

Intelligence Units Face Revamping

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The White House is expected to decide within the next several weeks whether to act on proposals for reorganizing U.S. intelligence operations—particularly those of the military—with the aim of making these vast and far-flung activities more efficient and less expensive.

Several possible reorganization plans have been under

study since early this year. Now, however, in addition to some internal Nixon administration pressure to revamp the intelligence apparatus, Congress is also pressing the White House to act.

According to informed congressional sources, Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.), chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, has threatened to cut at least \$500 million out of the roughly \$5 billion that the government is estimated to spend annually on all forms of military and foreign intelligence operations.

Ellender's action, these sources say, would have the effect of cutting about 50,000 people out of a corps of military and civilian personnel engaged in intelligence work that now numbers an estimated 200,000 people.

Ellender's chief target, sources close to the senator say, is not the highly specialized, civilian-run Central Intelligence Agency, but the separate intelligence operations run by each of the military services and the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency.

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White House Decision Due Soon On Revamping Intelligence Units

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Officials have estimated that about \$3 billion of the total amount tucked away for intelligence each year in a variety of appropriations bills is spent by the military. The uniformed services account for about 150,000 of the total personnel figure.

Ellender's concern is known to involve overlap between the work of the individual services, too many agents gathering data of doubtful significance, too many admirals and generals doing work that could be done by lower ranking men, and the setting up of a global communications network that allegedly exceeds the strategic needs of military commanders.

Government officials say that the original impetus for reorganization was a widespread feeling in the Executive Branch that the military intelligence apparatus had grown too large and costly in comparison to the amount of useful intelligence produced. Also, there was said to be dissatisfaction because the form in which some kinds of intelligence were presented to the White House was not readily usable.

There have also been reports — denied by high-level officials — that the President and his top advisers were unhappy with the military intelligence work that went into the planning of the Sontay prison camp raid and the South Vietnamese incursion into Laos.

Under the original White House study completed last spring, a number of options were developed.

The most far-reaching in-

involved creation of a new super-intelligence agency headed by a Cabinet-level officer and combining many of the now separate, activities of the Pentagon, CIA and the huge code-cracking operations of the National Security Agency.

Another involved movement of the CIA's highly esteemed director Richard Helms into the White House as the top intelligence man with increased authority over all aspects of intelligence.

Still other options involved less dramatic actions.

According to informed sources, additional views on reorganization prospects have recently been presented to the President's top advisers. While reluctant to guess how the President will decide, a num-

ber of officials close to the situation say they don't believe that creation of a new agency or movement of Mr. Helms into the White House is likely.

Some officials speculate that the administration may choose some form of internal consolidation. This probably would involve cutting back on the military side and possibly adding a high-level intelligence coordinator to the White House staff. It could also include following through with a Pentagon request to create an assistant secretary of defense for intelligence to oversee all military intelligence.

Some officials also speculate that Mr. Helms will also come out with some broadened and more precise powers.

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