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## CIA Fires Writer Of Dismissal Notes

### Washington

Two months after touching off the CIA's tumultuous reorganization effort with a curtly worded dismissal notice to 212 senior members of the intelligence agency's clandestine operations branch, the CIA's top operations official has been notified that he is also being sacked.

A CIA spokesman confirmed yesterday that William W. Wells, the CIA's deputy director for operations, will retire at the end of December. Knowledgeable sources said both Wells and his top deputy, Theodore Shackley, were dismissed from their operations posts shortly before Christmas after a falling out with CIA Director Stansfield Turner.

According to one CIA official, Shackley and Turner had several angry confrontations over management policy recently. After one such flareup two weeks ago, Shackley stalked out of Turner's seventh floor office and Shackley's secretary began calling the CIA's logistics arm to prepare for the removal of secured communications equipment from Shackley's home.

Turner announced Wells' retirement at a meeting Tuesday of senior CIA officials at headquarters in Langley, Va. The CIA's spokesman denied that Shackley had been fired by Turner. "As far as I know he's staying, but we don't yet know in what capacity," the spokesman said.

The removal of the two senior operations officials was seen by some top CIA officials as part of Turner's announced top-to-bottom housecleaning of the clandestine arm and an attempt to break up remnants of the "old boy" network of senior operations agents in favor of more science and technologically oriented intelligence-gathering.

Turner has formally announced that he plans to cut the operations directorate, which has been sharply criticized in recent years for its covert foreign activities, by more than 800 persons, including many of the directorate's most senior officials.

The CIA's spokesman said Wells will be replaced by John N. McMahon, the current acting deputy to Turner for intelligence. McMahon is a 26-year CIA veteran whose specialty in the past has been in the area of science and technology.

Wells and Shackley were generally considered two of the CIA's top clandestine operators. Wells was a station chief for the intelligence agency in Tokyo and Hong Kong and gained the nickname "Wild Willy" among some of his colleagues. He also headed the CIA's European operations division. Shackley directed the CIA's secret war in Laos and was actively involved in CIA operations during the Cuban missile crisis and in Berlin.

Well's dismissal is particularly ironic since he signed the controversial two-sentence memo sent October 31 to senior operations officials notifying them of their firing.

A number of those who received the hand-delivered memos angrily have broken the CIA's traditional cloak of silence and complained — although anonymously — about the cold tone of the dismissal.

Under the provisions of the 1947 National Security Act Turner has the authority to fire anyone on the CIA payroll without review or appeal.

*Washington Post*