

CIA Director Seeks Law to Curb Leaks

54w news 6/26/74
Associated Press

The director of the Central Intelligence Agency wants Congress to authorize criminal penalties for government employes who disclose intelligence secrets, official sources say.

The sources said yesterday that proposed amendments to the National Security Act of 1947 also would clarify the government's ability to seek injunctions against news media to prevent them from making public material that might compromise the sources and methods of intelligence gathering.

The proposed legislation would cover employes of firms with government contracts which give them access to classified material as well as federal workers.

THE SOURCES stressed that the proposal is still being circulated within the Nixon administration and

that no final decisions have been made on its provisions or even on whether to present the recommendations formally to Congress.

They stressed that no criminal penalties are being sought for newsmen who knowingly receive such classified information. "This would not allow the director to go after recipients of the information," one source said.

THE PROPOSALS reportedly stem from a recent court battle over a book, "CIA and the Cult of Intelligence," written by former government intelligence officers Victor Marchetti and John Marks. The book was published this month.

The CIA invoked the secrecy oaths signed by both men as grounds for a civil action requiring them to submit their work in advance for government clearance.