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CIA agents face penalty

Two senators yesterday started drafting measures which would penalize government officials and employees who work secretly for the intelligence organizations of other countries.

The two senators — Lorenzo M. Sumulong and Jovito R. Salonga — observed that the present laws on espionage, subversion and treason do not apply to public officials who work for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) because these laws refer only to enemy countries and the United States is not an enemy country.

NBI raided

Meanwhile, NBI agents themselves raided the NBI domestic intelligence division allegedly in search of dossiers compiled on government officials. There are unconfirmed reports that the team was also in search of information linking certain officials with the CIA.

Senate President Pro-

tempore Sumulong said that he was thinking of filing a bill similar to a US statute which requires the registration of agents of foreign governments.

Sumulong said that such a measure would be similar to a Philippine law which requires lobbyists in Congress to be registered.

Forewarning

Foreign agents in the Philippines should be registered, he said, so that when they approach government officials, the officials would know who the agents' principals are.

Sumulong, chairman of the foreign relations committee, said that his committee will investigate the charge of Justice Secretary Jose Yulo that some government men are on the CIA payroll.

Salonga said that the gap in the present law on espionage should be filled by passing a measure covering government officials and private citizens who work for the intelligence organizations of other countries.

Penalties

Under the bill which he is planning to file, Salonga said, a government official who works as an agent or spy for another country would automatically forfeit his public office while a private citizen who does the same would automatically forfeit his Filipino citizenship.

Salonga said that former US President Truman

himself three years ago observed that the CIA is operating beyond the scope for which it was originally founded. He said that Truman believed that the CIA should not engage in clandestine operations.

Blackmail

Senate sources, meanwhile, expressed fear that dossiers gathered by CIA agents on Philippine government officials might be used for political blackmail purposes.

These sources said that the dossiers kept by the CIA agents on Philippine officials are even more comprehensive and exhaustive than the NBI dossiers.

Hunt for dossiers

One source said that the head of the CIA in the Philippines in a ranking member of the US embassy.

NBI agents led by NBI Regional Director Ponciano Fernando "raided" the office of the NBI domestic intelligence division yesterday allegedly in search of dossiers.

Fernando conducted the raid in his capacity as custodian of the NBI's confidential files, as authorized last week by Justice Undersecretary Claudio Teehankee.

The raid reportedly irritated Serafin Fausto, NBI officer-in-charge, who also heads the domestic intelligence division.

Higher-ups

It was not known who ordered Fernando to conduct the surprise inspection but it was believed to

tion but it was believed to have been authorized by higher authorities.

Jose de los Reyes, NBI-Interpol chief, whose confidential files were also checked by Fernando, told the latter that the Interpol unit only keeps duplicates of records.

Reyes said the originals of NBI-Interpol papers are kept by the NBI records division which has strict orders not to release any document except by court order or upon the request of division chiefs.

Against officials?

It was intimated by confidential sources that the assistants of Fernando were after dossiers compiled by some agents against government officials, but no confirmation of this could be obtained from Fernando or NBI official.

Even suspicions that the "raids" were being conducted to establish connections of some NBI officials to the CIA could not be confirmed or denied by the NBI.