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# Army Vice Chief of Staff Big Gun in Paris Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. has moved to the Pentagon as vice chief of staff of the Army, but his former White House employers, President Nixon and Henry Kissinger, continue to assign him a key role in the Vietnam peace negotiations.

Haig went to Key Biscayne, Fla., over the weekend for consultations with Kissinger and Nixon on the latest round of Paris peace talks, and then was dispatched to Saigon to report on the Paris talks to President Nguyen Van Thieu of South Vietnam.

The personable 48-year-old Gen. Haig took over as vice chief of staff of the Army on Jan. 4 in the latest promotion in what is considered by many to be a meteoric military political career.

**BUT HE HAD** hardly settled into his plush new suite of offices in the Pentagon's elite "E" ring, with a panoramic view of the Potomac, when he started getting calls from Kissinger. He's since become a regular commuter between the Pentagon and White House.

In addition, he says he expects to remain for a time as the President's special envoy to South Vietnam.

Before going to the Pentagon, Haig was deputy national security adviser under Kissinger and had the unique task of working on all phases of foreign policy, trying to put before President Nixon all the possible options and views of government experts.

Haig, a former deputy commandant at West Point was a colonel when he went to the White House at the start of the Nixon administration in January 1969. He soon impressed Nixon and Kissinger.

**HE WENT** on nine missions to Vietnam for Nixon and had an historic role as head of the advance party that planned Nixon's summit trip to China in 1972.

It was Haig, too, who was in charge of getting Kissinger safely through 12 secret missions to Paris during the first rounds of peace negotiating talks.

And he was the acknowledged workhorse of Kissinger's 100-member National Security Council staff.

Nixon has saluted Haig as a man who follows in the high

tradition of American soldier-statesmen. And Haig's rapid jump in military rank to four-star general in four years is likened to the rise of such famous generals as Dwight Eisenhower and George C. Marshall.

**HAIG NOW** is deputy to Chief Creighton Abrams. He has been mentioned for all sorts of high posts, in the future, including the prestigious post as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A trim 5-feet-11-inches tall and a 1947 graduate of West Point, Haig won the Distinguished Service Cross as a battalion commander in one of the fiercest battles of the Vietnam war in 1967.

He is one of a new breed of military men who have also been trained in international diplomacy. The Army sent him to graduate school at Georgetown University in Washington, where he received a master's degree in international relations in 1961. He's also a self-taught speed reader.

**DESPITE ALL** his success as deputy national security adviser, Haig said in a telephone interview at the Pentagon that his ambitions still lie with the Army and he is, at heart "an Army officer and a professional."

Haig said his work at the White House was "extremely exciting and extremely challenging." But he said he left because: "The time had come—four years is quite a long period to be away from

the Army."

Haig said he came away from the White House with a keen awareness of "the essential loneliness of the presidential task . . . I have a great deal of sympathy for any President." Gen. Haig was asked if he personally approved of the resumption of bombing over North Vietnam that Nixon ordered in mid-December. "I don't think many people are very suspicious of my view," he replied without further comment.