

House panel asks abolition of Pentagon intelligence arm

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House intelligence committee approved recommendations Tuesday to abolish the Pentagon's huge Defense Intelligence Agency and also to make it harder for presidents to order covert operations over the objections of the CIA and other agencies.

The committee also rejected, 7 to 4, a proposal that they try to work out a compromise with President Ford on knocking secret information out of its final report.

In the Senate, meanwhile, Sen. Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., disclosed that he learned four years ago of U.S. efforts to kill Cuba's Fidel Castro in the early 1960s.

Goldwater, who said the information "dribbled down to me as an individual from somebody in the know," told reporters he took no action because "it was merely talk and second if it was part of a presidential plan, it wasn't my business to make it public."

The House committee approved by voice vote the recommendation to abolish the Defense Intelligence Agency.

A committee counsel, Jack Boos, said the staff found the DIA has failed to coordinate military intelligence as it was created to do, its "intelligence product has been unsatisfactory," and it has attempted to analyze some of the same subjects as the CIA, wasting money and doing an interior job.

The package of recommendations approved by the House committee by voice vote is designed to make it harder for presidents and their aides to or-

der covert operations overseas over agencies' objections. It would require a six-member committee composed of top CIA, State and Pentagon officials to submit detailed written recommendations to the president for or against the proposed operations.

The six members of a proposed National Security Council subcommittee on foreign operations would be required to give the president individual assessments of the benefits and

prospects for success for a proposed covert operation and the risks if it failed or was publicly exposed.

The committee's still unreleased report says that then President Richard Nixon directed the CIA to supply weapons from Israel to Kurdish rebels in Iraq over the objections of the CIA, the State Department and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, according to committee sources.