

Committee File

'CIA Watchdog' Bid to Fulbright May Herald End of Long Feud

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Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.) and two other members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee were invited yesterday to closed sessions of the CIA Watchdog subcommittee, apparently ending a long squabble over supervision of the spy agency.

Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), who heads the informal intelligence group, said the three foreign policy experts are being invited to a session Monday with Richard M. Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In addition to Fulbright, invitations were extended to Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Iowa, senior Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee, and to Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield, Mont.

Enlargement Rejected

Last July, after considerable controversy, the Senate voted down a proposal which would have enlarged the present Watchdog subcommittee so as to include Foreign Policy Committee members. The 61-28 vote followed a five-hour debate, most of it con-

ducted in an unusual closed session of the Senate.

At that time, members of the Foreign Relations Committee contended that they should have a role in overseeing intelligence operations because they involved foreign policy. Russell called the expansion proposal an attempt to "muscle in" on jurisdiction of the Appropriations and the Armed Services Committees.

The six-member CIA group is drawn from the latter two committees.

Invitation to All

Russell said the representatives of the Foreign Relations Committee will be invited to attend all watchdog subcommittee sessions—even those which deal primarily with appropriations.

"My present purpose is to invite them to all the meetings—at least for this session of Congress," Russell said when asked if the new arrangement would be permanent.

As to the role of the three Foreign Relations Committee members, Russell said they will be allowed full participation in the Committee sessions.

The Monday session with Helms will provide the subcommittee with a full briefing on world events Russell said, including the intelligence aspects of the war in Vietnam, the turmoil in Red China and the Rhodesia situation.