

Firm Rein on Intelligence Units Urged by 2 Ex-C.I.A. Officials

By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 10—Two former high officials of the Central Intelligence Agency today declared their public support for proposals to increase Congressional control over domestic and foreign intelligence activities.

The former C.I.A. men, Ray S. Cline and Harold P. Ford, told a Senate subcommittee on government operations that the new Congressional controls, if enacted, should be placed not only on the intelligence agencies involved but also on White House decision-making bodies.

Their testimony ended a two-day hearing on the problems of secret intelligence that produced a seeming consensus that more Congressional overseeing of such activities was needed.

The only voiced disagreements dealt with how best to proceed, with some witnesses suggesting that Congress should first study the role of the intelligence agencies. Others called for the setting up of a new joint intelligence committee with powers that would supercede the controls now spread among subcommittees of the House and Senate Armed Services and Appropriations Committees.

Mr. Cline and Mr. Ford suggested in their testimony that the inability of Congress to oversee intelligence operations effectively had—as Mr. Ford put it—“historically not been so much the fault of the C.I.A. as of the Congress itself.”

Mr. Cline, who recently retired after serving both with the C.I.A. and as head of the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, not-

ed that he had often personally participated in the C.I.A.'s briefing of Congress.

“My impression is that Congressional oversight has usually been somewhat erratic and perfunctory rather than systematic and constructive,” he told the subcommittee, headed by Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine.

In the Senate the overseeing of intelligence activities has long been the domain of Senators John C. Stennis, Democrat of Mississippi, who heads the Armed Services Central Intelligence subcommittee, and John L. McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas, who oversees intelligence for the Appropriations Committee.

In his testimony, Mr. Cline specifically supported proposed legislation that would create a joint committee on national security, urging that it include a subcommittee on intelligence.

In recent interviews, Mr. Cline, now affiliated with Georgetown University's Center for Strategic and International Studies, has repeatedly stressed that the C.I.A.'s much-criticized clandestine activities—in Chile and elsewhere—are under the direction and supervision of high-level White House officials working through the National Security Council.

Another witness, Prof. Harry Howe Ransom of Vanderbilt University, told the subcommittee that the mere fact such hearings were now being staged indicated that “a new with regard to the secret apparatus of the cold war.”

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