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HAROLD H. SAUNDERS

The President on February 20, 1978, announced his intention to nominate Hal Saunders to be Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs.

Mr. Saunders was appointed Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in the State Department in December, 1975. Previous to this appointment, he served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs from July 1974 through November 1975, where his special area of responsibility included the states of North Africa, the Arab states north of the Arabian Peninsula and Israel. He came to the State Department from the National Security Council Staff in the White House.

Mr. Saunders was born in Philadelphia in 1930 and grew up there. He received his A.B. from Princeton in 1952 and a Ph.D. from Yale in 1956 in American Studies. He served as an officer in the U.S. Air Force from 1958-59, was detailed to the Central Intelligence Agency, and stayed on until 1961 as a civilian after release from active duty. Between 1959 and 1965 he also taught evening classes in American history in the College of General Studies of the George Washington University.

Mr. Saunders joined the National Security Council Staff in 1961 working on the Near East, South Asia, and North African areas, and became senior staff member for that area in 1967. He has accompanied Secretaries Kissinger and Vance on all of their Mid-East trips and participated in the Arab-Israeli negotiations in 1973-75 and at Camp David as well as accompanying the Secretary or the President on trips to Europe, South Asia, Moscow, Vladivostok, Peking, Africa, and Latin America in the period 1969-1978.

Mr. Saunders is a widower with two children, Catherine and Mark.

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