

# Ford Recasts Intelligence Management

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President Ford announced a new chain of command and operational guidelines for the nation's intelligence agencies last night in response to a year of charges and investigations.

In press conference, Mr. Ford declared, "I will not be a party to the dismantling of the CIA and the other intelligence agencies."

At the same time, he maintained that his reorganization — and new laws that he is asking from Congress — are needed to protect rights of citizens against abuse from such agencies.

Another aspect of the proposed program is to protect intelligence agencies and other parts of the government against the leak of official secrets. Mr. Ford said he will ask Congress to require "every employee" of the executive branch to sign a statement promising not to divulge classified information improperly. Congress will be asked to make it a crime for a government employee to reveal secrets.

Full details of the Ford plan were not made public last night. But a prepared statement and answers to reporters' questions yielded these elements:

- "Overall policy directions" for foreign intelligence will rest with the National Security Council, the White House agency that handles it now. Mr. Ford made it clear the President should be responsible and accountable for such policies. It is not clear how his new program would change current procedures.

- A new Committee on Foreign Intelligence to be director of the Central Intelligence Agency will conduct "management of intelligence." The group will also include the secretaries of State and Defense, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the President's assistant for national security affairs. For the first time, the Attorney General and director of the Office of Management and Budget are to be involved as "observers." This committee will evidently replace the White House "Forty Committee."

## PRESIDENT, From A1

which has authorized secret intelligence operations.

- A three-member Oversight Board to be headed by former Ambassador Robert D. Murphy will monitor the performance of intelligence agencies. The other two members will be former Army Secretary Stephen Ailes and economist Leo Cherne.

- A "comprehensive set of public guidelines" will serve as "legally binding charters" for intelligence agencies. Officials of the agencies will be held legally accountable for any violation of the guidelines, which are to include "specific limitations" on government action which could invade individual rights.

... that adopted in last night that hearings on the President's plans will be opened "as soon as practical."

Sen. Walter F. Mondale (D-Minn.), also a member of the Senate committee, questioned Mr. Ford's heavy reliance on executive orders to make reforms. He urged the President to support "necessary legislative action to build a real consensus" for reform of intelligence agencies, saying such a consensus is fundamental.

While not a formal part of his plan, Mr. Ford said he hopes Congress will create a Joint Committee on Intelligence to perform the congressional oversight of intelligence agencies.

He urged the House to

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- Proposed legislation that will provide "judicial safeguards" against electronic surveillance and mail openings. Mr. Ford said the legislation, if enacted, would require a court order for electronic surveillance even in national security cases.

- Proposed legislation that would prohibit foreign assassination attempts against leaders in peacetime.

- "Very strict guidelines" that Attorney General Edward H. Levi is drawing up on domestic intelligence activities of the FBI. Chairman Frank (D-Idaho) of the Senate intelligence committee— where assassination attempts, illegal mail openings and other abuses were first revealed — said

take disciplinary action against those responsible for the recent leak of the report of the House intelligence committee, calling the leak "a very serious matter." He said, "Congress has to clean up their own house."

On other subjects, Mr. Ford backed away from his previous statements that he will win the New Hampshire and Florida GOP presidential primaries. He said "I think we'll do well in both" but declined to predict a result.

More directly than before, he outlined differences with Republican challenger Ronald Reagan over management of Social Security programs and Reagan's plan for transfer to the states of \$90 billion in federal programs. Slapping his right hand into his left palm, the President said emphatically, "I believe anybody to the right of me can't win a national election." He said Reagan is to the right of him.