

Goldwater Opposes Possible Nitze Post

By Michael Getler
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Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) declared yesterday that he was "unalterably opposed" to the expected nomination of Paul H. Nitze to a key Pentagon position.

Goldwater's statement could cause serious problems for the Defense Department.

The 67-year-old Nitze is Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger's choice of defense for international security affairs.

The Pentagon recommendation, however, has not yet officially been forwarded by the White House to the Senate Armed Services Committee for consideration.

Goldwater is a member of that committee. But perhaps more important, the Republican senator is becoming increasingly important to the White House as the key to holding on to conservative support against impeachment.

Armed Services Committee sources say that Nitze would undoubtedly be approved, but now wonder whether the White House will forward Nitze's name to the committee.

Nitze served as Secretary of the Navy under former Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson and also was a top deputy to former secretaries of Defense Robert S. McNamara and Clark Clifford.

Nitze also served the Nixon administration for five years

as a senior member of the U.S. delegation to the nuclear arms limitation talks, and was the only member of that team to survive a purge of the delegation after the initial arms accords were signed in May, 1972.

Throughout his 30-year governmental career, Nitze has earned a reputation generally as a hard-liner on defense issues.

Goldwater, however, identifies Nitze with the former McNamara regime at the Pentagon which Goldwater claims "came very close to destroying this country's military capability."

"I am opposed to this appointment," Goldwater said, "just as strongly as it is possible for one who believe in this nation's maintaining an adequate defense to oppose a man who was formerly identified with a group interested in bringing about our unilateral disarmament."

Top Pentagon officials have said they were relying heavily on Nitze to restore importance to the international security affairs office which has lost considerable clout since the McNamara years.

Congressional sources say there is another possible White House candidate for the job, but failure to send forward Nitze's name could touch off a behind-the-scenes controversy involving Schlesinger and the White House.