

A Suit to Curb C.I.A. Activities Announced by Rep. Harrington

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 27— Representative Michael J. Harrington filed a suit today in Federal District Court here to force the Central Intelligence Agency to halt covert intervention in foreign countries and domestic surveillance activities. The Massachusetts Democrat told reporters that he had brought the court action "to force the C.I.A. to obey its charter"—that is, the National Security Act of 1947.

He added that under his interpretation of the law, the agency had overstepped the rules — by covert operations abroad and by "involvement in the Watergate affair and the activities of the White House plumbers."

Mr. Harrington submitted reports published by The New York Times during the last week concerning alleged C.I.A. domestic espionage operations as further indication of "illegal activities" by the agency.

Meanwhile, in Vail, Colo., Ron Nessen, the White House press secretary, said that President Ford was reading a 50-page report on allegations that the C.I.A. participated in illegal domestic spying during the Nixon Administration.

Mr. Harrington said that he had asked the New York law firm of Rabinowitz, Boudin & Standard to prepare his suit as a result of "revelations" last September that the C.I.A. had engaged in actions against the Chilean Government of Dr. Salvador Allende Gossens. The Allende Government was overthrown by a military junta in 1973.

Named as defendants in the suit are William E. Colby, the Central Intelligence Director, Secretary of State Kissinger in his capacity as national security adviser to the President, and Treasury Secretary William E. Simon, for allegedly providing unvouchered funds to the agency.

Mr. Harrington said that the suit would cost him "nothing directly." Michael Krinsky, an assistant to the law firm, said that the fees for the suit would be absorbed by the firm and would amount to no more than "several hundred dollars."

Mr. Harrington, who has been a sharp critic of C.I.A. activities over the last year, said "The failure of Congress to provide adequate legislative oversight was "an incentive" for his suit.

"It's my belief that the C.I.A. has systematically violated its charter in the foreign field," he said. His suit lists 65 points of alleged C.I.A. "violations," including its involvement in the abortive 1961 invasion of Cuba, the 1954 overthrow of the Guatemalan Government and support of a rebellion in Indonesia in 1958.

Mr. Harrington, who is a lawyer, said that he hoped the court action would at the very least bring about a binding interpretation of the 1947 statute regulating the C.I.A.



United Press International
Representative Michael J. Harrington, Massachusetts Democrat, at his news conference in Washington.