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November 21, 1975

GENERAL SCOWCROFT'S SWEARING IN

ON AN IF ASKED BASIS:

- Q. Was General Scowcroft sworn in yesterday as Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs?
- A. Yes; General Scowcroft was sworn in at 6:30 pm last evening. ~~A few staff members were present.~~
- Q. Does he now officially assume the title of NSC Assistant or must that wait until December 1 when his retirement becomes effective?
- A. The Counsel's office has determined that he assumed the position as NSC Assistant effective November 10 when he went on terminal leave from the Air Force.
- Q. Who served as NSC Assistant between November 3 and 10?
- A. It is our understanding that the position was vacant for that time and that General Scowcroft served as Deputy Assistant.
- Q. Has Secretary Kissinger resigned as NSC Assistant?
- A. Secretary Kissinger ceased to serve as the Assistant effective November 3. ~~It was determined that because of the President's announcement Monday, November 3, a formal written resignation was not required.~~

NSC MEETING

Q. Will the discussions during the NSC meeting and the options the President reviews constitute in part a basis for his remarks Thursday evening?

A. As you know, the President's speech Thursday will address a broad range of foreign policy issues, among them the situation in Indochina. He is and has been meeting with his advisors on a range of foreign policy matters, and until he addresses them Thursday evening, I think that it would be premature to speculate on his remarks.

4/21/75

Q: Some of your other White House advisers are reported to be urging you to appoint a new Special Assistant for National Security Affairs because Secretary Kissinger cannot do both jobs well and because the present system gives you only one source of foreign policy information. Do you plan to get a new NSC Director?

A: It is not true that I have only one source of foreign policy advice. Every Cabinet officer has direct access to me. The Assistant for National Security Affairs and the NSC System have a coordinating function which they perform very well. The principal role of the NSC system is to insure that the views of all agencies are fully represented and a complete range of feasible options is laid out for every major decision. I have called 11 full meetings of the National Security Council on the most major foreign policy issues since I came into office, at which, of course, all my senior advisors state their views to me directly.