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CIA Summoned to Hill On Korea Bribe Probe

By Walter Taylor
Washington Star Staff Writer

The leadership of the Senate Ethics Committee quietly has summoned CIA Director Stansfield Turner to discuss highly sensitive intelligence documents that could implicate members of the Senate in the Korean influence-buying scandal.

Following reports that material culled by the CIA from intelligence sources in Korea — possibly from electronic surveillance of the presidential palace of Park Chung Hee — might suggest improprieties by some senators or former senators, Sen. Lowell P. Weicker Jr., an ethics committee member, requested the meeting with Turner, now scheduled for tomorrow.

The Democratic and Republican leaders of the Senate, Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia and Howard H. Baker of Tennessee, reviewed the CIA information two weeks ago and were so startled by it that they called Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell to the Capitol for assurances that the Justice Department had had access to the material in its on-going criminal investigation of the Korean affair.

THE JUSTICE Department, in fact, had been aware of the information for more than a year.

Byrd and Baker also contacted the leaders of the ethics committee, Sens. Adlai E. Stevenson, D-Ill., and Harrison H. Schmitt, R-N.M., to determine whether their newly reconstituted panel had screened the intelligence reports. Stevenson and Schmitt also had reviewed the material by that time.

Of the six ethics committee members, however, only the two committee leaders — both of whom have stated flatly that no "proof" of Senate involvement has been brought to their attention — have up to now had access to the CIA materials.

Earlier this year, Stevenson and Schmitt made blanket requests to a variety of executive and legislative agencies for any information that might involve senators in alleged attempts by Korean agents to bribe members of Congress. Although they have kept the rest of the committee abreast of their activities, Stevenson and Schmitt reportedly have kept the specific fruits of their inquiry to themselves, not involving even the small committee staff in the probe.

IN ADDITION to material provided by the CIA, committee leaders also have received a widely circulated list of names that Tongsun Park, the central figure in the Korean investigation, once tried to bring into the United States. The list, which includes the names of four senators currently involved in an investigation of Korean CIA activity in the United States, was reconstructed from memory by a U.S. Customs officer who saw it in Park's possession.

The names are known to other ethics committee members, but Stevenson and Schmitt are the only two members of the panel to question the four senators on the list. Stevenson said last week that he had been assured by each of the four that he never had accepted "anything of value" from Park.

Stevenson acknowledged last night that Turner had been summoned to the Capitol to discuss the Korean matter but he sought to diminish the significance of the CIA director's appearance. He said he and Schmitt had asked Turner to appear as a courtesy to Weicker.

"I'm just doing it as a favor for Lowell Weicker . . . it's his meeting," said Stevenson. "I don't know why he wants (Turner) here or what he wants to ask him."

Stevenson said other members of the ethics panel would be told of the session, but that he could not anticipate who would participate. "It is not a hearing by the full committee," he stressed.

Schmitt also described the meeting as informal. Weicker was not immediately available for comment.

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