

Body Found

--May Be

U.S. Envoy's

Hermosillo, Mexico

Mexican authorities said late yesterday they have found the badly decomposed body of U.S. Vice consul John Patterson, who was kidnaped in March.

State Police Chief Francisco Arellano Noblecia and State Attorney General Miguel Angel Cortes confirmed a body found in the desert yesterday had been tentatively identified as the remains of the 31-year-old diplomat.

Cortes said U.S. authorities here have been notified and Patterson's wife Anne will be brought from Mexico City to identify the body.

The body was found in a remote desert region approximately 35 miles north of Hermosillo, a northern Mexico state capital, by a peasant looking for a desert fruit called pitaya.

Authorities said clothes ereyes Carbajal, said the body was partially buried and almost totally reduced to bones. Authorities added that the skull was broken by apparent death blows in the face and the back of the head.

A ring found on the body bore the initials of Patterson and his wife, and the date of their marriage, Feb. 2, 1973.

Authorities said clothes found with the body and dental work also led to the identification.

Associated Press