



Grove Press, Inc./53 East 11th Street/New York, New York 10003/Telephone: 212 677-2400

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Grove Press, Inc., and its president Barney Rosset are filing a suit today against the CIA for \$10,000,000.00 in damages, and at the same time are demanding the release of all documents collected by the Government agency on the New York publisher. This legal action was brought by Grove Press in the Federal District Court, Southern District of New York.

Official confirmation that Grove Press had been a victim of CIA operations came on June 6, 1975 with the release of the Rockefeller Commission Report on illegal activities by the CIA. The report singled out Grove Press - the only U.S. business enterprise thus mentioned - as the target of a CIA investigation. "An extreme example," the Report said, "of the extent to which collection (of information) could go once a file was opened is contained in the Grove Press, Inc. file. The file was apparently opened because the company had published a book by Kim Philby, the British intelligence officer who turned out to be a Soviet agent. The name of Grove Press was thus listed as having intelligence interest, and the CHAOS analysts collected all available information on the company," the Report said.

"The Rockefeller Report's revelation of CIA action against Grove Press seeks to imply that the CIA operation was prompted by nothing more devious and sinister than bureaucratic stupidity," Barney Rosset, president of Grove Press and one of the plaintiffs in today's action, said. "If that is the case, why doesn't the CIA give us their files?"

Under the Freedom of Information Act, Grove Press earlier this year sought to obtain access to records and files about Grove Press collected by the CIA, the FBI, the U.S. Army and various other Government agencies. In response

the CIA released to Grove Press a partial "sanitized" file only, reporting at the same time it was withholding a great deal of other information. The released portion of the file, however, revealed that Grove Press had been the target of CIA surveillance since 1955 (the Philby book was published in 1968) or even earlier, and the released portion of the U. S. Army files on Barney Rosset revealed Army surveillance and a mail cover as far back as 1943.

The law suit recalls that Grove Press has been a major domestic medium for communication of political opinion, and that among the books and films published or released by Grove Press over the years there were many which opposed as "immoral, illegal, or criminal" U.S government policies and practices, including those of the CIA.

Among Grove Press publications during the past two decades were many which were outspokenly critical of official U.S Government policies, both domestically and in the field of foreign policy. Grove Press published writings by Fidel Castro and Che Guevara, the French left-wing radical Regis Debray, as well as the former president of the Dominican Republic Juan Bosch. A magazine published by Grove Press, the Evergreen Review, was among the first to criticize U.S. policy in Vietnam. Grove Press also published many of the voices of black rebellion in the sixties, such as Malcolm X, Imamu Amiri Baraka, and Frantz Fanon, and others. An article in Evergreen Review about the prosecution's practices at the Chicago Seven Trial was instrumental in leading to an eventual higher court ruling reversing the sentence against the defendants.

Grove Press charged in its suit that the reason the Agency is withholding disclosure of its files on Grove Press is because such revelation would prove CIA actions which had been "improper, unlawful, and criminal." The publishing company said the Agency's actions against Grove Press went well beyond a simple

"surveillance operation."

"The CIA operation against Grove Press was undertaken with the intent to harm us, both personally and in our business," Mr. Rosset said. "The covert acts against Grove Press," Mr. Rosset added, "were similar to the covert acts the CIA committed against individuals or political organizations which had incurred the displeasure of the Agency."

Grove Press, Inc. is represented in this action by Peter Weiss and Edward DeGrazia of Weiss, Dawid, Fross & Lehrman, 880 Third Avenue, New York City.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

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