

The President today designated Sidney W. Souers, Executive Secretary of the National Security Council, as Special Consultant to the President on matters relating to the national security. Effective January 1, 1950, Mr. Souers will be succeeded as Executive Secretary of the National Security Council by James S. Lay, Jr., who now holds the position of Assistant Executive Secretary.

The President appointed Mr. Souers to his present position when the Council was first established in September 1947, to assist in its organization and development. With the work of the Council well advanced, Mr. Souers is being relieved of that duty so that he may be of assistance to the President in a staff capacity on such problems in the general field of national security as may be assigned to him by the President.

Mr. Lay has been Mr. Souers' assistant during the entire two years' existence of the National Security Council. Prior to that he was in the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency subsequent to his relief from active duty as an Army officer in October 1945. During that time he served as the first Secretary of the National Intelligence Authority, which was superseded by the National Security Council. For the last two years of the war he was Secretary of the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

