

Pike Committee Report Leaked To Set Stage for U.S. 'Secrets Act'

Feb. 14 (IPS) — The Harriman-Ball financier grouping this week orchestrated the leaking of portions of the final report of Rep. Otis Pike's House Select Committee on Intelligence to the CIA-linked New York Village Voice, in defiance of a House vote banning publication of the report. This move is an attempt to create the environment necessary to ram through an "official secrets act" which would impose police-state sanctions against any person found guilty of disseminating information on the intelligence community.

President Ford has already proposed "jail terms for officials who leak secrets," and knowledgeable Washington observers say that the result of the Intelligence Community revelations will be "less Congressional oversight and an official secrets act."

The Voice leak also accused Secretary of State Kissinger of lying, having a "passion for secrecy, and of trying to control dissemination and analysis of data," further discrediting the Secretary and continuing the isolation of the Rockefeller-Kissinger forces and their removal from control of the intelligence apparatus.

Despite this manipulation of the leaked CIA exposes, their use by the Harriman forces has also created a public climate which threatens to backfire. The mass of information on Intelligence Community control of U.S. politics and the media already publicized by Congressional inquiries and the U.S. Labor Party has created widespread public suspicion which threatens to tar all the invisible government factions now vying for control of the U.S. government. Furthermore, there are indications that the Pike Committee had begun unraveling the details of CIA involvement in Watergate, the Kennedy and King assassinations, and gestapo networks run by Kennedy and Rockefeller.

Push for Official Secrets Act

Kissinger responded to the leak as profiled, hysterically screaming that the leaks were Congress' fault and that they had subjected himself and the Ford Administration "to a new wave of McCarthyism." Threatening to resign, Kissinger assailed the Pike Committee as "totally irresponsible," and

insisted that Congress must be stopped from making leaks.

President Ford said through his press secretary that it was his "disposition" to believe the leak "came from Congress" and volunteered "all services and resources of the executive branch" including the FBI to find the source of the leak. Ford has proposed that the CIA Director be given control over all other intelligence agencies and that he be made a White House advisor on intelligence matters, removing any Congressional control.

Counterattacking, both Pike and fellow Committee member Rep. Giamo (D-Conn) charged that the CIA itself leaked the report. "It would be in their (CIA) advantage to leak it to that publication (the Village Voice)," Pike declared. "All the leaks make the Committee look bad." Giamo seconded: "Who gains from this? Remember, the CIA is very adept at covert actions."

The subsequent disclosure that Voice journalist and long-time CIA agent Nat Hentoff was involved in the leak, through an outfit called "Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press," strongly supports the Congressmen's charges. The "Reporters Committee" also dishonestly disclosed the name of CBS correspondent Daniel Schorr as its source for the report, thereby setting up Schorr, who has been the source of several damaging exposes of illegal CIA activity.

As evidence of a terror operation aimed at ensuring the silence of Pike and members of his committee, Pike told an audience in Farmingdale, Long Island on Feb. 7 that four shots had been fired at his auto as he was driving to the meeting. The shaken Congressman related that he had pulled over immediately, and found no bullet holes in the car. "I thought, 'whew, they missed me'," Pike said, "but then I discovered I had a flat tire." Pike also said that a friend in the Riverdale, Long Island police department had warned him that people were out to get him.

Similarly, committee member Rep. Ron Dellums (D-Calif) told the Washington Post that "this has not been the most earthshaking investigation," but that for him it has been "frightening."