

Haig Object of Snub?

From News Dispatches

Gen. Andrew J. Goodpaster stayed away from ceremonies in Stuttgart yesterday at which Gen. Alexander M. Haig Jr. succeeded him as commander of the 300,000 U.S. troops in Europe.

Goodpaster reportedly was near Brussels, headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Goodpaster is also supreme commander of NATO forces in Europe and Haig, former President Nixon's White House chief of staff, is scheduled to succeed him in that position as well in ceremonies on Dec. 15.

One of Goodpaster's aides in Brussels acknowledged that it is customary for both the incoming and outgoing commanders to be present when a command changes hands. Asked about speculation that Goodpaster was not pleased at leaving his positions, the aide replied, "Everyone has to draw his own conclusions."

Another report, said, however, that Goodpaster stayed away from the ceremony because he has cut his traveling to a minimum following a recent minor operation.