

CIA Accused of Spying

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Washington—The Central Intelligence Agency secretly read the mail of AFL-CIO President George Meany and two of the labor leader's top aides during the 1950s, according to a high-ranking former CIA official.

And, in response to charges that the agency received 9,000 to 10,000 names of American dissidents from the Justice Department in 1970, an administration source said last night that the CIA has told the Justice Department that it made no use of the list and destroyed it in March.

These were the two latest developments concerning the shadowy foreign intelligence agency, which is under fire for allegedly exceeding its authority by engaging in widespread domestic spying.

A high-ranking former intelligence official who personally took part in the program to monitor Meany's mail said the agency also read the mail of Jay Lovestone, the AFL-CIO's now retired director of international affairs, and Irving Brown, the AFL-CIO's European representative.

The former official, who asked to remain anonymous, said the operation was begun because the CIA was not able to get sufficient information from American unions which served as conduits for agency funds to anticommunist European trade unions. The CIA declined to make any official comment, either on monitoring of the union leaders' mail or the statement that the agency funneled money through the American trade union movement to foreign unions.

In Farmington, Conn., a former CIA official last night recalled another operation in which the CIA, working with the FBI, opened the mail of other U.S. citizens. Richard M. Bissell Jr., a former deputy director of the CIA's office of plans, said the operation was aimed at identifying Russians who might be able to supply information to the CIA, and not at "monitoring American citizens."

Former CIA director Richard Helms has denied

on Meany

allegations that the CIA engaged in illegal domestic spying during his tenure. Helms, now ambassador to Iran, has agreed to testify Jan. 22 at a closed hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the allegations.

The administration source who said the CIA had destroyed the agency's list of American radicals, gave no explanation for its destruction. However, according to one report, CIA officials may have feared that new provisions in the Freedom of Information Act could be used to force the agency to turn over its files to citizens.

In a related development, a confidential letter disclosed yesterday that the CIA began soliciting U.S. companies last fall to conduct a secret study of transportation systems being developed by some of America's major NATO allies as well as the Soviet Union.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) who disclosed the letter's existence, said he would push for a Watergate-style Senate investigation to determine whether the CIA has exceeded its foreign intelligence charter.

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