

SEChronicle (A/D)

The CIA Bows

To Senate

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On Secrecy

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Washington

Central Intelligence Agency Director William Colby told Senate investigators yesterday he will waive an official restriction under which CIA employees pledge to remain silent about their activities.

Democratic Senator Frank Church of Idaho, chairman of the special Senate committee investigating U.S. government intelligence gathering operations, said Colby agreed to let agency employees testify freely.

The CIA director agreed to the waiver at a closed door meeting with Church and Senator John Tower, Republican vice chairman of the 11-member committee.

Members of the Senate committee had expressed concern that the agency's restrictions on disclosure would prevent past or present CIA personnel from testifying freely before the panel.