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A New Theory in Mexico Kidnap

Hermosillo, Mexico

Mexican police say they believe a group of Americans and not Mexican terrorists kidnaped U.S. Vice Consul John Patterson on March 22. And they don't think the motive was political.

A spokesman for the Federal Investigations Office said yesterday it is possible Patterson was being held in the United States. He disclosed that American police are searching for the 31-year-old Philadelphian north of the border.

"The kidnapers are definitely American," said Miguel Nazar, in charge of the Mexican investigation.

He added that the Mexican police believe the kidnapers' objective was money.

He declined to give any further details.

American officials here have said a ransom note was left at the U.S. consulate after Patterson disappeared, but there has been no confirmation of reports from sources in Washington that it demanded \$500,000.

Although no further contact has been reported with the abductors, Nazar said the Mexican police believe Patterson is alive and well and would not be killed.

Associated Press
