Approved For Release 2007/06/28 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100100051-7

STAT

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

Date 13 Jul 77
Item No. 7

STAT

DISTRIBUTION II

‡‡‡R146

R A2796)1ZQTUIVCYN

‡‡ETHICS‡

‡BY WILLIAM SCALLY‡

WASHINGTON, JULY 13, REUTER - THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ETHICS COMMITTEE, SMARTING FROM CHARGES OF FOOT-DRAGGING, TODAY STEPPED UP THE PACE OF ITS INVESTIGATION INTO SOUTH KOREAN INFLUENCE-BUYING IN CONGRESS.

THE PANEL WAS ALSO PREPARED TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY UNDER WHICH THE PRESIDENT WOULD ACT AS ARBITRATOR IN ANY DISPUTE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE CIA OVER MAKING PUBLIC SECRET CIA DOCUMENTS.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN FLYNT, A GEORGIA DEMOCRAT, TOLD REPORTERS THAT COMMITTEE MEETINGS WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT THREE WEDNESDAYS, WITH ADDITIONAL MEETINGS IF NECESSARY.

HE ADDED THAT THERE WAS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF EARLY HEARINGS, PERHAPS IN PUBLIC, ON THE KOREAN INVESTIGATION.‡

‡‡‡R147

R A2796)2ZQTUIVZSA

‡‡ETHICS 2 WASHINGTON‡

THE COMMITTEE HAS MET ONLY 11 TIMES THIS YEAR AND HAS COME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO SPEED UP ITS INQUIRY INTO THE INFLUENCE-PEDDLING SCANDAL, NOW SAID TO INVOLVE MORE THAN 100 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.

THIS WEEK THE COMMITTEE'S SPECIAL COUNSEL, PHILIP LACOVARA ACCUSED MR. FLYNT OF FAILING TO ACT SWIFTLY ENOUGH IN THE INVESTIGATION.

MR. FLYNT AND SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS EXPRESSED ANNOYANCE WITH MR. LACOVARA TODAY, BUT THE COUNSEL WAS NOT THERE TO HEAR THEIR CRITICISM. HE WAS SAID TO BE ON A THREE-WEEK FOREIGN VACATION.

FOLLOWING A PRIVATE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE, MR. FLYNT TOLD REPORTERS THAT THERE HAD BEEN "AN UNFORTUNATE MISUNDERSTANDING" BY MR. LACOVARA. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO DISCUSSION ABOUT DISMISSING MR. LACOVARA.‡

MORE 1344

Approved For Release 2007/06/28 : CIA-RDP99-00498R000100100051-7