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*Weekly Situation Report
on
International Terrorism*

DO WSRIT 74-014

3 April 1974

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U.S. Diplomat Kidnapped in Mexico Still Missing

John Patterson, the U.S. Vice-Consul in Hermosillo, Mexico who was kidnapped on 22 March, is still being held captive, presumably in Mexico. There has been no further communication from either Patterson or his captors since a ransom note written by Patterson was discovered at the consulate on the afternoon of his disappearance.

Rumors regarding Patterson's kidnapping, including one stating that he was last seen transferring from the consulate vehicle to a camper at a gas station outside Hermosillo, have been checked by Mexican authorities and have not been substantiated.

Despite efforts to comply with the kidnapers' demand that there be no publicity, the U.S. and Mexican press have picked up the story and given it wide dissemination. Although some Mexican officials contend that the kidnapping may be a hoax, U.S. authorities believe that in the absence of evidence to the contrary, Vice-Consul Patterson's disappearance should be considered a kidnapping. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

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