

Agnew's Private Use Of Embassy

Washington.

Former Vice President Spiro Agnew used American embassies in the Middle East to help cancel appointments and to make travel arrangements when a recent business trip was curtailed by his wife's illness, the State Department confirmed yesterday.

Agnew's requests were contained in a cable from the American embassy in Kuwait to embassies in Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. The cable asked that appointments be canceled, that a hotel room be booked and that a car and driver meet Agnew at the airport in Lebanon.

A State Department spokesman said embassies normally cancel appointments for American businessmen, but do not provide such services as having a car and driver meet the plane at the airport. The department could not say if all of Agnew's requests were met.

A copy of the cable, labeled "confidential" and dated May 25, was obtained by The Washington Post. It was signed by the acting American ambassador in Kuwait, Walter M. McClelland and was sent on a rush basis. It refers to Agnew as a VIP.

The cable directs the embassy in Amman, Jordan, to "convey Mr. Agnew's sincere regrets to King and all others concerned" and asks the embassy in Jidda, Saudi Arabia, to cancel an appointment Agnew had with King Faisal.

The last part of the telegram alerts the embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, to Agnew's imminent arrival. "He requests embassy obtain res-

ervation for him at Phoenix Hotel and send car and driver to meet him at airport," the cable said.

Agnew, who resigned as vice president last October, 10 after pleading no contest to income tax evasion, has been trying to establish himself as a middleman or broker between foreign governments and American industry, according to informed sources. He notified the State Department last April that he would be traveling on business to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Portugal, Singapore, Korea, Morocco, Greece, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Agnew apparently learned of his wife's hospitalization while he was in the oil-rich kingdom of Kuwait.

The cable said, "Mr. Agnew has just informed embassy that he was received word his wife has been taken to hospital and is seriously ill. He is therefore canceling remainder of trip and return at once to Washington. He hopes reschedule missing portion of trip as soon as possible."

Mrs. Agnew entered the hospital about May 2, for a hysterectomy and was hospitalized again later in the month because of complications. She has since recovered from the surgery, a source in contact with the family said.

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