

HOUSE UNIT MEETS ON CHILEAN LEAKS

Charges Against Harrington Weighed Over Release of Secret C.I.A. Testimony

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 25 — A House Armed Services subcommittee today began a proceeding that could lead to disciplinary charges against Representative Michael J. Harrington for his release of secret Central Intelligence Agency testimony on Chile.

Mr. Harrington, Democrat of Massachusetts, was questioned behind closed doors for nearly two hours by members of the Armed Services intelligence subcommittee about his alleged violation of House rules in preparing and distributing a summary of the testimony of William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence.

In that testimony, presented to the subcommittee on April 22, Mr. Colby disclosed that his agency had been authorized by the Nixon Administration to spend clandestinely more than \$8-million between 1970 and 1973 in an effort to make it more difficult for President Salvador Allende Gossens to govern Chile.

Reviewed the Transcript

Mr. Harrington was permitted to review the transcript in June. A month later he wrote confidential letters to the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee requesting a full inquiry into the role of the United States in the subsequent overthrow of Mr. Allende by a military junta last September. The Chilean President died in the coup.

In a memorandum made available today, the intelligence subcommittee said that a dispatch published Sept. 8 in The New York Times contained "information allegedly obtained by Congressman Harrington from his reading of the transcript." Since Mr. Harrington did not receive permission to make further use of the testimony, the memorandum said, "it appears evident that a direct violation" of House rules regarding such testimony was involved.

The memorandum, dated Sept. 12, noted that while it was clear that secret material had been provided to newspapers, there was no information "presently available" that would show how the press learned of the Harrington letter.

"It appears evident," the memorandum added, "that this information was obtained as a result of" Mr. Harrington's review of the Colby testimony.

In previous dispatches, The New York Times has reported that it obtained a copy of Mr. Harrington's letter from outside sources.

Mr. Harrington was known even before today's hearing to be under sharp criticism from senior members of the House and Senate Armed Services committees, which have responsibility for supervising the C.I.A..

The security breach is known to have been discussed during a publicized Congressional briefing last week at the White House, attended by President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger. The briefing was to have included the issue of effective control of clandestine C.I.A. activities.

Dismay Is Expressed

In a telephone interview today, Mr. Harrington expressed dismay at what he termed the subcommittee's intention to avoid conducting a full inquiry into the Chilean situation.

"There's a gap—it's almost like a chasm — between their perception of the role played by the Congress and mine," he said. "I don't think we should be involved in covert activities under any circumstances, and they sit there in eunuch-like fashion doing nothing at all about American policy."

"Why, they don't even remotely discuss the appropriateness of the classification system and the Executive's control of it; and they don't want to discuss why our national security wasn't challenged by what Allende was doing in Chile. They don't go beyond saying that there was a violation of the rules."

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