

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 2A

USA TODAY  
3 February 1987

# Nominee an expert on Soviets

By Rae Tyson  
USA TODAY

If confirmed by the Senate, veteran spymaster Robert Gates, 43, will become the youngest director of the CIA.

Though he's worked there since 1966 in a variety of intelligence roles, Gates has shown candor when asked about problems at the CIA.

When quizzed last year about KGB defector Vitaly Yurchenko, who fled from CIA

custody, Gates said the agency must improve security so "they can't just walk out the door and into the Soviet Embassy."

Gates, a Kansas native and expert on Soviet history, has served on the National Security Council for six years and became Casey's deputy in April.

As CIA director, he takes charge of the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence, and various mili-

tary and FBI intelligence units.

Though his Senate confirmation in April was unanimous, Gates can expect to face tougher questions this time around.

Among them: Why he withheld suspicions that profits from Iran arms sales were diverted to rebels in Nicaragua.

Gates' explanation: His suspicions — nearly two months before the scandal broke — were based on "bits and pieces of information" he didn't consider "very much to go on."



UPI  
GATES: Suspected something before Iran story broke