

STAT

THE NATION  
26 MARCH 1983

# THE COMPANY & THE COPS

## THE C.I.A.'S SECRET TIES TO LOCAL POLICE

PHILIP H. MELANSON

Two years ago, President Reagan signed Executive Order 12333, "unleashing" the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct domestic intelligence operations. Civil libertarians have rightly criticized the order for creating the danger of a police state in which the C.I.A., acting on its own or through local police forces, will seek to suppress dissent.

What has not been fully reported is the extent to which the agency has in the past worked with police departments in American cities. If the past is prologue, the President's order not only gives a cachet of legitimacy to such cooperation; it also will encourage its expansion.

Executive Order 12333 authorizes the C.I.A. to conduct "administrative and technical support activities *within* and outside the United States. . . ." (Emphasis added.) This is coupled with a sweeping authorization for all intelligence agencies to "cooperate with appropriate law enforcement agencies for the purpose of protecting the employees, information, property and facilities of any agency within the intelligence community." Moreover, intelligence agencies can, under certain circumstances, "participate in law enforcement activities to investigate or prevent clandestine intelligence activities by foreign powers, or international terrorist or narcotics activities."

Prior to this order, it was widely believed that the C.I.A.'s charter, which states that the agency shall exercise no "police, subpoena, or law enforcement powers or internal security functions," barred it from involvement in domestic security matters. When Congress approved

the charter in 1947, it operate exclusively a 1970s, the C.I.A. seci departments, providi equipment and explo return, municipal pc their intelligence unit information on grou terested, provided C. use as "cover" and, agency wanted thro

1972, when the press and several members of Congress got wind of these activities, the agency denied and downplayed them, while continuing to engage in them until the mid-1970s. The agency also cooperated with local police officers in official and unofficial ways.

Although domestic spying by the C.I.A. was reported in the press in the 1970s, given the tight security at the agency's Langley, Virginia, headquarters, all the facts may never be known. However, I have obtained under the Freedom of Information Act a declassified 362-page file that provides numerous examples of C.I.A. involvement with police. The file, titled "Domestic Police Training" (hereinafter referred to as the D.P.T. file), reveals the tip of what must be considered a very large iceberg.\*

According to the file, the agency cultivated friendships with police officers mainly by entertaining them at its headquarters and occasionally by giving them gifts and money. When a Fairfax County, Virginia, police chief took a vacation in Puerto Rico, he was furnished with a car by the San Juan field office. Nor did the agency forget the cop on the beat. According to the file, one police officer was given a week's vacation at a C.I.A. safe house in Miami; the agency picked up an \$800 car-rental tab for another officer.

Police chiefs and commissioners were frequently given red-carpet treatment at Langley. Invitees to a 1967 get-together were sent identical letters of warm greeting by Howard Osborn, director of the C.I.A.'s Office of Security:

Mr. Helms has a keen, personal interest in our meeting and has directed that such Agency facilities as you may require be put at your disposal. He will host a dinner in your honor on 6 October at the Headquarters Building.

The schedules for the visiting police dignitaries stressed play over work. There were lots of coffee breaks, "get-acquainted sessions," "free time" periods and long cocktail hours—more than enough to take the pain out of the tours and lectures, which usually ran from ten to forty-five minutes. "Recreation periods" took up as much as four hours of the nine-hour workday. Travel arrangements were made by the agency, and limousines and spacious suites at the Washington Hilton were provided to the guests.

CONTINUED