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CIA

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A7WX (MCCONE)

② (248) PRECEDE NEW YORK MCCONE (A173)

WASHINGTON, DEC. 2 (AP)-JOHN A. MCCONE REPORTEDLY HAS TOLD PRESIDENT JOHNSON HE WOULD LIKE TO BE RELEASED FROM HIS DUTIES AS DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN ORDER TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE.

THE REPORTS, BEING HEARD IN OFFICIAL CIRCLES HERE, LISTED FORMER DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC, AS THE MOST LIKELY CHOICE TO SUCCEED MCCONE. GILPATRIC RESIGNED A YEAR AGO TO RESUME HIS LAW PRACTICE HERE.

THE WHITE HOUSE REFUSED TO CONFIRM OR DENY THE REPORTS OR TO COMMENT ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE.

MCCONE IS KNOWN TO HAVE SPOKEN PRIVATELY TO FRIENDS OF A DESIRE TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE. HIS REPORTED ATTITUDE WOULD APPEAR TO PUT THE FINAL DECISION UP TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON.

JOHNSON IN TURN, INFORMED OFFICIALS SAID, WOULD BE INFLUENCED IN A FINAL DECISION ON MCCONE'S RESIGNATION BY WHEN HE COULD OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF A FULLY QUALIFIED SUCCESSOR.

MCCONE, AT 62, HAS HELD POSITIONS OF HIGH RESPONSIBILITY UNDER THE LAST FOUR PRESIDENTS. HE WAS DEPUTY TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN 1948 AND UNDERSECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE IN 1950-51. IN 1958 HE BECAME CHAIRMAN OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION AND IN 1961 DIRECTOR OF THE CIA.

IN PRIVATE LIFE HE IS A WEST COAST INDUSTRIALIST WITH EXTENSIVE INTERESTS IN SUCH FIELDS AS STEEL, INSURANCE AND BANKING. HIS HOME IS IN SAN MARINO, CALIF.

THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, IN A WASHINGTON DISPATCH BY DAVID WISE, SAID TODAY MCCONE IS PREPARING TO RETIRE AND AN ACTIVE SEARCH IS UNDER WAY FOR HIS SUCCESSOR.

WISE'S ACCOUNT, ETC., FIFTH GRAF A173 NEW YORK DATE

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A173 (280)

NEW YORK, DEC. 2 (AP)-JOHN A. MCCONE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, TODAY WAS REPORTED PREPARING TO RETIRE SHORTLY FROM THE POST HE HAS HELD THREE YEARS.

HE WANTS TO RETURN TO PRIVATE LIFE AND HIS EXTENSIVE WEST COAST BUSINESS INTERESTS, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT.

AN ACTIVE SEARCH WAS SAID TO BE UNDER WAY WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON FOR A SUCCESSOR.

THIS ACCOUNT WAS PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE IN A DISPATCH FROM ITS WASHINGTON BUREAU CHIEF, DAVID WISE.

WISE'S ACCOUNT SAID FURTHER:

"INFORMED SOURCES SAID NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR MR. MCCONE'S DEPARTURE, NOR HAD THE LIST OF POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS BEEN NARROWED AS YET TO ONE MAN. BUT IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EFFORT TO FIND A REPLACEMENT HAS BEEN IN PROGRESS FOR SOME DAYS.

"SEVERAL FACTORS WERE LISTED BY PERSONS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION: AGE--MR. MCCONE WILL BE 63 ON JAN. 4-- FAMILY CONSIDERATIONS, BUSINESS INTERESTS AND AN UNDERLYING ASSUMPTION THAT PRESIDENT JOHNSON MIGHT LIKE TO SEE HIS OWN CHOICE IN THE ULTRA-SENSITIVE POST."

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THE STORY SAID THAT ALTHOUGH MCCONE HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH JOHNSON, HE IS "NOT BELIEVED TO HAVE HAD THE SAME DEGREE OF ACCESS TO THE WHITE HOUSE, OR THE SAME PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, THAT HE ENJOYED UNDER PRESIDENT KENNEDY, WHO NAMED HIM TO THE POST IN 1961."

ROSWELL L. GILPATRIC, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, WAS TERMED A POSSIBLE SUCCESSOR TO MCCONE. GILPATRIC WAS SAID TO BE LOOKED UPON WITH FAVOR BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT MCNAMARA AND MCGEORGE BUNDY, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

GILPATRIC RETURNED TO HIS LAW PRACTICE HERE LAST JANUARY.

THE WASHINGTON REPORT SAID GILPATRIC WAS NOT EAGER TO RETURN TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE, HOWEVER.

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