

Senate Will Probe CIA Acts in Chile

Washington

Stung by recent revelations of covert U.S. political intervention in Chile, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted unanimously yesterday to open an investigation into the episodes.

The action was taken in a climate of rising pressure on Capitol Hill for tighter congressional control over covert operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

The Foreign Relations Committee inquiry will go into the question of whether high-ranking administration officials may have perjured themselves or committed contempt of Congress in sworn testimony on the U.S. clandestine role in opposing



SENATOR MONDALE
'Unbelievable'

the election and then seeking to undermine the government of the late Salvador Allende in Chile.

House Foreign Affairs committee chairman Thomas Morgan (Dem-Pa.) said he would take up the Chile issue this week with the observation that "this is our one chance to get oversight of the CIA and we're going to grab it."

Traditionally the CIA has reported to oversight committees comprised of the House and Senate Armed Service Committees. Members of both oversight panels have said in the past week that they were unaware of the scope and details of the interventions, going back over an 11-year period, until the recent surfacing of testimony by CIA Director William E. Colby.

The clandestine programs in Chile, as covered in the Colby testimony, run from the period of the Kennedy administration—starting in 1962—to August of last year with an authorization of \$1 million for destabilization of the Allende government. This was a month before the military coup that toppled the Allende government and led to the death of the Chilean president.

At a closed session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday minority leader Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania expressed concern over the leakage of a staff report that recommends contempt and perjury investigation of government witnesses, according to informed sources.

A copy of the report, prepared by Jerome Levinson, counsel to the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations, was obtained by the Washington Post.

Senator Frank Church (Dem-Idaho), chairman of the multinational subcommittee, said the Levinson report has been set aside but that the full committee investigation will go into its findings and recommendations.

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the White House and State Department were still unable to elaborate on the basis for President Ford's assertion at his Monday night press conference that three or four years ago the Allende government sought to destroy opposition parties, newspapers and electronic media.

At a White House briefing, Acting Press Secretary John W. Hushen said he stood on the President's statement and that anything further would have to come from the State Department.

At the State Department, spokesman Robert Anderson told reporters that President Ford's statement "speaks for itself" and that he had nothing to add.

Senator Walter F. Mondale (Dem-Minn.), in a floor speech, said he found the President's statement on the CIA's role in Chile "unbelievable" and announced that he is introducing legislation to establish a Senate Select Committee to recommend reforms in control of foreign intelligence operations.

Senate majority leader Mike Mansfield of Montana said he intends to call for a joint Senate Committee to oversee covert CIA operations abroad.

His proposal was endorsed by Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman J. William Fulbright (Dem-Ark.) who will preside over the investigation of the special programs in Chile.

Washington Post