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Dellums' Proposal to Reform Spy Agencies

Washington

Representative Ronald Dellums introduced a bill yesterday to overhaul U.S. intelligence operations.

The Berkeley Democrat said his bill would prohibit political surveillance, abolish the Defense Intelligence Agency and require court orders for "intrusive techniques" such as wiretapping.

Some of the provisions of the bill, such as abolishing the agency, were recommended by the former Select House Intelligence Committee of which Dellums was a member.

"I have no desire to interfere with the legal and legitimate intelligence-gathering functions," Dellums said in a statement, "but I believe we must first understand and then end the widespread unconstitutional activities of the intelligence agencies."

He said the bill would limit the Central Intelligence Agency, except in wartime, to counter-intelligence operations abroad. He said it would be barred from any domestic activity except maintaining security of its own facilities.

An independent director of intelligence would coordinate all U.S. intelligence activities and a central agency would be created to analyze all intelligence and report it to the President and other decision makers.

Associated Press