

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Administration Shake-up - General” of the Ron Nessen Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Ron Nessen donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

WHITE HOUSE STAFF

Q. Who is Dick Cheney? Can Cheney really run it?

A. As many of you know, he is the very able deputy to Don Rumsfeld who has served interchangeably with Don over the past year. He has performed his role brilliantly and I have every confidence that he is the best qualified person to take on the role of coordinating the White House Staff activities.

Q. What happens to Hartmann? Marsh? Buchen?

A. Counsellors Hartmann, Buchen, and Marsh will remain in their positions and continue to carry out their responsibilities.

Q. Why didn't you name one of these senior people to be your Chief of Staff?

A. I chose Dick Cheney because he has for the past year had the direct experience in the broad range of areas requiring coordination. As Don Rumsfeld's deputy he has had continuing contact with me on all of the issues that confront the man who has to coordinate the activities of the White House.

Q. Who is going to be Scowcroft's deputy? Will he be a civilian?

A. Don't know yet

Q. Will Cheney have Cabinet rank the way Rumsfeld did?

A. Don't know yet.



Q. Are there going to be any other changes in the White House? Will there be additional reorganization steps?

A. There will be some changes in White House procedure. These will be outlined over the next several days. As far as reorganization is concerned, I do not expect that there will be a major one.

Q. Aren't you solving one problem -- national security affairs -- at the expense of weakening an already weak White House? How are you going to keep order in your own organization without Rumsfeld?

A. I don't think that the White House is weak, in fact just the opposite. Dick Cheney in the past year has demonstrated to me that he is well up to the task.

Q. Will the White House staff be downgraded in importance relative to the Cabinet?

A. I have made it clear that I want my Cabinet to play a major role in the Administration. I think the changes that have been announced tonight simply follow along that course.

Q. Will these steps cure the infighting problems in the White House?

A.



VICE PRESIDENT

Q. Was this Rockefeller's decision?

A. As the Vice President said this was done on his own initiative.

Q. Did he consult with you? Did you push him off?

A. Yes, we have talked about it. As I said this was the Vice President's initiative.

Q. Are you going to change the Domestic Council organization or personnel?

A. I have no plans to do so. The Vice President as I said in my opening statement has done a superb job and I expect him to work as he has in the past in the domestic policy area.

Q. Does the Vice President's decision today mean any important changes in the way in which domestic policy is carried out in the Administration?

A. The Vice President's decision has to do with his candidacy in 1976, not with his Vice Presidency until then. The Vice President will continue to serve until January of 1977 and I expect that he will continue to bring his talents and superior experience to bear on the tasks of the Administration. I certainly look forward to having him continue his fine work.



Q. Will Reagan now run? Is there a deal? Do you think he should run?

A. I do not know, you will have to ask him. I am not aware the Vice President consulted with Governor Reagan before he made his decision. I know that I didn't. Again, that is something you will have to ask Governor Reagan.

Q. Are you dumping VP Rockefeller to appease the conservative wing of the Republican Party and to beat Reagan for the nomination?

A. I respectfully disagree with your connotation of "dumping". This was the Vice President's decision which he made on his own initiative.

Q. Did Bo Callaway demand that you dump Rockefeller?

A. I respectfully disagree with your connotation of "dumping". This was the Vice President's decision which he made on his own initiative.

Q. Did you demand that Rockefeller agree to drop out of the Vice Presidential race?

A. This was the Vice President's decision which he made on his own initiative as I have previously stated.



Q. Is Rockefeller leaving because of his differences with your policies, especially your policy toward New York City?

A. I am not aware that our policy differences are very large. On that you will have to ask the Vice President.

Q. Is the Vice President's decision not to run related to the problems in New York and the Vice President's role in contributing to these problems?

A. As far as I know there was no connection between his views on the New York City matter and his decision not to run in 1976.

Q. Would you accept Reagan as your Vice Presidential running mate in 1976?

A. I have not given the question any thought and it is much too soon to be discussing questions relating to a running mate.

Q. Did you try to dissuade Rockefeller from dropping off the ticket? Are you disappointed or relieved?

A. It was his decision and of course I am please he will be continuing his excellent service. This is a major decision by the Vice President. One that clearly has been given a great deal of thought by the Vice President and the kind that involves no discussion with a man who has had a long and distinguished career in public service. I am more than pleased that he joined the Administration at a critical period and has served it so brilliantly.

Q. Who do you now see as your Vice Presidential running mate?

A. I have not given the question any thought and it is much too soon to be discussing questions relating to a running mate.



## INTELLIGENCE

1. Why are you changing Colby now? Have you found additional information that we don't know about?

Obviously not. I think Bill Colby is one of the finest Directors the CIA has ever had. He has done an outstanding job of maintaining our intelligence capability while at the same time working very effectively with others in the Executive Branch and with the Congress to insure that any abuses which may have occurred in the past are not repeated in the future.

My desire to nominate George Bush to serve as the Director of CIA is based on my desire to have my own team and to provide the best qualified man to carry out the new leadership required in the months ahead.

2. Have you lost confidence on him?

See answer #1

3. Are you going to make additional intelligence agency moves? Are you going to change how the agency functions? Reports to the President?

At my direction, a comprehensive review is underway to determine if there is any need to restructure the intelligence community. We are looking at legislative and administrative alternatives.

4. What are they?

See answer #3

5. Some members of Congress and others have charged that by firing CIA Director Colby you have signaled other Administration officials not to cooperate with the Congressional investigations of improper CIA activities. In short, the allegation is that your "Sunday night massacre" is just another cover-up like Nixon's Saturday night massacre". How can you convince the American people of the falsity of these charges?

The "cover-up" charge is easy for people with partisan motives to make and even easier to refute -- by citing the facts.

First, I have taken steps to stop any abuses by the intelligence community and prevent any reoccurrence. For

example, I

--Created the "Rockefeller Commission" to investigate the domestic activities of CIA;

--I am implementing administrative changes and considering legislative proposals; and

--Most important, I have made it clear that illegality or impropriety will not be tolerated by any Executive Branch official as long as I am President.

Second, I have provided an unprecedented amount of information concerning intelligency activities to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Justice Department. I have ordered the relevant departments and agencies not to use security classification in cases involving alleged illegalities or wrongdoing to prevent access by appropriate officials of the Executive Branch and the Congress. In fact, I have endeavored to give Congress access to all the relevant materials concerning the intelligency community. I have insisted -- and will continue to insist -- that classified materials not be published. Those who leak or otherwise unilaterally motives above the national interest.

Third, I believe the Nation's needs an effective intelligence community. I am nominating George Bush because he is highly qualified and the CIA needs new leadership. I will give him the same instructions I gave Bill Colby -- cooperate fully with Congressional and Justice Department investigations, but do so in a responsible manner so as not to disclose classified materials.

6. Won't HAK continue to have a major influence?

Of course, he will continue to have a major policy role as the Secretary of State should. These changes will insure that I see a variety of views and often differences of opinion. This is the way I prefer to reach these tough decisions that is with the unvarnished honest views of my trusted advisors.

7. Will Bush's role as Director of CIA exceed the authority the current Director, Colby, has?

As I said before a comprehensive review is underway and until that is completed the Director of the CIA will



continue to perform two functions:

1. The head of CIA
2. As Director of the CIA which is a coordinating role for the entire intelligence community.

8. Does this mean a real change in the structure of the intelligence community?

See answer #7

9. Does the President agree with Vice President Rockefeller's assessment that the current Congressional investigations of the intelligence community have harmed the Nation's ability to defend itself?

There is absolutely no doubt that leaks of highly classified intelligence information is adversely affecting our ability to conduct foreign intelligence activities.

It is possible for Congress to conduct its inquiries and consider legislation without publishing materials which should remain classified in order to permit our intelligence community to operate effectively.

10. You have said you want to clean up the intelligence community to prevent abuses. Is putting a former Chairman man of the RNC in as Director of CIA the way to do this?

I will nominate George Bush as Director of Central Intelligence and head of the CIA because I believe he is the best man for the job.

The intelligence community needs new leadership. The Nation must have an effective intelligence capability.

George Bush brings excellent qualifications to the job. He was formerly Ambassador to the United Nations and currently is our envoy to the Peoples' Republic of China.

I will hold the entire intelligence community to the highest standards of integrity and legality. Ambassador Bush reflects these same standards.

11. Why are you trying to cover up the intelligence community abuses in the areas of the assassination reports, covert actions and NSA?

It is not a question of withholding information required

by the Congress to carry out its inquiries into the intelligence community. On the contrary, I have endeavored to make all of the information available to Congress so that legislation can be proposed, if necessary, and to the Justice Department to facilitate any investigation indicated. However, we must distinguish between disclosure to the Congressional Committees of sensitive information and publication of that information which is harmful to the national interest and may endanger the physical safety of individuals.

There is no question about access to these materials by appropriate officials. The only issue concerns publication which obviously cannot be limited to Members of Congress and other American citizens.

Public release of some of these official materials and information will grievous grievous damage to our country. It would likely be exploited by foreign nations and groups hostile to the United States in a manner designed to do maximum damage to the reputation and foreign policy of the United States. It would seriously impair our ability to exercise a positive leading role in world affairs.

12. Does this mean you think Colby was responsible for all of the abuses by the CIA over the years?

No. See answer #1 and 2 above

13. Schlesinger and Colby have been praised for trying to get rid of abuses in the CIA and disclose the abuses publicly. Now you fire them. Why are you trying to cover up for the CIA?

Already answered

14. Senator Church says the firing of Colby is part of your coverup of CIA abuses. Is that true?

Already answered.

FOREIGN POLICY

1. Isn't it a farce to announce HAK is losing his second hat when he is being replaced by his hand-picked protegee?

I am the Chairman of the NSC by statute. Secretary Kissinger serves as a member of the NSC as do several others. I selected Brent Scowcroft because I believe he will do an outstanding job for me as my Assistant for National Security Affairs.

2. The loyalty argument doesn't wash -- all of the NSC staff are loyal to HAK -- were chosen by him. Don't see that much has changed. Why won't HAK continue to have the upper hand?

I appointed General Scowcroft to this position to be my Assistant because I have gotten to know General Scowcroft well in the past year and respect his independent judgment and abilities and if I had any doubts I wouldn't have appointed him.

3. Does this mean that you are determined to go full speed ahead on detente?

The personnel moves that I have announced tonight in the national security area do not signal any shift in policy. I will continue to pursue ways to reduce the threat of war. This includes efforts to conclude a SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, but under no circumstances will I be a party to an agreement which fails to safeguard America's vital national security interests.

4. You have told us before that you had Kissinger as both your Secretary of State and as your National Security Council Adviser because he was uniquely qualified to hold both positions at the same time. Have you changed your judgement of Kissinger's ability?

As I said in my opening statement, when I took office the highest priority was to demonstrate to our allies and potential adversaries that the continuity of American security and foreign policy would remain unchanged. Now after 14 months in office we have demonstrated that continuity and I have also come to the conclusion that there are better ways for me to organize my Administration to meet the pressing challenges of the future. These organizational changes are designed to create a system that fits the demands that I face every day.

5. Why did you fire James Schlesinger? Was he no good? Was he disloyal? Don't you need contrary advice on national security policy?

Schlesinger has made important contributions to the country's security in the field of atomic energy, intelligence and defense.

However, as I have previously stated, as long as I am at the helm, I want the people I am comfortable with. I am making the changes which I feel are necessary to enable me to make the most effective use of my leadership.

6. This looks like a sell-out to the doves, won't this hurt you with the right wing?

I didn't make these changes for partisan reasons. I made the changes to enable me to better express my responsibilities as President.

7. Have you changed American foreign policy? What significance does this have for foreign policy?

The personnel moves that I have announced tonight in the national security area do not signal any shift in policy.

8. Are all of these moves a sell-out to the conservatives?

I didn't make these changes for partisan reasons. I made the changes to enable me to better express my responsibilities as President.

9. What will the foreign perception of these changes be? Will they be favorable? Unfavorable?

I believe that one of the most important factors in achieving a stable world and peace is strong leadership by the United States. The decisions I have announced this evening will enable us to strengthen our world leadership role.

10. What qualifications do Rumsfeld and Bush have for these important jobs?

Bush: United National and China

Rumsfeld: Ambassador to NATO; series of important domestic positions and most recently as my trusted and efficient coordinator of the White House staff.

They both have had the advantage of running for office, serving in the Congress and have a knowledge of the importance of being representative and accountable to the American people.

11. It looks like you are firing two hardliners on detente -- Schlesinger and Colby -- and keeping a softliner -- Kissinger. Is that an accurate assessment?

The personnel moves that I have announced tonight in the national security area do not signal any shift in policy. I will continue to pursue ways to reduce the threat of war. This includes efforts to conclude a SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, but under no circumstances will I be a party to an agreement which fails to safeguard America's vital national security interests.

12. Does this mean Kissinger has won in his long feud with Schlesinger?

I don't think it makes any sense to talk in terms of who won or who lost. The decisions announced tonight are my decisions. As I stated at the outset, I made no changes when I became President in the national security area because I believed that it was more important to provide the continuity and stability in the conduct of our foreign policy. After 14 months in office, it is my conviction that I can improve the overall competence and capabilities of my Administration by making the changes I have announced tonight.

13. Why did you have to ask Kissinger if he would mind leaving the NSC and then wait for him to make up his mind?

I did not ask Secretary Kissinger; I informed him of my decision.

14. What did you have to offer Kissinger to persuade him to leave the NSC?

I have already stated my reasons for the changes in the national security area. I think Secretary Kissinger has done an outstanding job, not only on my behalf, but on behalf of the American people. I am pleased that he has agreed to continue to serve as Secretary of State.



15. Q: Isn't Scoop Jackson right: you are firing Schlesinger because you can't tolerate anyone who disagrees with Kissinger?

A: I want to make very clear to you that these are my decisions considered over a period of weeks, based on over a year's experience in this office. I am making them for one reason and one reason only: to organize my national security advisors in a way that best suits my form of leadership.

16. Q: Why did the White House advance team, which was supposed to leave for China today, suddenly postpone the trip? Do you still plan to visit China?

A: (See Brent Scowcroft)

17. Q: Was Secretary Kissinger's approval sought before deciding to appoint Rumsfeld as Secretary of Defense/ Are they in accord on such matters as detente, SALT, and other matters on which Kissinger and Schlesinger disagreed?

A: I informed Secretary Kissinger of my decision relating to his position and I informed Don Rumsfeld of my desire for him to become Secretary of Defense. I asked for no one's approval for these changes.

My chief advisors know that I expect them to say what they think -- whether they agree or disagree. And I will have nothing to do with suppressing disagreement while decisions are being made.

18. Q: Senator Jackson has charged that there is now, in effect, no real National Security Council, that Secretary Kissinger will be the only real source of advice. What is the status now of the NSC?

A: (See above)

19. Q: Are these shifts in top-level personnel the result of personality clashes, or do they indicate important new changes in the policies of your Administration?

A: (See above)



20. Q: Did some specific event or problem trigger these decisions for you, or is this something that has been developing over a period of some time?

A:

21. Q: Will General Scowcroft resign from the Air Force, the way General Haig did when he was appointed to replace Bob Haldeman, or will he continue to wear two hats, one as head of the NSC staff and one as a Lt. General?

A: (See Brent Scowcroft)

*Council's office is reviewing matters. And Brent will do what's appropriate.*



GENERAL

1. Q: Do you still plan to run for election next year?

A: Yes, of course.

2. Q: Do you plan any more changes at the President Ford Committee, which seems to be very badly disorganized? Nunn and Packard have already quit? Who's next?

A:

3. Q: Mr. President, could you give us some idea of just how these momentous changes developed in your mind and just how you went about implementing your decisions? Who did you consult, when did the meetings take place, where, that sort of thing?

A:

4. Q: Do you think your Administration has been strengthened by these changes, and in just what ways?

A: Absolutely yes. It will be more responsive to my form of leadership.

5. Q: Your Administration has a "new look" now -- how would you describe in your own way just what this new look is and what it means for Americans and the world? What new things should we expect as a result of these changes?

A: (See opening statement)



6. Q: Can we expect more high-level firings?

A: (with a broad grin) Haven't you had enough news for one day?

7. Q: Some critics are saying that these firings, and the Vice President's decision, are indications of desperation on your part, that the Administration is being chaotic, and that the prospects for nomination and election are now so bad that you are turning to desperation moves. Is this an accurate appraisal?

A: As I said, I have not made any major personnel changes in the foreign policy intelligence and security areas for fourteen months in order to demonstrate to the world the continuity of American policies in this area. Now I believe it's time to make some changes which will better reflect my own leadership and methods of decision-making in these areas.

I have been carefully considering these changes over a period of time and there is certainly no desperation or panic in the Administration. I had originally planned to announce these changes later this week, but after some of the news leaks over the weekend, I decided it would be better to announce them as soon as possible.

8. Q: Why did you do this in such a hurry, on a Sunday morning? This looks like the "Sunday morning massacre", done in a rushed, secretive manner without your consulting anyone.

A: (Same as answer to number 7.)

Jack Marsh and Bill Colby gave me the following (and say it is okay for you~~x~~ to announce. The President has approved.)

Colby, at the President's request, has agreed to remain as Director of the CIA until a successor is confirmed and qualified. During that period, he will have the full authority ~~at the Agency~~ that he has always had at the Agency. ~~The ~~President~~ President~~ reaffirmed his standing order that ~~the intelligence community~~ is to cooperate in a responsible manner with the Select Committees of the Congress.

The meeting was from

11:30 to 11:45



## INTELLIGENCE

1. Why are you changing Colby now? Have you found additional information that we don't know about?

Obviously not. I think Bill Colby is one of the finest Directors the CIA has ever had. He has done an outstanding job of maintaining our intelligence capability while at the same time working very effectively with others in the Executive Branch and with the Congress to insure that any abuses which may have occurred in the past are not repeated in the future.

My desire to nominate George Bush to serve as the Director of CIA is based on my desire to have my own team and to provide the best qualified man to carry out the new leadership required in the months ahead.

2. Have you lost confidence on him?

See answer #1

3. Are you going to make additional intelligence agency moves? Are you going to change how the agency functions? Reports to the President?

At my direction, a comprehensive review is underway to determine if there is any need to restructure the intelligence community. We are looking at legislative and administrative alternatives.

4. What are they?

See answer #3

5. Some members of Congress and others have charged that by firing CIA Director Colby you have signaled other Administration officials not to cooperate with the Congressional investigations of improper CIA activities. In short, the allegation is that your "Sunday night massacre" is just another cover-up like Nixon's Saturday night massacre". How can you convince the American people of the falsity of these charges?

The "cover-up" charge is easy for people with partisan motives to make and even easier to refute -- by citing the facts.

First, I have taken steps to stop any abuses by the intelligence community and prevent any reoccurrence. For



VICE PRESIDENT

1. Was this Rockefeller's decision?
  2. Did he consult with you? Did you push him off?
  3. Are you going to change the Domestic Council organization or personnel?
  4. Does the Vice President's decision today mean any important changes in the way in which domestic policy is carried out in the Administration?
  5. Will Reagan now run? Is there a deal? Do you think he should run?
  6. Are you dumping VP Rockefeller to appease the conservative wing of the Republican party and to beat Reagan for the nomination?
  7. Did Bo Callaway demand that you dump Rockefeller?
  8. Did you demand that Rockefeller agree to drop out of the V/P race?
  9. Is Rockefeller leaving because of his differences with your policies, especially your policy toward New York City?
  10. Is the Vice President's decision not to run related to the problems in New York and the Vice President's role in contributing to these problems?
  11. Would you accept Reagan as your V/P running mate in 1976?
  12. Did you try to dissuade Rockefeller from dropping off the ticket? Are you disappointed or relieved?
- 

1. Are you dumping Vice President Rockefeller to appease the conservative wing of the Republican Party and to beat Reagan for the nomination?

The Vice President, as he indicated in the letter he released earlier today, made his own decision. I have been pleased in every respect with his performance as Vice President and look forward to our continued association in the months ahead.

2. Did Bo Callaway demand that you dump Rockefeller?

As the Vice President himself stated earlier today, he arrived at the decision on his own. Bo Callaway played no role.

3. It looks like you are firing two hardliners on detente -- Schlesinger and Colby -- and keeping a softliner -- Kissinger. Is that an accurate assessment?

~~No it is not.~~ (The personnel moves that I have announced tonight in the national security area do not signal any shift in policy. I will continue to pursue ways to reduce the threat of war. This includes efforts to conclude a SALT agreement with the Soviet Union, but under no circumstances will I be a party to an agreement which fails to safeguard America's vital national security interests.

4. Does this mean Kissinger has won in his long feud with Schlesinger?

I don't think it makes any sense to talk in terms of who won or who lost. The decisions announced tonight are my decisions. As I stated at the outset, I made no changes when I became President in the national security area because I believed that it was more important to provide the continuity and stability in the conduct of our foreign policy. After 14 months in office, it is my conviction that I can improve the overall competence and capabilities of my Administration by making the changes I have announced tonight.

5. Why did you have to ask Kissinger if he would mind leaving the NSC and then wait for him to make up his mind?

I did not ask Secretary Kissinger; I informed him of my decision.

6. What did you have to offer Kissinger to persuade him to leave the NSC?

I have already stated my reasons for the changes in the national security area. I think Secretary Kissinger has done an outstanding job, not only on my behalf, but on behalf of the American people. I am pleased that he has agreed to continue to serve as Secretary of State.

7. Doesn't this mean that Kissinger is still in control of the NSC, through his long-time loyal deputy?

The President is Chairman of the National Security Council by statute. Secretary Kissinger serves as a member of the National Security Council as do several others. I am confident that Brent Scowcroft will do an outstanding job as my Assistant for National Security Affairs.

8. Why did you do this in such a hurry, on a Sunday morning? This looks like the "Sunday morning massacre," done in a rushed, secretive manner without consulting anyone?

The decisions I have announced tonight were given a great deal of careful thought by me. The fact that none of those decisions leaked to the press before yesterday is not an indication that those decisions were not carefully thought out.



9. Does this mean you think Colby was responsible for all the abuses by the CIA over the years?

Obviously not. I think Bill Colby is one of the finest Director's the CIA has ever had. He has done an outstanding job of maintaining our intelligence capability while at the same time working very effectively with others in the Executive Branch and with the Congress to insure that any abuses which may have occurred in the past are not repeated in the future.

My decision to nominate George Bush to serve as the Director of Central Intelligence is based on my firm belief that he is the man best qualified to carry out this responsibility in the months ahead.



VICE PRESIDENT

13. Who do you now see as your V/P running mate?



example, I

--Created the "Rockefeller Commission" to investigate the domestic activities of CIA;

--I am implementing administrative changes and considering legislative proposals; and

--Most important, I have made it clear that illegality or impropriety will not be tolerated by any Executive Branch official as long as I am President.

Second, I have provided an unprecedented amount of information concerning intelligency activities to the appropriate committees of Congress and the Justice Department. I have ordered the relevant departments and agencies not to use security classification in cases involving alleged illegalities or wrongdoing to prevent access by appropriate officials of the Executive Branch and the Congress. In fact, I have endeavored to give Congress access to all the relevant materials concerning the intelligency community. I have insisted -- and will continue to insist -- that classified materials not be published. Those who leak or otherwise unilaterally motives above the national interest.

Third, I believe the Nation's needs an effective intelligence community. I am nominating George Bush because he is highly qualified and the CIA needs new leadership. I will give him the same instructions I gave Bill Colby -- cooperate fully with Congressional and Justice Department investigations, but do so in a responsible manner so as not to disclose classified materials.

6. Won't HAK continue to have a major influence?

Of course, he will continue to have a major policy role as the Secretary of State should. These changes will insure that I see a variety of views and often differences of opinion. This is the way I prefer to reach these tough decisions that is with the unvarnished honest views of my trusted advisors.

7. Will Bush's role as Director of CIA exceed the authority the current Director, Colby, has?

As I said before a comprehensive review is underway and until that is completed the Director of the CIA will



continue to perform two functions:

1. The head of CIA
2. As Director of the CIA which is a coordinating role for the entire intelligence community.

8. Does this mean a real change in the structure of the intelligence community?

See answer #7

9. Does the President agree with Vice President Rockefeller's assessment that the current Congressional investigations of the intelligence community have harmed the Nation's ability to defend itself?

There is absolutely no doubt that leaks of highly classified intelligence information is adversely affecting our ability to conduct foreign intelligence activities.

It is possible for Congress to conduct its inquiries and consider legislation without publishing materials which should remain classified in order to permit our intelligence community to operate effectively.

10. You have said you want to clean up the intelligence community to prevent abuses. Is putting a former Chairman man of the RNC in as Director of CIA the way to do this?

I will nominate George Bush as Director of Central Intelligence and head of the CIA because I believe he is the best man for the job.

The intelligence community needs new leadership. The Nation must have an effective intelligence capability.

George Bush brings excellent qualifications to the job. He was formerly Ambassador to the United Nations and currently is our envoy to the Peoples' Republic of China.

I will hold the entire intelligence community to the highest standards of integrity and legality. Ambassador Bush reflects these same standards.

11. Why are you trying to cover up the intelligence community abuses in the areas of the assassination reports, covert actions and NSA?

It is not a question of withholding information required

by the Congress to carry out its inquiries into the intelligence community. On the contrary, I have endeavored to make all of the information available to Congress so that legislation can be proposed, if necessary, and to the Justice Department to facilitate any investigation indicated. However, we must distinguish between disclosure to the Congressional Committees of sensitive information and publication of that information which is harmful to the national interest and may endanger the physical safety of individuals.

There is no question about access to these materials by appropriate officials. The only issue concerns publication which obviously cannot be limited to Members of Congress and other American citizens.

Public release of some of these official materials and information will grievous grievous damage to our country. It would likely be exploited by foreign nations and groups hostile to the United States in a manner designed to do maximum damage to the reputation and foreign policy of the United States. It would seriously impair our ability to exercise a positive leading role in world affairs.

12. Does this mean you think Colby was responsible for all of the abuses by the CIA over the years?

No. See answer #1 and 2 above

13. Schlesinger and Colby have been praised for trying to get rid of abuses in the CIA and disclose the abuses publicly. Now you fire them. Why are you trying to cover up for the CIA?

Already answered

14. Senator Church says the firing of Colby is part of your coverup of CIA abuses. Is that true?

Already answered.

PRESS CONFERENCE #21

of the  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

7:30 P.M. EST  
November 3, 1975  
Monday

In the East Room  
At the White House  
Washington, D. C.

THE PRESIDENT: Good evening. Will you please sit down.

I have several announcements to make tonight.

First with respect to foreign policy and national security affairs:

You will recall that when I became President a year ago last August, I indicated that I believed it was essential to guarantee stability and continuity in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy. I made a conscious decision at that time not to change personnel in the important national security area. I have, however, made a number of significant changes in the Cabinet in the domestic area. We have now successfully reassured our allies that the United States will stand firm in the face of any threat to our national interest and convince potential adversaries that America will aggressively seek out ways to reduce the threat of war.

Therefore, I am tonight announcing several personnel changes which I believe will strengthen the Administration in the important area of national security affairs.

I intend to nominate Donald Rumssfeld as my new Secretary of Defense. Don has served with distinction as a Congressman from Illinois, Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Director of the Cost of Living Council, and as Ambassador to NATO.

For the past year he has been my senior White House Assistant and a member of my Cabinet. He has the experience and skill needed to help our country maintain a defense capability second to none.

MORE



The Nation owes Secretary Schlesinger a deep debt of gratitude for his able service to his country as Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, Director of the CIA and as Secretary of Defense.

Henry Kissinger has been serving with great distinction and success as Secretary of State and as my Assistant for National Security Affairs. Secretary Kissinger will relinquish his post as Assistant to the President to devote his full time to his important responsibilities as Secretary of State.

Brent Scowcroft, who has been serving ably for three years as Deputy Assistant at the White House, will move up to Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

For the past year George Bush has been U.S. Representative to the People's Republic of China. He has served with great skill as a Congressman and as Ambassador to the United Nations. It is my intention to nominate Ambassador Bush to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA is one of our Nation's most important institutions. In recent months it has been the focus of some controversy. During this difficult period, Bill Colby, as Director of the CIA, has done an outstanding job of working with the Congress to look into and to correct any abuses that may have occurred in the past while maintaining an effective foreign intelligence capability.

MORE

Mr. Richard Cheney, who has been serving effectively as Deputy Assistant, will replace Don Rumsfeld as Assistant to the President, and will take over his responsibilities for coordinating the White House staff.

In a separate area, I have one additional personnel announcement to make.

Some weeks ago, Secretary of Commerce Rogers Morton indicated to me that after the first of the year, he would like to reduce the pace of his activities and resign his current position to return to the private sector. Rog Morton has served with great distinction in the Congress, and in two Cabinet posts for the last five years.

He has earned the respect of Americans everywhere. He has been a long and close personal friend. I am deeply grateful for his valuable service, and I will be calling on his assistance in the future.

Elliot Richardson will be nominated to become Secretary of Commerce. An able former Secretary of Defense, Secretary of HEW, and Attorney General, Mr. Richardson is presently serving as our Ambassador to Great Britain.

I know he will do an important job in his new assignment. I hope that the Senate will move rapidly to confirm my nominees for those positions which require confirmation.

Now, to the questions.

Mr. Growald?

QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President, for your rundown on the personnel changes.

There has been one other personnel change, or a suggested change today, and I wonder if, in your estimation, Mr. President, has the Vice President, by his action today, sacrificed himself on your political behalf, and have you in any way urged him to do so?

THE PRESIDENT: The decision by Vice President Rockefeller was a decision on his own. He made the decision and delivered to me personally the letter that has now been published.

The Vice President has done a superb job, and will continue to do so in the months ahead. But, under no circumstances was it a request by me. It was a decision by him.

MORE



QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. President.

A follow-up question. Would you accept Governor Reagan or former Governor Connally as your running mate next year?

THE PRESIDENT: We have a long time, many months, to discuss and to think about that matter. I will give it my closest attention as to my running mate, but we have got lots of time, and we will think about all of those alternatives as we move ahead and try to do the business of the Government.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, have you any commitment in your conversations with Governor Rockefeller that he will support you in 1976 or might he conceivably go out and seek the job himself?

THE PRESIDENT: Vice President Rockefeller has assured me categorically that he will support me in 1976.

QUESTION: Mr. President, we are told that not only have there been personnel changes in the area of foreign policy and national security matters but the decision-making process has been altered as well, that Secretary Kissinger will now have to share access to you on a regular basis with the new Defense Secretary and with Mr. Bush of CIA. That leaves a very strong impression that Secretary Kissinger's influence in both these fields has been substantially reduced. Is that a correct impression?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me state affirmatively that Secretary Kissinger has done a superb job as Secretary of State and as my Assistant for National Security Affairs. He will continue to handle the responsibilities of a foreign policy which I think has been not only successful but in the best interest of the United States.

There will be organizational changes, as I have indicated, and there will be closer liaison and cooperation as is necessary as we move ahead, but Secretary Kissinger will have the dominant role in the formulation of and the carrying out of foreign policy.

QUESTION: Mr. President, could you tell us why Mr. Schlesinger and Mr. Colby did not fit on your new team?

THE PRESIDENT: I think any President has to have the opportunity to put together his own team. They were kept on when I assumed office because I wanted continuity but any President to do the job that is needed and necessary has to have his own team in the area of foreign policy. I believe the team that I have assembled, as I have indicated tonight, will do a first class job.

QUESTION: Mr. President, there are reports, though, sir, that Secretary Schlesinger was in conflict with your attitude on detente and with Secretary Kissinger's. Can you address yourself to that?

THE PRESIDENT: There were no basic differences. I wanted the team that I selected and as President I think it is important that a President have that kind of a team on an affirmative basis, and I have it.

In Secretary Kissinger and in Don Rumsfeld and Brent Scowcroft, I put it on the affirmative side that they are my choices and that we can work together effectively to carry out an effective foreign policy.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, you have said many times that Vice President Rockefeller along with you made a team that was one you liked and that you said there was no reason to break up that team.

What I want to know is, did you urge him not to withdraw from the race for the Vice Presidential nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: The Vice President came to me and indicated that what he said in the letter was his decision and I accepted it.

QUESTION: One other question on the Vice Presidential race. Does the nomination of Donald Rumsfeld as Defense Secretary and the nomination of Mr. Bush as CIA Director, does that eliminate them as Vice Presidential running mate possibilities?

THE PRESIDENT: They are first class public officials. They have important responsibilities. I don't think they are eliminated from consideration by anybody -- the delegates to the convention or myself.

QUESTION: Mr. President, would you be more specific and tell us exactly how the appointment of Mr. Rumsfeld and Mr. Bush to the new posts will strengthen your team in the area of foreign affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I have indicated that Secretary Bush or Ambassador Bush had been an Ambassador at the United Nations for two years. He has been in China for better than a year. He is a man of experience in public life as a Member of Congress, and Don Rumsfeld has had excellent service in the Congress. He has been in the White House for 14 months. He was in NATO. Don Rumsfeld has experience and the kind of working relationship with me that I think will be very helpful.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, I would like to follow up.

Does this have any specific implication for policy?

THE PRESIDENT: I have indicated that in my judgment we have been very successful in the execution of foreign policy on behalf of the United States. We have achieved great success in the Middle East. We strengthened NATO. We have continued our relations on a good basis with the People's Republic of China. We are working with the Soviet Union in certain areas to relieve tension.

The foreign policy of this country is in good hands, but I wanted a team that was my team, and this team of Kissinger and Rumsfeld, Bush and Scowcroft, gives to me the kind of team that I think can carry out and execute a continuing successful foreign policy.

QUESTION: Mr. President, Secretary Schlesinger has expressed publicly some apprehension about detente, and I wonder if you can give us some assurance that the United States is getting at least as much out of it as the Soviet Union is?

THE PRESIDENT: Let me assure you that my record in the Congress, and as Vice President, and as President, has been one of strength in national security affairs, in international relations. I believe that in our attempt to ease tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States, we have achieved a two-way street.

I believe that the policy that I will follow, the team that I have, will continue that policy in the future.

QUESTION: Mr. President, would you expect, sir, that the Central Intelligence Agency, under Ambassador Bush's tenure, would continue to have the same relationship with the Congressional investigation as during Mr. Colby's period in office?

THE PRESIDENT: The Central Intelligence Agency will continue its policy of notifying the responsible committees in the Congress as to developments. They have done it in the past. They will continue it in the future.

I can see no change in the relations of the Central Intelligence Agency with the Congress under Mr. Bush different from what they have been under Mr. Colby.

MORE

QUESTION: Specifically, sir, has the Church committee continues its investigation, your instructions to Mr. Bush would be to cooperate fully with that investigation?

THE PRESIDENT: I have given that word to Mr. Colby. He has carried it out in a very responsible way, and Mr. Bush will continue that policy.

QUESTION: Mr. President, how do you make a high-level personnel shift of this kind, such a fast shift? Did you ask for suggestions, or did you do this largely on your own?

THE PRESIDENT: I did it totally on my own. It was my decision. I fitted the pieces together, and they fitted excellently. It was my decision.

MORE

QUESTION: With Mr. Rumsfeld, who is involved in your decision, would he have had any in-put into the over-all decision?

THE PRESIDENT: He did not.

QUESTION: Could you tell us, Mr. President, when you and Mr. Rockefeller first discussed his withdrawal and what reasons he gave you for it other than what he stated in his letter?

THE PRESIDENT: The letter speaks for itself. I don't think I should amplify it and the accompanying statement, which was agreed to between him and myself indicates our personal views. I don't think we have to go beyond the letter or the joint statement.

QUESTION: Mr. President, will these changes that you have made, do you feel, give you a more directly responsive intelligence community than you have had hitherto. In other words, do you feel your putting Mr. Bush and Mr. Rumsfeld in these two important positions give you a more direct control over the intelligence community than it has been previously?

THE PRESIDENT: Mr. Bush and Don Rumsfeld are long personal friends of mine. I have known of their fine record. I have an excellent relationship with them. I am certain that they will contribute very significantly and these are my guys and the ones that I wanted and I hope and trust that their confirmation will be quick in the United States Senate.

QUESTION: Mr. President, when do you expect to fill the vacancies -- the Ambassadorship vacancies -- in London and Peking, and do you plan any further changes in your campaign committee?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not addressed the questions of replacements for Mr. Bush or Mr. Richardson and I have no specific changes in mind at the President Ford Committee. In due time there will be a person to succeed David Packard.

QUESTION: There will be no change at the top, sir -- Mr. Callaway?

THE PRESIDENT: I have indicated what the changes are.

QUESTION: Mr. President, the Pentagon and Secretary Schlesinger have been less than enthusiastic about the Administration's SALT policies. Can we expect to see an acceleration toward an agreement now that this power shift has occurred?

THE PRESIDENT: The Defense Department, with Secretary Schlesinger and the others, were very forthcoming and very strong in endorsing the agreement that I reached at Vladivostok. They wholeheartedly agreed with the decision that were reached there. We expect to continue to pursue, but not under any pressure, negotiations with the Soviet Union in strategic arms limitations. We have differences. But I think it is in the national interest for us to continue to work toward a SALT II agreement. We are under no time pressure to do so.

QUESTION: But do you see the possibilities for a second-stage agreement, then?

THE PRESIDENT: I think it would be in the national interest if we can get mutual concessions by the Soviet Union on the one hand and by us on the other.

QUESTION: Mr. President, if you were Mr. Brezhnev, how would you analyze the removal of an American Secretary of State who is known for his advocacy of a strong national defense, possibly a stronger national defense, than his rivals in the bureaucracy?

THE PRESIDENT: I think you misstated Secretary of State at the outset.

QUESTION: Right.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me say very emphatically there is no one in this Government more emphatic for a strong national defense and the maintenance of our own national security than myself, Secretary Kissinger and Don Rumsfeld, and many others who I could mention by name.

From the top on down, we believe in strong national defense, and we have sought to implement it, and we need some more help in the Congress. I won't speculate on what Mr. Brezhnev might feel concerning these changes.

QUESTION: Have you possibly been in contact with him directly or indirectly to explain what they mean, to leave no misunderstanding on his part?

THE PRESIDENT: We have not.

QUESTION: Mr. President, with all due respect, you have been talking about your desire to make your own team, but in fact, you have replaced half the team and you have not replaced the other half. Mr. Kissinger and Mr. Scowcroft are really part of someone else's team whom you have elected to keep.

It seems to me that you really have not answered the question. What did Secretary Schlesinger do wrong that you didn't like?

THE PRESIDENT: I have affirmatively answered the question by saying that I wanted my own team, and I am keeping Secretary Kissinger because I think he has done an outstanding job in the field of foreign policy.

MORE

I wanted a change in the Defense Department because I wanted, in that case, a person that I have known and worked with intimately for a long period of time, a person who is experienced in the field of foreign policy and who served in the Department of Defense as an naval aviator.

The President has the right, and I believe ought to have the team with him that he wants to carry out the policies in the national interest, and the team I have selected will do so.

QUESTION: Mr. President, how worried are you about Ronald Reagan? (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I am not worried about any competitor, Democratic or Republican.

QUESTION: Much of the criticism of your travel has been directed at the idea that you are greatly concerned about a challenge from your right, and that is why you have been to California three times.

I was wondering if you feel that criticism is justified?

THE PRESIDENT: It is ridiculous.

QUESTION: Mr. President?

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, Tom?

QUESTION: Mr. President, there have been reports that the China trip is being reduced from a possible five or six days in China to three or possibly four days. Is that so, and if so, why?

THE PRESIDENT: For a long period of time, Mr. DeFrank, we have had tentative plans to visit the People's Republic of China. Secretary Kissinger was there several weeks ago. As far as we are concerned, those trip plans are still on, and the length of the trip will be decided in the negotiations between Secretary Kissinger and the Foreign Minister of the People's Republic.

I don't think there is any significance in the areas that you have raised.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, hasn't there been a good deal of debate between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Rumsfeld and others about the advisability of adding stops to that trip, and haven't the Chinese indicated that they would not be particularly happy if you did add some stops to that trip?

THE PRESIDENT: As far as I know the answer to your question is no.

QUESTION: Several Members of the Senate are concerned that Secretary Kissinger will still have total domination of foreign policy in part because your national security adviser, General Scowcroft, is regarded as a Kissinger man. How do you answer that criticism?

THE PRESIDENT: I have known Brent Scowcroft intimately for the last 14 months. I have been tremendously impressed with his experience and capabilities. I know that he speaks an independent mind. I know it personally. So I don't think that criticism is valid.

QUESTION: Can you explain what you mean when you say that Secretary Kissinger will have a dominant role in the foreign policy sector?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, as Secretary of State that is his responsibility.

QUESTION: In a military role, will Mr. Rumsfeld have the dominant role?

THE PRESIDENT: That is the responsibility of the Secretary of Defense.

QUESTION: Mr. President, on another subject, if I may, sir, are you still convinced, sir, that the City of New York does not have to default and, if so, do you plan to call Mayor Beame and Governor Carey here to tell them your reasons why you think New York can avoid default?

THE PRESIDENT: I believe that New York City can avoid default. They can take stronger action than they have taken. I believe the State of New York can take stronger action to be of assistance to the City of New York. This is a matter that can be with forthright action taken care of in the City or the City with the cooperation of the State. I hope they will. If they don't, I believe then the proper action to be taken is that which I publicly stated last Wednesday.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in the event they do not, Mr. President, are you still convinced that there will be no domino effect on the American and the world financial markets?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely. I have verified that with a number of experts within and without the Government. And there is no probability, no serious probability that there will be any national repercussions and I am convinced that the market has already discounted the possibility of any financial problems in New York City and I think the actions of the last three or four days verify that correct assumption.

QUESTION: Mr. President, there are persistent reports that Hugh Scott is under consideration for appointment to Peking. Can you say if you are thinking about him?

THE PRESIDENT: As I said a moment ago, we haven't thought about replacements for George Bush and Elliot Richardson. I can say this, that Hugh Scott is a great student of Chinese culture and history. He has been to China on a number of occasions but I have not had an opportunity to focus in on the replacement for Mr. Bush.

QUESTION: Mr. President, did Vice President Rockefeller decide to step aside either because of differing views with you over the New York financial situation or to give you a greater degree of maneuverability as you move politically toward the nomination?

THE PRESIDENT: Our differences over the handling of New York City are minimal, as I said once before. The difference is his interpretation of what might be the money market reaction if and when New York City defaults. Those differences are a matter of judgment. Certainly he did not take the action that he did because of that difference.

I think the letter speaks for itself and I greatly respect his judgment in all matters, and I have been proud to have him on the team and he will continue to do a first class job in many important responsibilities.

MORE

QUESTION: Mr. President, does that mean, sir, that he did decide to step aside in order to give you a greater degree of maneuverability? The letter does not explain why he stepped aside.

THE PRESIDENT: I think that he will have to answer that. I think the letter in effect answers your question but if you want to pursue it further, you should do it with him.

QUESTION: Mr. President, we were told this morning after your meeting with Mr. Rockefeller that you were in an exceptionally good mood. (Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: I have been in a good mood all day.

QUESTION: I suggest perhaps a feeling of relief.

I wonder if you could tell us in your own words what your feelings are now and were then?

THE PRESIDENT: I believe that the decisions that I have made and the announcements that I have made officially give to me the people and the team and organizational structure to continue to carry out an affirmative, successful foreign policy on a global basis and to keep our national security forces second to none. I, therefore, feel very pleased with the acceptance on the part of individuals for these new responsibilities. They are important, not for me, but primarily for the country.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you recently have had two resignations.

QUESTION: Don't make a speech, Walter. (Laughter)

QUESTION: You recently have had two resignations from your campaign committee and some of your aides have said you are having problems in your primary organization, especially in New Hampshire and perhaps Florida. I was wondering, is your campaign in trouble?

THE PRESIDENT: I don't think it is. I was in Florida yesterday and talked to Lou Frey. He is very encouraged. We have some very encouraging news about the organization in New Hampshire. I am very happy about it.

QUESTION: Could you tell me, please, the basis for your optimism going into the election year? Why are you confident that you will not only be your Party's nominee beating Reagan and why you will beat the Democrats?

THE PRESIDENT: You could not have asked a better question, Wally. I am happy and I am optimistic about the nomination and the election because I am convinced the American people feel that we have been successful in foreign policy, the Middle East, Europe, et cetera. I am convinced that we are well on the road to a good economic situation in 1976. So when you combine peace and prosperity, any incumbent President ought to be very happy.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you will be concluding talks with Egyptian President Sadat on Wednesday. Can you tell us whether the President will be going home with a commitment or what he thinks is a commitment for future military aide for his country?

THE PRESIDENT: The final decisions in these areas will be made on Wednesday and properly announced. We have had very successful negotiations but I think it is premature for me to make any announcement at this time on those matters.

QUESTION: Mr. President, with Vice President Rockefeller out of the picture for 1976, you have indicated that you don't want to give us a name tonight, but maybe you will give us some kind of idea as to what kinds of qualities you will be looking for in your Vice Presidential running mate? Specifically, are there any perimeters with respect to age, political philosophy, what region of the country he comes from?  
(Laughter)

THE PRESIDENT: There will be plenty of time for me to think about and discuss with others the answer to the question that you have asked and it is certainly premature for me to make any comment at this time in that very important area.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in addition to the differences you mentioned between yourself and Vice President Rockefeller, did he talk to you at all about the effect of your position against aid to New York and other cities on your campaign for next year?

THE PRESIDENT: He has not.

QUESTION: Mr. President, you gave no indication of exactly what you were unhappy with in terms of the dual roles of Secretary Kissinger. He has stated publicly that he considers those dual roles of great importance to the execution of foreign policy.

THE PRESIDENT: I indicated that the team I put together will affirmatively satisfy the way I want an organizational structure set up. That is the way I wanted it, that is the way it is, and I think it will work effectively.

QUESTION: Another question in that regard, Mr. President. There have been charges that the Secretary is stretched too thin or that by having the dual roles he is able to have an undue influence over the course of foreign policy. Were those problems?

MORE

THE PRESIDENT: I don't like to answer speculative comments or rumors. I have done what I did because I, as President, wanted the organization and the people that I have selected. That is the answer to the question.

QUESTION: Mr. President, why has it taken you 15 months to form your team and set up your structure in national security and foreign affairs?

THE PRESIDENT: I felt it was very important at the outset because of the unusual circumstances under which I became President to have continuity, to have stability in the area of national security and foreign policy. That was absolutely essential and as a result of that we continued a successful foreign policy. As time went on I felt that in this area once we had confirmed with our allies our assurances, once we had confirmed with our potential adversaries that we were in a position to continue a relaxation of tensions, that then I could select, without any rupture of those relations, the kind of people, the individuals that I wanted to work with very, very intimately, and I have so selected them.

QUESTION: To follow up with a slightly repetitious question: Are you saying and intending to be understood to say that neither personal nor policy differences between Dr. Kissinger and Mr. Schlesinger contributed to this change?

THE PRESIDENT: That is correct.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much.

END (AT 8:03 P.M. EST)

11/3/75

QUESTIONS

1. Are you dumping V/P Rockefeller to appease the conservative wing of the Republican party and to beat Reagan for the nomination?
2. Did Bo Callaway demand that you dump Rockefeller?
3. It looks like you are firing two hardliners on detente -- Schlesinger and Colby -- and keeping a softliner -- Kissinger. Is that an accurate assessment?
4. Does this mean Kissinger has won in his long feud with Schlesinger?
5. Why did you have to ask Kissinger if he would mind leaving the NSC and then wait for him to make up his mind?
6. What did you have to offer Kissinger to persuade him to leave the NSC?

7. Doesn't this mean that Kissinger is still in control of the NSC, through his long-time loyal deputy?
  
8. Why did you do this in such a hurry, on a Sunday morning? This looks like the "Sunday morning massacre," done in a rushed, secretive manner without consulting anyone?
  
9. Does this mean you think Colby was responsible for all the abuses by the CIA over the years?
  
10. Did you demand that Rockefeller agree to drop out of the V/P race?
  
11. Isn't Scoop Jackson right: you are firing Schlesinger because you can't tolerate anyone who disagrees with Kissinger?
  
12. Schlesinger and Colby have been praised for trying to get rid of abuses in the CIA and disclose the abuses publicly. Now you fire them. Why are you trying to cover up for the CIA?

13. Senator Church says the firing of Colby is part of your coverup of CIA abuses. Is that true?
  
14. What qualifications do Rumsfeld and Bush have for these important jobs?
  
15. Is Rockefeller leaving because of his differences with your policies, especially your policy toward New York City?
  
16. Will Rockefeller challenge you for the GOP Presidential nomination?
  
17. Would you accept Reagan as your V/P running mate in 1976?

18. Why did the White House advance team, which was supposed to leave for China today, suddenly postpone the trip? Do you still plan to visit China?
  
19. Do you still plan to run for election next year?
  
20. Do you plan any more changes at the President Ford Committee, which seems to be very badly disorganized? Nunn and Packard already have quit. Who's next?
  
21. Did you try to dissuade V/P Rockefeller from dropping off the ticket? Are you disappointed or relieved?
  
22. Who do you see now as your V/P running mate?

## MOSCOW RADIO ANALYZES U. S. GOVERNMENT SHAKEUP

LD042355 MOSCOW DOMESTIC SERVICE IN RUSSIAN 1900 GMT 4 NOV 75 LD

(ALEKSANDR DRUZHININ COMMENTARY)

(TEXT) PRESIDENT FORD ANNOUNCED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE CERTAIN CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT. RUMSFELD HAS BEEN APPOINTED DEFENSE SECRETARY IN PLACE OF SCHLESINGER. BUSH HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF CIA REPLACING COLBY. RICHARDSON, U. S. AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN, BECOMES SECRETARY OF COMMERCE REPLACING MORTON. THE PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT KISSINGER RETAINS THE POST OF SECRETARY OF STATE BUT IS RELIEVED OF HIS DUTIES AS PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY. THESE WILL BE CARRIED OUT BY GENERAL SCOWCROFT, WHO HAD BEEN DEPUTY ASSISTANT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS BIG SHAKEUP, AS THE U. S. GOVERNMENT CHANGES ARE CALLED BY THE U. S. PRESS? THERE IS NO LACK OF COMMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY. THIS IS WHAT NEWSWEEK HAD TO SAY IN ITS 3 NOVEMBER ISSUE: FORMER DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HAD BECOME THE TARGET OF CRITICISM, PARTICULARLY FROM THE LIBERALS ON CAPITOL HILL, FOR HIS HARD LINE ON QUESTIONS OF DEFENSE AND MILITARY EXPENDITURES. THE WASHINGTON POST QUOTES A STATEMENT BY A SUPPORTER OF SCHLESINGER, SENATOR HENRY JACKSON, WHO CONSIDERS THAT THE RESIGNATION OF THE DEFENSE SECRETARY WAS DUE TO HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OVER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON LIMITING STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS AND DISAGREEMENTS OVER THE MILITARY BUDGET AND THE COLLECTION OF INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION. THE RESIGNATION OF THE DEFENSE SECRETARY, UPI REPORTS, HAS EVOKED DISSATISFACTION IN MORE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL CIRCLES. THE NEWS AGENCY SAYS THE DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE DEFENSE SECRETARY AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE WERE OBVIOUSLY CAUSED BY A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO PROBLEMS OF DETENTE.

INSOFAR AS COLBY'S DEPARTURE FROM THE POST OF CIA DIRECTOR IS CONCERNED, THIS, AS THE WASHINGTON POST STRESSES, IS CONNECTED WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF CIA, WHICH, AS IS KNOWN, WAS INVOLVED IN 1973 EVENTS IN CHILE AND HAD INTERFERED IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES.

WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE BECOME MEMBERS OF THE U. S. GOVERNMENT? DEFENSE SECRETARY DONALD RUMSFELD IS 44. HE WAS PERMANENT U. S. REPRESENTATIVE TO NATO. IN 1974 HE WAS APPOINTED PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT FOR CONTROL AND COORDINATION AND THEN BECAME HEAD OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF. GEORGE BUSH, THE NEW HEAD OF CIA, WAS BORN IN 1924. HE IS A BIG TEXAS OIL MAGNATE AND HAS HELD LEADING POSTS IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. HE WAS U. S. REPRESENTATIVE AT THE U. N. AND UNTIL NOW HE HAS BEEN HEAD OF THE U. S. LIAISON MISSION IN PEKING. ELLIOTT RICHARDSON, THE NEW SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, IS 55. A FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE, HE WAS ONCE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DEFENSE SECRETARY. UNTIL NOW HE HAS BEEN U. S. AMBASSADOR TO BRITAIN.

AMERICANS HAVE SHOWN GREAT INTEREST IN THE IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT FORD AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. THE PRESIDENT RECALLED THAT HE CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO GUARANTEE THE STABILITY AND CONTINUITY OF U. S. FOREIGN POLICY. GERALD FORD STRESSED THAT HE WANTS TO HAVE PEOPLE OF HIS OWN CHOICE MANAGING U. S. FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY THE MAIN ROLE IN FORMULATING AND IMPLEMENTING THE U. S. FOREIGN POLICY.

ASKED WHAT DETENTE MEANS TO THE UNITED STATES, PRESIDENT FORD REPLIED THAT A SITUATION HAS BEEN REACHED IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES THAT MIGHT BE CALLED A TWO-WAY STREET. HE SAID: I BELIEVE THAT THE POLICY I WILL FOLLOW, THE TEAM THAT I HAVE, WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS COURSE. RECALLING THE VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING ON THE FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC ARMAMENTS, THE PRESIDENT SAID: WE COUNT ON CONTINUING TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. WE HAVE CERTAIN DISAGREEMENTS, BUT I CONSIDER IT IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT.

November 4, 1975 - LETTER, TELEGRAM AND PHONE TALLY ON REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE:

PHONE TALLY REACTION TO THE FIRINGS (during the day 11-3-75):

CON firings - 90

PHONE TALLY REACTION TO THE FIRINGS AFTER THE PC:

CON - 46

PRO - 4

GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS:

PRO - 5

IN SUPPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER:

PRO - 10      CON - 2

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER LEAVING:

PRO - 14

AGAINST GEORGE BUSH:

CON - 2

AGAINST FIRING OF SCHLESINGER:

CON - 13

-----  
MAIL AND TELEGRAM TALLIES ON SCHLESINGER DISMISSAL PRIOR TO PRESS CONFERENCE:

PRO - 3

CON - 102

COMMENT - 3

ON PRESS CONFERENCE (general reaction):

PRO - 29

CON - 89

COMMENT - 6

AS OF 9:30 THIS MORNING

Question: In effect, Senator Church has said the removal of Director Colby will frustrate and obstruct the Select Committee's hearings.

Why, in light of these investigations did the removal occur now?

Answer: The President is as interested as the Senator in having the hearings completed. He has asked Director Colby to remain at his post until Ambassador Bush qualifies as his successor. He has asked Director Colby to cooperate fully with the Committee until that time and he expects Ambassador Bush to do likewise once he becomes Director.

As you are aware, the work of both the Church and Pike Committees is slated to wind up very shortly. Director Colby has worked with both Committees over the past month and has felt that they have been able to obtain from him much of the information they needed and he will be available in the weeks ahead to respond to their further requests.

JOM  
11/5/75

Question: Senator Church says the designation of Ambassador Bush will politicize the Agency because of Bush's former post as Chairman of the GOP.

Answer: I believe that Republicans and Democrats who know George Bush and have worked with him know that he does not let politics and partisanship interfere with the performance of public duty.

Nearly all of the men and women in this and preceding Administrations have had partisan identities and have held partisan party posts. But one of the strengths of our system is that historically in matters of defense and foreign policy they seek to achieve our goals in a non-partisan way. George Bush is a part of that American tradition and he will demonstrate this when he assumes his new duties.

I do not feel that any Administration should deny to itself the services of able men and women because they held political posts. A number of our most able national leaders have served as senior officials of both of our great national parties.

*DNC = Jackson, considered by  
Nixon as DOD.*

JOM  
11/5/75

NHAN DAN ON FORD DISMISSAL OF SENIOR OFFICIALS

BK050720 HANOI IN VIETNAMESE TO VIETNAM 0400 GMT 5 NOV 75 BK

(TEXT) ON 4 NOVEMBER U.S. PRESIDENT FORD HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCE THE SIMULTANEOUS DISMISSAL OF DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND CIA DIRECTOR COLBY AND, AT THE SAME TIME, KISSINGER'S STEPPING DOWN AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WHILE MAINTAINING ONLY THE POST OF SECRETARY OF STATE. COMMENTING ON THIS EVENT, TODAY'S NHAN DAN WRITES:

FORD IS PREPARING TO ENTER THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IN 1976. IT IS NATURAL, THEREFORE, THAT HE SHOULD WANT TO REDUCE TO THE MINIMUM ALL RISKS OF INVOLVEMENT IN HOUSEBREAKINGS, MURDER PLOTS, TELEPHONE BUGGINGS, AND SO FORTH, WHICH ARE THE DAILY JOBS OF THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY APPARATUS DIRECTED BY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED THREE PERSONS. HOWEVER, THE FUNDAMENTAL REASONS FOR THIS DISMISSAL ARE THE FAILURES AND INSOLUBLE DIFFICULTIES AND PERPLEXITIES CURRENTLY CONFRONTING THE U.S. GLOBAL COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY STRATEGY. COMMENTING ON THIS MATTER, THE U.S. NEWS AGENCY AP WROTE: THE U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVITIES HAVE COME UNDER INCREASING FIRE FOLLOWING THE DISCLOSURE OF SPYING ACTIVITIES AGAINST PEOPLE AT HOME, PLOTS TO MURDER FOREIGN LEADERS, AND MISTAKES MADE BY U.S. SECURITY ADVISERS IN CYPRUS, VIETNAM, AND THE MIDDLE EAST. AP ADDED: THERE HAS BEEN STRONG CRITICISM OF KISSINGER'S DUAL FUNCTION AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FOR GIVING HIM TOO MUCH INFLUENCE OVER FOREIGN POLICY.

RECENTLY REVEALED FACTS SHOW THAT THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE HAD A HAND IN AND DIRECTED COUNTLESS SINISTER ACTIVITIES OF THE CIA ABROAD AND EVEN AT HOME AGAINST THOSE AMERICANS WHO DISSAPPROVED OF THE REACTIONARY FOREIGN POLICY ADVOCATED BY HIM. DENOUNCED BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION AND THE CONGRESS, KISSINGER BLUNTLY SAID THAT ALL CIA INTELLIGENCE SCHEMES WERE APPROVED BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT.

A U.S. NEWS AGENCY COMMENTED: DR KISSINGER'S REVELATIONS HAVE DESTROYED THE LONG-STANDING TRADITION UNDER WHICH PRESIDENTS SHIRKED THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY EXPOSED DARK ACTIVITY ON THE PRETEXT THAT THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT SUCH ACTIVITIES.

THE VICIOUS CIRCLE HAS THUS CLOSED TIGHTLY AROUND PRESIDENT FORD--THE PUNISHER--AND THE THREE PERSONAGES IN CHARGE OF NATIONAL SECURITY--THE PUNISHED. NHAN DAN ADDS: FROM WATERGATE AND THE CIA CASES TO THE RECENT DISMISSAL OF TOP OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, WE CAN SEE MORE CLEARLY THAT THE BASIC POLICY OF U.S. IMPERIALISM IS FOUNDED ON VIOLENCE--A BRUTAL AND (PAWFUL) VIOLENCE INCLUDING THE WAR OF AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM, THE DROPPING OF MILLIONS OF TONS OF BOMBS AND SHELLS UPON OUR TERRITORY, AND THE LETHAL PISTOLS OF THE CIA AND OF NIXON'S SECRET AGENTS WHO BROKE INTO THE OFFICE OF THE PSYCHIATRIST WHO TREATED DANIEL ELLSBERG. THIS VIOLENT POLICY BELONGS NOT TO ANY SPECIFIC ADMINISTRATION OR INDIVIDUAL BUT TO THE REACTIONARY AND AGGRESSIVE NATURE OF THE U.S. CAPITALIST MONOPOLIST STATE AND U.S. IMPERIALISM WHICH IS DECLINING. THIS VIOLENT POLICY HAS REVEALED ALL ITS UGLY AND BRUTAL FEATURES IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THROUGH THE WAR OF AGGRESSION IN VIETNAM AND IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS THROUGH THE SCANDALS BREAKING OUT IN THE UNITED STATES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE U.S. FAILURE IN VIETNAM. PROGRESSIVE U.S. PEOPLE HAVE REALIZED MORE CLEARLY THAT A SYSTEM WHICH COMMITTED TOWERING CRIMES AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE CANNOT BE REALLY DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE TOWARD THE U.S. PEOPLE. MARX' FAMOUS THESIS THAT A PEOPLE WHO OPPRESS ANOTHER CANNOT THEMSELVES HAVE FREEDOM IS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED.