

# Intelligence Budget Is Put at \$6.2 Billion

Washington

The Carter administration has requested \$6.2 billion for the nation's intelligence operations in the fiscal 1978 budget, according to sources close to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Tentative approval of the \$6.2 billion figure apparently was given by the committee when it met to provide to the Senate Budget Committee by March 15 its "views and estimates" of the intelligence budget.

That figure was arrived at by totaling requests made by individual intelligence agency heads to the committee's budget authorization subcommittee in closed hearings. It was not clear whether the figure also included all the intelligence support facilities used by the various agencies.

This is the first year that the Senate has had the responsibility for authorizing an intelligence

budget. In the past, the various intelligence operations have been financed from appropriations hidden throughout the federal budget so that there was no way to know how much the administration had sought — nor how much Congress had approved.

The Central Intelligence Agency, for example, reportedly received \$750 million in 1975 from a \$2.1 billion budget item identified only as "other procurement, Air Force."

The intelligence budget figures were called by Capitol Hill sources "the most closely guarded of any figures up here."

The budget authorization subcommittee has tentatively scheduled public hearings for the week of April 18 to determine whether disclosure of the lump-sum intelligence budget "is in the public's best interest."

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