

Senators Hear Dulles

Pressures Mount For A Check-Rein on C.I.A.

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By Rowland Evans Jr.
WASHINGTON, May 2.—The Cuba fiasco has raised the pressure for a Congressional check and double-check on operations of the Central Intelligence Agency to an all-time high.

Allen W. Dulles, the director of the secret agency, spent almost two hours with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today. The proceedings, which were followed by testimony from some of his deputies, were all classified—which is to say, reporters were not

admitted, and the transcript was stamped "top secret."

But the very presence of the director, a big and hearty man who wears his pipe like a permanent fixture, evidenced the deep concern about his operations, not just the Cuban affair, but C. I. A. activities around the world.

Sen. J. William Fulbright, D., Ark., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and one of the very few who opposed the Cuban operation and took his opposition directly

to the President, told reporters after the long briefings that the White House and the Defense Department must share in the "collective responsibility" for the "blunder" two weeks ago.

"The operation as a whole was a mistake," Sen. Fulbright said.

Another member of the committee, Sen. Frank Church, D., Idaho, blamed the failure of the expedition partly on "poorly conceived" military action.

The White House, it was understood, is exercised by the growing pressure in Congress for a special Joint Committee on Intelligence Operations, similar in structure to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. A resolution proposing "continuing studies" of the C. I. A. and all other intelligence outfits (except the F. B. I.) was formally introduced in the Senate by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, D., Minn., and other Senators. It is now awaiting action in the Rules Committee.

Sen. McCarthy hopes to get committee approval of the resolution soon. It is backed by the assistant Democratic leader, Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, Minn. Sen. Mike Mansfield, Mont., the majority leader, has always led the field in past efforts to put a Congressional check on the C. I. A. This year he is waiting, apparently because he feels an obligation not

to go at cross purposes with the Kennedy administration.

The testimony of Mr. Dulles before the full Foreign Relations Committee coincided with a formal statement by the State Department labeling Cuba a full-fledged member of the Communist bloc of nations.

Lincoln White, the official spokesman, released the statement. It pointed to the boast of Premier Fidel Castro yesterday that Cuba is a "Socialist" state, then went on:

"Castro's mass meetings, which he calls elections, sound very much like Hitler's and Mussolini's mass gatherings." And Castro's characterization of Cuba today as "Socialist"—a rather precise word in the Communist ideological idiom—seems to advance Cuba in the pursuit of full communism beyond all other Communist states, except the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

The role of the C. I. A. in the aborted effort to topple Castro is well known by now, but the committee itself had never had the details. Mr. Dulles presumably described and equip the Cuban refugees, an estimated 5,000 of them, in special camps in Central Amer-

ica; how the invasion plans were worked out; disagreements among the refugee groups, and other aspects of the ill-starred action.

He gave a full and candid account, according to those who heard him, and so did his deputy, Richard Bissell, under whose supervision the Cuban operation was planned. Mr.

Bissell followed him to the stand when Mr. Dulles, the younger brother of the late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, had to leave to drive to the White House for a meeting of the National Security Council.

Two "Big" Questions

The great difficulty, meanwhile, in arranging for a formal Congressional check on the C. I. A., and on the intelligence services of the three military branches, is the question: How much check, and how many checkers? In a fundamentally clandestine operation, secrecy is paramount. A fourteen-member committee, such as Sen. McCarthy proposes, would presumably have access to intimate secrets and an advance look at operations such as the Cuban landing.

The only Congressional scrutiny now of the super-secret agency comes from a top-drawer group of Senators and Congressmen from two standing committees—Appropriations and Armed Services. The agency's multi-million-dollar budgets are deviously scattered throughout other departmental budgets. Its clandestine policies, both intelligence and par-military, are not routinely subjected to this blue-ribbon group. Neither the Senate group nor its counterpart in the House, for example, knew about the Cuba operation. They did know, on the other hand, about the U-2 spy flights—and had known of them for months before the Russians shot down pilot Francis Gary Powers.

Sen. McCarthy said in an interview today that the government had a responsibility to check with an appropriate contact in Congress before undertaking an operation as fraught for the future as the Cuba landings. The joint committee that he proposes would be that contact. He said it must include members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Tonight, Sen. Fulbright said he thought he too would go along with a new watchdog committee for the C. I. A.



C. I. A. chief Dulles testifies with Sen. Fulbright at Cuban probe yesterday. Seated: Sen. Hickenlooper.