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General May Get No. 2 Post in C.I.A.



NEW C.I.A. DEPUTY? Maj. Gen. Vernon A. Walters is reportedly being considered for the post of deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29— President Nixon is reported to be considering the appointment of an Army major general, Vernon A. Walters, to be the next deputy Director of Central Intelligence.

General Walters, who is now defense attaché at the Embassy in Paris, would succeed Lieut. Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr. of the Marine Corps, according to United States and foreign officials here. General Cushman has been named by President Nixon to be next commandant of the Marine Corps and is scheduled to take command Friday.

Spokesmen for the White House, State Department and the C.I.A. declined comment on the report concerning General Walters. Nonetheless, reliable informants said that the general, who has had extensive experience as an interpreter with

both President Eisenhower and with President Nixon, was in line to be second-ranking official at the agency.

President Nixon's reorganization of the United States Government agencies involved in foreign intelligence, announced Nov. 5, provided an "enhanced leadership role" for Richard Helms, Director of Central Intelligence. At the time, intelligence sources said that Mr. Helms would concentrate evaluating foreign intelligence for the President and on budget and management problems of the intelligence "community" as a whole.

Day-to-Day Control

The Deputy Director, they said, would take over more of the day-to-day operations of the C.I.A., including control of clandestine collection of intelligence through secret agents and such electronic techniques as spy satellites and code-cracking.

Informants here noted that General Walters had served as Mr. Nixon's interpreter during the recent meeting with President Pompidou of France in the Azores. General Walters also served as interpreter for President Nixon early this month during the visit of President Emilio G. Médici of Brazil.

General Walters, whose nickname is Dick, is widely known for his extraordinary linguistic gifts. He is fluent in French, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Dutch and Russian. He also speaks some Arabic and Greek. Languages are his hobby.

He was born in New York March 3, 1917, and grew up in Europe, where his father, an

American businessman, lived. He attended French schools, and was graduated from Stonyhurst College in England. He enlisted in the Army on May 2, 1941.

During World War II he was commissioned and assigned as a liaison officer with the Brazilian forces fighting in the United States Fifth Army in Italy under Gen. Mark W. Clark. His language abilities brought him to General Clark's attention and ultimately to the attention of Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther, Fifth Army chief of staff.

As defense attaché in Paris and previously in Rio de Janeiro, General Walters is a senior officer of the Defense Department's Intelligence Agency in both rank and experience. He also has a 20-year knowledge of North Atlantic Treaty Organization problems.

Under the National Security Act of 1947, which created the C.I.A. the positions of director and deputy director cannot be held simultaneously by military officers on active duty.

Richard Helms, who was named Director of Central Intelligence in 1966, is the first career civilian intelligence officer to have risen to the nation's top intelligence position. The tradition, however, is to name a military deputy when the director is a civilian — and vice versa.