

INTELLIGENCE UNIT IS BEING ABOLISHED

Justice Aide Drafts Order to
End Interagency Panel

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WASHINGTON, May 30—The Nixon Administration is quietly dismantling the Intelligence Evaluation Committee, the super-secret body created by President Nixon in an attempt to strengthen relations among the Federal Government's intelligence-gathering agencies, Justice Department officials said Wednesday.

The officials said that Henry E. Petersen, the head of the department's Criminal Division, had prepared an order that would abolish the committee after discovering little sentiment elsewhere in the Government for retaining it.

The committee's existence

was first disclosed publicly in a written statement by President Nixon released last week. The President said that the organization, made up of representatives from the White House, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other agencies, had been established in late 1970 to "help remedy" the difficulties that resulted when J. Edgar Hoover, the late F.B.I. director, ended the bureau's relations with all Government agencies except the White House earlier that year.

Recently Learned of Unit

The officials said that Mr. Petersen, who was directing the Government's investigation of the Watergate case until the appointment of Archibald Cox as special prosecutor, first learned of the committee only a few days before Mr. Nixon's disclosure on May 22.

After inquiring into the committee's operations and finding them to be of little practical value, the officials said, Mr. Petersen polled the other member agencies on whether they

believed that its continued operation would benefit the Government.

The other agencies, which include, in addition to the Justice Department, the Secret Service, the National Security Agency and the Departments of Treasury and Defense, reportedly said that they did not care whether the committee was dismantled or not.

Other knowledgeable sources said today that Mr. Petersen's action in moving to abolish the unit would not meet with the displeasure of his superiors at the Justice Department.

A department spokesman maintained today that the committee had "never been an operational unit" in the sense of engaging in intelligence functions on its own, but had rather served as a clearing house for data gathered by its member agencies.

Other officials added later that the committee's relatively small staff, which is housed in the Justice Department's headquarters building, would be assigned to other jobs as soon as Mr. Petersen's order took effect.