

~~CIA~~ Socialist Workers
Party

CIA 1.01 Bush, George

CIA broke into homes of leftists

WASHINGTON [UPI]—The Central Intelligence Agency said in documents made public Friday that it has broken into the overseas homes of left-wing Americans and has conducted secret electronic surveillance on United States citizens traveling abroad.

The agency refused to say whether it has stopped the practice.

An affidavit by CIA Director George Bush filed in U.S. District Court in New York City gave no details about the burglaries or the telephone taps, claiming a CIA's privilege to secrecy to protect intelligence sources.

The affidavit was filed as part of a \$37 million damage suit against government agencies and officials, including the CIA and the FBI, by the Socialist Workers Party. Party officials in Washington made the document public.

THE PARTY is seeking a permanent injunction to end what it said has been decades of federal government spying, harassment, and disruption activities directed against the party.

Bush filed two affidavits with the court. The one in which the burglaries and electronic surveillance were acknowledged without any details was made public. The other, in which the details were spelled out, was kept secret.

In the public affidavit, Bush said conversations of SWP leaders "were overheard by means of electronic surveillance conducted abroad; and that certain other information, apart from conversations that were overheard, was acquired as a result of several surreptitious entries that were made into the premises abroad [to which party leaders had] regular access or may have had a proprietary interest."

He said the electronic surveillance was conducted without obtaining warrants.

A 30-PAGE Justice Department memorandum filed with the Bush affidavit said the CIA may keep the details of the burglaries and telephone taps secret because it is "indisputable that the foreign relations of the United States would be affected by disclosure of the matters."

SWP officials, who plan to challenge the CIA's assertion, said it is possible the agency does not want the details known because the burglaries could have violated the laws of foreign countries.

Since last July, the CIA has been forced to turn over 400 pages of files it keeps on the SWP, a domestic, leftist political party. The files indicate that the CIA has monitored SWP activities, including its election campaigns, since 1950.