

Agnew Tries Middleman Role

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BALTIMORE (AP)—The time was 11 p.m., the date Aug. 6, 1973. The vice president of the United States had a statement to make.

"I have been informed that I am under investigation for possible violations of criminal statutes," Vice President Spiro T. Agnew announced.

Within two months, the vice president had resigned from office and pleaded no contest to a tax evasion charge. Other more serious charges of accepting at least \$87,500 in illegal kickbacks were dropped.

The country had embarked on a year like no other year in its history, a year that would make the first forced removal of a vice president fade quickly into distant history.

One year from the beginning of his ordeal, the former vice president has established himself in a new office in Anne Arundel County where he reportedly is trying to become a middleman between wealthy American businessmen and governments in the Middle East and Europe.

He has sold his vice presidential home for a large profit, partly due to government-financed improvements made while he was in office.

Agnew also hopes to make up to \$1 million from American and foreign contracts he has already obtained for a novel he is now writing.

But while Agnew was the primary figure in the government's Maryland corruption probe, he was not the only principal.

Four men, once close associates of the former vice president and Maryland governor, ended up providing the evidence that assured Agnew's downfall.

They were Jerome B. Wolff, Lester Matz, Allen I. Green and I.H. (Bud) Hammerman, 2nd.

All made deals with U.S. Atty. George Beall, trading tes-

timony against Agnew for partial immunity from prosecution.

Two days after acknowledging the existence of the investigation, Agnew denounced these former friends for turning on him to save themselves and called their allegations "damned lies."

Hammerman, a successful Baltimore real estate developer and mortgage banker, is still heading the Hammerman Organization but has lost several key employes and some major mortgage contracts since the scandal.

Green, once president of one of the state's most successful engineering firms, pleaded guilty to tax violation charges and no longer owns Green Associates.

Wolff, an engineer who acted as state roads commission chairman, apparently is now unemployed and still engaged in plea bargaining with the federal prosecutors.