

NEW YORK TIMES

19 SEP 1974

FORD TO BRIEF FIVE ON C.I.A. ACTIVITIES

He and Kissinger Schedule
Session With Leaders
of Congress Today

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18— Secretary of State Kissinger announced today that he and President Ford would personally brief five House and Senate leaders tomorrow on the scope of the Central Intelligence Agency's covert operations.

"We will put it before them in detail and ask them, 'What do you want'" Mr. Kissinger said aboard Air Force One as it returned here from New York, where President Ford addressed the United Nations.

Administration officials said that the President had decided to brief the Congressional leaders after his strong defense of all C.I.A. covert activities in his news conference Monday night. The President publicly confirmed then that the agency had been involved in clandestine efforts in Chile, but he depicted them as having been aimed only at aiding newspaper and politicians opposing President Salvador Allende Gossens, who, Mr. Ford said, was attempting to suppress criticism.

Senate Study Planned

The White House's announcement followed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's announcement yesterday that it had authorized a full-scale study into what has been called misleading testimony in the Senate about the C.I.A.'s role in Chile. Targets of that inquiry are known to include, Richard Helms, former Director of Central Intelligence; John M. Hennessey, a former Treasury Department official, two former high-level State Department officials, and Mr. Kissinger himself, who testified about United States involvement in Chile during his Senate confirmation hearings last fall.

Those invited to the briefing tomorrow, Mr. Kissinger said were the Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana; the Senate Republican leader, Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania; Speaker of the House Carl Albert of Oklahoma; the House Democratic leader, Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. of Massachusetts, and the House Republican leader John J. Rhodes of Arizona.

Administration officials said that Mr. Kissinger and President Ford were confident that covert operations — such as those in Chile — could be defended on national security grounds. If these operations were dropped, these officials insisted, an "overwhelming case" could be made that peril to the security of the United States would be increased.

A Philosophical Question

One high-level official, asked whether such beliefs on the part of Mr. Kissinger and President Ford amounted to an endorsement of United States intervention in foreign countries, replied that the question was a philosophical one worth debating.

Concern over lack of effective Congressional oversight has been repeatedly expressed by ranking Senate and House members since newspaper disclosures last week that the C.I.A., despite prior disclaimers, had been authorized by Mr. Kissinger and President Nixon to spend more than \$8-million between 1970 and 1973 in an effort to make it more difficult for Mr. Allende, a Marxist, to govern.

The Chilean President was overthrown last year in a military coup d'état in which he died.

Representative Dante B. Fascell, Democrat of Florida, renewed his call today for more effective control over the Central Intelligence Agency after a series of hearings that ended today before his inter-American affairs subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Mr. Fascell said he was "deeply distressed" that he and his colleagues had not been fully informed of the agency's activities in testimony given earlier this year by William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence.

00740