

CIA

Intelligence Panel Is Investigating Friendly Governments' Acts in U.S.

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By ANTHONY MARRO

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has begun an investigation into clandestine activities that have reportedly been conducted in the United States by the intelligence agencies of "friendly" foreign governments, committee sources said today.

The investigation, which was described as "delicate" and as being in its preliminary stages, is initially focusing on activities that have allegedly been carried out in this country by agents of Chile, Iran and South Korea. However, the intention is to include eventually the activities of a number of other "friendly" nations as well.

Of particular concern to the committee, the sources said, is the question of whether United States intelligence agencies may have developed any informal agree-

ments with foreign intelligence agencies that would permit them to operate here in return for allowing United States agencies to operate abroad.

One source said that the committee had been assured there were no formal agreements but was intent on learning the nature of any "informal understandings" that might exist.

"It's a very touchy matter, because we have our own [intelligence agencies] operating overseas," said one person familiar with the investigation. "The C.I.A. trained and helped establish some of these agencies, so it's not like going after the operations of a potential enemy."

The sources said that the full committee

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had not met formally to discuss this investigation, but that it was being conducted at staff level, with the approval of the committee chairman, Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, as part of its general oversight function.

Mr. Inouye could not be reached for comment, and a spokesman for his office would say only that "the committee is obliged under Senate Resolution 400 to look into such matters to the extent they

relate to United States intelligence agencies."

The 17-member committee was created this past summer after disclosures of large-scale and sometimes illegal spying on American citizens by Federal intelligence agencies and was given broad powers to monitor the future activities of the intelligence community.

This afternoon, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, and Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr., Republican of Maryland, sent a letter to the committee, urging that it look into the activities of foreign intelligence agencies in the United States, particularly the alleged activities of South Korea and Chile.

Sources familiar with the committee's activities said that although such an investigation was already under way, the

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committee welcomed the letter because it added a "broader base of support" for the investigation.

The investigation is said to have started last September, after charges were made by opponents of the military junta now governing Chile that Chile's secret police, the Direccion di Inteligencia Nacional, may have been involved in the bomb killing in Washington of Orlando Letelier, who was Chile's Foreign Minister in the Presidency of the late Salvadore Allende Gossens.

Other Disclosures Cited

The Chilean Government denied any involvement, but the Senate committee reportedly asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation for reports on any information it might come across suggesting involvement by Chilean operatives.

The investigation is said to have grown

with the disclosure of an alleged plan of influence-buying and of harassment of Korean nationals in this country by the Korean Central Intelligence Agency, and by the statement by the Shah of Iran on the CBS program "60 Minutes" that Iranian agents were checking on the activities of Iranian students in the United States.

According to the State Department, the only legitimate activity of foreign intelligence officers here is to maintain liaison with United States intelligence agencies.

Many intelligence sources agree, however, that in addition to Communist bloc nations, which gather intelligence in this country, several "friendly" nations are also active.

F.B.I. sources have said that agents attempting to conduct break-ins and electronic surveillances of Arab embassies

and consulates in this country found evidence that Israeli agents had been attempting the same thing.

And, according to one former intelligence officer, many Third World governments try to monitor the activities of their nationals here.

"The first thing a developing country does is send off students to be educated," he said. "The second thing it does is send intelligence agents after them to make sure they don't become radicalized and return to challenge the government."