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JOHN PATTERSON
Missing since Friday

No Word on Kidnaped U.S. Envoy

Hermosillo, Mexico

The wife of kidnaped American diplomat John Patterson has attempted to follow instructions in a ransom note but has heard nothing from her husband, a U.S. official said yesterday.

The official, U.S. Consul General Elmer E. Yelton, would not comment on reports that the note demanded \$500,000 for the release of Patterson, 31, of Philadelphia. Yelton said the ransom note was apparently in Patterson's handwriting.

Officials had not been expected to meet the ransom demands, in keeping with U.S. and Mexican government policy. But a newspaper in Washington said Patterson's family had reportedly raised \$250,000.

The note was left at the door of the U.S. consulate soon after Patterson's disappearance on Friday, Yelton said. He would not say what demands the note made or how it was signed. 22 MAR

"At approximately 2 p.m. when the consulate general reopened for business, a ransom note, apparently in Mr. Patterson's handwriting and saying he had been kidnaped, was found in the door," Yelton said.

"His wife has made every possible effort to follow instructions contained in the ransom note," the statement said. "Mrs. Patterson has received no word from her husband or third parties."

Patterson's wife, Ann, went into hiding yesterday. Employees at a Hermosillo hotel where she was staying said her 4-year-old daughter left several days ago, presumably for New York.

Patterson is the son of the late John N. Patterson, a prominent Philadelphia businessman, civic leader and politician.

In Washington, the Star-News said Thursday that the diplomat's family reportedly had raised \$250,000 which the newspaper said the kidnapers demanded as the first half of the ransom. It said the first installation was to be paid at Nogales, a border town south of Tucson, Ariz.

Officials in Washington said the ransom note was signed by a guerrilla group, the People's Revolutionary Army of Mexico.

Associated Press