

NSA Official Resigns, Charges CIA Coverup

By ROBERT WALTERS
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A U.S. National Student Association staff member publicly resigned today, saying that the organization secretly negotiated with the Central Intelligence Agency in the weeks immediately preceding disclosure of the link between the two organizations.

Larry Rubin, NSA's educational affairs director, said the student group's officers met on four occasions with CIA representatives in late January and early February before Ramparts magazine released the text of an article saying the CIA provided extensive covert financial support to NSA over a 15-year period.

NSA officers immediately called Rubin's charge "absurd." Richard Stearns, international affairs vice president for NSA, told reporters that virtually all details of the link between the two groups had been disclosed in statements by the officers and by NSA's National Supervisory Board. He cited earlier newspaper accounts quoting officers as saying essentially the same thing Rubin announced today.

Meets Press on Sidewalk

Rubin's press conference was held on the sidewalk outside NSA's building at 2115 S St. NW, because the organization's officers refused to allow him to use their office space on grounds he was not speaking for the organization and had not asked their approval of the press conference.

"I am convinced that the staff

still has not been told everything," Rubin said. He specifically charged that the organization's earlier statements "sloughed over" the CIA's role in training NSA's staff, controlling election of its officers and guiding its international programs.

Rubin said the first of the series of meetings between NSA and CIA officials occurred in mid-January at a Marriott Motor Hotel in Arlington, and was attended by all three current NSA officers as well as two representatives of the CIA.

Stearns Confirms Account

Stearns confirmed Rubin's account, and said that at the time there was considerable discussion of how to react to the Ramparts allegation. He said CIA representatives proposed four different approaches to denying the magazine article, but that Philip Sherburne, last year's NSA president, who was also present, advocated public acknowledgement of the charges.

It was Sherburne who last year made the break with the CIA, but details of that event were not publicly known until last month.

Rubin and Stearns said the last of the CIA-NSA meetings occurred the day before Ramparts placed advertisements in newspapers announcing its article. Stearns said that at that time an NSA statement acknowledging much of the relationship was drawn up and both the CIA and the State Department were informed of the student organi-

zation's intention to release it to the press.

That meeting was held at the Georgetown home of the CIA employe with whom NSA officials had dealt over a period of years, Stearns said. He declined to name the individual involved.

Calls Statements False

Rubin charged that the statement which emerged from that meeting falsely denied that NSA had provided any intelligence-gathering service to the CIA and falsely stated that the agency's financial support of NSA ended in 1966.

NSA officers said most of the money from the CIA—totaling more than \$3 million since 1952—was halted in 1966, but that a small amount was received late last year and spent early this year rather than abruptly halting ongoing programs.

No additional funds have been received from the CIA this year, they said.

Rubin said the officers lied to the staff at several points. He charged that the NSA officers had given assurances that a full explanation would be offered. However, when the statement as finally issued, it contained several inaccuracies and failed to mention a number of areas in which the CIA exercised control, he said.

The association's press secretary, Greg Movsesyan, said later the student group "will accept any openly received funds from government sources for specified programs in which the association has complete independence in policy formulation and a desire to participate."