

## 'Traumatic Events' in Washington

## Arms Negotiator Quits

Washington

Paul H. Nitze quit yesterday as a senior negotiator in the nuclear arms limitation talks, saying there was little prospect of a strong new pact with the Russians amid the "depressing . . . traumatic events" at home.

Nitze, who has been the senior Pentagon negotiator for five years, never mentioned Watergate or President Nixon by name. But his words suggested disenchantment with the chief executive.

"Until the office of the presidency has been restored to its principal function of upholding the Constitution and taking care of the fair execution of the laws, and thus be able to function effectively at home and abroad," Nitze said, "I see no real prospect for reversing certain unfortunate trends in the evolving situation."

In a terse letter to Mr. Nixon, Nitze said that, since his resignation request May 28 had not been accepted, "I now feel compelled unilaterally to terminate my ap-



PAUL H NITZE

He cited 'certain trends'

pointment effective today."

Nitze's action came as Mr. Nixon was making a tour of the Middle East. White House spokesmen in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, had no immediate comment.

Nitze's resignation was announced shortly after Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev declared in Moscow that Russia was ready "right now" to reach an agreement

with the United States on limitation and eventual termination of underground nuclear tests.

Nitze was not available to elaborate on his action. But it obviously was a blow to the administration, coming less than two weeks before Mr. Nixon is to go to Moscow.

Some sources interpreted Nitze's resignation at this time as an expression to show disapproval in advance, should Mr. Nixon sign a new strategic arms agreement with fewer safeguards for American security than Nitze favors.

Key members of Congress expressed similar concern about Mr. Nixon's agreement to provide materials and know-how for development of an Egyptian nuclear power generator. These critics said they feared this could open the way toward Egyptian development of nuclear weapons.

Nitze is known to have been agonizing for many weeks over whether to remain on as a senior arms negotiator and nuclear ad-

viser to Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger.

In his statement Nitze said, in obvious reference to the Watergate climate:

"Under the circumstances existing at the present time . . . I see little prospect of negotiating measures which will enhance movement toward . . . (objectives) of lessening arms competition while ensuring security for the United States.

"Arms control policy is integral to the national security and foreign policy of this nation and they, in turn, are closely intertwined with domestic affairs," Nitze said.

"In my view, it would be illusory to attempt to ignore or wish away the depressing reality of the traumatic events now unfolding in our nation's capital and of the implications of those events in the international arena."

The 67-year-old Nitze has been in public service for about 30 years, first as a senior foreign and military policy official in four Democratic administrations and more recently as top nuclear adviser to three Republican

secretaries of defense.

Several months ago, Schlesinger urged Mr. Nixon to appoint Nitze assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. But the White House decided against it after Senator Barry Goldwater (Rep-Ariz.) objected because of Nitze's link with the administration of former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

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