

Carter Plans to Broaden CIA

By Hedrick Smith

New York Times News Service

President Carter has decided to give CIA chief Adm. Stansfield Turner more authority than any other CIA director in history by granting him explicit control over the entire national intelligence budget, including the budgets of the Defense Department's National Security Agency and the National Reconnaissance Office.

This is the President's central decision in the over-all reorganization of the intelligence community which has been under discussion at

top levels of the Carter administration since early spring.

The basic elements of the reorganization plan were learned from senior administration officials. They contended that Turner would not become an intelligence czar, as other agencies have feared, because the agencies would have the right to appeal to a Cabinet-level committee if they disagreed with his policy decisions.

CARTER'S MAJOR aim, said one authoritative source, was to centralize managerial control over the sprawling intelligence community,

with the fundamental direction of the intelligence effort coming from the president and his National Security Council. "It's an upgrading of Turner," said one official, "but he's not Crown King."

Of symbolic importance, an administration source said, the President had decided not to give Turner the new title of director of national intelligence, which he had sought. Nonetheless, officials conceded that with his new authority, Turner would have more organizational power than any of his predecessors since Rear Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter became the first head of the CIA in 1947.

WS 8-4-77

Director's Power

Until now, the budgets of the National Security Agency and the National Reconnaissance Office have been under the control of the secretary of defense and then subject to review by a subcommittee of the National Security Council headed by the director of central intelligence.

The two agencies, which produce highly sensitive and extremely valuable satellite and electronics intelligence, account for close to three-fourths of the roughly \$5 billion that this country spends on national intelligence.

Turner's efforts to gain full and explicit control over their budgets was strenuously opposed by Secretary of Defense Harold R. Brown, who reportedly argued within the administration against overcentralization of decision-making powers in the intelligence community.

Vice President Walter Mondale and Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's national security adviser, fashioned a compromise suggesting that Turner control the intelligence community's budget but that the secretary of defense retain operational control of NSA and NRO, as well as the Defense Intelligence Agency. They also proposed that if any agency wanted to contest Turner's budget decisions, it could take the issue to an interagency cabinet-level committee of the National Security

Council

THE PRESIDENT WAS reported to have accepted those recommendations. Moreover, officials said, Carter rejected Turner's plea that he be given line authority, or the power to hire or fire top NSA and NRO officials. Carter was said to have left this authority with Secretary Brown.

Another hotly debated issue over the last two months involved the authority for "tasking" the intelligence community, or setting its objectives. Turner had proposed that his intelligence community staff be given that

function under his supervision, but the Defense Department and other agencies objected.

The ultimate compromise approved by Carter, high officials said, was to turn over that function to a special inter-agency "tasking" committee, chaired by the director of central intelligence. This solution, one official said, would give Turner the leading role and more authority than at present but still be subject to appeal by other agencies to a Cabinet-level committee of the National Security Council.

Within The CIA, officials were known to feel that the president's final reorganization plan represented a victory for Turner. At the Pentagon, Brown was said to feel that it was a reasonably good compromise. "If Stan Turner doesn't try to force it all the way to the wall, we can live with it," a Pentagon official said.

Under the Carter plan, Turner remains both the operational chief of the CIA and the overall intelligence community manager. Some senators had favored putting him in overall charge of the intelligence community and making the head of CIA a separate deputy operating under him.