

William Nelson Resigns As CIA Operations Aide

Post 4/28/76
William Nelson, the Central Intelligence Agency's deputy director for operations, resigned yesterday.

An agency spokesman said CIA Director George Bush had tried to convince the 30-year veteran to stay on.

Asked if Nelson's departure had any relation to the Senate intelligence committee report, which criticized CIA's covert and counterintelligence operations, the spokesman said: "No, it was a 30-year retirement."

Nelson assumed control over CIA counterintelligence operations in Decem-

ber, 1974, when James Angleton resigned.

The Senate committee report referred to Angleton's retirement and traced it to "differences of opinion with Director William Colby on the proper approach to the practice of counterintelligence."

Angleton believed in tight compartmentalization of counterintelligence operations and often not even the CIA director knew what operations he had under way.

Under Nelson, counterintelligence responsibilities were diffused throughout the CIA operations directorate.