

House to Vote on Secret Spy Report

Washington

A decision on whether to publish details of secret U.S. intelligence operations in the final report of the House Intelligence committee was ordered to be put to a full vote of the House yesterday.

The House is expected to act today on a resolution approved 9 to 6 in the House Rules Committee that the intelligence committee be directed not to publicly release the information unless it gets approval from President Ford to do so.

The Rules Committee action was a victory for the committee's senior Republican, Representative Robert McClory of Illinois, and three other members who contended that public disclosure of the secret information would violate an agreement that had been worked out with Mr. Ford to obtain it.

However, much of the information on operations, including U.S. submarine spying on the Soviets and CIA support for Angolan troops and Italian political parties, has already been publicly disclosed through news leaks.

Chairman Otis Pike, (Dem.-N.Y.), estimated to the Rules Committee that "interest-wise or titillation-wise" about 75 per cent of the report has already been publicly disclosed.

Asked why his panel had voted 9 to 6 to publicly disclose the secret information without regard to an agreement giving the President the final word on disclosure, Pike gave the Rules Committee two basic reasons:

First, "the majority conclusion of the committee was simply that we could not sweep the

atrocious and horrendous things under the rug," he said.

Second, Pike said, "We could not carry out our mandate if we said to the President — and that means saying to the CIA and the FBI — you can veto anything you want in our final report."

The committee had agreed to a compromise with Mr. Ford in September after a clash over secrecy. The panel said it would not disclose any secret information if Mr. Ford personally declared its disclosure would be detrimental to the national security unless the committee went to court for authority to do so.

But Pike and the committee majority contended that no such agreement could dictate what the committee could say in its final, official report to the full House.

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