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Admiral Turner to head CIA

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate confirmed the appointment of Adm. Stansfield Turner to head the Central Intelligence Agency on Thursday. The approval came on a voice vote without dissent.

The 53-year-old naval officer takes control of the CIA at a time when it once again is in the news as a result of alleged covert activities.

The latest controversy involving the agency revolves around published reports the CIA paid millions of dollars over a 20-year-period to King Hussein of Jordan and may have made similar secret payments to other foreign leaders.

President Carter told a news conference on Wednesday that an examination of CIA covert activities had disclosed nothing the President considered illegal or improper.

Turner won Senate approval with ease. Carter sent his nomination to Capitol Hill on Feb. 7, not long after his first choice for the post, former White House aide Theodore Sorensen, had asked that his name be withdrawn.

Sorensen ran into strong opposition from conservatives. His nomination was fatally damaged when it was disclosed that he had admitted using classified information from White House files as source material for a book he wrote about the administration of John F. Kennedy.

Sorensen was one of Kennedy's top aides in the White House.

The only question raised about Turner, who was a Naval Academy classmate of President Carter's, was whether he should be allowed to retain his Navy commission while serving as CIA director.

Senate Minority Leader Howard H. Baker Jr., R-Tenn., raised the question and said he would prefer that Turner resign from the Navy. But Baker said he would not oppose the nomination on that ground.

During the confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday, Turner said he would not seek to be named chief of naval operations or chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff when both those offices become vacant in 1978.

The admiral also pledged to provide the committee with "full and timely information on CIA covert action and clandestine collection programs."

A native of Chicago, Turner has been serving as commander in chief of allied forces in southern Europe.