

Ford Won't Issue CIA Report Now

3,000 copies.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen, however, told reporters yesterday that the President would first read the report himself and then decide if it should be made public and when. The abrupt changes in plans provoked a barrage of suspicious questions at the White House daily press briefing. Nessen's answers seemed to dissociate the White House from any arrangements the Vice President may have made.

"As far as the White House is concerned," Nessen said, "the question of releasing the report always has depended upon the President first having an opportunity to read it."

As evidence, Nessen cited a May 22 letter from Peter Clapper, public affairs director for the Rockefeller commission, which acknowledged that nothing could be released until the President approved. Did that mean, reporters asked, that the President hasn't decided whether to make the report public? "That is correct," Nessen said.

When the press secretary was asked about Rockefeller's frequent statements on public release and the arrangements made for this weekend, Nessen replied: "Whatever may have happened elsewhere in the ensuing days I have no responsibility for."

The Rockefeller investigation started out Jan. 5 to look at a variety of controversial domestic activities by the CIA, including allegations of illegal spying on American citizens.

It also took on a new controversy that arose in March—

See CIA, A8, Col. 5



By James K. W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Former CIA head McCona and Sen. Church before meeting.

President Switches Signals

6/7/75
By William Greider
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Ford received the Rockefeller commission's investigative report on the Central Intelligence Agency yesterday, but the White House switched signals on its release and refused to commit itself to publishing the 299-page document.

The eight-member commission, which Mr. Ford appointed six months ago, has ducked one controversial area covered by its investigation—the allegations of CIA involvement in assassination plots—by deciding to exclude that subject from its final report.

Originally, Vice President Rockefeller's office alerted the press to expect release of the final report this weekend. It was set in type at the Government Printing Office, which was ready to publish some



By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

President Ford receives report on CIA from Vice President Rockefeller, head of White House inquiry commission.

Report on CIA Is Withheld Now

CIA, From A1

charges of CIA complicity in the attempted assassination of several foreign leaders.

The cancellation of the Rockefeller commission's expected report on assassinations followed a chain of events that is still not clear.

In recent weeks, Vice President Rockefeller has repeatedly assured reporters that the subject would be dealt with in the commission's final report. As recently as Wednesday afternoon, when he was asked about the issue again Rockefeller replied:

"I'm not going to discuss anything that's in the report. That is in the report. It will be released, given to the President on Friday and he will have it probably released to the press so that it will be available on Sunday."

On the same day, Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), who chairs a Senate investigation plowing much of the same ground, issued a statement sharply criticizing Rockefeller for soft-pedaling the seriousness of the CIA's alleged offenses, particularly the agency's role in murder plots.

Then, Thursday evening, Rockefeller's office issued a brief statement announcing that the final report would not cover alleged assassinations, but that the accumulated material on the subject would be turned over to President Ford for his perusal and disposition.

Several sources at the White House and the Rockefeller commission said yesterday that—despite the Vice President's recent statements promising a report on the assassination charges—the decision was made three weeks ago not to include the subject in the final report.

A spokesman for the Vice President confirmed this but insisted that Rockefeller's recent statements were truthful because there is a paragraph or two in the final report—stating that the material on assassinations was not included.

Rockefeller told reporters yesterday that the commission's 11-member investigative staff was not able to do a complete job on the subject

and still meet the June 6 deadline set by the President.

"We didn't want, one, to hold up the rest of the report for another month or so," Rockefeller said, "and, secondly, we felt that by giving the material to the President directly . . . that he would then make whatever use in his opinion was right."

According to Nessen, the material gathered on alleged assassinations will be turned over to the Church committee in the Senate, following the same rules that have applied to other classified material held by the White House and sought by the Senate investigators.

The decision, however, apparently means that President Ford and his administration will not be making public reports on the sensitive allegations that CIA officials entertained plots in the early 1960s to kill Cuba's Fidel Castro, the Dominican Republic's Rafael Trujillo and the Congo's Patrice Lumumba, among others.

A spokesman in Rockefeller's office said the decision to leave out assassinations was made by the eight-member commission, with the concurrence of the President and his staff.

Another White House source said, however, that the decision was made solely by the Rockefeller commission—without any recommendation from the President or his advisers. The commission, this source said, considered three alternatives—a time extension for the probe, an incomplete report that would have detailed what evidence it has collected so far, or no report at all. It chose the last.

The final draft copy was sent to the White House on Thursday afternoon, but a printed "press proof" copy, bound in two volumes, was formally presented to President Ford yesterday morning by Rockefeller and five other commission members.

"I think it's an important document," the President said. "It will give us the basis for some firm recommendations to make sure—make positive—that we end up with a CIA and an intelligence com-

munity that will do an excellent job for the future of this country and at the same time ensure the privacy of individuals within the Constitution, rules, laws and so forth."

When Nessen faced reporters after the ceremony, he turned aside a variety of questions suggesting that the White House may have decided that the report would do more damage than good to the future of the CIA.

At one point, faced with a confusion of queries, Nessen asked the press: "What are we talking about?"

"We're talking about a cover-up," a reporter replied.

On Monday, Rockefeller himself said that his investiga-

tion of the CIA had left "no stones . . . unturned." Yesterday, when asked to explain the comment again in light of the decision on assassinations, the Vice President replied: "We did not leave it unturned. We did all the unturning we had time to do and gave it to the President."

Several "press proof" volumes were assembled by the Government Printing Office and made available to selected commission members and to the White House yesterday, but a commission spokesman said it will be up to the President whether any more are printed or whether the original copy is revised.

Plotting On Castro Confirmed

6/17/75
By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former Central Intelligence Agency Director John A. McCone confirmed yesterday that the CIA planned and undertook some steps to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro in the early 1960s.

McCone said all of the schemes "were aborted" and that the principal effort was stopped soon after the Bay of Pigs invasion in April, 1961.

He said he was not told of the attempts on Castro's life even after he became head of the CIA seven months later.

Speaking with reporters after three hours of closed-door testimony before the Senate intelligence operations committee, McCone said he became aware of the efforts only in the last few months upon reviewing secret CIA files.

The committee chairman, Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), added that Castro was not the only target of CIA assassination schemes.

The committee is investigating reports and allegations of indirect CIA involvement in the assassinations of dictator Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic in 1961 and of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem in 1963.

The CIA has also voiced concern over charges that it may have been connected with the death of Congolese leader Patrice Lumumba who was killed in January of 1961.

In an interview on the CBS Morning News, Church said that "no actual assassination took place with which the CIA was directly involved," but he said the agency did make some actual attempts at assassination and indicated that it may have been indirectly tied to others that were successful.

McCone said he was questioned yesterday not only about Castro, but also about

"the South Vietnam situation" in 1963 when Diem was murdered.

He indicated that he had not been able to supply many details about Diem because "I did not expect it to come up" and had not reviewed his notes on that.

Now a Los Angeles business executive, McCone said it is still unclear to him, and apparently to the Senate committee, who gave the orders for the plans to kill Castro.

But he said they were apparently handed down "both at the close of the Eisenhower administration and the early part of the Kennedy administration" in late 1960 and early 1961.

"The authority under which these activities were carried on was authority granted long before my time," said McCone, who was sworn in as CIA director on Nov. 29, 1961. "I was totally unaware of any attempts on Castro."

However, he said that in reviewing various files within the last few months, "I have been aware of certain actions which were either planned or some actually undertaken, all of which are of a minor nature."

McCone said the chain of command for the assassination schemes against Castro was still murky "because the people involved are dead," including Presidents Eisenhower

See CHURCH, A8, Col. 7

McCone Confirms Anti-Castro Plots

CHURCH, From A1

and Kennedy, former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, former CIA director Allen W. Dulles, and former Secretaries of State John Foster Dulles and Christian Herter.

Castro's assassination, or "liquidation or disposal, I've forgotten the exact words," McCone said, was raised again at a high-level meeting on Aug. 10, 1962, in light of reports that Soviet-made nuclear missiles were about to be installed in Cuba.

But, McCone said, "it was disposed of immediately at my insistence... (It was) quite outside the moral standards of the United States, the CIA and my own standards."

McCone did not say who broached the idea. Others at the meeting with him were Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of State Dean Rusk, and McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's adviser on national security affairs. A fifth member of the special high-level group, Attorney General Kennedy, was absent.

Two days after the meeting, Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale has said, he drafted contingency plans for dealing with Castro that "may" have in-

cluded Castro's assassination despite the decision at the meeting. Lansdale has indicated that the orders to draw up the plans came from Robert Kennedy, although Lansdale has denied being told explicitly to set down the Cuban premier's murder as an option.

McCone described the memo as "erroneous" and said it was quickly withdrawn.

The first proposals and plans to kill Castro were apparently drawn up in the closing days of the Eisenhower administration and, according to a former Defense Department intelligence officer, occasioned the dispatch of a two-man assassination team to Havana in late 1959 or early 1960. Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt Jr., a former CIA officer, said he also proposed Castro's assassination in the spring of 1960 and suggested it be carried out "before or coincident with" the proposed Bay of Pigs invasion.

Hunt has said his recommendations were read by Richard Bissell, CIA deputy director in charge of clandestine operations, and his top assistant, Tracy Barnes, who reportedly told Hunt that the assassination proposal was "in the hands of a special group."

I'VE UNCOVERED INSTANCES
WHERE YOU BROKE THE
RULES



ALTHOUGH IT'S TRUE, I
DIDN'T FIND ANY
PATTERN
OF MASSIVE
WRONG
DOING



BUT THAT DOESN'T
MEAN I'M NOT
UPSET BY
YOUR
ACTIONS



HOWEVER IN COMPARISON
TO THE TOTAL EFFORT,
THEY WEREN'T
ALL THAT
BAD



ON THE
OTHER
HAND....



By Mike Peters for the Dayton Daily News

Nessen and Press Clash at Briefing

6/7/75
By Carroll Kilpatrick

Washington Post Staff Writer

A bitterness reminiscent of the Watergate era was displayed in the White House press room yesterday as charges of cover-up and evasion were hurled at press secretary Ron Nessen.

After an hour of sharp questioning, Nessen slammed his briefing book shut and marched out of the room—having just said that he had other announcements to make. They were never made.

The battle was over the reason why there was a delay in publication of the Rockefeller commission report on the Central Intelligence Agency. Vice President Rockefeller and other officials, including Nessen, had led reporters to believe that the report would be made available for this Sunday's newspapers.

Yesterday Nessen would say only that the President would read it and decide whether to make it public, but that it would not be made public this week.

Suspicious among the press were aroused late Thursday when a commission spokesman disclosed that the report would not cover the controversial issue of whether the CIA had been involved in assassination plots.

When reporters pressed Nessen on whether the White House was editing the report and whether parts would be suppressed, his temper, frequently short, began to rise.

When the questioning got tangled at one point, Nessen asked: "What are we talking about?"

"We're talking about a cover-up," a reporter replied.

Later, when Nessen had moved to another subject, he

interrupted himself and turned to a reporter who was muttering loudly on the sidelines. "Do you have something to add?" Nessen asked.

"We're probably leaving aside the crucial question here," replied the reporter, who frequently criticizes Nessen, "about whether former President Nixon was consulted in this cover-up."

"Which cover-up is that?" Nessen snapped, and returned to his other subject.

The press secretary had been questioned Thursday about a possible delay in publishing the report. And after Thursday night's announcement about what the report would not contain, the reporters were confident that Nessen was aware that it would be the chief subject of yesterday's briefing.

So, when Nessen failed to

respond to questions to the reporters' satisfaction, they appeared at first puzzled and then increasingly critical in follow-up questions.

One reporter asked Nessen if he had expected such a brouhaha, implying that the press secretary had failed to prepare himself for the questions he knew would be asked.

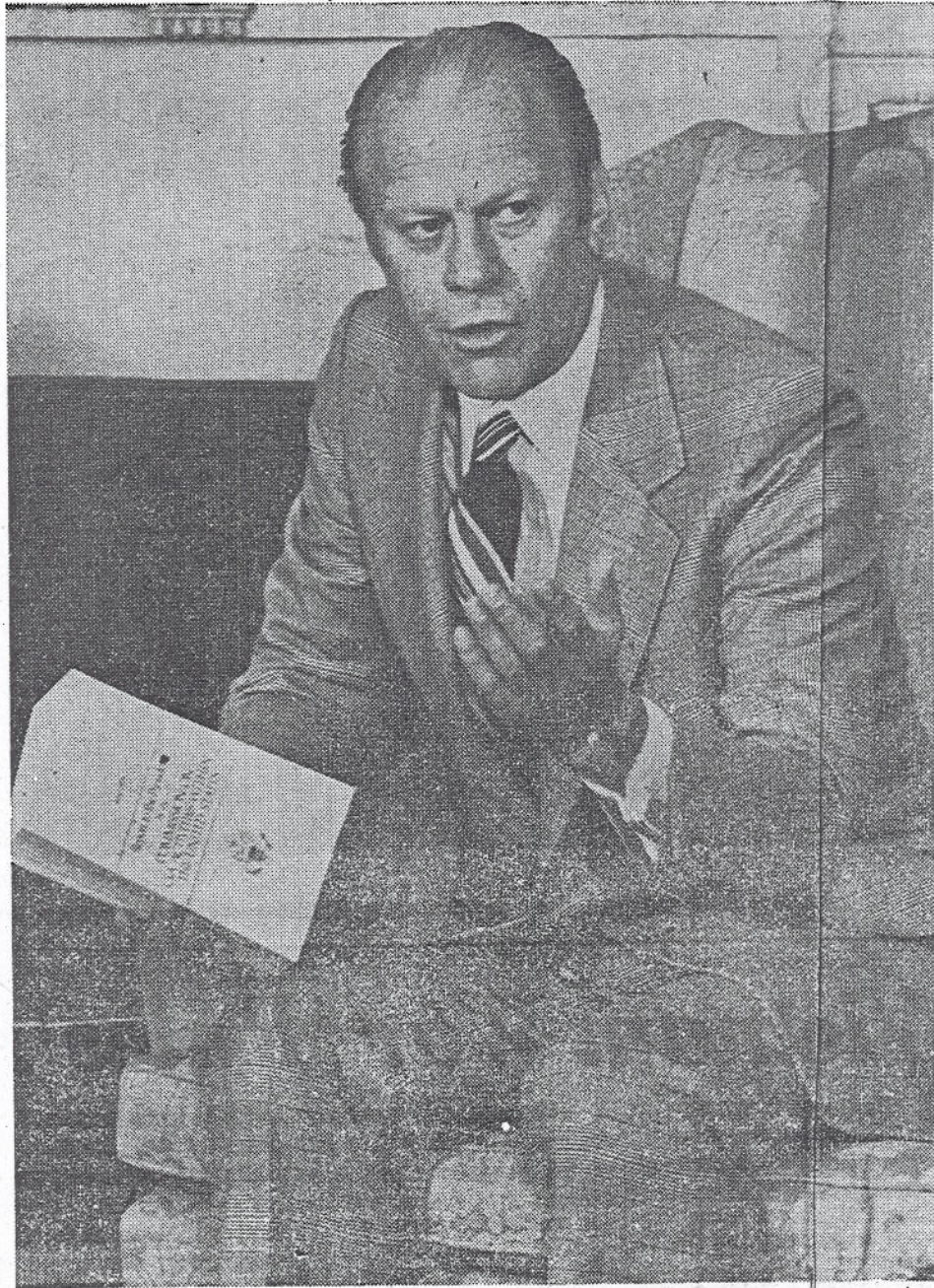
Nessen and those who help him prepare for the briefing knew that there were a variety of rumors going the rounds — that the document was too frank to suit the White House, that Philip W. Buchen, counsel to the President, had read the report and advised against publication, that criticisms of Rockefeller by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho), chairman of the Senate committee on intelligence operations, had forced second thoughts about the report's reliability.

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By Frank Johnston—The Washington Post

President Ford discusses Rockefeller panel report on CIA, which he holds.