

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford today issued orders barring the CIA and other intelligence agencies from using electronic or physical surveillance to collect information on the domestic activities of most American citizens and organizations.

In a follow-up to his Tuesday night press conference at which he announced plans for reorganizing the intelligence community, Ford also said he would support legislation requiring judicial warrants for national security wiretaps and mail opening.

In a message to Congress, Ford indicated he would seek to expand the power of the government to open mail, which is now permitted only in criminal investigations. "We need authority to open mail ... in order to obtain vitally needed foreign intelligence information," Ford said.

Ford also proposed a stiff new secrecy law which would provide criminal penalties for any government employee or contractor who leaks intelligence secrets. The law also would give the government new legal powers to prevent the publication of such secrets.

A 36-page executive order that takes effect March 1 also would bar infiltration of domestic organizations, drug tests on unsuspecting humans and illegally obtaining federal tax returns.

The restrictions do not apply to the FBI which will be governed by a separate set of guidelines to be issued within 90 days.

The CIA would be completely barred from electronic eavesdropping inside the United States, and the National Security Agency would be prohibited from intercepting any "communication which is made from, or is intended by the sender to be received in, the United States."

"Unconsented physical searches," apparently including break-ins, would be outlawed within the United States or against U.S. citizens abroad except "under procedures approved by the attorney general."

An accompanying document said that the restrictions placed on intelligence activities provided for "limited exceptions" which, for instance, would allow physical surveillance of a U.S. citizen who is a present or former employee of an intelligence agency or one of its contractors, or is "reasonably believed to be

acting on behalf of a foreign power or engaging in international terrorist or narcotics activities or activities threatening the national security.'"'

Parts of Ford's executive order were not made public 'because of the sensitivity of the information and its relation to national security,'" a White House document said.

There were no specific guidelines disclosed in the executive order regarding covert operations except a general statement that the CIA should 'carry out such other special activities in support of national foreign policy objectives as may be directed by the President or the National Security Council and which are within the limits of applicable law."

As details of Ford's plan were being disclosed, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield snapped up Ford's invitation to Congress to tighten its scrutiny over the intelligence community.

Mansfield said he thought Ford's proposals for revamping the intelligence structure were "'a good step in the right direction.'"