

Attempt Set To End CIA Covert Work

CIA

From News Dispatches

Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) plans to offer an amendment to the foreign aid bill today "to abolish all clandestine or covert operations" of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In a letter to other senators, Abourezk quoted CIA director William E. Colby's remarks last week that "the capitol would not fall" without such covert operations. Colby added he would prefer that they were not abolished.

Members of the senator's staff added that the move apparently was prompted by recent disclosures of covert CIA activity leading to the overthrow last year of Marxist President Salvador Allende in Chile.

Abourezk said he will seek to attach the amendment to the foreign aid bill, which is expected to come before the Senate on Tuesday.

Abourezk's amendment would bar use of funds under foreign aid or any other legislation from being used to carry out activities in violation of the laws of the host nation. It would not bar intelligence-gathering activities.

CIA Director Colby, in an interview with Time magazine correspondent Strobe Talbott, defended covert political programs in Chile, which he said were intended to "sustain the democratic forces against the Allende political forces."

Colby charged that supporters of the late President Allende "were suppressing various democratic elements in a variety of ways, harassing radio stations, harassing some parts of the press and some political groups."

The Time story also said that a CIA team installed in Chile in 1970 with orders to keep the election "fair" requested \$20 million to undermine Allende's candidacy. It ended up spending less than \$1 million, according to the article.