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# CIA got report of plot to kill Agnew, Colby say

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Washington—A report of a 1971 plot to kill Vice President Spiro T. Agnew and kidnap the director of central intelligence was made as a result of an illicit CIA mail operation revealed in testimony released yesterday by a House judiciary subcommittee.

William E. Colby, director of central intelligence, who made the disclosures earlier this month, did not say whether the CIA determined that there was, indeed, a plot to kill Agnew.

Mr. Colby admitted in the testimony to the House panel that almost 63,000 letters were opened during a mail watch that lasted from 1967 to 1972.

According to Mr. Colby, the operation—which he stressed no longer was being conducted—was aimed at finding out how Russian and Chinese Communists were opening and censoring letters, and also whether there were any hidden codes in the mail on the watch list, which covered 300 American citizens.

But the mail watch also gathered "hard intelligence," Mr. Colby said, who cited the report of the 1971 plot against the then vice president and CIA chief as an example. The direc-

tor of central intelligence at that time was Richard M. Helms, now ambassador to Iran.

The report came, Mr. Colby testified, from a CIA agent overseas who said "there was some kind of plot to kill the vice president . . . and kidnap the director of the CIA. And in the course of following that case to see what there was to it we did open some mail of one of the suspects . . ."

Mr. Colby refused, in that testimony, to characterize the

mail watch as illegal, contending that that determination would be made by the Justice Department.

The CIA director yesterday again testified before the Senate intelligence committee, which questioned him regarding the agency's involvement in Chile. Henry A. Kissinger, the Secretary of State, also is scheduled to be interrogated on that subject within the next few weeks.

Senator Frank Church (D., Idaho), chairman of the committee, yesterday asked the Senate to extend the intelligence investigation for six months. He offered as reasons the additional inquiry into political assassinations and the delay in the turning over of documents by various government departments, including the White House and the Justice Department.

Mr. Church also requested an additional \$500,000 to complete the business of the committee, which would bring its total budget to \$1,250,000. The

resolution would extend the life of the intelligence committee to February 29, 1976.

Senator John G. Tower (R., Texas), the committee's vice chairman, said after yesterday's session that the panel had worked out an agreement with the FBI for obtaining certain documents and was "in the process of working out problems with the White House" concerning material the senators want.

A White House counsel said yesterday that Mr. Kissinger was angered about the announcement Wednesday, on the eve of his departure for the

Helsinki summit meeting, that he was to be called before the intelligence panel.

Roderick Hillis, who was one of several officials to meet with the panel yesterday to discuss the material the committee seeks, made the comment about Mr. Kissinger.

Mr. Tower and Mr. Church said there was no significance in the timing of the announcement about an appearance by Mr. Kissinger. The purpose of calling him, Mr. Church said, is "not accusatory . . . We are endeavoring to find the line of authority" concerning CIA actions.