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**Church Bars  
 Open Hearings  
 On Death Plots**

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The chairman of the Senate intelligence committee said yesterday that he opposes holding open hearings on "the whole sordid story" of the Central Intelligence Agency's involvement in assassination plots.

Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) said he hoped instead to wind up the committee's close-door investigation by the end of July with a public report summarizing its findings.

Church spoke with reporters after top White House aides agreed to provide the committee with fuller access to top-secret documents bearing on the controversy, including minutes of National Security Council meetings during the early 1960s.

The Idaho Democrat said he felt the American people were entitled to know what happened, but "in a way that will not hold up this whole sordid story before the world and telecast it to every corner of the globe."

The committee has been investigating CIA-sponsored assassination attempts and plots against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and allegations of more peripheral involvement in murder schemes directed against other foreign leaders such as Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo and South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem. Trujillo was assassinated in May of 1961; Diem, in November of 1963.

The White House gave the committee access Tuesday night to what has been described as a complete file on the assassination issue—including records of National Security Council meetings and of the high-level "Special Group" within successive administrations that had control of covert CIA operations.

The documents, however, were made available under a complicated and tentative arrangement that required their return to the White House each night and that prohibited any copies from being made. The committee tried the arrangement Wednesday at a closed session with former CIA operative William Harvey, but said the restrictions made thorough questioning impossible and abruptly canceled the meeting.

White House counsel Philip W. Buchen and Roderick Hills and one of their deputies, James Wilderotter, met with the committee yesterday

morning and agreed to let it keep the documents for as long as it needs them.

Hills, President Ford's top legal adviser on national security affairs, told reporters that the committee had not lodged "any specific complaint before today." He said he was satisfied that "we never had any real disagreement" and that any further problems could be worked out as they arise.

Church said the new understanding will enable the committee staff to prepare properly for the interrogation of witnesses and will permit the distribution of duplicate copies of the documents in question to committee members.

According to committee sources, the White House had also been holding back on documents concerning two other major areas of investigation, reportedly covert operations in Chile and the preparation of national intelligence estimates for the President's guideline.

White House aides were insisting on briefing the committee on these issues, apparently without any guarantee that the documents would then be supplied.

Church said further negotiations may be necessary to resolve this problem, but for the moment, the committee has agreed to the briefings without giving up its right "to look at the raw material." The White House, in turn, will coordinate its review of the documents the committee wants so that the investigation will not be delayed on that score.

Hills said that so far, "there is nothing that we have refused to show the committee."