

Haig Papers That Left White House

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Despite assurances by President Ford's counsel that all Nixon administration papers would remain intact at the White House, at least one carton of papers has left the White House and been returned, a spokesman says.

White House deputy press secretary John W. Hushen said in response to an inquiry Saturday that the carton was removed September 26.

It was part of a shipment to the Pentagon of 13 cartons of personal papers of General Alexander M. Haig Jr., who left the next day as White House chief of staff.

The carton contained memos from Haig to President Nixon, minutes of senior White House staff meetings and memos to Haig from other members of the staff, Hushen said.

He said the box of memos was taken inadvertently, was missed almost immediately and returned within several hours still sealed.

The other 12 boxes, said to contain Haig's "military material and memorabilia" and "personal letters," were returned October 3, after the chief archivist at the White House, John Nesbitt, complained that he had not reviewed them.

Hushen said the return was made after a meeting between Haig and Philip W. Buchen, Mr. Ford's counsel.

Haig, who left the White House September 27, is to go back on active duty with the Army on November 1 as military commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Hushen said other records also had been released after being cleared by the archivists.

He said former press secretary Ronald Ziegler, who also served as a special assistant to Mr. Nixon, had retrieved cartons of personal papers after Ziegler's assistant, Diane Sawyer, had gone through them with the archivists.

Buchen has been negotiating with the Watergate special prosecutor's office and Mr. Nixon's lawyer, Herbert J. Miller Jr., to work out arrangements for access to tapes and papers left behind when Mr. Nixon resigned.

Buchen had assured the special prosecutor that until the negotiations were completed none of the tape recordings or files of the Nixon administration would be moved from their present location.

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