

SFChronicle
CIA Murder
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Plots--'Hard
Evidence'

Washington

The Senate Intelligence Committee has received convincing evidence that the Central Intelligence Agency has been involved in murder plots, Chairman Frank Church said yesterday.

Church (Dem.-Ida.), said he believes the Rockefeller commission has similar evidence. - He accused Vice President Nelson A. Rockefeller of making misleading statements designed to downgrade the importance of CIA wrongdoing.

"I don't regard murder plots as a minor matter," Church said.

"The CIA has been implicated in this kind of activity.

Back Page Col. 4

CIA

CIA PLOTS

From Page 1

I have been concerned about the apparent attempt of certain members of the Rockefeller commission to lead the public to believe that any misdeeds of the CIA were minor and that the agency had been relatively without guilt."

Church said he was referring specifically to statements made onday by Rockefeller, the commission's chairman.

"I have reason to believe the commission has hard evidence, as my committee has hard evidence, which indicates the CIA has been involved in murder plots," Church said.

A spokesman for the vice president quoted Rockefeller as saying the commission's report to President Ford, to be released this weekend, deals with the issue of assassination and that it speaks for itself.

Rockefeller will have no specific comments on CIA matters until the commission's report is made public, the spokesman said.

Church was more specific than he has ever been on the assassination issue even though he declined to give any details of testimony so far on the targets of the plots, whether they succeeded and who ordered them.

"I don't care who may have ordered it," Church

Longer story, NYT,
filed CIA (d).

said at one point. "Murder is murder and murder is wrong."

Church said he expects the Senate Intelligence Committee to complete the assassination phase of its investigation by the end of June and then decide how to best make a public disclosure of what it has learned.

It is certain the panel will recommend laws to forbid the CIA or any other American intelligence agency from using assassination as a tool, Church said.

"Ours is not a wicked country and we cannot abide a wicked government," he said.

Church answered reporters' questions during a meeting at the National Press Club.

Rockefeller said Monday the commission report will show that "there are things that have been done which are in contradiction to the statutes but in comparison to the total effort they are not major."

Associated Press