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"The Next George Marshall"

It is hard to imagine how President Carter could have given a stronger endorsement to the man he nominated to head the Central Intelligence Agency than to say he is one who could be the next George Marshall.

General Marshall, one of the greatest figures of World War II, was Army chief of staff during the war and served later as secretary of state and secretary of defense. His brilliance, competence and integrity were beyond question. Such a man is what the CIA needs at its helm if it is to regain the country's confidence and its own effectiveness. The Senate must judge whether Turner meets those specifications.

As a military man, Admiral Turner should appeal to those who opposed Mr. Carter's first nominee for the job, Theodore Sorensen, who had been a conscientious objector and whom many distrusted for his pacifistic and liberal tendencies. If the phrases, "innovative admiral" and something of a "boat rocker," which have been applied to him are found to be justified, Turner should please those who fear a rigid military mind.

As commander of the NATO forces in Southern Europe since 1975, Admiral Turner has had special contact with intelligence work and is thoroughly familiar with our difficulties in Greece and Turkey. After graduating from Annapolis, he won a Rhodes scholarship and a master's degree in philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford — enough in itself to mark him as an unusual type of military man.

The President's second choice should prove much more successful than his first.