

Senate CIA Probe Leaders Seek Cooperation of Ford

By George Lardner Jr.
and Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writers

The ranking members of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Operations said yesterday that they will seek a meeting with President Ford in hopes of securing his "full cooperation" for their investigation of the government's intelligence agencies.

At the same time, the House Rules Committee cleared a resolution for floor action calling for a similar inquiry into alleged domestic espionage by the Central Intelligence Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other arms of the U. S. intelligence community.

The House committee approved the resolution only after several hours of wrangling over the need for an investigation that might duplicate the Senate's work.

Rep. Lucien Nedzi (D-Mich.), who is expected to be named chairman of the 10-member House panel, testified that he doubted it would cost "anywhere near" the \$750,000 set aside for the Senate investigation.

Sens. Frank Church (D-Idaho) and John Tower (R-Tex.) told reporters after an afternoon meeting of their committee that they would get together with their expected House counterparts as soon as possible to explore the prospects of a coordinated investigation, including the possibil-

ity of some joint hearings and perhaps a parceling out of the individual inquiries.

The two senators also said they plan to meet with CIA Director William Colby within the next week to discuss a reported memo reminding CIA employees of their right to remain silent in the face of a parallel Justice Department inquiry into some CIA activities.

Church said they wanted to determine whether there was "any conflict" between the reported memo and a formal request by Senate leaders that the CIA take no actions which might impede their investigation.

The Rules Committee's approval of a companion House inquiry came on a voice vote with Rep. John Young (D-Tex.) dissenting. He contended that a congressional investigation might "destroy the intelligence operations of this country."

Rep. Andrew Young (D-Ga.) said both parties have misused government intelligence agencies. Once an aide to the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., he said he knew from his experience in the civil rights movement that one of the worst periods of surveillance of American citizens took place in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

The resolution creating the 10-member House committee is scheduled for a floor vote today, with Republicans prom-

ising an effort to nail down half the seats for GOP members instead of the three they are entitled to under House rules.

Members of the Senate committee met in closed session and tentatively agreed to hire 12 to 15 lawyers, investigators and other staff members, but kept their names secret pending security clearances and a week-long wait for possible objections to any appointee. Church said he expected the final staff to number about 40 people. Republican senators on the committee have been promised about a third of the appointments.

The CIA memo, which was discussed at yesterday's Senate committee meeting, was dated Feb. 6 and signed by David H. Blee, deputy director of the clandestine operations division, according to a news story in Saturday's editions of the Chicago Tribune.

Some CIA operatives were said to have regarded it as a sign that the CIA hierarchy was unwilling to back up agents who might now face prosecution, while others reportedly saw it simply as a warning to clandestine operatives to keep their mouths shut.

Church said the senate committee also decided yesterday to form an advisory panel of law deans, retired judges and legal scholars who would suggest ways to safeguard "the rights of all concerned" in the forthcoming inquiry. The committee already has approved strict security precautions and heard supplementary advice yesterday from John Doar, former counsel for the House impeachment inquiry, and Burke Marshall, a former assistant attorney general now on the Yale law school faculty.

Tower emphasized that the decision to seek a meeting with President Ford was not made "in the spirit of confrontation."