Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/23 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000303560100-5

STAT

ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS
AFIO
PERISCOPE
Journal of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers
VOL. XI, NO. 2, SPRING 1986

LEAHY SLAMS ADMINISTRATION ON LEAKS; URGES GREATER COMPLIANCE ON OVERSIGHT

By Harris Greene

Speaking before an attentive audience of more than 400 members at AFIO's April 21 luncheon at the Officers Club, Fort Myer, Virginia, Senator Patrick Leahy (D/VT), vice-chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) made a spirited attack on "key Intelligence Community leaders" who fail to work cooperatively with the two congressional committees.

A situation has resulted, he said, of "somewhat strained, and unnecessarily so" relations between these Committees and "elements of the Intelligence Community." He did not name names, but was unmistakably referring to personalities such as CIA director William Casey. Senator Leahy, who took pains to repeat that he understood and sympathized with the problems of U.S. intelligence, pointed out that "well over 90 percent" of the time, the SSCI has voted unanimously to support intelligence community initiatives, thus smoothing the way for full Senate support of specific intelligence projects and programs.

The problem arises, he said, from "growing disagreement over the (Reagan) administration's clear determination to make ever greater use of covert paramilitary operations as part of what is now being called the 'Reagan doctrine.'" There are areas, he stated, in which CIA should definitely be involved, "but *not* a substitute for U.S. foreign policy."

Leahy lauded the Congress for reducing intelligence oversight committees in 1976 from eight committees to two, one in the Senate and the other in the House of Representatives. That system, in his view, is working well. It was made law by the Intelligence Oversight Act of 1980, which formalized the requirement that the oversight committees are to be kept fully and currently informed of all intelligence programs, including "significantly anticipated intelligence activities." He outlined three serious problems in the oversight process:

— who is responsible for leaks, and the significance of the "leak" problem;

— timeliness of notification by the Intelligence Community of *significant* intelligence activities;

— covert action programs, especially covert paramilitary programs.

Senator Leahy objected strongly to those who blame

Senator Leahy

the Congress, without justification he insisted, for allegedly leaking sensitive intelligence information to the press. "Far too often," he said, "in the last year or so, we on the (SSCI) have learned first of significant intelligence matters from the press, followed quickly by a breathless call from the legistlative liaison Officers at CIA, DIA or elsewhere, trying to head off our (SSCI) angry reaction." He has heard a large number of complaints "from both sides of the aisle" in the Senate about such executive branch leaks.

Leahy jocularly suggested that the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* be classified each morning and sent to his committee as briefing papers in order to get information on intelligence activities quickly, "and also get a good crossword puzzle to work on at the same time." As a result of executive branch leaks, he said, the protection of having only two congressional committees, one in each house, protecting important security information, is eroding. Other congressional committees are beginning to express more interest in intelligence projects. He bluntly accused "parts of the Intelligence Community" of going directly to these other congressional committees "in an effort to circumvent opposition in the (Senate) Intelligence Committee." Leahy unhesitantly placed primary blame for leaks on the White

(continued on page 2)

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2010/07/23 : CIA-RDP90-00552R000303560100-5