

Restraints on CIA Foreign Operations

Washington

The Central Intelligence Agency was told by a Senate committee yesterday that it must heed new legislation calling for an immediate stop to most foreign CIA operations not solely aimed at the gathering of intelligence.

The new restrictions on the agency's foreign activities, cited in a letter released by Senator John J. Sparkman (Dem.-Ala.), acting chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, came amid growing controversy over the make-up of the presidential panel named Sunday to investigate charges of CIA spying on U.S. citizens.

Some liberal members of Congress, joined by such groups as the American Civil Liberties Union, expressed doubt over the objectivity and independence of the eight-member commission and specifically challenged President Ford's decision to name Vice President Nelson Rockefeller as its chairman.

The new limitations on the CIA's foreign activities were approved late last year with little public fanfare — as an amendment to the 1974 Foreign Assistance Act.

The amendment provides that no appropriated funds "may be expended by or on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency for operations in foreign countries, other than activities intended solely for obtaining necessary intelligence, unless and until the President finds that each such operation is important to the national security of the United States."

Upon making that determination, the bill says, the President must report as much in a written statement

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to the appropriate committees.

The legislation means that, pending specific presidential approval, the CIA would be unable to mount clandestine political operations against foreign governments or in other ways manipulate other countries. The amendment thus would have barred the widely publicized "destabilization" program between 1970 and 1973, whose target was the elected government of the Marxist president of Chile, Salvador Allende.

In his letter, sent to CIA director William E. Colby, Sparkman said that the "proper first step" for compliance would be to insure that the agency had obeyed the law and ceased all foreign operations, other than intelligence gathering, that had not been specifically approved by the President.

Congressional debate over the naming of Ford's eight-member commission to investigate alleged domestic spying, focused on personalities yesterday.

Senator William Proxmire (Dem.-Wis.) who Sunday criticized the naming of Rockefeller as commission chairman, broadened his criticisms yesterday.

"The panel is one-sided in that it contains no champion of civil liberties," he said. "And what is at issue here is the CIA tampering with the civil liberties of American citizens."

Another liberal Democrat, Representative Robert L. Leggett of California, said that "We can expect nothing but a whitewash from this panel."

In New York, Representative Bella S. Abzug accused Mr. Ford of continuing "the coverup tradition" of his predecessor, former President Nixon, by naming "with few exceptions, this conservative collection of bankers, corporate officials and a former chief of staff

(General Lyman Lennitzer) who have never shown any concern for civil liberties."

A liberal Republican senator, Richard S. Schweiker of Pennsylvania, similarly questioned "whether a panel so dominated by those oriented to government and the military intelligence establishment can render an independent judgment."

In a jointly released protest, the ACLU, the Committee for Public Justice and the Center for National Security studies charged that the "new commission seems designed more to avoid a full public review than to facilitate one."

The three civil liberties groups protested the choice of Rockefeller as chairman of the commission because of his role as a member since 1969 of the president's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

Rockefeller defended the selection of himself, saying, "Probably I have as good an understanding of the function of intelligence overseas as anybody, in terms of a citizen, and therefore I can be effective in asking the questions to uncover the answers to those questions which have been raised."

Members of the commission are Rockefeller, Lennitzer, Ronald Reagan, John Connor, board chairman of the Allied Chemical Corp.; C. Douglas Dillon, former secretary of the Treasury; Erwin Griswold, former dean of the Harvard Law School; Joseph Kirkland, secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, and Edgar Shannon former president of the University of Virginia.

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