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Connally Removal From Panel Urged

Associated Press

Rep. Michael J. Harrington (D-Mass.) yesterday urged President Ford to request the resignation of John B. Connally from the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Harrington wrote Mr. Ford that a "conflict between Mr. Connally's public role as a member of the board and his private role as chairman of the Citizens Alliance for Mediterranean Freedom—in which he openly advocates interference or, as he terms it, 'meddling' in the internal affairs of foreign governments—can only be reconciled by his resignation."

There was no immediate comment from the White House.

While Connally's "public and private positions may not directly violate any conflict of interest statutes, his simultaneous duties as adviser and advocate contravene the spirit of public policy directed at intelligence community reform," Harrington said.

Harrington wrote that, in February, "you affirmed your commitment to a comprehensive program of reform of the intelligence agencies to halt documented past abuses . . . Yet any promise of reform your action may have inspired is severely compromised by Mr. Connally's continued presence on the board."