

CIA (D)

★ Fri., Mar. 5, 1976

San Chronicle

MAR 5 1976

'Top-Secret' CIA Papers Missing

Washington

More than 200 "Top-Secret" and "Secret" documents that the CIA turned over to the House intelligence committee are missing, according to a letter written by an aide of CIA director George Bush.

The documents cover such sensitive subjects as the CIA budget, strategic arms limitation, the 1974 coup in Portugal, the agency's use of business firms for cover and the detailing of CIA personnel to other

government agencies, CIA aide Mitchell Rogovin said in a February 27 letter to committee chairman Otis Pike (Dem.-N.Y.).

Of a total 232 documents missing, 189 were classified Top Secret, the letter said. Some of the documents were listed as "Top Secret-Codeword," a designation that further restricts the number of people with access to the material, an agency spokesman said.

Pike discounted the possibility of theft, saying the documents probably had been

turned over to the National Archives, destroyed or returned to another agency by mistake.

In a letter sent Monday to Bush, Pike asked for more specific information about the documents, such as when and to whom they were given. He also promised that "I will certainly do what I can to help you find them."

The House committee went out of business last month after the full House voted not to publicly release the panel's final

report on its investigation of U.S. intelligence agencies. The House Ethics Committee has undertaken an investigation into the leak of that report to CBS News correspondent Daniel Schorr.

Pike was first alerted to the problem by a February 25 letter from Bush stating that "a number of CIA documents are missing." Rogovin's letter containing a list of "sensitive classified CIA documents missing from House intelligence committee

files stored at CIA headquarters" followed two days later.

According to Bush's letter, it was first learned that the documents were missing during a February 21 inventory of the committee files conducted at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., in the presence of a committee staff member.

Bush's letter indicated that the documents disappeared prior to their shipment back to the CIA.

Associated Press