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Hagel Resigning as Secretary of Defense

WASHINGTON (AP) - Administration sources say that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is resigning from President Barack Obama's Cabinet.

Hagel, a former Republican senator, from Nebraska, has served as Pentagon chief since early 2013. Obama is expected to announce the resignation Monday.

The official insisted on anonymity because this person was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly ahead of Obama's official announcement.

A senior defense official said that Hagel submitted his resignation letter to Obama on Monday morning and the president accepted it. Hagel agreed to remain in office until his successor is confirmed by the Senate, the official said.

The official says that both Hagel and Obama "determined that it was time for new leadership in the Pentagon." The official adds that they had been discussing the matter over a period of several weeks.

Associated Press