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Use of CIA funds eyed

Another Harvard professor's acts raising questions

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For the second time in five months, a Harvard University professor's use of Central Intelligence Agency funds has sparked debate on the Cambridge campus.

Samuel P. Huntington, professor of government, yesterday said he worked on a CIA-sponsored study without initially notifying Harvard.

Huntington, head of Harvard's Center for International Affairs, said he began working on a study of the political stability of dictatorships in 1984, collaborating with another scholar, who was not then on Harvard's faculty, who had signed a contract with the CIA to do the study.

The CIA contract, which Huntington said was for "slightly more than \$10,000" gave the agency the right to prepublication review of materials resulting from the study and to prevent the disclosure of the funding source in print.

It was not immediately clear whether those provisions, in this case, would violate Harvard guidelines that prohibit such restrictions in contracts that involve the institution, Harvard officials said. "This is one gray area we're investigating," said an administration source.

A. Michael Spence, dean of the faculty, said in a statement last night, "I plan to inquire into what institutional involvement, if any, there may be." Spence earlier acknowledged that Huntington told him of the CIA grant in the fall of 1985.

After being delivered to the CIA, the study was published in condensed form in the current edition of International Security, a journal sponsored and edited by Harvard.

"I did notify the dean last fall about it," Huntington said. "It never occurred to me to notify prior to that time because I frequently write articles for outside groups."

Calling concern about the matter a "tempest in a teapot," Huntington added, "I didn't think I had any obligation to report this arrangement... It never crossed my mind that the casual writing of a paper for an outside institution was something that was covered by Harvard guidelines."

Huntington, 58, said he had been a "regular consultant" for the CIA in the 1960s, but has ceased consulting for the agency. He said he did not regard the new study, published under the title "Dead Dictators and Rioting Mobs," as either a consulting arrangement or a grant to Harvard.

The contract for the study was signed two years ago by Richard K. Betts, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington who was named a visiting part-time professor of government at Harvard last September.

"We never made it a secret that we did this for the CIA," Huntington said in a telephone interview from Illinois, where he was giving a lecture last night. "They only asked us not to disclose the sponsorship in print."

Huntington's disclosure follows a controversy last October involving Nadav Safran, director of Harvard's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, who acknowledged accepting two CIA grants totaling \$153,000. Safran used one grant to finance a conference on Islamic fundamentalism and the other to finance the writing of a book about Saudi Arabia.

Safran resigned his post as director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies after a three-month university investigation into his actions. Harvard found that he acted improperly by not initially disclosing the conference grant to either Harvard or the participants, but that he had properly reported the book contract to his academic superiors.

Harvard does not prohibit professors from working for the CIA, but it does require them to notify their academic authorities in writing about such activities.

In the case of institutional grants, university guidelines prohibit professors from accepting grants that allow outside sponsors to review and edit research before it is published or that restrict the professors from acknowledging financial support in print.