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Future Bleak For Proposals In CIA Report

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The Senate Intelligence Committee has delivered a toned-down attack on the CIA to a Senate that may have grown spy-shy and unwilling to significantly tamper with the nation's intelligence apparatus.

A rebuff is expected today from the Senate Rules Committee, which marks up legislation creating a new intelligence oversight committee.

The theme of the intelligence panel's recommendations released yesterday was the need for greater control by the executive and by Congress through its oversight function. Essential to that oversight function, in which Congress has so far failed, the committee report indicated, was the power of the purse. Chairman Frank Church, D-Idaho, said the power to authorize the intelligence budget was crucial.

That viewpoint was not expected to prevail today, however. Insiders supporting a strong new oversight body were figuring the best they might do was a 5-4 loss in the rules panel on the question of purse-string power for the new committee. Intelligence committee staff members were telling reporters that the loss in the Rules Committee would become a victory in the Senate.

THE INTELLIGENCE panel itself is in need of a Senate victory on the question of the over-all intelligence budget figure. It was the latest in a series of deletions, some of them of wholesale size, from yesterday's report at CIA and White House insistence.

The committee left in its report clear indications that the combined budget of the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency and the national reconnaissance program is about \$5 billion for this fiscal year and that the total costs, direct and indirect, for all intelligence activities, is

But it deleted the specific figure at White House and CIA insistence and voted 6-5 to let the full Senate decide whether to release it.

The committee's 650-page report had few revelations of the kind which shocked in its reports on covert actions in Chile and on the assassination attempts contemplated, attempted and bungled.

But it did reveal that since 1961 there have been what were described as 900 major covert operations and thousands of smaller ones. While these secret projects of influence or action were pouring out, the committee says there was no systematic review of either sensitive foreign espionage or counterintelligence activities at the White House level.

THE COMMITTEE gave serious

consideration to recommending an end to the secret operations. "Presidents and administrations have made excessive, and at times self-defeating use of covert action," said the committee.

But ultimately the committee opted for recommending dramatically reduced use of this most controversial tool of foreign policy and also recommending that Congress be informed before, not after the operation is run. "The committee has concluded, however, that the United States should maintain the option of reacting in the future to a grave, unforeseen threat to United States national security through covert means," the report read.

Another key element was the recommendation that omnibus legislation be written defining intelligence functions and the relationships between the intelligence community and the executive branch and Congress. The National Security Act of 1947, which created the Central Intelligence Agency, "is simply no longer an adequate framework for the conduct of America's intelligence agencies," the report read.

AT THE SAME time, the report said the CIA, which Church had once characterized as a rouge elephant, "in broad terms, is not 'out of control'."

The committee had some kind words for President Ford's recent executive order making changes in the operation of the intelligence apparatus within the executive branch. But the report indicated Ford's actions did not go far enough. That may prove to be a

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