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Staff Report on CIA May Remain Secret

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Members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are studying a 17-page report prepared by the committee staff on the CIA's role in Chile's internal affairs, but officials said it is classified Top Secret and may never be made public.

Pat M. Holt, chief of staff of the committee, said the staff study over which he presided was handed to the senators yesterday afternoon. This was done at a closed-door executive session meeting called by Chairman J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., immediately after open confirmation hearings for two diplomatic posts.

The next move, according to Holt, is to await a reply from the House Armed Services subcommittee on intelligence on the Senate committee's request for a transcript of the testimony of CIA Director William Colby.

At least one senator yesterday said at the confirmation hearing of William D. Rogers—he has been appointed assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs—that the committee intended to hold such hearings.

THE FULBRIGHT committee is in an awkward position on the CIA-Chile revelations earlier this month by Rep. Michael J. Harrington, D-Mass., because last November Colby testified about these activities to some extent before the Western Hemisphere subcommittee of the Senate headed by Gale McGee, D-Wyo. It appears that the Fulbright committee's request for Colby's testimony before the House subcommittee headed by Rep. Lucien Nedzi, D-Mich., is an effort

to compare what the CIA director told the Nedzi subcommittee and what has been testified to before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by Colby and State Department officials.

If Colby's Senate testimony was essentially complete, most members of the committee presumably would be in no position to

claim surprise over the Harrington disclosures.

Although Holt refused to speculate on what the Fulbright committee might be planning to do, it appeared certain that there is no sentiment for carrying out the drastic proposals made by Jerome Levinson, counsel of the multinational corporations subcommittee.

In a confidential document leaked to the press, Levinson proposed to Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, that the confirmation hearings of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger be reopened; that the Justice Department study whether perjury was committed by former Asst. Secretary of State Charles A. Meyer and former CIA Director Richard Helms; and that contempt proceedings be started against Edward Korry, former ambassador to Chile.

IF THERE is no release

of the Holt staff report or no renewal of hearings on the CIA's role in Chile against the late Marxist president Salvador Allende, the issue is very near to being closed as far as the Senate is concerned. CIA oversight presently rests on an ad hoc basis with the Senate and House Armed Services Committees and senior members of the two Appropriations Committees. These overseers have shown no zeal for punishing or exposing CIA activities in the past.

Fulbright and Church, normally on the same political wave-length in foreign affairs, debated during Kissinger's testimony last week on detente whether the secretary should be questioned about Chile. Fulbright implied, in trying to cut off Church's probing, that a later hearing would be reserved for the Chile-CIA question. Now that appears highly uncertain.

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