

Ford ponders U.S. spy agencies' future

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WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford is pondering proposals for the future of the nation's intelligence apparatus following a weekend meeting to discuss the nation's spy agencies.

Both the activities and financing of the intelligence agencies were thought to have been considered at the 3½-hour meeting Saturday afternoon, but no information was disclosed on the discussion.

Ford, meanwhile, was reported working on his State of the Union message, due Jan. 19, which there are indications may contain proposals concerning intelligence activities.

Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller, who headed a probe of the Central Intelligence Agency last year, attended the meeting Saturday along with Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Atty. Gen. Edward Levi, White House Counsel Philip Buchen, CIA Director William E.

Colby and James T. Lynn, head of the Office of Management and Budget.

"Every option that has been seriously considered ... will be presented to the President," Buchen said prior to the meeting.

He said that options to be discussed ranged from issuing clearer guidelines to putting all intelligence activities in one agency.

There was a speculation that the presence of Lynn at the meeting indicated the budgets of the intelligence agencies were to be checked closely.

These budgets are secret, although there have been reports that the CIA spends more than \$700 million a year.

No details of the discussion were revealed following the meeting, and a White House spokesman said it is unlikely Ford will unveil any of his plans for the intelligence agencies prior to the

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State of the Union address.

Rockefeller's commission made 30 recommendations last year. Some of these, including prohibiting the opening of mail and electronic surveillance of Americans, have been supported by the CIA, according to agency working papers obtained by NBC News.

On Friday, Buchen said there are two proposed changes which are not being seriously considered. These would create a separate agency in charge of secret operations and would move the director of central intelligence into the White House.

Administration officials are also studying a proposal by the Senate Intelligence Committee to give Congress more control over intelligence agencies.