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SENATE ASKS AID OF FORD IN INQUIRY

Panel on Intelligence Groups
Urges 'Full Cooperation'
From the White House

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence agreed unanimously today to ask President Ford to instruct Federal agencies to cooperate "fully" with the Senate investigation of the intelligence community.

The bipartisan Senate panel also decided to explore the prospects of a coordinated inquiry, including joint Senate-House hearings, with a comparable select committee being established by the House.

Both decisions were announced late today by the committee chairman, Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and the vice chairman, Senator John G. Tower, Republican of Texas.

Senator Church told reporters the decision to seek a meeting with the President and to "enlist his full cooperation and support" had no direct connection to a published report that clandestine operatives of the Central Intelligence Agency had been advised by a superior that they had a constitutional right to refuse to answer questions of Justice Department investigators.

Plan to Question Colby

But the Senator said he would question William E. Colby, Director of the C.I.A., about the published report.

Mr. Church characterized the committee actions today as part of an effort to "expedite" Congressional inquiries into charges of illegal or improper conduct by the C.I.A., the Federal Bureau of Investigation and more than a dozen other Government agencies involved in the gathering of domestic and international intelligence.

The Senate, by an overwhelming vote last month, established a select committee composed of six Democrats and five Republicans to investigate the allegations and to recommend legislation that would give Congress more effective control over Government intelligence activities.

The House Rules Committee voted this afternoon, with only one dissent, to send to the full House for action tomorrow a proposal and three Republicans. But Republicans pledged a floor fight in an effort to alter the partisan make-up of the new committee.

Meeting Planned

Senator Church said that, once the House panel was organized, he had Senator Tower would meet with its senior members to determine what steps the two committees might take to "keep to a minimum the duplication of effort and repetitious investigation that might otherwise occur."

Mr. Church said a "coordinated investigation" might include agreement on holding some joint Senate-House hearings and on dividing between the panels the subjects they would explore.

Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, Democrat of Michigan, who is widely considered the likely chairman of the House panel, said in an interview that he would welcome such an agreement, although he added that he was not in a position to speak for the House.

Senator Church emphasized, in a news briefing after a two-hour closed session of the Senate panel, that he knew of no reason why President Ford would be unwilling to cooperate with Congressional investigators. Mr. Ford has appointed a White House commission, headed by Vice President Rockefeller, to inquire into charges of illegal domestic activities by the C.I.A.

In reply to questions, Senator Church said the panel's decision to seek the President's cooperation was not prompted by a report Sunday in The Chicago Tribune that clandestine agents of the C.I.A. had received a memorandum on Feb. 6 advising them of their Fifth Amendment rights to remain silent if asked about their activities by the Justice Department.

The Tribune account said that the memorandum, from David Blee, Deputy director of the Office of Clandestine Operations of the C.I.A. had also warned employees they might be personally accountable for taking part in activities that proved to be illegal and thus might want to secure legal counsel.