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Ford Urges Ousted Colby to Defer Exit

by Laurence Stern

President Ford had second thoughts yesterday on the summary dismissal of Director of Central Intelligence William E. Colby and asked him to stay on long enough to help the agency through its gantlet of congressional hearings.

Colby, virtually packed and ready to to out his office door, agreed to stay until his successor, George Bush, is confirmed by the Senate.

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Administration sources said that the two White House officials working with Colby on his Capitol Hill dealings, ... Philip W. Buchen and ... John O. Marsh Jr., were not privy to the CIA director's firing until the last minute.

"No one who had any feel of the hearings and their importance to the agency had any input into the matter,"

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according to one authoritative source.

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