

A Peek Into the Report on CIA

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A BLUE-RIBBON commission, with such prestigious members as Vice President Nelson Rockefeller and Senate Democratic leader Mike Mansfield, is expected to recommend on June 30 that the embattled Central Intelligence Agency should continue its controversial undercover operations under a new name.

The staff has prepared a confidential study, proposing that the CIA start anew as the Foreign Intelligence Agency. The study is expected to be approved by the full commission, which will submit it to both President Ford and Congress at the end of the month.

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THE STAFF STUDY declares forcefully: "We believe that firmer central direction and oversight of the intelligence community is essential. That is the main thrust of our recommendations.

The study also cautions that "covert action" — which is defined as "activity abroad intended not to gather information but to influence events" — "should be employed only where clearly essential to vital U.S. purposes which are impossible to attain through other means, and then only after the most careful process of high-level review."

"But," emphasizes the report, "we do not conclude that covert action can or should be abolished."

The law now requires the President personally to certify to Congress the necessity for an undercover operation. The report suggests this "is harmful in associating the head of state so formally with such activities." (WXP)

The study, therefore, recommends revoking "any requirement for the personal certification of the President as to their necessity."

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SUPPORTERS OF Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), are frustrated over his refusal to enter his name in the presidential sweepstakes. He has forbidden them from seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in his behalf as long as he is running the Senate investigation of the CIA and FBI.

Church has told them firmly that he doesn't want to mix presidential politics in any way with the investigation. Yet he continues to stir enthusiasm for his candidacy in the attitudes he expresses toward government.

In condemning CIA assassination plots, for example, he declared strongly: "The notion that we must mimic the Communists and abandon our principles (is) . . . an abomination."

Then he asked emphatically: "Ours is not a wicked country, and we cannot abide a wicked government."