

Hill Unit Plans to Keep Secret Intelligence Data

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The House Intelligence Committee has no intention of bowing to a White House demand for the return of all classified documents and, instead, may make more of the information public this week.

According to informed sources, the committee plans to ignore the Ford administration's ultimatum and continue the House investigation with a public hearing Thursday on the failure of U.S. intelligence agencies to foresee the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

Angered by the committee's release last week of a four word phrase in a mistaken assessment of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the White House called last Friday for the return of all classified documents that had been turned over to the committee.

The administration also vowed to produce no more witnesses from the Central Intelligence Agency or other agencies under investigation until the committee "alters its position" and stops asserting the right to make classified information public.

By then, however, a number of top-secret documents bearing on the 1974 invasion of Cyprus as well as on the 1973 Arab-Israeli war had been subpoenaed and delivered to the committee.

Sources said portions of the Cyprus reports are likely to be

made public by the House committee. Chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) has said the House investigation was specifically empowered to decide what to release. He also indicated that the committee majority was not at all impressed by the administration's arguments for continued secrecy of the disputed Arab-Israeli report.

The House committee plans to follow up the Cyprus hearing with another session Friday on the Vietcong's 1968 Tet offensive in South Vietnam. Despite Friday morning's ultimatum from the Ford administration, the Pike committee fired off another subpoena later the same day to CIA Director William E. Colby, demanding a variety of intelligence reports, predictions and postmortems concerning the Tet offensive.

The deadline set down in the Tet Subpoena is 10 a.m. Wednesday. The House committee may meet then to consider the administration's response. (17 SEP)

The Senate intelligence committee, meanwhile, will take testimony from CIA officials and scientists at public hearings starting today involving a secret CIA cache of poisonous materials.

The poison, including enough shellfish toxin (nearly 11 grams) to kill thousands of people, was stored in a CIA facility despite orders from President Nixon in 1969 that such material should be destroyed.

Senate Committee Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) said yesterday that Nathan Gordon, a scientist formerly in charge of the chemical branch of the CIA's technical services division, was appar-

ently the official responsible for storing the biological substances.

Gordon is scheduled to testify this afternoon, after invoking the right to appear without television cameras or broadcast equipment, Church said.

Other witnesses will be CIA Director Colby; Sayre Stevens, associate deputy director of science and technology at the agency; former CIA director Richard Helms; Thomas Karamezines, former CIA deputy director for covert operations; Edward Schantz, an expert on shellfish toxin from the University of Wisconsin, and James Leonard, a State Department official who helped negotiate an international treaty renouncing biological warfare.

In disclosing details of the secret cache last week, Church charged that it included far more shellfish toxin than might be needed for research purposes. According to experts, a dose of only one to four milligrams—thousandths of a gram—could be fatal.

The toxin was reportedly developed by the Army's chemical warfare division in the 1950s. An Army spokesman said yesterday that the biological laboratories at Edgewood Arsenal still have 2.8 grams "for research purposes"—aside from the amount kept by the CIA.

The Army spokesman, Lt. Col. Hugh G. Waite, said the toxin was maintained for work in developing an antidote and in devising a "biological detection and warning system" that would show when the poison was being used. He said retention of the toxin for these purposes did not conflict with the 1969 Nixon decree or subsequent international protocols which, he said, "required no change in research programs."