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# Senate Calls Critics to Inquiry on Colby

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WASHINGTON, July 19—The Senate Armed Services Committee said today that it would reopen public hearings tomorrow to hear testimony against President Nixon's nomination of William E. Colby as the new Director of Central Intelligence.

This will be the first time that the committee has ever invited witnesses to speak publicly against a high-level official of the Central Intelligence Agency, committee aides said.

The decision by Senator Stuart Symington, Democrat of Missouri, acting chairman of the committee, resulted in part from recent complaints made privately against Mr. Colby's work in South Vietnam by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and some former C.I.A. and military officials.

Mr. Colby, the former head of all covert operations for the agency, testified in an open session on July 2, with Senator Symington the only member of the committee present. After that hearing, the Senator said that he would enthusiastically support Mr. Colby's nomination—a statement tantamount to assuring confirmation by the full Senate.

Committee sources said that until the latest decision, there had been no plans to hold any additional open hearings on the nomination of Mr. Colby to succeed James R. Schlesinger, who became Secretary of Defense in the Watergate shake-up of the Nixon Administration.

The main criticism to be aired tomorrow deals with Mr. Colby's activity in South Vietnam. From 1959 to 1962, he was the agency's station chief in Saigon, and from 1968 to 1971 he was head of the American pacification agency in South Vietnam, which included the C.I.A.-directed Operation Phoenix, which between 1968 and 1971 led to the death of 20,587 Vietnamese.

The Phoenix program was designed to uproot the Vietcong network but its critics charge that it was a cloak for systematic assassination, murder and torture—a charge that Mr. Colby has denied before Congressional committees.

The committee said that two former officials of the agency were expected to criticize Mr. Colby's intelligence work. They are: Paul Sakwa, who was head of Vietnam covert activity at C.I.A. headquarters when Mr. Colby was the Saigon station chief, and Samuel C. Adams, a specialist in Vietcong

nineteen-sixties, giving a false, rosy picture of developments in South Vietnam.

Testifying against Mr. Colby's activities as head of the pacification program will be Representative Robert F. Drinan, Democrat of Massachusetts, a frequent critic of the war, and David Harrington and K. Barton Osborn, former military advisers in the pacification program, who have charged Mr. Colby with condoning assassination and torture.

Mr. Colby's name has also been mentioned in connection with C.I.A. help to E. Howard

Hunt Jr., a former operative of the agency and one of the convicted Watergate conspirators, who broke into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist with the help of a disguise and equipment supplied by the agency.

The Senate committee staff said that Archibald Cox, the special Watergate prosecutor, spent an hour with Senator Symington today. Staff members said that they expected that Mr. Colby would be invited to testify again next week to answer any criticisms made tomorrow.