

Agnew Resignation Missing

Spiro T. Agnew did resign as Vice President a year ago last month—and the United States has copies of his letter to prove it.

But the original letter is missing.

Officials do not know whether it has been purloined or simply misplaced, but they are trying to track it down.

State Department spokesman John F. King discussed the loss during a news briefing yesterday. It came to light several weeks ago when former President Nixon's letter of resignation was sent to the National Archives.

It was discovered then that the Archives had only a copy of the Agnew letter. The State Department likewise had only a copy, and the search was on. King said it could have been either stolen or lost.

King recalled that the Agnew resignation was addressed to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, as provided by law. However, it was delivered to him at his White House

office, which he retains because he is also President Ford's national security affairs adviser.

The State Department assumed that the original of the letter had been sent to the National Archives, as called for by the regulations, but apparently it had not.

Director James Rhoads of the Archives asked the State Department six weeks ago to send over the original to be placed in its custody, according to a spokesman for the General Services Administration.

The spokesman, Richard Vawter, said that on Aug. 16 the Archives received Mr. Nixon's letter of resignation, which had been forwarded by the State Department's legal adviser, George Aldrich.

Rhoads on Sept. 16 wrote to Aldrich acknowledging the Nixon letter and asking for the Agnew letter. So far Rhoads has received no reply from the State Department according to Vawter.