

SFChronicle

CIA Nomination

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New Boost for Adm. Turner

Washington

Admiral Stansfield Turner, promising to resign rather than carry out any presidential order for illegal activities, yesterday won assurance of approval by the Senate Intelligence Committee of his appointment as CIA director.

"I'm very much impressed by you, sir," said committee chairman Daniel Inouye. "I don't see any problem. You will be confirmed."

Turner, nominated by his old naval academy schoolmate, President Carter, testified for 3½ hours.

Inouye said the actual vote would come this afternoon at a session in which members also will discuss — behind closed doors —

allegations the CIA made secret payments of millions of dollars over the past 20 years to Jordan's King Hussein and other world leaders.

Turner, 58, told the committee "I would resign if put into a position of carrying out an immoral or illegal action," even under presidential order.

Some members questioned Turner's intention of maintaining his military rank and keeping four personal aides if confirmed, but the admiral contended the procedure was legal.

He also pledged:

- To report to the committee plans for any covert or clandestine actions judged vital to the nation's security.

- To approve such activities only in "extraordinary circumstances" and only after a "very careful weighing of the potential value versus the risks."

- To welcome congressional guidelines for the intelligence community and legislation to punish anyone divulging genuine secrets.

Closely questioned on CIA clandestine and covert actions, Turner was asked whether he would discontinue the objectionable operation if he resigned over an issue of legality or morality.

"I would come to you (the committee) after resigning," he said.



AP Wirephoto

ADM. STANSFIELD TURNER
A vow to senators

United Press