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White House Yields To House Panel

Washington

In a last-minute effort to avert contempt action against Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the White House yesterday gave the House intelligence committee access to subpoenaed documents regarding covert intelligence activities.

Committee Chairman Otis Pike (Dem-N.Y.) announced the White House offer and said a five-member team had been sent to the White House to examine the material.

Pike said the panel would decide afterward — probably today — whether to pursue contempt action initiated against Kissinger for non-compliance with the subpoena.

If the delegation finds the new material offered by the White House is in "substantial compliance" with the subpoena, Pike said, "I will make a statement on the (House) floor." That statement would withdraw the committee's resolution asking the full House to cite Kissinger for failing to answer a detailed subpoena.

The material involved concerns State Department requests, during the past 14 years, that certain covert intelligence activities be carried out in other countries.

Pike said the delegation examining the material made available by the White House consisted of Representative Robert McClory (Rep-Ill.), committee co-chairmen Representatives Les Aspin (Dem-Wis.) and Ronald Dellums (Dem-Calif.), and two staff members.

United Press