

Sen. Russell Rules Out A Broader CIA Scrutiny

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Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) has cited "the rules and practices of the Senate" in politely but firmly rejecting a move to broaden congressional scrutiny of the Central Intelligence Agency's secret operations.

Russell, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, took his stand in an April 30 letter to Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), who has expressed concern over the CIA's influence in U.S. foreign policy.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, of which Fulbright is Chairman, is Chairman, is expected this week to endorse a proposal to put three of its members on the special Senate subcommittee that oversees CIA operations.

Russell claims sole jurisdiction for the Armed Services Committee for supervising non-budgetary CIA matters. The informal watchdog group includes seven senior members of his and the Senate Appropriations committees.

In an apparent effort to calm the apprehensions of Fulbright and other critics of the CIA's hidden power, Russell said:

"I think I can state with assurance that throughout the

course of the year no agency of the Government spends as much time before its oversight and appropriations committees as does the CIA."

Despite Russell's assurances, the issue could develop into an open jurisdictional fight between the Russell and Fulbright committees if and when it reaches the Senate floor.

The author of the proposal to establish a formal, nine-member watchdog subcommittee, including three Foreign Relations Committee members, to keep "fully informed" on CIA matters is Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.)

He originally had planned to seek a \$150,000 inquiry into the effects of CIA operations on foreign policy. The revised watchdog proposal was offered instead, and it survived a Republican-led motion last week to kill it. The Fulbright Committee will take it up Tuesday.