Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/21 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302840023-1

4

ARTICLE APPEARED ON PAGE A-16

NEW YORK TIMES
15 JANUARY 1980

STAT

White House and Panel Near Accord on C.I.A. Rules

By CHARLES MOHR
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 — The White House and the Senate Intelligence Committee are relatively close to agreement on a "charter" that would codify restraints on the Central Intelligence Agency but give it "more flexibility" by relaxing some existing restraints, a key member of the committee said today.

Senator Walter D. Huddleston, chairman of the subcommittee on charters and guidelines, acknowledged that there was some doubt the House would pass such broad legislation. There is strong sentiment in that body to simply "un-handcuff" the intelligence services without legislating a set of rules.

The Kentucky Democrat said one issue still in dispute was the paid use of journalists, clergymen and academics as intelligence agents. He said the Intelligence Committee's draft legislation would continue a prohibition against such practices contained in an executive order issued by President Carter in 1978.

However, Mr. Huddleston said, the C.I.A. was urging "guidelines" that would restrict these activities without imposing a flat prohibition.

Limits on Access to Files

The Senator also said that the present version of the legislation would limit application of the Freedom of Information Act to the C.I.A., restricting the right of filing requests for information to United States citizens seeking personal data about themselves. The aim is to stop the current practice of foreign governments, especially those in the Soviet bloc, of using the act to extract information from the agency.

The New York Times reported last Friday that the White House was seeking Congressional support for repealing the Hughes-Ryan amendment, a measure tacked onto a foreign aid bill of 1974, which has required intelligence agencies to advise eight different Congressional committees, four in each house, of any covert operations intended to influence events abroad. The amendment is named for its sponsors, former Senator Harold E. Hughes, Democrat of Iowa, and the late Representative Leo J. Ryan, Democrat of California.

Senator Huddleston said the present version of the charter legislation would "modify" the provision to require that only the two intelligence committees be directly informed. These panels would then pass some of the information to the budget, foreign relations and armed services committees of each chamber.

The Senator said he realized that "the atmosphere and climate have changed considerably" because of the crises in Iran and Afghanistan. Now, he said, there seemed to be more desire to give the intelligence services latitude of action, in contrast to the moves of the mid-1970's to police and restrict their operations.

The Hughes-Ryan amendment, he said, had tended to "inhibit covert operations" because of fears among intelligence officials that reporting to so many committees would lead to unauthorized disclosures of their plans.

The Senator said he hoped that the White House and the committee would reach agreement on all details of the charter within about two weeks and that the legislation could be introduced and hearings begun by February. Similar legislation has stalled in the Senate in previous years.

STAT

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/21 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000302840023-1