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Turner has big task

The CIA, which has experienced rough going for some time, may be in for smoother sailing.

President Carter seems to have scored strongly in his second attempt to name a man to put at the helm of the agency involved in gathering material about what other nations throughout the world are doing. The President's first attempt to name Ted Sorenson to the post failed.

The Senate has approved the appointment of Adm. Stansfield Turner by a unanimous vote. The 53-year-old admiral has a reputation of being a strong and inventive commander with the intellectual background necessary for the delicate task he faces.

Admiral Turner comes to the scene close on the heels of the latest flap involving the CIA and alleged payments to the heads of friendly foreign countries. There have been several other disturbing disclosures during and since Watergate.

Why was the CIA created in the first place?

It was established in 1947 at the request of President Harry Truman to see that this country was never again guilty of the lack of vigilance which preceded the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The possibility of another surprise Pearl Harbor attack is just as great,

**Covert work
needed by CIA**

if not greater, than it was in 1947. Therefore, the CIA concept is needed even more today to keep abreast of what other nations are doing.

Then comes the question: "Is it a mistake to pay foreign government leaders for information of value?"

President Carter said at a news conference last week he found nothing "illegal or improper" in the current activities of the agency.

The exchange of information among friendly countries has long been an accepted practice in spying and counterspying, and that is what CIA activities involve.

The CIA must be allowed to continue to conduct covert operations because adversaries of the United States do not telegraph their plans.

The CIA has been accused of murder and assassination in the past. That type activity can not be condoned even in the world of spying.

Admiral Turner faces a tremendous task in restoring the credibility of the CIA. He is keeping his navy rank which is a sign he wants the world to know a professional is on the job.