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More of Nixon's Top Aides Are Set to Resign

Washington

The exodus of high-ranking Nixon administration officials continued yesterday, led by director Phillip V. Sanchez of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

It was learned that the President soon will accept the resignation of Sanchez, the top-ranking Mexican-American in the administration.

Sanchez reportedly has indicated that he would like to be appointed ambassador to Mexico.

Sanchez, a long-time Democrat who became a Republican in 1969 "after a lot of soul-searching," was the administrator of Fresno county, Calif., for nine years prior to his arrival in Washington.

In 1970, he was the Republican nominee for the 16th District congressional race, but was defeated by incumbent B.F. Sisk (Dem-Calif.).

AGENCY

It was also learned yesterday that Gerard C. Smith, who for almost four years has headed the American delegation in talks with the Soviet Union on limiting strategic weapons, has resigned from government service.

Smith left his post as director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency a few days ago to join a non-governmental economic study group involving western Europe, the U.S. and Japan, according to his associates.

KLEIN

At the same time, a high administration source said that Herbert G. Klein, director of communications for the executive branch, also would soon be leaving the government, at the President's request.

However, Klein, reached by telephone last night, said that the President had asked him to stay on in the administration.

"I don't plan to stay for the next four years but I don't have any plans to leave any time soon. I have been hearing those kinds of reports for the last two years. I have been asked to stay by the President."

CHANGES

In other administration changes, Mr. Nixon's chief science adviser and the government's chief labor mediator are resigning to return to private life, it was announced yesterday.

J. Curtis Counts, 57, director of the federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, was offered the post of Undersecretary of Labor, but turned it down to return to private life. He is an old friend of the President.

Edward E. David, 47, science adviser to the President and director of the Office of Science and Technology since 1970, also is leaving the government, the White House said.

OTHERS

Three persons resigned in the State Department. They are:

Charles A. Meyer, 54 years old, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, a New England business executive appointed early in 1969.

John R. Stevenson, chief legal adviser, a 51-year-old former New York lawyer, appointed in June 1969.

Anthony Faunce, Deputy inspector general for foreign assistance, 56, a former insurance executive of Lincoln Center, Miss.

All have said they will return to private life.

In addition, the Pentagon announced that two more top defense department civilians have resigned: John S. Foster Jr., 50, resigned as director of defense research and engineering, and Daniel Z. Henkin, quit as assistant secretary for public affairs.

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PHILLIP SANCHEZ
Director of OEO