

Intelligence Activities

Public U.S. Hearings on Chile

Washington

The Senate intelligence committee announced yesterday that it will hold public hearings next week on covert U.S. intelligence activities in Chile despite the refusal of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and CIA Director William Colby to testify in public.

The announcement followed the panel's receipt of a letter from former President Nixon's lawyer, saying Mr. Nixon is willing to testify before ranking banking committee members — at his San Clemente home and under certain conditions — about U.S. intelligence activities.

The committee was reported to be considering Mr. Nixon's proposal, which was understood to convey his willingness to testify on CIA ACTIVITIES/ to testify on CIA activities in Chile during his administration and other subjects related to the continuing probe of intelligence activities.

Committee Chairman Frank Church (Dem-Ida) issued a statement saying the hearings would go on despite the administration opposition to public testimony "because of the continuing public concern over the nature and extent of U.S. involvement in the

overthrow of a democratically elected government (in Chile)."

Church, who is spending the Thanksgiving holiday in his home state, said President Ford had defended covert actions in Chile "as good for the Chilean people and good for the American people."

The American people, Church said, "deserve to hear why this is so."

He related the texts of letters from Kissinger and Colby dated November 20 in which they said they could not testify in public on covert actions in Chile.

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