

Presidential briefing papers are subpoenaed

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WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Intelligence Committee on Wednesday subpoenaed presidential briefing papers giving U.S. intelligence assessments of four key conflicts.

The purpose of reviewing the documents is to "look at what the intelligence community was saying about each of those occurrences just before those occurrences took place," said committee chairman Otis G. Pike, D-N.Y.

The four events under review are the Vietnam Tet offensive, the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, Turkey's invasion of Cyprus and the recent coup in Portugal.

Pike said U.S. intelligence obviously has one value if it is accurate and another if it is not.

The subpoenas were issued after the White House failed to voluntarily provide all the documents sought.

The committee has been told that U.S. intelligence agencies were divided in their assessment of the 1973 Middle East war.

Asst. Defense Secretary Albert C. Hall said that "one agency was absolutely convinced there was not going to be a war and another believed war was imminent."

The committee authorized Pike to issue the subpoenas by a vote of 8 to 0, with Rep. David C. Treen, R-La., voting present.

Treen said he was concerned the intelligence agencies had not been given an opportunity "to outline the dangers and risks" of turning over the testimony.