

# A nation in midst

## Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Stressing the need for continuity and stability, President Ford yesterday asked cabinet members and agency heads to remain on the job, and invited bipartisan suggestions for a new vice president who must be nominated soon.

Ford also met with the National Security Council to review the world situation, and said through press secretary Jerry terHorst that he was postponing all scheduled trips at home and abroad.

He expects to spend today working in the Oval Office, and hopes for another private evening at home tonight.

TerHorst said that Ford has asked the bipartisan congressional leadership, the nation's Republican governors, the cabinet, and his staff and friends to submit recommendations by Wednesday for the vice presidency, and disclosed that the President plans to announce a nomination within a week to 10 days.

TerHorst said each person has been invited to submit three names in order of preference. The recommendations

will be mailed in sealed envelopes and addressed personally to the President "and he alone will handle it," he said.

TerHorst said the President will seriously consider each potential nominee suggested, "but I'm sure the President is not going to run a beauty contest and do it on who had the most votes."

Ford did not specify any geographical or political restrictions, and hopes for suggestions from "as broad a spectrum as possible," terHorst, said.

The press aide said that in asking the cabinet to stay on, the President told them "I believe that is what the country wants." TerHorst said Ford also told them he "does not believe in this business of pro forma resignations," and would meet with the individuals later on a one-to-one basis.

TerHorst announced that NATO ambassador Donald Rumsfeld will be coordinator of the transition team which is helping Ford assume the duties of the presidency.

Interior Secretary Rogers Morton will act as the team's liaison with the cabinet and the agencies, and former Penn-

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sylvania Gov. William Scranton will deal with personnel requirements, terHorst said. The fourth member of the team is defense adviser John Marsh Jr.

He said the team will provide Ford with a review of the relationship between the White House and the rest of the executive branch with advice on whether changes are needed to suit the "personal and peculiar" working habits of the new President.

"As you know, every President has his own style," terHorst said.

During the cabinet meeting, Ford said he hoped the department and agency heads would attempt to be "affirmative" in their press relations, terHorst said, adding that Ford himself hoped to set the example for them.

TerHorst said Ford enjoys press conferences and expects to have them frequently, but the first one probably would not be called for a week or two.

He said Secretary of State Kissinger had spoken on behalf of the cabinet in telling Ford the members of the Nixon official family had welcomed the opportunity to

serve the nation and said: "We now express our unflinching support and total loyalty to you."

In addition to the departmental secretaries, the cabinet meeting was attended by members of the transition team, and by Robert Hartmann, new counsel to the President; Phil Buchen, a former Grand Rapids law partner; Gen. Alexander Haig, the holdover chief of staff; terHorst, and Maj. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Ford's military aide.

Ford began the day in his vice presidential office in the Executive Office Building, adjacent to the White House, sending letters to the heads of government around the world, including the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union, to assure them of what terHorst called "the continuity of American foreign policy."

Kissinger and his top aides gave similar assurances yesterday at individual and group meetings with more than 60 ambassadors of African, Asian and European nations. The envoys called at the State Department in a steady stream of black limousines.

TerHorst said Ford plans no trips abroad. "The most pressing problems that need to be solved are at home and the White House," terHorst said.

*Presiding over the National Security Council*



Secretary of State Kissinger (L) and Defense Secretary Schlesinger flanked President Ford at National Security Council meeting yesterday



—AP Photos

As the President watched, Robert Hartmann was sworn in as presidential counselor with cabinet

rank. Mrs. Hartmann held the Bible and John Ratchford, clerk, administered the oath yesterday.