

CIA Report Called 'Tip Of Iceberg'

Washington

Congressional leaders hailed the Rockefeller Commission study on the Central Intelligence Agency yesterday as 'a good report' but promised they would take a much deeper look at the spy agency in the coming weeks.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (Dem-Mont.) and the chairmen of the Senate and House CIA investigations — Senator Frank Church (Dem-Ida.) and Representative James V. Stanton (Dem-Ohio) — said congressional hearings would be "thorough and extended." They called the work of the Rockefeller panel worthwhile but incomplete.

Church, whose select committee has been investigating the CIA since January, called the report "the tip of the iceberg" of improper CIA conduct.

Meanwhile, it was learned that White House counsel Philip W. Buchen is continuing to search for documents, beyond those assembled by the Rockefeller Commission, that bear on the issue of alleged assassination plans against foreign leaders.

White House sources said this inquiry was the reason for President Ford's statement Monday night that he would not comment on the assassination allegations "at this time." But the President hopes to have sufficient information to report to the public in advance of any congressional hearings, officials said.

"After all the material is gathered, the President will decide what should be made public and what should not be," a presidential aide said.

"He has not passed the buck to Congress. He has reserved the responsibility to himself."

Although the Rockefeller Commission omitted the as-

assassination issue from its public report, saying it did not have time to investigate it adequately, nearly a drawerful of documents, transcripts of testimony and a summary of findings is being transmitted to the congressional committees.

The first document — a transcript of commission testimony by Richard Bissell, former director of covert operations for the CIA — was sent to the Senate committee before Bissell gave closed-door Senate testimony yesterday for the second time.

Senator William Proxmire

Back Page Col. 4

From Page 1

(Dem-Wis.), who some time ago expressed fears that some members of the Rockefeller panel would be overly sympathetic to the CIA, said of their study:

"This is not a whitewash. It's a better report than I thought it would be."

Church, Proxmire and two Republican senators — Howard H. Baker Jr., of Tennessee and Lowell P. Weicker Jr., of Connecticut — agreed with a commission proposal that a joint Senate-House committee be established to oversee the CIA.

Baker and Weicker last year introduced a bill for a permanent joint congressional committee with jurisdiction over intelligence agencies such as the CIA and FBI. At least 21 other senators have joined as co-sponsors.

Church said he "welcomed" the Rockefeller Commission's report.

"We will give serious consideration to it," he said. "But the report is limited. Our work must probe much deeper into the subject."

One limitation, he said, is that the commission, at the direction of Mr. Ford, only inquired into CIA activities. The Senate and House committees will investigate nearly a dozen federal agencies that have intelligence-gathering duties.

More CIA news on Page 13

Church said many of the Rockefeller panel's 30 recommendations are valid, but that others are "clearly insufficient."

"When you say the President ought to ask the CIA not to engage in certain domestic activities, or that the director ought not to do so; that's clearly insufficient," he said.

"The problem is that Presidents in the past have asked the CIA to engage in wrongful activities and CIA directors have done so. We must write into the law restrictions on CIA activities and provide penalties for violations."

Senator John V. Tunney (Dem-Calif.), chairman of the Senate constitutional rights subcommittee, said the Rockefeller Commission had reported "a catalog of horrors which are clearly illegal and which have violated the constitutional rights of countless Americans."

Yesterday the Church committee voted, as expected, to seek a grant of limited immunity for former Howard Hughes aide Robert A. Maheu. If cleared by the Justice Department and approved by a federal judge, the immunity would protect

Maheu from possible prosecution based on testimony he might give about any CIA assassination plots.

Maheu invoked the Fifth Amendment against possible self-incrimination when questioned by the committee Monday.

According to government sources, Maheu helped arrange for underworld figures Sam Giancana and Johnny Rosselli to plan attempts on the life of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro with CIA backing in the early 1960s.

Church said the committee intends to question former CIA Director Richard M. Helms tomorrow. Helms, now U.S. ambassador to Iran, was criticized in the Rockefeller report for allegedly yielding to White House pressures to involve his agency in improper domestic surveillance programs.

At the White House, press secretary Ron Nessen was asked by reporters whether Mr. Ford still has respect for Helms's integrity.

"He certainly has full respect and support for his ambassador to Iran," Nessen replied.

Nessen also said the President is soliciting views on the Rockefeller panel's recommendations from all government departments that might have an interest.

Los Angeles Times