

Haig Expects Cole to Leave After He Does

By Frank Cormier
Associated Press

Alexander M. Haig Jr. says he expects his imminent departure from the White House post once held by H. R. (Bob) Haldeman to be followed by the resignation of Kenneth R. Cole Jr., who succeeded John D. Ehrlichman as domestic policy coordinator.

Haig said in an interview that Cole, named last year to replace Ehrlichman as director of the Domestic Council, wants to return to private life and "intends to leave at some point."

Another White House official said he expects that Haig's resignation, to be announced this week, will be followed by a broad "house cleaning" of key White House aides appointed during the Nixon administration.

As an example, he said he expects President Ford to replace staff secretary Jerry Jones, who holds a position of importance in the administrative machinery designed to mesh with former President Nixon's work habits.

Jones had been Mr. Nixon's chief talent scout until Haig moved him into the staff secretaryship.

Should Jones join Haig and Cole in leaving the White House, no Nixon appointees would retain jobs having a major and direct influence on managing the flow of papers and people into Mr. Ford's Oval Office.

Just last week, Mr. Ford designated Warren S. Rustand, who had been his scheduling chief as Vice President, to succeed Stephen Bull as appointments secretary.

Haig is expected to be called back to active duty as a four-star Army general by Mr. Ford to be military commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Haig said he wanted to return to the Army but insisted the NATO assignment was not firm and said he might even wind up in another civilian position.

Although a number of Nixon appointees have been assured of job security by Mr. Ford, the mood among many of them is one of uncertainty

as they see their numbers shrink.

"Don't call us holdovers," one suggested. "I think hangovers is more descriptive."

The first five weeks of the Ford administration produced sharp friction between some veterans of Mr. Ford's vice presidential staff and key Nixon operatives, notably Haig.

Although Haig acknowledged there have been "a few anticipated frictions," he sought to minimize them.

Privately, Haig is bitter about a series of leads to columnists and others which seemed intended to discredit him and to picture him as more concerned about the welfare of the old Nixon team than in the operations of the new Ford administration.

While Haig would not reveal the depth of his feelings on the subject, a close associate said, "They (Mr. Ford's people) first as soon as they needed a lightning rod they began picturing him as all powerful."

Some Ford appointees have hinted Haig played an important role in the Nixon pardon but the President's Cabinet-level counsel, Philip W. Buchen, has publicly discounted this, describing Haig's role as "essentially neutral."

Haig said he agrees with Buchen's characterization but acknowledged he privately was strongly in favor of a pardon, although not necessarily supporting its timing and manner of announcement.

As holdover staff chief, Haig said he has been doing "essentially what I've always done" in directing the flow of paper work to and from the President.

He conceded, however, that he no longer functioned as a direct intermediary between the President, on the one hand, and the senior White House staff and Cabinet on the other. During Mr. Nixon's final year in office, Haig, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler were the only ones with access to the Oval Office.

During the first days of the



ALEXANDER M. HAIG JR.
... admits "frictions"

Ford presidency, a White House official said, Haig's daily staff meetings attracted few of the new chief executive's top appointees. More recently, the informant said, attendance by the senior staff has become routine—with one exception. He said Haig's meetings have been boycotted by presidential counselor Robert T. Hartmann, who is perhaps Ford's closest personal aide.

Immediately after taking office, Mr. Ford dismantled Mr. Nixon's public relations apparatus and, soon thereafter, his legal staff.

Left in place was the congressional liaison team appointed by Mr. Nixon. Headed by William E. Timmons, the crew of White House lobbyists is expected to remain intact indefinitely, but they are technicians rather than policy-makers.

Transition Team Urged Military Influence Curb

Associated Press

Clay T. Whitehead, a member of President Ford's transition team, said yesterday the group recommended a cutback in military influence at the White House.

"We were concerned about the heavy military influence at the White House" during the waning days of Richard M. Nixon's administration, Whitehead said in a televised interview.

Citing the strong role of retired Army Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. as White House chief of staff, he noted that "there have been a number of military officers doing substantive staff jobs in the White House."