

The New Security Boss

Washington

Lieutenant General Brent Scowcroft, the new head of the National Security Council, has a doctorate from Columbia University, is fluent in Russian and Serbian, has a fighter pilot's wings and enjoys the reputation of being an efficient, self-effacing professional.

General Scowcroft, 50, has been Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's NSC deputy since January, 1973. He is described as "acrupulous" in that role—never displaying by so much as a flicker any policy disagreements he might have had.

But it is also believed that his own views do not differ in any significant fashion from those of Kissinger.

Extremely soft-spoken, Scowcroft (the first syllable rhymes with snow) has filled his role as second-in-command so quietly and efficiently that some find it difficult to think of him in the out-front position he has just inherited.

He is generally described as being not an intriguer, and as one of the hardest workers in the White House.

"He's there all the time," said one observer.

He is also described as cool under pressure and as a "very quiet and very forceful man," but not vigorous and dominating. Straightforward, a good administrator, he has not sought to make himself more than what he has been for more than two years—a deputy.

Scowcroft's relationship with President Ford dates back to the final months of President Nixon's tenure, when Scowcroft briefed the then-vice president in national security matters.

Born in Ogden, Utah, March 19, 1925, he attended public schools there and was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1947. He entered the Air Force and earned his fighter pilot's wings in 1948, but has never seen combat.

He has been a scholar—receiving a master's degree and a doctorate from Columbia University, studying at the Georgetown University School of Language and Linguistics, and attending several of the military's schools and colleges.

He also served in the Pentagon in the Office of International Security Affairs, among other areas.

He first came to public notice when he was named military assistant to President Nixon in February, 1972. Shortly afterward, he headed the 25-person advance party that went to Moscow to arrange for Mr. Nixon's visit there later that year. Because of the timing—the United States had just renewed its bombing of North Vietnam—his mission was considered a touchy one.

As NSC deputy director, Scowcroft has had the possibility for the staff and meets daily with President Ford. But he has avoided trying to share either Kissinger's role of foreign-policy adviser or his celebrity.

He has been married to the former Marian Harper since September, 1951. They live in northwest Washington and have a teenage daughter, Karen. He never, according to his wife, discusses his work at home.

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