

Arms Official Quits, Cites Watergate

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WASHINGTON, June 14 — Paul H. Nitze resigned today from the American negotiating team at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, asserting that the "depressing reality" of Watergate makes prospects for slowing the nuclear arms race unlikely.

Mr. Nitze, a lifelong Democrat and a former top Pentagon official, did not mention President Nixon by name, but as one official said: "The message is clear about Nixon and his trip to Moscow."

Mr. Nitze sent a one-sentence letter of resignation to the President. The White House had no comment on the resignation.

In a press statement, Mr. Nitze elaborated:

"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—I see no real prospect for reversing some unfortunate trends in the evolving situation."

Mr. Nitze said in the statement that "it would be illusory to attempt to ignore or wish away the depressing reality of the traumatic events now unfolding in the nation's capital and of the implications of those events in the international arena." He added that he saw, under the circumstances, "little prospect of negotiating measures" that would lead to a slowing down of the strategic arms race.

Mr. Nitze was recently considered as a possible assistant secretary of defense, but sound-



Associated Press

Paul H. Nitze

He is known to be the only member of the nuclear arms negotiating team who disagreed and argued with Secretary of State Kissinger, who he believed, was too anxious to reach an accord with Moscow and was thus not a sufficiently tough negotiator.

A high Pentagon official said that Mr. Nitze probably felt there was little that he would be able to contribute to the Soviet-American arms discussions at this point. As the President and Mr. Kissinger moved to direct talks with Soviet leaders, the official said, "almost everyone else gets cut out of the action."

Later in the day the Pentagon announced that Mr. Nitze's position as special adviser to the Secretary of Defense on strategic nuclear matters would be filled by Dr. James Wade, a member of the defense research and engineering group at the Pentagon.

ings from Republican conservatives were negative and his name was dropped.