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Washington

The commander of NATO forces in Southern Europe is a leading candidate to be nominated by President Carter as director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a top aide said yesterday.

Presidential assistant Hamilton Jordan said Admiral Stansfield Turner "is one of the leading candidates" to become Carter's second nominee to the post.

Turner, 53, was one of Carter's classmates at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Jordan said others are being considered in addition to Turner. Carter told reporters on January 30 that he was considering "six or seven" persons for the job.

Associated Press