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SENATE PANEL CHIDES 2 ADMINISTRATIONS

CIA 'Bugs' of Micronesians Criticized

BY NORMAN KEMPSTER
Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—With the approval of then-Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, the CIA used paid informants and hidden microphones to obtain information about the internal politics of a group of U.S.-administered South Pacific islands, the Senate Intelligence Committee reported Tuesday.

The committee chided the Nixon and Ford administrations for failing to "differentiate between intelligence techniques appropriate for use against an armed adversary and those proper for use against a people under U.S. administration and protection."

The committee, headed by Sen. Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii), issued the report without change despite an objection from President Carter that part of it could compromise intelligence sources and methods.

According to the report, the CIA conducted "clandestine intelligence collection operations" in Micronesia, a group of more than 2,000 tiny islands that have been controlled by Washington under a United Nations trusteeship since 1945.

The CIA's effort was aimed at discovering the negotiating positions of leaders of the strategically-located islands, who have been talking with the United States about possible independence since 1971.

According to the committee, the CIA recruited "Micronesian residents, some with affiliations with Micronesian political entities and some of whom were paid for their information." At least one of the informants "served on

one of the island government entities involved in developing a compact with the United States as to future status."

The report said that none of the Micronesians had been told they were reporting to the CIA. The committee did not say whom the informants thought they were serving.

In addition, the committee said, the CIA used a hidden microphone for three months in an effort to "produce information bearing on the status negotiations." The report said the electronic surveillance was unproductive and was discontinued.

In his role as then-President Richard M. Nixon's national security adviser, Kissinger approved the collection effort in October, 1973, the report said.

In addition, the committee said, Kissinger granted permission for a study of "the possibility of exerting covert influence on key elements of the Micronesian independence movement and on those other elements in the area where necessary to promote and support United States strategic objectives."

But, the report said, despite Kissinger's approval of the idea, the CIA never undertook a direct effort to manipulate the island's politics.

Micronesia, which includes such World War II battlegrounds as Saipan, Yap and Palau, has potential military value, especially if the United States should be required to withdraw its forces from the Philippines or South Korea.

Under the terms of the U.N. trusteeship, Washington is obligated to prepare the islands for self-government and independence.

The committee had planned to issue the report last Saturday. But on Friday, Carter telephoned Inouye and urged him to withhold the document. According to sources familiar with the situation, Carter said that one sentence in the report could reveal sensitive intelligence methods.

But the committee voted Tuesday afternoon to release the report without change. The sentence to which Carter objected was not revealed.

The report said the CIA's general counsel said the program was legal although the State Department's legal adviser said later that it was illegal.

Although Kissinger approved the plan and key congressional committees were informed in 1973, the report said the actual program did not begin until early 1975. It ended last December.

The committee said U.S. officials conducting the negotiations testified "that they received no CIA reports concerning the Micronesians' strategy, tactics or negotiating positions." There was no explanation of why such information was not provided because that was the expressed purpose of the intelligence gathering effort.