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CIA report to be released

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Intelligence Committee voted Monday to release its report on alleged CIA involvement in political assassinations despite President Ford's 11th-hour request that it be suppressed.

"The President's appeal to suppress the report was rejected by the committee," said the panel's chairman, Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho.

Ford had told the committee that public release of the material would do "grievous damage to our country."

With vice chairman John Tower, R-Tex., abstaining, the committee voted to submit the report to the Senate sometime before Thanksgiving.

Church and Tower said that while the Senate would have the right to keep the report secret they consider such an action extremely unlikely.

Church released a letter in which the President told committee members he

believes that public disclosure of the panel's investigation into political assassinations "will result in serious harm to the national interest and may endanger individuals.

"Public release of these official materials and information will do grievous damage to our country," Ford said. "It would likely be exploited by foreign nations and groups hostile to the United States in a manner designed to do maximum damage to the reputation and foreign policy of the United States."

Church said that Ford's objection that publication might endanger the lives of certain persons now named in the report can be overcome by removing such names before publication.

Tower said he abstained from voting because he had some reservations about making the report public, yet did not want to vote against publication.