

WXPost JUN 15 1974

# Nitze Quits SALT, Cites U.S. 'Events'

By Michael Getler

Washington Post Staff Writer

Paul H. Nitze, the top Pentagon representative to the U.S.-Soviet strategic arms limitation talks, resigned abruptly yesterday, claiming that the "depressing . . . traumatic events now unfolding" in Washington made it unlikely that any real restraints can be placed on the nuclear arms race at this time.

In a sharply worded statement explaining his decision, the 67-year-old official who has served in the last three administrations, did not specifically mention "Watergate" or President Nixon.

But Nitze's statement made it clear that the "Watergate" scandals, in his view, had weakened the ability of the Nixon administration to negotiate the kinds of new arms agreements which he believes would contribute to stability and lessening of tensions.

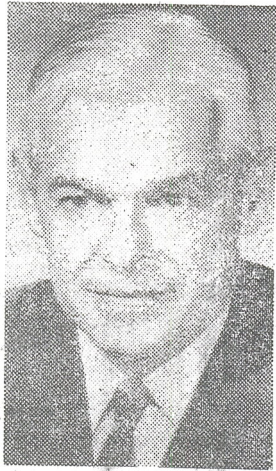
Nitze's formal letter of resignation to President Nixon yesterday contained only one sentence: "My request of May 28th to resign not having been accepted, I now feel compelled unilaterally to terminate my appointment effective today."

But as the letter was released, Nitze's office distributed a longer statement in the Pentagon newsroom. Nitze and his secretary had already left their Pentagon office, and the departed official was not available for further comment.

In his statement, Nitze said that U.S. 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."

"In my view," he said, "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."

"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



PAUL H. NITZE  
... 'unfortunate trends'

function effectively at home and abroad, I see no real prospect for reversing cer-

See NITZE, A8, Col. 5

## NITZE, From AI

tain unfortunate trends in the evolving situation," the statement said.

Nitze did not specify what trends he meant. But — aside from Watergate — he is known to have been disturbed by what he viewed as a very tough Soviet position at the arms talks that seemed to him to be based on a Russian feeling that events generally favored Russia with the result that Russia felt little need to bend to the United States at SALT.

Nitze also strongly opposed some proposals under consideration within the White House which, in his view, would help solidify current Soviet numerical advantages in nuclear missiles. He was opposed specifically, insiders say, to an extension of the interim agreement of offensive nuclear weapons reached in May, 1972, and which would expire in 1977.

Nitze also is known to be peeved at the reported lack of consultation the SALT team has had with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and the general lack of use of the negotiating team, which has not been back to Geneva since April 11.

His departure comes just two weeks before President Nixon visits Moscow, and officials say it is clear now that whatever agreement, if any, in the nuclear arms

field comes out of the summit, aside from a limited test ban agreement, will have been arranged once again by Kissinger.

Nitze's statement goes on

to say: "Time is now of the essence in establishing the preconditions for such a regeneration," presumably in the functioning of the presidency.

"In the meantime, it is essential that the orderly process of government continue. It is the genius of the U.S. form of government," he said, "that it has the flexibility to compensate for individual deficiencies. All those who are continuing to maintain the orderly process of government despite the tensions between their loyalty to higher authority and their loyalty to their oath of office have my full sympathy and admiration.

"I regret that that tension has now become too great for me to continue in office with them."

On the arms control issue, Nitze strongly indicated that he felt no agreement which would really put a lid on the arms race—and would thus increase stability—could come out of the summit this month.

"For the last five years," he said, "I have devoted all

my energies to supporting the objective of negotiating SALT agreements which would be balanced and which would enhance the security of the U.S., and also of the Soviet Union, by maintaining crisis stability and . . . lessening the strategic arms competition . . .

"Under the circumstances existing at the present time, however, I see little prospect of negotiating measures which will enhance movement toward those objectives," he said.

Though Nitze's general unhappiness was known and his departure was expected, the abruptness of it just two weeks before the summit talks surprised even Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger.

To replace Nitze, Schlesinger named Dr. James P. Wade Jr., who has worked on SALT within the Pentagon since 1972 and is on the staff of the Pentagon's chief scientists.

Nitze was also bruised in March when the White House declined to send his name to the Senate to be-

come assistant secretary of defense.

Schlesinger wanted Nitze, but when some conservatives, including Sen. Barry Goldwater, protested, Nitze's name was scratched.

Nitze's departure in effect reflects a continuing split in views within the administration and in some quarters of Congress over the U.S. position on new missile agreements with the Russians.

The split is between — like Nitze — who believe the United States must be very tough, push for actual reductions in forces, and reach a permanent agreement which roughly evens out the nuclear strike forces on both sides, and others who believe that the Soviets cannot be pressed too hard and that some agreement which is at least a step toward limiting such weapons as MIRV-type multiple-warhead missiles is better than no agreement in terms of slowing the arms race.