

8/6/74 - 1

*Original guidance from Al Haig re
resignation speech. Tues afternoon
-- re resig speech, per AH*

Aug 6

-RP

This has been a difficult time for all of us. The situation has reached a point where it's clear to me that I do not retain the necessary support to conduct the business of this government in a way that I can be assured ~~in the~~ ^{tha the} best interests of the nation and the are served.

I've always followed the criterion that the interests of the nation must come first.

I'm proud of the achievements that have been realized under that criterion (no litaby)

I am taking the action I will announce tonight without rancor of any kind. I will be eternally grateful to those Americans who have stood with me during this difficult period (include family), ~~xxx~~ and I understand the motivations and considerations of those who have not been able to.

I am ~~is~~ therefore -- effective noon tomorrow -- when vice president will be sworn in.

As I said when I ~~announced~~ announced my nomination of Gerald Ford as vice president, I will leave the country in good hands. But he

needs, as does anyone who holds ~~xx~~ this high office, your support,
confidence, prayers.

I regret deeply that the circumstances may have resulted in
injury or risk to (whoever's involved).

(it has to do: leave on a high tone, healing, pull country
together behind jerry ford, put this behind us. NOT stick bark
in those who crucified him, and who are now trying to get ~~xxx~~ history
to say they're justified. That's what the~~xxx~~ they're up to -- trying
to get him to admit impeachable offense, then saying they'd support
him at trial.)

No more than 1000 -- short, will probably ad lib it. Try to
get it to ~~xxx~~ him by 10:00 a.m., so then he'll be consumed with it.

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