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WASHINGTON  
SCHROEDER

Rep. Pat Schroeder, D-Colo., Thursday asked the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services, Melvin Price, to launch an evaluation of command problems in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Her request followed the release of reports by the Armed Services Committee and the Department of Defense study commission, on the bombing of Marine headquarters in Beirut, which killed 241 U.S. servicemen.

In her letter to Price, Schroeder said those reports indicated "confusion over the command structures as one of the principal causes of the disaster."

"It is time for the Committee to launch a special, full-fledged evaluation of command and control problems in the military," said Schroeder.

Schroeder said that in Beirut, "it remains unclear to whom the field commander reports... For us in Washington it is a frustrating game to figure out who wears what hat. For Marines at the Beirut airport, it is a matter of life and death."

Schroeder said the CIA should be included in the evaluation. The agency was partly to blame for lax security measures at the Marine headquarters before the bombing, she said.

Several legislative measures mandate a high level of cooperation between the CIA and the Department of Defense, she said.

"Obviously," said Schroeder, "the Central Intelligence Agency did not perform the sort of meaningful intelligence collection in Lebanon which would have been useful to the Marines."