

SEChronicle
Discussion
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May Expand
CIA Probe

Washington

The Rockefeller Commission is discussing with White House officials the possibility of expanding its investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency to include allegations of CIA involvement in plots to assassinate foreign leaders, informed sources said yesterday.

"Nothing has been decided," said a White House official, who acknowledged that discussions now under way "may result in expanding the Rockefeller Commission investigation."

A White House spokesman, asked about a New York Times report that the commission would investigate such allegations, said "As far as I know there's been no change in the President's position."

Knowledgeable sources said Mr. Ford was troubled by the news accounts linking the CIA to several assassination plots during the past 20 years, and indicated he views the panel headed by Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller as one way to delve into the allegations.

A White House source also acknowledged there had been discussions of granting the Rockefeller Commission an extension of its life.

Originally, the panel was to complete its probe of alleged domestic spying by the CIA within 90 days. More time would be needed if the probe were expanded to include the alleged assassination plots.

On Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Ron Nes-

sen noted that the Rockefeller Commission's mandate called for it to look into allegations of illegal domestic spying and added that a probe of the assassination plot charges would be appropriate for a special Senate intelligence committee.

Associated Press