

Fulbright Asks CIA Fund Probe

Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) said yesterday that the extent of the Central Intelligence Agency's activities is "much greater than I ever imagined." He argued that the CIA "should be restricted to the gathering of information and not be an operation activity."

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee made his comments on a television program, "Issues and Answers" (WMAL, ABC).

Fulbright said that what he found most disturbing was the covert nature of the CIA's activities in subsidizing international programs. In the last week, CIA funds have been traced to such groups as the National Student Association, the American Newspaper Guild and the Retail Clerks International Association.

Fulbright called for a special investigation of the funding operation.

Members of the Foreign Relations Committee made an attempt last year to get a role in overseeing CIA operations, on grounds that intelligence operations involve foreign policy. The Senate voted down the move, but Fulbright and Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa), the ranking Republican on the Committee, were invited to a Jan. 9 session of the subcommittee that does oversee the CIA.

"I am sure . . . that I will be invited again," Fulbright said, and he expects some of the recent revelations to come up.

The facts "warrant a more formal, regular report," he added.

Although he said the Agency should not be involved in operations, Fulbright said, as long as it is "it should be in the open."