

# Church hints Rockefeller soft-peddaling CIA actions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee has received convincing evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency has been involved in murder plots, chairman Frank Church said Wednesday.

Church, D-Idaho, said he believes the Rockefeller Commission has similar evidence. He accused Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller of making misleading statements designed to downgrade the importance of CIA wrongdoing.

"I don't regard murder plots as a minor matter," Church said. "The CIA has been implicated in this kind of activity. I have been concerned about the apparent attempt of certain members of the Rockefeller Commission to lead the public to believe that any misdeeds of the CIA were minor and that the agency had been relatively without guilt."

Church said he was referring specifically to statements by Rockefeller, the commission's chairman. "I have reason to believe the

commission has hard evidence, as my committee has heard evidence, which indicates the CIA has been involved in murder plots," Church said.

A spokesman for the vice president quoted Rockefeller as saying the commission's report to President Ford, scheduled to be released this weekend, deals with the issue of assassination and

that it speaks for itself. Rockefeller will have no specific comments on CIA matters until the commission's report is made public, the spokesman said.

Church declined to give any details of testimony his committee has heard so far on the targets of the plots, whether or not they succeeded and who ordered them. He said he expects the committee to

complete the assassination phase of its investigation by the end of June and then decide how to best make a public disclosure of what it has learned.

It is certain the panel will recommend laws to forbid the CIA or an other American intelligence agency from

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using assassination as a tool, Church said.

Church answered reporters' questions during a meeting at the National Press Club.

"I think the committee has heard enough and the Rockefeller Commission itself has heard enough to substantiate my statement," Church said.

Rockefeller said Monday the commission report will show that "there are things that have been done which are in contradiction to the statutes but in comparison to the total effort they are not major."

He said it would be a fair interpretation to state that he does not believe as some have charged that there has been massive illegal activity by the CIA.

"But that doesn't mean that there haven't been things done that were wrong," the vice president said.

Last week, Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale told The Associated Press that, on orders from President John F. Kennedy delivered through an intermediary, he drew up contingency plans for the removal of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro by any means.

Lansdale later denied that either "President Kennedy or any other Kennedy" gave him orders to plan Castro's assassination. He told The AP that "on that project I was working for the highest authority in the land."

On another subject, Church said members of his committee with his cooperation are making a test case of the willingness of the CIA and FBI to cooperate with congressional investigators by formally requesting that those agencies give them the raw data in their own files.

Church's disclosure came as he replied to a question about the prediction

by Atty. Gen. Edward Levi that the Supreme Court would uphold the Justice Department's decision to withhold requested material as it saw fit.