

Senate panel on spies to summon CIA's chief

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WASHINGTON — Sen. John L. McClellan, D-Ark., announced Sunday that his national security of the United States but also in a manner fully consistent with Senate Appropriations subcommittee on intelligence operations would summon Central Intelligence Agency Director William E. Colby and his predecessor, Richard Helms, to a hearing Wednesday.

The subcommittee was the fourth Senate panel to consider investigations of spy activities that the intelligence agency has been spying on Americans. Another probe is planned by a House subcommittee.

"Serious allegations have been made in the media about domestic spying on the activities of the anti-Vietnam war movement and other dissident groups," McClellan said. "It will be the purpose of the subcommittee to hear testimony as to the facts that the intelligence function has been adequately exercised not only to defend the

time before 1954 as an informal group of State and Defense department officials.

Today the members are Kissinger, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Joseph Sisco, Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. George Brown, Under Secretary of Defense William P. Clements and CIA Director William Colby.

But even today nowhere is the name "40 Committee" written and no official will explain publicly how that title came about. Privately they acknowledge it represents National Security Directive 40, which formalized the group's existence.

Another source, a former Kissinger aide, said Kissinger usually just calls the other committee members or sees them individually either in his office or at other meetings, and they hardly ever meet formally.

Kissinger won't speak for the record about the committee. In background sessions he has said the committee does not recommend CIA programs but only passes on proposals from the agency.

Other State Department sources say the 40 groups role isn't always just back checking. One source said that Kissinger runs the major CIA programs.

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Probe may include look into CIA's super-secret committee

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Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Investigators probing the Central Intelligence Agency may get a glimpse into one of the most shadowy areas of American intelligence operations.

It is the so-called 40 Committee, the super-secret group headed by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger that both sets most CIA policy and supervises its work.

Kissinger is described by

State Department associates as anxious to keep the 40 Committee out of inquiries by congressional committees and the President's commission that will look into the spy agency.

The secretary reportedly argues that the investigations should be limited to charges that the CIA illegally spied on Americans in the United States.

He doesn't want a search of the way he and the other four members of the committee operate.

Sources on the congressional panel's involved, as well as the special commission headed by Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, indicate a willingness to comply, if they can.

One House member said "you've got to realize most of us think the CIA is important if we're going to survive in what is in reality a mean world . . .

"There are simply some things we're better off not knowing about," he concluded.

Even if the investigations are kept behind closed doors there are bound to be leaks "because there are just too many members (of Congress) who will want to be called heroes against the 'dirty spies,'" another House member said.

Despite these sentiments the 40 Committee will be looked at during at least one of the House hearings.

Rep. Lucien Nedzi, D-Mich., heads the Armed Services subcommittee that is the House's man CIA overseer.

"I anticipate we will get into it if there is a need."

Nedzi said of the 40 Committee. He added, "I expect there will be a need."

The concern is over one of the most secret organizations in the history of the country, a secrecy that is still impressive in spite of earlier disclosures.

In fact, until mentioned in last summer's debate over CIA interference in China the name "40 Committee" was virtually unknown.

Underlining this exceptional secrecy is the fact that the 40 Committee has existed by that and other names for at least 20 years.

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