

Seen for Reform Of CIA Controls

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A perceptibly growing ground swell, reportedly including President Ford, is developing to overhaul existing procedures by which the Central Intelligence Agency is held accountable to the legislative branch for the way it operates.

This zeal for making the CIA more accountable to Congress may be more apparent than substantive but recent revelations about the agency's operations in Chile have aroused more interest than any of its activities since the Bay of Pigs more than 13 years ago.

It was Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, presiding officer of the "40 Committee" at the National Security Council which in turn has the final word on all CIA cover operations, who revealed yesterday that Ford is ready for some kind of change in espionage-intelligence operations.

Kissinger told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that Ford had told congressional leaders the administration is ready to work out procedures with Congress for accountability of the CIA.

Sen. Stuart Symington, D-Mo., who often sits in on CIA briefings and hearings as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced yesterday that he hoped the President and Kissinger will support efforts in Congress to review existing procedures under which CIA operates; vitalize and broaden the oversight committees of the Congress and obtain broader access for members of Congress to the product of the CIA so their deliberations may be better informed.

"A QUICK cosmetic fix will not suffice but will lead the continued erosion of the confidence in and effectiveness of the agency," Symington said.

"The Congress and past presidents are to blame, not the personnel of the agency," Symington said.

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, told reporters, "The so-called watchdog committee had never really watched the dog."

Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, and others support a recurrent proposal to create a joint committee of the Senate and House to oversee all espionage and intelligence activities. At present, the overseeing of the CIA is best described as ad hoc, since only a handful of senior members of the Senate and House Appropriations and Armed Services Committee handle this chore.

It is generally conceded that even these legislators get only limited accounts of what the CIA is doing and more often than not it is well after the fact. As Church said, "We don't even have a way of knowing how much money CIA spends, let alone what for." The CIA budget is concealed among other departmental budgets.

It was the \$11 million CIA operation in Chile against Marxist politician Salvador Allende that set off the current wave of demands for reform. The instrument of disclosure was a letter written by Rep. Michael J. Harrington, D-Mass., after he had been allowed to scrutinize, but not take notes from, some of the testimony of Colby before the Nedzi subcommittee. This testimony was given long after the CIA operation in Chile allegedly had been terminated.

The Colby testimony was at such wide variance from testimony of State Department and CIA officials at

other hearings on Chile that the staff of Church's multinational corporations subcommittee demanded perjury and contempt action against some witnesses and the recall of Kissinger for more testimony on his confirmation.

Fulbright and the majority of the Foreign Relations Committee this week acted to take charge of this matter themselves and will hold hearings on the Chile incident after a staff investigation has been completed. The intensity with which Church tried to interrogate Kissinger yesterday was interrupted several times by Fulbright who told his colleague to wait until the investigation is complete.

CHURCH CALLS the CIA action in Chile "unfettered intervention." He said that in the past influential senators have not wanted to know what CIA was doing but said he believed that feeling has disappeared in the wake of Vietnam and Chile.

The New York Times reported that most of the money authorized for the CIA activities in Chile was used in 1972 and 1973 to provide strike benefits and other means of support for anti-Allende strikers and workers.

The wave of notoriety about the CIA actions against a controversial but democratically elected president such as Allende in a friendly neighbor state brought Ford into the situation yesterday. When he and Kissinger called congressional leaders to the White House in the morning for a foreign policy meeting, Ford volunteered to try to work out some new and better procedure.

A veteran CIA agent, contacted separately about the Chile affair, commented merely, "We can't conduct our business in a goldfish bowl."

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