

rick Post

Good morning!
'Don't worry' makes a better motto when you add 'others.'
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Ford receives report on CIA

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford received the Rockefeller Commission's report on the Central Intelligence Agency on Friday with a promise it would be used to make sure U.S. intelligence agencies obey the law. There was no promise the report itself will be made public.

Also, questions were raised about an issue apparently not covered in the commission's report: Whether the CIA has been involved directly or indirectly in plots to assassinate foreign leaders.

The head of a Senate committee conducting its own investigation of the CIA accused the commission of ducking the assassination issue and said his committee has evidence linking the CIA

to assassination plots against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and other foreign leaders.

A former CIA director confirmed, meanwhile, that there was discussion in the early 1960s of the possibility of assassinating Castro but said the issue was "disposed of immediately."

"I think it's an important document," Ford said as he received the report from Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, who headed the commission appointed by Ford to investigate allegations that the CIA had engaged in illegal domestic spying. "It will give us the basis for some firm recommendations to make sure — make positive — that we end up with a CIA and

an intelligence community that will do an excellent job for the future of this country and at the same time ensure the privacy of individuals within the Constitution, rules, laws and so forth."

Despite indications earlier that the report would be made public this weekend, White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen told reporters that "the President will read it and then decide whether to make it public."

Nessen denied that represented any change in plans.

Government spokesmen had said earlier they expected the report to be released Sunday.

The first hint that the report might not

See FORD, page A-2

Ford

(Continued From Page A-1)

be made public right away came Friday morning, when officials said timing of the release of the document' was uncertain.

Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee which is conducting its own investigation of the CIA, described as "strange" the possibility that the report would be withheld from the public.

"It is my purpose to make a public disclosure of all the facts that come to our attention," Church said.

Church was sharply critical earlier this week of statements by Rockefeller and other members of the commission characterizing transgressions by the CIA as infrequent and not major.

Church said his committee had hard evidence that the CIA had been involved in murder plots against foreign leaders and that he had reason to believe the commission had similar evidence.

"I don't regard murder plots as a minor matter," Church told a gathering of reporters at the National Press Club on Wednesday.

Rockefeller declined direct comment at the time, but was quoted by aides as saying the commission's report dealt with the issue of assassination and that it would speak for itself.

However, in presenting the commission report to the President, Rockefeller said there had not been enough time to complete investigation of alleged CIA assassination plots and that the report included no conclusions on that question.

"We didn't feel we could come to a conclusion on partial information," Rockefeller said.

Nessen said the information received by the commission on assassination plots was not included in the report given to Ford. He said it would take time to prepare the material for the President and that there was no immediate indication when Ford would receive it.

Church, whose committee is to receive copies of the report, accused the commission of trying to duck the assassination issue.

"Clearly the Rockefeller Commission had a choice," he said. "It could deal with the assassination issue or duck it. Evidently it has decided to duck it."

Church also said he didn't "quite understand the footwork that seems to be taking place right now" about whether the report will be made public. "I'd rather not speculate on the motivation or the reasons for it," he said.

Church also reported for the first time Friday that he has evidence linking the CIA to plots against foreign leaders other than Castro.

"The assassination problem is not confined to Mr. Castro," Church told reporters following a three-hour closed session with former CIA Director John A. McCone.

The Minneapolis Tribune said in a copyright story in Friday's editions that the Rockefeller Commission has received evidence implicating the CIA in the assassinations of Gen. Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic and President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam.

McCone told reporters there were "certain actions which were either planned or some actually undertaken" against Castro's life in the early 1960s.

"The principal one was stopped right after the Bay of Pigs," McCone said. He said anti-Castro operations were approved "both at the close of the Eisenhower administration and the early part of the Kennedy administration" but added: "I don't know the source of the authority."