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CHURCH EXPECTS SENATE SUPPORT OF C.I.A. CONTROLS

Cites 'Affirmative' Reaction
to Report on Plotting to
Kill Foreign Leaders

ACTION BY EASTER SEEN

Panel Has Not Responded to
Justice Agency Requests
for Access to Evidence

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21—
Senator Frank Church said today that he believed the Senate would pass "before Easter" legislation providing for strong Congressional oversight of the intelligence agencies.

In a telephone interview, Senator Church, the chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said he based his assessment on the way in which his colleagues received the committee report on assassination plots against foreign leaders at a closed session of the Senate yesterday.

He said "the mood was toward the affirmative" in support of the need to correct abuses outlined in the 347-page report. The intelligence committee found that United States officials had "instigated" plots to kill two foreign leaders and

had known about or supported coups d'état that resulted in the deaths of three others. It found no evidence, however, that the Central Intelligence Agency had carried out any assassinations.

Possibility of Prosecution

The intelligence committee has not responded to requests from the Department of Justice for access to evidence assembled in the committee's investigation, according to a spokesman for the Senate group. He said there was "a question" whether the files would ever be made available to Government prosecutors investigating possible criminal activity by intelligence officials. [Page 17.]

Senator Church said that his committee would submit after the Thanksgiving recess, which ends Dec. 1, a bill to outlaw assassination plots. He and other members of the committee said they believed this legislation would be virtually unopposed in the Senate.

Earlier today, in response to questions on President Ford's reaction to the assassination report, Ron Nessen, Mr. Ford's press secretary, said the President "had made clear . . . he absolutely abhors Government officials' being involved in consideration of those kinds of things."

Mr. Nessen declined, however, to commit the President to support an antiassassination bill, noting that Mr. Ford was

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expected to offer shortly his own legislative package on intelligence activities, which may include a prohibition against assassination attempts.

The committee's report chastised Richard Helms, former Director of Central Intelligence and now Ambassador to Iran, for what it called his lack of candor with superiors on the assassination matter. It also found contradictions between the sworn testimony of C.I.A. officials and the testimony of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

But Mr. Nessen answered with a crisp "no" when asked whether the disclosures in the report might affect the future in office of either man.

Mr. Kissinger testified today before a closed session of the Senate intelligence committee on covert operations and their relation to foreign policy. Later he told reporters, "I think that there can be tighter control [to stop assassination plotting] . . . I am positive it can be stopped."

The publication of the assassination report, some 120,000 words based on a six-month investigation and interviews with 75 witnesses, marked the beginning of the end of the Senate's unprecedented investigation of the intelligence agencies.

The committee was expected to conduct further public hearings on Federal Bureau of Investigation activities, on covert operations in Chile and on proposals for legislation. It was expected to end its active investigation by Jan. 1 and begin preparing a final report.

The centerpiece of the committee's legislative proposals will be a joint Congressional

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oversight plan similar to one that now governs atomic energy, according to committee spokesmen. It would empower Congress to demand accountability from the intelligence agencies and commit them to make regular reports to Congress on their activities.

The committee was also expected to offer a series of specific bills dealing with problems of F.B.I. domestic security operations, the National Security Agency's activities and the role of the Internal Revenue Service. A team headed by William Miller, the committee's staff director, has been working for several months to draft such legislation.

Mr. Church said that the Senate's attitude toward the assassination report had led him to believe that strong oversight of the intelligence agencies would win early approval. He and other members of the committee have said that they believed many of the abuses they discovered resulted from a lack of "accountability" requirements for the intelligence agencies.

The assassination report was released by the committee yesterday after the Senate spurned President Ford's plea to withhold it. The document detailed plotting against Patrice Lumumba, the prime minister of the Congo, now Zaire; Fidel Castro, prime minister of Cuba; General Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, the Dominican dictator; Ngo Dinh Diem, president of South Vietnam and Gen. René Schneider, chief of the Chilean general staff.

Four of the five men were killed, but the report said that there was no evidence the C.I.A. had been directly responsible for their deaths. It also found no clear evidence that a President of the United States had ordered an assassination or even knew such plotting went on. But it traced complicity in such plots up the line of government to the Director of Central Intelligence.