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Church Unit to Call Kissinger For 'Insights' on Chili Policy



JOHN WARNER

... queried on agreement

By Lawrence Meyer

Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate select intelligence committee will call Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger "very quickly" as it moves to complete its investigation of alleged assassination plots by the Central Intelligence Agency, committee chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) said yesterday.

Church told reporters that the committee hopes to call Kissinger before President Ford leaves for Europe on Saturday. In addition, Church said that the committee voted to issue an interim report "when our work is completed on the assassination investigation."

The committee will not complete its investigation of assassinations by the end of the month, Church said, but will continue to work "into the recess until we get the job done."

Explaining the call for Kissinger, Church said, "The committee needs to determine the line of authority for implementing Nixon administration policy toward Chile . . . Kissinger can provide authoritative insights" because he was National Security Adviser in September, 1973, at the time Chilean President Salvador Allende was overthrown and died.

Earlier, former Sen. George Smathers (D-Fla.) said he told the committee's closed hearing that in early 1962 President Kennedy sought his reaction to a possible assassination plot against Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

Smathers gave no indication of whether the President actually approved any such plot. But he said he told Kennedy:

"It would be terrible both if it got out in the United States and because no matter what Kennedy did it would be attributed to him."

The House Government Operations information and individual rights subcommittee heard testimony yesterday from John Warner, general counsel of the CIA.

Warner was called to answer questions concerning a 1954 agreement that enabled the CIA to decide when it

would refer instances of possible criminal violations to the Justice Department for prosecution.

According to Warner, the agreement—which had escaped notice in the Justice Department for several years—was brought to the department's attention during a Dec. 19, 1974, meeting of Warner, CIA Director William Colby, then acting Attorney General Laurence H. Silberman and an aide. *

Warner testified Colby initiated the meeting to discuss "one case with a number of facets to it." Although Warner declined to discuss the case, he said under questioning by subcommittee chairman Rep. Bella S. Abzug (D-N.) that one facet might involve perjury and "one facet might" involve the CIA's activities in Chile. Warner said the case did not involve murder or any domestic activities.

*Despite repeated suggestions by Rep. Abzug that the meeting was intended to tell the Justice Department of CIA activities before they were revealed in a New York Times article that appeared Dec. 22, 1974, Warner denied the connection.

Warner testified that the CIA delayed reporting the matter to the Justice Department for 17 months after the CIA's inspector general had reported the matter to the director of the agency because "the matter was being studied very carefully to make sure we had the facts."