



Newsday / Millie Rose Madrick

Vernon Walters leaves the United Nations building after presenting his credentials

Walters Starts as UN Envoy

By Brooke W. Kroeger

Newsday UN Bureau

United Nations — With a 35-year military career behind him, new U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters said yesterday one reason he accepted the post of envoy to the United Nations was in hopes of being remembered as a man of peace.

Gen. Walters, after presenting his credentials to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, recounted for reporters how he had been an aide to three of the five five-star generals in U.S. history — Marshall, Eisenhower and Bradley.

"These men, who had been great in war, in the afternoon and evening of their lives, aspired to be remembered as men of peace," Walters said.

"I find as I get older, I feel some of those same tuggings as well." Walters is 68.

He apologized for being "at a peak of igno-

rance I never expect to reach again" about his new post but bantered with reporters briefly on several topics.

On the current U.S. trade embargo against Nicaragua, Walters was asked why his predecessor, Jeane Kirkpatrick, had maintained the United States does not believe in economic sanctions.

"Brigitte Bardot was once asked why she changed men so often and she replied that only fools refuse to change their minds," he said.

Apartheid, he said, was "an obsolete doctrine that has no place in the 20th Century."

As to how his style will differ from Kirkpatrick's, Walters cited only their difference in background.

"She came from academia and I came from 35 years in the army . . . Those differences may show in the way we do things."