recently was named Ambassador to Britain.

The announcement came as the President, saying he "wanted a team that was my team," confirmed the following major changes in the national security hierarchy:

¶The nomination of Donald H. Rumsfeld, the White House chief of staff, to succeed James R. Schlesinger as Secretary of Defense, and the designation of Richard B. Cheney, deputy assistant to the President, as Mr. Rumsfeld's successor.

¶The designation of George W. Bush, the head of the United States liaison office in Peking, to succeed William E. Colby as Director of Central Intelligence.

¶The elevation of Air Force Lieut. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, the deputy director of the National Security Council, to succeed Henry A. Kissinger as the White House adviser on national security. Mr. Kissinger will remain Secretary of State.

### For 'Closer Liaison'

Despite what he called a successful foreign policy in his brief Presidency, Mr. Ford explained that he had dismissed the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence to provide "closer liaison and cooperation" on national defense and foreign policy matters.

The President seemed unusually tense as he defended his Cabinet shakeup against widespread suggestions that it was meant to paper over serious policy disputes between Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Schlesinger over détente and other issues.

"I did it totally on my own," he said. "It was my decision.

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I fitted the pieces together and they fitted excellently."

Asked if it was his contention that neither personality conflicts nor policy differences had contributed to the decision to revamp the Cabinet, Mr. Ford replied succinctly, "That is correct."

He said, as well, that he expected Mr. Bush to pursue the same policy of cooperation with Congressional panels investigating the C.I.A. as had been followed by Mr. Colby.

### Dominant Kissinger Role

Although there were indications from some Administration officials that Mr. Kissinger's abdication of the post of national security adviser would diminish his access to the President and dilute his influence on policy, Mr. Ford said that Mr. Kissinger would continue to "have the dominant role" in the formulation of foreign policy.

The half-hour news conference left unanswered, however, the questions that underlay the startling changes: Why had Mr. Ford decided now that he needed to alter the Cabinet? What prompted Mr. Rockefeller to announce that he would not serve on the President's 1976 campaign ticket?

security hierarchy and the decision by Mr. Rockefeller to withdraw from pursuit of the 1976 nomination as Mr. Ford's running mate threw the Administration and the Republican political landscape into disarray.

Republican conservatives sharply criticized Mr. Ford's demand for the resignation of his Secretary of Defense. Republican liberals expressed shock at a political climate in which Mr. Rockefeller would feel compelled to pull out of the Ford campaign.

Congressional investigators of the national security apparatus voiced concern that the removal of the Director of Central Intelligence had been based on his willingness to cooperate

with their sweeping inquiries.

Ideally, senior White House officials said, Mr. Rockefeller's abdication of the second spot was to have been announced today, setting a positive or at least neutral tone for subsequent—and, the officials insisted, unrelated—changes in the Cabinet.

Despite the evident controversy and drama touched off by the events of the previous 24 hours, Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, contended earlier today that Mr. Ford was composed.

"It's a long time," he said, "since I've seen the President in such a good mood."

But Capitol Hill was awash in varied expressions of stunned resentment and there were joking remarks passed on by members of Congress about Mr. Ford's "Sunday night skirmish"—an unflattering allusion to President Nixon's 1973 dismissal of Watergate investigators in what became known as the "Saturday night massacre."

The dismissal of Mr. Schlesinger, who had cautioned against strategic arms agreements with the Soviet Union and a defense budget he considered insufficient, prompted Representative Samuel S. Stratton, an upstate New York Democrat, to charge that Mr. Schlesinger had been "sacrificed on the altar of détente."

Senator James L. Buckley, Conservative-Republican of New York, said that he was "disturbed" by Mr. Schlesinger's departure and warned against "a single, monolithic point of view in planning our national security policies."

### Scott and Javits Concern

Symptomatic of the corresponding liberal Republican disappointment at Mr. Rockefeller's withdrawal was the concern expressed by Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, the Senate Republican leader, that a conservative would take the Vice President's spot on the party ticket next year.

"We have better damn well

have a balanced ticket," Mr. Scott said.

Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, called it "most unfortunate" that, in the Senator's view, Mr. Ford was becoming increasingly identified with the conservative wing of the party.

"There is still time for the President to readjust his course," Mr. Javits said.

White House aides acknowledged privately that the leaks of Mr. Ford's requests for the resignations of the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence would be difficult to surmount in terms of the President's political image.

But they sought doggedly during the day to persuade anyone who might listen that Mr. Ford had intended all along to reshuffle the national security hierarchy.

One of the most senior officials said that the President had delayed making the changes in national security areas after assuming office in August of last year lest a hasty change unset sensitive diplomatic and defense initiatives.

### Surprised at Initiative

But the official said he was astonished when Mr. Ford began discussing the prospective Cabinet changes a few days ago.

"I was absolutely sure he'd made a judgment that the window was closed, that the Cabinet was set," he said of the President.

"Apparently the President came to the conclusion that he had been in office long enough now and that there were things he wanted to do" to reshuffle the defense and national security apparatus, the aide continued.

Others in the White House acknowledged, at the same time, that Mr. Ford's Cabinet decisions may have been accelerated by the open friction between the Secretary of State and the Defense Secretary.

"It's no secret there have been problems, concerns, fric-

tions and the like," said one official.

He said that the ouster of Mr. Schlesinger and Mr. Colby was fundamentally designed to "make the President comfortable" with those to whom he must turn in the Cabinet and the White House for guidance.

The only prominent White House official who would discuss Mr. Ford's decisions for the record today was Philip W. Buchen, the President's legal counsel.

Mr. Buchen said the Cabinet shuffle showed that the President "wants to take hold" of the foreign policy mechanism.

"To come in here and inherit people put in by [another Administration] has always been a problem," Mr. Buchen added.