

Control of CIA lacking

Frank 6/19/75

This part not in report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Administration control over foreign covert operations conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency is informal, inadequate, and at times lacking altogether, according to the draft report of a government commission's study of U.S. foreign policy.

The president sometimes orders covert operations without consulting key officials and "once approved, actions are rarely evaluated," the draft report states.

The current process for approval of covert operations calls for the submission of proposals to the so-called 40 Committee, headed by Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger in his role as the President's national security adviser. However, partly because of Kissinger's time-consuming duties as secretary of state, the 40 Committee has rarely met in recent years, according to the draft.

"Key officials outside the committee have sometimes not been consulted; occasionally — by presidential order — even the committee itself has been bypassed," the draft report says.

In addition Kissinger, members of the 40 Committee include CIA Director William E. Colby, Chairman George S. Brown of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and high-ranking officials from the Defense and State departments.

A portion of the commission's draft report has been obtained by news organizations.

A spokesman for the congressionally created Murphy Commission, headed by former Ambassador Robert Murphy, said the draft had been removed from the commission offices by means of "outright thievery."

Dr. Francis O. Wilcox, executive

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director of the 12-member commission scheduled to deliver its final report on June 30, confirmed the authenticity of the draft but insisted that "It has been changed and probably will be changed again."

In other developments:

—Sen. Frank Church, D-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, rejected a suggestion by Colby that evidence of alleged U.S. involvement in foreign murder plots be kept secret.

Colby said current CIA directives expressly prohibit CIA involvement in assassination plots and said exposure of past CIA actions would serve no useful purpose.

"I don't accept that thesis," Church said. "We need to know what went on and the degree to which assassination was an instrument of foreign policy."

—A spokesman for the Senate committee said the panel was looking into a Rockefeller Commission statement that Communist countries may be able to "monitor and record thousands of private telephone conversations" in the United States and elsewhere.

The Rockefeller Commission said in its report: "Americans have a right to be uneasy if not seriously disturbed at the real possibility that their personal and business activities which they discuss freely over the telephone could be recorded and analyzed by foreign powers."

"This raises the real specter that selected American users of telephones are potentially subject to blackmail that can seriously affect their actions, or even lead in some cases to recruitment as espionage agents."

The Murphy Commission draft recommends a number of steps designed to improve executive branch review of covert operations, including a prohibition against allowing the president's national security adviser to hold a Cabinet post as well.

The draft also recommends that a special joint congressional committee be kept informed of all covert actions. However, the report urged that a law requiring the president to certify the necessity of each covert operation be dropped. Such certification "is harmful in associating the head of state so formally with such activities," the draft states.

The draft proposes a greater centralization of U.S. intelligence operations by making the director of the Central Intelligence Agency "a staff officer with direct access to the president."

In the past, lack of a firm central direction in the intelligence community has resulted in "excesses in the collection of information and gaps in its analysis; the development of costly systems not because requirements demanded them but because technology permitted them," the draft report says.