

Ford Plans New Controls Over the CIA

By David S. Broder

Washington Post Staff Writer

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President Ford's plan for reorganizing the intelligence agencies will include a strengthened, independent inspector general, whose appointment and evaluations will not be controlled by the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, a knowledgeable White House official said yesterday.

The proposal is also likely to include tightened guidelines on covert operations but no flat ban on their being pursued by the CIA, the source said.

He predicted that Mr. Ford would make his proposals public in a major speech "within a short time," and said 80 per cent of the recommendations could be carried out by executive order.

Mr. Ford is not likely to name a replacement for CIA Director William E. Colby at the same time he makes his reorganization proposals, these sources said. But he said a search has begun for a person "of commanding presence" with a background outside the intelligence community to take over the restructured agency within the next year.

The reason for that time sequence, the source said, is that "the President thinks it would be a disservice to both the country and to Bill (Colby) to pretend that the problems of CIA can be solved by replacing him."

The basic problem that has emerged from the Ford Administration's review of intelligence operations is lack of a method to evaluate the cost and worth of these information-gathering functions.

The same criticism applies perhaps even more to the Federal Bureau of Investigation than to the CIA, the source said, but the President is expected to concentrate for now on the overseas intelligence operations.

A major recommendation is likely to be a considerable expansion in the staff and independence of the inspector general of the CIA, a post now held by Donald Chamberlain.

The proposal drafted for the President's approval would take the appointment of that official out of the hands of the CIA director and give it to the President or his Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

The new inspector general would be ordered to report regularly to the Attorney General, the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, the Office of Management and Budget and the National Security Council, rather than funneling his routine evaluations through the CIA director.

One White House official likened the proposed arrangement to that between the outside directors of a corporation and the company's independent auditing firm.

The same independent audit would be made available to a congressional oversight committee if Congress, as the President hopes, sets up a permanent joint committee on intelligence operations, this source said.

The White House official said the likelihood is that systematic evaluations of this kind would lead to a reshuffling of assignments among the CIA, the National Security Agency and other intelligence organizations.