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Intelligence Network Overhaul Suggested

By Laurence Stern
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One of the senior members of the American intelligence establishment appeared before a Senate investigating panel yesterday and pronounced the U.S. intelligence apparatus badly in need of overhaul.

Clark M. Clifford, former Secretary of Defense and chairman of the presidential Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, counseled lawmakers, nonetheless, against abolishing covert action operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Clifford, who helped President Truman draw up the 1947 National Security Act establishing the CIA, acknowledged that covert operations around the world "have gotten out-of-hand."

Clifford was one of four experts to testify as the Senate intelligence committee turned from the headline-making disclosures of earlier phases of its inquiry to the business of drafting reform legislation.

He was supported in his position on covert action by two other members of the panel, former Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance and retired clandestine operations officer David A. Phillips.

The lone dissenter to any form of covert action was Morton H. Halperin, former deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs and a critic of CIA clandestine operations.

Halperin called for the outlawing of covert programs of the CIA with the observation that "the possible benefits . . . are far outweighed by the costs to our society of maintaining a capability for covert operations." Such activities, he said, are "incompatible with our democratic in-

stitutions, with congressional and public control over foreign policy decisions."

The other members of the panel agreed that the agency's excursions into clandestine assassination plots and political espionage, as detailed in reports of the intelligence committee, had gone beyond the bounds of the CIA charter. But they maintained that Presidents should not be precluded by legislation from resorting to traditional cloak-and-dagger operations.

Clifford proposed to the committee that a House-Senate committee be established to oversee CIA operations, a group that the executive department would consult before covert projects are launched.

He also recommended the establishment of a position of director-general of intelligence who would preside over the entire intelligence community and report to the President. An additional proposal was that all decisions on covert action be made by the director-general and the entire National Security Council.

Clifford, testifying in his customary grave and authoritative manner, acknowledged to Sen. Gary Hart (D-Colo.) that he advised President Kennedy in 1961 to strongly resist congressional efforts to investigate the CIA. The veteran presidential adviser said he was trying at the time to prevent members of Congress from moving the CIA's Bay of Pigs fiasco into the "political arena."

Church, who is soon expected to announce his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination, indicated that he would favor preserving some covert action capability to deal with cases such as Portugal, where, he said, the United States would maintain leeway to help in-

sure that the mandate of "85 per cent of the people" is secure from the machinations of a "small and militant Communist minority."

Phillips suggested the creation of a small, separate agency to conduct covert operations — removing the function from the CIA. "All the United States covert action eggs then would be in one basket," he said, "a basket which could be watched very carefully."

" . . . It would not employ airlines or mercenaries or exotic paraphernalia, but would need the capability to provide friends with imaginative advice and what British intelligence officers have sometimes called 'King George's cavalry' — money."

Church to Oppose

Nixon's Conditions

United Press International

Chairman Frank Church of the Senate intelligence committee said yesterday he finds former President Nixon's conditions for giving testimony "unacceptable" and will recommend that the panel reject them.

The Idaho Democrat told reporters following a committee session that under conditions stipulated by Nixon for granting testimony, the former President would have "total control of what he divulged."

In any event, Church said, he believed the committee now had "all the facts we need" concerning Nixon's part in ordering the CIA to intervene in Chilean politics and on the abortive "Huston Plan" devised under his administration but never executed for a massive domestic intelligence operation against American dissidents.

Church said he would ask the committee at a closed session Monday to turn down Nixon's offer.



By James K.W. Atherton—The Washington Post

Panel, from left, consisting of Clark M. Clifford, David A. Phillips, Cyrus R. Vance and Morton H. Halperin testifies before Senate intelligence committee.