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The Basic Doubt Concerning CIA

In his column on this page, Clayton Fritchey poses an interesting question: Is the Central Intelligence Agency penetrating or even "seducing" the intellectual community of the United States?

The question arises from disclosures that the agency has had clandestine relationships with at least two universities, and that an article recently published in a respected journal on foreign affairs was written by a CIA official and thus reflected CIA policy on the subject, *The Faceless Viet Cong*.

Meanwhile, reports from Washington indicate that committees in both the Senate and House are concerned over CIA activities, and that there is some (but probably not enough) sentiment in the Senate to debate expansion of the "watchdog commit-

tee" that supposedly oversees CIA activities.

It seems to this newspaper that the basic point of controversy over the CIA is one of policy. If the CIA were only what its name implies, a Central Intelligence Agency for collection and evaluation of worldwide data, there could be no possible cause for concern. If it is an action agency in addition, if it attempts not only to report but clandestinely to cause events, if it undertakes thought control abroad and at home, then there is very great cause for concern.

If it is an action agency, as seems evident, then there is serious doubt that any kind of Senate surveillance would be effective. An agency that originates and carries out secret foreign policy is an anachronism in a free and open society.