

Pike finds CIA documents

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Chairman Otis G. Pike said Tuesday his House intelligence committee staff has accounted for 200 of 232 documents the CIA describes as lost. He accused the CIA and State Department of conducting "A media event" to discredit the committee.

Pike, a New York Democrat, told the House his staff went to CIA headquarters Monday afternoon and accounted for the 200 documents before quitting for the night because it was closing time.

He said he would not send the staff back to the CIA. "That's all we're going to do," Pike declared.

He accused the State Department of leaking to the media last week the contents of a letter to the chairman from CIA counsel Mitchell Rogovin contending that the documents could not be accounted for.

"It was a fine domestic CIA covert operation," Pike said at one point. He told House members: "I know what is going on around here. What is going on is a media event to discredit the committee so you won't read our report."

Pike said the CIA has no receipts to show that 95 of the documents ever were turned over to the committee. He said the CIA knew it when Rogovin wrote the letter.

In addition to the 95, Pike said, his

staff was able to account for 88 documents CIA officials cited one by one as being missing.

Pike said the staff found that an additional 17 of the so-called missing papers were only letters regarding delivery of documents, not documents themselves.

The chairman said all 232 were among some 31,000 documents the committee obtained from intelligence agencies and individuals and which became the property of the committee and the House.

Pike said none of the 232 was among 44,000 other documents the CIA and other intelligence agencies loaned to the committee on the condition that all be returned.

The chairman read to the House a letter from CIA Director George Bush saying all the 44,000 documents loaned to the committee "have been received" back.

Asked later at a news conference whether he believed the CIA concocted the story about the missing documents, Pike stopped short of saying yes.

He only noted that the CIA knew it had no receipts for the group of 95 documents.

Pike said he was never given specific information about the alleged missing documents. He said he had requested the information in an effort to answer the accusation against his committee.