

He'll Give Justice Dept. Report on CIA 'Plots'

WXP FILED CIA (A)

Washington

President Ford announced last night that he is turning over to the Justice Department for possible prosecution the Rockefeller Commission report on the CIA, including its separate classified summary on alleged as-

sassination plots against foreign leaders.

Mr. Ford said that he will make public today the 299-page report on CIA domestic spying, which includes 30 recommendations for reforms.

But he said he is keeping

secret a separate 80-page summary on the commission's assassination investigation because it is "incomplete and involves extremely sensitive matters."

The President sought to rebut suggestions that his administration is "covering up" the vitilite question of whether past officials under Republican and Democratic presidents authorized CIA assassination attempts aimed at such foreign leaders as Cuba's Fidel Castro, the Dominican Republic's Rafael Trujillo and the Congo's Patrice Lumumba, among others.

"I'm convinced that with Attorney General Ed Levi we have a man who's going to carry out his sworn obligation to conduct an investigation on the broadest basis and to prosecute if there's any problem," Mr. Ford said.

The classified material will be supplied to the House and Senate committees now investigating the CIA, Mr. Ford said.

"So there's not going to be any possibility of any cover-up," the President promised, "because we're giving them the material that the Rockefeller Commission developed in their hearings plus any other material that

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is available in the executive branch."

Yet Mr. Ford expressed his own frank reluctance to air the particular details of the allegations and perhaps tarnish the reputations of leaders who have died — President Eisenhower and Kennedy, among others.

"We shouldn't be Monday-morning quarterbacks, if I can invent a cliché," Mr. Ford said. "I think it's better to let history tell the story rather than contemporaries."

Regardless of what may have occurred in the early 1960s within government intelligence channels, Mr. Ford said, "under no circumstances do I want to sit in 1975 passing judgment on decisions made by honorable people under unusual circumstances."

Senator Frank Church, chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities, promised last night that his committee will report fully on what it finds out about any assassinations.

"The American people are entitled to know what their government has done, the good and the bad, the right and the wrong," Church said. "Only in this way can we correct the mistakes of the past and make certain that the government upholds our moral principles in the future."

The President appointed the eight-member Rockefeller commission in early January to redress the public controversy surrounding the Central Intelligence Agency, but the conclusion of the commission's work seems to have engulfed the President in the dispute.

In his outdoor press conference in the White House Rose Garden yesterday evening, more than half of 20 or so questions involved the CIA investigation and the White House handling of it.

The six-month investigation under the vice President provoked its own sudden swirl of controversy at its conclusion last week, when Vice President Nelson Rockefeller abruptly announced on Thursday that the final report will exclude all the material gathered on assassinations — the most sensitive subject before the commission.

When the White House announced the next day that the President had not yet decided whether to publish anything from the Rockefeller investigation, suspicions were heightened.

Mr. Ford's press conference announcement last night was intended to defuse the suspicions.

The report made public to-

day on the CIA will help restore confidence in the intelligence agency, Mr. Ford asserted, particularly when various legislative and administrative reforms are made.

"The net result will be that we'll have a strong, effective and proper CIA," The President predicted.

The Justice Department is limited to prosecuting federal crimes, such as illegal use of federal employees or materials. If the CIA shipped arms illegally, for instance, that might be an eligible offense, according to Roderick Hills, counsel to the President for intelligence matters. Hills spoke at a news briefing yesterday.

Ford's Little Joke About Betty

Washington

President Ford jokingly accused his wife last night of pushing him down the airplane ramp when he tumbled in Salzburg, Austria, last week.

But, he said, "She denies it."

Chatting with reporters after his news conference in the White House Rose Garden, Mrs. Ford described the incident, saying that he was holding Mrs. Ford's hand and the umbrella over their heads when he tumbled.

He said his wife "walked off with the umbrella and left me wallowing in the water."

Associated Press

A state government could prosecute officials for a conspiracy to commit a murder if the planning and preliminary steps were taken within its boundaries, even if the killing itself was planned for a foreign country, Hills noted. Such offenses usually are not subject to a statute of limitations.

When the subject of the CIA was exhausted at yesterday's press conference, Mr. Ford managed some comments on foreign policy and the domestic economy.

He renewed his commitment to keeping America's 38,000 troops in South Korea.

The economy, he said, looks brighter now despite the unemployment rate of more than nine per cent. Mr. Ford cited last month's employment increase of 450,000 jobs and the declining rate of inflation.

"We've had a lot more good news than we've had bad news," he said.

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