

ACCORD REPORTED ON PLOT EVIDENCE

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White House, Senate Unit

Agree on System to Study
Plans for Assassination

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WASHINGTON, June 26—The White House and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have apparently agreed on a system for access to evidence that will permit the committee to report in early August on assassination plots, committee leaders said today.

Senators Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, and John G. Tower, Republican of Texas, committee chairman and vice chairman respectively, said the system would permit material on assassination from the National Security Council and its Special Group to be available on Capitol Hill. Duplicates can be made for distribution to committee members, the Senators said.

Committee members and White House officials discussed the issue for two hours today. Senators Church and Tower then briefed news reporters about the meeting.

Mr. Tower said he believed the committee could make an interim report for the Senate "before the August recess." The recess is scheduled to begin on Aug. 1 and run to Sept. 3, but the press of current legislation might shorten it.

Mr. Church virtually ruled out the possibility of public hearings on the assassination issue, though he indicated that that had not been formally decided by the committee.

Church is Opposed

"I would personally oppose open public hearings on the assassination issue," Mr. Church said, adding that public hearings would cause "the maximum injury to the country."

"Our purpose is not to injure the national interest," he said. "Our purpose is to make the necessary disclosure of facts to the American people, not hold up this whole sordid story before the world and telecast it to every corner of the globe."

Mr. Tower appeared to concur with Mr. Church's thinking. Mr. Tower added, "I might say the matter [of assassinations] must be viewed in a broader area of other options that might have been available within the proscriptions of certain guidelines." When one newsman said he was not sure he understood what Mr. Tower meant. The Senator said with a smile, "Well, perhaps that's good."

This was the first time Mr. Church publicly seemed to rule out open hearings on the assassination questions, but earlier several members and staff men have said that the investigation did not lend itself to handling in public.

"It's too emotional, too volatile an issue," one source said, and another said it was "not representative of our Government policy."

Way Seems Cleared

With the agreement on White House materials on assassinations, the way has apparently been cleared to bring former members of the Administration of President Kennedy before closed hearings.

The Senate is expected to begin a July 4 recess tomorrow and if it does Senator Church said, the committee would not hear those witnesses until sometime after July 7. This is one of the delays in the committee's original schedule that have led some members to believe the investigation may take far longer than the period now allotted.

Originally, Senator Church said he had hoped to complete the entire investigation of the United States intelligence community by the end of the year and he had hoped to begin public hearings in July.

Senator Charles McG. Mathias, a member of the committee and the author of a bill calling for stronger Congressional oversight of intelligence agencies, told The Washington Star in an interview that his "original time schedule for this investigation is two years, and I still think that's a fairly accurate estimate."

Interviews and Reviews

Even though the committee will not hold hearings during the recess, its staff will continue interviews and reviewing of Government documents. It was unclear after today's meeting whether committee efforts to gather material on the overthrow of the Chilean Government and how the Government formulates national security intelligence estimates would go forward smoothly.

Roderick Hills, a counsel to the President and one of three White House officials who attended the meeting today, said he did not "believe we [the committee and the White House] ever had a problem" and felt the session was satisfactory to both parties. Presumably then the staff will be able to conduct interviews with Government employes and review intelligence material during the recess.