

ONE MAN'S OPINION

Suit 5-9-76

Changes in CIA Leadership Said to Indicate New Approach

By DENTON KING

The Central Intelligence Agency may be shedding its cloak and sheathing its dagger—well, almost.

That's how some changes made in CIA leadership are being interpreted in Washington. Analysts say that the changes are a signal that the agency plans to place more emphasis on analyzing intelligence data and less on "dirty tricks."

In the latest change, Lt.-Gen. Vernon Walters stepped down as deputy director of the CIA. E. Henry Knoche, a civilian, was nominated to replace him.

One source said the Knoche nomination means that the CIA will place less emphasis on the type of clandestine operations that drew heavy criticism from house and senate intelligence committees.

In testimony before those committees, it was revealed that the CIA had conducted domestic spying operations, plotted to assassinate foreign leaders, and engaged in many other kinds of questionable moral activity.

In response to criticism for such activities, CIA officials insisted that the agency's prime mission was collecting and analyzing information rather than carrying out "dirty tricks."

UNTIL RECENTLY, the agency's top officials have risen through the ranks of overseas operatives and tactics experts.

For example, CIA director George Bush's two predecessors, William E. Colby and Richard Helms, both came to the top from that background. Bush, on the other hand, has a background in domestic politics and U.S. diplomacy. Thus, the agency's new leadership of Bush and Knoche represents a break from that tradition.

Another hallmark is that for the first

time since the agency began in 1947, neither of the top two officials is a military man.

Under President Ford's CIA reorganization, there is a second deputy directorship, which will be filled by Vice-Adm. Daniel Murphy. His appointment, unlike Knoche's, does not require senate confirmation. Knoche, 51, will be responsible for day-to-day operations of the CIA.

Knoche, a native of Charleston, W. Va., joined the CIA in 1953 after service with the navy in Korea. He was first an analyst specializing in political and military affairs, then became executive director of the agency's national photographic interpretation center. Later, he was deputy director of planning and budget activities and deputy director of the office of counter intelligence. He also worked in the office of strategic research and last year was named associate deputy director.



Bush