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Moratorium On Covert Work Asked

Washington

Former Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach yesterday urged a moratorium on overseas covert operations by the United States pending broader consensus on foreign policy objectives.

The present situation in which a covert operation is leaked to the media by those who oppose it is worse than no operation at all, Katzenbach told the Senate Government Operations Committee.

Katzenbach, who headed the Justice Department under President Johnson, added that "most covert activities ought to be abandoned permanently."

But he said he favors secret channeling of funds to political parties and labor unions abroad.

Former Secretary of State Dean Rusk told the committee that some covert operations conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency could just as well be performed openly by some other agency such as the State Department. Citing secret financing of the National Student Association during the 1960s as an example, Rusk said the reason some operations were conducted covertly by the CIA and not openly by the State Department was that "the CIA had the funds and State didn't."

Rusk said this country should retain the ability to conduct covert

operations abroad but added, "We must use it with caution ... it is something we should not get drunk on."

Both Rusk and Katzenbach urged the committee to draft legislation that would create a Senate-House panel to oversee intelligence activities.

Another witness, former CIA agent David A. Phillips, testified that a poll of 300 retired intelligence officials showed 88 per cent "devoutly wish a single, joint committee to oversee intelligence, especially covert operations." *

Associated Press

* Single oversight committee is also recommended
by John A. McCone, NYT 19 Jan 76 ~~XXXXXXXX~~
(TV Guide ad), and by Clarence Kelley,
SFO 27 Jan 76.