

SFChronicle

Part of CIA Report Being Kept Secret

'Raw Data' On Murder Plotting

Washington.

President Ford received a 350-page report yesterday from the Rockefeller Commission with recommendations on the Central Intelligence Agency, and a separate packet of "investigative materials" on the CIA's role in alleged assassination plots.

The report, representing a five-month investigation by the blue-ribbon panel headed by Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, is understood to focus on the CIA's future role and on charges that it engaged in illegal domestic spying.

In accepting the report, Mr. Ford said it would help assure "that we end up with a CIA and an intelligence community that will do an excellent job for the future of this country and at the same time ensure the privacy of individuals."

White House officials said they expect the report to be made public in several days.

The assassination issue was not dealt with in the report itself because the commission decided it could not do a thorough enough job in the time allotted it, Rockefeller said.

"We did not feel we had the full story that would give us the basis for making con-

clusions," Rockefeller told newsmen with reference to reports of foreign assassination plans.

He said it is a "reasonable assumption" that the Senate CIA Committee — but not the public — would have access to raw data on this subject which were turned over to Mr. Ford.

That materials said to include staff interviews with former CIA officials and others, as well as Justice Department files referring to reports that the CIA cooperated with Mafia figures in-

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planning attempts to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro in the early 1960s.

Rockefeller rejected newsmen's suggestions that withholding evidence from the public on the assassination question would be viewed as a cover-up.

The CIA report originally was scheduled to be made public this weekend, and base on previous comments by Rockefeller and commission member C. Douglas Dillon, the expectation was that it would deal with the assassination issue.

But Thursday night the Vice President's office said the subject had been inadequately probed by the commission in its rush to meet yesterday's deadline for reporting to Mr. Ford.

Presidential press secretary Ron Nessen said that "as far as I know" neither the President nor anyone in the White House ordered the assassination material excluded from the final report.

Nessen also said Mr. Ford has not firmly decided whether to release the report. But other officials associated with the commission's work said they expect him to.

One commission source said Mr. Ford wants to study the report to make sure it reveals nothing that would compromise U.S. intelligence efforts abroad, and that it would not embarrass any foreign officials without their first being alerted.

Two sources familiar with the commission's work said the panel decided two weeks ago to exclude assassination material because it saw the matter could not be treated adequately.

In establishing the panel last January, Mr. Ford said he wanted it to examine allegations that the CIA had exceeded its legal charter through massive spying on U.S. citizens. Later, when reports appeared in the press that the intelligence agency had plotted to kill foreign leaders, the President asked the panel to examine any illegal domestic activity in that area, too.

At first the panel focused on reports that the CIA had enlisted the aid of Mafia figures in an effort to kill Castro, and that it had cooperated in the 1961 slaying of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo, these sources said.

"As allegations arose about many other plots, the staff worked like crazy dur-

ing most of May to expand the inquiry beyond Castro and Trujillo," one official said.

"But two weeks ago the commission decided it could not pull all this information together in time. It decided to concentrate its report on CIA activities within the United States."

The report is understood to contain proposals to spell out more clearly in law what the CIA may do and may not do within the United States.

CIA Director William E. Colby acknowledged in late January that the agency had overstepped its authority by infiltrating U.S. antiwar organizations, collecting files on 10,000 Americans, opening mail of U.S. citizens corresponding with persons in Communist countries and breaking into the homes of agency employees.

At the same time, Colby said the CIA is responsible for protecting its own secrets, its informants and agents. Unless the "gray area" of what the CIA can do domestically is made clearer in law, this responsibility is difficult to discharge, he said.

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