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CIA Chief Briefs Watchdog Panel On Trouble Spots

Associated Press

Central Intelligence Agency director Richard Helms gave a top-secret briefing yesterday on world trouble spots to an expanded Senate panel charged with monitoring U.S. intelligence activities. The topics presumably included Red China and Vietnam.

Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), chairman of the special Senate unit that for years has supervised CIA activities, broadened the group yesterday by inviting Sens. J. W. Fulbright (D-Ark.) and Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper (R-Iowa), the chairman and ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as well as Senate leaders Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Everett M. Dirksen (D-Ill.).

Fulbright and Mansfield have been seeking to expand Russell's CIA watchdog group to include some members of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Mansfield said yesterday that he thought Russell's informal action would settle the long dispute over Senate supervision of the big intelligence agency. Until now the panel has been made up solely of senior members of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.) said the broadened committee "is the substance of what we are asking for. There remains, however, a question of whether this can be given and taken away."