

CIA Panel Is Backed By Colby

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Former CIA director William Colby has recommended that the nation's intelligence agencies report to a single congressional committee, or "if necessary" a single committee in each house, to inform "the minimum number of people who truly need to know . . ."

Writing in the current issue of the quarterly Foreign Policy, Colby said Congress "must organize and carry out full and current reviews of the intelligence community," but must do so "without destroying the ability of intelligence to carry out its duties."

Colby also wrote that "substantial parts of" President Ford's Feb. 18 executive order setting out a new charter and new guidelines for intelligence operations "should be enacted into law."

He did not specify which parts he was referring to. The President's executive order legitimizes domestic spying and other activities legally and politically questionable, although some White House officials have said it does not expand the range of presidentially au-

thorized domestic intelligence activities.

The Ford administration has said it favors a single joint congressional committee to oversee intelligence activities. On May 19, the Senate created a permanent select committee of its own to monitor both CIA and military intelligence activities. The House has not yet acted.

Colby stepped down as CIA director in January, after spending much of the latter part of his 29 months in office testifying before temporary congressional committees investigating intelligence activities.

For 15 months, the temporary committees produced disclosures of massive government spying on civilians, record keeping on citizens not suspected of crimes, and CIA assassination plots.

Perhaps the "most challenging task ahead for intelligence," Colby wrote, is learning to "serve the constitutional process. . . The fundamental lesson of the year of investigation is that American intelligence is a part of and must operate under the American constitutional system."

That may be an "obvious fact for Americans," Colby wrote, but it came as "a stunning novelty in the long history of intelligence."

"The photographs must be published, the backgrounders attributed, the publications edited to protect the sources, but circulate the substance of their reports," he wrote.

"With these changes, intelligence can be distributed regularly to all members of Congress, not held under such high classifications that it cannot be circulated and made conveniently available."