

U.S. Info

Operation Abolished

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The Intelligence Evaluation Committee, set up three years ago to improve and evaluate domestic intelligence gathering, has been abolished by the Justice Department.

Existence of the committee was revealed May 22 by President Nixon in his statement on the Watergate case.

Jack Hushen, justice department spokesman, said yesterday the IEC was composed of representatives of the FBI, Secret Service, Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency, Central Intelligence Agency and two Justice Department lawyers.

He said letters were sent to the participating agencies to inform them of the IEC discontinuance.

Hushen said its assignment was to evaluate and analyze intelligence about "terrorists and revolutionary elements in the United States" and submit reports to the White House and other interested agencies.

Nixon said in his statement that the committee's activities "are now under investigation" by the Senate Watergate Committee.

"I did not authorize nor do I have any knowledge of any illegal activity by this committee," he said.

Nixon said the IEC was an outgrowth of an ad hoc committee established in June 1970. The ad hoc committee, Nixon said, submitted a report which he said was approved, but rescinded five days later because of objections by J. Edgar Hoover. The report called for expanded intelligence operations, including authorization for burglary.