

Pike Panel Agrees to Ford Conditions on Secret

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Papers and Accepts the

Materials Submitted by Colby

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1—The House Select Committee investigating the Federal intelligence agencies agreed today to abide by President Ford's insistence that it not unilaterally make public secret materials or testimony given to it by the executive branch.

The committee's decision, after nearly three weeks of deliberation, came on a vote of 10 to 3 to accept some 50 pages of classified documents offered to the panel last night by William E. Colby, Director of Central Intelligence, who was under a committee subpoena to produce the material.

Those documents, taken into custody last night by Representative Otis G. Pike, the committee chairman, were the first classified materials the panel had received in response to its subpoenas since last Sept. 12, when Mr. Ford acted to halt its further access to any secret information.

The Presidential order was prompted by the Pike Committee's decision the previous day to make public, despite Administration objections, classified material on the failure of American intelligence to predict accurately the outbreak of the 1973 Mideast war.

Foreknowledge of Tet

Mr. Ford's directive had considerably hampered the committee's investigation of United States preparedness in times of recent international crises. The President had said that his order would remain in force until Mr. Pike and his colleagues relaxed their insistence that they retain the right to finally decide whether classified information would be made public.

Today's vote to accept the documents, which reflect the intelligence community's foreknowledge of the 1968 Tet offensive in Vietnam, amounted to a retreat by the panel from that position and from its subsequent insistence that sensitive details, such as the identities of intelligence agents and sources, not be excised in advance from materials supplied to the panel.

The question of excision arose as a point of contention only after the committee and the White House began negotiating to resolve the impasse over disclosure. The panel members had voted 10 to 3 yesterday to seek a resolution from the full House supporting their demand for unimpeded access to classified information.

Mr. Pike, a Democrat from Suffolk county, L.I., who had insisted that it was his committee's responsibility to obtain and dispose of classified intelligence information as it

wished, had described such a resolution as a first step toward a request that the House find Mr. Colby in contempt of Congress.

He said today, however, that he considered Mr. Colby to be in compliance with the committee's subpoena, one of four that it voted on Sept. 10, the day before the panel's unilateral disclosure was made.

The 50 or so words deleted from the documents accepted by the committee today, most of which concerned the identities of sensitive sources or unflattering characterizations of individuals, were shown to Mr. Pike in advance, and he said that he believed they had been

properly excised. Under the agreement, President Ford has the ultimate authority over whether a Federal agency can make a particular excision from a classified document or whether the panel can release such matter to the public.

The select committee retains in either case the right to go to court to have a dispute between itself and the President adjudicated.

Materials subpoenaed by the Pike panel from the National Security Agency, the National Security Council and the Defense Intelligence Agency have not yet been supplied in full. Mr. Pike cautioned today that

he had received no assurance that the acceptance of the documents from Mr. Colby would bring the others forth.

But Representative Robert McClory, of Illinois, the committee's ranking Republican member who has served as an informal liaison with the White House during the negotiations, said that he had been told by Mr. Ford yesterday that the other Federal agencies would "cooperate fully with this committee."

Mr. Pike said that he would keep pending the committee's request for a resolution from the House in case the other agencies do not cooperate. A

The panel's chief obstacle to virtually unimpeded access to secret documents of the intelligence community is a policy, enunciated last Thursday by Assistant Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, that middle-level diplomats would not be permitted to testify about their assessments of intelligence reports that were passed on to senior State Department policy-makers.

Apparently Softened

The committee staff considers such testimony to be of some importance to its goal of determining whether faulty intelligence or high-level misinter-

pretation of accurate analyses and reports led to this Government's relative surprise at the Tet offensive, the Mideast war, last year's invasion of Cyprus by Turkey and the recent military coup in Portugal.

The State Department's position appeared to have softened slightly today. Mr. McClory said he had been assured by Mr. Ford that junior State Department officers would have a perfect right to correct any inaccuracies in testimony by senior officials about the conclusions and recommendations they had passed on to higher-ups.

The Pike committee has heard testimony and soon evidence

that high-ranking military and diplomatic officials ignored indications in advance of Tet that enemy forces in Vietnam were twice their official estimated size.

The House committee released today a post-mortem report produced by representatives of the American intelligence community concluding that intelligence agencies had failed to accurately predict the Greek-sponsored coup in July 1974 in which Archbishop Makarios, the Cypriot president, that coup triggered the invasion of Cyprus by Turkish forces.

The committee made public

a sworn interview with Henry Tasca, then American Ambassador to Greece, who said that he had been told by the C.I.A. station in Athens that Gen. Demetrios Ioannides, the leader of the Greek junta that aided the Cypriot coup, would deal only with the agency and not with the Ambassador.

Mr. Tasca said that had he been told of the junta's involvement in the plans for a coup, he would have "turned the place upside down" to make it clear to the general that the United States would not stand for such involvement on the part of the Greek Government.