

Police Academy Under Fire for Aiding 'Foreign Dictatorships'

BY CAROL CLIFFORD
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WASHINGTON—As demonstrators gathered near the presidential palace, police in the capital city of the republic of San Martin moved in to disperse the mob. A roadblock was ordered and reinforcements were called out.

When demonstrators threw the first Molotov cocktail, police countered with a barrage of chemical munitions, marched into the crowd and arrested the agitators.

It may sound like another revolt in Latin America, but the republic of San Martin can't be found on any world map. A mythical country, it exists only on a map at the International Police Academy, housed in the old D.C. Transit Building, where street cars once were gaged.

And the "revolt" was staged only on paper at the academy's Police Operations Control Center as part of the police training process. The center is equipped with a large magnetic map, radio, telephone, teletype and courier communications. Participants at the academy plan strategies and deploy forces to handle hypothetical problems.

Although a mythical country, San Martin has a realistic social and economic base with features of most large urban areas, according to E. H. Adkins Jr., deputy director of the academy. The map is actually a map of Baltimore, Adkins said, with a few alterations to give it an "international flavor."

The IPA trains police from 77 countries around the world and is part of the public safety program of the Agency for International Development, a division of the State Department. Based on the premise that police, rather than the military, are the most effective means of maintaining social stability in developing countries, the academy was established in 1963 during the John F. Kennedy Administration and is the only educational institution operated expressly for the benefit of foreign police officers.

As attorney general, the late Robert F. Kennedy was an early supporter of the IPA. In February, 1964, speaking to the first graduating class, Kennedy called law enforcement officials a "real first line of defense."

The function of the academy, according to Lauren J. Goin, director of the Office of Public Safety, is to prepare civil police to deal with internal disorders and to apply authority in enforcing the law with a minimum of force.

"Change itself causes stress," Goin said. "If it gets out of hand, it can frustrate progress." Progress, he said, requires tranquility and "prevention of factors of disruption who are preempting the process of change."

Internal order, Adkins added, is necessary for a favorable climate for investment. When a country is beset by violence and disorder, he said, "foreign capital runs like scared cats."

The future of the academy will be challenged late this month by Sen. James G. Abourezk

(D.S.D.), a major opponent of the IPA, plans to introduce an amendment to the foreign aid bill which could eliminate the entire public safety program.

The amendment, if passed, would cut off all funds for training, advising, and supporting (within the United States and abroad) police, prisons or other internal security or intelligence forces of any foreign government.

Abourezk charged that the funds were being used to "train police for foreign dictatorships, many of whom imprison their own people for political reasons and employ torture."

Abourezk introduced a similar amendment last year. It was narrowly defeated in the Senate. But he foresees more support this year because what he calls increased congressional and public awareness. Members of Congress have received heavy mail, he said, urging curtailment of the public safety program.

Adkins denied that the IPA and the public safety assistance program aid foreign police in repression. Support and funds would be withdrawn from a program if evidence of repression were found, Adkins said, but added that it is not always easy to determine which governments are dictatorships. That determination, he said, is made at a higher level in the State Department.

Participants at the academy take courses in three fields — police management, police operations — and internal security.

Class topics include comparative police systems, principles of police photography, police and the community, narcotics control, records and identification, introduction to internal security, nature of the insurgent threat, bombs and bomb matters, counter-subversive intelligence — and concepts of ideological infiltration.

Among special courses for senior officers are research and development planning, telecommunications, prisons as schools for terrorists, subversive manipulation and domestic intelligence.

To supplement lectures and seminars, the academy has a large collection of films, including many on management and organization, narcotics control, a police-community relations. Other titles include "Face to Face With Communism," "Building Strategic Hamlets," and "Bombs I, II, and III."

Training in basic police weapons is given in the IPA's electronically controlled firearms range, and approximately 300,000 rounds a year are fired, Adkins said. Nonlethal chemical munitions are demonstrated at a nearby military base.

All participants at the academy must write a thesis before graduation. No exams are given, Adkins said, because consequences of failure could be severe in the home countries. Police who have been sent home from IPA for disciplinary reasons have been met at the airport with handcuffs and thrown in jail, he said. "Some of these countries are pretty rough."

Newly arrived trainees spend the first week in an orientation session to become acquainted with the