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US Official Kidnaped in Mexico

US Vice Consul John Patterson was reportedly kidnaped in Hermosillo yesterday and is being held for \$500,000 ransom by the People's Liberation Army of Mexico, according to a note in Patterson's own handwriting.

Unlike demands made in previous kidnappings carried out for political purposes by Mexican dissident groups, the note called for no publicity and did not demand the release of prisoners held by the Mexican Government.

Moreover, a tight schedule for pay-

ment of the ransom—half to be turned over to Patterson's wife in Nogales on Sunday morning and the other half, again by his wife, in Mexico City Sunday night—suggests that the perpetrators' main interest may be in obtaining the money.

Hermosillo is in the state of Sonora, where Mexican authorities recently arrested four members of the 23rd of September Communist League. Although there is no evidence to link yesterday's kidnaping to the Communist League,

the group had intended to kidnap a US citizen residing in Mexico. One of the four had participated in the kidnaping of US Consul General Terrance Leonhardy in Guadalajara in May 1973.

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