

Carter Names Admiral To Be CIA Director

Washington

President Carter yesterday nominated Admiral Stansfield Turner, a classmate of Carter's at the U.S. Naval Academy, to be director of Central Intelligence.

Turner, 53, who is now commander of Allied Forces, Southern Europe, with headquarters in Naples, spent part of his career in weapons systems analysis and, thus, in study of strategic deterrence.

Carter and Turner were both graduated from Annapolis in 1946. Turner finished 25th academically in the class and was brigade commander, the top cadet military position. Carter ranked 59th in the class of 820 midshipmen.

The President told his cabinet yesterday that he "never knew" Turner at Annapolis. Carter added that Turner "was so far ahead of us" in accomplishments as a midshipman that he never considered him "a competitor or even a peer."

Carter, in an extraordinarily warm burst of praise, said of the admiral, "I have never known a better military person," adding that he is someone who "in the future could be the next George Marshall," a reference to the greatly respected Army chief of staff in World War II who went on to serve as secretary of state and of defense.

Several sources on Capitol Hill said the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which will pass on the nomination before the full Senate votes on confirmation, would probably "take its time," partly because Turner's views are little known among senators. However, there was no initial indication that the nomination would run into the kind of serious opposition that scuttled Carter's original selection of Theodore Sorensen to head the CIA.

Sorensen's nomination ran into trouble partly because some senators thought his liberal, intellectual background would tend to "isolate" him in the agency. Carter has apparently fallen back on a military choice who may be more popular with conservative senators.

In his role as director of Central Intelligence, Turner will also coordinate intelligence information reaching the President



STANSFIELD TURNER
53-year-old admiral

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from other agencies. If confirmed, he will be the tenth CIA director since the agency was created in 1947 and the fourth who has been a military officer. By law, his deputy director will have to be a civilian.

An article by Turner called "The Naval Balance: Not Just a Numbers Game" was published in the January issue of the quarterly, *Foreign Affairs*.

In the article, Turner suggests that a meaningful comparison of U.S. and Soviet naval power can best be made, not by counting ships and planes, but by assessing to what degree the American force remains capable of carrying out its major missions.

In the article, Turner says that the ability to influence third powers by American naval "presence" can be diluted by overstated warnings of the Soviet threat and calls for "exercising care in our public discussions."

"A doomsday picture convincingly drawn for a congressional budgetary committee may nega-

tively influence other nation's perceptions of our naval effectiveness," he wrote.

Turner added that "there is latitude for varying acceptable degrees of naval balance," and that, "the degree of acceptability depends on judgments which transcend the power of military men."

However, in the article, Turner also suggested that, while the United States retains a generally favorable naval balance, the margin of safety is being reduced, citing U.S. anti-submarine warfare strength as an example.

White House spokesman Jody Powell said the President is "convinced" that Turner would not bring what a reporter called a "parochial" and pro-Navy outlook to a position which requires a balanced assessment of the strength and intentions of a potential adversary.

Turner has no public record that would offer clues as to how strongly he feels about the need for closer control of CIA covert operations and the prevention of a repetition of past abuses and illegalities by the agency.

However, Senator Joseph Biden (Dem-Del.), a member of the intelligence committee, said, "Carter has made that commitment to me and I feel sure that Turner would fulfill it." Biden said, "I'm going to want to take a look" at Turner's opinions and qualifications, but added he sees "no problem" about confirmation.

Another committee member, Senator Adlai Stevenson (Dem-Ill.) said he is "unaware of any problems" that could block confirmation.

Stevenson, who talked to Turner yesterday said he was "impressed by him" and got the impression that the admiral has "demonstrated a great deal of independence" during his military career and is "something of an iconoclast."

The admiral flew back from Naples for a conversation with the President at the White House last Thursday. Sources said that Carter spoke about the nomination that same day with Senator Daniel Inouye (Dem-Hawaii), intelligence committee chairman, and that other key senators were notified by telephone over the weekend.

In his remarks to the Cabinet yesterday, which were reported by deputy press secretary Rex Granum, Carter told the department secretaries he hoped to have Turner attend a Cabinet meeting soon and "go over what the CIA does and what services it has to offer." Granum did not explain that remark.

He added that the President then said, "The CIA has a legitimate responsibility, not to deal just in war, but to provide information that can result in peace."