

# UPI

R044

R W

PW-INTELLIGENCE SKED 12-12

BY NICHOLAS DANILOFF

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE ANALYSES AND FORECASTS, CIA DIRECTOR STANSFIELD TURNER HAS RECRUITED AN INDEPENDENT THREE-MAN REVIEW PANEL WITH BROAD AUTHORITY TO CRITICIZE U.S. INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES.

A SENIOR INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL SAID THE PANEL WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO CRITICIZE ANY ESTIMATE IT CHOOSES AND AS SEVERELY AS IT THINKS APPROPRIATE.

DISCLOSURE OF THE MOVE COMES AT A TIME WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER HAS MADE CLEAR BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY THAT HE IS DISSATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF INTELLIGENCE REACHING HIM.

THE OUTSIDE CRITICS -- WHO WILL JOIN THE CIA FOR A TWO-YEAR HITCH -- ARE PROF. KLAUS KNORR OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, AMBASSADOR WILLIAM LEONHART, AND GEN. BRUCE PALMER, RETIRED ARMY VICE CHIEF OF STAFF.

TURNER CONCEIVED THE IDEA FOR THE REVIEW PANEL ABOUT A YEAR AGO, THE OFFICIAL DISCLOSED, BUT IT IS ONLY NOW ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING ACTIVE.

KNORR IS DUE TO JOIN THE CIA JAN. 1. LEONHART AND PALMER ARRIVED EARLIER THIS YEAR.

THE PANEL WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW ON THE HELP OF SOME 30 OTHER ACADEMICS AROUND THE COUNTRY WHO ARE ON AN "AVAILABILITY LIST." THE OTHER OUTSIDERS HAVE AGREED TO BE CONSULTANTS TO THE CIA APPROXIMATELY ONE DAY A WEEK AS NEEDED.

A MAJOR SOURCE OF DISSATISFACTION AT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS THE CIA'S DIFFICULTY IN PREDICTING THE COURSE OF CURRENT UNREST IN IRAN.

THE CIA LABORED FOR WEEKS ON AN UP-TO-DATE ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY TURN OF EVENTS IN IRAN WHERE THE SHAH'S AUTHORITY HAS BEEN SEVERELY CHALLENGED BY AYATOLLAH KHOEWEINI, THE SHIITE MOSLEM LEADER LIVING IN EXILE IN PARIS.

ONE DRAFT OF THE ESTIMATE, THE OFFICIAL SAID, CONTAINED THE ASSESSMENT THE SHAH WAS LIKELY TO RIDE OUT THE MOUNTING CRITICISMS WITHOUT MAJOR THREAT TO HIS POWER. THIS CONCLUSION TURNED OUT TO BE WRONG.

1 of 2

UPI

INTELLIGENCE

THE DRAFT ESTIMATE WAS LEAKED TO THE MEDIA, AND SEEMS TO HAVE PROMPTED SOME OF CARTER'S CRITICISM.

ACTUALLY, THE OFFICIAL SAID, IT WAS A DISTORTED VIEW OF THE SECRET REPORT THAT WAS PUBLISHED.

HE EXPLAINED THAT THE ESTIMATE WAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED WITHIN THE CIA AND WAS NEVER APPROVED OR FORWARDED TO THE WHITE HOUSE. WHEN EVENTS OUTPACED THE ANALYSIS, THE ESTIMATE WAS FORMALLY KILLED.

ONE OF THE DIFFICULTIES THE CIA HAS HAD IN COUNTRIES LIKE IRAN HAS BEEN THE INABILITY TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT CONTACTS WITH OPPOSITION ELEMENTS.

IRAN'S INTELLIGENCE ARMY, THE SAVAK, IS KNOWN TO BE CLOSELY EYEING ACTIVITIES OF OPPOSITION GROUPS.

IF SAVAK DETECTED CIA EFFORTS TO MAKE CONTACTS WITH THE SHAH'S CRITICS, IT WOULD BE VIEWED WITH GREAT CONCERN BY THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT AND COULD DAMAGE U.S.-IRANIAN RELATIONS, THE OFFICIAL SAID.

UPI 12-12 04:48 AES

0045

2 of 2