

Intelligence blueprint rules out assassination

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Senate committee issued a blueprint for U.S. intelligence gathering Thursday which would legally bar the use of assassination and terrorism and prohibit CIA efforts to overthrow "democratic" governments.

The draft proposal, certain to be subjected to months of hearings and debate, was issued by the Senate Intelligence Committee in an attempt to place the FBI and CIA under new charters with specific guidelines and restraints and criminal and civil penalties for violations.

But its authors immediately acknowledged disagreements remain and that the draft proposal will be criticized both as too restrictive and too permissive.

Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., chairman of the committee, said that introduction of the charter legislation means that Congress "wants to give our intelligence agencies a clear mandate to carry on their essential work under the rules of law.

Although the report gave no reason for specifying the illegality of overthrowing "democratic" governments, it was seen as a committee effort to leave a loophole in the plan that could allow future action against unfriendly non-democratic countries.

The CIA has in the past been accused of attempting to assassinate Cuban President Fidel Castro and with participating in the 1973 overthrow of the democratically-elected government of Chilean Marxist Salvador Allende.

The draft bill bars the "paid" use by intelligence agencies of journalists, missionaries or professors and students. It

does not prohibit voluntary cooperation from such persons.

It also prohibits activities intended or likely to create mass destruction of property, epidemics, or shortages of food or water.

Written by a subcommittee headed by Sen. Walter D. Huddleston, D-Ky., the draft bill reorganizes the intelligence community by law in a manner similar to that laid out by a recent executive order issued by President Carter.

The director of central intelligence, currently Adm. Stansfield Turner, is promoted to director of national intelligence, a position which makes him in effect chairman of the board of the intelligence community.

Under the proposal, the new national intelligence director would be appointed to a six-year term which would be renewable only once.

He would have final authority for the budgets of all intelligence agencies and responsibility to set the nation's intelligence goals and missions.

One of the basic principles of the proposal is that intelligence agencies must have evidence that a U.S. citizen or resident alien has violated the law before an investigation can be opened inside the United States.

It also proposes that an intelligence agency must obtain a warrant before engaging in wiretapping, or mail opening.

The American Civil Liberties Union hailed these and other provisions of the proposal, saying they provide a good starting point for further improvements.

But it said that in its present form the draft bill is "nearly overwhelmed by exceptions."