

CIA Chief Colby Facing Con

By Laurence Stern

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Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby, the nation's pre-eminent spy, will come out of the cold into the heat of almost certain confrontation Friday over the issue of covert U.S. political operations in Chile.

Colby has agreed to appear at an unusual two-day conference of former agents, government officials and journalists on the subject of "The Central Intelligence Agency and Covert Actions."

The CIA director's appearance was scheduled before the disclosure Sunday

of his executive session testimony on Congress last April that some \$11 million in covert action funds were authorized by the "Forty Committee" of the National Security Council and targeted against the late Chi-

News Analysis

lean President Salvador Allende.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) cranked up the Chile controversy another turn yesterday with a letter to Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger asking on what authorization the programs were carried out without notification to Congress. Ken-

nedy also called State Department testimony denying U.S. intervention against the Allende government "misleading" and "deceptive" in the letter to Kissinger.

Colby, who rose through the ranks of the CIA's covert operations service to command of the agency, undertakes a daring public relations gamble in facing the audience of specialists on intelligence practices—most of them critical of the covert programs with which Colby has been associated through his professional lifetime.

During his year-and-a-half tenure as director, Colby has sought to improve con-

tacts with Congress and the press in the aftermath of the battering the agency took during the unfolding of the Watergate scandal.

But the two day conference, sponsored by the Center for National Security Studies, will subject Colby to one of the most informed and critical audiences to which he has been so far exposed.

Covert operations are carried out under general policy guidelines approved by the Forty Committee, a senior inter-departmental committee over which the President's national security adviser, Kissinger, presides. Colby is a member of the powerful but informal com-

frontation on Chile Operations

mittee which meets under the auspices of the White House.

In recent statements the CIA director has emphasized the agency's subordinate role to the White House and the senior policy group whose name, until last year, was never in print and unknown to members of the agency's oversight committees on Capitol Hill.

The existence of the Forty

Committee surfaced in connection with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's Multinational Subcommittee in connection with the role of the CIA and the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. in Chile.

Aside from the Chile case, the CIA faces the prospects of new revelations on the scope of covert U.S. operations under the management of the Forty Committee.

Former New York Times correspondent Tad Szulc, writing in the new issue of Esquire, gives an account of the CIA's role in support of South Africa's white supremacist regime. The New Yorker Magazine is coming out with an account of the CIA role in supporting the ousting of Cheddi Jagan, leader of Guyana's independence movement.

In England, former CIA operations officer Philip B.F. Agee has completed a manuscript detailing his day-to-day operations as a clandestine operative in three Latin-American countries—Ecuador, Uruguay and Mexico. Agee's book is under contract with British Penguin and is expected to be published early next year.