

Office of Current Production and Analytic Support

CIA Operations Center



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LD051034 MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 1024 GMT 5 MAR 86
(TEXT) WASHINGTON MARCH 5 TASS -- BY TASS CORRESPONDENT
ALEKSANDR LYUTYY:

JOHN MCMAHON, FIRST DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, HAS RESIGNED FROM HIS POST FOR "PERSONAL REASONS".

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ACCEPTED HIS RESIGNATION AND APPOINTED TO THE POST ROBERT GATES, THE AGENCY'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE.

ACCORDING TO UPI NEWS AGENCY, SEVERAL EXTREME RIGHT-WING ORGANIZATIONS LED BY THE REACTIONARY FREE THE EAGLE GROUPING HAVE SOUGHT MCMAHON'S RESIGNATION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BECAUSE HE, AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS IN CHARGE OF THE CIA'S CLANDESTINE SPY NETWORK FROM 1978 TO 1981. DOUBTED THE ADVISABILITY OF PROVIDING ARMAMENTS TO ANTI-AFGHAN BANDITS THROUGH CIA CHANNELS.

EVEN IF THE CHARGES AGAINST MCMAHON WERE UNTRUE, THE ADMINISTRATION, AS NEWS ANALYSTS BELIEVE, COULD NOT KEEP IN THE AGENCY'S NO. 2 POST A PERSON WHOSE COMMITMENT TO THE UNDECLARED WAR AGAINST AFGHANISTAN WAS IN DOUBT.

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