

# General Nominated To No. 2 CIA Job

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Maj. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, a veteran Army intelligence officer who speaks seven foreign languages fluently, was nominated yesterday by President Nixon to become deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Announcement of Walters' nomination to the \$40,000-a-year job as second-in-command to civilian CIA Director Richard M. Helms was made at the Florida White House on Key Biscayne.

The deputy director's post at the nation's top intelligence agency has been vacant since Jan. 1, when Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman stepped down after being nominated by the White House to become commandant of the Marine Corps.

Both Walters and Cushman have military careers which include close association with the President dating back to Mr. Nixon's days as vice president in the late 1950s.

Walters accompanied then Mr. Nixon on a vice-presidential tour through Latin America in 1958, and last fall served as the President's personal interpreter during the Azores summit meeting with French President Georges Pompidou.

The general's skill as a linguist has also earned him globe-trotting positions as a personal interpreter for former Presidents Truman and Eisenhower, Ambassador Av-

erell Harriman and Gen. George C. Marshall.

Senate confirmation of Walters is expected, though there have been reports that Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), who heads the Senate committee that keeps tab on CIA activities, has opposed and delayed the nomination until now.

Stennis is known not to oppose Walters personally, but reportedly preferred that the No. 2 CIA job be filled by a civilian rather than a military officer. Stennis' concern dates back to a period before Walters was even being considered.

The deputy's job has customarily been filled by a military man with the rationale that this civilian-military link at the top keeps the CIA closely in touch with the separate military-run intelligence services.

Along with nomination to the new job, Walters, 55, now senior U.S. military attache in Paris, was also nominated for the three-star rank of lieutenant general.

The bachelor general, a native New Yorker, has also held key attache posts—which normally involve intelligence duties—in Italy, Brazil and Vietnam. He joined the Army as an enlisted man in World War II, was an intelligence platoon leader, and won the French Legion of Merit medal as a lieutenant for his actions during the landing in Morocco in 1942.