

Dismantling of USIA Urged

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Recommendations that would lead to the dismantling of the United States Information Agency have been tentatively approved by a study panel headed by Frank Stanton, former president of CBS.

The panel's recommendations, if adopted, would lead to a major reorganization of U.S. public information and cultural activities abroad.

The report is still being drafted, but its broad outlines were learned from governmental sources and confirmed yesterday by Stanton in a telephone interview.

The commission is expected to recommend:

- Creation of an independent Voice of America, the world-wide international broadcasting operation now run under the USIA.

This independent VOA would be made responsible to a reconstituted Board for International Broadcasting, which now has responsibility for Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. The board then would become the central point for U.S. public broadcasting operations abroad, although VOA and the Radio Free Europe and Radio Lib-



FRANK STANTON

... heads study panel

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erty operations would be kept separate.

- Establishment of a Agency for Information and Culture within the State Department which would control all cultural activities abroad. They are now spread through the

Governor Given Rebuff on Wyman

New Hampshire's Republican governor failed yesterday in an attempt to retrieve an election certificate issued to the Democratic candidate in the state's disputed U.S. Senate election.

Francis R. Valeo, secretary of the Senate, told Gov. Meldrim Thomson that the rules of the Senate prohibited him from returning the document without a Senate order. Valeo said not even a court suit would dislodge the paper, without which a newly elected senator cannot be sworn in.

Thomson threatened to appeal to the Supreme Court if the Senate does not seat Republican Louis Wyman or allow a special runoff election.

USIA and the State Department. The new agency would be similar in organizational status to the Agency for International Development and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with separate budgets and are linked to the State Department at the Secretary of State level.

- Appointment of a new deputy under secretary of state for public affairs who would be responsible of basic State Department foreign policy questions both in the United States and abroad.

These recommendations were tentatively agreed to at a meeting of the panel Monday, and commission sources anticipate no major changes unless legal problems are encountered at the final drafting stage.

The proposals are likely to be controversial among advocates of an independent USIA and among those who question linking the operations of the Voice of America to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. USIA was created as an independent agency in 1953.

Sources familiar with the panel's deliberations believe the creation of the Agency for Information and Culture and the deputy under secretary for public affairs could be accomplished by executive order.

The creation of an inde-

pendent Voice of America, however, is believed to require congressional action.

The Stanton panel is technically known as the Panel on International Information, Education and Cultural Relations and it is operating under auspices of the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies.

While it is a private, independent unit, it was formed after both the U.S. Advisory Commission on Information and the U.S. Advisory Commission on International Educational and Cultural Affairs called for a broad study of overseas information and cultural activities. Members of both advisory commissions served on the Stanton panel.

In addition, it is known that the views of Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger were sought before the commission reached its tentative conclusions Monday.

At least two other studies into U.S. public information and cultural affairs activities abroad are under way, one by the Congressional Research Service for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and another as part of a broad governmental study of U.S. foreign operations.

Sources familiar with the Stanton panel's deliberations

have indicated that the basic argument for creation of the Agency for Information and Culture is to combine activities now split between USIA and the State Department but in a form that would give the new agency a degree of autonomy.

Such activities as cultural exchanges, speaker services, U.S. libraries abroad, film services and related cultural activities would be involved.

The recommendation for an independent Voice of America was prompted by what was described as a long-standing question of differences between USIA and VOA over the propaganda functions of the information agency and what is seen as the news function of the radio.

Under the independent setup, it probably will be recommended that formal U.S. policy announcements and analysis come from the State Department, but the VOA would be free to pursue its own news reporting activities as well as its own analysis and commentary.

Both the new under secretary of state for public affairs and the head of the Agency for Information and Culture would serve as members of the Board for International Broadcasting.