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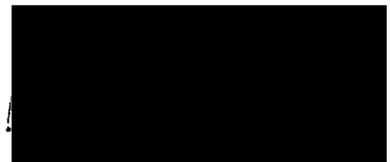
*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: JAN 2002



27 March 1974

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U.S. Vice-Consul Kidnapped in Mexico

John Patterson, the U.S. Vice-Consul in Hermosillo, Mexico was kidnapped on 22 March, allegedly by members of the hitherto unknown Peoples' Liberation Army of Mexico. Patterson was last seen leaving the consulate that morning, presumably en route to an 11 a.m. meeting with Mexican officials. The appointment was never kept and when the consulate reopened after lunch a ransom note was discovered. Written by Patterson, the note demanded the payment of \$500,000 to be made in two equal installments. One payment was to be made in Nogales, Mexico the morning of 24 March, the second in Mexico City later that day. The kidnapers also demanded that no news release of the kidnapping be issued and threatened that if they were betrayed or if a member of the Peoples' Liberation Army was detained, the kidnapers were prepared to murder a U.S. official or a member of a U.S. official's family each week until those detained were released and allowed to leave Mexico unharmed.

Arrangements were made to meet the kidnapers' demand; however, no contact was made by the kidnapers at either Nogales or Mexico City at the appointed times.

[REDACTED] the kidnapers may be American rather than Mexican. [REDACTED] conclusion on several factors, including the wording of the ransom note and the title of the ostensible revolutionary organization, both of which [REDACTED] are not in keeping with Mexican leftist terminology. The manner in which the proposed payments were to be effected--one in a border town, the other near the Mexico City International Airport--does not fit the modus operandi of previous Mexican terrorist kidnapping operations and suggests that the kidnapers may have considered fleeing to the United States. Also considered suspicious were the requirement that the ransom payments be made in dollars rather than pesos and the fact that Vice-Consul Patterson was last seen in the company of an unidentified American at about the time of the kidnapping.

As of 26 March there has been no reported contact with or further instructions from the kidnapers. [REDACTED]

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27 MAR 1974