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## **Vice President Holds Military Reins Briefly**

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9 (Reuters) — For nearly two hours this morning the "black box" that links the Commander in Chief of the United States with his forces was in the hands of the Vice President.

Normally, only the President has authority to order mobilization of United States forces, including deployment of nuclear warheads. But Richard M. Nixon flew from the White House to California at 10 A.M. He left behind the "black box" of communications codes that would allow him to get in touch with active military commands.

And until 12:30 P.M., when Vice President Ford was sworn in as President, control of the military was shifted to the No. 2 man in Government.

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