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Carter Warns on CIA Revelations

Washington

President Carter said yesterday that recently published reports about the Central Intelligence Agency's contacts abroad have prompted some foreigners who were providing important information to the United States to question the secrecy and safety of their roles.

"Some of our key intelligence sources are becoming reluctant to continue their relationship with us because of the danger of being exposed in the future," he said, voicing the same warning raised by former President Ford during congressional inquiries into the intelligence community last year.

As a result of those inquiries, the number of government and congressional officials with access to intelligence data was substantially increased — and Carter suggested yesterday that it would be in the interest of national security to substantially reduce that number.

"I would hope we would have one joint congressional committee with a limited membership to whom we can reveal what is going on in its entirety within the confines of the intelligence community — myself, the Intelligence Oversight Board, the attorney general, and let that be it," he said.

The President said he "was shocked to learn" the number of people with access to information "on which the security of our nation depends" and, although he said he recognizes a need for checks and balances against illegalities and improprieties, he said the



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'Key intelligence sources are becoming reluctant'
PRESIDENT CARTER IN THE RAIN

country tends to be too relaxed about intelligence matters in peacetime.

Good intelligence, he said, "is one of the best means to make sure we don't have war."

Commenting in the wake of assertions that the CIA made clandestine payments to a number of foreign leaders, including King Hussein of Jordan, Carter reiterated his statements during his news conference Thursday that in his review of intelligence activities and operations, he has found no improprieties or illegalities over the "last six or eight months, as far back as my study went."

His remarks were made during a question-and-answer session with employees of the State Department on another of his forays into the bureaucracy of Washington. Earlier in the day, he had appeared at the Department of Transportation where, standing bareheaded in a steady downpour, he urged workers there to be innovative and individualistic in their approach to their jobs.

Moments later, he walked into the State Department auditorium with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance at his elbow, and flanked by more than 30 of the department's highest ranking officials, repeated his appeal for competence and compassion in the federal ranks.

The President said his proposal for a single congressional committee — rather than the present half-dozen — with access to intelligence data had been favorably received by House Speaker Thomas O'Neill.

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