

Judge Bars CIA 'Plot' Anonymity

By Timothy S. Robinson
Washington Post Staff Writer

U.S. District Court Judge Gerhard A. Gesell yesterday refused to delete the name of a former CIA official from the Senate intelligence committee's final report dealing with alleged assassination plots on foreign leaders.

Gesell issued the ruling in open court after a day of secret hearings on a suit filed by an anonymous former CIA official in an attempt to remove his name from the report or block publication of

the report, scheduled to be released later this week.

Attorneys for the former CIA official immediately appealed Gesell's ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals, which scheduled an emergency hearing for 10 a.m. today. A Senate committee attorney said printing of the report is scheduled to begin later this afternoon at the Government Printing Office after final corrections are made in the document.

The official, who was described by a Senate com-

mittee attorney as "a public official that participated in acts that are abhorrent to our society... (and) who sought to kill foreign leaders," is reported to be in fear of assassination himself if his name is publicly tied to various plots investigated by the committee.

Although Gesell agreed that the ex-CIA man's life could be in danger if his name is published in the report, he said the "public interest greatly outweighs any private interest" of the plaintiff.

Informed sources identified the plaintiff in the suit as Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, former CIA director of technical services who has testified in closed sessions before the Senate committee.

Gottlieb, who has been granted immunity from prosecution, has been linked in public reports with the alleged destruction of documents about controversial CIA programs and an alleged plot to ship poison overseas to be used in a CIA-

See SUIT, A2, Col. 1

SUIT, From A1

sponsored assassination attempt.

Attorneys Terry F. Lenzner, Thomas H. Truitt and Donald T. Bucklin—who have represented Gottlieb in previous actions—refused to disclose the identity of the plaintiff in the suit they filed before Gesell.

The suit was filed secretly over the weekend with Gesell, who scheduled a closed hearing yesterday morning at the request of the plaintiff's attorneys.

For more than two hours, sheets of black plastic covered the windows of a locked courtroom door as various witnesses testified about the alleged assassination plots with which the plaintiff was reportedly connected and about the reported threats on the plaintiff's life.

At least one current high-ranking CIA official was reported to be among the witnesses.

The Senate committee also provided a copy of its planned report to Gesell, who later described it in open court as a "report in narrative form and in great detail, telling of a number of alleged assassination plots."

Gesell opened his courtroom at 2:15 p.m. yesterday for an hour of arguments by attorneys over the legal issues involved in the case.

Much of that argument centered around the rights of Congress to publish legislative material unfettered by the courts and the plaintiff's possible right of privacy that might be invaded by the public linking of his name to assassination plots.

In refusing to block publication of the report, or to order the plaintiff's name deleted, Gesell noted that the Senate committee had voluntarily deleted the names of 20 of the 32 current and former CIA employees named in the final report.

However, he said he had no right to interfere with the committee's decision to name the plaintiff, whom he described as a "central figure in the report."

Gesell said he felt specifically that he had no power to block the publication of 300 uncensored Senate CIA committee reports that are first expected to be made available to senators and their staffs.

As for the publicly distributed documents scheduled to be released later, Gesell said, the court must balance the individual's alleged right to privacy against the public's right to be fully informed by Congress on a matter of such "major public concerns" as the alleged CIA assassination plots.