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NO VOTE BY SENATE

Democrats, Fearing a Close Tally, Said to Block Floor Ballot

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 20—The Senate Democratic leadership, fearing too narrow a margin of support, prevented a floor vote today on making public the report on political assassinations, according to Senate sources.

Senators attending an unusual closed session of the chamber said that Administration supporters, who opposed the release of the document, had pressed in debate for a vote because they thought that a narrow margin favoring release would reduce the report's impact. The Democrats apparently agreed with this opinion and decided to block a vote, the Senators said.

As a result, at the end of the four-hour Senate session, the matter was tossed back to the Senate intelligence committee, which drafted the report. The committee, in an action that angered many Republicans, voted to make it public.

Decision Denounced

The vote would have been close, according to informants, because a sizable number of senators would not have voted to publish a report they had not read. The document was not made available to senators until the session began this morning.

After the doors to the Senate were opened this afternoon, a dozen senators took the floor to denounce publicly the decision not to vote on the issue. Most of the senators said that they would have voted to release the document.

Senator John G. Tower, the Texas Republican who is the

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Senator Frank Church looking over report on the C.I.A. before presenting it to closed Senate session yesterday.

Full Senate Vote on Report Blocked

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committee's vice chairman, declared that he had disassociated himself from the report because of the Senate's failure to vote to adopt it.

President Ford argued strenuously that the report should not be made public, contending that its publication might endanger United States intelligence operations. Yesterday, William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, held a news conference at which he appealed to the committee not to publish the names of 12 individuals. The committee rejected the appeal.

Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, the assistant Democratic leader, said after the session that he objected to a vote on whether to publish the report on two grounds. First, he said, it was unfair to require Senators to vote to release a document they had not read. Second, he declared, the Senate had delegated to the committee the responsibility for making a report, and a vote today would have been demeaning to the committee.

The closed session was only the second the Senate has held this year. The earlier one concerned military procurement.

Because no confidential material was discussed during the session, the Senate agreed tonight to make the transcript available tomorrow.

Senator Frank Church, the

Idaho Democrat who is chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, defended the publication of the report at a news conference this afternoon. He declared:

"There may be temporary injury. But I believe the countries of the world will recognize that our willingness to examine our past and seek a better future openly, without flinching, is an indication of the greatness of our country. Our nation is admired in proportion to the openness of our society. Withholding this report from the public would more closely resemble the practices of totalitarian regimes."

A Republican member of the committee, Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona, disagreed. In a statement, he asserted:

"My chief concern is the diplomatic damage this document may do to our country. It is difficult to predict the reactions of our friends and enemies abroad, but I believe it will be generally unfavorable to our interests."

Other Republican committee members, however, supported publication. Senator Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania said: "Our willingness to examine our past and seek a better future openly is an example of the greatness of our nation."

Senator Walter F. Mondale, Democrat of Minnesota, said that he believed the report illustrated two main points.

One, he said, was the "naive-

te" of American officials in believing that they could control the affairs of other sovereign nations.

The other, he said, was that the "unaccountability" of the intelligence agencies "resulted in actions being taken that would not have been taken if the principals involved had known that they would be held accountable."

The senators on the committee said that they had developed no conclusive evidence to show that orders for the attempted assassinations came from the White House.

But Senator Robert Morgan, Democrat of North Carolina, said that he was "convinced that the principals in these acts felt and believed that they were justified in that belief."

Senator Mondale acknowledged that the direct evidence that past presidents knew about the attempts to take the lives of foreign leaders was "very thin." But, Senator Mondale added, "common sense dictates that maybe they knew."

Report Will Be Printed

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 —

The report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence will be made available to the public through the Government Printing Office. A printing office spokesman said today that it would print 10,000 copies of the report beginning tonight. The price will be announced tomorrow. It is expected to cost between \$3 and \$4.