

Ford blocks publication of Angola, Italy reports

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Ford moved Thursday to block publication of House intelligence committee reports on U.S. covert operations in Angola and Italy, sources said.

Under terms of an agreement worked out by Ford and the committee after a confrontation in September, the President blocked the publication of the two reports by saying disclosure "would be detrimental to the national security."

Chairman Otis G. Pike, D-N.Y., confirmed he got a letter from Ford on the reports the committee wanted to publish. But he refused to give any details, saying the letter itself was stamped "secret."

PIKE HAS never confirmed the subject of the reports, although they have been disclosed by the Associated Press and other news organizations.

One of the reports describes pre-

vious CIA funding of moderate political parties in Italy in an effort to prevent Communist election gains.

The sources said the committee was not told of and does not report on the recent disclosure that Ford has approved a new covert operation to distribute \$6 million to moderate Italian candidates in the future.

The second report details U.S. support for two factions fighting in Angola, much of which already has become public.

A PROPOSAL to publish a third report on U.S. support of Kurdish rebels in Iraq had been rejected by the committee on a 6-6 tie vote.

The panel had agreed last Dec. 19 by votes of 8 to 4 and 7 to 5 to try to publish the other two reports.

Rep. James P. Johnson, R-Colo., had proposed publication of the three reports under the procedure worked out with the President months earlier.