

# Senate's Panel on Intelligence Announces 1st Public Hearings

After months of secret sessions, the Senate Intelligence Committee announced plans yesterday for its first round of public hearings, but refused to disclose what they will be about.

Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) said the hearings will deal with the Central Intelligence Agency, whose deputy director for science and technology, Carl Duckett, appeared before the committee in executive session yesterday morning.

Church, however, refused to be more specific. To announce even the topic of the hearings would result in "prematurely piecemealing the information out," he said.

The hearings will be held

Sept. 16, 17 and 18. They had initially been scheduled for next week, but the committee apparently realized on hearing from Duckett that it was not prepared to begin the sessions that soon.

The committee is reportedly anxious to stage some sort of public inquiry to avoid the impression of being bogged down. Created eight months ago, it has yet to hold a single meeting in public. Since last spring, it has been investigating CIA involvement in foreign

assassination plots, but is still struggling to draft a report on that.

After yesterday's briefing from Duckett, the committee decided it would have to take "some more preliminary testimony" in order to determine just what witnesses to call, Church said. He repeatedly declined to describe the topic except to say that "I think it's a very important subject and one that has not yet come to light."