

urges tough investigation of the CIA

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SACRAMENTO — Sen. Alan Cranston says a Senate investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency "must root out all traces of totalitarian, police-state tactics from our espionage operations."

In remarks prepared for today's meeting of the California Democratic Central Committee, Cranston said the CIA and other intelligence agencies "often take actions that conflict with national policy as declared by both the President and Congress."

He said a new committee is needed because "the existing Senate committees responsible for overseeing the CIA and the FBI have obviously not been doing a thorough job."

The California Democrat predicted the Senate would give overwhelming approval tomorrow to the creation of an 11-man committee to investigate reports of illegal activities by U.S. intelligence agencies.

Cranston said intelligence agencies have committed domestic burglaries, mail covers, wiretaps and surveillances, and have lied to congressional committees.

Besides reports of the CIA's involvement in Watergate, Indochina and Chile, Cranston said, the committee should also look into allegations — which he said had "considerable substantiating evidence"—that the agency:

Traded in heroin, assassinated foreign figures, including South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, murdered some of its own agents, and helped train U.S. police in surveillance and "other cloak-and-dagger skills."

Cranston also said the CIA has bribed reporters and foreign officials. Among the groups it has secretly subsidized, he said, was the U.S. Communists Party's now-defunct Daily Worker newspaper.