

Pike Panel Bars Kurd Disclosure

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The House intelligence committee balked yesterday at efforts to make a public report on a controversial Central Intelligence Agency operation undertaken in 1972 at the request of the shah of Iran.

By a tie, 6 to 6, the committee rejected a proposal by Rep. James P. Johnson (R-Colo.) to seek disclosure of what sources said was a staff summary of the secret operation, which—demanded by President Nixon over the objections of the CIA and the State Department—involved the supply of weapons to Kurdish rebels in northeastern Iraq.

In other closed-session votes, however, the committee, sources of similar reports on CIA operations in Angola and CIA involvement in an Italian election.

Under elaborate procedures worked out several months ago, these two reports, already drafted and reportedly revised in light of CIA objections, will now be sent to President Ford. He can still block their publication by declaring in writing that they would be damaging to national security.

The reasons for the committee's reluctance to send the White House a report on the secret weapons shipments for the Kurds were not entirely clear. The broad outlines of the operation, which involved delivery by the CIA of millions of dollars worth of Soviet and Chinese arms and ammunition, were disclosed last month by CBS News and The Washington Post.

According to one source, however, some committee members were apparently fearful that the report might anger Iran's Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi and perhaps threaten U.S. interests in Iran.

The shah reportedly asked for a secret supply of arms for the Kurds when Nixon visited Tehran in late May of 1972. The CIA was opposed to American involvement but,

States is said to have given the Christian Democrats as much as \$3 million a year in secret financial support between the end of World War II and 1967.

Graham A. Martin, U.S. ambassador to Italy in 1970, reportedly urged CIA financial support that year for the Christian Democrats under former Premier Amintore Fanfani, but President Nixon is supposed to have rejected the proposal.

Voting against making the Kurdish report public, sources said, were Reps. Les Aspin (D-Wis.), Dale Milford (D-Tex.), William Lehman (D-Fla.), Robert McClory (R-Ill.), David C. Treen (R-La.) and Robert W. Kasten Jr. (R-Wis.).

Aspin, who has often lined up against Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) and the original Democratic members of the committee appointed last February, also voted against disclosure of the report on the Italian election, but joined the majority in calling for publication of the Angola study.

The committee approved plans to make the Italy report public by 8 to 5 and the Angola report by 5 to 4.

sources said, carried out the mission at Nixon's insistence, collecting some of the munitions in Cambodia.

The freshly armed Kurds went to war against Iraq in March of 1974 at the expiration of a four-year truce, but were abandoned a year later when the shah reached his own settlement with Iraq.

In Italy, it was reported several years ago, the United