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CIA 260

WASHINGTON (AP)-RICHARD HELMS, DIRECTOR OF THE CIA, GAVE SENATORS A SECRET BRIEFING TUESDAY ON THE TENSE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM AND OTHER TROUBLE CENTERS.

THE CHIEF OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY APPEARED BEFORE A SENATE PANEL, HEADED BY SEN. RICHARD B. RUSSELL, D-GA., WHICH SUPERVISES ACTIVITIES OF THE HUSH-HUSH FEDERAL AGENCY.

"THERE WERE A GREAT MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND VIETNAM," RUSSELL TOLD NEWSMEN LATER. "THERE WERE ALSO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RECENT EVIDENCE OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN LATIN AMERICA."

RUSSELL HAS URGED REORGANIZATION OF THE CIA AS A RESULT OF DISCLOSURES OF SECRET SUBSIDIES BY THE AGENCY OF STUDENT, LABOR, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER GROUPS.

RUSSELL SAID THESE EVENTS HAD DAMAGED THE CIA AND REDUCED ITS EFFECTIVENESS OVERSEAS.

THE SENATOR SAID ANY SUCH REORGANIZATION MUST AWAIT A REPORT BY THE SPECIAL COMMISSION APPOINTED IN EARLY APRIL BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND HEADED BY SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK.

THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING CABINET AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, WAS ASKED TO SUGGEST SOME WAY OF OPENLY SUPPORTING OVERSEAS OPERATIONS OF DESERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

DISCLOSURE OF SECRET AND INDIRECT SUPPORT OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS BY THE CIA CAUSED A STIR BOTH IN THIS COUNTRY AND OVERSEAS.

RUSSELL, A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, SAID THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE REORGANIZATION AT THE SECRET SESSION TUESDAY.

SITTING IN WITH RUSSELL, HELMS AND HIS AIDES WERE SENS. CARL HAYDEN, D-ARIZ., MARGARET CHASE SMITH, R-MAINE, MILTON R. YOUNG, R-N.D., BOURKE B. HICKENLOOPER, R-IOWA, JOHN STENNIS, D-MISS., AND STROM THURMOND, R-S.C.

AS THEY LEFT THE SESSION, THE SENATORS SAID THEY WERE ASKED NOT TO REVEAL HELMS' REPORTS.

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