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**GEN. HAIG NAMED  
NATO COMMANDER**

**Appointment Is Approved by  
Allied Unit in Brussels—  
No Word on Successor**

By **PHILIP SHABECOFF**  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16—President Ford announced today the appointment of Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr., the White House chief of staff, as Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

The appointment, which had been reported in recent weeks to be imminent, was approved today in Brussels by the defense planning committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It becomes effective Dec. 15.

President Ford also named General Haig as commander of United States Forces in Europe, effective Nov. 1. The general is expected to leave the White House before then for a vacation.

There had been some objection to General Haig's NATO appointment, particularly from the Government of The Netherlands. But the United States overcame the opposition and the appointment was accepted.

General Haig, who had also served President Nixon as chief of staff and was the highest ranking holdover from the Nixon White House, has been the focus of controversy in recent weeks.

"Al Haig has been the lightning rod for almost all of the criticism the White House has taken since President Ford took over," a White House official

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friendly to the general said today.

Asked about a successor to General Haig, an official in the White House press office said today, "We haven't had any guidance on that."

Public statements by President Ford's aides in recent weeks seemed to suggest that the post of chief of staff would be much different than it was under General Haig or his predecessor, H. R. Haldeman.

The Presidential transition staff reportedly recommended that the job be somewhat decentralized and that a number of aides have access to President Ford on a regular basis rather than largely through one top aide.

However, one White House official who is a holdover from the Nixon Administration, said today that President Ford was now leaning toward having a senior aide who would be his major contact with executive agencies and who would make most of the routine day-to-day decisions.

General Haig, who resigned his commission to serve as Mr. Nixon's top aide after Mr. Haldeman, along with John D. Ehrlichman, quit last year in the spreading Watergate scandal, will now return to active duty.

General Haig was described by an associate today as being very happy about leaving the White House and returning to military service. The associate said that the general had originally taken the White House post on a temporary and emergency basis at the urging of President Nixon.

General Haig's continued activities in the high staff role were said to be an irritant to

some of Mr. Ford's other aides. In fact, a number of White House staff officials have talked privately of frictions between members of the Nixon and Ford groups.

President Ford extended his appreciation today "for a job well done" to Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, who will be relinquishing his NATO and Army posts to General Haig.

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**HAIG'S COMMAND:  
BIG AND COMPLEX**

NATO Forces Extend From  
North Sea to Istanbul

By **DREW MIDDLETON**

As Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. will assume responsibilities that are more extensive geographically and more complex militarily than those of any national commanders in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

The Supreme Commander is responsible under the general direction of the alliance's military committee for the defense of a command area that extends from Norway's North Cape to the Turkish-Soviet frontier 800 miles east of Istanbul.

In war the commander—known by the acronym SACEUR in the alliance—would control all land, sea and air operations in this area. Internal defense, including the defense of coastal waters, would remain the responsibility of national governments, but the commander would have full authority to carry out operations that he considered necessary for the defense of any part of the area.

In peace General Haig is responsible for the organization, training and equipment of NATO forces assigned to his command. He is also the final authority on the preparation of defense plans for NATO. In this context, he is empowered to make recommendations to the military committee, which is made up of the chief of staff of each member country except France and Iceland.

The Commander may also raise with the military committee any national problem that



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Gen. A. M. Haig Jr.

he considers affects his ability to carry out his responsibilities. Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster, the present Supreme Commander, and his predecessor, Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, used this privilege repeatedly to protest to member governments against reductions in terms of conscription and force levels.

The stark outlines of the Commander's duties omit a multiplicity of other roles. Gen. of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, the first to hold the post, considered himself in part a public-relations officer who had to enlist European nations in the cause of collective defense.