

Nedzi Compromises on Inquiry of C.I.A.

NYTimes JUN 10 1975

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 9—Representative Lucien N. Nedzi, chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, agreed today to appoint a special subcommittee to handle the investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency, thus blunting an assault on his chairmanship.

The agreement was worked out at a two-hour meeting of the Democratic members of the committee and the House leadership in the office of Representative Carl Albert, Speaker of the House.

In a briefing for reporters after the closed session, Mr.

Nedzi, a Michigan Democrat, said that he had not selected the chairman of the subcommittee or decided on its membership. But he said that the subcommittee would have its own staff and handle the entire inquiry on C.I.A. activities. The full committee will concentrate on the investigation of the other agencies of the United States intelligence community.

The agreement today halted a revolt by a majority of the Democratic members of the committee, who last week urged Mr. Albert, Democrat of Oklahoma, to oust Mr. Nedzi and appoint a new chairman.

Both Representatives Robert N. Giaimo of Connecticut and

Jamse V. Stanton of Ohio senior. Democratic members of the committee and the leaders of the revolt against Mr. Nedzi, said that they were satisfied with the arrangement. Mr. Stanton later told reporters that he believed "this allows for a credible investigation."

Mr. Giaimo said that the arrangement had foreclosed his plans to resign from the committee if it could not conduct an impartial investigation.

Presumably, the subcommittee arrangement would leave Mr. Nedzi in over-all command of his committee, but would put the decisions on the directions, methods and selection of

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evidence in the C.I.A. investigation in the hands of another man. The full committee would be able to review the final conclusions of the subcommittee.

The agreement culminated five days of maneuvering after the committee members challenged Mr. Nedzi's chairmanship.

The issue arose last Thursday when committee members told Mr. Nedzi that they believed his ability to conduct an investigation was impaired by the fact that, unknown to them, he had had secret C.I.A. briefings on agency involvement in assassination plans and possible domestic wrongdoing.

The committee members later told Mr. Albert that they wanted Mr. Nedzi to step down or be replaced. Mr. Albert urged them to spend the weekend considering their action.

This morning, Mr. Nedzi formally told Mr. Albert that he had no plans to step down. Mr. Albert then met with newsmen and said that he stood behind Mr. Nedzi and was not going to "force" his resignation.

This left the members of the revolt faced with the difficult task of fighting on the House floor to unseat Mr. Nedzi.

Later Meeting Called

Mr. Giaco, at one point reiterated his warning that he might have to resign, and Representative Ronald V. Dellums, Democrat of California, said "the leadership had come down on the side of Mr. Nedzi."

Shortly after lunch, the committee mavericks met with Mr. Albert and the majority leader, Thomas F. O'Neill, Democrat of Massachusetts. A subsequent meeting, to include Mr. Nedzi, was called for 4:30 P.M.

For the next hour and forty minutes, the group met in Mr. Albert's Capitol office. The meeting was interrupted several times by Roll-call votes.

About 6:10 P.M., Mr. Stanton emerged and motioned reporters to come in. Mr. Nedzi told them in a quiet, measured voice:

"One of the most important things is to have a thorough and fair investigation of the intelligence agencies not subject to any of questions in the mind of the public. Therefore, I've decided to set up a subcommittee with a chairman and a separate staff to handle C.I.A."

Mr. Nedzi said that a A. Searl Field, the staff director of the full committee, would remain at his post and have supervision over the new subcommittee would's staff. He said other details on how the subcommittee would function had not been worked out.

Two members of the committee, Mr. Dellums and Representative Michael J. Harrington, Democrat of Massachusetts, opposed the proposal.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Nedzi met with the reporters and reiterated his decision to fight on the House floor if necessary to halt any attempt to unseat him. He said that he felt he could conduct an impartial investigation.

He confirmed a statement that he made Sunday on a Detroit television program that the C.I.A. had informed him of some matters that might have involved assassination plans. He refused to give further details.

Last week, in its Thursday editions, The New York Times quoted authoritative sources as saying that Mr. Nedzi had received briefings more than a year ago in which he was told about the C.I.A.'s involvement in assassination plots and about possible illegal domestic activity.

Mr. Albert appeared relieved at today's compromise. He said that he hoped the committee would resume its work, and "I don't see how we can possibly get into any more trouble."

This last brought laughter from the members.