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Articles in 1974 Spurred Inquiry

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 26—The report of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, part of which was released today, is the result of the most intensive investigation ever conducted into America's foreign and domestic intelligence system.

The study grew out of articles that appeared in The New York Times late in 1974. On Dec. 22, 1974, Seymour M. Hersh reported in the Times on a widespread program of spying on American citizens conducted without legal authority by the Central Intelligence Agency.

As a result of that article and earlier accounts of covert United States involvement in the overthrow of the Government of President Salvador Allende Gossens in Chile, the Senate voted on Jan. 26, 1975, to organize the select committee. On Feb. 18, the House established a counterpart committee.

The House committee's report has yet to be made public, largely because of a controversy that arose when The Times and Daniel Schorr, a CBS News correspondent, obtained and reported on the final results of the House study before its official release.

The congressional investigations follow one conducted within the C.I.A. by the former Director of Central Intelligence, William E. Colby, and another by a Presidential commission headed by Vice President Rockefeller.

All of the reports supported the original disclosures in The Times about covert activities by the C.I.A. in Chile and illegal intelligence work in the United States.
