

SFChronicle

INDO

U.S. Envoy to Thailand

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Is Recalled

Bangkok

William R. Kintner left for Australia yesterday after serving as U.S. ambassador to Thailand during the last 17 months, an American Embassy spokesman said.

He said Kintner went to Australia to visit his daughter there and then will fly on to Washington.

Kintner is being recalled to Washington by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger to organize a high level study on U.S. policy interest in the Pacific. His replacement has not been announced.

Soon after Kintner's arrival in Bangkok it was revealed that a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency agent had sent a phony letter to the Thai premier purporting to be a surrender offer from a Communist insurgent.

Kintner was accused of being a CIA agent. He denied this and any responsibility for the letter incident but acknowledged that he had worked with the CIA during his Army career in the 1950s.

Kintner, who retired from the Army as a colonel, was a political science professor at the University of Pennsylvania and director of its foreign policy institute before being named ambassador to Thailand.

Associated Press