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Reagan Removes Enders as Head Of Latin Bureau at State Dept.

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President Reagan yesterday removed Thomas O. Enders as assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, an action that reflected "unhappiness with the execution of U.S. policy" in Central America, according to an administration official.

Several administration officials said the change will lead to a tougher U.S. policy in Central America, controlled directly by the White House rather than through the State Department.

Enders will be replaced by Langhorne A. (Tony) Motley, a land developer and Republican Party stalwart from Alaska who has been ambassador to Brazil for the last two years.

The official who spoke of Reagan's "unhappiness" also praised Enders' diplomatic abilities, which he said would be put to proper use in his new post as ambassador to Spain. But, in a sharp implied criticism of the way Enders had performed his present duties, he added, "You don't handle Central American policies with tea and crumpets on the diplomatic circuit."

Several administration officials said U.S. policy in Central America now seems likely to increasingly bear the stamp of Reagan's national security affairs adviser, William P. Clark. He is sympathetic to the view, shared by U.N. Ambassador Jeane J. Kirkpatrick, that even tougher measures are required to combat leftist guerrillas in El Salvador and to counter the influence of Cuba and the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua in that region.

They regarded Enders as favoring a diplomatic solution to the civil war in El Salvador. Reagan agrees with Clark and Kirkpatrick that the guerrillas must be defeated militarily, the officials said.

One official added that Reagan decided to "put his own people" into key Central America policy-making positions even before he made his speech on Central America to a joint session of Congress on April 27.

However, other sources in the administration cautioned that it would be incorrect to assume there will be swift and radical changes in Central American policy, which is under heavy fire from liberals in Congress. In particular, these sources disputed the idea that Enders' departure means that Clark has wrested control of the policy from Secretary of State George P. Shultz.

Shultz, who announced the change yesterday to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to the Williamsburg, Va., economic summit, praised Enders as "a great man" and said the move was made because it was time for a "rotation in the State Department, and we do make changes."

The extent of Shultz's involvement in the decision was not clear, but one official said that the secretary "fully concurred" in the switch. This suggested that Shultz did not initiate the move. But he was said to be pleased with the elevation of Motley, who has been given almost universally high marks as ambassador in Brazil.

On the surface, Enders' replacement would seem to be a relatively unremarkable move, as his job is nominally a second-echelon position in the governmental hierarchy. However, it seems certain to stir controversy because U.S. involvement in Central America is a subject of emotional national interest and Enders has been regarded as the principal architect of U.S. policy in the region.

In the view of many officials, Enders' problem was that he had come to exercise a power over Central American policy decisions far greater than is normally granted to assistant secretaries of state. That was particularly the case after Shultz took office last summer and found himself forced to devote most of his time to the Middle East and other problems.

In the process, Enders became, as one source put it, "a man caught in the middle. Although he got on well with Congress, he still was pushing a policy fiercely opposed by liberals fearful of increasing U.S. involvement. At the same time, his efforts to build support with the liberals made

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