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National interest cited

Federal panel to hear Mandel parole request

By Allegra Bennett

The federal Parole Commission's Atlanta office referred parole requests by former Governor Marvin Mandel and three codefendants to higher authorities in Washington yesterday for a final review, citing unusual national interest in the case.

Debbie Barron, a spokeswoman with the U.S. Parole Commission's southeast regional office in Atlanta, said yesterday a decision had been made by the regional commissioner, but she declined to say what it was.

Both the public interest and the prominence of the defendants made it necessary to forward the case to the national commission for consideration by a full board of commissioners, she said.

Under normal circumstances, parole requests require only the action of the regional commissioner.

In this case, however, four commissioners—including the southeast regional commissioner—will make the decision.

A decision by the national commission can be appealed to the National Appeals Board.

The national Parole Commission,

which meets every two weeks, is scheduled to convene tomorrow in Washington, but the case probably won't be taken up before August 29, Ms. Barron said.

Mr. Mandel, Irvin Kovens and Harry W. Rodgers III, who are serving three-year sentences at the federal prison camp at Eglin Air Force Base in the Florida panhandle, were heard by the regional commission July 2 when it met at the prison.

The commission was scheduled to make a decision within 21 days of the July 2 request, but the decision was delayed because of staff shortages and the complications of the case.

The parole application of W. Dale Hess, who is serving a three-year term at the prison facility at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala., also has been forwarded to the national commission.

The four men, along with Ernest N. Cory and William A. Rodgers, were convicted in August, 1977, of mail fraud and racketeering in a scheme for Mr. Mandel to use his influence as Maryland's chief executive to affect legislation governing the now-defunct Marlboro racetrack. The

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... Washington will review request

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businessmen had an interest in the track.

Mr. Cory was placed on probation for 18 months. William Rodgers is serving a one-year sentence and is assigned to the custody of the Volunteers of America in Baltimore.

All who had jail terms began serving their sentences May 14, except for the former governor, who entered prison May 19.

Mrs. Mandel hospitalized in Arundel with chest pains

Jeanne Mandel, the wife of former Governor Marvin Mandel, was hospitalized with chest pains Monday in Annapolis.

Mrs. Mandel was admitted to Anne Arundel General Hospital, according to Lisa Hillman, a hospital spokeswoman. She was treated in the coronary care unit, where doctors could not confirm whether she had had a heart attack, and transferred to a private room.

The spokeswoman said Mrs. Mandel was resting comfortably yesterday while doctors ran other tests to determine the cause of the pains.

Hospital officials said it was standard procedure at Anne Arundel General to place in the coronary care unit patients who had no obvious reasons for their chest pains, in order to assure that there had been no heart attack.

Mrs. Hillman said that since Mrs. Mandel was admitted to the hospital, Mr. Mandel had called her twice from the federal prison at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. She was not accepting calls from anyone but him.