

WORLD

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Kidnaped envoy to be freed?

Associated Press

HERMOSILLO (Mexico) — Mexican authorities expect the return of kidnaped U.S. Vice Consul John Patterson some time this week-end, a federal spokesman said yesterday.

A spokesman for the U.S. Consulate said: "We have no information on that, and there is no comment on it." But he said the consulate would issue an announcement on "further developments" in the case later in the day.

A spokesman for the federal investigations board who visited U.S. Consul Elmer E. Yelton's house told newsmen the return of Patterson was expected. "I can't tell you much more than

Ethiopia trying to free five

Examiner News Service

ADDIS ABABA—The Ethiopian government today asked bandits who captured three American and two Canadian mineral prospectors this week to negotiate their release.

Washington diplomats said the men who seized the five following a helicopter crash in Eritrea had made contact with Ethiopian authorities.

About 30 men described by Ethiopian officials as "bandits" seized the five after they crawled out of their helicopter which was downed by a freak storm in rugged terrain in northern Ethiopia Tuesday.

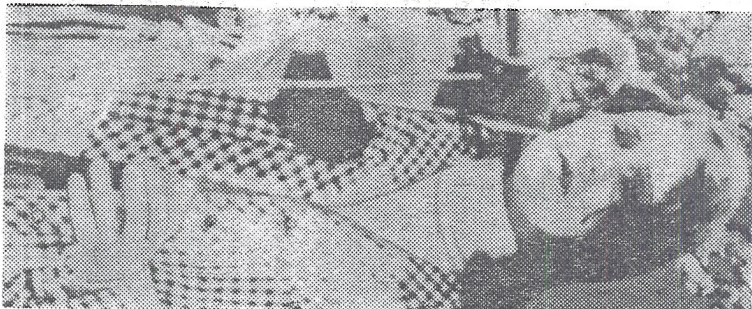
The five men are employed by Temeco, a Houston Tex., oil company with mineral concessions in Ethiopia.

that," he said. "But I can say that this whole deal will be resolved." He indicated suspects in the case may have been arrested.

"Once he's back I will present to you pictures of all the people involved and what this was all about," said the spokesman, who declined to be identified.

Patterson, 31, of Philadelphia was last seen March 22 when he left his office with a still-unnamed man. Several hours later, a ransom note reportedly asking for \$500,000 was found under a consular office door. A search began, and Patterson's car was soon found abandoned with no signs of violence.

A Mexican official told newsmen that Patterson's wife, Ann, had flown to Tucson, Ariz., where she might have picked up half the ransom money and taken it back to Mexico.



Ann Patterson

—AP Photo