

P-Keens, George

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~~Orig. Resorts Internat-
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Jersey sues CIA

By *GEORGE L. KERNS*
Of The Bulletin Staff

for data on casino

Camden — The state Division of Gaming Enforcement has filed suit in U.S. District Court to force the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and another federal security agency to release information on 38 persons and entities associated with Resorts International who may have connections with organized crime.

Named as defendants are the CIA and its director, Stansfield Turner, and the National Security Agency/Central Security Service, which is part of the U.S. Defense Department. The agencies refused to re-

lease the records on grounds they were classified or of little value.

At the request of the state attorney general's office, two typewritten pages containing the names of whom information is sought have been sealed by order of Judge Clarkson Fisher, chief of the federal court system in New Jersey. The suit, filed in Trenton, was sent to Camden for trial and has been assigned to Judge John Gerry.

In the suit, the state says it requested the information in March 1978 as part of the gaming division's investigation then being conducted on the application of Resorts International Hotel Inc. for a casino license in Atlantic City.

Deputy Attorney General Guy Michaels said the division asked the CIA for information because of the "international nature of Resorts' operations." The company also operates a casino on Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

The Division of Gaming Enforcement is charged with investigating all applicants for casino licenses and enforcing the state Casino Control Act.

The gaming division requested the information from the CIA under provisions of the federal Freedom of Information Act, which requires agencies to release certain records to the

public.

The request was refined a few weeks later by the gambling enforcement division, "so as to focus on information or allegations of specified connections of the subjects to organized crime," the suit said.

After searching the records, the CIA notified the attorney general's office last March that most of the information retrieved was classified and that continued screening would not "yield information of sufficient value to warrant further review," the suit said.

"We are not even sure what information is there," Michaels said of the requested data.