

Atlanta editor still prisoner

ATLANTA—A mysterious "revolutionary army" group, seemingly patterned after the Hearst kidnapers, held Atlanta Constitution Editor John R. "Reg" Murphy captive Thursday without explaining its motive.

The 40-year-old Murphy, a soft-spoken man personally, but hard-hitting in his writing, disappeared at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday when he left his home with a man who apparently came to the door saying

he wanted to discuss a news story. FBI agents reportedly were searching for a white man driving a green Ford Torino who was seen leaving the quiet Emory University residential section where Murphy lived with his wife, Virginia, and their two teen-age daughters.

At 9:15 p.m., 1 hour and 45 minutes after Murphy apparently was abducted, the first of three phone calls came through from a group identifying itself as the "revolutionary

army" and claiming it had taken Murphy hostage.

Jim Minter, managing editor of the Constitution, received the first call from a man who said the newspaper would hear more from the abductors later.

Five minutes later, television station WAGA received another call from a man identifying himself as a colonel in the revolutionary army.

"We have Reg Murphy, editor of the Constitution, and don't bother to call the FBI. It won't help," the colonel told WAGA.

Shortly after this call, Ms. Murphy was contacted and told: "If you want to know about your husband, call Jim Minter."

Nearly 24 hours after the abduction, however, William Fields, executive editor of the Constitution, said there had been no further word on Murphy's fate.

The executive editor explained that Murphy, unlike Patricia Hearst, was not a person of wealth. However, the Cox chain, which owns the Constitution, is one of the top newspaper groups in the country, along with the Hearst newspapers and others.

Last Saturday the Constitution ran an editorial saying the abduction of Patricia Hearst, being held by a group that demands her father feed the needy of California, "is almost a miniature history of the problems of our times. There is a fanatic and criminal radical group, the Symbionese Liberation Army, that apparently wants to overthrow the established order. . . .



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Compiled by Tom Sawyer
Wire Editor

Nixon postpones W. European trip

WASHINGTON—President Nixon has postponed once again the European trip originally conceived as a top diplomatic priority for 1973, White House officials disclosed Thursday.

They said the President had decided "this was not the time" for the West European swing he had scheduled for April. But they said they did not know whether his decision was influenced by snags in U.S.-European relations or reluctance to travel at a time when the House impeachment inquiry may be active.

Nixon still plans his separate Moscow summit visit in June, the officials said.

N.C. to get more gas in March

RALEIGH—North Carolina will get in March an additional six million gallons of gasoline, increasing the state's supply by about four or five per cent, Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. announced Thursday.

Holshouser said the additional gasoline will come from the American Petrofina Oil Co., which has agreed to serve jobbers formerly supplied by British Petroleum Co. (BP).

The Federal Energy Office (FEO) earlier this week directed BP and Atlantic-Richfield Oil Co. (ARCO) to resume supplies to North Carolina.

Nader group seeks some aerosol bans

WASHINGTON—A Ralph Nader research group said Thursday a chemical linked to liver cancer is being used in some aerosol products, including hair sprays, and should be banned.

The chemical, vinyl chloride, could be "another Thalidomide" in its impact on the public, Dr. Sidney Wolfe, director of the Health Research Group, told a congressional hearing. Thalidomide was the tranquilizer linked to severe birth defects a decade ago.

When used in a hair spray, Wolfe said, the chemical can reach concentrations similar to those given to laboratory animals who developed cancer in one test.

More ransom asked

HILLSBOROUGH, Calif.—The kidnapers of Patricia Hearst Thursday demanded another \$4 million in food as a condition of her release, and said if the family does not "comply precisely," they will break off communication. The terrorists also

threatened to hold Hearst as a hostage for two members of their group held in San Quentin Prison.

A family spokesman said the latest communique from the terrorist Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA) came in the form of a tape and letter left in a San Francisco telephone booth Wednesday night. The communique was addressed to the Rev. Cecil Williams, who received an earlier communique, and he was alerted to its whereabouts by an anonymous telephone call.

The latest communication also contained a reference by the SLA to the two men being held in San Quentin Prison charged with murder in the assassination of Oakland Schools Supt. Dr. Marcus Foster. The SLA claimed responsibility for that killing.

Nixon requests stiffer drug law

WASHINGTON—President Nixon told Congress Thursday he wants stiff new penalties against illicit drug dealers, including mandatory minimum sentences for first offenders and higher maximums across the board.

"While our enforcement efforts are proving effective in finding drug traffickers," the President said in a message to the House and Senate, "our system of criminal justice is not as effective in dealing with them after they are arrested."

Nixon said he would submit to Congress in the near future a legislative package calling for a minimum federal sentence of three years, and a maximum of 15 years, for a first offense of dealing in narcotics. A second offense would carry a penalty of 10 to 30 years.

The maximum penalty for dealing in other dangerous drugs would be increased from five years to 10 for a first offense, and from 10 years to 15 for a second offense. Second offenders would be subject to a minimum of three years.

A Drug Enforcement Administration spokesman said under the 1970 law there is no minimum or mandatory sentence for either first or second offenders. This law carries a maximum 15 years imprisonment for the first offense and 30 for the second in trafficking in major drugs.

Admiral denies spy operations

WASHINGTON—Adm. Robert O. Welander testified Thursday he refused a demand in 1971 by John D. Ehrlichman, then President Nixon's domestic affairs adviser, that he sign a document admitting he was a key figure in an alleged military spying operation in the White House.

Welander also told a Senate hearing the charges by Yeoman IC Charles Radford, his former clerk, were made in retaliation because Welander had accused Radford of leading classified materials to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson.

Radford, in testimony made public by the Senate Armed Services Committee, claimed Wednesday that he stole White House documents and spied on Henry A. Kissinger and Gen. Alexander Haig on the direct instructions of Welander and Adm. Rembrandt C. Robinson.

Robinson, who was killed in Vietnam in 1971, preceded Welander as head of the

Pentagon's liaison office in the White House. Welander said in prepared testimony for the closed hearing, that on Dec. 21 or 22, 1971, he was instructed to report immediately to Ehrlichman.

Jury selection slow

NEW YORK—Slow progress was reported Thursday in the choosing of a jury not affected by a 20-month-long barrage of publicity to give a fair trial to former cabinet officers John N. Mitchell and Maurice H. Stans on charges of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury.

Of the 52 candidates needed, only 12 had been approved by midday by federal Judge Lee P. Gagliardi in the secret questioning he decided on as part of the jury selection method.



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