

An Admiral for the CIA

They hardly knew one another at Annapolis 30 years ago and had met only once since those wartime college days. But former Navy Lt. James Earl Carter Jr. remembered: he recently had corresponded with his classmate, Adm. Stansfield Turner, 53, and last week he nominated him to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency. The idea came to Carter one morning before breakfast. As a veteran weapons-system analyst, past president of the Naval War College and current commander of NATO forces in southern Europe, Turner should be a

committee. Most senators to whom Turner was introduced last week gave high marks to the former Rhodes scholar, who seems equally comfortable talking about impressionist art (he favors Monet and Pissarro) and the naval balance. Even liberals who don't favor a military man in the nation's top intelligence job seemed to agree that Turner was the best of the lot, a sophisticated analyst who recently warned other brass hats against exaggerating Russian military might. "This is an uncommon admiral," said Colorado Sen. Gary Hart, "a philos-

had the idea he was going to use Turner for something," one top White House staffer said, most likely as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff or Chief of Naval Operations when those posts become open. Those prospects, in fact, may have kept Carter from thinking of him for the CIA at first.

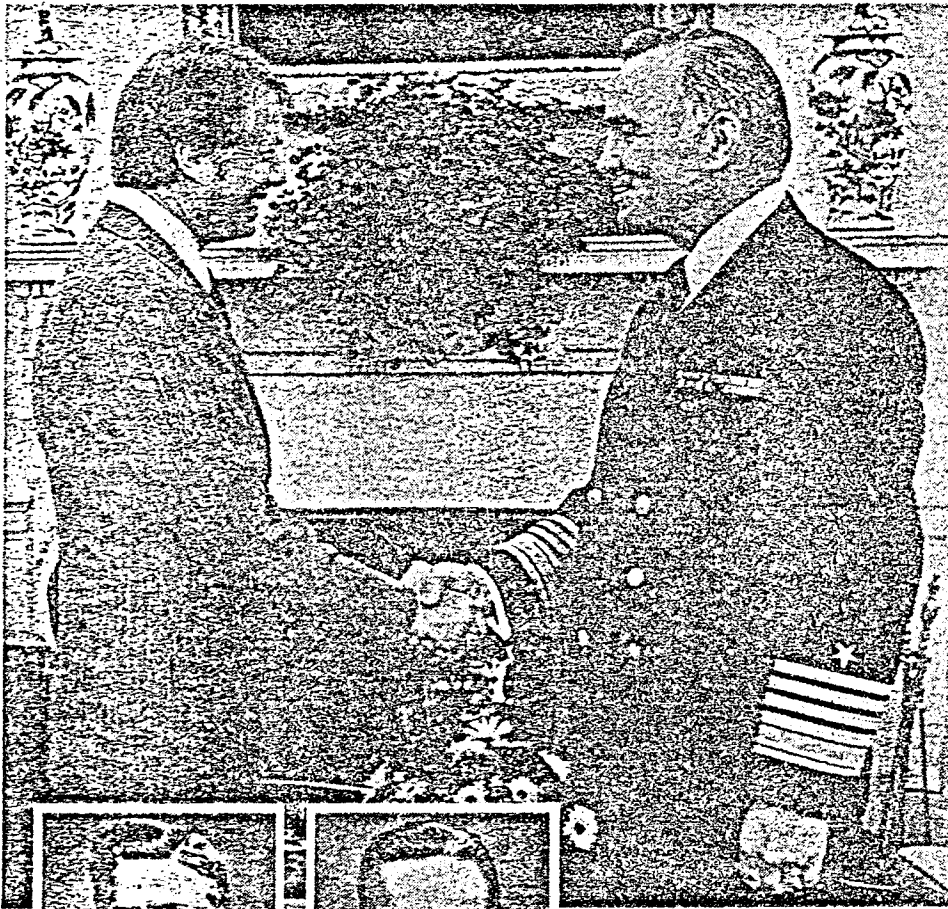
Combat: Turner's background is indeed distinguished. After graduating from Annapolis, he served briefly at sea, studied philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford, then divided his time between destroyer duty and Pentagon posts. He won a Bronze Star during combat in the Korean War and commanded a missile frigate off Vietnam. Turner also served as executive assistant to former Navy Secretary Paul Ignatius (1967-69), advising on budget and manpower problems among other matters, and later joined Chief of Naval Operations Elmo Zumwalt's "Project 60" team to modernize the Navy stem to stern.

But it was at the Naval War College from 1972 to 1974 that Turner attracted most attention, scrapping the traditional leisurely program and forcing his officer-students to study everything from Thucydides to the Cuban missile crisis. He also set up seminars with academics and editors. "Some tempers exploded," one naval officer recalled of a meeting with journalists, "but it ventilated the hostility and both sides learned something."

The same unregimented attitude marks Turner's approach to national security. Writing in last month's issue of *Foreign Affairs*, he suggested that simply comparing the numbers of U.S. and Soviet submarines or missiles was less important than judging the over-all ability of each nation's armed forces to carry out assigned missions—both military and psychological. "A doomsday picture convincingly drawn for a Congressional budgetary committee may negatively influence other nations' perceptions of our naval effectiveness," Turner warned. "And a few extra ships in the budget or at sea may not be enough to overcome an inaccurate perception of weakness."

Abuses: If Turner is confirmed, some liberals may try to pass legislation that would ban a military man from the CIA post in the future. Civilians, they argue, are generally more sensitive to the civil-liberties questions that have plagued the intelligence community since its history of "dirty tricks" was revealed after Watergate. CIA veterans, too, have qualms about leaders in uniform—Adm. William Raborn won little respect from the professionals during his brief term as CIA chief in the Lyndon Johnson years. But Stansfield Turner—"a scholar and thinker first and a military man second," according to a top Carter adviser—seems likely to pass their muster. Whether he can also maintain firm control of U.S. intelligence—preventing abuses and assuring the impartiality of strategic estimates—still remains to be seen.

—DAVID M. ALPERN with LLOYD H. NORMAN and NICHOLAS HORROCK in Washington



The White House

From sailor to CIA chief: Annapolis classmates Carter and Turner in the 1947 yearbook and meeting in the Oval Office.



natural for the CIA job. Carter told aides that it was the best "wakin' up thought" he had in a long time. Turner was immediately summoned from his post in Naples to begin the personal diplomacy that by last week made his Senate confirmation seem all but assured.

Mindful of the forced withdrawal of his first nominee for CIA director, Theodore Sorensen, Carter was counting not only on Turner's military and intellectual qualifications but also on a careful White House effort to smooth his way with members of the Senate intelligence

opher, a thinker within the system."

The admiral and his Commander in Chief were far from buddies at Annapolis. "He was so far ahead of us," Carter told his Cabinet last week, "that we never considered him competition or even a peer." (After transferring from Amherst College, Turner graduated 25th in a class of 820; Carter was 60th.) But the two men met five years ago when Turner invited the then governor of Georgia to the Naval War College to discuss government reorganization, and they have corresponded ever since. "All along, Jimmy