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Henry A. Kissinger, left, and, at Washington news session yesterday, William P. Rogers

Rogers Quits, Kissinger Named

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22 — President Nixon announced today that he had accepted with "personal regret" the resignation of William P. Rogers as Secretary of State and would nominate Henry A. Kissinger, the White House adviser on national security, to take over the senior Cabinet position.

The change—rumored for more than a month—would make Mr. Kissinger the Administration's undisputed chief official on foreign policy.

It would end the often awkward situation that has existed throughout Mr. Nixon's four and a half years in office in which Mr. Rogers was nominally the President's top adviser on foreign policy but in reality

was overshadowed by Mr. Kissinger. Mr. Kissinger not only supplied the intellectual stimulus for the Administration's foreign policy but also negotiated its greatest achievements.

Mr. Nixon, in making the announcement at the beginning

Rogers and Nixon letters are printed on Page 12.

of his news conference in San Clemente, Calif., said that Mr. Rogers, "a very close personal friend and adviser," had wanted to leave at the end of the first term, but had been prevailed upon to remain in office because of the press of business at the start of the second term, including the conclusion of the Vietnam negotia-

tions. [Opening statement, Page 28.]

Mr. Rogers, who is 60 years old, plans to return to the law firm of Royall, Koegel & Wells after his resignation becomes effective on Sept. 3.

The nomination of Mr. Kissinger, who is 50, is subject to confirmation by the Senate, and Mr. Nixon urged that his hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "move expeditiously" since "a number of matters of very great importance are coming up" that might involve foreign travel.

His confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are expected to begin early next

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month. By and large, committee members seem well disposed to the nomination, and some expected today that he would be confirmed. [Details on Page 13.]

The hearings may provide the opportunity for a thorough study of American foreign policy because Mr. Kissinger has been more deeply involved in policy making than anyone except Mr. Nixon.

The committee may also explore Mr. Kissinger's role in having the telephones of his aides tapped in the early months of the Nixon Administration.

Wearing Two Hats

The President said that Mr. Kissinger would retain his White House post as adviser on national security, directing the activities of the National Security Council, in effect giving him two "hats" in Government.

Because of Mr. Kissinger's intimate involvement in all major foreign policy decisions, his appointment as Secretary of State—if he is confirmed—would not signal any change in the Administration's foreign policy course, particularly the moves to improve relations with China and the Soviet Union.

But by putting the State Department directly under Mr. Kissinger's direction, Mr. Nixon would tighten White House control over the 6,000 people at the department, and 6,000 abroad in American embassies,

a group Mr. Kissinger has often referred to disparagingly as "the bureaucracy."

Mr. Nixon said Mr. Kissinger would be in a position like that of George P. Shultz, who holds the dual jobs of Treasury Secretary and Special Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs.

Mr. Kissinger already has a staff of about 40 assistants and 80 secretaries at the National Security Council to coordinate and direct foreign policy. It was not clear tonight whether he intended to keep his White House staff at that size, to reduce it, or to transfer some personnel to the State Department.

There was some conjecture that Mr. Kissinger would rely heavily on Kenneth Rush, the Deputy Secretary of State, to handle many of the ceremonial duties of the Secretary of State. Mr. Kissinger's confirmation hearings probably will not start before Congress reconvenes on Sept. 5.

High Congressional Regard

Although he has not appeared before the committee officially because his job as a Presidential assistant was excluded by "executive privilege," he has often met informally with Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the committee, and other key Congressional leaders and is highly regarded on Capitol Hill. Staff aides said they did not believe he would encounter much difficulty.

Mr. Rogers, an Attorney General in the Eisenhower Administration, and a long-time friend of Mr. Nixon, was never completely at ease as Secretary of State.

He had no experience in foreign affairs, and seemed uncomfortable at news conferences and other public discussions of intricate foreign-policy questions.

He held his last news con-

ference on Monday—only his second this year—and the first question was about the rumors that he might be leaving. He refused to comment, leaving the announcement to Mr. Nixon.

At that conference, Mr. Rogers spoke out against abuses uncovered by the Watergate investigation, and specifically criticized the use of "extralegal" actions authorized by the White House to carry out investigations of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg and others.

Mr. Rogers insisted today, at a meeting with newsmen after Mr. Nixon's announcement, that he was not leaving because of Watergate, but rather for reasons noted in his letter to Mr. Nixon dated last Thursday.

In the letter, Mr. Rogers said, "I take this action with a bit of sadness."

"You will recall, though," he added, "that when I accepted the post I did it with a firm resolve to return to the private practice of the law at the end of your first term of office. However, because of several pressing matters, particularly the closing phase of our involvement in the war in Vietnam, an uncertain cease-fire in the Middle East, the initial phase of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe, and the need for immediate attention to our relations with NATO, CENTO, Japan, South Korea, and our Latin American allies, it was agreed that I would stay on for a while."

Time for a Change

After listing some successes in foreign policy, Mr. Rogers said, "I believe the time is right for a change."

Mr. Kissinger, born in Germany, emigrated to the United States in 1938 to escape the Nazi persecution of Jews. If confirmed, he will be the first na-

turalized Secretary of State, and also the first Jew to hold the post.

He would be the 54th man to be Secretary of State in a line that goes back to Thomas Jefferson.

He was a Harvard professor before joining the Nixon team. He has become worldfamous for his seemingly limitless energy, shuttling between Washington and Paris to negotiate the Vietnam cease-fire agreement, and flying to Peking to launch a new China policy and to Moscow to prepare the way for two summit meetings.

Mr. Kissinger's news conferences have been the Administration's main forum in the last two years for the dissemination of its foreign policy positions.

He Authorized Taps

Although he had no direct involvement in the Watergate scandal, his image was tarnished in some eyes when it became known that he had authorized telephone taps on some of his close aides in the first months of the Administration.

The Kissinger appointment caused a stir at the State Department. Most employees had been aware of the rumors, but Mr. Rogers did not tell his key aides until last night of the coming announcement.

Even this morning, a top assistant advised a newsman not to speculate that Mr. Rogers would leave office and said such rumors were "half-baked."

One middle-level official said "it will be a real challenge" to have Mr. Kissinger in charge of the department.

It has been generally agreed that department morale has been low in recent years, partly because of the impression that the State Department no longer has much to do with important matters of foreign policy.

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