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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN. *WJ*

THE WHITE HOUSE

INFORMATION

WASHINGTON

September 14, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: William E. Timmons *WT*
SUBJECT: Rep. Wayne Hays (D-Ohio) *WR-7*

Reference the attached news item in today's Star-News.

While I don't know the source of this story it has all the earmarks of Wayne Hays. I excused myself from this week's campaign reform meeting when Wayne said he had a private matter to discuss with you.

If the substance of your personal conversation paralleled this column, it is a fact worth remembering.

WASH
STAR

9-14-74

Ford Reportedly Will

Dismiss Director of USIA

By David Binder
New York Times News Service

President Ford has told a political associate that he will dismiss James Keogh from his post as director of the United States Information Agency, the associate said yesterday. There was no indication when the President would act.

Keogh, formerly a campaign aide and supervisor of speech writing for former President Nixon, is said to have stirred resentment among Democratic members of Congress who believe he penalized USIA employees he deemed unfriendly to Nixon.

One example cited was

that of Nathan Kingsley, program director of the Voice of America, who was suddenly transferred to the State Department in July. Agency officials said one reason was that Kingsley had authorized VOA coverage of the Watergate scandal, which Keogh disliked.

KEOGH SAID in a telephone interview that he had not heard of any plans to remove him and he recently told aides that he planned to remain at the agency until 1976. He is planning to attend two USIA conferences overseas in October and November.

He has also indicated to associates in the past that he was close to Ford although he has not been invited to the White House or talked to him since he became President.

Asked about Kingsley, who has been installed as an information specialist in

the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Keogh said his transfer was "related to a management study of the Voice of America."

He said that there had been considerable discussion in the agency of how the Voice of America should treat Watergate news, but that Watergate coverage was not connected with Kingsley's transfer.

Keogh, long a senior editor on Time Magazine, was named USIA director by Nixon in December 1972, succeeding Frank Shakespeare.

FORD'S associate reported the President was determined to retain Henry A. Kissinger as secretary of state despite suggestions by some White House aides that he let him go.

The associate also quoted Ford as saying he was going through with his plan to appoint Alexander M. Haig, Chief of the White House staff, as supreme commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

He also said that Ford told him he would risk a threat by the Netherlands government to withdraw forces from NATO if Haig is appointed commander of

the Western defense alliance. The threat was reportedly conveyed to Washington by Max Van Der Stoel, foreign minister of the Netherlands.

The Ford plan to return Haig, who retired from the Army last year, to a military post has stirred considerable opposition in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, the associate said.

Ford also said that he could not return Haig to a post in the department of defense because of objections of senior Army officers that it would "interrupt the chain of command," the associate said.

SEP 15 1974