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Meany Denies CIA Has Spies In Labor Unit

By JACK MALLON
Staff Correspondent of THE NEWS

Chicago, Aug. 22—AFL-CIO president George Meany vigorously denied today charges that



George Meany

the Central Intelligence Agency had infiltrated into the labor organization's program in Latin America.

Blasting critics who have charged that the American Institute for

Free Labor Development was

“forming revolutions” and acts as “training school for company unions,” the executive council of the AFL-CIO meeting here passed a resolution condemning “the campaign of vilification conducted against the AIFLD.”

At the May Convention of the United Auto Workers in California, Victor Reuther, head of the UAW's international department charged that CIA agents had been manipulating unions in Panama to protect U.S. interests. He said the intelligence agency was working through unionists trained by the AIFLD.

Another Reuther Charge

Reuther also contended that the international labor organization was supporting a union in the Dominican Republic opposed to leftist leader Juan Bosch. The left wing press and other critics joined in the Reuther charge.

The AIFLD, a unit of the AFL-CIO International department, is financed by U.S. labor, industry and the federal government. Formed in 1962, it trains Latin American trade unionists and promotes better-housing and social programs.

“I'm no agent of the U.S. government. No one is going to make me into some cloak and dagger character,” Joseph Bierne, secretary treasurer of the AIFLD, said after yesterday's executive session.

Demands Condemnation

Bierne, also president of the Communications Workers of America, insisted in the closed meeting that the 29-man executive council condemn the accusations of Victor Reuther.

Victor's brother, Walter, president of the UAW, said, “He's my brothre and I'm not going to sit here without defending him.”

Although he said he supported the basic goal of the AIFLD, the UAW president objected to the presence of businessmen on the board of the international labor organization.

The resolution supporting the AIFLD and condemning its detractors was passed by a 23-2 vote, with Joseph Curran, president of the Maritime Union and Walter Reuther voting against it. Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, abstained.

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