

Greece Offers Reward

Athens

The Greek government yesterday offered cash rewards ranging from \$30,000 to \$180,000 for information leading to the discovery of the killers of Richard Welch, the Central Intelligence Agency chief in Greece.

Minister of Public Order Solon Ghikas said the government is offering \$180,000 for information enabling police to discover the identity of the three masked assassins. In addition, a sum of \$30,000 to \$60,000 is being offered for evidence that would help investigators.

Welch, 46, was shot outside his home as he and his wife, Kiki, were returning from a Christmas party given by the U.S. ambassador on December 23. The assailants escaped.

Welch's body was flown home yesterday aboard a military transport plane from the U.S. Air Force facility at Athens airport.

Welch's 23-year-old son, Patrick, a lieutenant in the Marines, accompanied the body.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said Mrs. Welch became ill Friday with acute stomach pains and was flown to the U.S. Navy base in Naples for observation. She will not attend her

husband's funeral. Welch's two younger children, Nicholas, 20, and Molly, 17, will be present at the funeral.

Ambassador Jack B. Kubisch and Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Constantine Stavropoulos attended a brief ceremony on the airport runway. An Air Force chaplain read prayers, and Welch's son and his grandfather, retired U.S. Army Colonel Patrick Welch, seated in a wheelchair, saluted as the ambulance carrying the coffin drove alongside the plane.

The government has banned Greek news media from publishing reports on the murder and the nationwide investigation because it said rumors and speculation were being printed. Greek newspapers have insinuated that Welch's murder was the result of an inter-CIA dispute.

The government has given little credence to a statement allegedly coming from a leftist group calling itself the November 17 Organization, which claimed responsibility for the killing.

A government spokesman said that if the group had been responsible, it would have made its statement within minutes of the killing.

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