

Senate Unit Gets Details On C.I.A. Lumumba Plot

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WASHINGTON, Oct. 9—A former Central Intelligence Agency biochemist gave the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence today important details on a plot to poison Patrice Lumumba, the first Premier of the Republic of the Congo (now Zaire), according to the committee chairman.

Senator Frank Church, an Idaho Democrat who heads the committee, said he had important information on several cases, including one involving Mr. Lumumba.

Today's testimony came from Dr. Sidney Gottlieb, until 1973 chief of the agency's super-secret technical services division that produced equipment for covert operations. He testified for more than four hours in a closed session of the committee.

Testimony Called Useful

Later, Mr. Church said he believed the committee could conduct the hearings without compromising the needs for secrecy set out by the Attorney General. A subcommittee of the Senate group is now studying whether public hearings should be held.

Mr. Church said that Dr. Gottlieb's testimony would be useful as the committee drew together its report on the agency's involvement in plots and attempts to kill foreign leaders.

He said a subcommittee was now preparing a final draft of the report and that it might

be delivered to the full committee by mid-October.

On another matter, Mr. Church said that Attorney General Edward H. Levi asked the committee not to conduct open hearings on the National Security Agency on grounds "other than" national security alone. The implication, according to several observers, was that Mr. Levi might have warned the committee that the Department of Justice was conducting an active investigation of security agency's activities.

Mr. Church confirmed press reports that President Ford had called him and asked him to give Mr. Levi a chance to come before the committee and plead the case for not having public sessions on the security agency.

Mr. Church said he believed the committee could conduct the hearings without compromising the needs for secrecy set out by the Attorney General. A subcommittee of the Senate group is now studying whether public hearings should be held.