

Carter consolidates intelligence

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter ordered all of the nation's intelligence-gathering agencies placed under the control of CIA director Stansfield Turner Thursday in an attempt to centralize direction of the spy network.

Turner, a classmate of Carter at the U.S. Naval Academy, will control the budgets and activities of all intelligence-gathering agencies, which previously reported to departments ranging from Defense to Treasury.

The plan does not affect the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Administration officials denied that the reorganization would make Turner an "intelligence czar" although he will have greater responsibilities.

The reorganization plan also gives the National Security Council, directed by Carter's national security assistant, Zbigniew Brzezinski, a leading role in over-all direction of the intelligence community.

Scattered agencies in the Departments of Defense, State, Treasury and Justice, as well as the Central Intelligence Agency itself, all have intelligence-gathering duties.

The reorganization establishes what will be known as a "National Intelligence Tasking Center" to set specific tasks for all intelligence collection agencies, and a Policy Review Committee within the National Security

Council to set priorities for intelligence requirements.

Turner will be in charge of both the tasking center and the review committee.

The changes were welcomed by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, who said placing all budgetary responsibility in the hands of a chief of intelligence is "a step in the right direction."

Inouye, D-Hawaii, said, however, it was important that the reorganization preserve the "independent analytic judgment-making processes" of the various intelligence agencies.

Inouye's committee was set up last year to provide congressional oversight of the intelligence-gathering functions buses by the CIA and other agencies.

In a statement listing the reorganization details, the White House said the changes would be made by executive order until Congress passes the necessary legislation. That legislation has not yet been introduced.

The White House statement said the changes were designed "to provide strong direction by the President and the National Security Council, and to centralize the most critical national intelligence management functions under the director of central intelligence."

In addition to being given responsibility for the budgets of all predominantly national intelligence activities, Turner

will be responsible for the actual intelligence material the agencies gather.

The "tasking center" will be made up of civilians and military personnel. The Policy Review Committee will include the secretaries of State, Defense, and the Treasury.

The new look in the intelligence community stems from a National Security Council review begun last spring after Carter took office. That review was coordinated by Vice President Walter F. Mondale, who was a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee before the Carter administration took office.

The CIA and other intelligence operations, including the FBI and the Defense

agencies

Department's National Security Agency, were frequent targets of both Carter and Mondale during last year's presidential campaign.

They criticized allegations of abuses by the agencies, particularly FBI wiretapping and reports of such illegal CIA activities as coups d'etat and assassination plots, and called for greater control by the White House.

When the study began, Carter was reportedly pleased with the work of the intelligence agencies and believed that they were not acting outside of the law since he took office. But he felt there was a need to define specific legal boundaries for them.