

Wife of Kidnapped American Awaits Word in Mexico

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MEXICO CITY, March 28 —

United States officials said today that the wife of a missing United States vice consul had made "every possible effort to follow the instructions" contained in a ransom note but that she had received no further word from her husband or his captors.

The missing diplomat, 31-year-old John Patterson of Philadelphia, was last seen last Friday getting into an automobile in the northern Mexico city of Hermosillo, where he was assigned as a commercial officer. The car was found abandoned.

The United States Consulate General in Hermosillo said in a statement today that several hours after the Vice Consul was last seen, "a ransom note, apparently in Mr. Patterson's handwriting, saying he had been kidnapped," was found at the consulate door.

Ransom Money Ready

There were reports that a \$500,000 ransom was demanded. The Vice Consul's wife, Anne, who, like her husband, reportedly comes from a wealthy family, was said to



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John Patterson, a U.S. vice consul in Mexico.

have \$250,000 ready for delivery.

An advertisement appeared in Hermosillo newspapers today saying in English:

"I have the money you need for transaction. Please contact

me so I can send it to you. Anne."

There were reports that she tried to deliver some of the ransom money last Friday at Nogales, a town on the United States border, but that the kidnappers did not appear. Hermosillo, a city of 120,000 inhabitants, is 160 miles from the Arizona border.

Reports from Hermosillo today said Mexican policemen were searching cars entering and leaving the area for possible clues to the Vice Consul's whereabouts. Army patrols and helicopters, meanwhile, were searching the nearby desert areas.

Ordinary Criminals Suspected

The possibility was reported being investigated that the kidnapping might have been carried out by ordinary criminals rather than by leftist guerrillas.

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Authoritative sources have emphasized that the kidnapping does not fall into the normal pattern of actions by Mexico's left-wing guerrilla groups.

The sources noted that in the two previous kidnappings of diplomats in Mexico, the guer-

rilla captors demanded the publication and broadcast of antigovernment statements as well as the release of political prisoners. The kidnappers of Mr. Peterson have made no such demands.

Mrs. Patterson herself was said to have requested that no publicity be given to her husband's capture. The Vice Consul's disappearance was disclosed only after the United States General, William Saxbe, said to reporters in Washington yesterday that he had cancelled plans to visit Mexico because a foreign service officer had been kidnapped there.

The United States Embassy here explained that no information was issued about the kidnapping "because of concern for Mr. Patterson's personal safety."

In the previous kidnappings of diplomats here developments were publicized as they became known.

One Mexican source asserted that, despite reference to an unknown "Mexican people's revolutionary army," the ransom note lacked any political content and made exclusively monetary demands.