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Turner Confirmed As New CIA Director

Washington

The Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment of Admiral Stansfield Turner to head the Central Intelligence Agency today.

Carter sent Turner's name to Capitol Hill on February 7, not long after his first choice for the post, former White House aide Theodore Sorensen, had asked that his name be withdrawn.

Sorensen ran into strong opposition from conservatives. His nomination was fatally damaged when it was disclosed that he had admitted using classified information from White House files as source material for a book he wrote about the Kennedy administration.

The only question raised about Turner, 53, who was a Naval Academy classmate of President Carter's, was whether he should be allowed to retain his Navy commission while serving as CIA director.

Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker (Rep-Tenn.) raised the question and said that he would prefer that Turner resign from the Navy. But Baker said he would not oppose the nomination on that ground.

During the confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee Tuesday, Turner said he

would not seek to be named chief of naval operations or chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when both those offices become vacant in 1978.

The admiral also pledged to provide the committee with "full and timely information on CIA covert action and clandestine collection programs."

In its report recommending approval of the nomination, the Intelligence Committee said Turner "evidenced real concern . . . for the need to insure that intelligence activities do not adversely affect the constitutional or legal rights of American citizens."

A native of Chicago, Turner has been serving as commander in chief of allied forces in southern Europe.

Associated Press