

The Senate Spy Report — Findings, Recommendations

Washington

Following are highlights of the 474-page report of the Senate select committee on intelligence activities on its findings and recommendations in the area of foreign and military intelligence operations:

- The committee concluded that there have been failures in the past at all levels — executive, congressional and within the agencies — to adequately control and direct covert activities and make the best use of intelligence forces. It recommends sweeping statutory changes to provide external control of the intelligence community.

- As evidence of failure to control, the committee cited its discovery that the Central Intelligence Agency had mounted 900 major covert actions since 1961, many of which were only marginally controlled and the value of which are still subject to question.

- Confirming CIA involvement in several efforts to assassinate foreign leaders, the com-

mittee urged laws specifically banning U.S. involvement in such efforts as well as prohibitions against subverting democratic governments or aiding security forces violating human rights.

- Secret drug-testing programs by the CIA and military intelligence units were found to have continued until as late as 1963 and to have involved many instances of human experimentation on unsuspecting individuals. In one case, the report confirmed, the unsuspecting target committed suicide after unwittingly taking LSD.

- The committee described a program of secret CIA operation of a number of business ventures that competed with privately owned companies. The companies ranged from an airline charter company and an insurance company for agency employees to a security agency.

- Despite a 1967 presidential directive that was to block CIA secret financial support of American universities and private voluntary institutions, the CIA has maintained ties to the

academic community and now has covert relationships with hundreds of scholars, dozens of whom are unaware they are working for the CIA.

- As of last February, some 50 American journalists or employees of domestic news-gathering organizations maintained covert ties to the CIA. Even under new restrictive guidelines, fewer than half of these relationships will be phased out by the CIA.

- The committee report, in opposition to arguments by the executive branch, found no compelling reason to support keeping the total budget of the intelligence community secret and argued that the public should be able to make judgments on the size of government commitment to intelligence programs.

- Seeking to upgrade congressional oversight, the committee urged changes in law and practice that would, in effect, make Congress a virtual partner with the executive in intelligence operations.

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