

FORD AT FUNERAL FOR C.I.A. OFFICER

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Agent Buried at Arlington
With Military Honors

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By JAMES M. NAUGHTON

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 6 — President Ford led 500 mourners in a brief funeral service today for Richard S. Welch, the Central Intelligence Agency officer who was assassinated two days before Christmas in Greece.

The President, accompanied by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and senior intelligence officials, joined the family of Mr. Welch at a memorial rite in a chapel at Fort Myer, an Army base in nearby Virginia.

Mr. Ford did not remain for the burial of the 46-year-old intelligence agent on a hillside at the edge of Arlington National Cemetery. He had waived restrictions limiting the cemetery to military veterans.

Mr. Welch was shot and killed by unknown gunmen outside his home in Athens two weeks ago. The shooting occurred a month after an Athens newspaper included Mr. Welch's name in a list of C.I.A. officials living in Greece.

The President sat with Mr. Kissinger; the departing Director of Central Intelligence, William E. Colby, and the director-designate, George Bush, in the chapel, which was unadorned save for a wooden cross framed by a spray of poinsettias.

Col. Duncan C. Stuart, the post chaplain, read briefly from Scriptures and paid homage to Mr. Welch's "devotion to duty and to country" without mentioning Mr. Welch's duties as the intelligence chief in Athens.

Condolences to Family

After the 20-minute ceremony, the President stood at attention beside Mr. Welch's widow as the coffin was placed on a horse-drawn caisson. Mr. Ford expressed condolences to Mrs. Welch and to other members of the Welch family.

The President returned to the White House as 200 or so of the mourners followed the caisson to the cemetery for the recitation of a short prayer and military honors.

In an unrelated action today, Mr. Ford designated Paul Rand Dixon, a member and former chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, to serve as the commission's chairman until the nomination and Senate confirmation of a successor to Lewis A. Engman. Mr. Engman, who is expected to seek the Republican nomination for the Senate in Michigan this year, resigned on Dec. 31.

The White House press secretary, Ron Nessen, also announced that Mr. Ford had appointed Myron B. Kuropas to serve in a new post as special assistant to the President for ethnic affairs.

Mr. Nessen said that Mr. Kuropas, who has been serving as the Chicago regional director of ACTION, the volunteer service agency, would "maintain and strengthen" liaison with ethnic, fraternal, religious and cultural organizations. The spokesman said that the position was not meant to involve politics.

CIA (D)

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The New York Times/Teresa Zabala

Mrs. Richard S. Welch being escorted by President Ford and Maj. Gen. Robert G. Yerks, Army commander in the Washington area, after the funeral for her husband yesterday.