

Body of U.S. Aide Seized in Mexico Is Believed Found

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MEXICO CITY, July 9—A mutilated body found in the desert near the northwestern city of Hermosillo has been tentatively identified as that of a United States vice consul, John S. Patterson, who disappeared, apparently kidnapped, in March.

Police sources said that, judging from the large fractures in the back and top of the skull, the 31-year-old diplomat had been murdered.

A spokesman at the United States Embassy said that no positive identification of the body would be possible until Mr. Patterson's dental record was received from his home town, Philadelphia.

Embassy sources said the clothes on the skeleton were those worn by the diplomat when he was last seen leaving the consulate general in Hermosillo in the company of an unidentified man on March 22.

The sources also said that a gold ring found on the body had been identified as belonging to Mr. Patterson. The ring was engraved with the initials of the diplomat and his wife, Ann, and the date of their marriage, in March, 1973.

John and Ann Patterson had been in Hermosillo two months on their first foreign assignment when the apparent kidnapping took place. A note in Mr. Patterson's handwriting appeared at the consulate a few hours later and demanded a \$500,000 ransom for his release.

Mrs. Patterson made several attempts to hand over the money, but no further contact was made by the kidnapers.

On May 28, Bobbie Joe Keesee was arrested in San Diego and accused of attempted extortion of Mrs. Patterson. On June 7, a grand jury in San Diego indicted Mr. Keesee on charges of "aiding and abetting, inducing and causing" Mr. Patterson's kidnapping. Greg Curtis Fielden was named as an unindicted co-conspirator. Mr. Keesee is in jail awaiting trial in San Diego.